



## Rest in Peace

Donna Mae Darlene Seim, age 85 of Hudson, died January 17, 2020 at her daughter's home in River Falls.

Donna was born on November 7, 1934 in Osceola, WI, to Harold and Lucille (Leisch) Ostendorf. She attended grade school in Burkhardt, and graduated from Hudson High School in 1952 before continuing her education at Kinman Business University in Spokane, WA. She was united in marriage to Thomas Seim on November 8, 1958 in Stillwater, MN. The couple operated a farm in St. Joseph Township, and were blessed with three daughters, Linda, Nancy, and



Ruth. For many years, Donna and Tom owned and operated the picnic and campgrounds at Perch Lake on Tom's grandfather's homestead. The property was later sold to St. Croix County and became the park known today as Homestead Parklands. Through her contact with lake customers and her community activities, Donna was known as the "Perch Lake Lady". Donna was president of the Friends of Perch Lake. She enjoyed teaching grade school field trip groups about Perch Lake history and homesteading life. She loved Monarch butterflies; she often raised them from caterpillars. She vacationed to Mexico to observe the Monarch butterfly migration.

## Fish Hotels

The Friends of Perch Lake supported and worked with St. Croix County to introduce weevils with an appetite for Eurasian milfoil into the North end of the lake. The weevils are working to suppress Eurasian milfoil in the lake, and will someday eliminate it.

Native vegetation was choked out by the invasive milfoil and has been slow to return. Without protective cover, panfish succumb to predation at younger ages—leading to a decrease in average size.



Site manager Ryan Brathal and park staff proposed fish hotels to the DNR and received a permit to do so. The idea of the project is to enhance fish habitats in the lake by bundling small trees together and placing them in the water near the lakeshore. Staff used primarily cedar trees because of their many limbs; which when entangled, create a very beneficial fish environment. This leads to an increase in fish natural habitat in the lake and more places for them to spawn. Overall, we are just looking to boost fish environments and numbers here in Perch Lake.

SCC park staff and WI DNR Fisheries staff completed the fish habitat project at Perch

Lake. They placed four bundles of Red Cedar (harvested in the park) near the fishing bump-out along the beach road, and two bundles near the fishing pier. They will all drop into 10 – 15 ft. of water and should provide a good source of cover and forage to help boost fish populations in the lake and attract fish to a couple of our favorite park fishing spots.

## FOPL Events

- Annual Meeting—TBA: postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions on groups.
- Kid's Fishing (co-sponsored with the Sportsman's Alliance) tentatively set for June 7 (Covid-19 permitting). This is free admission weekend in the park.
- Brat Stand Fundraiser: July 24-25 (Covid allowing) from 10-2 at RJ's Meats in Hudson at the KOC trailer. Use the contact us form on [friendsofperchlake.com](http://friendsofperchlake.com) to volunteer.

## Park Opening

The park is open to hikers, bikers etc. Access via the parking area by the front gate. A vehicle pass is required to park there. No changes from normal off-season use. As of now we still plan to re-open to vehicle drive-ins May 1. Check St. Croix County website for Co-Vid related delays.

## Thank-you

The children of Donna Seim would like to thank all those who so generously donated to the Friend's of Perch Lake in her memory. FOPL's long-term goal of raising capital funding for a learning center in the park was dear to our mother's heart.