

Snowmaking 2012

The good news from a snowmaking perspective during the winter of 2011 – 2012 (the winter that was canceled) was the acquisition of additional snow guns and a snow cat with a power tiller on it.

The bad news: winter was canceled which left the snowmakers with very few cold nights for making snow. During the previous winter of 2010-11, all the snow used on the ski trail was made before the Christmas holiday. During 2011 – 2012, very few cold nights were seen in December which left the snowmakers just barely getting a short loop of trail covered with snow before Christmas. Snowmaking continued when possible and the 1.2 K of trail that can be covered with snow was not done until the middle of January.

The good news: generous donations have provided snowmaking so that there was skiing. With the warm winter, there were less than 20 days of skiing on natural snow. Snowmaking made it possible for more than 60 days of skiable snow.

Even better, the donations allowed for the purchase of a snow cat with a tiller. It became invaluable in making snow that suffered many meltdowns due to temperatures in the 40's.

There is no doubt that the snowmaking saved the ski season for many users. Every Wednesday night ski race was held and every Peak Nordic Kids Monday night ski lessons were a success.

Thanks to you the generous snowmaking fund donors, skiing was ensured in SE Wisconsin during the non-winter of 2011-2012.

Thanks to a wonderful Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee, the fundraising for snowmaking continues. New this year, the group has raised enough money to purchase two new fan style snow guns. These guns can make snow at higher temperatures and are more efficient, making snow faster and more snow for each gallon of water.

Future goals of the group include –

- Upgrading the pump to one that can create higher water pressure that increases the capability of the new snow guns. Additionally, a pump upgrade is also needed to extend the water hydrants further along the trail and to allow for more snow guns to be used at the same time.
- Extend the water and electric system further along the trail that will expand the amount of trail that can be covered with manmade snow from 1.2 K to more than 2 K.

- Adding more fan style snow guns.

If you have an interest in the snowmaking efforts, the committee is always looking for new members. This project would not happen without the hard work of many volunteers. Think about lending a hand to this effort.

Thank you

Paul Sandgren
Superintendent