

# Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club

February 2018



## Recognize these?

Since 1978 there has been a lot of changes in the sport of cross country skiing. Improved equipment, new fabrics for clothing, sophisticated grooming tools, & even a “new” style of skiing introduced in the 80’s.

40 years have passed since the Lakewood ski trails were the vision of a few dedicated volunteers and since then, many other changes have occurred - culminating in some of the best ski trails in the Midwest. Check out the history of the Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club on page 3 & say a little prayer of thanks for those hardworking pioneers who had a dream and labored to make it a reality!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The ski season began with poor conditions through the southern half of the state, and minimal early season snow in the Lakewood area. As of February 5, the Lakewood trails are now in excellent condition. The efforts of the groomers have paid off with trails that are smooth, level, and a pleasure to ski on.

The club's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the McCauslin Brook Country Club beginning at 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. There will be chili, soup, subs, cake and beverages available. I look forward to the opportunity to meet and mingle with all of you. Please mark your calendars and plan to support the club with your attendance.

The Capital Campaign has gotten off to a good start. As of this writing we are at almost \$10,000, which is 25% of our goal. I would encourage our members who have not had the opportunity to contribute to show their support for this important campaign. Your donations are vital to our efforts to update equipment and provide the best grooming outcomes.

In closing I would like to thank the board, volunteers, and membership for their continued support in making the Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club an asset to Northeastern Wisconsin.

Yours truly,

Tim Klima

## **Annual Meeting**

**April 7th - 2:00 p.m.**

**Lakewood/Townsend Rescue Squad building.**

# Lakewood Cross Country Ski Trails

The Lakewood cross country ski trail system was established in 1977 by Ed Zebrasky, Lakewood, and a small number of local business people and skiers. This handful of dedicated people developed the trail system on Nicolet National Forest roads previously established by the logging industry. Lee Spletter, Lakewood, essentially single-handedly led the club in its formative years. He and his colleagues cut trails, posted signs and raised funds from local businesses and skiers. The trails were lovely and the work arduous.

Transforming the trail system to accommodate both skating and classical skiing styles began in 1987 when the Wisconsin National Guard widened and improved the first 10K of the main trail. In 1991, using a matching funds grant through the State of Wisconsin and direct grants from Oconto County, the Town of Lakewood, the Lakewood Area Chamber of Commerce, the Grouse Society and through a fund drive involving individual skiers and local businesses, the second part of the main trail system was widened and the "Black Loop" created. This was a \$30,000 effort. During the years 1982 - 1992 the club invested in excess of \$50,000 of its own funds into trail grooming, development, and improvements. These funds came from Club memberships, business donations, ski race profits and trail donations by skiers.

Originally the trails were groomed by the skiers who skied in the tracks after each new snow. In the early 1980's, the club tried to use an old Alpine snowmobile for grooming. The machine was no match for the hills and snow. In 1984 a well-used Tucker Sno-Cat was purchased. While the old "Tucker" served the club well when it ran, keeping it running was the major problem. Replacement parts were rare and hard to find.

A new machine was a must if groomed skiing were to continue at Lakewood. In July 1994 the club purchased a new Piston Bully BR160 grooming tractor with tiller and track setter. The purchase price for the machine was \$82,000, quite an undertaking for an individually funded not-for-profit club.

Over several years the club worked to establish the down payment fund of \$22,000. In addition, individual skiers and a few businesses contributed \$15,000 to the Helen Swain Memorial Fund. These funds plus a loan of \$45,000 enabled the club to purchase the new machine.

The quality of skiing at Lakewood has become recognized in ever-widening circles. In 1993 the NCAA Regional Championships were held here.

Many improvements in signage, mapping and parking have enhanced the trail system and the trails remain popular with recreational skiers as well as those training for race events.

**1978 - 2018**  
**Lakewood Cross Country Ski Trails**  
**40 Years of Skiing Excellence**



Donate now and join with us in our campaign to raise \$40,000 to purchase a UTV with quad tracks. The new equipment will replace our outdated snowmobile and allow us to save money during the summer and fall trail cleaning, mowing, and trail maintenance. Your donation is tax deductible, as we are a 501 (c) (3) organization.

Yes! I would like to support the future of the Lakewood Cross Country Ski Trails and enclosed is my donation payable to Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club of:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club - P. O. Box 91 Lakewood, WI 54138