

Friends of Maybury State Park

2019 -- Year in Review

JANUARY

- **First Day Hike** -- About 80 people hiked with us, and enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies, and a warm fire.
- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Ethan, an Eagle Scout candidate, presented his proposal to build 5 picnic tables. We approved a 50/50 match of his material expenses (up to \$500).
- **Annual Meeting** -- Kate, Ron, and Deanna were appointed to new two-year terms on the Board.

FEBRUARY

- **X-Country "Flash Mob"** -- We had a nice turn-out for a short notice event. Great skiing that morning – trails were groomed perfectly.
- **President's Day Hike** -- A small turnout for this new event, but lots of people enjoying the park.
- **Website Issues** -- Our website was hacked. Site Lock was contracted to scan & clean the site, plus add continuous firewall protection, which unfortunately cost us about \$800.

MARCH

- **Vernal Equinox Hike** -- Weather was damp, and sleeting, but 20 brave souls came out to walk, and have hot chocolate.
- **Spring Newsletter** -- we published another great edition – thanks to our editor, Kate. It can be found on our website.
- **Friends Flag** -- Thanks to Amy for ordering a new Friends Flag, which we can use at our events. And, thanks to Bob for constructing a new stand.
- **US Flag** -- We purchased a new US flag for the flag pole near the 8-Mile entrance.
- **REI Grant Application** -- We submitted a grant application for funding to make improvements at the organizational campground, and to install left-hand controls on the Track Chair.
- **Trillium Patch** -- We purchased 300 new "Trillium" patches for promotional usage.

APRIL

- **REI** -- REI received the Michigan Parks & Rec Association Award, at a presentation in Lansing. Congratulations!
- **Egg-Stravaganza** -- There were at least 800 kids at another very successful event @ Maybury Farm. Friends participated with seed planting, coloring pages, and the face painter. Thanks to all those who volunteered.
- **Blue Bird Box Monitoring** -- We will soon kickoff the new season with about 90 nesting boxes in the park. We have 2 new volunteers this year, with 8 total monitoring teams.
- **Full Moon Hike** -- Unfortunately, cancelled due to weather.
- **Spring Clean-Up Day** -- We had about 45 volunteers, who accomplished a lot, and enjoyed lunch afterward.
- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Jack, an Eagle Scout candidate, presented his proposal to reconstruct 10 damaged/old picnic tables. We approved a 50/50 match of his material expenses (up to \$500).

MAY

- **New Headquarters Ground-Breaking** -- Congratulations to Park Staff on the ground-breaking ceremony, and the start of a terrific new facility.
- **Wildflower Walks** -- 55 total participants over two days – maybe our best attendance ever. Thanks to Kate, Peg, Marcie & Andrea.
- **Sounds of Spring Hike** -- We had a good turnout with 25 participants; heard frogs croaking and birds calling.
- **REI Grant Approval** -- Our grant application was approved for \$5600, for campground improvements and Track Chair controls. Thanks to REI!
- **Friends "MBY" Oval Car Stickers** -- we ordered another 200, to be used as promotional items. Thanks to Amy.

JUNE

- **Track Chair** – We started a new season of providing guided tours of the park for users of the motorized Track Chair. Reservations can be made from June – October.
- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Justin shared his final report to create a path to the vault toilet behind the Trailhead Building. Justin did such a great job of fund-raising, he only needed \$80 (of the \$500 authorized) to cover his expenses.
- **National Trails Day** -- We had about 45 volunteers – many projects were worked on, and we accomplished a lot. Lunch was provided. Thanks to all our volunteers.
- **Surveillance Cameras** -- We purchased two cameras for Park Staff, to monitor the fencelines along both Napier and 7-Mile roads.
- **Road Runner Classic** – Race participation was good – a really nice event. Thanks to our volunteers for manning the kids' activities. We also provided free face painting. Thanks to all members who provided baked goods. Also, thanks to Maybury Farm for bringing over baby farm animals for the petting area.

JULY

- **Music on Mondays** -- The music program is each Monday night of July and August. We provided \$900 for band fees, thru a grant from Northville Community Foundation.
- **Fishing Derby** -- Only 4 families attended this year. We reimbursed park staff about \$85 for supplies and prizes.
- **Intro to Geocaching Hike** – Only one family attended, but they were enthusiastic, and continued to look for caches after the hike ended.
- **Family Fun Campout** -- 20 kids participated in the horseshoe contest. We handed out Friends sunglasses to every child, which were a big hit. And, we gave out 5 prizes to the lucky winners. Weather was great, and everyone had fun.
- **Movie Night in the Park** -- Congratulations to Northville Parks & Rec for a terrific event – an estimated 500 people watched “Zootopia”. Great family fun. Friends gave out 150 free bags of popcorn – we’ll need a lot more next year.
- **Organizational Campground** -- 14 trainloads of asphalt gravel were delivered, and laid down on the entrance road. We issued a check for \$3000 (using funds of the REI grant).
- **Friends Logo T-Shirts** -- We ordered t-shirts with the Friends logo, which individual members paid for, so we could present a more professional look at our events. Thanks to Deanna for her work on this.
- **NCF Grant Application** -- We submitted a grant request to Northville Community Foundation for \$1000 to support the 2020 Music at Maybury program. The Friends will provide an additional \$350 for advertising and “giveaways”.

AUGUST

- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Jonathan, Eagle Scout candidate, presented his project to scrape and paint 3 existing sets of swing sets, purchase new swings, and spread new chips. We approved a 50/50 match of material expenses (up to \$500).
- **Music on Mondays** -- the music program continues through the month of August.
- **Family Fun Campout** -- 20 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** – We had a good turnout with 30 people attending; sampling edible items along the way. Thanks to Kate.
- **REI In-Store Display** -- Before the store opened for the day, during the employee “huddle”, we had a chance to describe REI’s generous grants over the past 13 years, and how we’ve used the funds in the park. Thanks REI!
- **MCMB Time Trials** -- Friends volunteers were on-hand to assist with parking for the event.
- **Friends Annual Potluck Dinner** -- 18 members attended. We did BBQ this year.

SEPTEMBER

- **New HQ Building Tour** – park staff conducted a special tour of the new building for Friends members, while it’s still under construction.
- **Road Runner Classic Donation** -- The Northville Road Runners donated \$1795 of their proceeds to the Friends of Maybury – thanks Road Runners!

- **Farmer's Market Booth** -- We had an info table at the Market for the day, and a chance to talk to many patrons about our group, and what we do to support the park.
- **Northville Library Book Walk** -- During the opening event, the Friends purchased cider and donuts for the guests. Thanks to Bob for donning the Smokey the Bear costume.
- **Track Chair** -- Guided tours are on-going.
- **Fall Workday** -- cancelled for this year.
- **History Hike** -- Unbelievable attendance, with 120 participants. Thanks to Karen and Sarah for leading two separate hikes, telling us all about the original TB Sanatorium.

OCTOBER

- **Night Sky Over Maybury** -- Unfortunately, it was cancelled due to heavy cloud cover. We'll try again next year.
- **Playground Grand Opening** -- A ribbon cutting was held with DNR management, Northville Firefighters, and Kiwanis members. Friends had previously donated \$1000 for the equipment, and another \$1000 for fencing.
- **Great Pumpkin Festival @ Maybury Farm** -- We manned the pumpkin decorating table, where kids used color markers and stickers on small cooking pumpkins. Kids had a blast -- we had fun. Congratulations to Maybury Farm on a great event.
- **Trick or Treat Trail** -- We passed out cider and donuts to the trick or treaters at this Northville Parks&Rec event, held in the Community Center. A very nice event.
- **Michigan Mammals Program** -- This was our 8th year teaming up with Northville Library and the Community Center. Another sell-out crowd. The Howell Nature Center did a very interesting presentation for about 95 patrons.
- **Wood Splitting** -- With a rented splitter; 8 Friends volunteers split a lot of wood, and filled the rack behind the Trailhead building. Thanks to Amy for coffee and bagels, and Sarah for sharing home-made chili.
- **State of Michigan Flag** -- The park is in desperate need of a new State flag. We purchased a new, heavier fabric flag.
- **Blue Bird Monitoring Report** -- Kate reported this year's results. In our 90 boxes, we had 20 blue bird nesting attempts, with 32 BBs successfully fledged. Thanks to our 6 teams of monitors.
- **Track Chair** -- The season ended in October, with 26 scheduled "hikes" through the summer. A Friends member accompanied each user on a guided tour. It was great that we added the left-hand control, as it was important for a number of these users.

NOVEMBER

- **Oak Shelter Electrical Power** -- electrical power was run from the Oak restrooms building to the shelter -- now, shelter users can plug in hotplates, etc. We issued a check for \$1030 to the contractor.
- **Fishing Pier Damage** -- a tree fell on a portion of the pier damaging the railings and floor boards. A few Friends members helped Mike make repairs. Thanks to our volunteers.
- **Newsletter** -- The Winter/Spring edition of our Newsletter was published. Thanks to Kate, our editor.
- **NCF Grant Approval** -- Northville Community Foundation gave us a grant for \$1000 to fund the 4th season of the Music at Maybury Program for the 2020 calendar year. Thanks to NCF!
- **Stuffed Owl** -- A Great Horned Owl was beautifully mounted in memory of our good friend, Jean Bemish. Hopefully, it will remain on display in the HQ building for many years to come.
- **Sunglasses** -- We ordered another 250 kids sunglasses for promotional uses, and giveaways. Thanks to Amy.

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 5 hiking groups, 4 groups 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.
- **Facebook Page** -- We finished the year with about 1950 "likes" (up from about 1550 a year ago).
- **Membership** -- Final year-end membership status is: 80 financial members, including 20 life members. Our e-mail distribution list also includes 26 important stakeholders. We had 19 new members join in 2019, but, we also lost 9.