

Friends of Maybury State Park

2020 -- Year in Review

Due to COVID-19, starting mid-March, many of our planned activities and projects were cancelled for the year. Some of our traditional activities are mentioned as cancelled below. And, many new initiatives which we wanted to do, never got off the ground and are not mentioned. We used facebook much more this year to encourage self-guided hikes and outdoor activity.

JANUARY

- **First Day Hike** -- Over 100 people hiked on a beautiful morning with a dusting off snow. Nice to see so many families out enjoying the park, along with hot chocolate, cookies, and a warm fire.
- **Annual Meeting** -- Much of the meeting was dedicated to a kick-off of a major project to install a new non-motorized southern entrance to the park, along 7-Mile road. Andrea, Amy, Bob and Chuck were appointed to new two-year terms on the Board. Joe was appointed to a one-year term, replacing Ron.
- **Friends Sunglasses** -- We purchased 500 more pairs of FoM sunglasses as give-aways for kids at our events.

FEBRUARY

- **Full Moon Hike** -- We had about 100 people enjoy walking in the park. It was snowing, so there was no moon showing, but very enthusiastic hikers enjoyed this time in the park. The Friends provided hot chocolate/coffee.

MARCH

- **DNR/Friends Summit Meeting** -- Joe and Traci attended. The DNR announced that Friends of Maybury was awarded one of five Trails-to-Table Fundraisers with New Holland Brewing.
- **Monthly Meeting** -- Due to COVID-19, our March meeting was cancelled. All events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.
- **Mutt Mitts** -- We purchased our first batch of mutt mitts with financial donations from C3CK2.
- **History Trail Markers** -- As the original History Trail markers were showing their age, we purchase 12 new ones.
- **Vernal Equinox Hike** -- cancelled.

APRIL

- **Egg-Stravaganza** -- cancelled.
- **Spring Clean-Up Day** -- cancelled.
- **Bluebird Monitoring** -- We started a new nesting season with 6 monitor teams and 90 total BB boxes.

MAY

- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Grant, Eagle Scout candidate, presented his project to replace decking, boards and railings for the first 40ft of walkway, leading up to one of the fishing piers. We approved a 50/50 match of \$285 for expenses.
- **Wildflower Walks (virtual)** -- Since this event was cancelled, we began taking photos of the various wildflowers in the park and posting them in series of 9 facebook posts over a three week period. Thousands of people viewed and "liked" them.

JUNE

- **Track Chair** -- reservations were delayed.
- **National Trails Day** -- cancelled.
- **New Headquarters** -- Park staff gave Friends members an exclusive walk-through of the new HQ -- it's beautiful.
- **Fishing Pier Sunshades** -- We purchased three new sunshades for the fishing piers for about \$1700.

JULY

- **Music on Mondays** -- cancelled. The \$1000 grant provided by Northville Community Foundation in 2019CY will be saved for the 2021 program.
- **7-Mile Entrance** -- We received a \$1000 grant from Community Financial Credit Union for the engineering study.
- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Charlie, Eagle Scout candidate, presented his project to repair and fix park benches, replacing old planks with plastic lumber so they last, installing bench footings, and laying down crushed limestone. Friends approved a 50/50 match of \$425 for materials.
- **Road Runner Classic** -- cancelled. The Road Runners held a virtual race and donated \$600 to the Friends (including individual runner donations). Thanks to the Road Runners.
- **Family Fun Campout** -- cancelled.
- **Movie Night in the Park** -- cancelled.
- **Track Chair** -- We started taking reservations for guided tours. DNR approved safety precautions are in place.

AUGUST

- **Music on Mondays** -- cancelled.
- **Family Fun Campout** -- cancelled.
- **Eagle Scout Project** -- Alex, Eagle Scout candidate, presented his project to rebuild an existing equestrian bridge over the sump drain. It's a complete rebuild. Friends approved a 50/50 match of \$500 for materials.
- **Edible Plants Hike (virtual on facebook)** -- Kate created several posts with photos and info about plants in Maybury, which ran over several days.
- **Friends Annual Potluck Dinner** -- cancelled.

SEPTEMBER

- **Track Chair** -- Guided tours are on-going.
- **Fall Workday** -- cancelled.
- **History Hike (virtual on facebook)** -- Karen created 10 very interesting posts with photos and stories of Maybury's past. As with hikes in the past, these posts were very popular.
- **Maybury Farm Corn Maze** -- thanks to Friends volunteers who supported the corn maze.

OCTOBER

- **New Headquarters Perennial Garden** -- We planted perennials, bulbs, shrubs and trees. Park staff installed the historic Maybury Sanatorium sign near the new HQ. We also thinned out and cleaned up the existing butterfly garden near the Trailhead Building.
- **"Signs of Fall" Posts on Facebook** -- Thanks to Karen and Kate for a new series of posts. The number of views of our Facebook page far outpaced views in the previous months.
- **Trick or Treat Trail** -- cancelled.
- **Michigan Mammals Program** -- cancelled.
- **Wood Splitting** -- cancelled.
- **Blue Bird Monitoring Report** -- We had 6 teams monitor a total of 90 boxes. We had 55 BBs fledge this year. We will be replacing and relocating boxes during the off-season.
- **Track Chair** -- We and park staff conducted 16 hikes between July and October, with 8 new guests/clients. Several requests were not accommodated, due to a lack of Friends volunteers.
- **7-Mile Entrance Project** -- we kicked off a fundraising blitz with an e-mail campaign targeting residents living near the proposed location. We also established a MightyCause account for online donations, which can be found on our website.

NOVEMBER

- **"Turkey Trivia" Posts on Facebook** -- Thanks again to Kate and Karen for a new week-long series on Facebook, presented just before Thanksgiving holiday.
- **Letterhead and Envelopes** -- New letterhead and envelopes were reprinted to include the new park address on 8-Mile road. We got them for free.

DECEMBER

- **Owl Prowl** -- cancelled.
- **Owl Trivia (on facebook)** -- In lieu of the Prowl, Karen created a series of Owl trivia posts.
- **Friends Brochures and Donation Envelopes** -- New brochures and envelopes were printed to reflect the new park address on 8-Mile road.
- **History Trail Markers** -- We finally found a metal fabricator, and purchased brackets to mount new markers for the History Trail. New markers will be installed in the spring.
- **Facebook Page** -- As mentioned above, we used facebook a lot this year to encourage park visitors to conduct self-guided hikes. Thanks to Karen and Kate for their efforts. We finished the year with about 2300 "likes" (up from about 1950 a year ago).
- **Membership** -- Final year-end membership status is: 86 financial members, plus 22 life members. Our e-mail distribution list also includes 26 important stakeholders. We had 34 new members join in 2020.