

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 173

Stoughton, WI 53589-0173

June 2019

President's Message ~ Peter Foy

I think you will again enjoy this quarter's newsletter. It will provide you with useful information about the various **FOLKS** projects as well as some interesting information about the Stoughton Dam and even blue gill nests.

There are also articles about our annual meeting and our recently completed survey. The Board would like to thank our members for attending our meeting and taking the time to complete the survey. Your active involvement and comments help us to continually improve. As an example, our Aquatic Debris Collection program was a direct result of suggestions at last year's annual meeting.

The Bryant Foundation continues to be a major supporter of **FOLKS**. We were awarded a \$10,000 grant from them last month, which will help support our carp and leaf projects. In addition, their Foundation gives any money that visitors leave in their donation box at their Livsreise, Norwegian Heritage Center to various charities. We were fortunate to be awarded any donations they receive during April, May and June. We have received over \$700 from them, so far, for this award. By the way, we would encourage you to visit this wonderful attraction, if you haven't already done so. You will be impressed.

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President's Message, continued

As we reported at our annual meeting, we had our most productive carp removal in three years this spring, when the commercial fishermen removed 162,135 lbs. of carp. **FOLKS** paid them \$12,427 through our incentive program. We are hopeful that they will be able to return in the fall and remove even more. They weren't able to use their nets last fall because of higher than normal aquatic plant growth.

Our high lake level and the flow through the Yahara River to the Stoughton Dam continue to be a problem. You will see an article on what is being done to try to address it. Everyone agrees that more aggressive measures will probably have to be taken.

We would like to recognize Dave Luellwitz, as he retires from our Board. Dave, along with his wife Sue has been actively involved with our **FOLKS** organization for almost 20 years. Dave has been preparing our newsletter for many years.

We would also like to welcome Kim VanBrocklin, as our newest Board member, and thank her for her willingness to serve.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. You can send them to any of the **FOLKS** Board members. Their contact information is listed at the end of the newsletter.

Update on the New Aquatic Debris Collection Program

The **FOLKS** Aquatic Debris Collection Program got off to a good start the week of May 28, our first pick-up week. A large number of lake residents participated by putting lake debris at the end of their piers for the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department barge crew to pick-up and discard.

Although the pick-up wasn't completed until June 4, the crew picked-up 3 or 4 dump truck loads of lake debris. Most of it was logs and sticks. However, one unusual item of interest was a small sailboat that had holes in it and was abandoned in the lake. The crew also picked up a few large weed bogs that were floating in the lake.



FOLKS established the new debris pick-up program this year as a service to lake and river residents and to keep our boaters and skiers safe. Thank-you to the barge crew and to John Reimer, Assistant Director of Dane County Land & Water Resources Department. Based on input from **FOLKS** during the week, John arranged for the barge crew to make another pass around the lake to make sure that all piers were picked-up. We wanted to make sure that no residents were missed and the program started on a positive note.

Our second pick-up, the week of June 24 to June 28 was also very successful. **FOLKS** received positive feedback from a number of lake residents who appreciated this program.

Once aquatic plant cutting starts on the lake, we hope the value of this program will become even more apparent. Future pick-ups are scheduled for one week each month as follows:

- July 29 thru August 2
- August 26 thru 30
- September 23 thru 27

Remember that you should have all aquatic debris at the end of your pier by 7 a.m. on Monday of the scheduled pick-up week. The barge crew only makes one trip around the lake so we do not want anyone to miss a pick-up. Only debris that comes out of the lake is eligible to be picked-up. Yard or lawn waste such as grass clippings or brush from your yard is not permitted.

Thanks to everyone who participated and please provide us with any feedback about the program. This effort makes Lake Kegonsa cleaner, safer, and more beautiful.

Annual Meeting and Summer Social - June 8th

Our Annual Meeting and Summer Fling Party was held Saturday, June 8th at Stoughton Country Club. We had a record 160 people attend! What a great way to celebrate summer by renewing friendships and hearing about the successful year **FOLKS** had in 2018 and plans for 2019.



We were fortunate to have Melissa Ratcliff, our Dane County Supervisor for District #36 and Dea Larsen Converse, from the Clean Lakes Alliance, join us for dinner and the meeting. The meeting was called to order by our President, Peter Foy, the 2018 financial report was submitted, board members provided updates on all **FOLKS** projects, and 2019 board members were elected.

A special thank you goes to our major 2018 sponsors for generous grant funding:

The Edwin E. & Janet L. Bryant Foundation

The Clean Lakes Alliance

We'd also like to thank Springers, Stoughton Country Club and the Stoughton Conservation Club for funding and support. Door prizes were donated by Kegonsa Cove, Springers and Quam's Motorsports. Raffle prizes were donated by Stoughton Country Club, Peter Foy and Quam's Motorsports.

FOLKS Spring Survey Results

43% of our **FOLKS** households responded to the spring 2019 survey. The survey was sent to one email address from each household or business. We asked similar questions this year and last year to assess changing attitudes in our members. The **FOLKS** board uses the feedback in the surveys to determine our successes and failures and gauge interest in **FOLKS** projects.

Most response percentages were similar for general questions from 2018 to 2019. Changes of more than 10% are highlighted. A few items to note but were not surprising:

- More people now know about and use the **FOLKS** website and more people know we have a Facebook page.
- The water level was awful and caused problems for almost everyone on the lake and river.
- Members observed an appreciable increase in plant growth.
- 61% said the lake was not clean enough to swim in most of the summer.
- The carp removal and leaf management projects continue to be popular.
- Our members feel we should be involved with park projects on Lake Kegonsa. 72% believe we could spend \$10,000 or more on a worthwhile project.
- 93% of our respondents are over 50 (Maybe when you're retired you have more time to answer surveys).
- And surprisingly, 57% have owned their place on the lake or river for over 20 years!

More than 30% of our members were interested in more presentations like the November lake level presentation, more fish stocking and fish cribs, shoreline buffer gardens and identifying run-off areas. Thank you to everyone who responded!

Question #1- The **FOLKS organization represents my interests regarding Lake Kegonsa**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Yes, FOLKS does a good job	98%	96%
• FOLKS does a pretty good job, but could do more	2%	4%

Q#2- I find the quarterly newsletters to be informative and worth reading.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Yes, pretty much all the time	100%	100%
• I don't usually read the newsletter	0%	0%

Q#3- Social events

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• I have attended at least one and will go again	49%	46%
• Have not been able to attend, but believe they are worthwhile	48%	51%
• Don't believe social events are worthwhile	3%	3%

Q#4- <i>FOLKS</i> emails with updates and announcements	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Appreciate the <i>FOLKS</i> emails	99%	100%
• Most are worthwhile but there are too many	1%	0%
Q# 5- <i>FOLKS</i> website: www.Kegonsa.org	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Use the website once in a while	48%	37%
• Didn't know <i>FOLKS</i> had a website	25%	36%
• Aware of website, but have not used it	27%	27%
Q#6- <i>FOLKS</i> on Facebook	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• I have accessed <i>FOLKS</i> on Facebook	15%	12%
• Aware that <i>FOLKS</i> was using Facebook, but have not used it	22%	10%
• I don't use Facebook	39%	44%
• I didn't know <i>FOLKS</i> was using Facebook	24%	34%
Q#7- <i>FOLKS</i> work with government agencies	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• <i>FOLKS</i> working with government agencies is extremely important	99%	99%
• These relationships are nice, but not that important	1%	1%
Q#8- Water levels in 2017 and 2018. How was the level at your property last year?	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Level was fine. We didn't have any problems.	7%	50%
• Level was high and affected us a little. Would have liked it lower.	17%	26%
• Level was really high. We ended up pulling our pier boards at least once.	33%	18%
• This was as bad a summer as I can remember.	29%	3%
• Water level was so high that it affected our shoreline.	23%	3%
Q #9- Aquatic plant growth. How has it been near your property?	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Lake quality near our property was good, limited weeds all year.	3%	21%
• There were some weeds, but generally it was good.	25%	57%
• There were a lot of weeds near our property for much of the summer.	72%	22%
Q #10-Lake clarity (2018 / 2017)	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• The lake was in good condition last year.	4%	11%
• Lake was not ideal, but in pretty good shape.	35%	59%
• There was more plant growth than in other years.	N/A	16%
• Lake has not been clean enough to swim most of the year.	61%	14%
Q #11- Carp removal project. What do you think about the project?	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Believe that this is one of the best projects <i>FOLKS</i> has taken on.	68%	72%
• Let's continue to follow through on the project for now.	29%	24%
• This is worthwhile project, only if we limit our spending.	2%	8%
• Time and money would be better spent in other areas.	2%	1%

Q #12- Fish Camp County Park. *FOLKS* has adopted the park and has rebuilt and painted the picnic tables, planted a shoreline garden and has volunteered to help clean up the park. In 2018 we helped to finance the renovation of the deteriorating original 1937 Corn

and Net buildings on the property. There will be other park projects come up as the Lower Yahara Bike Trail is extended into Fish Camp County Park and Lake Kegonsa State Park.

How do you feel about **FOLKS** involvement?

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• I believe that helping with park projects on Lake Kegonsa is within our area of interest and we should be willing to fund up to \$20,000 on other park projects, as long as it doesn't stop us from doing other lake related projects.	39%	23%
• We should help with park projects on Lake Kegonsa, but stay closer to \$10,000, if we have covered other projects.	33%	31%
• We should help with this project, but only with grants and funds raised specifically for the park.	21%	28%
• I believe all of our money should be spent only on projects that directly impact the lake.	8%	18%

Q #13- How much do you feel that leaves impact the water quality of our lake?

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Significantly impact	43%	46%
• Moderately impact	44%	42%
• Limited impact	11%	10%
• Not at all	1%	2%

Q #14- Which of the following reflects your opinion concerning leaves around your house (select all that apply)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Makes yard messy	45%	52%
• Harms lawn	23%	25%
• Harms lake	62%	62%
• Like to reuse leaves for compost	11%	13%
• Difficult to manage	33%	31%
• Not of much concern	19%	15%

Q #15- Who takes care of leaves that fall onto your yard (all that apply)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• I do	74%	71%
• Family members	26%	23%
• Yard care service	24%	27%
• Neighbors/friends	1%	4%
• Other	1%	2%

Q #16- What do you do with the leaves that collect on your property? (select all that apply)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Mow and/or let shredded leaves go on the lawn	44%	47%
• Rake to compost area in yard	17%	12%
• Use as leaf mulch around plants	7%	10%
• Haul to yard waste drop off site	38%	40%
• Rake to lakeshore	1%	0%
• Burn	13%	21%
• Used the leaf pickup service provided by FOLKS and my Town	52%	31%
• Other (answers were mostly lawn care service removed leaves)	11%	16%

Q #17- What do you do with leaves that collect in the street near your home (select all that apply)	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Nothing	36%	45%
• Rake to compost area	6%	7%
• Use as much	4%	4%
• Haul to yard waste drop off site	19%	25%
• Rake to lakeshore	1%	0%
• Include them with leaf pickup provided by FOLKS and my Town	46%	28%
• Burn	6%	8%

Q #18- We would like to gauge your interest in new FOLKS projects. Please check all that you think it would be worthwhile to pursue.	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• More presentations like the November lake level presentation	53%	N/A
• More fish stocking	46%	N/A
• More fish cribs	32%	N/A
• Additional social gatherings	11%	N/A
• Rain garden workshop, tour	18%	N/A
• Rain barrels	16%	N/A
• Shoreline buffer gardens	34%	N/A
• Identifying run-off areas	50%	N/A

Q#19- Residency	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Year-round resident	68%	62%
• Only part of the time	32%	38%

Q#20- Age Bracket	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• 35, or under	0%	2%
• 36-50	8%	9%
• 51-71	63%	67%
• Over 71	30%	22%

Q#21- How many years have you had your place on the lake or river?	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• 0-5 years	14%	14%
• 6-10 years	11%	21%
• 11-19 years	18%	15%
• 20 years, or more	22%	50%
• 30 years, or more	35%	N/A

Q#22- Share with us the ways that you take advantage of being on the lake (check all that apply)	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Pleasure boating	86%	88%
• Swimming and other activities in the water	72%	72%
• Tubing and/or skiing	55%	62%
• Fishing	60%	61%
• Just looking at the water and the activities on the water	79%	82%
• Sailing	9%	10%
• Kayaking/paddle boarding/canoeing	53%	60%
• Other (mostly ice skating, ice fishing, ice sailing, jet skiing)	8%	8%

Thank you again to everyone who completed the survey and sent us ideas.

The Stoughton Dam Uses "Tainter" Gates

The Stoughton Dam is open. It is the 4th dam in the system for the Yahara chain of lakes and is operated by the City of Stoughton under directives of the Wisconsin DNR and in cooperation with Dane County. There seems to be a misconception that the dam is sometimes closed when it is actually open because of the mechanics of the dam.

The dam uses "Tainter" gates and a submerged sluiceway to control the flow of water through the dam. When the dam is in full flow condition the gates are raised and water runs under the gates through the channel. Some may think the Stoughton Dam is closed when no water is visibly coming over the top or it looks like the gates aren't opened but in fact it is designed so that water flows beneath the radial arm gates that hold water back when the gates are raised. The image below illustrates how a "Tainter" gate looks absent of water. The gate on the left is open while the gate on the right is closed.



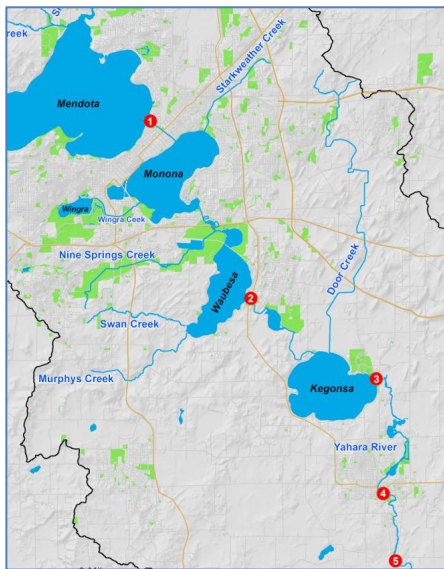
This next photo shows Stoughton Dam under normal flow conditions. The two left side "Tainter" gates are raised (open) and you can see the white water coming through at the bottom of the gates. On the right is the spillway which does not have a gate but is an additional outlet during high water conditions.



The Stoughton Dam from the 4th Street Bridge in Stoughton, WI

This is similar to the Tenney Park dam which has “Tainter” gates but is different from the Babcock and LaFollette dams where it is more obvious that the gates are opened or closed. Both the Babcock and LaFollette dams have been full open for two plus years to maximize flow to the Yahara River.

The Yahara Watershed has five functioning dams as shown below. The Dane County Land and Water Resources Department is in charge of maintaining appropriate water levels in the Yahara lakes and operates Tenney, Babcock and LaFollette dams. Stoughton officials communicate regularly with Dane County and the Dunkirk Dam Operator as the operation of all dams in the chain is a coordinated effort to efficiently and effectively flow as much water as possible to alleviate potential flooding conditions.



Courtesy of Luke Wynn, Clean Lakes Alliance

1. Tenney Park Locks (Mendota)
2. Babcock Lock and Dam (Monona & Waubesa)
3. LaFollette Dam (Kegonsa)
4. Stoughton Dam (Yahara River below Kegonsa)
5. Dunkirk Dam (Yahara River below Stoughton)

Lake Kegonsa Water Levels (and where to find information)

Today, June 28, 2019, the level of Lake Kegonsa is 844.14 ft. (feet above sea level). This is 7.68” over the summer maximum target of 843.50 ft. The record high water was 845.75 ft on June 22, 2018.

Minimum/maximum target lake levels are set by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Dane County Land & Water Resources department is responsible for maintaining lake levels in the Yahara lakes system. The summer goal is to maintain water levels at the mid-range of summer minimum/maximum target levels.

The winter goal (starting November 1st to first runoff event after March 1st) is to maintain water levels below summer minimum. However, the lake level did not go down to summer minimum on Lake Kegonsa for the 2018/2019 winter season.

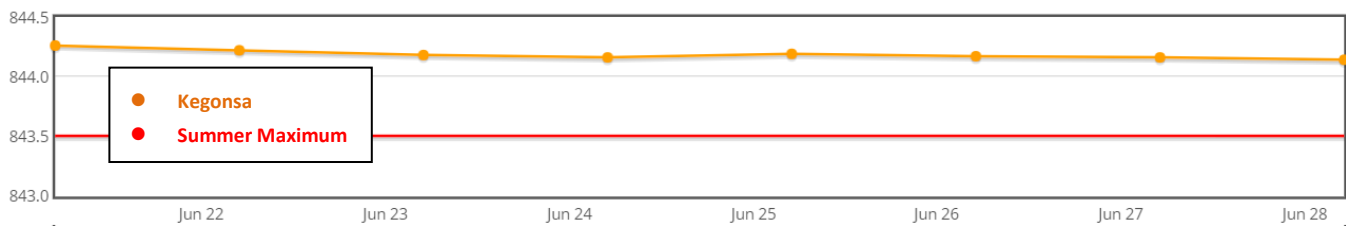
Moving water through the system continues to be a challenge due to plant growth, sediment and other constrictions. Additional rains only exacerbate the problem of high lake levels.

Lake Kegonsa Levels

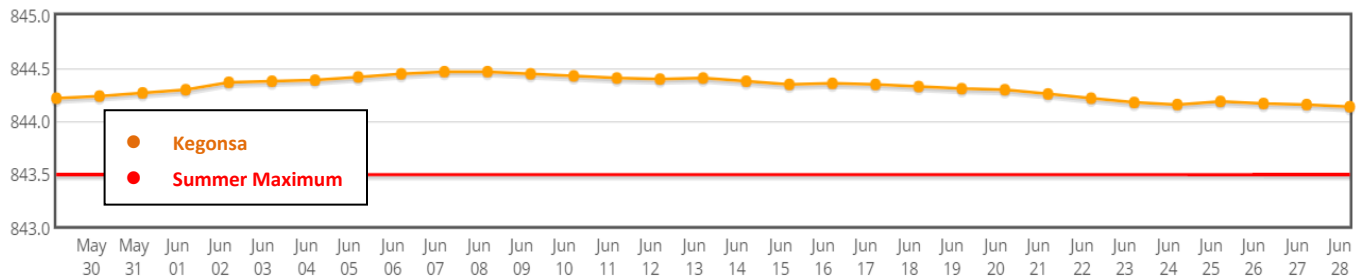
This chart shows the lake levels for the last three weeks - very slowly going down – although we had a bit of rain today so the level will be higher tomorrow:

Date	Kegonsa Inches	Inches > Summer max	Date	Kegonsa Inches	Inches > Summer max	Date	Kegonsa Inches	Inches > Summer max
8-Jun	844.47	11.64	15-Jun	844.35	10.20	22-Jun	844.22	8.64
9-Jun	844.45	11.40	16-Jun	844.36	10.32	23-Jun	844.18	8.16
10-Jun	844.43	11.16	17-Jun	844.35	10.20	24-Jun	844.16	7.92
11-Jun	844.41	10.92	18-Jun	844.33	9.96	25-Jun	844.19	8.28
12-Jun	844.40	10.8	19-Jun	844.33	9.96	26-Jun	844.17	8.04
13-Jun	844.41	10.92	20-Jun	844.30	9.60	27-Jun	844.16	7.92
14-Jun	844.38	10.56	21-Jun	844.26	9.12	28-Jun	844.14	7.68

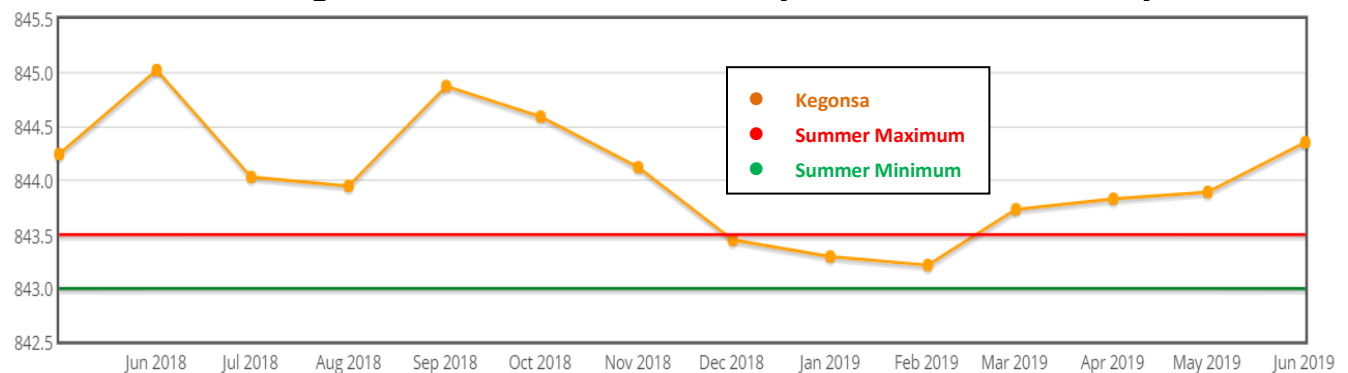
Lake Kegonsa Water Levels - Last Week (June 21 to June 28, 2019)



Lake Kegonsa Water Levels - Last Month (May 29 to June 28, 2019)



Lake Kegonsa Water Levels - Last Year (June 2018 to June 2019)



Lake levels are updated daily from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gauges. Water levels and graphs are from the Dane County Land & Water Resources Dept. website

[:lwr.d.countyofdane.com/Lake-Levels](http://lwr.d.countyofdane.com/Lake-Levels).

Flow Information

Discharge (flow) information for each dam is at :www.infosyahara.org.

When the **FOLKS** board is looking at flow for Kegonsa we use the discharge rate at Babcock Dam plus the discharge rate at Door Creek to give us total cubic feet per second (cfs) of water flowing into Kegonsa. We use the USGS gauge at the Forton Street Bridge in Stoughton as the Kegonsa outflow amount.

Although the gauges aren't perfectly synchronized and there are other inputs into the system we use the same numbers consistently so we can see the magnitude of the changes. This chart gives you an idea of what the net flow numbers have been in the last three weeks for Babcock Dam and Stoughton. The flowmeter at Door Creek was not working properly but is now fixed.

Flow meter location	6/8/2019	6/12/2019	6/18/2019	6/23/2019	6/28/2019
Babcock Dam	453 cfs	428 cfs	309 cfs	306 cfs	302 cfs
Forton St, Stoughton	454 cfs	411 cfs	450 cfs	417 cfs	434 cfs
Net Outflow	1 cfs	-17 cfs	141 cfs	111 cfs	132 cfs

Dane County said they have the USGS gauge that is to be installed at LaFollette dam so we expect that it will be in soon. This will give us one more good piece of information concerning the water level and flow out of Lake Kegonsa.

Increasing Flow

Dane County is working to improve the water discharge out of Lake Kegonsa. In early June they began harvesting aquatic plants in the Yahara River below LaFollette Dam to increase flow. The county is also removing logs & other debris that could block the dams or be a navigational hazard.

The week of June 10, 2019, Dane County had 5 or 6 plant harvesters (cutters) in the Yahara River below Kegonsa. At this time last year there were no harvesters below LaFollette. This week there are 4 harvesters in the river below Kegonsa and 2 harvesters in the river above Kegonsa. Find harvester locations at:wred-lwrd.countyofdane.com/Aquatic-Plant-Management#apm-fixed-tab-2.

Although Dane County has had 4 or more harvesters in the river below LaFollette Dam for 4 weeks, the flow out of Lake Kegonsa has not appreciably increased. John Reimer, Assistant Director of Dane County Land & Water Resources believes there may be a sediment accumulation on the north side of the river just past the LaFollette dam. He pointed out that there is now standing water on the south side below the dam where there used to be cattails. This lack of a proper "channel" is dispersing the water instead of directing it downstream. His plan is to get soil sampling done this summer for permits and, if budgeted, start dredging first thing next spring from the dam towards Stoughton.

Dane County is very aware of the flow problem and is working on it. **FOLKS** has been trying to work more closely with Dane County, the DNR, CLA and UW to help our lake.

We appreciate your suggestions and are always willing to hear more ideas.

Reporting Toxic Blue-Green Algae (Cyanobacteria)

Unfortunately, Lake Kegonsa already had the first reports of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) blooms on June 6, 2019. Algal blooms were significant last year with cyanobacteria being the most important. Lake Kegonsa reported a cyanobacteria bloom in almost 28% of all the days when visual observations were reported by the lake monitors. A number of our **FOLKS** members asked us how to report the observations.

As we described in our September 2018 newsletter, if you think you see a blue-green algae bloom, please take a photo and note the location. Report the presence of blue-green algae to all of the following:

- Public Health Madison and Dane County (608-266-4821)
- Clean Lakes Alliance (608-255-1000)
- Wisconsin Harmful Algal Blooms Program (608-266-1120)

Blue-green algae typically has extensive hues of blue and white and has a paint-like sheen or pea-soup appearance. If you put a stick or paddle in green algae and pull it out of the water, the algae may appear as long, interconnected filaments – that is most likely green algae and is not harmful. Toxic blue-green algae will not cling together enough to hang off the stick.



Blue-green algae, Lake Kegonsa, June 2019

The following is an excerpt from the Wisconsin Department of Health Website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/bg-algae/index.htm>. "Please report any blue-green algae blooms and related human or animal illnesses to the Wisconsin Harmful Algal Blooms Program by calling 608-266-1120 or completing the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Illness or Sighting Survey (Web Survey)."

"The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health (DPH) collects information about human and animal illness resulting from exposure to blue-green algae. Tracking illness information will help DPH measure the problem of blue-green algae in our lakes and rivers."

You can check the condition of a particular Dane County beach at lakeforecast.org, and choose a beach with clear water.

Blue Gill Spawning Beds

We had these beautiful rings in the area just off of our shoreline in early June but had no idea what they were. Luke Wynn at Clean Lakes Alliance and Dan Oele at the WDNR helped us identify them as blue gill spawning beds. How cool!!



The following information is paraphrased from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Fisheries Management Sept 2008.

The summer spawning season for bluegills usually runs from June to August when the water is 67 - 80 °F. Bluegills build nests in which they deposit and fertilize eggs. Male bluegills move to shallow water and make spawning beds by scooping out the sand. As you can see, they build nests in colonies together.

“Using its caudal tail like a broom, a male bluegill will sweep back and forth, holding its pectoral (side) fins straight out and pushing them forward to counter the forward locomotion of the caudal sweep, clearing away loose sand and gravel.”

“Females arrive after the nest is built and males greet them with energetic displays, called rim circling, in which they repeatedly swim in circles around their nests. They speed up as females approach, attempting to attract them into the nest. When a female enters a nest both fish swim around in circles within the nest until they come to a rest at a right angle with their bellies touching. The female then releases some eggs and the male releases some milt (sperm). A female may deposit eggs in more than one nest, and more than one female may use the same nest.”

“Under normal weather conditions and optimum temperatures, eggs hatch in two to five days. One nest may produce up to 18,000 fry (newly hatched fish) that are about an inch long, though they grow rapidly. While females leave the nest immediately after spawning, males can truly be described as doting fathers. They tend the eggs, fanning them with their caudal fins to keep them aerated and free of debris. The protective father may even stay with the fry, guarding them for several days.”

Source :dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/documents/species/bluegill.pdf.

Memorial Gifts

We would like to acknowledge memorial gifts given to **FOLKS** in remembrance of Lorraine Hawkinson and Doug Pfundheller.

Lorraine Hawkinson was a long-time member of **FOLKS**. She helped us with historical articles and there is an article about Lorraine in our December 2015 newsletter. Lorraine's mission was "to protect the lands and waters". Her children, Donna and Dennis, made a generous contribution to **FOLKS** in her honor.

Doug Pfundheller was a member of **FOLKS** since 1997. Much of the information in our historical articles and in the memorabilia displays at the annual meetings came from Doug and his wife Ardys. Doug's favorite phrase when family and friends joined him and Ardys at their home on Dewey Bay was, "It's a great day on Dewey Bay!" Several **FOLKS** board members gave gifts in remembrance of Doug and his great contributions to the **FOLKS** organization.

FOLKS Helps Promote Purple Martins at Fish Camp County Park

First, here is a little information about purple martins.

- Purple martins aren't purple at all. They're glossy deep blue, almost black, with a forked tail.
- Early native Americans prized the purple martin and offered housing for them in the form of hollowed out gourds.
- Martins are beautiful, graceful, clean, interesting and beneficial birds.
- Their bubbling chirps and trills make them a much sought after bird.
- And, a single purple martin can eat thousands of flying insects in one day.

Second, in an effort to help promote purple martins at Fish Camp County Park, **FOLKS** purchased a purple martin pole that Dave Wood and his helpers (Pat Hermsen, Aleksandra Martinka and her son Oliwier) attached the hooks and 16 houses on Monday, June 23.



- Dave makes most of the houses himself.
- Each house will accommodate the two adult martins as well as up to 8 baby martins.
- Dave said this year the average number of babies he has observed has been 6. About 72% of the new born birds should survive.
- This means that if all the 16 houses were occupied there could be up to 128 martins living on this single pole.
- This latest pole is located right by the **FOLKS** demonstration garden in the park.

FOLKS was happy to be able to help and we would like to thank Dave for spearheading this ongoing effort to encourage Purple Martins at Fish Camp County Park.

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For More About **FOLKS**,
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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
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Connie Hagen at chagen001@gmail.com or
Peter Foy at peterfoy49@gmail.com

Send news of interest to **FOLKS** to:
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FOLKS Lost and Found

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

FOLKS board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and the public are welcome.
Next Meeting is July 9, 2019, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.
Stoughton Country Club, 3165 Shadyside Dr., Stoughton, WI 53589

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
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