



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173  
**October 2015**

### **President’s Message ~ Peter Foy**

As the acorns start bouncing off our house there are some signs that summer is drawing to a close, but we should have a lot of beautiful weather left to enjoy all the fall activities. I have talked to many people that say this is their favorite time of the year.

Your Board continues to stay active with many projects related to monitoring and improving the condition of our lake. You will read about some of them in articles included in this newsletter. As always we encourage you to contact any member of the Board with any questions, or suggestions.

There is an article in this newsletter about our Summer Fling, but what it doesn’t say is how much time Cathie Taylor put in to make this a success. So, I would like to say a special thank you to her for organizing and running our well attended, fun get together.

I am on the Clean Lakes Alliance Community Board. Along with these meetings I also recently attended the Board meeting of the Lakes and Watershed Commission. It is encouraging to see how many different organizations are working to improve the water quality in the Yahara Watershed. There is a heavy focus on initiatives to reduce phosphorus and manure management. For example, the 2015 adopted Dane County budget included \$500,000 for new technology at the Town of Springfield digester that will remove nearly 100% of the phosphorus from the manure processed there. Initiatives like this are critically important because almost 50% of annual phosphorus runoff that reaches county lakes and waterways comes from manure that is spread on frozen and/or snow covered fields in January-March.

It is not all good news however. A recent research brief by the Water Sustainability and Climate Project at the University of Wisconsin-Madison describes why despite decades of effort, government-led and collaborative initiatives to improve surface water quality in Wisconsin’s Yahara River Watershed have failed to reach their goals.

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## **"Summer Fling"**

Over 135 FOLKS members gathered at Stoughton Country Club for our 3rd "Summer Fling" on Saturday, August 29. Although the weather did not cooperate, every other part of the evening was fun and interesting. As folks arrived they placed a sticker on the map of Lake Kegonsa showing where they lived and there was representation from all sides of the lake. Tracy Lane had almost 100% participation and based on the laughter coming from their extended table, I would guess they have some great neighborhood get-togethers! We continued our Lake Kegonsa Trivia game, which included a requirement to meet 4 new people. Our thanks to Springers and Quams for donating gift certificates and to the Stoughton Country Club for giving a social membership that included golf through the rest of 2015.

Peter Foy, President of FOLKS presented an overview of the Carp project that will begin this fall as well as the Door Creek Watershed project that Dane County just approved funding for. Both of these projects will directly benefit Lake Kegonsa.

The hit of the evening was the pictures and postcard collection dating back to the early 1900's that Tom McGinnis, Ardys and Doug Pfundheller brought to display. Let us know if you have any old pictures or memorabilia that we can display next year.

For those who came and enjoyed the evening, spread the word to your neighbors. We will continue our summer gathering next year and hope more will join us. For those who did not come, we have included the Lake Kegonsa Trivia Questions to test your knowledge of the lake!

1. About how many houses/cottages are on Lake Kegonsa?
  - a. 470
  - b. 550
  - c. 720
2. How many bays are there on Lake Kegonsa? Name them.
3. What used to be located in the little park next to Quam's Marina? What happened there?
4. When and where was the first carp removal project on Lake Kegonsa?
5. At its' peak, how many pounds of carp were removed from Lake Kegonsa and sold for food each year?
  - a. A quarter of a million pounds
  - b. A half million pounds
  - c. Three quarter to one million pounds
  - d. Well over a million pounds

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## **"Summer Fling" (Continued From Page 2)**

6. Why do carp cause a problem with lake clarity?
  - a. They are bottom feeders that constantly stir up sediments resulting in poor water quality
  - b. They uproot vegetation that results in cloudy water
  - c. They stir up bottom sediments that enhance nutrient recycling that promotes algae growth
  - d. They consume a considerable proportion of the lake's bottom resources and take them away from more desirable fish species
7. What building on the lake was burned down on Easter Morning, 1954?
8. How many points are there on Lake Kegonsa? Name them.
9. Where is the Corn House located?
10. Where does Door Creek enter Lake Kegonsa? Why should we be concerned about Door Creek?
11. What are the names of 4 people you have met tonight?

Answers will be published in the December FOLKS Newsletter.

### **The Four Lakes of Madison**

Four limpid lakes, - four Naiades  
Or sylvan deities are these,  
In flowing robes of azure dressed;  
Four lovely handmaids, that uphold  
Their shining mirrors, rimmed with gold,  
To the fair city in the West.

By day the coursers of the sun  
Drink by the waters as they run  
Their swift diurnal round on high;  
By night the constellations glow  
Far down the hollow deeps below,  
And glimmer in another sky.

Fair lakes, serene and full of light,  
Fair town, arrayed in robes of white,  
How visionary ye appear!  
All like a floating landscape seems  
In cloud-land or the land of dreams,  
Bathed in a golden atmosphere!

This poem was written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1876 when he visited the area.

## Lake Tour to Assess Aquatic Plants

FOLKS representatives toured the lake on 7/21 with Pete Jopke of Dane County Land and Water Resources to survey the volume of the Aquatic Plant population.

We started from Fish Camp and traveled east and south, traveling along the shoreline cut areas using a fish finder to observe the bottom. We observed very little growth and almost no Eurasian Water Milfoil. There were some beds observed in Barbers Bay and along the AB shoreline as we approached Fish Camp.

They had scheduled two harvesters for a pass in Kegonsa, but that was before the tour. He was intending to let them come anyway.

We discussed why we have had so little plant growth in Kegonsa the last couple of years and his opinion is that it is related to the cooler spring and early summers, and the relatively low amount of spring runoff.

He would like to upgrade to his fish finder for one that would allow him to upload his graphical results and create a map of the lake detailing what was found. He feels this would be a significant improvement in communicating with the harvesters when giving them directions where to cut. This is not something that is currently budgeted; however FOLKS will keep track of the situation.

## Door Creek Watershed Restoration

A few members of FOLKS got together on September 12, 2015 to begin the restoration efforts in the Door Creek Watershed. Peter Foy, Bill Lamm and Ray Potempa spent the Saturday morning helping out. Steve Falter of Capital Water Trails provided the canoes, tree cutting equipment and expertise. This work is part of the implementation of the Door Creek Watershed Action Plan, which is described in this newsletter.

There will be another work morning on Saturday, October 17. We will send out a reminder about this, including the time and meeting place. Volunteers will work to clear downed trees and remove trash along the stream bank. Bill, Ray and Peter will vouch for the fact that volunteers should count on getting messy, so please dress appropriately. We could use some younger, stronger volunteers.



## Door Creek Watershed Management Action Plan-Peter Foy

We are excited that the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department has selected the Door Creek Watershed for development of a "Nine Key Element" watershed plan. There were 19 watersheds considered for this plan, so we are pleased that Door Creek selected. This project is important to us because Door Creek empties into Lake Kegonsa. This is a long term two million dollar project which has three primary goals:

1. Remove Door Creek's Impairments (Pollutants affecting its ability to meet its designated use)
2. Meet Door Creek's Phosphorus Water Quality Criterion
3. Restore Door Creek to its designated use.

A little bit about Door Creek-Most people don't know where it enters our lake:

- It begins as a small stream in the southeast corner of the Town of Burke and flows south 12.7 miles to Lake Kegonsa
- Door Creek and its tributaries drain 29.5 square miles of rolling agricultural land in eastern Dane County
- The highest elevation in the Door Creek watershed is 1,075 feet, on a drumlin north of Rinden Road. The lowest elevation is 841 feet, at the mouth of Door Creek flowing into Lake Kegonsa
- Door Creek was formed approximately 15,000 years ago during the last glaciation period that formed the Yahara Chain of Lakes
- Agriculture accounts for more than 47% of the total Door Creek watershed area of 20,503 acres
- DNR wetlands occupy more than 2,741 acres (13%) of the total area
- Its natural flow has been modified over the years
- The door Creek watershed drains portions of six towns, two villages and a small segment of the City of Madison. The nine municipalities are: City of Madison, Village of Cottage Grove, Village of McFarland, Town of Blooming Grove, and Town of Burke, Town of Cottage Grove, Town of Dunn, Town of Pleasant Springs and the Town of Sun Prairie.
- Door Creek is a relatively sluggish stream subject to high temperatures and low flow. Water quality in the steam is poor.
- Door Creek's designated use" is specified based on what the creek could be used for if it was restored and naturally functioning.

- o The official designated use for Door Creek is Fish and Aquatic Life (FAL)

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## **Door Creek Watershed Management Action Plan-Peter Foy (Continued From Page 5)**

- Within the FAL designation WDNR further identifies Door Creek as a Warm Water Forage Fishery (WWFF), with the potential to meet its designated use of Warm Water Sport Fishery (WWSF)
  - A WWFF is comprised of small fish which are preyed on by larger predators. Examples currently found in Door Creek are common and spotfin shiner, mud and bluntnose minnows, creek chub, white sucker, brood stickleback and Johnny darter.
  - The potential use as a WWSF implies that game fish such as large and smallmouth bass, crappie and bluegill, could be found after the restoration

Because of the importance of Door Creek to Lake Kegonsa, we have told the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department that we would ask our FOLKS members to help in the cleanup and monitoring projects on the creek. So, if you see these requests for help you will know that it related to this watershed plan.

You will be seeing additional articles and educational sessions about this project in the future.

### **FOLKS Carp Removal Project**

We are moving forward with our major carp removal project. The cost of the project is expected to be between \$16,000 and \$20,000, depending how much extra time we have to pay the commercial fisherman to stay on site to remove additional carp. The majority of the cost is in the tracking of the carp, not the removal. The beauty of this is that if we decide to do this again in 4-5 years we won't have to do the tracking again, but can just move forward with the removal.

- Dane county has given \$10,200 towards the project
- Folks will pay \$5,000 towards the project in the next couple of weeks
- The DNR has ordered the transmitters that will be put in the 20 carp that will be tracked
- Peter Foy and Brad Schroder gave a presentation to the Stoughton Conservation Club about the project and asked if they would be able to help us out. We are happy to report that they have given us a check for \$1,500.00 towards the project.
- We applied for a grant with Bryant Foundation in hopes that they could help us out.

We will keep you up to date on the progress of this initiative as we move ahead. We will be asking you to consider an additional donation towards the project when we send out our 2016 dues requests in December.

## **FOLKS Carp Removal Project (Continued from Page 6)**

### **Reminder of the Benefits of removing carp from the lake.**

Carp are bottom feeders that constantly stir up sediments as they forage for food. Shallow lakes, like Lake Kegonsa, with dense populations of carp have very poor water clarity from the sediments stirred up by the carp.

It has been demonstrated in other lakes, such as like Lake Wingra in Madison, that removing carp can have the following benefits:

- Water clarity improves
- Native aquatic plant growth increases
- Invasive aquatic plant growth of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) will initially spread to new areas in response to the clearer water. However, experience indicates the slower growing native aquatic plants will eventually expand their coverage and limit the growth of the invasive EWM.
- Fish populations improve

Of course, it is impossible to predict the exact impact that removing carp will have on Lake Kegonsa, but FOLKS, Dane County, the DNR and Dick Lathrop, from the Wisconsin Limnology Dept., that we have worked with believe it is worth the time and money to try to help our lake by moving forward with this endeavor.

The following steps are required for the successful removal of the carp:

- Capture 20 carp from Lake Kegonsa, implant radio transmitters into them and rerelease them back into the lake.
- Track their movement from the fall of 2015 through the summer of 2016 via airplane. This will be done 8 times to monitor their movement.
- Because carp prefer warm water the assumption is that as the water cools down the carp will migrate to the deepest, warmest part of the lake. During late spring as the water warms, carp may also have major spawning runs up the Yahara River to Lower Mud Lake, or into Door Creek.
- If we can detect where the majority of the carp go in the winter, we will contract with a commercial fishing company to remove the fish using a large seine net pulled under the ice. This will be done by placing a small radio-controlled submarine type device under the ice to spread the net to various drilled holes so that a small pulling engine can move the net through the area where the carp are located. The captured carp are then brought up in the net at the exit hole and removed from the lake. Most of the captured carp will be sold to markets in Chicago and New York.
- Besides the potential removal of carp under the ice during the winter, the tracking study may also indicate carp may be vulnerable to being captured by nets placed in the river or creek channels during the spring spawning season.

**FOLKS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2015**

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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@kegonsa.org

For More About FOLKS, Visit  
Our Website at  
[WWW.Kegonsa.org](http://WWW.Kegonsa.org)

FOLKS monthly board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month and the public are welcome to attend. Next Meeting is October 14, 2015, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

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

**FOLKS Lost and Found**

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



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P.O. Box 173  
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**Return Service Requested**

## **FOLKS Business Members**

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**Springers**

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