

# Friends of Lake Shetek State Park

Annual Newsletter

Volume 19

August 11, 2020



## As the world changes...

Who knew that a little virus could drastically change the way we work, live and play. Lake Shetek had an excellent year in 2019 with just over 123,000 visitors and campers enjoying the park and all it has to offer. This year will see substantially less than that for visitation since only day use activities were allowed in the park until June 1.

Since camping opened up in the park on June 1, the campgrounds have been very busy, with a higher number of campsites used even during the week. In spite of interpretive programs being called off, facilities such as the interpretive center, Zuya Group Center and the Koch Cabin being closed and rental equipment such as the kayaks and canoes not being available for rent, Lake Shetek State Park has still received a lot of good compliments on how well kept the grounds and the facilities are.

Many first timers to Lake Shetek State Park often say they didn't realize what a nice park this is and that they will definitely be back again. It makes the staff feel good to know that they are appreciated for the hard work and dedication they have for this park and it should make you, as a supporter of Lake Shetek State Park, feel good knowing that our visitors appreciate the improvements that your membership dues help to fund.



## Become a Member!

### 2020 Friends of Lake Shetek Membership Drive

June is usually the Friends of Lake Shetek State Park annual membership drive month. As we all know, COVID 19 has delayed a great many things and this has been no exception. If you can, please help support the group in their quest to help Lake Shetek State Park by becoming a member. Memberships are \$25 for the annual membership, or \$100 for a gold membership. The memberships help to fund improvement projects, events and programs for the Park that would not be able to be accomplished due to limited state funds. The membership form is enclosed with this newsletter. Annual memberships and the proceeds from the Summer Picnic are the primary sources of funding. Please help support this dedicated organization and consider becoming an active volunteer! Helpful volunteers are always needed for a couple of hours during the Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Fundraising Picnic and the Pumpkin Festival. Become involved by volunteering and see firsthand the joy that these events bring to the state park visitors.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkin Festival was a huge success!

The Friends of Lake Shetek State Park and the Currie Town & Country Boosters co-sponsored the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Pumpkin Festival held on Saturday, October 19 at Lake Shetek State Park's Zuya Group Center. It was another perfect fall day for the approximately 400+ people who enjoyed a wide variety of activities including a few new things. In addition to face painting, hay rides,



pumpkin decorating, refreshments, and jumping in the biggest leaf pile you've ever seen, visitors were able to earn prizes by guessing the weight of a huge pumpkin (30+ pounds), color fall pages, make a fun fall craft, and taking part in a fall themed trivia contest. Next year promises to have some new activities as well. About 400 pumpkins were grown by Steve Hansen with help from



Bill Olivier for the 2019 event.

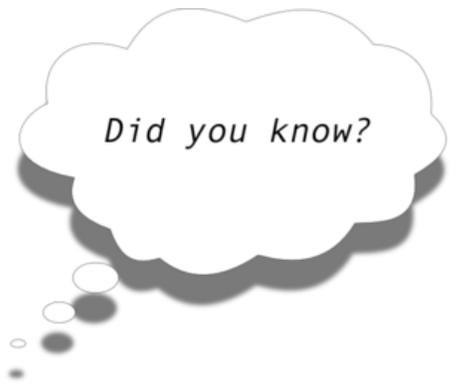
Thanks go to the drivers for pulling the hay racks, and the Friends of Lake Shetek for making s'mores and serving refreshments. The festival for 2020 has been cancelled due to COVID 19 but mark your calendar for the next Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, October 23, 2021, from 1:00 - 3:30 pm.

### Ready for a getaway?

In addition to the summer months, the 4 camper cabins at Lake Shetek are open in the winter too, available Thursday-Sunday, November through April. They feature heat, electricity and are perfect for a Fall or Winter outdoor adventure.



## The Friends of Lake Shetek State Park has helped the state park this year with.....



Purchasing trees to plant in the park where dead and hazardous trees were removed

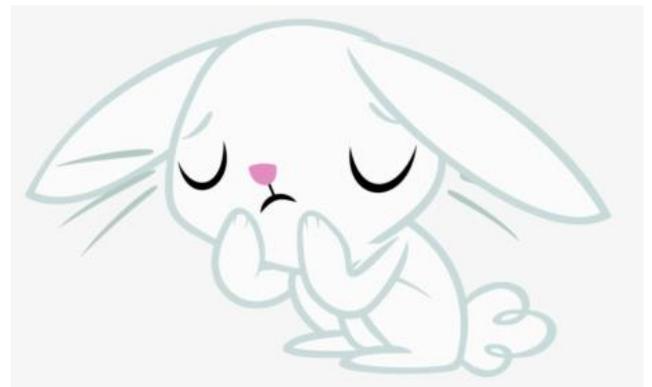


Providing Funds for WCCO's Mike Lynch Stargazing Program in August 2019



## Friends of Lake Shetek State Park/Currie Town & Country Boosters Easter Egg Hunt

Even though the Annual Easter Egg Hunt was cancelled in April of 2020 due to COVID 19, the Easter Bunny will hopefully be back at Lake Shetek State Park on Saturday, April 3, 2021. Stay tuned to the DNR Event Calendar at [www.mndnr.gov/state\\_parks/events](http://www.mndnr.gov/state_parks/events) for more information.





Lisa Filter/P&TC

## **Parks and Trails Council of MN Friends Workshop at Lake Shetek State Park**

On October 8, 2019, the Parks and Trails Council of MN, of which the Friends of Lake Shetek State Park is a member, held the fourth of four Friends Group workshops aimed at helping Friends Groups across Minnesota who support state trails, state, county and regional parks, to network and discuss topics relevant to friends groups. This particular workshop was co-sponsored by the Friends of Lake Shetek State Park. Each workshop had sessions with guided discussion around the specific topics of membership, community outreach by Friends Groups, project planning and resources available to Friends Groups from the Parks and Trails Council. At the Lake Shetek workshop, members of the Camden, Blue Mounds, Lake Shetek, Minneopa, and Sibley State Parks along with the Friends of Casey Jones State Trail and Jackson County Parks were in attendance. Many good discussions were had around the groups' challenges and strengths along with some good ideas concerning increasing membership and volunteerism, how to be effective at community outreach and how to work with each of the entities to achieve specific project goals. A good time and a good learning opportunity was had by all!

### **Friends of Lake Shetek State Park Board of Directors**

Bill Olivier, President, 507-626-0655 Cell  
Aaron Larson, Treasurer, 507-626-0962 Cell  
Steve Hansen, Director  
Dale Carlson, Director  
Vacant, Secretary

### **Join our Board!**

**We need volunteers** who support our mission and activities! The Friends of Lake Shetek State Park board generally meets the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30 pm at the Park. However, if you want to be a part of this organization, the meeting date could be changed. Please call Bill Olivier, President.

E-mail: [friendsoflakeshetek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflakeshetek@gmail.com)