



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173  
**April 2018**

## President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

The FOLKS Board of Directors is pleased to send you our first newsletter of 2018. Spring is here and summer isn’t far behind. We have a lot of activities planned for this year. I will bring you up to date on the carp removal project. Others FOLKS projects are described in other articles in the newsletter.

### Carp removal project

We removed over 111,000 lbs. of carp in 2017 and we are hoping to remove at least 300,000 lbs. this year. We believe that there is a good chance of achieving this goal for a number of reasons:

- The Wisconsin DNR has awarded the fishing contract to the same commercial fisherman that had it last year. We were pleased with their work and know that they learned a lot about fishing on Lake Kegonsa last year, which will benefit them this year.
- The WDNR didn’t award fishing contracts in 2018 for some of the lakes that were awarded in 2017. This should focus more attention on Lake Kegonsa and could also help increase the market price of carp.
- Thanks to generous donations from our members and other organizations FOLKS was in position to offer the commercial fisherman up to \$40,000 in incentive payments to get him to focus heavily on Lake Kegonsa. We have agreed to pay the fisherman an extra \$0.10 per lb. for all lbs. over 100,000 lbs., up to 500,000 lbs.
- We hope to see the fisherman on the lake shortly after it opens up. We will alert you via an email once they are on the lake.

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

### Bryant Foundation Grant

We are excited to announce that we were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Edwin E. and Janet L. Bryant Foundation, Inc. They have helped previously with our carp project, but have now expanded the grant to include funds for our exciting leaf removal project that you will read about later in the newsletter.

We want to thank the Bryant Foundation for their ongoing support, which has allowed FOLKS to expand the scope of our initiatives.

### Other grants

The FOLKS board has written grant requests for a number of other grants in 2018 to further our Lake Kegonsa projects. We will continue to work on additional funding throughout the year. We'll report on any additional monies as they are awarded.

As always, feel free to contact me or any of our other Board members if you have any questions.

## **Lake Ice Off Contest**

It is Friday, March 30 and the lake is finally ice free. The huge ice float on the South side of the lake is gone.

Over a 100 people entered our contest and 84 people guessed that the lake would open before 3/19/18. We were so optimistic that one person even guessed February 21! Our latest guess is 4/7/18.

Only 5 people were still in the running! The winner for guessing March 30 is Diane Kellogg. (I think this is the 2nd time she has guess correctly!) She wins a \$50 gift certificate to Springers. We thank Springers for their continued donation of certificates as well as providing space for our monthly FOLKS meetings.

Now it's time to see who gets the first pier in!

## **SAVE THE DATE SUMMER FLING – SATURDAY, JUNE 2**

Our Summer Fling has been changed from late summer to early summer so that we could include our Annual Meeting in the event. What better way to start the summer than learning about FOLKS activities and meeting and renewing friendships with our lake and river friends.

Stoughton Country Club has graciously agreed to host our event again. More information will follow in early May. We hope you can make it!

## Friends of Dane County Parks

We are lucky to have Lake Kegonsa State Park and two Dane County Parks (Fish Camp County Park and LaFollete County Park) on our lake. It might surprise you that approximately 25% of our shoreline is public land. You are probably not familiar with the Friends of Dane County Parks, Inc. They were organized to provide an ongoing endowment fund for support of Friends groups like ours who are working in the Dane Co Parks. Their mission is to raise funds for park projects, and support and strengthen parks friends groups and volunteers. They are expecting to start awarding grants at the beginning of 2019.

The Endowment will be used for:

- Interpretation – creating awareness and exploration of the cultural heritage, archeology, geography, climate and natural resources of Dane County.
- Education – engaging children, adults, communities, and organizations in outdoor learning and creativity.
- Volunteerism – supporting and encouraging individuals and groups to contribute their time, effort and resources for the benefit of their park system.

Facebook page: Friends of Dane County Parks. Funds are managed by the Madison Community Foundation ([www.madisoncommunityfoundation.org](http://www.madisoncommunityfoundation.org)).

*Provide for **today**...create a **legacy** for tomorrow!*

## 2018 FOLKS Membership

Thank you for your continuing support of FOLKS and your commitment to improving Lake Kegonsa. Your contributions enable FOLKS to continue important projects impacting our lake.

Remember to send in your annual dues if you haven't already. Send your check to FOLKS, PO Box 173, Stoughton, WI 53589.

The basic annual membership fees remain the same:

- \$20.00 per household for email members
- \$30.00 per household if you want the newsletter mailed (to cover printing/ mailing costs)
- \$30.00 for an email business membership (includes listing in our newsletter)

We had 362 household members and 32 business members in 2017. So far in 2018, 86% of our member households have renewed and more than 40% of members have included additional contributions for our ongoing projects! We'd really love to top 400 members this year so please talk to your friends and neighbors about joining.

You may send any questions you have on membership to Connie at [chagen001@gmail.com](mailto:chagen001@gmail.com). As always, we value your feedback and thank you for your generous support.

## FOLKS Leaf Management Program Update

In 2018, FOLKS leaf removal initiative will mean that for the **first** time in history **both** the Town of Dunn and the Town of Pleasant Springs (the two Towns bordering the shores of Lake Kegonsa) will vacuum leaves from all homes on Lake Kegonsa and across the street from the Lake! We want to thank our members, the City of Stoughton, The Town of Dunn, the Town of Pleasant Springs and our generous sponsors for making this a reality. Keep reading to hear all the details.

### **Background:**

Leaves are a major source of phosphorus entering our waterways. As water flows over leaves, phosphorous is leached out of the leaves and into the storm water. Storm drains around Lake Kegonsa flow directly into the lake. As you know, phosphorous increases the troublesome algae in Lake Kegonsa. Studies have shown that properly managing leaves can reduce the negative impact leaves have on the amount of phosphorous entering our waterways through storm water by 80%.

We expect the FOLKS Leaf Management initiative to be the start of developing long term habits for properly managing leaves. Our overall goal is to include all 700+ homes around Lake Kegonsa (the Town of Dunn and the Town of Pleasant Springs). Prior to 2017 these towns did not offer leaf pickup of any kind. In 2017 through the FOLKS partnership with Yahara WINS, pilot projects in the Town of Dunn and the Town of Pleasant Springs collected approximately 200,000 lbs. of leaves.

### **2018 Goals:**

To continue our overall effort to improve leaf management, FOLKS major goals for the current year are:

**Goal 1: Assist the Town of Pleasant Springs to implement leaf vacuuming around the lake.** To leverage the expertise and equipment of the City of Stoughton to help the Town of Pleasant Springs start a new leaf vacuuming program. We are making great progress on this goal already – both the City of Stoughton and the Town of Pleasant Springs are joining forces to make this pilot project a success. More details are below.

**Goal 2: Increase public education about leaf management** to change behaviors and reduce phosphorous entering the lake through runoff in the Towns of Pleasant Springs and Dunn. We'll continue to educate homeowners about the important relationship between leaf management and clean waters.

FOLKS will:

- include newsletters articles with information about good leaf management practices, leaf vacuuming schedules and compost site hours,
- stay connected with the local newspapers, and
- develop newsletter articles and brochures with educational materials for the Town of Dunn and Town of Pleasant Springs distribution.

**Goal 3: Encourage other good leaf management practices** around Lake Kegonsa. In addition to vacuuming, we'll work to further expand compost site hours for homeowners who prefer to take their leaves to the compost sites. If needed, FOLKS volunteers will rake leaves from the street in front of homes that have put leaves out for vacuuming and prepare information on good leaf management practices for dissemination by other lake stewards.

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## **FOLKS Leaf Management Program Update (Continued From Page 4)**

### **Town of Pleasant Springs 2018 Pilot Leaf Vacuuming Program**

Gary Smithback, Chair of the FOLKS Leaf Management committee, presented a proposal to the Town of Pleasant Springs board on 2/6/2018. He introduced FOLKS, discussed why it's important to keep phosphorous from leaves out of the waterways and how FOLKS would partner with the Town to initiate a pilot leaf vacuuming program. FOLKS proposed:

- The Town of Pleasant Springs use the City of Stoughton leaf vacuuming truck for up to 3 weekends in the fall to vacuum leaves for approximately 280 Town of Pleasant Springs homes on Lake Kegonsa and across the street. FOLKS will work with the Town to identify exactly which properties will be included in the 2018 pilot program.
- FOLKS has obtained agreement from the City of Stoughton to let the Town rent their leaf vacuuming truck and for this first year, FOLKS will cover the cost of truck rental for up to 3 weekends. The City of Stoughton truck is available from sometime Friday throughout the weekend.
- The Town is responsible for refueling the vacuum truck before returning and FOLKS will cover the fueling costs for up to 3 weekends in 2018.
- The Town will provide an operator for leaf pick up on up to 3 separate weekends. Friday is part of the regular work week and will be paid by the Town as a part of their regular payroll. FOLKS will cover the overtime/weekend costs (Saturday & Sunday) of the operator.
- The Town operators will have CDL Class B licenses and attend training by the City of Stoughton.
- The Town of Pleasant Springs will provide liability insurance (covered under their current policy), property insurance on the truck and will agree to fix the truck if they break it.
- The Town will count and report the number of loads of mulched leaves collected and estimate the number of homes where leaves are collected, if possible.
- FOLKS will provide educational materials, mailing flyers for all 280+ Pleasant Springs homes, yard signs for leaf pick up and possibly leaf pick up schedules on signage for the Town to post.

The Pleasant Springs Town Board (Town Chairperson, David Pfeiffer and Supervisors, Doug Larrison, Eric Olson, Jay Damkoehler and Janeice Bolender) **unanimously** approved the FOLKS Leaf Management proposal for 2018.

### **City of Stoughton**

Gary worked with the City of Stoughton to obtain their partnership in the Town of Pleasant Springs pilot program. The City of Stoughton was an outstanding partner in the Town of Dunn pilot last year and for the current year has generously agreed to:

- Rent their leaf vacuuming truck for up to 3 weekends to the Town of Pleasant Springs to vacuum leaves at homes on Lake Kegonsa and across the street for a nominal amount. The City of Stoughton does not do pick-ups on weekends so their vacuum is not used Fridays-Sundays.
- Provide training on the operation of the leaf vacuuming equipment to the Town of Pleasant Springs operators.

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## FOLKS Leaf Management Program Update (Continued From Page 5)

### The Town of Dunn

Last year the Town of Dunn received a \$20,000 WINS grant to help with the purchase of leaf vacuuming equipment. Because their leaf vacuuming equipment didn't arrive in time for fall leaf pick up, FOLKS facilitated the use of the City of Stoughton leaf vacuuming equipment by the Town of Dunn for 2017.

The Town of Dunn received their new equipment and will provide leaf vacuuming around the lake on their own this year. FOLKS will continue their partnership with the Town of Dunn and expects to help with educational materials and mailings, articles, yard signs, etc.

### Looking Forward to Fall

Watch for more information coming from FOLKS, The Town of Pleasant Springs and the Town of Dunn on leaf vacuuming and how to manage your leaves this fall.

We believe the number of homeowners who burn leaves or rake them into the lake has already decreased and the number who mulch or compost on their property or take at least some of their leaves to a town compost site has increased. It was also encouraging to see that most households were making an effort to keep leaves out of the street in front of their homes last fall. If only 10% of the leaves collected in the pilot leaf collection programs in 2017 caused phosphorus to go into the lake then an estimated 40 to 200 lbs. of phosphorus would have been eliminated.

We appreciate all the feedback you can give us on the pilot program. Together we **do** make a difference!



## Shoreline Damage at Fish Camp County Park

As many of you may know there was considerable ice damage at Fish Camp County Park. The Dane County Parks Department posted the following sign at the park.

"A phenomenon called "ice heaving" or "ice jacking" has caused significant shoreline damage at Fish Camp Park. The expanding ice sheet and its "pushing" action can move land including trees and structures.

- Damaged trees have already been removed
- Fishing piers will be replaced
- Shoreline areas will be restored

Information and a project plan will be provided as additional information becomes available. If you have any questions please call Dane County Parks at 608-224-3730."

All of the trees that were removed were ash trees and had damaged roots. Because of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation these trees would have had to be removed in future years.

The FOLKS demonstration shoreline garden was also damaged. FOLKS will restore the garden area and will work with Dane Co Parks on other areas of the park. Anyone willing to help would be appreciated.

Several park plans will be affecting Fish Camp. Extending the bike path from McFarland is number one on the Dane County trail plans. The first step will be designing the necessary bridges along the path.

The renovation of the historical buildings, which FOLKS has been advocating is planned. We've also asked that one of them be opened for public use in the future. This is under consideration.

The following website has the 5 year plan for Dane County listed. It also has a map of trail plans at: <https://parks-lwr.dane.gov/Information/Planning-Development/Parks-Open-Space-Plan>



## FOLKS Business Members

Please Shop and Support FOLKS Fabulous Business Members

Bunbury & Associates Realtors	Eric Olson (608) 575-9272
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Clean Lakes Alliance	james@cleanlakesalliance.com
Coldwell Banker Success	Peter Sveum (608) 575-1054
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Stoughton Country Club	(608) 873-8464
Stoughton Trailers	stoughtontrailers.com (608) 873-2600
T.L. Home Finishing & Painting	(608) 873-9266
Terry Kahl Plumbing	305 Industrial Circle, Stoughton WI 53589
Thane B Anderson, DDS	drthaneanderson@tds.net
The Edwin E. & Janet L. Bryant Foundation	3039 Shadyside Dr., Stoughton WI 53589
Town of Dunn	4156 County Hwy B, McFarland WI 53558
Town of Pleasant Springs	2354 County Rd N, Stoughton WI 53589
T-Top Shop II, LLC	ttopshop@frontier.com (815) 335-7058
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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 11, 2018, 5:30 - 7:00 PM. At Springers, 3097 Sunnyside St., Stoughton, WI 53589

**Send news of interest to FOLKS to:**  
**P.O. Box 173**  
**Stoughton, WI 53589 or**  
**dluellwitz@gmail.com**

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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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