

FRIENDS OF LAPHAM PEAK

W329 N846 Co. Hwy. C, Delafield, WI 53018



Friends of Lapham Peak Newsletter Vol. 33, No. 4, December 2025 by Rita Keber & John Hillmer

Holiday Gift Ideas!

State Park Stickers are a great gift for the holidays; available at the park entrance station or [online](#). Park hours are usually 9 am to 3:00 pm. Encourage others to get outdoors!



Butterfly Garden Bricks are available with your own design. An engraved 4x8 brick is \$150 and an 8x8 brick is \$300. Check out the [website](#) for details.



New FLP Merchandise Now Available

Get ready for the cold weather and holidays with our latest merchandise—now featuring a bold, contemporary two-color logo! Choose from cozy hoodies, mugs, warm beanies,



and neck gaiters. Our merch logo has evolved from a circle design to a fresh landscape look, with a special new cap design for the Lapham Lodge too!

Clearance Sale:

We're clearing out some items—don't miss out!

- **Hoodies:** Now **\$25** (35% off, regularly \$38). Available in hi-vis yellow and orange sizes S–3XL, and we have some sand, royal blue, and pink ones in limited sizes.



- 17oz Stainless Steel Insulated Water Bottle: Only **\$19** (regularly \$26).

Limited quantities—visit the Park office to shop!

Note: Merchandise is not available online.

Lapham Lodge Brick Get a laser-printed paver for the Lodge's walkway to the grilling area (the grill pad)! A beautiful charcoal grill has been donated and is located on the pad. Check out the [website](#) for a 4" x 8" paver for \$200 or an 8" x 8" paver for \$500.00. Scroll to the bottom of the Lodge [page](#) for information.

Membership Give a FLP membership to others. Click here for the [form](#) or purchase [online](#). You can take pride in knowing your gift will be used wisely to support Lapham Peak projects that maintain and enhance the property.

- **Individual Members** (\$15/year) (1 person, 1 vote + newsletters)
- **Family Member** (\$25/year) (2 or more people, 2 votes + newsletters)
- **Senior Member** (\$10/yr. 60+ yrs. old) (1 person, 1 vote + newsletters)
- **Lifetime Member** (\$105 for life) (1 person, 1 vote + newsletters)
 - Please also see our **Sustaining Lifetime Member*** option below
- **Corporate Member** (\$60/year) (0 vote + newsletters)

The Friends' membership category, **Sustaining Lifetime Member**, allows for Lifetime members to make an additional contribution to the Friends of Lapham Peak to further our purpose "to promote and support the Lapham Peak Unit-Kettle Moraine State Forest."

Ski League and Loppet

We have two options to compete against fellow ski enthusiasts from (January 7- February 11).

- **Wednesday Afternoon Time Trial** timed with Individual Start between 1 and 5pm. See the [website](#).
- **Wednesday Night Ski League** with detailed information for the [Junior Nordic Ski Series](#) (Grades K-12) and [Adult Nordic Ski Series](#) are available on the [website](#).

State Park Vehicle Sticker and a State Park Trail Pass are required. Contact [Kris Maki](#) 262-965-2636 for adult information, [Paul Keber](#) for grades K-12 information, or [Mike Graham](#) for the afternoon time trials.

The **Lapham Loppet** is another ski league event, scheduled this year for **January 17th**. It is an 11K event for adults and high school students. A middle school race is also held. Volunteers are needed for the following tasks: set up, parking, registration, guiding skiers to finish, results, water/treat stop. For more information or to register, see the [website](#).



Potential Knowles Nelson Grant for New Accessible Fishing Pier

The Friends submitted a Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant application to the DNR for a new accessible fishing pier on Lupo Pond, to replace the existing fishing pier, shown here. The pier would meet ADA/ABA Guidelines for accessibility and would be located on the other side of the pond, so that an accessible path could be provided from the Evergreen parking lot. Approval of the grant won't be known until spring, and then fundraising will be required to provide the Friends' match to the grant. If you have an interest in improving accessibility to the park's amenities, such as the Lupo Pond – designated as an Urban Fishing Pond – **please consider a donation towards the pier project in your year-end giving.**

Restored Increase Lapham Map

Germaine Hillmer, FLP member & Hawks Inn volunteer

Join us at **Hawks Inn, Delafield History Center, 428 Wells Street, Delafield, on January 4, 2026 from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm.** \$10 admission at the door. Wine and light refreshments are served. There will be a fascinating lecture on a beautifully restored 1853 map of southern Wisconsin that was the hand-colored map created by renowned naturalist, Increase Lapham. Discover how this rare piece of history captures the region's early landscape and development. It is a treasure for anyone who appreciates Wisconsin's past and the art of cartography.



Increase Lapham's personal map was carried in a leather case in his pocket. The 36 folds had weakened or destroyed the paper in many places. The Hawks Inn Historical Society secured a grant from The Greater Delafield Community Fund to have it restored. Hope you can join us!

2026 Candlelight Event



Come out and enjoy the snow and winter at the **Candlelight Hike & Ski** event at Lapham Peak's Homestead Hollow area from **5:00 pm - 8:30 pm** on **January 31st**. A WI State Park annual vehicle admission sticker or a \$10.00 Special Event vehicle admission fee is required per vehicle. You will need to register (**free**) and bring a paper copy or your phone to show the registration confirmation at the main gate. Registration will open on January 1: laphampeakfriends.org/2026-candlelight-registration

If you have any questions, please visit www.laphampeakfriends.org for Candlelight FAQ's on the Home Page or call the park office at 262-646-3025.

After skiing/hiking/snowshoeing...

- Walk down the path to **Trecker Lodge** for hot cider, hot cocoa and delicious treats provided the FLP members available with a donation.
- Make a S'more – all supplies provided, available for a donation
- Warm yourself by the bonfire
- Bring your own food and grill outside
- All proceeds will benefit the park

This event is sponsored by WI DNR and the Friends of Lapham Peak

Volunteers will be needed to provide bars or cookies. There will be two-hour work shifts either inside Trecker to serve hot beverages and hand out treats, or outside helping with traffic control and directing people to the trails. Contact Rita at rkeber@milwpc.com if you can help.

Great Early Skiing on Trails

Fresh new natural snow was a welcome surprise at the end of November. And, we began making manmade snow on December 3rd. Thanks to the Volunteers, park staff, and the PistenBully groomers for your work and our enjoyment. We appreciate your commitment to great ski trails.



December 4, making some of the first snow

Hikers may hike on any ungroomed ski trails on the east or west sides of the park, and on the Ice Age Trail.

Trail Conditions are updated on the Friends of Lapham Peak's website, and on the Snowmaking Website

❄️ **Trail Conditions**

Firewood for Your Campfire or Home

Enjoy a fire at any Lapham Peak shelter or at the campsite, each has a fire pit and a wood rack stocked with aged, dry hardwood (mostly oak, and some cherry, hickory, and walnut) and some pine kindling, thanks to our Buckthorn Buster volunteers.



- **Take Wood Home:** You're welcome to take firewood out of the park. For large loads, contact John Hillmer at 414-333-6337 for directions.
- **Donations:** Please donate what you feel is appropriate; your support helps restore the park's woods and prairies. Donation instructions are posted at each rack, with options for [online](#) or cash donations.

First Day Hike



The Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance will host hikes of various lengths, at Lapham Peak, starting at 11 am on January

1st. Meet at the Mike Fort Picnic shelter.

Lapham Peak Ski Club Family Event



The Lapham Peak Ski Club will hold a Family Ski Day Snow Celebration on **Sunday, January 25th** from **1:00-3:00 pm**. Join in the fun with an obstacle course, Winnie-the-Pooh Fun Ski 1K, hot cocoa, snacks, bonfire and more. The event is free, but a day pass or annual park sticker is required to enter the park.

Annual Meeting and Report

On November 13, the FLP Annual Membership Meeting was held. We presented the annual reports covering October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. During a short board meeting, five board members were elected to three-year terms. Following that, Seth Taft, Executive Director of the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks, spoke. The annual reports are available on the Friends' website, where you may also find a list of all board members and their terms: [2024-25 FLP Annual Reports](#)

Friends of Lapham Peak Board of Directors for 2026

For 2026, the Board of Directors for the Friends of Lapham Peak (FLP) will be the following. In January, the Board will establish the officers for the year (president, vice president, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and secretary):

Rebecca Burton
Christine Ciszek
Nicole Diedrick
Mark Fischer
Mark Herr
John Hillmer
Steve Huser

Melissa Jarecki
Rita Keber
John Kolbe
Kris Maki
John McCarthy
Anne Riendl
Karl Timm

We welcome Christine and Steve as two new members voted to the Board of Directors.

Colorama Race Director

We are looking for a person or persons to be the race director for our annual Colorama Run/Walk which is held the first Saturday in October. In 2026, that will be October 3. If you are interested contact [John Hillmer](#).

Nordic Specialist for Rentals at Evergreen Shelter

[Nordic Specialists](#) is now located in the Evergreen Shelter. Their hours are:

Mon-Sat: 10am-8 pm

Sun: 10 am-4 pm

Hours are subject to change due to conditions. Check them out.



Additional Ski Rentals

Ski rentals are available at [Bicycle Doctor](#) in Dousman. Their hours are:

Mon-Fri: 11 am-6 pm

Sat & Sun: 11 am-4 pm