2021-2022

FRIENDS OF
LAPHAM PEAK

ANNUAL REPORT
Lapham Peak Friends

PURPOSE
Lapham Peak Friends, incorporated in 1989, is a nonprofit organization whose purpose serves to promote and support the Lapham Peak Unit-Kettle Moraine State Forest.

ORGANIZATION
The Friends group is guided through a Board of Directors and coordinates its activities with the Park Manager. Some activities of the Friends group include sponsoring special events, assisting with projects at the property, and providing additional services to park visitors.

Membership is divided into six categories: Individual (1 vote), Family (2 votes), Senior (1 vote), Lifetime (1 vote), and Honorary and Corporate (no votes).

Meeting of the Lapham Peak Friends are held periodically with an annual meeting each November.

Donations to the Lapham Peak Friends and the Snowmaking Project are tax deductible.

We invite you to become a member of the Lapham Peak Friends and benefit from the recreational and educational opportunities at the park. Inquiries may be directed to

Lapham Peak Friends
W239 N846 County Hwy C
Delafield, WI  53018
Phone:  262-646-3025
Website:  http://www.laphampeakfriends.org/
Board Members 2022

Year ( ) indicates three year term expiration in November

Louise Borzynski  (2022)
Anne Riendl (2023)
John Hillmer (2023)
Jon Jeffords (2022)
Rita Keber (2025)
Kris Maki (2022)
John McCarthy (2023)
Karl Timm (2025)
Rick Von Haden (2025)
Melissa Jarecki (2025)
Dan Wiley (2023)

Colton Kelly, Lapham Peak Property Manager

Anne Korman, Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest Superintendent

**Board members 2022**

President        Louise Borzynski
Vice President    Rick VonHaden
Secretary         John Hillmer
Treasurer         Karl Timm
Assist Treasurer  Anne Riendl
The Friends of Lapham Peak group remains in good financial health. Including the $500,000 donation for the Lapham Lodge we have $957,536 in cash assets. Additionally, we have around $250,000 in capital assets in the Pisten Bully snowcat which we retain possession of. We have an Endowment Fund of $54,019 which has declined in value this year along with the rest of the stock market. Most of the cash assets are in dedicated funds the largest of which is for Snowmaking which has $155,434. We have about $100,000 of discretionary funds.

The details of the finances are on the following two pages which include an Income and Expense report for the fiscal year, October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022. The second page is a list of our assets and the institutional accounts and where they are kept.
## Friends of Lapham Peak
### Statement of Income and Expenses
**Period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Funds</th>
<th>Temporary Funds</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ski Series</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Making</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden</td>
<td>Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie</td>
<td>Center</td>
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<td>BEGINNING BALANCE</td>
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<td><strong>RECEIPTS</strong></td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverage/Food Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNR/Other Grants</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL RECEIPTS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DISBURSEMENTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td>Contracted Services</td>
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<td>Postage</td>
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<td>Printing</td>
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<td>Bank Charges</td>
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<td>Racewire Fees</td>
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<td>Paypal Account Fees</td>
<td>103.20</td>
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<td>Filings</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>Beverage/Food</td>
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<td>Awards &amp; Banquets</td>
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<td>Merchandise/Misc Sales</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Electronic Presence</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</strong></td>
<td>11,139.56</td>
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<td>Transfer</td>
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<td><strong>NET INCOME 2021-22</strong></td>
<td>27,286.56</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ENDING BALANCE</strong></td>
<td>99,797.34</td>
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**NOTES:**
- Transfer 2021 Colorama to General Fund 6,359.90
- Transfer Ski Series to Snowmaking 9,016.95
- **TOTAL** 15,376.85
FRIENDS OF LAPHAM PEAK
STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND FUTURE OBLIGATIONS 9/30/2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WAUKESHA STATE BANK - SAVINGS</td>
<td>$30,549.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMIT UNION - SAVINGS</td>
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<td>WAUKESHA STATE BANK - CHECKING</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL CASH</strong></td>
<td><strong>$957,535.80</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER ASSETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VANGUARD ENDOWMENT FUND</td>
<td>$54,018.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>PistenBully</td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$304,018.94</strong></td>
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| **TOTAL ASSETS** | **$1,261,554.74** |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEDICATED FUNDS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNOWMAKING (SM)</td>
<td>$155,434.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>HABITAT RESTORATION FUND</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEMORIAL BENCH FUND</td>
<td>$81,959.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGRAVED BRICKS FUND</td>
<td>$10,806.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUTTERFLY GARDEN FUND</td>
<td>$832.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAN &amp; MELLISA JARECKI PRAIRE RESTORATION FUND</td>
<td>$4,103.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATURE CENTER (NC)</td>
<td>$54,414.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAPHAM LODGE</td>
<td>$530,849.07</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL DEDICATED FUNDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$849,575.34</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRANSIENT MONIES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEMPORARY FUNDS</td>
<td>$8,163.12</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL TRANSIENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,163.12</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| NET WORTH (TOTAL ASSETS MINUS TRANSIENT) | **$1,253,391.62** |

| AVAILABLE DISCRETIONARY GENERAL FUNDS (GF) | **$99,797.34** |
2022 Bluebird Report

Several years ago, a program to increase the Bluebird population began in the Midwest. This was in response to a large decrease in their numbers from a loss of habitat. Using a variety of box styles and locations, the Bluebird population has increased substantially. Other birds, including Tree Swallows and Chickadees also used the boxes to raise their young.

The summer of 2022 was a very good one for Bluebirds at the Park. Although they got a late start due to the cool, rainy spring, competition from Tree Swallows was way down. This enabled many of the Bluebirds to have two successful broods. 100 Bluebirds fledged from 23 boxes!

Thanks goes to Sandy Street and Karen DeBoer for providing their regular monitoring for many years. Board Member Karl Timm and elementary teacher, Rob Suhr will now be organizing the monitoring duties.

It’s been a pleasure to be part of this project!

Mike Fort
2022 saw the completion of the renovation of the garden begun during the 2021 growing season. Hundreds of new plants were added. Ground sedums were set in many of the border areas to replace the grass that formerly separated the flower areas from the walkways. Many showy plants such as Rose of Sharon and Miniature Roses have been added for color. Beautiful native prairie plants continue to be added as well.

This fall an irrigation system for the garden is being installed to further aid in the profusion of blooms every summer and for supplementation when rain is scarce.

The brick pathway was completed. We will continue to add personalized bricks as they are purchased. As always, donations of time and/or money to the garden are welcome!
Butterfly Garden Brick Walkway 2022

In June of 2022 the final loop of the brick walkway was completed. Approximately 1,500 4x8 blank pavers were laid to complete 100 ft loop. This area provides space for new engraved brick donations. Check out the Butterfly Garden on your next walk through Lapham Peak. Orders can be completed online or with the Butterfly Garden flyer found at the garden kiosk.

Dan Wiley
Colorama Run/Walk/Smokey Bear 2022

With the continued help of Friends board member extraordinaire Kris Maki, the 33rd annual Colorama Run/Walk/Smokey Bear Fun Run was a rousing success. Held on a weather-perfect crisp and sunny Saturday October 1st, we had 264 total participants, a healthy increase over last year’s event as we continue to rebuild after the disappointing Covid cancellation in 2020. Here’s the event attendance break-down:

- 200 runners
- 44 walkers
- 20 Smokey Bear fun runners (yes, it’s back!)

Waukesha State Bank returned as our primary sponsor, along with four associate sponsors: SEH, Guthrie & Frey, Dousman Family Dentistry, and Bicycle Doctor. Two local companies graciously provided discount coupons: Culvers and Chocolate Factory.

Alongside our top notch Lapham Peak Park staff, an additional 21 Friends volunteers lent a valuable hand on race day. Thank you all!

After the dust settled and expenses were paid, a total profit of $5,677 was made. This amount, combined with the cake donated by our president Louise Borzynski, made the day very sweet indeed!

We’re already looking forward to next year, hoping to continue rebuilding our attendance figures, and rejuvenating the sponsor door prizes and Friends homemade treats table.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Jeffords
Lapham Peak Endowment Fund 2022

In 2010, the Friends of Lapham Peak (Friends), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, established an Endowment Fund. Establishing an endowment fund was the first step in providing long term funding for the many needs and programs at the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, Lapham Peak Unit that are not funded by the State of Wisconsin.

The Endowment Fund is a means for individuals to donate to this very special place with the annual earnings (interest and dividends) used to support the Park. The earnings may be used to help fund a variety of items, including development and preservation of the nature center and the beautiful natural resources of the Park, invasive species control, wildlife management, school programs, cross country skiing, prairie and blue bird restoration, etc.

The current balance of our Endowment Fund is: $54,018.94 (9/30/2022)

If you would like to make a donation to the Friends, it may be made in any of the following ways:

1) **Gift to the “Friends of Lapham Peak”**, by cash, check, or contribution of other assets, to be used for general purposes of the Friends in support of the Park. A specific purpose may be designated. Contributions should be sent to:
   
   Friends of Lapham Peak, c/o President.
   W329 N846 Hwy C
   Delafield, WI 53018

2) **Gift to the Endowment Fund** make checks payable to “Vanguard” and state in the memo section: Lapham Peak Endowment Fund.

3) **Estate planning designation.** Either the Friends of Lapham Peak or the Lapham Peak Endowment Fund: may be designated as a beneficiary under the donor’s estate plan. This type of gift is a chance to support the Park and provide a legacy for the donor. It may be the easiest way to give and have the least impact on your current lifestyle. Estate plan gifts have the potential to have the greatest impact and are strongly encouraged. Your contributions to either the Friends of Lapham Peak or the Friends of Lapham Peak Endowment Fund may be deductible according to current tax law; however, this determination should be made in consultation with your tax advisor. Current tax law also has advantages to donors who are eligible to fund IRA accounts, which effectively waives income taxes on these contributions.

If you have questions, please contact Rick Von Haden, Friends of Lapham Peak spokesperson (262-646-4178), or email the Lapham Peak Board of Directors at rkeber@milwpc.com.
We had beautiful weather for the return of our 23rd Annual Fright Hike, October 28th and 29th, 2022 from 6pm-8:30pm. Despite being postponed for 2 years due to the pandemic, we sold-out online both evenings at a capacity of 2000 guests per night.

A portion of our proceeds is donated to the local High School clubs and those groups who stage a scene, along with the musicians hired for the evening. Scenes this year included: Milwaukee Danceworks: Summerstage Haunted Dance Performance, Kettle Moraine Key Club: Carn’evil, Arrowhead Health & Sciences: Asylum (voted 1st place), Arrowhead Interact: Haunted Nursery, Hagerstrand Family: Infested Pumpkin Patch, Taddey Family: Stranger Things (voted 3rd place), St. John’s Military: Area 51, Waukesha South: Thriller Dancers, Luke Lorbach: Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Koppen Family: Freddie’s Nightmare, Haley Kenevan: Headless Horseman (voted 2nd place), Mason Family: Glow Scare, Anna Lorbach: Vampires, Cozynook Farms donated 100 pumpkins: Jack O’ Lantern Display, Fischer Family: Cemetery, Waisman Family: Camp Crystal Lake, Liespke Family: Dead & Breakfast, Ice Age Trail: Chainsaws, Hajewski Family: Torch Path Of Doom. We had live musical entertainment in the Evergreen Shelter from Maggie Urbas on Friday, and The Garrett Waite Jazz Trio on Saturday.

To increase revenue I solicited local businesses for sponsorships with the following level options: Zombie $250, Werewolf $500, and Vampire $1000. I secured 4 Zombie (State Farm, Mama D’s, Equitable Bank, Hupy & Abraham) and 1 Werewolf sponsorship (Albrecht’s Sentry Delafield), along with 20 in-kind donations from local businesses to help offset food costs, pumpkins, props, prizes for the students, and miscellaneous supplies. We will receive 25% of profits from the food trucks that were onsite. In addition, my dad and I built a coffin $1.00 prize grab which generated a small amount of funds, collected a little change in the cursing well, and sold a handful of Fright Hike t-shirts for $20.00 again this year.

The beautiful fall weather led to a large turnout both evenings. The crowds and energy were amazing Friday night. Parking went smoothly, which I believe had a lot to do with timed ticketing (15 minute intervals), which was newly added this year to help evenly space out guest’s arrival times. However, early Saturday evening, the DNR was forced to turn attendees with tickets away (approximately 100 vehicles) due to law enforcement
shutting down the Park for a public safety issue. An individual was flexing his right to bear arms, wearing a helmet and openly carrying an assault rifle on our trails. Many of my student actors chose to go home after the scare resulting in several static unmanned scenes that night. Our event was deemed safe to resume around 6:15pm but I felt as though a cloud hung over myself and those who witnessed the incident. Fright Hike is known as a fun and safe annual tradition for so many. In order to not tarnish our positive community presence, I acted quickly to avoid social media backlash. I offered refund options to those ticket holders who complained and had unscanned Saturday tickets from 6-6:30pm. We took a financial hit from this unfortunate occurrence.

Many thanks to the DNR staff, the high school actors, community sponsors/volunteers, friends and family, and, of course, The Friends of Lapham Peak - a truly generous and caring group of volunteers.

In November 2019 Snowmaking received $11,494.00 from Fright Hike profits. 25% of Fright Hike 2022 net profits will again go to Friends of Lapham Peak - Snowmaking.

The Fright Hike is a wonderful community event and is The Friends largest annual fundraiser. Please consider volunteering next year! Anyone interested can contact Angie Meyer: frighthikepeak@gmail.com or call 262.290.8710. Like us on Facebook and view this year’s photos here: www.facebook.com/laphampeakfrighthike

Thank you for allowing me the unique opportunity to organize this time-honored tradition.
Angela Meyer, Event Coordinator
We have 4 teams who support Habitat Management and Restoration, all working on the overall effort to manage invasive species of plants and trees while restoring habitats back to their native states. These include woodlands, wetlands, prairies, oak savannahs, and historical sites. Each team focuses on several types of work and times for the work, so we can offer our volunteers numerous options to get involved. Our teams were led by:

**Holly Schmaling:**
Holly continued to work year-round utilizing volunteers including groups from local schools as well as regular member volunteers. The winter focus was cutting woody invasives such as buckthorn and honeysuckle; in spring she targeted garlic mustard; in summer her work included removing wild parsnip and Japanese hedge parsley; and in the fall she was back at buckthorn and herbiciding the resprouts and seedlings of the woody invasives from prior work sites. This past year, and again now, she is mentoring several student interns who show interest in pursuing a career in a field related to this type of work.

**Dan Jarecki:**
Dan continued his focus on the prairie restoration work north of the Hausmann Nature Center, working with the Property Manager and a Contractor on plans that called for prairie burns again this year, as well as targeted herbiciding treatments. As the mix of grasses and wildflowers matures on this 3-acre site, the colors were beautiful at all times during the spring, summer, and early fall seasons, with each season featuring different plants and their colors, attracting birds and butterflies and endangered bees.

**Mike Neimon:**
Mike leads our weekend groups. His volunteers often include students as well as volunteers who are unable to get free during the weekdays. With his work happening on the weekends when we have the most visitors in the park, he frequently gets questions about what’s going on, and compliments on the progress that is being made. However, with the crowds recreating on the weekends, we’ve also had to discontinue burning brush on those days so at times you will see a number of piles sitting in the park waiting to be removed. (Eventually we do get to those when conditions are right). Of huge significance, Mike’s crews cleared the hillside around the Tower during the slippery fall and winter months. We referred to them as the “Billy Goat Gang!” and now as you stand near the tower you can see down the hills in all directions. He’s also been working on a large project area that will become a maintained “woodland unit” – this is south and southeast of the Prairie that is south of the Butterfly Garden. We also thank Mike for many hours that he put in foliar spraying herbicide with a new battery powered backpack. This is done to kill invasive resprouts and new seedlings (mostly buckthorn) and is needed in each area we clear for a few years after we clear them. The longer-term plan is to use “woodland burns” to burn through the forest floor every few years and that will also kill the small invasives without the need for herbicide.

**John Hillmer:**
On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, John led a crew that averaged from 4-12 volunteers all year round. In addition to member volunteers, we were able to host a number of corporate volunteer days at the Park, as well as a guided hike, each being another opportunity to get people involved. Similarly, volunteer work with the Ice Age Trail Alliance organization and its members prepared three IAT segments to be worked on by a very large project in October 2022 – that effort brought nearly 200 volunteers and over 3,000 donated volunteer hours to the Park (of which, nearly 1,000 hours directly benefited our habitat management work!)

Examples of efforts addressed this year include:
- Completion of the Nemahbin Springs buckthorn clearing; from the trail leading back to the springs you can now see all the way back to out to the prairies and Timms Woods!
- Completion of 15 acres of woods (2 large units) leading from the Mike Fort shelter area up Asthma Hill back to the Butterfly Garden area.
• Clearing tree lines that separate the prairies; this will make prairie burns more efficient in the future.
• Clearing completely around the westside ponds where the Ice Age Trail boardwalk crosses the marsh.
• Preparing to plant a new 3-acre prairie on the westside (just north of the Paul Sandgren Recreational Trail right across the road from Evergreen).
• Clearing and “Freeing the Oaks” of buckthorn along the road to Evergreen, a project we’ve wanted to do for a long time, including clearing buckthorn around Evergreen and Evergreen’s overflow parking lots.
• Late last fall, and again this spring, Prairie burns were performed. Each of our Prairies have now been burned at least once since 2017 when we started the effort to get burns re-established at the Park! Additionally, we burned about 6 acres of woodlands this year for the first time under this new plan. Plants in the woods looked amazing after the burn and the buckthorn was halted too!
• We’ve begun gathering firewood that will be sold as donations to Park visitors; and, we have a new wood-splitter to create the firewood. Beginning this fall/winter, we will be making firewood available for donations; 100% of those donations (together with profits from the new annual “Feel the Burn” run/walk) will go to helping us fund the burning of our prairies and woodlands to promote new prairie growth while also reducing invasive species growth (and reducing the need for herbicide use at the park).

Summary: Our teams: Holly’s, Mike’s, and John’s, continued to break our prior records for the number of Habitat hours worked and the amount of invasive brush removed (piles burned)!

Many of these same volunteers built Memorial Benches again this year, nearly 20 of them! We are done selling new benches, but we will maintain the existing 100 benches, keeping them straight, and repairing them as needed.

Of special recognition, the Friends of Lapham Peak’s “Buckthorn Busters” received a Wisconsin DNR “2022 Invader Crusader Award” for their efforts this year!

We’d love to have you get involved, even if only once and awhile (no tools or training needed). To get involved, see our site: laphampeakfriends.org/habitat-restoration

Or please consider helping us by making a donation to help us with this work! ALL of this is accomplished by donations (the contracted prairie and woodland burns, equipment purchases, herbicide purchases, UTV maintenance and tires, repairs, and tools). To make a donation, go to: laphampeakfriends.org/donate

Thank you!
The Hausmann Nature Center was reopened after a two year hiatus due to covid-19. The center has come back under DNR operation with help from the Lapham Peak Friends group. Volunteers helped to prepare the Nature Center with deep cleaning and rearranging of the displays. We created a kids room in one of the back rooms with cushions, a rocking chair and lighting. The kids’ room contains books, a touch table and displays. We moved the pelts, the bat display and the insect displays into the main room. A craft table was placed in the main room with various projects and coloring pages throughout the season.

We opened in May with a Grand Reopening celebration including a visit from Smokey the Bear. We were able to present educational programs nearly all of the two weekends per month that the center was open. Over twelve hundred visitors came through the Nature Center this year.

Thank you so much to those who created and presented programs including Mary Miller-DNR, Camden Thomas-DNR, Liv Gripko-DNR, Helen Holtz, Evan Nelson-Good Oak as well as Wisconsin Master Naturalists, Kevin Hanley and Marge Wappler. Some of the topics presented this year included: Monarch Butterflies, Owls, Birds of Lapham Peak, Habitat Restoration & Prairie Burning, Frogs, Turtles, Insects, Increase Lapham and the History of the Tower and Native Americans of the Kettle Moraine.

We were excited to be featured on both Fox 6 News and on WTMJ's The Morning Blend. In August, we opened the Coneflower Gift Shop. T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and mugs as well as stickers, books, bookmarks and toys were sold. We were thankful to welcome previous volunteers and new volunteers. Jim and Cathy Wilson, Lynn Eschenburg, Christina Kelm, Kathy Eimer, Michael Brandt, Eliot Strickon, Jessica and Nate Rice, Whitney George. Thanks to the DNR for helping out and moving displays carefully when the center was used for other purposes and also to the board members for their continued support!
Friends of Lapham Peak

Annual Meeting 2022

LAPHAM LODGE UPDATE

By John McCarthy

The Lapham Lodge building committee of the Friends of Lapham Peak has been very busy over the past year. The proposed lodge is envisioned to be about 5000 square feet, located between the east edge of the evergreen parking lot and the main trailhead. The building will include a large gathering area, a ‘multi-purpose’ room, men’s, women’s, and family bathrooms, and changing rooms. It will have a large patio on the east, facing the trails. The building will serve visitors to the park year-round and will be reservable during select time periods for meetings and special events through the DNR’s existing reservation system.

The building is being designed for all potential users and will have facilities to support events such as races, weddings, and meetings. An audio-visual system is planned that will include visual and sound equipment, including a public address (PA) system for activities on the trail. The 580 square foot multi-purpose room will allow for meetings segregated from the main gathering area, and will include a sink and refrigerator, a counter, and a window to the gathering area that will allow for simple concessions and event management.

A gas fireplace that can be turned on with the flip of a switch will be included in the 2400 square foot gathering area (more than three times larger than the existing Evergreen Shelter gathering area). There will also be a counter and sink in the gathering area, trophy cases, ‘cubbies’, space for equipment storage, and a panoramic view of the trails to the east from the floor to ceiling windows. The changing room area will include two changing rooms, benches, more ‘cubbies’ for gear storage, and card-operated lockers for storage of valuables.

There will be men’s, women’s, and ‘family’ bathrooms, with ADA compliant features. The bathrooms and changing rooms will be open to the public during regular park hours, even if the gathering area is reserved.

Building committee members Mark Herr and John McCarthy, with the support of the DNR and significant help from Jennifer Gihring (DNR’s Federal Grants Coordinator), prepared an application for a grant from the U. S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), under the American Rescue Plan’s Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Program. The requested grant amount was $1.3 million, to be matched by the Friends with $650,000 donated to the project.

The Friends received a letter on September 2nd indicating we had been awarded the EDA grant. Mark and John are currently working with the EDA and DNR teams on finalizing the terms of the grant. There will be a tremendous amount of work required to comply with the grant requirements, and Mark and John are ready to ‘dive in’.

A matching grant from the DNR’s Stewardship Friends Grant program was also secured. This grant is for $20,000, to be matched by the Friends, and will be spent on items not covered by the EDA grant. The Stewardship Friends Grant is for ‘Phase 1’ of the project, which is primarily
design related activities. Additional grant applications will be submitted this fall to DNR for Phase 2 - building construction, and for Phase 3 – site amenities, in 2023.

The EDA grant application was based on a building construction cost estimate developed during 2021. Inflation, and the additional costs required to comply with federal contracting requirements increased the estimated costs of the project to about $2.4 million. Additional donations of about $400,000 will be needed for the project.

The Lodge fundraising team is contacting individuals, organizations, and businesses to obtain the additional funding needed for the project. The fundraising team is aware of the need to provide recognition to our donors at all levels. A fundraising initiative for laser-printed brick pavers to recognize smaller donors has been rolled out. The pavers will be placed in the patio area on the east side of the building and will show donor names. Additional donor recognition features will also be provided for higher level donors. We want everyone to feel like they are a part of this exciting project.

Please visit the FLP website at laphampeakfriends.org/lodge/ for more information, to donate, and to download a donor-paver order form.
Lapham Peak Ski League and Lapham Loppet 2022

The ski league and Loppet were big successes in part due to the lack of snow in SE Wisconsin. We were able to hold all 7 adult ski events on Wednesday night. The Tuesday afternoon league continues to be a great place for skiers who prefer the afternoon and less congestion on the trails. In addition, the K-6 kids, middle school and high school skiers enjoyed an earlier start and interesting routes provided by their coaches. On the final night it rained all day until the Wednesday night league was ready to ski. Instead of a banquet, we handed out treats and medals after the race. Thanks to Ariens for providing 50 more cloth bibs to add to our collection.

The Loppet had a large number of skiers this year, too. Thanks to all the snowmakers, groomers, volunteers and skiers who helped us make a record $9016.95 for snowmaking.

Kris Maki
REPORT ON SNOWMAKING – 2021-2022

By: John McCarthy

The 2021-2022 season was the 17th for snowmaking at Lapham Peak. The completion of the Winter Recreation Storage Building (WRSB) and the arrival of the new Pisten Bully 100 snowcat in 2020 ushered in a new era of cross country skiing at the park, with snow depths and grooming quality that rival anything ‘up north’.

Snowmaking Operations – 2021-2022 Ski Season

Snowmaking operations began on December 6th with the first segment of the trail opened to skiing on December 9th. Additional snowmaking continued over the next three weeks, with the full snowmaking trail system open on January 4th. Snowmaking and spreading continued into early January with new trails and a ‘playground’ area within the Field Loop regularly groomed and tracked, for the enjoyment of all skiers.

Several problems were encountered during snowmaking operations. A gasket in on the snowmaking pump discharge failed and had to be replaced. A hydrant on the Woods Loop developed a leak and was not available for snowmaking. The gasket issue was dealt with immediately, allowing snowmaking operations to resume. The failed hydrant has been subsequently replaced, along with several others from the same phase.

Great skiing conditions on the manmade snow loops were experienced by tens of thousands of skiers throughout the season. Grooming operations generally involved three nights with the Pisten Bully, and three nights with the DNR’s Ginzu groomer. As there was very little natural snow, the Pisten Bully was not used to groom any of the non-snowmaking trails this past season.

Excellent skiing continued into March, with the last day of grooming on March 13th, resulting in 95 days of skiing on the groomed manmade snow trails.

Snowmaking System Improvements

The new Pisten Bully 100F, purchased in 2020, showed what it can do to improve skiing at Lapham Peak this past season. The Pisten Bully was operated by trained volunteers Keith “Beattle” Adelmeyer and Mark Janis; and was used to spread the manmade snow whales, and to regularly groom the snowmaking trails. It was also used to set a double set of striding tracks, the likes of which
have never been seen before at Lapham Peak. The Pisten Bully is owned by the Friends of Lapham Peak. It cost $250,000 and was paid for by donations to the Friends.

The WRSB is used for year-round storage of the Pisten Bully, the snowguns, and other equipment related to winter operations at the park. The building protects the equipment from damage due to sun, weather, and rodents; and provides a location for staging snowmaking operations and maintaining equipment.
A gorgeous summer evening encompassed the Mike Fort Picnic Shelter and surrounding area on June 24. Attendees enjoyed music by Tom Klein and his band The Front.

Thanks to Eric Knutson from the Delafield Brewhaus for providing the beer and HZ Enterprises for covering part of the cost of the event. Gift cards from Sam’s Club, Albrecht’s Sentry in Delafield and Target also helped defray the costs. Admission fees and food sales assisted us in profiting $1,607.14 toward Lapham Lodge. Thanks to Grill Master John McCarthy and all the Friends volunteers who made the event successful. Thanks for all who attended!

Rita Keber

The Front Band