



News for the Friends of Lake Maria State Park

Learn Orchid Photography with John Pennoyer



Showy Lady's Slippers. Photo by John Pennoyer

Even if you're not ready to hang up your skis, plan for a glimpse of spring at the March 28 orchid photography program. Orchids are complex, intriguing and often showy plants found throughout the state, and John Pennoyer has photographed many of them. Join him as he explains how to capture images of these fascinating plants.

Your Membership Matters

Thanks to your contributions, park visitors enjoy programs by the Minnesota Zoo, the International Wolf Center, Snake Discovery, The Raptor Center, and experts on everything from mushroom identification to nature photography. In addition, the Friends matched a grant to fund Nature Day 2019, a new program that brought 120 Monticello third graders to the park for a full day of outdoor education. It was a great success, and plans are underway for Nature Day 2020.

Your time and financial help are critical to our work. Membership dues are printed on back. If it's been more than a year since you donated, please consider renewing your support. Thank you!



Nature Day 2019.
Photo by Melanie Leckey.

About the Friends

The Friends of Lake Maria State Park help preserve the park's environment and support park activities. New members are always welcome. To learn more, come to a meeting, visit our Facebook page or email any of the Friends members listed below.

Next meeting:

Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. in the Trail Center.

Friends contacts:

Steve Brown, Chair

friendsoflakemaria@gmail.com

Kim Mooney, Program Coordinator

plantladysdaughter@yahoo.com

320-558-6833

Jerry Tangen, Volunteer Coordinator

Jtangen55@gmail.com

Wendy Suddard-Bangsund

wendy.suddard@gmail.com

Park location and contact info:

11411 Clementa Avenue NW

Monticello, MN 55362

763-878-2325

lakemaria.statepark@state.mn.us



Thanks to all who helped with the candlelight hike! Photo by Melanie Leckey.

Membership Renewal Is Easy!

When it's time to renew your membership, you can pay dues online or by check. To donate online, go to <https://www.parksandtrails.org/friends-groups/meet-friends/lake-maria/donate/>. To pay by check, make it payable to Friends of Lake Maria and send it to the return address on this newsletter. Thank you!

Individual: \$10

Family: \$20

Civic/Youth Group: \$25

Company: \$50

Spring Programs and Activities

All programs begin in the Trail Center. To volunteer, contact Jerry Tangen at jtangen55@gmail.com. All programs are free with a \$7 park entrance fee or annual permit.

Minnesota Orchids **Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m.**

Minnesota has 49 species of native orchids. Some, such as the Showy Lady's Slipper (our state flower), are abundant. Others are rare or endangered. In this session, nature photographer John Pennoyer will discuss our native orchids and explain how to capture images of these beautiful plants.

Invasive Plants **Saturday, April 11, 1 p.m.**

Some introduced plants, such as garlic mustard and common buckthorn, spread aggressively. How do invasive plants get here, what do they have in common, and what are their impacts? How can we prevent their spread? An indoor presentation will be followed by a short walk to identify some of these species.

Spring Cleanup Day **Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

You are invited to help with a variety of cleanup projects at the park. Come dressed to work outdoors and bring work gloves. Tools will be provided. Lunch will be served to those who pre-register. We need a head count, so please register by calling the park office at 763-878-2325.

Remarkable Reptiles **Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.**

Live turtles, lizards and snakes will be on hand as herpetologist, author and teacher Jim Gerholdt separates truth from myth about reptiles. Live animals include Minnesota Threatened species as well as a painted turtle, bullsnake, and a Plains hog-nosed snake. Find out why the timber rattlesnake is Jim's favorite!

Nasty Plants: A Primer on the Poisonous Plants of Central Minnesota **Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.**

Did you know that plants rank in the top 20 reasons for calls to the U.S. Poison Control Center? Join Professor Stephen Saupe from the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University for an overview of some of the common poisonous plants around your homes, fields and woods.

Friends of Lake Maria State Park

PO Box 29

Maple Lake, MN 55358