



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

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

We have had another very busy quarter with many different projects and activities that you will be reading about in this newsletter. I would like to thank our Board and all of our members for their interest and participation in our various FOLKS activities. We have also had great support and partnering from the Madison Metropolitan Sewer District and Stoughton Utilities.

#### Watershed Improvement Network (WINs) Grant

FOLKS was awarded a \$5,000 Madison Metropolitan Sewer District WINs Grant. WINs focuses on phosphorus reduction in the Yahara watershed. As we move into October we will be shifting our focus to our new leaf initiative and this Grant will be used to help fund our leaf project. We will collect the money as we complete the various phases of the project.

This is a very ambitious project being headed up by Gary Smithback and his committee. It involves working with both the Town of Dunn and the Town of Pleasant Springs to better manage our leaves, in an effort to help reduce phosphorus run off into our lake. You can read all about it in this newsletter.

#### Good news from Stoughton Utilities

We received a notice this month that FOLKS had been awarded a \$1,000 donation from Stoughton Utilities. This donation is part of Stoughton Utilities’ RoundUP program, a voluntary program that ‘rounds up’ customers’ utility bills to the next whole dollar. All proceeds are distributed to and benefit local community organizations. We will use the money to help with our Fish Camp County Park projects and other lake projects. I want to thank our Treasurer, Connie Hagen, who developed and submitted the application for the donation.

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

### Update on the Carp Project

The commercial fishermen should be back on the lake removing more carp as soon as the water cools off and the carp start to congregate to the warmest part of the lake.

### **Phosphorus (P) reduction from removing carp**

We just received some new information about how removing carp will reduce the amount of P in our lake. Based on a formula provided by Mark Sesing, a retired DNR Lake Biologist, removing carp has the following benefit.

- When carp are harvested P is essentially "mined" from the system. This estimated to be between 0.5 and 1.0% We will use the average of 0.75%
- In addition P reduction will also be realized through the elimination of the carp disturbing sediment, (resuspension), disrupting aquatic plants and regenerate P by solubilizing nutrients, including P. This is estimated to be 0.011 lbs. /lb. carp/year.
- So, Phosphorus generation (lbs.)=0.0185 x carp weight (lbs.)
- **The bottom line is that based on this conversion factor the first 111,000 lbs. of carp we removed this spring would result in 2,053 lbs. of P reduction. Remember, one lb. of P generates 500 lbs. of algae. This would be 1,026,750 lbs. of algae.**
- We hope this conversion rate is totally accurate, but if it is even close our carp project will have a major impact on the quality of our lake.

### **Demonstration Shoreline Garden at Fish Camp County Park**

FOLKS adopted FISH Camp County Park in 2017 and we recently installed a small demonstration planting area along the shore for the public to enjoy. Our purpose is to demonstrate how native plants can be effectively used to prevent run-off into the lake, add color and interest, and attract butterflies and birds to the park. Volunteers from FOLKS are responsible for coordinating site preparation, planting, mulching, watering and weeding.

### **Why Plant a Shoreline Garden?**

Shoreline gardens help protect the water quality in our lakes. Planting native plants along a shoreline helps keep nutrients from the soil from going into the lake during periods of high rain. The root systems of the native plant garden form a more effective buffer for nutrient absorption than lawns. Water soaks into the ground gradually in the planted area. A mown lawn can allow 7 times more phosphorus and 18 times more sediment to enter the water than a natural shoreline.

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring nutrient in our lake but excess phosphorous can cause algae blooms. Algae blooms not only look and smell bad but they can be toxic. Algae blooms may reduce oxygen levels in the water harming fish and other aquatic species. Runoff water may include phosphorous, nitrates and other chemicals in excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from both agricultural lands and residential areas.

### **Why Use Native Plants?**

Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soils, are drought tolerant, and disease resistant. Once established, native plants require very little care. A shoreline buffer of native plants provides plant cover and natural food for pollinators, birds and other wildlife but it may also keep Canada geese from coming up onto your shore.

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## Demonstration Shoreline Garden at Fish Camp County Park (Continued From Page 2)

A buffer strip also greatly reduces soil erosion and the effects of runoff from driveways, roofs and roads. The buffer strip filters polluted runoff that would otherwise run directly to the lake.



**Shoreline at Fish Camp County Park before the demonstration garden planting**

### **The FOLKS Garden at Fish Camp County Park:**

The shoreline garden is close to the first entrance to Fish Camp (by the historic buildings). The garden area is approximately 62 feet along the shoreline and ranges from 2 to 8.5 feet wide. The garden area is between two of the small fishing piers near the bird houses and between the shoreline and the path. By planting the native plants in the fall, we expect them to be established enough to overwinter and be hardier by spring. Volunteers from FOLKS are responsible for planning the garden, coordinating site preparation, planting, mulching, watering and weeding. FOLKS will provide educational information to show how the shoreline garden helps keep phosphorous and other chemicals in run-off out of our lake.

To complete the demonstration garden, we first killed the grass with an aquatic safe herbicide and used the roots to keep soil in place rather than remove the grass. We dug a small trench around the garden to keep the mulch in place and then covered the area with thick red rosin construction grade paper to reduce weeds. On Friday, September 15th, FOLKS volunteers planted the native bushes, grasses and flowering plants. The flowering plants were planted in clumps depending on the number available to us. The areas around the plantings were covered with wood chip mulch.



**Site Preparation: Marking the site, Killing grass, Digging perimeter trench, Laying down heavy paper**

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## Demonstration Shoreline Garden at Fish Camp County Park (Continued From Page 3)



**Planting Native Plants: Bulb auger to dig holes, Planting the native plants, Watering in**



**Mulching: Shoveling, Transporting, Putting mulch in place**



**Finished Garden**

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## Demonstration Shoreline Garden at Fish Camp County Park (Continued From Page 4)

### Educational Information for the Public:

Plants in the garden are labeled with the common and scientific name and information is included about the expected height and bloom timing. These are incorporated into the garden for the park visitors to be able to identify the native plant species.

FOLKS is currently writing an educational flyer about shoreline plantings and the Fish Camp Park demonstration garden including information to show how the shoreline garden helps keep phosphorous and other chemicals in run-off out of our lake. This brochure will be available at the park near the garden area for people to take with them and will also reference other information sources.

FOLKS is designing a notebook with laminated pages that contains pictures and information on the native species planted in the garden. The book will also include information on shoreline buffers and native plantings that will be available for the public to use at the garden site.

**Thank you** to the following groups for making our shoreline garden a success.

- The **Dane County Parks Department** allowed us to use an area of Fish Camp Park for our garden, approved our initial site plan, killed the grass for us and provided all of the mulch.
- The "**Plant Dane**" program which provided us with about 130 native plants and much expertise. This program is supported by the **Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership** and the **Dane County Land and Water Resources Department**.
- Some of our committee members donated native plants from their yard.
- **FOLKS volunteers** that did the ground preparation, planting and mulching were Richard Morfey, Ken LePine, Laurie Irwin, Peter Foy, Bill Lamm, Janice Kellogg and Connie Hagen.
- Generous funding from the **Stoughton Utilities RoundUP Grant** program enabled us to buy native bushes, additional plants, soil and plant labels and plan for other educational materials.

Stay tuned – We'll have many more volunteer opportunities. FOLKS is responsible for maintenance of the shoreline garden and we have other gardening projects planned for the park.

We sincerely hope you'll visit the garden at Fish Camp County Park and enjoy the new scenery!



**Connie & Janice**  
**Shoreline Garden Committee**

## The Mad City Ski Team Takes on Lake Kegonsa By Daniele Thompson

I'm sure some of you may be wondering if Lake Kegonsa is becoming the new home to the Mad-City waterski team as you saw multiple four-high pyramids and jumpers ski past your shores. Although for many it would be amazing to have a private waterski show in their backyards on a regular basis, due to the high waters and slow-no-wake orders on Lake Monona, the Mad-City ski team was unable to practice and prepare on its home turf so to speak for the National Waterski Tournament that was recently held in Rockford, IL on August 11-13th. The show by the way was amazing and the competition was at an all-time high.

If you ever had the chance to be downtown Madison, WI on a Sunday evening at Law Park between Memorial Day and Labor Day you have seen the wonderful talent of those who commit countless hours practicing and mastering a sport that involves an exorbitant amount of team work and strength. During the off-season, the ski team begins pyramid practice at a local gymnastics gym before sending its tiniest teammates to the top of four and hopefully one day a five-high pyramid. The ski team operates solely on donations and it costs approximately \$85,000.00 each year to cover all the equipment, boats and trailers, repairs, costumes and not to mention the boat gas.

My family has been involved with the waterski team for the past 7 years and regularly enjoys skiing on Lake Kegonsa. You may have seen my husband barefooting as the sun just comes up or my daughter swivel skiing and my son wakeboarding as the sun sets. My husband actually grew up skiing for a show team in Waupaca, Wisconsin and wanted to introduce it to our kids. Other families you may know on Lake Kegonsa that are involved with the Mad-City ski team are the DeBruin and Jaworski families.

Skiing for the Mad-City ski team doesn't just improve your ability to swivel, launch yourself off the ski jump or climb the highest pyramid, it fosters teamwork and lifelong friendships.

Interested in joining or learning to waterski or learning more about the Mad City Waterski Team? Check out Mad City's website at [www.madcityskiteam.com](http://www.madcityskiteam.com). You don't need any prior waterskiing experience. If you are simply looking for a relaxing evening with family or friends please stop by a show on a Sunday evening at Law Park between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The waterski team thanks all of you on Lake Kegonsa for welcoming them and sharing the resources we have to offer to give them the final push they needed to compete at nationals.





## 2017 Yahara River/ Door Creek Aquatic Tour

The second FOLKS Aquatic Tour on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Before the tours departed from Fish Camp Park, Janice Kellogg introduced the Yahara River Tour and Sue Jones and Susan Sanford from the Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds spoke about the history and topography of Door Creek.



Paddlers left from Fish Camp County Park for the Door Creek and Yahara River tours.



### Yahara River Tour

The Yahara River tour featured a talk by noted archeologist Bob Birmingham who is a former Wisconsin State Archeologist (1989-2004) and the author and editor of many publications on Wisconsin archaeology including "Indian Mounds of Wisconsin" and "Spirits of Earth: The Effigy Mound Landscape of Madison and the Four Lakes".

Canoers and kayakers paddled about 25 minutes up the Yahara River to the Dyerson Road bridge where they landed their boats and met Bob. The group walked a short way to an archeological site that has been inhabited some 12,000 years ago by Wisconsin's early Paleo-Indians. These early Wisconsin residents were actually nomadic, traveling in small groups and moving to follow animal migrations. Bob spoke about these early inhabitants and informed the group that they were standing on a very historical archeological site which had served for many years as an important meeting place for trade, social interactions, and to harvest seasonal resources.

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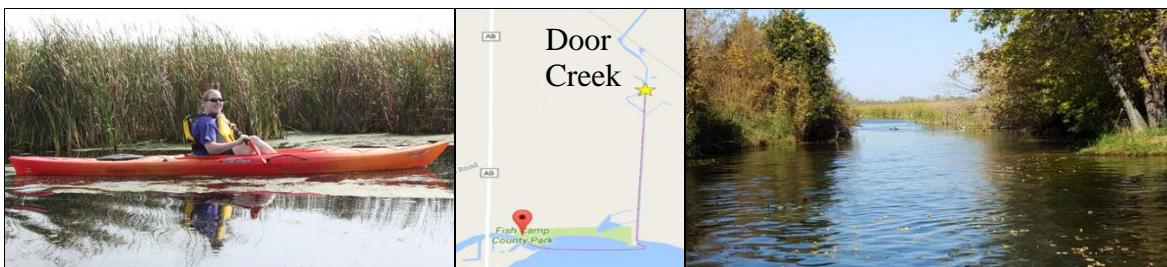
## 2017 Yahara River/ Door Creek Aquatic Tour (Continued From Page 7)

Bob told the group that many Paleo-Indian artifacts had been found on this very site which were used for processing meat and dressing hides. He also showed the group pictures of Clovis and Folsom projectile points which were thought to have been used on spears. This famous Wisconsin archeological site also contained the remnants of rock fish weirs on the Yahara River and nearby sacred Indian burial mounds.



### Door Creek Tour

The Door Creek tour, led by Susan Sanford, paddled from Fish Camp Park over Lake Kegonsa to Door Creek, then up the creek and back.



Door Creek flows directly into Lake Kegonsa. The tour included a discussion of the Dane County Land and Water Resource Department's watershed management plan to improve the water quality in Door Creek and their efforts to remove it from Wisconsin's impaired waters list.

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## 2017 Yahara River/ Door Creek Aquatic Tour (Continued From Page 8)

The Door Creek watershed contributes the second highest phosphorous load from agricultural land in the larger Yahara watershed. As we know, excessive phosphorous in our lake can cause algae growth, water clarity problems, reduced vegetation, oxygen depletion and degraded habitat.

### Perfect Day

We enjoyed a perfect summer day on the water – viewing beautiful scenery and learning more about our local resources and how to help protect them.

Once all the paddlers were back, we enjoyed a lunch of pizza and beer. Donations from our participants will help with our Fish Camp County Park projects, mainly the restoration of the historic 1937 buildings at the park.



Our **Thanks** go to:

- ❑ **Kegonsa Cove** and **Rutabagas** for providing canoes and kayaks
- ❑ **Leinenkugel's** representative **Dave Knop** for beer and T-shirts
- ❑ **Yeti's Pizza** and **FOLKS** sponsored the after-tour lunch
- ❑ Special thanks to **Bob Birmingham**, **Susan Sanford** and **Sue Jones** for sharing their expertise and providing great information to our participants and volunteers.

And many thanks to our **FOLKS committee and volunteers**: Patrick Guiney, Janice Kellogg, Rick & Terrie Thorstad, Peter & Karen Foy, Ray Potempa, Daniele Thompson, Jim Stratton, Bill Lamm and Connie Hagen.

# **Announcing An Ambitious New FOLKS Leaf Management Project**

## **By Gary Smithback**

FOLKS is embarking on an ambitious project to both educate property owners about managing leaves and for the first time actually removing leaves in both the Town of Dunn and the Town of Pleasant Springs this fall.

Leaves are a major source of phosphorus entering our waterways which increases the troublesome algae in Lake Kegonsa. One pound of phosphorus can produce up to 500 pounds of algae. Studies have shown that properly managing leaves can reduce the negative impact leaves have on the phosphorous entering our waterways through storm water by **80%**. A major component of this is educating people to remove the leaves from the street in front of their homes.

### **Grant from WINS**

FOLKS was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Madison Metropolitan Sewer District Water Improvement Network (WINS), which focuses on phosphorus reduction into waterways of the Yahara watershed. This Grant will be used to help fund our leaf project. We will collect the money as we complete the various phases of the project.

### **Three prong approach**

#### **1. Education**

There is a County wide educational program to get people to understand the importance of removing leaves from in front of their property, as part of properly managing leaves. FOLKS along with the Town of Dunn and Town of Pleasant Springs are joining this program and will be sending out educational material, putting articles in newsletters and newspapers to help in this effort.

#### **2. Town of Dunn**

The Town of Dunn has purchased a leaf vacuum and for the first time will be picking up leaves from homes in the Town. In this pilot program they will be picking up leaves from over 400 homes both on the lake and across the street from the lake. FOLKS is paying for the pickup at 150 of these homes to help with this pilot program. The Town will be keeping detailed information about amount of leaves picked up, time involved and costs involved to assess future expansion of the program. They are hopeful that the program will be expanded to additional waterway properties in the Town of Dunn.

- There is not an exact date that the new vacuum will be delivered, so for now the plan is to put yard signs out that announce that leaves will be picked up the following week. The Town is committed to continue to pick up leaves, once the equipment arrives.
- Keep your eyes open for a mailing from FOLKS and the Town of Dunn explaining the program.
- Please remember that this is a pilot program and based on what is learned it will be adjusted for subsequent years.

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# **Announcing An Ambitious New FOLKS Leaf Management Project Gary Smithback (Continued From Page 10)**

## **3. Town of Pleasant Springs**

The Town of Pleasant Springs does not have a vacuum, so the approach there will be different.

- FOLKS will select about 150 homes to participate in the pilot program. They will be on streets that have culverts where phosphorus from leaves would run directly into the lake. These will be streets like Shadyside Drive and Skyline Drive.
- FOLKS will contact the homes in the selected neighborhoods to see if people want to participate. If they do, we will:
  - Provide them with 20 paper leaf bags
  - Ask them to put their leaves in the bags by the side of the road where they will be picked up at least two times during the fall, using trucks and trailers.
  - They will be offered an optional yard sign that encourages removal of leaves from the street in front of people's homes.
  - Watch for a letter from FOLKS and the Town of Pleasant Springs
- The Town of Pleasant Springs Compost site will also have expanded hours this fall. The hours will be announced in an email from FOLKS and on the Town of Pleasant Springs website, once they are decided on.

## **Evaluation**

All aspects of this pilot program will be documented and evaluated to determine its success, or failure. Hopefully, based on our experience this year the program can be improved and expanded next year.

We want to thank the representatives from both the Town of Dunn and the Town of Pleasant Springs for their enthusiastic support of this pilot effort. This is truly a joint effort that we believe will help Lake Kegonsa.

## **Summer Fling**

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our Annual "Summer Fling" on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Over 130 FOLKS members and friends spent the evening meeting new friends, learning about our FOLKS projects and enjoying the wonderful pictures and postcards of Lake Kegonsa history.

Peter Foy, President of FOLKS presented a review of the carp project. Gary Smithback and Pat Guiney also reviewed FOLKS's Leaf Removal and Door County Projects. Our "Spear the Carp" Game let members win tickets to enter into a drawing for prizes. Our thanks to Springers, Quams, Kegonsa Cove and Patsy Rossman for donations for the game. And a special thanks to Stoughton Country Club for the use of the facility as well as their donation of a membership to SCC through the rest of this year!

Everyone continues to enjoy the pictures and postcard collection dating back to the early 1900's that Marian Kundert, Tom McGinnis, Laura Rowley and Ardys and Doug Pfundheller brought to display. Let us know if you have any old pictures or memorabilia that we can display next year. We ended the evening by setting up tables around the room with the streets names so folks could go to their street table and meet others that live near them. We will continue our summer gathering next year and hope more will join us.



## FOLKS Business Members

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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 October 11, 2017, 5:30 - 7:00 PM. At Springers, 3097 Sunnyside St., Stoughton, WI 53589

**Send news of interest to FOLKS to:**  
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The opinions and information expressed in this publication are for general information only. Its authors and publisher do not represent that information herein is the official position of any agency or governmental unit.

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 chagen001@gmail.com or Peter Foy at peterfoy@charter.net

**FOLKS Lost and Found**

List lost and found items on the FOLKS Facebook page or contact Eric Olson at ericolson@bunburyrealtors.com

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



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