



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173  
**April 2017**

**President’s Message ~ Peter Foy**

Finally, after tracking the movement of carp on the lake for a year and a half we were able to use the scientific information that had been gathered as the foundation for our first major carp removal. It took place over three days on March 22-24. It was exciting and educational for the many FOLKS members who were able to witness the process. It was also educational for the commercial fishermen who learned a lot about working on Lake Kegonsa. This knowledge will enable them to be successful moving forward.

A summary of the many steps involved in the carp removal project is included in this newsletter.

The DNR and the fishermen all measure everything in the lbs. of carp taken. When we convert the pounds taken to the number of fish we can say that 2,600-3,000 carp were removed over these three days.

What you will see in this newsletter is a very small sample of the many pictures and video’s we have available to use in putting a slide show together. The video of all the carp in the pen splashing around while the fishermen sorted out the game fish and buffalo fish is particularly fun to see.

I had never seen a Buffalo Fish until now. Most people confuse them with carp, but they are really a different species. They weigh 30-40 lbs. and are fascinating to see. They keep them separate because their market value is three to four times what a typical carp is, as they have a more desirable taste.

Continued on Page 2.

**In This Issue:**

Attention Bikers-New Door Creek Watershed Bike Loop.....	2
FOLKS Carp Removal Project .....	3
Save The Date – Saturday June 17.....	7
Ice Off Contest.....	8
Citizen Scientists Needed for Door Creek Monitoring!.....	8
FOLKS Business Members.....	9
FOLKS Officers 2017.....	10

## President's Message ~ Peter Foy (Continued From Page 1)



Buffalo Fish that was sorted from the rest of the carp.

We want to continue to mention and thank everyone who donated to this project. Again, this year we received many donations along with dues payments. This allowed FOLKS to commit an extra \$10,000, to the fisherman that won the contract this year, to incent him to keep coming back to remove more carp. Remember, we are thinking it will be a five-year project to remove enough carp that we will see a noticeable difference in the quality of the lake. Knowing we will have the financial resources available to complete this project, the proper way, is a comforting feeling.

I also wanted to thank Connie for sending the Lake Alert updates during the removal process. Many of our members were able to observe firsthand what was involved and we received a lot of thank you notes for keeping everyone informed.

The Board has completed its budget for 2017 and has assigned members to various committees. We have a lot of exciting projects and events in the works for the months ahead. It is going to be an active, fun year.

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions feel free to email them to me.

### **Attention Bikers-New Door Creek Watershed Bike Loop**

In an effort to continue to engage and educate residents about the Door Creek Watershed Management Plan, the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department has worked with several partners to develop a bike route through the watershed. This route begins in the watershed's urban area then travels through the scenic, rolling agricultural landscapes in the drumlin-marsh area of eastern Dane County.

The Land and Water Resources Department would like feedback from cyclists willing to test the route. Once you have completed the loop, please fill out a survey at: [https://qtrial2014.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6Sx7aPtp5bEFret](https://qtrial2014.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Sx7aPtp5bEFret) to let them know what you think. Respond by June 15, 2017 for the chance to win a State Trail Pass or Dane County Mountain Bike Trail Pass.

Information about the watershed and maps of the route are available on their website. <https://olw-lwr.dane.gov/DoorCreekBike>

## FOLKS Carp Removal Project

The commercial fisherman who removed carp from Lake Kegonsa this week originally planned for it to take two days, however they ran into a few snags and it required an extra morning to load the fish for hauling to market. The initial estimate of the first catch is about 20,000 lbs. of carp. They told us they would definitely be back.

The fishermen started early **Wednesday** morning March 22<sup>nd</sup> by spreading out about 5,000 feet of net, using four 30 ft. boats.



After all the net was out, they started pulling it back in. Pulley devices on two small boats helped to haul the nets to shore between Fish Camp County Park and Door Creek.



Continued on Page 4.



## FOLKS Carp Removal Project (Continued From Page 3)

Pulling in the nets took the fishermen much longer than expected. They ran into a lot of mud and silt on the lake bottom. They also pulled up two anchors, a boat ladder and other debris, lost a lower unit on one of their motors and had a boat lift barge run over their net. No, this part wasn't in their plan but the fishermen seemed to take it all in stride.

**Thursday** March 23<sup>rd</sup> was very cold and very windy. They may have lost quite a number of fish from their nets overnight due to the wind.



The fishermen spent the entire day Thursday pulling in the remaining net, contending with the wind and waves and penning the carp.

**Friday** morning March 24<sup>th</sup> dawned clear and warmer with no wind. The fish were sorted by hand - Game fish were returned to the lake and carp and buffalo were loaded into bins for transport to shore.

Continued on Page 5.

## FOLKS Carp Removal Project (Continued From Page 4)



The fishermen used a hydraulic basket on a crane to scoop fish from the panned area and put them into containers on the boat, then ferried the bins of fish to shore.





## FOLKS Carp Removal Project (Continued From Page 5)

A tractor adapted with a forklift was used to pick up the bins from the boat and dump the fish into one of eight baffled sections on a semi.



The carp were trucked live in oxygenated water to a fish wholesaler in New York City near the base of the Brooklyn Bridge.



Continued on Page 7.

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



This bad boy and his friends will be served as tasty treats for traditional holiday celebrations.

### **Many, many thanks to our membership!!**

We were thrilled with the number of spectators from FOLKS throughout the three days. We had a great turn out of our members both to watch the fishing procedures and voice their support through email. A special thank you goes to Ned & Dolores Gruca who gave us permission to be in their yard. Thank you to our President, Peter Foy and Board member Rick Thorstad for leading this project and also to our photographers Cindy Guiney, Mark Nussle, Bill Lamm and all our other members who sent pictures.

We appreciate the expertise and cooperation from the WI DNR (David Rowe, DNR and Kurt Welke, retired DNR Biologist), Peter Jopke from Dane County Parks, and Dick Lathrop, retired UW Limnologist.

And especially **Thank You** to all those who contributed to the Carp Removal Project including generous support from many, many of our FOLKS members, the Clean Lakes Alliance, the Bryant Foundation, Stoughton Conservation Club, Dane County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

### **Save The Date – Saturday June 17**

Last year's early summer "Meet and Greet" gathering at Springers was such a success, we are holding it again this year. This is an informal get together – just a fun way to meet other members early in the season so you can enjoy each other's company throughout the summer months. FOLKS will provide munchies – drinks are on you. The time is tentatively set for 4-6 pm. More information will follow as we get closer to the date.

## Ice Off Contest

Five days of 60 plus degree weather in February had 12 members thinking the lake would be open by the end of the month. In fact, large parts of the lake were open as evidenced by pictures of people water skiing on the SE shore of the lake and Kite surfing on the NE shore.

Cooler weather set in and the lake did not totally open until Monday March 6 which is still early. The lake was completely frozen over December 14, which means only 83 days of ice. But last year it was even less. The lake completely froze over January 5 and opened March 11 – only 64 days of ice.

The winner of this year's contest is Fred Figge who was the first person to guess March 6. Three other members guessed that date as well. Fred will receive a \$50 Gift certificate to Springers Restaurant.

We had 98 entries this year. The most popular date was March 7 with 10 guesses. The earliest guess was February 26 and the latest was April 1.

Based on the number of piers and boat hoists already out on the lake, members are planning on a long spring, summer, fall to enjoy our lake before we hold the "ice-on" contest!

## Citizen Scientists Needed for Door Creek Monitoring!

Are you looking for a way to take action to protect water quality? Consider becoming a citizen stream monitor in the Door Creek Watershed! Door Creek drains into Lake Kegonsa and currently contributes the second-highest phosphorus load from agricultural land in the Yahara watershed. The Dane County Land and Water Resources Department has developed a watershed management plan for Door Creek with the goal of improving water quality and the data you collect will immediately be used to track progress. This monitoring project is contingent on receiving DNR grant funding. ***No prior skills or experience is required!***

### Volunteer Commitment

- Attend a FREE training workshop (listed below).
- Devote a few hours each month (from April to October) to your assigned stream site. All equipment is provided – except for hip boots or waders.
- Deliver water samples to the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (1610 Moorland Road, Madison) each month.

### Training Workshops

All volunteers must participate in one of these FREE training workshops:

**Saturday, April 29, 2017** (9:00am-2:30pm) - Location: Waunakee Village Center, Waunakee WI

**Saturday, May 6, 2017** (9:00am-2:30pm) - Location: Amundson Center, Cambridge WI

These workshops are hands-on, in-stream look at life in a stream. After the training, you will be assigned a stream monitoring site in the Door Creek Watershed. Pre-registration is required. Email Nancy Sheehan (Rock River Coalition) to register: [nancy@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:nancy@rockrivercoalition.org)

For more information, visit <https://olw-lwr.dane.countyofdane.com/Monitoring>



## FOLKS Business Members

Please Shop and Support FOLKS Fabulous Business Members

### Web-Net

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FOLKS monthly board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month and the public are welcome to attend. Next Meeting is April 12, 2017, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

Springers, 3097 Sunnyside St., Stoughton, WI 53589

**Send news of interest to FOLKS to:  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589 or  
DaveL@kegonsa.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 Connie Hagen at [ConnieH@kegonsa.org](mailto:ConnieH@kegonsa.org) or Peter Foy at [PeterF@kegonsa.org](mailto:PeterF@kegonsa.org)

**FOLKS Lost and Found**

Contact Cathie Taylor at [CathieT@kegonsa.org](mailto:CathieT@kegonsa.org) to list lost and found items on the FOLKS website and on Facebook.

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

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**Return Service Requested**