

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589
March 2007



President’s Message
Ray Potempa

It seems like it was only yesterday, but it was 20 years ago when a group of Lake Kegonsa residents met to discuss the formation of a lake association. At the time, the Legislature was considering forming a “lake district” encompassing all of the Yahara Lakes. Lake districts are legal entities which have taxing authority to levy new taxes on all households within their districts. This idea was not endorsed by some of the Lake Kegonsa residents which lead to the initial organizational meetings.

Some of the agreed upon features of the new organization were: it was to be voluntary organization open of all people interested in Lake Kegonsa independent on where they lived, and all aspects of lake activities were to be fostered and enhanced by the organization. Numerous names were suggested for the new organization, but one seemed most appropriate “Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society” or FOLKS.

During the intervening years, the FOLKS Boards have consistently maintained these basic tenets in managing the overall activities. On past occasions, suggestions have been made for FOLKS to become more proactive on issues thereby taking strong positions as an organization. In the future, FOLKS will continue to follow its historic goal of keeping the membership well informed on the issues and having individual members voice their respective opinions and/or concerns to the appropriate parties directly. This is consistent with the initial voluntary nature of the organization.

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Dane County Sheriff's Office 2007 Boating Safety Class Information



Oregon (Class #3) April 11, 18, 25 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Independent Bank of Oregon 744 N. Main Street (lower level – behind building)	McFarland (Class #4) May 1, 8, 15 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. McFarland Municipal Center 5915 Milwaukee Street
Fitchburg (Class #5) May 2, 9, 16 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Fitchburg Fire Station #2 5415 King James Way	Cambridge (Class #6) May 12, 19, 26 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Amundson Community Center Community Room 200 Spring Street (park in rear)
Middleton (Class #7) June 16, 23, 30 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Middleton Public Library 7425 Hubbard Avenue	Your Group Contact us if you have a group interested in receiving this training.

Age Requirement: Classes are a mix of adults and children. While the minimum age is 10 years of age, it is highly recommended that students are close to 12 years of age or older (due to homework and test requirements). Graduates receive a DNR boating safety certificate valid once the graduate is 12 years of age.

*** Students must attend all session dates noted for their particular class ***

Cost: \$10.00 due at the first class.

Registration: Registration is required prior to class. E-mail the below information to guedner@co.dane.wi.us or mail to: Deputy Matt Gueldner Dane County Sheriff's Office 115 W. Doty St. Madison, WI 53703. You will receive an e-mail reply or telephone call confirming your registration. Parents must sign authorization paperwork at the first class for students under 18.

If you register and subsequently cannot attend, please contact us prior to the first class. Students with special needs must contact the instructor at least two weeks in advance of the course to request special accommodations.



Marine and Trail Enforcement Bureau 2006 Boat Report

Total Citations Issued:
272

Citations by Day of Week:

Citations Issued by Month:

May 57
June 67
July 87
August 51
September 10

Sun 100
Mon 23
Tue 19
Wed 12
Thur 10
Fri 27
Sat 81

Citations by Violation:

30.62 (3)(a)	Fail to provide proper number of personal flotation devices	70
30.66 (3)(b)	Personal Watercraft speed greater than SNW w/in 100' of another boat	45
30.61	Operate boat between sunset and sunrise w/out required lights	24
30.62 (8)	Fail to cover or secure storage battery	22
30.51 (1)	Operate boat without valid certificate of number	19
30.62 (4)	Fail to have required fire extinguishing equipment aboard	15
30.681 (1)(a)&(b)	Operate motorboat while under the influence of an intoxicant	13
30.66 (2)	Operate at speed in excess of posted notice established by regulatory markers	12
30.69 (1)(a)	Tow water skier without an observer	12
30.68 (6)	Allow riding on decks or gunwales	11
30.523 (3)	Fail to display registration number or decal	9
30.549 (2)	Non-Registration	6
30.62 (2)	Operate motorboat without muffler on engine	4
30.66 (3)(a)	Operate motorboat at speed greater than SNW w/in 100' of pier	2
30.69 (1)(a)	Operate boat towing water skier between sunset to sunrise	2
30.65 (1)(d)	Fail to yield right-of-way to sailboat	1
30.67 (2)	Failure to report accident	1
30.684 (5)	Refuse to take intox test	1
30.69 (2)	Water ski careful and prudent	1
30.61 (10)	Operate PWC between sunset to sunrise	1
30.66 (1)	Unreasonable or imprudent speed	1

Citations by Body of Water and Month:

	May	June	July	August	September	Total
Mendota	22	19	32	16	4	93
Monona	4	16	9	7	1	37
Yahara River	13	13	19	11	1	57
Waubesa	10	12	13	11	1	47
Kegonsa	3	2	9	3	1	18
Squaw Bay	5	5	5	3	2	20
Total	57	67	87	51	10	272

Take a Stake in the Lakes 2007

Dane County's Lakes Cleanup Event

Volunteers are needed.....

The 20th annual Take a Stake in the Lakes volunteer cleanup of the Yahara Lakes will be held on **June 9 and June 16, 2007.**

Lakes Mendota, Kegonsa and Wingra will be concentrated on Saturday, **June 9 from 9:00-12:00, with the information center at James Madison Park.**

Lakes Monona and Waubesa will be concentrated on Saturday, **June 16 from 9:00-12:00, with the information center at Law Park in Madison.**

Over the years, thousands of volunteers have removed hundreds of tons of waste from Lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa and Kegonsa. During Take a Stake in the Lakes groups, individuals and families adopt a beach or shoreline, collect litter and rake aquatic debris from the shoreline and shallow waters. Some adopt boat launches, and some clean rivers while paddling their canoes or kayaks. Many groups then have a picnic in the park they've just cleaned up. Garbage bags, T-shirts and door prizes are provided.

Volunteers can also stencil storm drains in their neighborhoods using a stencil kit and spray paint provided by Dane County Extension. The stencil is a reminder to keep leaves and grass clippings out of the gutters, which drain directly to the lakes and encourage the growth of lake weeds.

Shoreline residents: Dane County Public Works barges will conduct the annual aquatic debris pickup from your piers on Lake Mendota and Lake Kegonsa on Monday June 11 and on Lake Monona and Waubesa on Monday June 18, starting at 6:00 a.m. Note: Aquatic debris must be on shoreline residents pier by the Monday after the perspective lakes clean-up event.

Call now to reserve your group's favorite park or stretch of shoreline, or to find out how you can help protect our beautiful lakes.

Take a Stake in the Lakes is sponsored by the Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission and is part of Yahara Lakes Week, which celebrates and promotes public awareness of the Yahara Lakes. The event is held in cooperation with Dane County Parks, Dane County Public Works and Dane County/UW Extension, and is sponsored by many local businesses and organizations.

To participate or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, call Rhea Stangel at 608-224-3601 or stangel-maier@co.dane.wi.us). Volunteers may also come to the information centers, where stencil kits and garbage bags will be available.



A Murder at the Lake

By Doug Pfundheller

Just east of Quam's Marina there is an empty lot that has been made into a little park by the township. In the early 1920s it was owned by Cliff Halverson and he built a grocery store and tavern there. Back in those days there were several grocery stores on the lake. Cars were not as plentiful and people walked to the store for things they needed. At that time there were about 15 grocery stores in Stoughton, now there is one.

Cliff ran the place for many years and then it went through several owners, finally ending up with a woman named Geraldine Contrarez. She named the place "Rosa's Cantina" and it was a bar, no groceries. Contrarez had a brother, Alvin Hegge, he was the leader of a motorcycle gang named "The Ghost Riders" and the Cantina was their local hangout.

In 1983 Contrarez and her brother decided to burn down the Cantina for the \$108,000 fire insurance. They did and the Stoughton Fire Dept. responded, but were only able to save the back half of the building and the second story bedroom where they found the body of a young woman, Catherine Christian, age 22, dead of smoke inhalation. The origin of the fire seemed suspicious so an investigation was

started, it went on for 21 months while the burned out building just stood there. The result of this investigation led to the arrest of Contrarez, Hegge and eight others. The complaint alleges that the ten conspired to burn down the Cantina and they also faced second degree homicide for the death of Christian who they felt was trapped in the upper room by the fire.

Contrarez was arrested in Las Vegas, Hegge, age 49, in the state of Washington. Scott Howard and Will Highfill also were charged. The trial was held in Madison in 1985, two years after the fire. In the trial it came out that Hegge gave an order to Scott Howard to hit Christian in the head and put her unconscious body in the upper bedroom so it would look like she died in the fire. Hegge was afraid that Christian would snitch to the police about the arson plan. They were all found guilty and sent to prison.

In 1986 Hegge was returned to Washington to face drug sale charge, illegal transportation of firearms, and a murder conspiracy in the death of a Spokane police detective.

EPA Launches National Lake Survey

Lake Kegonsa will be undergoing a checkup in 2007 as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiates a statistical survey. The goal of the survey is to discover what percentages of the nation's lakes are in good, fair or poor condition. A "stress test" will also be performed to examine the relative importance of nutrients, non-native species, lakeshore development, pathogens and other stressors on lake conditions.

The EPA's approach is multi-faceted, and designed to strengthen state, tribal and interstate monitoring programs. This will encourage more efficient use of resources, expanded accessibility and better use of data, and partnerships among agencies and others. The survey should also set a sound baseline of data by providing documented information on the extent of water quality problems and key stressors on our nation's lakes.

A total of 909 lakes, representing five size classes and distributed relatively evenly across the lower 48 states, are included in the survey. The lakes were selected randomly (excluding the Great Lakes) from a sample that includes freshwater lakes (natural and man-made) and ponds and reservoirs that are at least one meter deep (3.28 feet) and over 10 acres (4 hectares). A second set of samples will be conducted from 91 of the lakes. These lakes are a subset of lakes from the EPA's National Eutrophication Survey (NES) that was conducted in 1972. Surveying these 91 lakes will allow other potential trends in water quality to be examined.

Wisconsin has 29 lakes included in the survey, ranging in size from 11-acre (4.6 hectares) Bucks Lake in Florence County to 133,404-acre (53,989 hectares) Lake Winnebago. Lake Kegonsa is included in the survey. Several of the lakes already have ongoing monitoring through citizen monitoring or other efforts, and that information will be used to supplement the national lakes survey data and provide background data for interpretation.

The WDNR is planning to use the national lake survey effort to complement and enhance its own lake monitoring and assessment efforts in Wisconsin.

The EPA is providing funding and in-kind services to support the field and laboratory work needed to complete the survey. A team of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and U.S. Geological Survey staff will be sampling the selected lakes during a mid-summer sampling window. Samples to be collected include standard water quality constituents (nutrients, pH, color, chlorophyll a, etc.), water clarity, physical profiles, phytoplankton and zooplankton, a sediment core, algal toxins, pathogens, and benthos (lakebottom organisms). In addition, a comprehensive shoreline assessment will be performed at 10 sites around each lake. These core indicators will be examined to diagnose the lake's water quality, ecological integrity, and recreational value.

The WDNR is planning to use the national lake survey effort to complement and enhance its own lake monitoring and assessment efforts in Wisconsin. For example, WDNR may add more lakes to better report on lake conditions representative of the full range of Wisconsin lake types. The WDNR may also collect additional data, such as detailed aquatic plant information or enhanced littoral and shoreland habitat parameters.

Results of the national survey of lakes will be analyzed and compiled during 2008, with a final report issued in 2009. For more information on the survey of the nation's lakes, visit www.epa.gov/owow/lakes/lakessurvey.

by Tim Asplund and Marilyn Larsen, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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**Don't Forget To Mail-In Your Membership
Dues**

FOLKS Business Members

Anchorbank, SSB	877-4100
Barber's Bay	873-6121
Coldwell Banker Sveum Realtor	873-7731
Crown Point Resort	873-7833
Dean Thomas Homes, Inc	873-1935
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Jim's Tree Service	838-8188
Kegonsa Cove	838-6494
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Quam's Motor Sports	873-3366
Quick Stop - Mobil	873-5321
RE/MAX Preferred	877-0871
Sonny's Bar & Grill	873-4422
Springer's	205-9300
Stark Company Realtors	873-8181
Stoughton Country Club	873-7861
The UPS Store	877-2679
Web-Net	alan@web-net.us

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