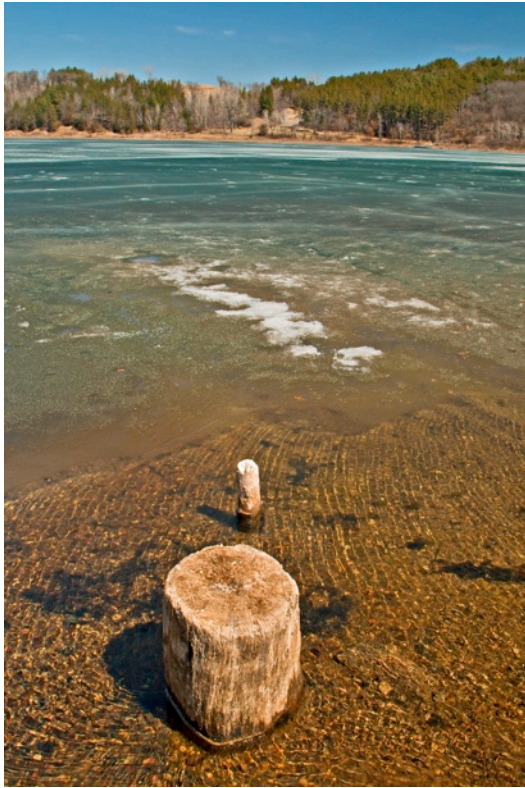


FRIENDS OF PERCH LAKE

2011 NEWSLETTER



Ice out was Sunday April 10. As can be seen from the attached photo water levels continue to fall towards historic norms. This photo was taken 2 days before ice out. The beginning of the old boat launch and some of the sand beach are now visible on the South side.

2010 was a busy year in the park. There were school field trips with FOPL president Donna Seim presenting Homestead history, park manager visit from other county parks, buckthorn and milfoil control, continued oak savannah restoration, a YMCA swim meet, beginners' triathlon, and a new staircase built on the point courtesy of the extended Kerrick clan some of which are FOPL members. St. Croix Scuba owner Terry Nooner coordinated volunteer divers for the milfoil pulls; FOPL fed the hungry crew. Trifitness owner and FOPL supporter Vicki Ostendorf coordinated the triathlon.

Both the triathlon and the annual Knights of Columbus brat stand at RJ Meats brought in funds for the capital building fund for a learning/reception center. Thanks to individual donations that included an estate donation, the fund is now to 66,000.

New park Manager Justin Townsend has already lined up a busy season for the coming year. See his letter printed below.

From Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake-Justin Townsend April 2011

I hope everyone made it through this extra tough winter. I am definitely looking towards a wonderful spring and another great year at the Park. This will be my second season and first full one as Site Manager. This will also be my fourth season on the park staff. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to serve the community. This is a dream job for me and I will strive to make Homestead a model park.

I hope to begin to communicate better what is happening at the park. I would like you to know what we are doing as well as make you aware of upcoming events. However, I know time is a consideration with all the emails we get these days so I will keep these short...hopefully.

First, the most important to news for me. Our wonderful seasonal staff is left mostly intact. Jake, Betsy, Bre, And Dave will be back. Our newest member is Rhonda. We look forward to working with her.

Second some events-

EP Rock Elementary: 9:30 AM on May 19th. Really looking forward to this!

Service Learning Day: NR Schools may possibly come out May 20. Help clean up.

Weed Pulls: will be April 30, May 21, And June 18. I will get times out but usually around 9 am.

Triathlons: 3 this year! June 25, July 23, and August 13 or 27. June is for sure the other 2 are pending permits.

Kids fishing: New this year June 11. I will send out times but tentative 9:30 am.

Free entrance day: Also June 11.

YMCA swim: August 20. Please call the Y for details.

My focus for this next year especially is getting people to the park. If you have ideas please come talk to me. Most importantly The Park will need volunteers for all of these events, so please contact me if you would like to come out.

Have a great early spring and I hope to be seeing all of you this year.

Sincerely,

Justin



Justin Townsend



Please come to the Friends of Perch Lake annual meeting on 5/21/11 following weed pull lunch in the maintenance building at the park. We'd like to hear ideas from supporters of the park.

FOPL Volunteer Opportunities:

Feed the Divers: Serve or supply food at the 2nd eurasian milfoil pull at the beach. Come show how much you appreciate them for clearing the swim area.

Triathlons: People needed at corners to direct runners and bikers.

Brat Stand: Take a 4 hour shift. The stand is well set up and is easy to run. Date is Aug 26 & 27.

Email dmdseim@aol.com with interest and receive a reminder as dates draw near.



Be a supporter. Donate at least \$50 to FOPL and receive a notecard featuring this Perch Lake loon photo taken by the great-granddaughter of the original homesteaders.



Don't forget Pennies for the Park. Search and shop online via Goodsearch on behalf of Friends of Perch Lake for donations at no extra cost to you.