

Friends of Lapham Peak

W329 N846 County Highway C, Delafield, WI 53018 www.laphampeakfriends.org



Friends of Lapham Peak Newsletter Vol. 31, No. 1, April 2023, by Rita Keber

BIRD HIKES



Meet at Evergreen Shelter parking lot on **Sundays, May 7, 14, and 21** from 7-9 am to identify birds in the area. Dress appropriately for the weather. Bring binoculars if you have them. The group walks about a mile.

CULVER'S NIGHT IN WALES

An Eagle Scout project is planned to build a firepit at Homestead Hollow area. Bring your appetite to **Culver's in Wales on Tuesday, May 2nd** from 4-7 pm. Monies earned will benefit Eagle Scout Freddy with the project.

ITEMS FOR SALE



With Mother's Day and Father's Day coming, there are mugs available at the park entrance office. Stop in and choose one!

SPRING WORK DAY

Get your sturdy boots and gloves ready for our Work Day on Saturday, **May 6th** from 9:00 am to noon. Meet at Homestead Hollow parking lot where work groups will be dispersed for various areas. Several projects are planned such as trail restoration, woodchip spreading, new shrubs to be planted and mitigation work at the backpack shelter. Some tools will be provided, however you may bring any of the following: loppers, shovel, garden rake, leaf rake, or pitchfork. Lunch will follow at noon. Please contact [Rita](#) or call 262-547-4827 **if you are staying for lunch by Wednesday, May 3rd.**

FIREWOOD AVAILABLE AT THE PARK



We have a firewood rack at Evergreen Shelter for the outside firepit and wood burning stove inside the shelter, or for your backyard firepit or

fireplace. There is also a wood rack at the campsite. Donations are requested as it helps

Free Fun Weekend in Wisconsin

All state parks and forests will have **FREE** admission **June 3-4**. That includes riding bicycle trails such as the Glacial Drumlin Trail and fishing.

HAUSMANN NATURE CENTER



The Hausmann Nature Center is open for the season! Yay! There is new apparel and previous items on sale! Check out the [schedule](#) for dates in April through October. Volunteer opportunities are available. Contact Melissa for more information at msnm70@gmail.com. She would love to hear from you!

us maintain the prairies and woodlands at Lapham Peak! Each bin in the wood racks (cubby holes) contains a VERY generous amount of wood, over 4 times as much as a bundle at a retail or roadside location. Also included is a small bundle of kindling to get the fire started. Thank you for your support in our prairie restoration efforts!

5K RUN/WALK FOR HABITAT RESTORATION



Get your run/walk shoes ready for the 2nd **“Feel the Burn”** on **Saturday, June 24**. The 5K Run/Walk fundraiser is located in the prairies on the west side

of Hwy C. The cost of burning our prairies is roughly \$85/acre and woodlands is about \$150/acre. With several hundred acres to maintain at Lapham, this quickly becomes an expensive venture. Therefore, all proceeds benefit prescribed burning at Lapham Peak. Check out the [website & flyer](#) for details.

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the many volunteers who assist at the park! In 2022, more than **13,000** hours were logged for park projects which included Wednesday & Tuesday Night Ski Series, Lapham Loppet, Candlelight Ski & Hike, Work Days, Summer Solstice, Colorama, Fright Hike, Butterfly Garden clean up and maintenance, invasive species management and burning (Buckthorn Busters), cleaning up the park, snowmaking improvements, bluebird monitoring, assisting at Hausmann Nature Center, Lapham Lodge and more. We couldn't have done it without you!

There are 190 lifetime members and 69 paid members. We'd love to have you volunteer so just contact us!

Contact [Rita](#) and she will connect you to the right areas.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN



plants.

While hiking through the park, stop by the Butterfly Garden to enjoy the beauty. There are benches and picnic tables in the shade for a rest and snack. This spring, a sprinkler system will be added to make it easier to water all the new

Plan a time when you can assist with maintenance in the garden. Help is needed throughout the summer and is always welcome. Contact [Rita](#) if you wish to assist.



Bricks are [available](#) for purchase to add to the beauty of the garden.

SNOWMAKING

The Lapham Peak snowmaking trails saw one of the longest seasons of groomed manmade snow since we began making snow in 2005. There were 105 days of skiing between the first grooming on December 6th, and the final day of grooming on March 20th. The ski season was impacted by numerous rain events and warm-ups, but the Pisten Bully was able to renovate and revitalize the trails after each event, providing great conditions for skating and striding on the 2.4 kilometers of snowmaking trails.

The snowmaking volunteers, led by Rich Marusinec and Mike Koester, made snow on 16 days throughout the season, putting in almost 550 hours in the process. The Friends' Pisten Bully operators – Keith “Beattle” Adelmeyer and Mark Janis – supplemented by Park staff with their Ginzu groomer, put in many late night and early morning hours, to keep the trails in great shape throughout the season. Work on the snowmaking system this spring and summer will result in more improvements to the snowmaking infrastructure and operations. New volunteers for snowmaking operations in 2023-24 are being actively recruited.

LAPHAM LODGE



Work on design and fundraising for the new Lapham Lodge – to be located at the Evergreen Trailhead – continued through the winter. Nearly final plans have been completed and submitted to DNR for review.

The project will be presented to the DNR Natural Resources Board on May 22nd for acceptance of the donation of the building to the DNR. Current plans call for putting the project out for contractor bids in mid-May, with construction anticipated to begin in mid-July.

Watch for site preparation work to begin this spring. Anticipated completion of the building is for late summer 2024.

Funding for the building, which is a combination of generous donations and grants from the DNR and the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, has reached about \$2.21 million of the \$2.4 million goal. Your donations to the project are needed and greatly appreciated. The 5000 square foot lodge will be a game-changing addition to the park, serving visitors on a year-round basis. Go to the [Friends website](#) to find out how you can help support the project, including the opportunity to purchase a donor paver, and get your name and message on the east patio of the new building.

HABITAT RESTORATION



We have volunteer groups who work all year round now restoring and maintaining the habitat at Lapham Peak. Some volunteers work on the weekdays, some on the weekends. The best way to learn about what we do and how to get involved, even if only every now and then, is to see our website: laphampeakfriends.org/habitat-restoration/.

We cut, pile, and burn invasive brush and trees pretty much year-round: buckthorn, honeysuckle, Autumn Olive, Black Locust,

Japanese Barberry etc., Garlic Mustard, Crown Vetch, Bird's-foot, Canada Thistle, and more. But in the spring and fall, we try and burn sections or units of prairies and woodlands too as this keeps the invasives down and promotes new growth. The weather did not cooperate last fall, and this spring it's been difficult, but the week of April 24th we finally got a good number of acres burned again (both in the prairies and in the woods).

COLORAMA



You have all summer to get your legs in shape for the 34th Colorama Run/Walk on **Saturday, October 7th**.

FRIGHT HIKE



Mark your calendar for **Fright Hike October 27th and 28th**. Proceeds benefit Friends of Lapham Peak snowmaking and habitat. Please consider volunteering to be a Crew Leader or Co-leader or helping. We are seeking volunteers now to make the event more manageable.

Check out the Fright Hike [website](#).

And, stay tuned for more information about a possible **Friday October the 13th** event that's in the works as well.

OFFICERS TO FRIENDS OF LAPHAM PEAK BOARD

At the November annual meeting, new members for the Board of Directors were elected, and at the Board meeting in January, the Board members appointed the following Officers for 2023:

John Hillmer, President
Melissa Jarecki, Vice President
Karl Timm, Treasurer
Anne Riendl, Assistant Treasurer
Mark Fischer, Secretary

If you have comments or questions regarding the FLP, John Hillmer would welcome your notes: JHillmer@gmail.com