

Habitat Report for June 2024, By John Hillmer

Friends of Lapham Peak
"Free the Oaks"



Buckthorn Busters

Work in May included:

1. Planting native prairie flower seeds in the "headless horseman" prairie – seeds that were harvested from the west side prairies last year.
2. Building 20 six-foot tall fences to protect small to medium sized bur and white oak trees growing in the west side prairies. These trees grew naturally along the tree lines, and are trying to create new oak savannahs, but they are getting chewed on by deer, so the fencing will give them a chance to grow tall enough to survive. This was funded by Habitat (thanks to firewood donations, about \$700).
3. After storms, trails continue to be cleared from downed branches and trees.
4. Clearing of buckthorn and other invasives has continued along the south side of Two-Tier and the west side of the Park road across from Hausmann (Trilliums were found in the kettle across the road from Hausmann too! we've seen them on the top of the hill near Hausmann, but this is a new find).
5. We have prep'ed the area to the east of the Ice Age Trail's boardwalk near Evergreen to be planted with sedge grasses; that will happen in June. We have not received grant funds for our grass seeds so Habitat will fund those completely (about \$3,000) for the Springs (3) and Evergreen (4) acres.

	Volunteer Hours	Piles Burned	Firewood Bins Used	Firewood Donations	IAT Hours Donated
October	620.00	193	34	\$ 161.00	379.25
November	603.25	208	32	\$ 182.50	190.00
December	961.00	189	22	\$ 132.00	155.00
January	476.75	63	35	\$ 127.00	69.50
February	690.00	84	35	\$ 288.66	87.00
March	727.00	51	51	\$ 300.00	212.75
April	761.75	122	27	\$ 265.00	219.50
May	826.00	105	30	\$ 119.00	87.50
Total Fiscal Year 2023-24	5,665.75	1,015	266	\$ 1,575.16	1,400.50
Total Project To-Date				\$ 2,532.16	

Trilliums found in the Park this spring: the one on the left was with some across the Park road from Hausmann; the one on the right was with others on top of the hill near the driveway to Hausmann.





Deer Fencing (or, we're preventing the Oak Trees from running away!)