

# Friends of Maybury State Park

## 2017 -- Year in Review

### JANUARY

- **Annual Meeting** -- a guest speaker panel focused on forging new relationships between the park, Northville Community Foundation and Northville Parks&Rec. Elected Jean, Kate, and Ron to new two-year terms on the Board.
- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Adam, an Eagle Scout candidate, presented his final report for the completion of his project. Adam built a brick patio surrounding the flag pole. A motion was passed to issue a check for \$500 to Adam.
- **NCF Grant** -- We received a \$520 grant check from Northville Community Foundation for the purchase of "Link" signs within the park -- thanks to NCF!
- **Intro to X-Country Skiing** -- 12 people attended the first session, which was a classroom setting, to talk about clothing, equipment, technique, and where to ski. The next session located at the park was cancelled due to weather, but 11 attendees had a nice walk. Thanks to Louise, Peg, Amy and Ron.

### FEBRUARY

- **Michigan Parks Community Service Award** -- Traci nominated REI to receive this award -- congratulations REI.
- **Bicycle Fix-It Station** -- Northville Rotary Club will donate \$2000 to the Friends of Maybury, who will in turn, purchase a new Fix-It Station. Thanks to Rotary.

### MARCH

- **DNR/Friends Summit** -- There were several great presentations during the two days, and it's clear there are numerous Friends Groups who are doing amazing things in support of their parks.
- **Library Display Case** -- The display was in the Northville Library display case thru the month of March.
- **Love our Parks, Love our Coffee** -- there's a new state park themed coffee program with Espresso Royale. The Friends will purchase 12 bags of coffee, which will be sold in partnership with Maybury Farm, in their Welcome Center. Profits will be split between the Friends and the Farm, and the DNR receives \$0.50 directly from Espresso Royale for each bag sold.

### APRIL

- **Egg-Stravaganza** -- A wonderful event, with a great crowd at Maybury Farm. Over 700 kids hunted for colored eggs, and all received a prize bag in return. Maybury Farm is a great location, and all the kids had great fun. Thanks to all of our Friends volunteers, and special thanks to Bob, who was our Easter Bunny.
- **Spring Clean-up Day** -- We had 18 volunteers do some general cleanup, trail maintenance, and garlic mustard pulling. The Friends provided a light lunch for all volunteers.
- **Garlic Mustard Pulls** -- On Earth Day, we had about 15 volunteers, including a Cub Scout troop, pick 6 full bags of garlic mustard.
- **REI "Community Day"** -- Thanks to REI for inviting us to set up a display in their Northville store. Good chance to talk with customers, employees and other non-profit participants.
- **Cub Scout Project** -- Pack 712 (7 year olds) made six new blue bird houses. We met the pack at the park and talked about our bluebird program. Then, the scouts helped remove two badly damaged BB boxes, and mount two of the new boxes. Thanks to the Scouts.
- **Trust Beneficiary** -- Our Friends group was named a beneficiary in the will of a local nature lover. We received a check for \$7,000 from her estate, which we will use to complete an appropriate project. We placed a commemorative brick in her honor.

## MAY

- **Wildflower Walks** -- Four brave souls came on a rainy and dreary Friday hike, but still had a great time. On Saturday, about 30 people enjoyed a beautiful morning in the park. Weather conditions this spring disrupted flower timing, but we still had plenty to see. And, the new location of the hikes on the east side of the park worked out great. Thanks to Marcie, Kate, Andrea and Peg who led hikes.
- **Newsletter** -- We published the Spring/Summer edition of the Newsletter. Thanks to our editor, Kate!
- **Trailhead Project** -- Construction is currently underway. The smaller 4x8" commemorative bricks are at the engraver, with the 8x8 bricks to follow.

## JUNE

- **Membership Renewal Month** -- We used several methods for renewals: first with e-mail notices, then hand written notes went out to try to capture the remaining renewals, using our membership/donation envelopes. By year end, we had 67 members (up from 58 a year ago).
- **National Trails Day** -- we had a great turnout with 75 volunteers, and did a variety of projects in the park -- it was a very productive day.
- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Dominick presented his project to reconstruct 5 horseshoe pits in the park, including removal of old boards and stakes, rebuilding the backboards and sand pits. The Board agreed to reimburse his expenses up to \$500.
- **Woof Walk** -- A small turnout, but a great day in the park.
- **Thousand Canker Project** -- The DNR installed a walnut tree beetle monitoring trap. These beetles cause thousand canker disease in walnut trees. The trap was monitored by Friends volunteers every two weeks thru the summer.
- **Play-Packs for Shelter Rentals** -- These boxes can be rented along with the shelter rentals, and include all kinds of toys, footballs, soccer balls, games, etc. Friends purchased about \$250 of new toys and equipment to update the packs. Each box includes a note that the Friends supplied the equipment, and membership information.
- **Library Display Case** -- The display was installed in the Novi Library for the month of June. Thanks to Louise and Andrea.

## JULY

- **Bike Fix-It Station** -- has been installed, with a dedication on July 23. Thanks to Northville Rotary Club for their generous donation. Dedication photos were posted on our Facebook page.
- **Intro to Geocaching** -- About 30 participants enjoyed a good hike. Good turnout, but a little disorganized at the start while people tried to load geocaching apps onto their phones.
- **Road Runner Classic** -- There were about 300 participants this year, which is a new record. It was a beautiful day. Thanks to the McCarthy family for manning the kids' activities. Thanks to Maybury Farm for bringing goats, sheep and rabbits for the petting area. And, thanks to all members who provided baked goods. The Northville Road Runners donated \$2500 of their proceeds to the Friends -- thanks Road Runners!
- **Family Fun Campout** -- 12 kids participated in horseshoes, and we handed out 5 prizes to the lucky winners. Weather was great, and everyone had fun.
- **Summer Workday** -- 8 volunteers repaired 10 picnic tables with new lumber. The tables were subsequently stained. The bratwurst on the grille for lunch was a big hit. Many more tables are needed in the park, so this idea will remain on the park's wish list.
- **Blue Bird Houses/Guards** -- We've had a lot of trouble with predators attacking our BB boxes. This season, we installed about 15 new guards on BB boxes throughout the park. We watched ten boxes with guards very closely -- these 10 boxes had 8 failed nest attempts last year -- this year, those same boxes had 8 successful nests and zero failed nests. We will make more guards for next year. Also, thanks to Bob, who made 12 new cedar boxes.
- **Fishing Derby** -- About 70 enthusiastic participants attended this year -- it was a great day in the park. Friends will reimburse park staff about \$55 for supplies and prizes.
- **NCF Grant Application** -- We requested \$600 for the new "Music at Maybury" program. We'd like to expand this great family-fun weekly event, and help attract more bands to participate.

## AUGUST

- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Jacob presented his project to build a new larger pavilion near the mountain bike trail, large enough to fit a picnic table. Board agreed to reimburse his expenses up to \$500.
- **MCMB Time Trials** -- We supported the race by providing some badly needed parking control. We also had an information table.
- **Family Fun Campout** -- A record 22 kids participated in horseshoes, and we handed out 5 prizes to the lucky winners. Weather was great, and everyone had fun.
- **Edible Plants Hike** -- Karen led about 30 hikers, and explained what can, and cannot, be eaten along the way, plus their origins and how the settlers or Native Americans used these plants. Great weather – good fun.
- **Blue Bird Report** -- Kate reported that we had a very good year. We monitored 91 total boxes in the park, with 11 BB nesting attempts, and 38 total BBs fledged. Also, the predator guard experiment worked very well.

## SEPTEMBER

- **Regional Trailhead Dedication** -- A very nice dedication and ribbon cutting, with short remarks by DNR leadership, City of Northville Mayor, and Friends of Maybury. There are 10 total panels in the new kiosk, and the Friends have a full dedicated panel for our use.
- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Owen presented his project to build a new larger kiosk near the baseball diamond. The Board agreed to reimburse his expenses, up to \$500.
- **History Hike** -- Karen lead a really nice group of 50 hikers through the park, telling us all about the original TB Sanatorium. Thanks to Karen.
- **Link Signs** -- Thanks to park staff for installing 16 Link signs within the park. The Link connects Maybury State Park with Hines Park (Wayne County Park). Also, Northville DPW has installed another 50 Link signs throughout the City and Township of Northville, completing the path.
- **Playground Equipment** -- The Kiwanis Club of Northville is partnering with the Northville Fire Dept. to raise about \$50,000 for playground equipment. The Friends will act as the official interface with the DNR for the transaction – Kiwanis will provide funds to the Friends, we will purchase the equipment.
- **New Stationary** -- New stationary has been purchased with a revised logo.

## OCTOBER

- **Fall Workday** -- About 15 volunteers helped to prune brush and branches along one of the paved pathways, to make better clearance for the groomed cross country ski trails and skiers.
- **Annual Potluck Dinner** -- Unfortunately, there was a pretty low turnout. But, the ten members who attended had a good time.
- **Great Pumpkin Festival** -- rained out, due to just horrible rainy weather. But, it was rescheduled for the following weekend, and turned out great. Unfortunately, Friends volunteers could not participate.
- **Trick or Treat Trail** -- we passed out candy to the trick or treaters at this Northville Parks&Rec event. We decorated with a spooky tent. A very nice event.
- **Michigan Birds of Prey** -- A good turnout. The Howell Nature Center does a very interesting live bird presentation, which was held at the Northville Community Center. Joint program between Parks and Rec, the Library and the Friends of Maybury.
- **Wood Splitting** -- We rented a log splitter, and about 10 volunteers helped to split wood for the Trail Head Building fireplace. We provided a light lunch afterwards.
- **Night Sky Over Maybury** -- A very cloudy night, so could not observe the sky. And, there was a low turnout due to very cold temps. But, it was informative. We'll try again next year if schedules permit, and suitable location can be found.

## NOVEMBER

- **NCF Grant** -- We received notice that our \$600 grant application for the "Music in Maybury" program was approved. Thanks to NCF!

- ***Storyville for the Holidays*** -- Park staff and Friends placed a tree decorated with ornaments in downtown Northville for this Chamber of Commerce event. The ornaments displayed Park and Friends events and activities. They also hung felt banners decorated with things you can do in the park.

## DECEMBER

- ***Owl Prowl*** -- Once again, the Owl Prowl was a big success, with about 80 people attending. Thanks to Kate for leading informative talks about owls. Of the 5 hiking groups, 3 groups exchanged calls with screech owls in the distance, and two groups heard multiple calls. After the hike, we enjoyed hot refreshments, hand-made baked goods, and s'mores over the fire. We also raffled off 4 prizes.
- ***Shoe Year's Eve Hike*** -- We finished off the year with another hike. There were hikers, snow shoers, X-country skiers, and even one fat-tire biker. Park staff and Friends led two specific hikes, and provided hot chocolate, coffee, and snacks.
- ***Facebook Page*** -- We finished the year with about 1280 "likes" for our Facebook page (up from about 1000 a year ago).