

Superintendent's Report:

Friends of Lapham Peak 2018

As we wrap up another exciting year at Lapham Peak, I want to re-visit some of the amazing work that has been done, along with programs and events that brought thousands of visitors to this beautiful property.

In January, we were fortunate to be skiing on a fantastic base of man-made snow thanks to a well-organized crew of snowmaking volunteers working along with park staff, another new PoleCat snowgun, and late December conditions that allowed us to make all the snow we needed in a 2 week time-frame. What a difference good equipment makes!

In mid-January we welcomed skiers to the Loppet on a beautiful, sunny winter day. Conditions on the course were excellent despite Mother Nature's warm temps during the week leading up to the event. I am always impressed with what our groomers can do with conditions that are less than perfect. We followed the Loppet with a very well attended Candlelight Hike on a night that brought clear skies and windy conditions. The change in luminaries to baker bags with wooden blocks (thanks volunteers!), was positive, as it made for easier set up, clean-up and storage.

As winter turned to spring and the snow melted off the trails, we began to plan for trail repairs, volunteer workdays, and events like State Park Open House, Summer Solstice and Colorama. In May, we discovered some issues with the stairs on the tower, and a contractor was hired to replace 3 sets of stairs. The work was completed by June 30th, just in time for the busy holiday ahead. Additional planning was underway for the work outlined in the Recreational Trails grant that was awarded to the group. Trail repairs and much needed renovations to the Evergreen shelter were being worked on as the summer days flew by. The shelter has a beautiful new exterior and walkway – sure to be a hit with our visitors in the days, months and years ahead.

Monthly Friends Group meetings are always productive as we celebrate accomplishments and plan for the future. This year, a lot of work was done on creating a new Friends Agreement with the WSPS (Wisconsin State Park System), and an associated Land Use Agreement for the snowmaking arm of the Friends Group. While processes always come with unanticipated delays, we remained focused on the goal, and both documents were completed and signed by the end of October.

As I look forward to 2019, I want to express my gratitude to everyone who gives of themselves and their time to help in ways both big and small to Lapham Peak. I am always impressed with the generosity of the Friends group members, the many volunteers, and other local residents who love the park and find way to give of their time to plan, organize, and carry-out tasks that need to be done on the never-ending list of "to-do's". THANK YOU ALL.

With appreciation,
~Anne Korman, Superintendent