

COLORAMA 25: A TRUE MILESTONE

Way back in 1989 I had an idea to make money for the Lights for Lapham Peak Ski Trails. Why not hold a run/walk with t-shirts advertising our fundraiser for lights? The day of the run was so cold in the morning that all my pens froze and I had to register everyone with pencils in a small screen tent on the trailhead near Evergreen Grove. After the race, we ironed on transfers on t-shirts for folks who didn't receive a t-shirt on race day. What a difference 25 years makes!

Although the weather forecast all week was for thunderstorms and cooler weather, Colorama #25 was warm and no rain fell during the race. Incredibly experienced volunteers handled pre-registration of 453 runners/walkers and 53 Smokey Bear kids with ease. Registrars on the west side of Trecker Lodge registered everyone in time for the 9:45 free drawings. We gave away some wonderful prizes from REI, Culvers, Sandra Yehle, and Bicycle Doctor. Near the Finish Line, the team leaders from Sam's in Waukesha passed out 700 bags of water and granola bars to participants. The Ice Age Trail and Clear Water Outdoor put up a tent to get ready for the afternoon seed gathering. The race of 552 runners and walkers started on time and finished in time to find homemade treats from Friends of Lapham Peak bakers, Kohls' volunteers, donations of apples, Gatorade, flavored coconut water, and the ever-favorite Smokey Bear Cake. Over 85 Smokey Bear Fun Run kids enjoyed the 1Kilometer run around the pond after meeting Smokey Bear himself and singing the ever-popular "Smokey Bear Song".

New this year was two sponsors, namely Hahn's Ace Hardware in Delafield and Clearwater Outdoor in Delafield. Sandy Sugden spearheaded the Silent Auction with over 70 unique items. This event raised over \$4100 for snowmaking, an unprecedented success! Other returning sponsors of 25 years were Waukesha State Bank and Bicycle Doctor. We also thank Mike Fort (the Buckthorn Buster), Dr. Dan Murray and the Lake Country Health Center, Oliva di Vita, Guthrie & Frey, Yaggy Colby Assoc, In-Step Running and Fitness, Wheel & Sprocket, and the Lake Country Racquet Club. Finally, we received a very generous grant from the Walmart Community Foundation and Sam's Club in Waukesha.

Thanks a million from this race director for helping to make this event a popular and family-oriented fundraiser for Lapham Peak. Suggestions for improvement are requested at this time as I'd like to offer more for the walkers and try to keep rising costs down. You may reach me at jmaki4@wi.rr.com. And, next year, when the newsletter comes out asking for volunteers, I urge you to consider joining the wonderful volunteers who have helped create an event of which we can all be proud.

Sincerely, Kris Maki