

FRIENDS OF PERCH LAKE NEWSLETTER 2023



LOON DEATH

Last summer the male loon succumbed to acute lead poisoning which led to organ failure. This occurred despite surgery at a rescue center to remove the lead fishing lure.

The female was able to raise their juvenile to maturity on her own. Following ice-out this Spring, park staff did spot a single loon on the lake. We are hopeful it is our female from last year and that she will find a new mate.

There are alternatives to lead for weighting fishing lines or jigs that are more environmentally friendly to nature and wildlife. If you have lead fishing tackle that you'd like to properly dispose of you can turn it in during the St. Croix County Recycling event in early October.

FOPL ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of Perch Lake will have their annual meeting on [May 20 at 10 am](#) at the playground pavilion. In the event of wet weather, the meeting will be moved to the main park entry building. All members and public are welcome to attend. Besides FOPL business,

this is when planning for events and activities occur.

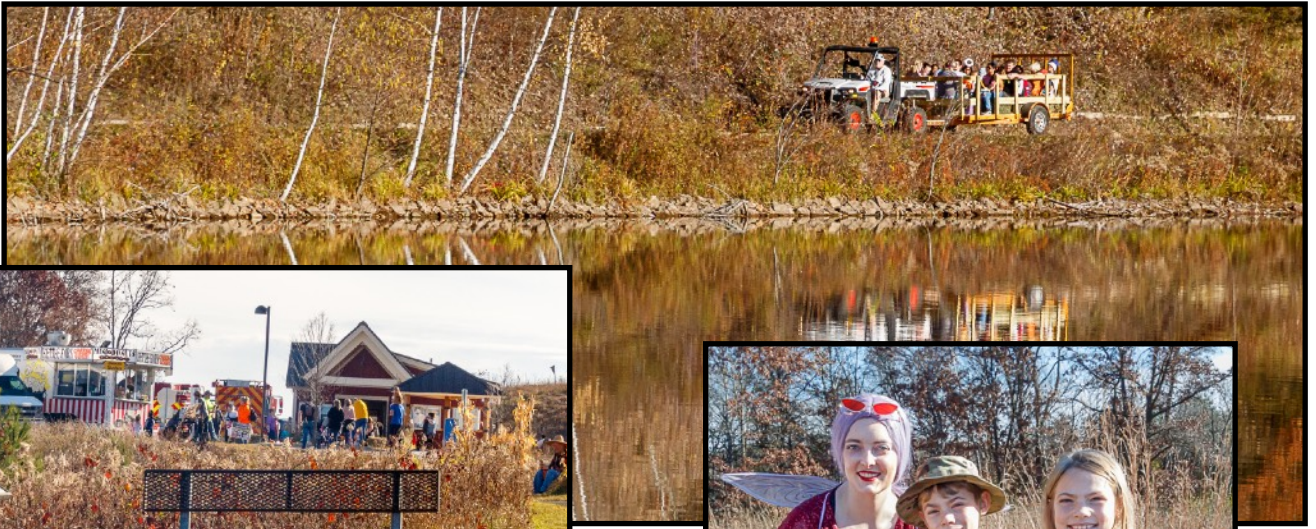
SITE MANAGER

Parks Property Manager JR Ballard, has been promoted to the St. Croix County Parks Administrator position. Interviews have been completed and a new Parks Property Manager will be named soon.

NEW LOGO

FOPL member Erika Frusher (great, great granddaughter of the original homesteaders) has designed a new logo for our group. Prior to this we have been using the park logo, so it is nice to have our own which is being incorporated into our soon to be published brochure.





Park Events

One activity rapidly gaining popularity is the free Park sponsored Halloween at Homestead event. Many local businesses, civic groups, and lake neighbors (including FOPL) have donated their time or money to this event. Activities included hayrides, prizes for best costumes, a scavenger hunt, and food trucks. More than 800 people attended last year's event.

In February, Hudson Hot Air Affair along with Fleet Farm, Nutty Squirrel/Cheap Andy's Saloon, Carbone's Pizzeria/Willow River Saloon, St. Croix County Sportsman's Alliance and St. Croix County Parks sponsored a Kids' Ice Fishing Contest on the lake. More than 150 local children

Above, FOPL member Sloane MacSwain (Fairy Godmother) posed with trick or treaters Rory and Charlotte Hanson of New Richmond.

participated in the free event. Each participant received a free fishing tackle bag from Fleet Farm, and small gifts from FOPL. The event had a wonderful turnout and Hot Air Affair is excited to sponsor it again next year!

Watch our website for upcoming events. Volunteers are always welcome!!!