



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
June 2014

President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

Meeting Regarding Lake Kegonsa

There were recent articles in the Courier Hub and the Capital Times regarding the current and possible future condition of Lake Kegonsa. As a follow-up FOLKS Board member Mike Amstadt and I held a meeting to discuss some of the information that was in these articles with various knowledgeable parties. There were representatives from the County, the DNR, Clean Lakes Alliance and the UW Limnology Department in attendance.

We wanted to understand some important information that was mentioned and understand how it affects our lake.

- What are some of the factors that make improving Lake Kegonsa’s water clarity a challenge?
 - Lake Kegonsa is shallow, it is oval shaped and most importantly, it is the last lake in the Yahara chain.
- How do we know that three quarters of the phosphorus in Lake Kegonsa comes from upstream?
 - 2013 studies from UW Limnologist Lathrop and Carpenter show that phosphorus input from Lake Waubesa into Lake Kegonsa is 12,500kg, where direct drainage is 4,000kg and other sources represents 1,100kg. So, 12,550 of the 17,700 annual phosphorus load, or 71%, is from upstream input from Lake Waubesa.

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- If that is true, then we can't do much about that, but what about the direct drainage into Lake Kegonsa? Are there efforts that can be made to do something about that?
 - It is a fact that FOLKS and the people living on Lake Kegonsa can't do much about input from Lake Waubesa. Almost all of the effort of Clean Lakes Alliance is focused on reducing phosphorus from Lake Mendota and Monona, which will also help our lake.
 - We should focus our efforts on the 5,100kg of phosphorus entering our lake from other sources. Kevin Connors from DNR and Rob Montgomery from Montgomery Associates agreed to work to identify some potential "hot spots" of phosphorus loading that we can work to improve.
 - The FOLKS organization can help identify culverts and other drainage areas that might be impacting the lake. We need to identify not only where they are, but then more importantly where the water is coming from and what can be done to make sure it is as clean as possible. There is another article about what you can do to help in this newsletter.

- Are there practices that the families living on the lake could do to improve the lake?
 - Maintaining a healthy lawn serves as a buffer to the lake. Don't be afraid to fertilize because the fertilizer doesn't contain phosphorus and a healthy lawn will absorb runoff.
 - Try to keep leaves out of the lakes as best as we can.
 - Vegetation on the shoreline is always much better than just having rocks, or stones.
 - Be vigilant about identifying potential drainage problem areas and report them to FOLKS.

- UW Limnologist Steve Carpenter mentioned possibly taking "drastic action", such as eradicating the carp, or treating the lake with alum. How realistic are these options.
 - We can forget about the Alum option. It would cost close to \$2,000,000 and because our lake flushes three times a year any benefit would be short lived.
 - We are going to seriously consider what would be involved in conducting a major carp cleanup. We will be working with DNR and the UW Limnology Department to identify the steps involved, the costs and potential benefits and drawbacks of doing this. What people have to recognize is that any improvement in water clarity will result in an increase in aquatic plant growth.

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- Lake Kegonsa flushes three times a year, compared to Lake Mendota flushing once every three years. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?
 - The major advantage is that as the phosphorus entering Lake Kegonsa is reduced as a result of efforts made upstream, Lake Kegonsa will see improvements fairly quickly.

Some of these action items could be costly, so we will attempt to keep building our FOLKS cash reserve. This will allow us to move forward, if we identify something that will have a positive impact on the lake. We will also work with various government agencies to get as much financial help as possible.

If you have any questions about anything in this article feel free to contact Peter Foy at peter.foy@charter.net

History Of Sewage Into The Madison Lakes?

Did you know that most of Madison's sewage was going into Lake Monona from the late 1800's through 1936. It then went into Lake Waubesa until 1958! It is a crime how we have treated our lakes over the years. Did you happen to see the article in the Sunday Opinion page on 6/15/2014? It was about Madison making a cesspool out of Lake Monona. It said, "No effective steps to overcome the evil have been taken". The article was from the Wisconsin State Journal **dated June 15, 1924.**

Please Help Us Identify Runoff Locations

As was mentioned in the Presidents Message, one of the suggestions that came out of our meeting with various organizations regarding Lake Kegonsa was to have us develop an inventory of places that are producing runoff directly into the lake.

We are asking for your help to do this. Please let us know about any place that you believe allows runoff directly into the lake. We would like to know:

- The location of the runoff area, with an address if there is one
- Where you believe the runoff water is coming from
- Do you believe a buffer area could be built to help reduce runoff

If all you know is the location, just provide us with that. We will take any information that you have. Based on this starting point we will develop an inventory of all runoff locations that we are aware of. We will then evaluate the information and will complete the inventory document to include the missing information.

Most of the work on this project will be conducted by FOLKS Board members with help from FOLKS members, but we may have to hire professional help to complete this properly.

Please send any information you have to peter.foy@charter.net Thank you for your help.

FOLKS Summer Fling - Saturday, August 2, 2014

Save the date for our 2nd FOLKS Summer Fling at Stoughton Country Club on Saturday, August 2 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Over 130 members attended last year and enjoyed the beautiful outdoor patio overlooking our lake, great food and drinks and best of all meeting fellow members from all sides of the lake! We are planning another Lake Kegonsa Trivia game with prizes. If you have some fun trivia questions, send them to cathiet@kegonsa.org.

We will be sending out an RSVP request and more information in July. For now, save Saturday, August 2 on your calendar for our Summer Fling!

Where Has the Odor Gone?

Twenty-plus years ago Lake Kegonsa homes were changed from septic to municipal sewer service. One of the complications plaguing a sanitary district is how to eliminate or disperse the nuisance odors caused by hydrogen sulfide. A trouble spot for several years has been a small stretch of Williams Drive.

In an effort to solve this problem the Pleasant Springs Sanitary District (PSSD), headed by Manager Gary Teigen, has tried a variety of fixes from adding chemicals to scrubbing the interiors of the underground pipes. Unfortunately, nothing has had a long term impact on the persistent odors in this area.

This year a new remedy is being tested. The idea is to filter the gases through a moist mulch bed; a perfect environment for odor eating micro-organisms to live. The hydrogen sulfide moves up through the mulch bed, micro-organisms eat away, and odors are eliminated. It sounds simple, and it is!

According to Mr. Teigen, this low cost, environmentally friendly treatment method has been working well so far. Although the mulch bed has only been operational in Pleasant Springs since May 30th, the Sanitary District has high hopes this is the solution they have been looking for.



Pleasant Springs Boat Launch Closed Until Further Notice

As many of you know, the Pleasant Springs Boat Landing has some problems remaining from the construction that was done last fall. A plan has been developed to correct these, and we are currently awaiting approval from the DNR so that we can proceed with the fixes. DNR approval is required not only because the work is being done on the lake bottom, but because part of the project is being funded by a DNR grant. Until such time as the work can proceed and the fixes are completed, the Boat Landing will remain closed in the interest of safety.



Lake Kegonsa Sailing Club

The Lake Kegonsa Sailing Club (www.lksc.org) begins its 11th season of sailing on Lake Kegonsa. We would like to extend an invitation to FOLKS members who either have a sailboat or are considering investing in a sailboat.

The LKSC is a club focused on the recreational aspect of sailing, the camaraderie, and aesthetics of sailing. Some of our members are also involved in sailing as a sport, with "fun" races on Thursday evenings and a bit more competitive races Sunday afternoons June thru September. We have BYO social gatherings 3-4 times a summer at a member's home and organize "fun" sailing events such as our Pirate Race and Party in July. I'm sure you have seen us at Springers in our pirate costumes.

Many of our members have years of sailing experience and would like to help you expand your sailing skills and enjoyment. We will sail with you on your boat or you may sail with us on one of our boats and share our knowledge and expertise. If you are considering investing in a sailboat, we'll help you with that too. Picking the right boat for you and your family adds much to the sailing experience.

Contact us at: lksc@lksc.org

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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@kegonza.org

For More About FOLKS, Visit
Our Website at
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 July 9, 2014, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

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

FOLKS Lost and Found

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

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Return Service Requested

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