

Friends of Perch Lake

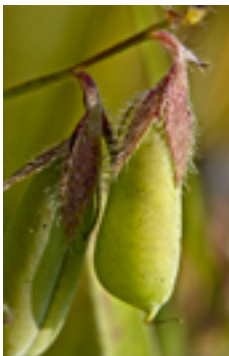


Newsletter 2010

Greetings from FOPL president Donna Seim.

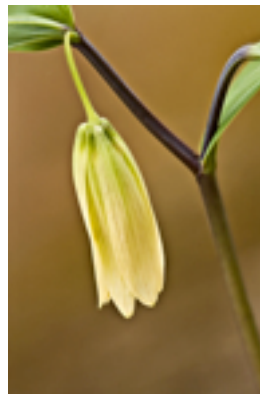
Our annual meeting will be held Saturday, May 22 following the picnic to thank the volunteer divers for pulling milfoil. We plan to feed the divers at noon. Anyone willing to help please email me at Dmdseim@aol.com. The meeting will move to the maintenance building in case of rain at 1 p.m. Please mark your calendars.

It was a busy year at the park once again. Boy Scout groups continued buckthorn removal. They have cleared enough that plants such as the sessile belwort pictured right are blooming for the first time in decades. The lake starting to return to historically lower water levels have now permitted rattle-box (below) to reappear. It is amazing how long the seeds can remain dormant and still bloom when conditions are right.



Oak Savannah restoration has been able to continue thanks to a grant. This will be most noticeable along the down road to the lake, where more pines have been removed. Please be patient as it will take time for the oaks and native prairie to re-establish themselves.

Hudson school district again made use of the park for field trips studying water quality. FOPL's homesteading history module continues to be a popular addendum to the field trips. No doubt due to Donna's storytelling abilities. Three field trips are planned for this year. Donna has also been asked to present her talk to a group of county park managers that will be touring the park this summer.



FOPL had a booth at St. Croix County's 5th annual Earth Day Event at Camp St. Croix April 18. The theme was chemicals in the environment. Children could pick a Perch Lake agate for correctly identifying what is good or bad for the lake. We actually ran out of Good Search Pennies for the Park cards.

FUNDRAISING

For those unfamiliar with Good-search, it is a search engine powered by yahoo. Every search done on behalf of FOPL garners a penny donation to the park; which is a popular way for kids to help contribute to the Learning Center Fund. The good-shop feature generates a portion of the sale of merchandise purchased online via the participating merchants. Last year this generated over 100 dollars.

Our annual brat roast was another success. This year we will be holding this fundraiser at RJ Meats on July 16 & 17 with set up at 0930. Sign up for 2-4 hr shifts with Donna.

Sports events are also popular at the park. The YMCA swim meet is popular and will be held on August 21. This past year a mini-triathlon was held at the park with each entrant making a 15 dollar donation to FOPL. Plans are to again hold the event on June 26.

Additional fundraising ideas are most welcome. The Learning Center Fund has now passed 55,000.

KUDOS

Starting in July FOPL members John & Kay Kerrick and their extended family are taking on a much need project in the park. They will be installing steps on the steep, eroding portion of the trail leading from the Seim family trail to the point. This spur trail has been very difficult to hike due to it's steepness; so please extend your thanks if you see them at work.

There are many diving groups that enjoy the clear waters of the lake. Some come from as far away as the western part of the cities to give back to the park by pulling Eurasian Mill-foil from the swimming area. The vast improvement in swimming conditions at the beach are entirely due to theirs' and park staff efforts. A special recognition goes to Terry Nooner of St. Croix Scuba for organizing the divers and donating equipment rental and air. Please come to FOPL's brat-roast following the May 22 pull and express your appreciation.

FISHING

Trout fisher-people will be pleased to know that there has been almost 5,000 legal size trout (including brooder stock) put into the lake this year.

A second pier was added near the boat rental. This was recycled from another park. It is placed in what was historically a good spot for panfishing.

YOUR SUPPORT

Your continued support is invaluable to FOPL and the park. Please renew your support with a tax-deductible donation to the Learning Center Fund. A form for your convenience is included. All who donate at the 50 dollar and above level will receive a refrigerator magnet with the bellwort pictured on the front page. This photo was taken by the great-granddaughter of the homesteaders Linda Rutherford, nee Seim who is also creating and donating the magnets.

The free county park admission dates are June 12 & 13.

See You at the Park