

One of the activities associated with the Hot Air Affair is a Kids' Ice Fishing Contest which was held at Perch Lake on February 9 from 1-3 pm. The event was sponsored by Striker of Hudson who provided guidance, equipment, bait, and prizes. Also sponsoring was the Willow River Inn of Burkhardt who provided parking, a free shuttle to the lake, and free hotdogs and hot chocolate. Members of the Friends of Perch Lake were able to answer questions about the lake and document the event.

A total of 35 kids registered on site. Some came from as near as 2 miles away to as far as Switzerland. Mom was visiting her sister in Woodbury and found the contest on the Hot Air Affair website while searching for kid friendly activities. She was excited to take her children for their first ice fishing experience—explaining it doesn't get cold enough in their part of the country.

Photos and text by Linda Rutherford, Director of Friends of Perch Lake



Ryker Peterson of Baldwin, WI pauses for a pic on the way to get his Bluegill measured. It was 6 inches.



L-R: Mike Raymonds from the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (NSP) uses an underwater camera to show Wyatt & Owen Erickson of Hudson what's down their hole.



L-R: Adam & Wyatt Chandler of Hudson Township try their luck.



L-R: Grady & Greg Franko of New Richmond. Grady put dad Greg on pole duty to watch more holes be drilled for new arrivals.



L-R: Cody & Hayden Lang of New Richmond clear slush from their holes while waiting for their shelter to be set up.



L-R: Scott Vongkhamdeng, Mike Steinke, Darren Green, Ario Cognetta (back turned), and Jeanne Hall (white hat) of Striker stand ready to check in hopeful anglers.



Willow River employee Jerry Pinx is on hot cocoa duty while shuttle driver Sue Manning awaits those needing a ride back to their cars.



L-R: Striker employee Ario Cagnetta demonstrates how to use a fish finder to check depth and fish under the ice to Jackson Wrenn and Allison Wrenn of Zurich Switzerland