



It's time for the Friends of Perch Lake annual meeting. The meeting will be Saturday, April 12th at 9:30am. It will be held at the St. Joseph's town hall located on the corner of county roads V&E. We would like to begin planning activities for Homestead's Park free admission weekend in June; so bring your thinking caps.

It has been a busy year for the Friend's group. We again had a booth at the St, Joseph's Fall Festival. Over 500 school children from just the Hudson school district partook in field trips at the park. FOPL president Donna Seim's presentation of homesteading history remains very popular and has already been requested by teachers for upcoming field trips. This year FOPL will record her segment so that future generations will be able to enjoy viewing in the park's future learning center.

Speaking of the learning center, various fundraisers and private donations have now pushed the capital building fund over the 50,000 mark. FOPL hopes to again operate the brat stand at RJ's Meats (RJ's is still waiting to hear from coca-cola as to how many and what dates the stand will be available). Selling frozen treats at the park did clear a small profit, but power glitches tripping the freezer circuit breaker caused too much spoilage for this to be a viable fundraiser. Keep collecting those aluminum cans; they can be brought to the meeting or dropped off at 529 County Road E (just a mile south of the park).

Good Search got a boost with the newspaper coverage this last December. If you haven't checked it out, use your browser to search for it and bookmark the site. Type in Friends of Perch Lake in who do you search for and click verify (then the friends group will automatically come up as the charity benefiting from the search each time you go to the site). The site now has added a Good Shop feature. To date over 500 stores will donate a percentage of the purchases made on-line when using the Good Shop feature to navigate to their store site. Some chains will even offer free shipping to their local store. Fresh ideas are welcome; bring them to the meeting for brainstorming.

Thanks to the Star Observer for keeping coverage of our group activities before the public. Also, to increase public awareness, FOPL donated 2 memberships and park stickers to the Sportsmen's Alliance annual dinner. We look forward to seeing our newest members at the park. A hip-hip-hurrah to FOPL member Jim Traeger for continuing to donate the printing of the park brochures. This is a BIG commitment. In addition to the park display, FOPL members distribute them

throughout the county at libraries, grocery stores, etc. Finally, thank-you to the students from the New Richmond schools Service Learning Project as well as local scouts for their ongoing effort to eradicate invading buckthorn from the park.

There are a number of activities the group has planned for the coming season. The first is the county's Earth Day event, which will take place April 20th from 1-5pm at the YMCA Camp Croix. FOPL will again have a booth. This year the focus of our booth is how FOPL was instrumental in saving the park. We will give away 1 child's t-shirt each hour. Those willing to help please contact Donna Seim at 549-6587.

Two school field trips have already been booked. Those interested in assisting with field trips may contact Aleisha Miller at AleishaM@CO.Saint-Croix.WI.US.

Divers have once again volunteered to tackle the Eurasian milfoil invading the swimming area. Thanks to St. Croix Scuba owner Terry Nooner for organizing.

Weed Pull Dates are set as the following:

May 17th Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (Rain date will be May 18th)

June 8th Sunday, 9:00 a.m. July 19th Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

This is hard work and builds up a good appetite. FOPL will be throwing a cook-out to thank the divers following the 1st pull. Member Jim Traeger is donating the meat and beans. Anyone willing to assist or donate please contact Donna Seim.

The county has set new hours for the park that more closely follow the usable daylight (which will provide taxpayer savings on staffing costs). The new hours are:

May

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

June and July

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

August

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

September and October

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.