

FOPL ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

It's been another great year at the park. Three schools planned field trips to Homestead. One was rained out but, promptly reserved for this coming spring. A swim meet was sponsored by the Hudson YMCA in August. The group expressed enthusiasm for returning this summer. Watch your local paper for details. Many youth groups worked on buckthorn eradication. Most nature walks scheduled by Aleisha Miller (education specialist for county) were unfortunately rained out. Hope for better luck this year. Watch for postings at the park.

FOPL received over 3 thousand dollars in total donations towards the learning center. Almost 2 thousand dollars was directed to materials for educational kiosks in the park. Eagle scout candidate Philip Spainhour organized a work crew to construct the kiosks. Mark Vanasse is organizing a crew to construct display boards for the kiosks. Any willing hammers please contact him. Members Donna Seim and Linda Jameson have volunteered to produce materials for the history board. Anyone with layout skills or an interest in history is welcome to participate. We expect to have it ready for the park opening. One kiosk will be for park staff to post announcements, one for prairie education, and the other for water quality education. The county is very appreciative of contributions of citizen "experts" so if you have an interest in these areas we'd like to hear from you. Member Jim Traeger graciously volunteered his printing business to produce a park brochure/trail map. Donna and Linda both contributed photos to the brochure which is hoped to be ready for opening day. The advance copies look great!

Future plans are also exciting. The 1st weekend of February FOPL/county is sponsoring a snowshoe building class. Member Dale Fern and avid snow-shoer reports the trails are a good length for that activity. While the park is closed to motorized traffic it is open to pedestrians. The county keeps the lot below the gate plowed. Contact Aleisha Miller at (715) 684-2874 ext 125. Site manager Dick _____ has taken a job closer to his home. Thanks for the great job. The county is currently interviewing candidates. The parks committee has indicated that with most of infrastructure in place they are looking for a naturalist-type background. Linda Jameson as obtained Adopt-a-Lake materials from the state. Anyone interested in helping her work with elementary teachers on that project can contact her at (715)426-9297. The parks committee has given the go-ahead to apply for grants to construct a trail from the playground parking lot to the beach. Ellen Denzer (principal grant writer for county) says would get more points to the grant if private citizens pledge monetary support. It's not so much the quantity of money as the number of citizens supporting that count.

The FOPL annual meeting will be sat April 23rd 10:00am at the St. Joseph Town hall located at the junction of county roads V&E. Lastly, a gentle reminder that it is time to renew membership. Please continue to support our fine organization. See you at the park!