



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
October 2012

President’s Message ~ Bob Arndt

Area Break-in Alert.

The Dane County Sheriff’s Office is warning people to keep valuables out of sight in vehicles after eight break-ins of vehicles were reported to the Dane County Sheriff’s Office in late July. Six of the vehicles broken into were in the towns of Dunn and Pleasant Springs.

More recently several residents on or near the lake have experienced house and boat-house break-ins. The Dane County Sheriffs office confirms that there have been a number of break-ins in the areas surrounding Lake Kegonsa. While there is not a clear pattern to the type or location of these crimes, there is a tendency to target unlocked vehicles and homes. Police offer a number of tips for reducing the risk of these crimes. A few of these are:

- Lock your house, car, boat-house (if your auto is unlocked it will be easy to enter your house if you have a garage door opener in the car).
- Do not leave valuables in view in your car.
- If you will be gone for several days, tell several neighbors that you will be gone and that there should not be any vehicles in your driveway or around your house. They should call police if they see cars or strangers around your house. Stop mail and paper deliveries.
- If you think someone has broken into your home, do not enter - the perpetrator may still be inside.
- If you see a suspicious vehicle and/or people, call 911 immediately.

Anyone with information about the break-ins is asked to call the sheriff's tipline, 284-6900.

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DNR Fishing/Boating Laws and Fines

Knowing and following fishing and boating regulations is everyone's responsibility. If you do not, you could also be fined. According to DNR data, the top violations and the associated fines related to fishing are:

1. Fishing without a license - \$202.70
2. Possession of fish in excess of the daily bag limit - Fine ranges from \$243 - \$544.50 depending how many you are over the bag limit.
3. Possession of illegal size fish - \$222.90

The top boating related violations are:

1. Failure to provide enough PFD's - \$162.70
2. Operating boat without proper lights - \$175.30
3. Operating a motorboat while under the influence - \$452.50

Also, as you remove your boat from the lake this fall, remember that you can be fined for leaving a boat launch with aquatic plant life on your boat or trailer. Remove it and leave it at the landing.

One of the more commonly misunderstood DNR rules involves age restrictions and safety certificates for operating motorboats and personal watercraft. Anyone who was born after January 1, 1989 must have a certificate. If you are currently younger than 24 you must have a certificate and have it with you while operating a motorboat or PWC. Operating rules are included below and the complete rules can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf>

Motorboats (Other Than a Personal Watercraft)

- **A person under the age of 10** may not operate a motorboat.
- **A person 10 or 11 years old** may operate a motorboat *only if* accompanied by a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian.
- **A person 12-15 years old** may operate a motorboat *only if*:
 - He or she is accompanied by a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian **OR ...**
 - He or she has completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR.
- **A person born on or after January 1, 1989, and at least 16 years old** may operate motorboat *only if* he or she has completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR

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DNR Fishing/Boating Laws and Fines (Continued From Page 2)

Personal Watercraft (PWC)

- **A person under the age of 12** may not operate a PWC.
- **A person born on or after January 1, 1989, and at least 12 years old** may operate a PWC *only if* he or she has completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR. (Parental supervision is not a substitute for a boating safety course certificate as with other motorboats.)
- **A person born on or after January 1, 1989, and at least 16 years old** may operate a PWC *only if* he or she has completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR.

Questions: boba@kegonsa.org

Tour of Lake Kegonsa with Dane County Representative Jim Leverage

Board member Peter Foy and Jim Leverage, the “weed scout” for Dane County put a boat in at Fish Camp on Thursday 6/21/12 for a tour of Lake Kegonsa to evaluate the aquatic plant situation. Jim is the person that decides where to deploy the harvesters based on conditions in the various lakes and the Yahara river.

After spending 3 ½ hours touring the lake we are happy to report that we found no weeds close to the surface. There were a few a foot, or so below the surface, which we will have to watch over the next 6-8 weeks.

We did spot large patches of wild celery near Fish Camp. This is a natural plant and the quality of the water was especially clear in these areas.

Jim explained about the balance that Dane County attempts to strike between recreational and habitat water conditions. He is very adamant about making sure people know that not all aquatic plants are bad. Some, like Eurasian milfoil and curly leaf pond weed are evasive plants and cause problems with boaters by getting their props wrapped around them. Eurasian milfoil will grow at 50 degrees, so it gets an early start.

Some other comments Jim made:

- It is very expensive to transport, run and clean the harvesters, so they want to make sure that there are enough plants to make it worthwhile. Of course, cutting the plants doesn't eliminate them it just make the waterways more navigable. Priority remains the river, then making it easy for boats to navigate.
 - Dane County has 7 harvesters. Five are currently in Monona and two in Mendota. There are none in the river because the water level is so low.
- Dane County did complete a 5 year plant study last year. The results are not yet published.

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Tour of Lake Kegonsa with Dane County Representative Jim Leverage (Continued From Page 3)

- Lake Kegonsa is a highly eutrophic (high nutrients) lake. The green color is good and bad. It won't be crystal clear, but the color also retards plant growth. Phosphorus levels have declined since the 70's, but it is still too high.
- Lake Kegonsa in in much better shape this year than the other Madison lakes.
- Kurt Welke is in charge of fish management, so contact him about any fish questions, like effect of reducing carp in the lake
- Work with Sue Ghram on any lake planning projects.
- Lower Mud Lake serves as an excellent filter of water coming into Lake Kegonsa
- Lack of rain has greatly reduced soluble phosphorus run off from farms into the Madison lakes, which has reduced algae problems in Lake Kegonsa this year.
- Only 1.5 miles of shoreline is in public ownership.

We will continue to monitor the condition of the lake ourselves and will contact Jim when we believe it merits another tour.



Babcock and LaFollette Locks and Dams Will be Closed for Extended Time During Much Needed Upgrades

Work has already begun on a nearly \$1.5 million project that will restore the county's Babcock and LaFollette locks and dams, and increase public fishing access in those county parks, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi announced. The project will be funded in part through a \$500,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The facilities, located at Babcock County Park on Lake Waubesa in McFarland and LaFollette County Park on Lake Kegonsa in Stoughton, are popular shoreline fishing sites and used as access up and down the river for canoes and other small watercraft.

Due to safety concerns these structures are now closed to public access during the construction project. Watercraft will be required to portage around the dams and fishing opportunities will be limited to the shoreline areas adjacent to the dams.

Phase one of the project will primarily restore the 75-year old concrete, dating back to 1930s when the dams were built. Much of the work will occur underwater where years of erosion has worn away portions of the concrete walls.

Phase 2 of the project include updating the dam or spillway gates used for water control, replacing the lock gates and control mechanisms and then installing barrier fencing to bring the facility up to safety code.

Increased fishing opportunities will continue to be a focus for both of these facilities as well. Phase two will also include fishing decks to fish below the spillways. Future projects include expanded fishing platforms and parking improvements.



Garlic Mustard (Submitted By Pat Lund)

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a growing and dreaded phenomenon. It is an invasive weed, very aggressive. I have found it along my shoreline long before it turned up in my gardens. Not sure why? The garlic mustard plant is a **biennial**; it has a two year life cycle. Seeds germinate in April – March. There may be time for two flowerings because of an early spring. The first year plants are clusters of 3-8 kidney-shaped leaves with scalloped edges, and a wrinkled appearance; they remain green all winter.

The second year plants have small white flowers, 4 petals, ¼ inch, bloom in April through June. Leaves are heart-shaped to triangular 1-3 inches wide, coarsely toothed along the edges, alternate on the stem, give off a garlic odor when crushed. They grow 1-4 feet tall; the taproot is slender, white and often has an S-shaped bend near the top. The **seeds appear soon after flowering** and quickly lengthen; seeds are small, produced in a row inside the capsule and black when ripe. More than 100 seeds per plant!

Control Methods

Control strategies must be applied for eight or more years until the garlic mustard seed bank is depleted. Methods may vary over time, depending on the extent of the invasion. Vulnerable areas, especially woodlands, should be monitored each spring to promptly detect new invasions and prevent re-occurrence. Mark areas where plants were found to aid in future monitoring.

Preventing Further Spread

- ✓ Clean shoes, pockets, pants cuffs and equipment thoroughly after walking or working in infested areas. Garlic mustard seeds are tiny and are often carried off in clothing, shoes and mud.
- ✓ Survey your area for green garlic mustard plants. Plants can be spotted any time they are not covered by fallen leaves or snow.
- ✓ When you find an infestation, remove plants that are producing seed first, working from the least infested to the most infested area. Then remove other plants, again starting with the least infested areas.
- ✓ Monitor non-infested woodlands carefully and frequently. Removing one or two plants before they go to seed is much easier than removing hundreds or thousands later on.

Websites

- <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/allipeti.html>
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/garlic.htm>
- <http://www.botany.wisc.edu/Wisflora>



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**Send news of interest to FOLKS to:
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Please Support Your Lake Association - Renew Your FOLKS Membership.

This year's dues remain \$20.00 for households and \$30.00 for businesses.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact Gloria Kay at gloria@Kegonsa.org or Peter Foy at PeterF@kegonসা.org

FOLKS Lost and Found

Contact Cathie Taylor at CathieT@kegonসা.org to list lost and found items on the FOLKS website.

FOLKS monthly board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month and the public is welcome to attend. Next Meeting November 14, 2012, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

Halverson's Supper Club, 1965 Barber Drive, Stoughton, WI 53589

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Return Service Requested

FOLKS Business Members

Coldwell Banker Success Realtor	873-7731
Crown Point Resort	873-7833
Hammer It Construction	hammeritconstruction@gmail.com
Jim's Tree Service	838-8188
Kegonsa Cove	838-6494
Quam's Motor Sports	873-3366
Springer's	205-9300
The UPS Store	877-2679
Web-Net	alan@web-net.us
Brown's Boats and Bait	873-6770
The Utschig Group of Chiropractic Clinics	274-2266

For More About FOLKS, Visit Our
Website at WWW.Kegonsa.org