

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

President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

We hope that from all the articles in our 2017 newsletters you already know that FOLKS had a busy, successful year. I would like to thank our wonderful Board for all that they have done.

Annual Meeting

We have decided to move our 2018 annual meeting from the end of January to June 2, 2018. Historically we have had only about 25 people attend the January annual meeting and many of them were Board members. This compares to the over 130 people that were at our August social this year. We plan to have a short presentation to review activities for the year and answer any questions that our members have. Our Social Committee Chairman, Cathie Taylor, will make sure it will be our usual fun get together.

The annual meeting is when we elect new Board members, so please consider joining our Board and using your talents to help continue our progress. We have a strong Board and I think you would enjoy getting involved. I can tell you from my interaction with other Watershed groups that FOLKS has a wonderful reputation of getting involved and getting things done.

Membership

We ended the year with 361 household members. This represents the majority of the people living on the lake and many households that are just interested in making sure we are doing what we can to help Lake Kegonsa. I am also pleased that we have 32 business members, which might be the most we have ever had. These businesses pay more in dues and help in many other ways. They are listed in the back of this newsletter. Please show your appreciation by patronizing them whenever you can.

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

We know that our members are pleased with what our FOLKS organization is doing because over 35% of our members sent in an additional donation with their dues payment. That is also a first for us. We thank you for your generous support.

Grants, Donations and Support

FOLKS received project grants from the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network, the Bryant Foundation and Stoughton Utilities RoundUp Program in 2017. We had many great sponsors for our aquatic tour and social events including Leinenkugel's, Kegonsa Cove, Rutabaga Watersports, Springer's Restaurant, Stoughton Country Club, Quam's Sporting Goods, Blake and Deb Fritz, Pat & Wilson Rassman and our many wonderful volunteers. We would also like to say a special thank you to Blake and Deb Fritz for their generous donation in memory of Stanley Pollan, a longtime Lake Kegonsa resident.

Committee recaps

Our Committee Chairmen would normally do a recap of their activities at our annual meeting, but because we are moving it to next summer we have included the recaps in this newsletter. Please feel free to contact me, or any of our Board members, with any questions, or comments that you have. We appreciate your active participation.

A Tribute to Ray Potempa



FOLKS lost one of its biggest supporters when Ray Potempa passed away on October 4, 2017. He had a massive heart attack and never regained consciousness.

Ray and his wife Sylvia were founding members of FOLKS and Ray served as a Director and President of FOLKS for many years. Ray always stayed current with government regulations regarding lake shore improvements and made sure that our members were kept up to date.

Ray was always willing to help FOLKS. In fact, about three weeks prior to his death Ray volunteered to pick up the pizzas for our aquatic tour of the Yahara River and Door Creek.

He will be missed by all who knew him. He was a wonderful man.

Carp Removal Project

Remember, we started this project by inserting radio transmitters into 20 carp over two years ago.

The good news

After tracking these carp by airplane, boat and ATV, as part of our project, commercial fishermen started removing carp in March of 2017. They removed over 111,000 lbs. of carp that were either sold fresh, or were sent to a fish processing plant in Spirit Lake, Iowa. The carp sent to the processing plant were used primarily to make Gefilte fish (similar to fish balls). We were especially pleased that the majority of carp removed from our lake were used as a food source.

The bad news

Our goal is to remove 200,000 lbs. of carp per year from our lake for 5 years, so that we would be removing 1,000,000 lbs. of carp over the course of our project. We are disappointed that the commercial fishermen didn't come back in November, or December as planned. FOLKS is now paying a \$0.10 per lb. bonus because the 100,000 lb. contract target had been reached. The FOLKS Board had also notified the fisherman with the Lake Kegonsa contract that we were increasing the bonus to \$0.15 a lb. for any removal exceeding 200,000 lbs. We were expecting to pay out a total bonus in excess of \$10,000, which we thought would certainly incent them to return. However, this year we only paid them \$1,108 for the approximately 11,000 lbs. over 100,000 they removed during spring fishing.

Looking ahead

We will be working with the DNR and the commercial fisherman to make sure that they are in a position to remove many more carp in 2018. This first year was a learning experience for the fishermen working on Lake Kegonsa. It took them a couple of times to start using nets of the proper depth. We saw a noticeable increase in lbs. removed as they got into the later fishing days. We are certainly hoping that the knowledge gained about where the carp will be, from tracking them for almost two years, combined with the knowledge that the fishermen gained from their first year fishing on our lake will pay dividends next year.

Just as we were going to press with this newsletter FOLKS received a \$5,000 donation from the Stoughton Conservation Club. We are grateful for this generous gift. It will allow us to increase our incentive to help maximize the pounds of carp removed in 2018.



FOLKS 2017 Leaf Management Campaign Report - Gary Smithback, Chair of the Leaf Management Committee

FOLKS in partnership with Yahara WINS and the Towns of Dunn and Pleasant Springs initiated a leaf management campaign aimed at reducing the phosphorus entering our waterways from storm water flowing over leaves. Through these pilot projects, we collected approximately 200,000 lbs. of leaves this fall.

Early in the year, the FOLKS Leaf Committee determined the scope of two pilot projects for the two Towns bordering the shores of Lake Kegonsa – the Town of Dunn and the Town of Pleasant Springs. Varying ordinances and programs necessitated a different pilot project for each town. FOLKS was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (WIN) for the 2017 leaf management project.

The Town of Dunn Project

In 2017, the Town of Dunn received a \$20,000 grant from the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (WIN) to purchase a leaf vacuum. We partnered with the Town to collect leaves with this vacuum from 400 homes on or adjacent to Lake Kegonsa. We prepared and addressed the 400 letters to be mailed to the Town of Dunn residents in the pilot project. We assisted the Town with the cost of mailing the letters and agreed to fund the pickup at 150 of the homes. We also prepared and purchased 100 yard signs for residents that announced the pick-up and encouraged participation. The Town of Dunn used the signs to alert residents of upcoming pick-up days.

Unfortunately, the delivery of the Town's leaf vacuum was delayed and it was not able to be used this season. However, the City of Stoughton graciously allowed us to rent their vacuum for three weekends so that our pilot project could go ahead this year. (The City of Stoughton does not do pick-ups on weekends so their vacuum is not used Fridays-Sundays.) We sincerely thank the City of Stoughton for their unforeseen but ultimately hugely significant contribution to our effort. The City of Stoughton's vacuum was used three weekends this year – November 3-5, 10-12, and 17-19 for a total of about 60 hours. In total, the Town of Dunn collected approximately 180,000 lbs. of leaves which equates to about 450 cubic yards of shredded leaves (Stoughton's vacuum reduces whole leaves to shredded 10:1).

The Town of Pleasant Springs Project

In the Town of Pleasant Springs, a leaf vacuum was not part of the equation, so we took a different approach. Our goal was to deliver and collect leaf bags from 150 homes on or adjacent to the lake. Utilizing some of our Yahara WIN grant funds, we purchased 3,000 compostable leaf bags. We prepared printed and mailed letters to the 150 residents with culverts where phosphorus from leaves would run directly into the lake, inviting them to participate in the pilot program. We offered to deliver 20 bags to each home willing to participate, and FOLKS Board members coordinated this communication and delivery. We also purchased 150 yard signs for Town of Pleasant Springs residents to display to encourage participation in the campaign.

We also worked with the town to provide additional days that the transfer site was open. We will try to add more in 2018.

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FOLKS 2017 Leaf Management Campaign Report (Continued From Page 5)

We want to recognize all those that made our first year pilot effort successful:

- Cathy Hasslinger and Ben Kollenbroich at the Town of Dunn for their enthusiasm in working with us to establish a leaf collection program
- the Town of Pleasant Springs for supporting our efforts to manage leaves
- the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network's grant to fund our efforts
- the City of Stoughton's contribution of its leaf vacuum
- the Courier Hub and Thistle for printing articles about these projects
- the members of our Leaf Committee – Gary Smithback, Cathie Taylor, Dave Luellwitz, Danielle Thompson and Eric Olson
- other FOLKS members Peter Foy, Ken LePine, John Botorff, Connie Hagen and Bill Lamm for helping with leaf collection and supporting this campaign

Looking ahead

As 2017 draws to a close, we already have had some suggestions to broaden the campaign next year from committee members, participating residents and our membership-at-large, including: adding additional pickups in November, providing additional leaf drop sites in the Town of Dunn (narrow streets in Dunn leave minimal room for the leaf piles required for the vacuum), expanding the project to more homes in Pleasant Springs, and encouraging the Town of Pleasant Springs to apply for a grant to use the City of Stoughton's leaf vacuum on weekends as the Town of Dunn did this year. These are great suggestions, and we want to encourage more feedback from our membership, so we would encourage you to complete an upcoming email survey on the Leaf Campaign and submit any comments directly to us at folksleafproject@gmail.com.

Additionally, we would like to encourage more FOLKS members to participate in this project next year – we need volunteers in the fall for a variety of functions. If you have interest and availability, please contact the Leaf Committee at folksleafproject@gmail.com.



Fish Camp Park

FOLKS became FRIENDS OF FISH CAMP PARK in 2017. It is our goal to work with Dane County Parks Department to maintain and improve the park. Together with the Park's Dept. we have made a list of possible ways to accomplish that. The current list is:

- Refurbish the FOLKS donated picnic tables
- Add color to the park with native plantings
- Refurbish the historical buildings
- Trail clearing
- Plant new trees when ash trees are removed due to disease
- Additional informational signage supporting FOLKS and the park
- Accessible picnic table for the disabled
- Invasive species removal

In 2017 we refurbished the picnic tables and created a sample shoreline buffer garden through the hard work of the following volunteers: Connie Hagen, Bill Lamm, Peter Foy, Ray Potempa, Janice Kellogg, Rick Maliszewski, Ken LePine, Deb Weis, Chris Weis, Ken Axe, Richard Morfey and Laurie Irwin.

We are currently finishing the planting project with signage explaining the importance of shoreline buffer zones and a small box containing environmental handouts. FOLKS is now responsible for the maintenance of this garden. In the future we will continue with more plantings to add color to the park.

Our focus is currently on obtaining quotes on the repair and painting of the historical buildings to determine funding options and partnerships for that project. Volunteers are always appreciated to help with gardens, trail clearing and the historical buildings project. You can contact Janice Kellogg or sign up for individual work days.



Community Outreach: The 2017 Yahara River/ Door Creek Aquatic Tour

FOLKS continued to engage with our local communities and pursue educational and recreational opportunities by sponsoring our second FOLKS Aquatic Tour on Sept. 16, 2017. The event was another a great success. Tour participants departed from Fish Camp County Park, where Janice Kellogg introduced the Yahara River Tour and Sue Jones and Susan Sanford from Dane County spoke

Community Outreach: The 2017 Yahara River/ Door Creek Aquatic Tour (Continued From Page 8)

about the history and topography of Door Creek. Paddlers left from Fish Camp County Park for the Door Creek and Yahara River tours. The Yahara River tour featured a talk by noted archeologist Bob Birmingham.



Ice On Contest

A week of nighttime temperatures in the teens was all that was needed for Lake Kegonsa to freeze over. Our judges declared that the lake was completely frozen on 12/14/17, the same date the lake froze last year.

Mark Herbst was the first person to guess 12/14/17 and will receive a certificate to Springers. Two other members guessed this date but Mark's guess was the first received. 80 plus people entered the contest. The most popular date was December 28 with 8 guesses. The earliest guess was November 28 and the latest was March 21. What a sense of humor this person has. Of course it helped that her last name was March!

Thanks to everyone for entering our contest. A special thanks to Springers for their ongoing generosity in donating gift certificates for our events and for hosting our monthly meetings. Watch for the email announcing our "ice off" contest.

Aquatic Plant Management

Dane County completed an Aquatic Plant Survey on Lake Kegonsa this past summer. This is done every 5 to 6 years to provide an inventory of existing plants and learn how these plant communities have changed since the last survey (2011). They gathered data for each of approximately 425 points on pre-determined sampling grids. At each point, information was recorded such as plant species present, water depth, sediment type, and fullness of the sampling rake. These survey results will help assess lake health and prepare updates to the county aquatic plant management plan.

Aquatic plant management plans provide an inventory of existing plants and describe how native plants will be protected, nuisance non-native species will be controlled, and recreational access will be provided. These plans are required by the Department of Natural Resources in order for them to permit aquatic plant harvesting programs under NR 109 Wis. Admin. Code.

The results showed little if any change in the aquatic plant community and so the county will be recommending no change to the current management and harvesting plans.

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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 January 10, 2018, 5:30 - 7:00 PM. At Springers, 3097 Sunnyside St., Stoughton, WI 53589

Send news of interest to FOLKS to:
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dluellwitz@gmail.com

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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 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 and

on Facebook 

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