

Friends of Lapham Peak
W329 N846 County Highway C, Delafield, WI 53018
www.laphampeakfriends.org



Friends of Lapham Peak Newsletter Vol. 34, No. 1, April 2026

Hausmann Nature Center



Meet - Learn ways to use native plants to transform your yard into a wildlife haven, with meteorologist, Eric Manges.

April 19, 10:30 am- 12 pm: Behind the Shutter: Mastering Wildlife Photography with Jeff Engel and Rick Sasek - Improve your photography skills and come away with stronger, more impactful images.

April 19, 1 pm - 3 pm: Leave No Trace: A Trail Adventure for Kids (Girl Scouts/Cadettes & Juniors) a program for Girl Scouts to work on their Trail Adventure Badge.

The Hausmann Nature Center (HNC) provides education programs and informational displays and is open multiple weekends throughout the spring, summer and fall months. Hours 10-4.

OPENING WEEKEND APRIL 18/19

APRIL PROGRAMS:

April 11, 10am - 12 pm: Volunteer Open House - Stop by any time to visit with current volunteers and see what is involved in becoming a Hausmann Nature Center volunteer.

April 18, 11am - 12 pm: Live Raptor Show - Family-friendly educational show with a LIVE red-tailed hawk and falconer, Jack Pace. **April 18, 1 pm - 2 pm:** Where Ecology and Meteorology

**Registration is required for programs.

SPECIAL EVENT: JULY 29, 6:35 PM
LAKE COUNTRY DOCKHOUNDS
HAUSMANN NATURE CENTER
FUNDRAISER NIGHT! Here is the link:
[FOR TICKETS AND DETAILS!](#)

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram or visit our [website](#) to see all our upcoming open dates and events.

Spring Work Day



Get your sturdy boots and gloves ready for our Work Day on Saturday, **May 2** from 9:00 am to noon. Meet at the maintenance shop which is the first left driveway after entering the park entrance/office. Projects will be determined in the next few weeks. Lunch will follow at noon in the maintenance building. Contact [Rita](#) or call 262-547-4827 **if you wish to help and if you're staying for lunch by Tuesday, April 29.**

Free Fun Weekend in Wisconsin

All state parks and forests will have **FREE** admission **June 6-7**. That includes riding bicycle trails such as the Glacial Drumlin Trail and fishing.

5K Run/walk for Habitat Restoration

Get your run/walk shoes ready for the 5th **“Feel the Burn”** on **Saturday, July 11**. The 5K Run/Walk fundraiser will have a new route this year.



The cost of burning our prairies and woodlands is about \$6000-\$8000 per season to promote good growth while also fighting invasives so we can minimize the amount of herbicide usage to control them. With several hundred acres to maintain at Lapham, this quickly becomes an expensive venture. All proceeds benefit prescribed burning at Lapham Peak. [Online registration](#) is up now! Registration and awards will be in Lapham Lodge. Again, this year [Bangin Burgers](#), from Oconomowoc will bring their food truck and they donate part of their profits to Lapham Peak's Prairie Restoration. Park Merchandise and Prairie plant seeds will be available for purchase. Contact [Kris](#) if you wish to volunteer.

Butterfly Garden



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.

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.

To add to the beauty of the garden, bricks for the pathway can be purchased [online](#).



Lapham Lodge Wi Fi

Thanks to our partnership with the DNR, the Friends of Lapham Peak have installed and are providing free Wi-Fi for your use at Lapham Lodge. You will find the password and the terms & conditions for using the Wi-Fi in the Lodge on the bulletin board. Please be respectful and use it appropriately.

Lapham Peak Merchandise Available

Stop at the Park's Entrance Office to find a huge selection of Lapham Peak logo merchandise items, from caps, pullover or zippered hoodies, short & long-sleeved T-Shirts, neck gaiters, knit caps, campfire mugs and stainless-steel thermos water bottles, plus a selection of native prairie flower seeds!

When the Hausmann Nature Center is open, other items will be available there as well. All proceeds from the sale of merchandise support the many projects of the Friends of Lapham Peak. With Mother's Day and Father's Day coming, stop in and check them out!

New Accessible Fishing Pier for Lupo Pond

The Friends have received a Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant from the DNR for a new accessible fishing pier on Lupo Pond. The Grant is for \$20,000, to be matched by the Friends and used for Phase 1 of the project – the pier. The pier will meet ADA/ABA Guidelines for accessibility; and be

located on the south side of the pond, so that an accessible path (Phase 2) can be provided from the Evergreen parking lot.

The Friends have also submitted for a Federal Recreational Trails Grant for the pier and the path, which could provide another \$20,000 for the project.

Fundraising will be required to provide the Friends' match to these grants and pay for the total estimated cost of \$65,500.

If you have an interest in improving accessibility to park amenities such as the Lupo Pond – designated as an Urban Fishing Pond – please consider a donation towards the pier project. More information is available on the Friends website.



Here's an example of what the pier could look like.

Please contact [John McCarthy](#) with any questions on the project or to offer your help.



And, yes.... there are fish in Lupo Pond!

Snowmaking and the Lapham Lodge are a Match Made in Heaven



The 2025-2026 ski season at Lapham Peak had a wonderful new amenity – the Lapham Lodge – for skiers coming to the park to ski on the snowmaking loops. The new Lodge, designed with an eye towards cross-country skiing, is located directly on the snowmaking trailhead, with easy access to the trails from the south building entry. The gas fireplace, comfortable furniture, cubbies, changing rooms, large bathrooms, abundant tables and chairs, and the floor-to-ceiling windows provided a new experience for Lapham skiers and spectators. Improved trail lighting at the expanded trailhead area also enhanced the overall skier experience.

Skiing at Lapham Peak got an early start, with 8 inches of snow on November 29th, and skiing on November 30th. Snowmaking began shortly thereafter, providing a substantial base until the first week of March (95 days). Snow was made by Friends volunteers during 10 sessions, with about 600 hours of labor, plus another 300 hours on preparation and repairs. Regular

grooming of the snowmaking loops involved 4 days per week with the Pisten Bully, supplemented by Park Staff with their Gator and Ginsu groomer. It was a fun season, with six days/nights of Wednesday racing, the Lapham Loppet, the Southern Division meet (middle school and high school teams from the region), Tuesday morning and evening lessons from the Lapham Peak Ski Club, Peak Nordic Kids on Monday evenings, and team practices several days per week -- a very busy season. The new Nordic Specialist ski rental concession and sales operation, out of the old Evergreen Shelter, was a great way to get new skiers hooked on snow. Of course, none of this would be possible without your financial support and willingness to volunteer. THANK YOU for your continuing support as we look for new ways to further improve the cross-country skiing experience at Lapham Peak.

Colorama



You have all summer to get your legs in shape for the 37th Colorama Run/Walk on **Saturday, October 3rd**.

Fright Hike



Mark your calendar for the 27th Annual Fright Hike at Lapham Peak, on October 23rd and 24th. Proceeds will benefit the Friends of Lapham Peak's Habitat Restoration and Snowmaking Project.

We are looking for Corporate Sponsors to help us make Fright Hike possible. Also, many volunteers and groups are needed to provide skits for the event. See our webpage or Facebook sites for details:

FrightHike.org or
Facebook.com/laphampeakfrighthike

Friends of Lapham Peak Updates

Board of Directors were elected at the January Board meeting. The following Officers were appointed, and the list of all board members follows:

John Hillmer, President
Melissa Jarecki, Vice President
Karl Timm, Treasurer
Anne Riendl, Assistant Treasurer
Becky Burton, Secretary
Chris Ciszek
Mark Fisher
Mark Herr
Steve Huser
Rita Keber
John Kolbe
Kris Maki
John McCarthy

If you have comments or questions regarding the FLP, [John Hillmer](#) would welcome your notes.

THANK YOU to the many volunteers who assist at the park! In 2025, more than 19,919 hours were logged for park projects compared to 18,272 for 2024. Projects include the Wednesday Ski Series, Lapham Loppet, Candlelight Ski & Hike, Work Days, Feel the Burn, Colorama, Fright Hike, Butterfly Garden clean up, maintenance and Garden Pathway Bricks, invasive species management and burning (Buckthorn Busters), cleaning up the park, snowmaking, bluebird monitoring, assisting at Hausmann Nature Center, Lapham Lodge, and Board of Directors management, and more. Estimated volunteers 375 individuals We couldn't have done it without you!

There are 228 lifetime members and 97 paid members for 2026. Membership follows the calendar year. Friends sponsor several events throughout the year and are always in need of volunteers. Contact [Rita](#) or see our [membership page](#) on our website for more information.