

Friends of Lapham Peak

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



Friends of Lapham Peak Newsletter Vol. 33, No. 3, September 2024, by Rita Keber

35th ANNUAL COLORAMA RUN/WALK

Jon Jeffords, Race Director

The 2024 Colorama Run/Walk and Smokey Bear event on Saturday, **October 5th** at Lapham Peak is



fast approaching! Run the 5K/10K course or walk the 1.4 mile paved accessible trail suitable for wheelchairs and strollers or the 5K route. Smokey Bear Fun Run (10 & under) course circles the pond at Homestead Hollow. Registration is [online](#). Register before September 22 for \$35.00 + processing fee and tax (for runners) or pay \$40.00 + processing fee & tax after the 22nd.

If you are able to volunteer for this worthwhile fundraising event, please reply directly to **Jon** at laphampeakcolorama@gmail.com. Volunteers are needed for registration desk, parking attendants, water station staffing, awards and door prize distribution, finish chute staffing, and cleanup, welcoming people at the Friends table, just to name a few. The registration desk opens at 8am, with the run/walk starting at 10am (same as previous years).

Fruit such as apples, grapes or mandarin oranges are appreciated. Drop them off at the Mike Fort Picnic Shelter at the Homestead Hollow Picnic area. Thank you for helping with this great fundraiser for the park!

WOMEN & WINE IN THE WOODS

Thursday, October 17th 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Join us for a fundraiser for the Hausmann Nature Center. The evening will include:

Wine Tasting from *Waterford Wine & Spirits*
-Light Appetizers
-A Walk on the Accessible Trail
-Raffles, Silent Auction and Cork Pull

Contact: Melissa Jarecki at hnc@laphampeakfriends.org (If you wish to pay by check or have any issues with the registration form or payment, please contact Melissa)
- Tickets \$50 or a Flight of Five Tickets for \$200.

For tickets: laphampeakfriends.org/events/women-and-wine-in-the-woods-october-17



FRIGHT HIKE

By Angela Meyer, event coordinator



The 25th Annual Fright Hike at Lapham Peak State Park will take **place Friday, October 25th &**

Saturday, October 26th at 6pm at the Evergreen Shelter area. Each Halloween for two nights only, the beautiful, moonlit paths of Lapham Peak State Park are riddled with ghosts & goblins. After the haunted hike, guests enjoy concessions & music by the bonfire. Our community looks forward to this festive tradition every year. The Fright Hike is a major fundraiser for Lapham Peak's projects.

The Fright Hike is also a great opportunity for area junior & high school students to be part of a community service project. Students decorate their own haunted site & act out their roles for this spooktacular event. Hikers vote for their favorite haunted scene after the show, encouraging students to really get creative & give it their all. Each club or team earns money for their school group or non-profit organization. Over 4,000 residents attend this festive weekend. It is great fun for our community & all involved. Follow us on Facebook to see photos of the event: www.facebook.com/laphampeakfrighthike

Fright Hike is an extremely large event that requires many volunteers! Please consider giving us a hand. Sign-up to volunteer at: frighthike.org/volunteers or here: www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549AAAD23A75-50491685-fright

Questions? Contact Angie at frighthikepeak@gmail.com.

(In honor of this special 25th Anniversary year, we are also looking for old photos from Fright Hikes of the past. Please share with Angie if you can dig some up!)

LAPHAM LODGE CONSTRUCTION

PROCEEDING

John McCarthy



There has been a whirlwind of construction activity over the past six months on the Lodge. If you've been to the Evergreen parking lot recently, you'll see the nearly completed shell of the building, with siding and windows on the west half, and framing for the Gathering Area. Plumbing, electrical, and HVAC components have been installed, and the roofing system has been installed over the west half. Lodge building committee members Mark Herr and John McCarthy have worked closely with Galbraith Carnahan Architects and the GRAEF engineering team to manage the construction process. The Friends will turn over the completed building to the DNR in spring, 2025. Lodge building committee members Paul and Rita Keber, Will Edwards, Charlie Ritter, Mark Herr, and John McCarthy have worked very hard for the past three years to put together the funding for the project. The Friends' success at securing donations and state and federal grants for the project is the envy of other Friends groups around the state who have similar ambitions for improvements to their parks. Following is a breakdown of the major funding sources for the project:

- Private donations to the Friends: over \$1,000,000
- US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration: \$1,299,900.
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: \$250,000
- DNR Friends Stewardship Grants: \$60,000
- Delafield Tourism Council: \$50,000

The current fundraising total is about \$2.8 million, which will cover the cost of design and construction of the building and some of the furnishings. Additional funds are still needed to fully furnish and operate the building. The two

biggest areas of need are for a solar panel system to supplement electric power provided by We Energies; and components of the building's audio/visual system.

The link below will take you to the Lodge Donor Catalog via the Friends webpage for more details on the furnishings, amenities, and A/V system components; and how to donate for them: laphampeakfriends.org/lodge

Donations for the Donor Catalog items, and to the general building fund, will be recognized on a special Donor Recognition Display in the Gathering Area. The Donor recognition Display is being created by well-known local sculptor, veterinarian, and skier, John Hallett. It will be a unique combination of brass, ceramic, and glass that will be tied to the ecology and character of Lapham Peak. The names of donors of \$2000 or more will be shown on the display. Donors will also be recognized on the donor pavers in the east patio. You can still donate for a paver through the Friends' website, for installation in the patio in 2025.

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed to the project. Keep an eye on the progress of the building as you hike the trails this fall; and get ready for the grand opening in the spring. You will be amazed!

FREE FIREWOOD FOR DONATIONS

John Hillmer, coordinator

Want Firewood for your event at the Park? Or at Home?

Volunteers have split, aged, and dried hardwood for your use.

Wood racks are at:

- The Backpack **Campsite** and Fire Pit
- **Mike Fort** Shelter and Fire Pit
- **Trecker** Lodge and Fire Pit
- **Evergreen** Fire Pit, Shelter, and Lodge (with easy parking lot access for your car/truck to load and take home!)



Wood is in bins, with about 30-40 pieces in each bin; bins include a bundle of small pine kindling to help you start your fires.

Donations are requested when you take wood. 100% of donations help volunteers maintain Lapham Peak's prairies & woodlands.

If you'd like a **face-cord** or **cord** (or **trailer** full, etc.) call John Hillmer: 414-333-6337 or email JHillmer@gmail.com – he'll assist you with the location of our dried supply for easier loading; we have plenty and it's all been dried for 18-24 months.

Also available and FUN, we have a limited supply of natural chimney (hollow) logs for a fire pit or camping. Contact John for these as well.



SNOWMAKING UPDATE – FALL 2024

John McCarthy

The FLP Snowmaking Committee is looking forward to more favorable snowmaking and skiing conditions in the upcoming season than we had last year. The 2023-24 ski season saw warm and rainy conditions, with only about 10 days of skiable natural snow. Skiing on the snowmaking loops lasted for about 85 days, start to finish, but there were many days lost to unskiable conditions, making it our worst season ever. Still, we had it better than the rest of the state, which saw the worst cross-country skiing conditions ever.

Improvements to the snowmaking system for the coming season include the resolution of issues with the electrical system, bringing it into compliance with current electrical codes and making it safer for volunteers to operate. Repairs to problematic hydrants are being made to assure that water is available when needed. The committee is working with DNR to repair issues with the snowmaking well that have reduced the well output, but don't expect those repairs to be accomplished for the upcoming season. Routine maintenance of the

Pisten Bully grooming machine has been ongoing, so it will be ready for the upcoming season.

Two borrowed SMI “Stick Guns” were successfully tested last season; and the Friends purchased one of those guns this year. The new stick gun will provide another tool for making snow in certain challenging areas.



The snowmaking committee’s most pressing need is for more volunteers for snowmaking planning and operations. We especially need people to operate the snow guns at times that are often inconvenient, as the weather needed to make snow often arrives in the middle of the night and sometimes on weekends and holidays. We need to expand our volunteer base for snowmaking operations overall, and especially at those times. Plans for expansion of the snowmaking trails are on hold until we can resolve the water supply and volunteer snowmaker’s issues.

We also need to add active members to the snowmaking committee. The snowmaking team needs some new, younger members to provide for succession of the committee’s functions. People with a variety of skills are needed to plan, fundraise, operate, and provide technical support for the snowmaking project.

The Friends have much to be proud of regarding the snowmaking project, providing groomed snow for skiers of all abilities and supporting programs for youth and adults. The snowmaking committee looks forward to continuing to serve our skiing community and are grateful for the resources and support from all of you that have made snowmaking at Lapham a resounding success.

Please e-mail Anne Riendl at LaphamSnowmaking@gmail.com if you would like to talk about joining the snowmaking team.

WORK MORNING

Mark your calendar to join us to help with fall clearing and trail maintenance at the park on **Saturday, November 2** from 9 am to noon.

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30							

A chili lunch will be served at noon. More information will be coming at a later date.

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

Our Friends of Lapham Peak Annual Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 13** at 6 pm. More information on the speaker and agenda will be announced later.