

Friends of Perch Lake



A partnership with
St. Croix County
that promotes
understanding of
the nature and history
of Homestead Parklands.

FOPL ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2006

It was a busy year for the park. One weekend was reported to have reached a capacity crowd. Almost 300 schoolchildren from multiple districts utilized the park for field trips. They came rain or shine. Volunteers are needed to assist seriously outnumbered teachers this upcoming spring field trip season. The Hudson YMCA held their annual swim meet in August and also brought in a capacity crowd.

The Border Bash Fundraiser brought in \$3,600; which brings the Learning Center fund to nearly \$40,000. This year Metro Super Saver has offered to match member donations above annual renewal up to \$2,000! Let's max it out! Additional fundraising ideas are welcomed. Metro Super Saver has also printed the park brochures gratis.

The Seim family put together a history kiosk. Watch for rotating displays. FOPL has attached a weather resistant box to hold membership forms. Aleisha Miller (St. Croix County Educational Specialist) has filled the fishing pier kiosk with info about aquatic life.

A leg was added to the Seim family trail to reach the point. The County sought and received a grant to continue the oak savannah restoration. This winter non-native pines and buckthorn were removed from a hill near the playground parking lot. Enjoy the revealed view from the hilltop and watch for oak saplings springing back.

The state will be putting in 3,000 rainbow trout this month. Both the west and east shorelines of the park are great for shore fishing of trout early May. A big thank-you for Trout Unlimited/ Sports Alliance members for applying pressure to keep the lake stocked. Stock up on your corn and marshmallows! (Tip: Place sinker 6 inches back from hook, place a miniature marshmallow on hook-this combo will float hook up from lake bottom; then add corn kernels for bait-NO bobber).

In the coming season FOPL is partnering with the Young Naturalists at Hudson Middle School to install a monarch butterfly waystation near the prairie kiosk. FOPL has purchased the seed packet and informational posters. The naturalists are supplying the growing/installation. Planting is planned for Mid-May. Ask Donna Seim about her trip the monarchs' wintering grounds last year.

The county has gift certificates for park stickers that can be purchased at the same locations as stickers. Unfortunately, the Parks department does not wish to hassle with other groups such as FOPL selling park stickers; so we can't offer stickers with membership.

FOPL's annual meeting will be **Saturday, April 29th 10:00am at the St. Joseph town hall on the corner of county roads V&E. Agenda items include fundraising, volunteer opportunities, way station, and weed control at the beach. To add additional items to the agenda contact Donna Seim at 549-6587.**

