

Friends of Maybury State Park

2018 -- Year in Review

JANUARY

- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Jacob, an Eagle Scout candidate, presented his final report for the completion of his project, to build a new rain shelter near the mountain bike trail. We issued Jacob a check for \$422 to cover half of his expenses.
- **Annual Meeting** -- Andrea, Amy, and Chuck were reappointed to new two-year terms on the Board.

FEBRUARY

- No activity

MARCH

- **DNR/Friends Summit** -- Four of us attended. 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** -- We had a Friends display in the Northville Library thru the month of March.
- **Bluebird Houses & Guards** -- Thanks to Bob for building 22 new BB boxes, which were installed prior to nesting season. We also made up another 20 predator guards.

APRIL

- **Egg-Stravaganza** -- We put in a lot of work preparing for the event, along with the other co-sponsors. Unfortunately, bad weather forced cancellation.
- **Spring Clean-up Day** -- We had about 30 volunteers do some general cleanup, trail maintenance, mulch trees, and pull garlic mustard. We also installed new, larger tree guards near the parking lots. The Friends provided a light lunch for all volunteers.
- **Playground Equipment** -- Northville Kiwanis & Township Firefighters are raising \$100K for new playground equipment. The Friends made a \$1000 cash donation, and agreed to another \$1000 to construct a new fence between the playground and parking lot.

MAY

- **Wildflower Walks** -- Attendance was light on Friday, but, about 20 people attended on Saturday. Great day. Thanks to Marcie, Kate, Andrea and Peg who led hikes.
- **REI Info Table** -- we staffed an info table at the REI Northville store to encourage new membership.

JUNE

- **Membership Renewal Month** -- We spent a lot of time thinking about what we could do to increase membership this year. Amy took the lead to come up with various initiatives.
- **National Trails Day** -- We had a great turnout with 70-80 volunteers, and did a variety of projects in the park -- it was a very productive day. We provided lunch for all volunteers and park staff.
- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Jacob presented his project to continue the refurbishment of the fishing piers/boardwalk. He used lumber previously purchased by the Friends. Plus, we issued him a check for \$198 for his expenses.
- **"Friends Night" @ Gazelle Sports** -- Gazelle sponsored a special sales event for us at their store to generate new memberships. Attendance was disappointing.
- **Auger Bit** -- We purchased a new auger bit for the park's tractor, using money collected through scrap metal sales by the park.
- **Summer/Fall Newsletter** -- has been completed, and sent to entire membership list, plus about 250 people on our newsletter distribution. Thanks to Kate, our editor.

JULY

- **Growth of Membership** -- Amy and Kate sent personal follow-up notes to members who had not yet renewed. We purchased 500 "Friends" sunglasses to handout at our events. Also, Amy purchased new "MBY" car window stickers to increase visibility of the park and Friends group; and she mailed one to every member.
- **Music on Mondays** -- The music program is each Monday night of July and August. We provided \$600 for band fees, thru a grant from Northville Community Foundation.
- **Intro to Geocaching** -- A small group enjoyed a good hike -- we need to do a better job of advertising the event.
- **Road Runner Classic** -- Race participation was good, despite misting rain. Thanks to our volunteers for manning the kids' activities. We also provided free face painting. Thanks to all members who provided baked goods. The Northville Road Runners donated \$1689 of their proceeds to the Friends -- thanks Road Runners!
- **Family Fun Campout** -- 27 kids participated in the horseshoe contest (a new record). We handed out Friends sunglasses to every child, which were a big hit. And, we gave out 6 prizes to the lucky winners. Weather was great, and everyone had fun.
- **Fishing Derby** -- About 18 enthusiastic participants attended this year. We reimbursed park staff about \$85 for supplies and prizes.

AUGUST

- **Family Fun Campout** -- 28 kids participated in horseshoes, and we handed out Friends sunglasses to everyone, and 5 prizes to the lucky winners. Everyone had fun.
- **Edible Plants Hike** -- about 20 people attended, despite some light rain. Kate explained what can, and cannot, be eaten along the way, plus their origins and how the settlers or Native Americans used these plants. Great fun.
- **Blue Bird Report** -- Kate reported we have 90 BB boxes in the park; with 67 BB eggs hatched with 37 successful fledges. We also had tree swallows, chickadees, wrens, and sparrows. Predator guards continue to work well.
- **Fishing Pier / Boardwalk** -- We purchased about \$1700 of lumber, so we'd have it available for future pier renovation projects.

SEPTEMBER

- **Growth of Membership** -- Amy mailed new MBY car stickers to all members as a thank you for their support.
- **History Trail Markers** -- 3 of the original markers are broken. We started the process of recreating the design, and getting quotes to replace them. We will likely spend about \$1000.
- **Track Chair Program** -- Maybury received one of five Track Chairs statewide, which will enable handicapped persons enjoy the park. Friends volunteers will accompany park guests on "guided tours".
- **Gazelle Sports Twilight Yoga** -- about 60 "yogis" attended. We had an info table and handed out sunglasses.
- **Fall Workday** -- 15 volunteers planted 200 daffodil bulbs and 16 new bushes along the split rail fence at the Beck road entrance. Park staff provided additional topsoil, weed barrier fabric and mulch, which we spread out.
- **History Hike** -- Karen led a really nice group of 40 hikers through the park, telling us all about the original TB Sanatorium. Thanks to Karen.

OCTOBER

- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Justin installed a new crushed stone path from the Trailhead Building to the vault toilet behind the building. We agreed to reimburse ½ of his expenses (up to \$500).
- **Township Public Safety Recognition** -- Traci took pizza lunch to the Northville Fire Station in appreciation for all they do to support the park. We reimbursed her for expenses.
- **Signs** -- we purchased a second A-frame sign to advertise our events. Also, we purchased a collection of "lawn signs" with about 30 different messages to use at all our events. Thanks to Bob for coordinating this.
- **Night Sky Over Maybury** -- the Ford Astronomy Club brought 23 telescopes, and shared a presentation on meteors, asteroids, planets, stars, and other space objects. Clear skies allowed about 150 attendees to view the moon, Mar, Saturn, and the International Space Station.
- **Annual Potluck Dinner** -- Unfortunately, there was a pretty low turnout.

- **Great Pumpkin Festival @ Maybury Farm** – We manned the pumpkin painting table. Kids painted small cooking pumpkins – there was paint everywhere!! Kids had a blast – we had fun. Congratulations to Maybury Farm on a great event.
- **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 Owls Program** – Another sell-out crowd. The Howell Nature Center does a very interesting live owl presentation, which was held at the Northville Community Center. A joint program between Parks and Rec, the Library and the Friends of Maybury.
- **Wood Splitting** – park staff borrowed a splitter from Island Lake. About 10 volunteers helped to split a huge amount of wood for the Trail Head Building fireplace.
- **Cross-Country Ski Signage** -- Washtenaw Ski Club donated \$300 for us to purchase new signs for the X-country ski trails, to help separate hikers from skiers.

NOVEMBER

- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Matt presented a final report of his project to paint the large doors of the Day Camp building, and improve the path from the building down to the pond. We issued a check of \$200 for expenses.
- **NCF Grant** – Northville Community Foundation gave us a grant for \$900 (more than we requested) to fund the Music at Maybury Program for the 2019 calendar year. Thanks to NCF!

DECEMBER

- **Owl Prowl** -- Once again, the Prowl was a big success, with about 80 people attending. Thanks to Kate for leading an informative talk about owls. Of the 4 hiking groups, 1 group exchanged calls with screech owls in the distance. After the hike, we enjoyed hot refreshments and hand-made baked goods. We also raffled off 5 prizes.
- **REI Info Table** -- We had an info table at the REI Northville store for the second time this year.
- **Website** -- Karen and Kate started to work on placing a vast collection of historical documents about Maybury TB Sanatorium and Park on the Friend's website. Thanks to Tyler for modifying our site to accommodate this project.
- **Facebook Page** -- We finished the year with about 1550 "likes" (up from about 1280 a year ago).
- **Membership** -- Final year-end membership status is: 58 financial members, plus 15 life members, and 23 important stakeholders. There was a net increase of 2 financial members -- with 17 new members and 15 lost members.