

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

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Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
May 2010

FOLKS Business Members

Anchorbank, SSB	877-4108
Coldwell Banker Success Realtor	873-7731
Crown Point Resort	873-7833
Dean Thomas Homes, Inc	873-1935
Jim's Tree Service	838-8188
Kegonsa Cove	838-6494
Mike Jensen Taxidermy	838-4862
Quam's Motor Sports	873-3366
Springer's	205-9300
Stark Company Realtors - Marjie Hanssen (205-3003) and Tony Hill (205-3030)	873-7861
Stoughton Country Club	877-2679
The UPS Store	alan@web-net.us
Web-Net	873-6770
Brown's Boats and Bait	274-2266
The Utschig Group of Chiropractic Clinics	

President's Message ~ Bob Arndt

The Ups and Downs of Lake Levels

Lake levels always seem to be a concern at this time of the year as we enter the boating season. With little rain this year, all of the lakes are within their specified ranges. The locks at Babcock Park in McFarland are closed for the first time in two years. Lake Kegonsa is at or slightly above the summer max (843.5 feet above sea level) as I write this message. As most of you know DNR rules set the summer min and max levels. The Dane County Land and Water Resources Department controls the dams at the bottoms of Mendota, Waubesa, and Kegonsa to try to keep the level between the max and min for each lake. However, the level has been taken below the summer minimum (843.0) the past two summers, in fruitless attempts to accelerate the removal of water from Waubesa and Monona. The good news is that FOLKS was told by Dane County officials that this should not happen this summer.

This will apparently not completely satisfy many Lake Kegonsa riparians. Based on the FOLKS online survey last summer, as well as emails from members, a level near the summer minimum creates difficulties getting boats on and off lifts on some parts of the lake. The survey suggested that a level between 843.5 and 843.75 (about 3 inches higher than the current DNR range) would be preferred by about 75% of the 168 people who completed the survey. Of course the downside of higher levels is the increased risk of high water, shoreline damage, and no-wake orders that might accompany high amounts of rain, as there is a definite limit on how fast water can be removed from the lake, especially in the spring. (See also the article on ice damage.)

The DNR established levels can be changed but it is not a simple process, requiring public hearings and a finding of facts after consideration of navigation, natural scenic beauty, fish and wildlife habitat and water quality issues. This will usually be followed by an appeal from an interested party that will extend the process. (The Rock Koshkonong Lake District's 2003 request to raise the level of Lake Koshkonong awaits action by an appellate court after the circuit court's unfavorable 2008 decision.)
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For More About FOLKS, Visit Our
Website at WWW.Kegonsa.org

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Pier Registration (Continued From Page 5)

If you have questions feel free to include a copy of the legal description with the registration form.

Section 4- Pier, Dock or Wharf Placement Date - Best guess as to when dock was placed for the first time. Include photographs of the pier. Recent photographs are acceptable if the size and configuration haven't changed since 2/6/2005. Enter the date of the photographs on the form.

Section 5- Pier Dock or Wharf Design - Fill in total feet of shoreline and number of boat slips. Also include a sample drawing along with the requested information. Remember the Loading Platform includes the Main Stem Section, where the platform first exceeds 8 ft. Do not include this section again in the Main Stem length calculation.

Section 6- Certification and Permission-Name and signature.

Assistance for FOLKS members on 6/12/10

We recognize that this can be a confusing process and you might have questions. The FOLKS Board is scheduling a special session to assist our members complete the forms. It will be held at Stoughton Country Club on Saturday 06/12/10 at 9:00am.

If you do not have access to the internet, please plan to attend the session above and we will have the forms available. Be sure to bring:

- The legal description of your property
- A drawing of your pier, with the dimensions
- Photographs of the pier

With a little effort we can all feel confident that our piers meet the new regulations and are registered. This could be important in the years ahead, as pier registration will be more difficult if we miss the 4/1/2011 deadline.

Peter Foy
FOLKS Board Member
PeterF@Kegonsa.org

FOLKS Membership Renewal

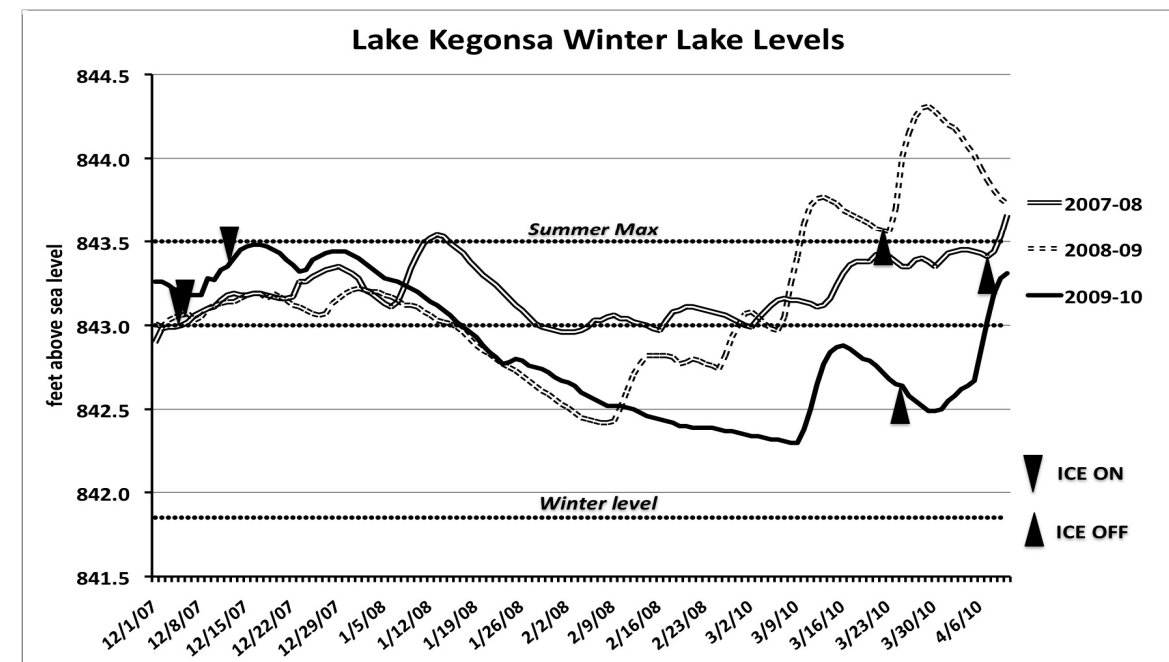
The FOLKS membership drive is in full swing. If you haven't received our new brochure, it should arrive in the mail soon. Please consider renewing your membership or joining FOLKS today.

The support of our members is critical to FOLKS' success and enables us to work for you. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact Kris Heckman at KrisH@kegonsa.org, call her at 608-877-8750 or visit the FOLKS website at www.kegonsa.org. We appreciate your support!

Shoreline Ice Damage (Continued From Page 2)

High winter lake levels would appear to be an obvious contributing factor. The lake is supposed to be drawn down during the winter months to help prevent ice damage and then raised to a minimum of 843.0 feet above sea level around March 1. The following chart shows the water levels during the past three winters. While the level was 1-3 inches higher near the ice over date in December this year, it was comparable or lower than the previous two years in January and February. Another FOLKS survey this summer will attempt to gather additional information that might help prevent some of the damage in the future.

Proper design and installation of riprap is probably one important way to minimize damage. With this in mind, FOLKS is planning to offer an information/education program this fall to help members understand permit requirements and proper design and installation of riprap and other erosion control methods.



Pier Registration

Important reminder to register your pier before April 1, 2011-There is no reason to wait, so we might as well do it this summer.

In the summer of 2008 new legislation concerning the placement of piers went into effect. It created a registration system to grandfather piers placed before Feb. 6th 2004.

Q. Why is this important to me?

A. Because if you don't take advantage of this one time grandfathering opportunity you will fall under the new set of rules for piers, which for example limits the loading platform width to only 6 feet.

Lake Kegonsa is located in an Area of Special Natural Resource Interest (ASNRI), so there are basically four different categories:

3. Your pier meets the exempt status, which means you don't have to do anything. There is no permit, registration, or fee required. To meet the exempt status your pier must meet the following requirements:
 - Width-Maximum width of 6 ft. If you have a loading platform over 6 ft, you do not meet the exemption. The loading platform is usually on the end of the pier and the width includes the stem section that it is attached to.
 - Length-The length needed to moor your boat, use a boat lift, or reach a 3 foot water depth, which ever is greater.
 - Location-Does not interfere with the rights of other riparian owners
 - Number of boats-Two for the first 50 feet and one for every additional 50 feet. If your lot is 75 feet you are still restricted to two boats. This includes Personal Watercraft (PWC).
4. If your pier is not exempt, but the pier had been installed before 2004 you can go ahead and enjoy your pier again this summer, just don't expand or modify the pier you had before 2004. Most piers that are not exempt are eligible to be grandfathered through a onetime free registration process. To be able to register for the grandfathered status your pier must meet the following requirements:
 - Have been placed before Feb 6, 2004. This could have been placed by the prior owner of the property.
 - Have a main stem (portion connecting to land) that is a maximum 8 feet wide.
 - Have a loading platform at the end of the pier that is a maximum of 200 square feet or a maximum of 300 square feet if it's 10 feet wide, or less. The 200 square feet will cover loading platforms that are typically at the end of piers, with a bench, etc. The 300 square feet will be primarily for piers that have additional sections for access to watercraft.
 - Not interfere with the rights of other riparian owners.

All existing piers that meet these criteria must be registered with the DNR by April 1, 2011. Some instructions for completing the registration Form 3500-114 are included at the end of this article. This form can be found at http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/permit_apps/Pier_Registration_Form.pdf

Of course if you want to be sure you won't need to register your pier, you can also choose to modify your pier so that it meets the exempt status identified in point 1 above.

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1. If you have a pier that was placed prior to Feb 6, 2004 that does not meet the grandfather requirements you have three options: 1) Reduce the size of your pier to meet the grandfathering criteria AND THEN register your pier. (Remember if you modify your loading platform to be between 200 and 300 square feet it cannot be more than 10 feet wide). 2) Modify your pier to meet the pier planner AND THEN DO NOTHING. 3) Apply for an individual permit for NO FEE. This process can be found at: http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/permit_apps/pack07b.pdf The individual permit application is (Form #3500-053H, PDF 39KB)
2. If your pier was put in the water after February 6, 2004 it must meet the size limits outlined in the Pier Planner (Pub FH017-March 2009). This can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/waterways/recreation/piers/html>, or you can seek an individual permit with state review.

******There is a very helpful website at**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/recreation/piers.html> that will ask a series of simple questions to help you determine which category you fall into and how to access the various forms. You should go there first.

Instructions for completing the Pier, Dock or Wharf Registration Form 3500-114

Section 1- Landowner Information-This is basic information about the landowner

Section 2-Authorized Representative Contact Information, if necessary

Section 3-Pier, Dock or Wharf Location

- Waterbody-Lake Kegonsa
- Area of Special Natural Resource Interest-Yes
- Property address-Address where pier is located
- Municipality-Town
- Complete legal description-This one gets tricky. If you use the information on your tax receipt here is how you would interpret it.
 - Example, if legal description was:
11264/4
Sec 30, T 06 N, R 11 E, Sw1/4 of Sw1/4
Plat:252300-VEA Park
Block/Condo: lot 5
Vea Park W 48 2/3 ft Lot 5 Front Lot
Measurement Exc S 1 1/2 Rods for HWY in
M316/107
Parcel# 0611-303-4055-6

When you complete the registration form you would fill it out as follows:

- Lot/Unit number, which is 5.
- Block Number, which does not show, so leave blank
- Subdivision/ condominium name. This is VEA Park.
- Parcel ID #, which is 0611-303-4055-6
- Quarter-Quarter, This is the second direction, so it is SW
- Quarter, The first direction is the quarter, so this is SW
- Section, Is 30
- Township, This is the T, so Township is 06 N
- Range- Range is denoted as the R, so the Range is 11 E
- Direction-Choices are E, or W- Direction is same as the Range above, so it is E

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