



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173  
**March 2014**

**President’s Message ~ Peter Foy**

Are you ready for summer yet? This has been quite a winter. I will probably have to take out a loan to pay the guy who plows my driveway. The bright side is that this will make our summer on the lake even more enjoyable.

We are just finishing our FOLKS budget for 2014. Thank you to all that have renewed your membership. As always, we have a nice list of projects and we need the support of all our FOLKS members in order to have the money available to keep improving our lake and enhancing our pride in it.

We held our annual meeting on January 18, 2014 at the Stoughton Country Club. Each committee chairman reviewed their 2013 accomplishments and 2014 goals:

-Gloria Kay Schoeberl, our Treasurer reviewed our membership and our year-end financial report. We have \$20,000 available for future projects.

-Peter Foy presented the Communications report for chairman Dave Luellwitz. We sent four newsletters and numerous Lake Alerts to our members in 2013.

-Cathie Taylor presented the Social committee report. She highlighted our very successful FOLKS Social event and our Ice-On and Ice-Off contest.

-Mike Amstadt presented the Fisheries report, which included a report on the Walleye fish stocking project, run by the Stoughton Conservation Club, that FOLKS donated \$1,500 toward.

Continued on Page 2

**In This Issue:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Effects of Climate Change on Dane County Lakes....2 | Guess The Date The Ice is Off Contest.....4 |
| Membership Drive Update.....4                       | Citizen Monitoring.....5                    |
| Trail to Link Stoughton, Lake Kegonsa.....6         | FOLKS Officers 2014.....7                   |
| FOLKS Business Members.....8                        |   |

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

-Peter Foy presented the Aquatic Plant report for Chairman Tom McGinnis and covered our review of the aquatic plant growth that we conducted with Jim Leverage from Dane County. We had the second year in a row of relatively low issues.

-Mike Amstatdt reviewed Lake Levels and particularly the no wake rules that were in place just before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. FOLKS worked proactively with Dane County to work through this high water period.

-Bill Lamm described the pilot Water Quality Monitoring program that he and Cathie Taylor participated in. You will be hearing more about this as the County seeks to expand this program to get more volunteers to periodically check and record lake clarity.

### **Board of Directors**

The election of Board members took place at the meeting and Bob Arndt, Bill Lamm, Tom McGinnis, Eric Olson and Bryon Thompsons were elected for two year terms.

### **Clean Lakes Alliance**

Don Heilman, President of Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA), made a very interesting presentation of lake conditions, issues and projects underway to help improve lake clarity. He highlighted the Water Quality Project that was initiated by FOLKS members monitoring run-off conditions and working closely with CLA to acquire funding and support to complete the project in the fall of 2013. FOLKS provided \$2,500 in support to CLA in 2013.

A motion was made from the floor to thank all of the Board members for volunteering their time and expertise to the FOLKS organization.

## **Effects of Climate Change on Dane County Lakes, by Peter Foy**

I attended a Clean Lakes Alliance, Yahara Lakes 101, session about the effects of climate change on our lakes. It was presented by John Magnuson from the Center of Limnology at the University of Wisconsin. Please understand that any comments about global warming made in this article are from the presentation I attended.

Mr. Magnuson started out with an interesting picture of a man walking on a sidewalk with a dog on a leash. The man was walking straight, on a slight upward walk and the dog was running all over the place, sometimes up and sometimes down. He then stated that the man is the "climate" and the dog is the "weather" and we shouldn't confuse the two. We will get extreme fluctuations in the weather over a short period, but if we measure the climate over a 100 year period, we get a clear picture of what is actually happening. According to Mr. Magnuson, there is no question that when we look at the climate over the long period, the climate is warming.

Continued On Page 3

## **Effects of Climate Change on Dane County Lakes, by Peter Foy (Continued From Page 2)**

### Ice Duration

The ice duration on Lake Mendota has dropped by almost a month in the last 150 years. If we look at the ice-on and ice-off extremes for Lake Mendota we see that the earliest ice on and latest ice off dates all occurred prior to 1900, while three of the five latest ice-on and the earliest ice-off conditions all occurred since the late 1990's. This will obviously vary from year to year, but it seems safe to conclude the long term trend will be that ice will be on our lake for shorter periods.

### Phosphorus and Extreme Rainfall

You all know phosphorus is the main cause of algae in our lakes. It is the main focus of Clean Lakes Alliance and why FOLKS supports its efforts with our funds. The water improvement project that was highlighted at our annual meeting had a direct impact on Lake Kegonsa and is a perfect example of what can be done when everyone works together.

This is especially important because of another effect climate change has. When you look at major participation events from 1941-2008 you see that there is a 4-fold increase in the likelihood of extreme rainfall events in recent years. More intense storms will cause increased phosphorus to get into our lake, so anything we can do to help alleviate this will be helpful in our effort to keep our lake clean.

### Do Fish Care About Climate Change?

Of course, the answer is yes. When we look at the various fish that we enjoy in our lakes, they break down into cold water fish, like rock bass, cool water fish, like yellow perch and warm water fish like sunfish. As the lake temperature continues to warm the cold water fish and even some cool water fish will have problems surviving. Mr. Magnuson felt that the most likely fish to go extinct in our lifetime, from climate change and plus excessive nutrients in our lake Mendota and Monona, is the Cisco (Lake Herring), which is a cold water fish.

Mr. Magnuson concluded with the statement, "Climate change challenges those who love and appreciate the lakes to adapt personally, modify management tools and support love and appreciate the lakes to adapt personally, modify management tools and support policy to shape the future".

## **Guess the Date the Ice is Off Contest**

We had 82 FOLKS members submit their guesses for our 2nd annual Guess the Date the Ice is Off Contest. The winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Springer's.

Our local lake historians, Ardys and Doug Pfundeller, who have been tracking the lake opening and closing for over 15 years will determine the day the lake is open.

The most popular date is April 4th with 8 people predicting this date. Our most optimistic guess is March 29th and our most pessimistic guess is May 1st.

If there are multiple guesses on the day the lake is determined open, the winner will be decided by the date and time their guess was submitted.

Good Luck to all of you who entered the contest! Enjoy the lake whenever it opens.

## **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UPDATE**

Thank you to all members who have sent their renewals in on first notice, you are in the good company of 270 other new or renewed members. The goal is to reach a minimum of 320 members in 2014. This goal is completely plausible; we have new residents around the lake, snow birds who respond to our second notices and residents of the lake who are not yet members.

As a member, please consider speaking to your neighbors about the FOLKS organization and their potential membership. Let them know that we publish a Newsletter and direct them to the website [Kegonsa.org](http://Kegonsa.org) for additional information about FOLKS.

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership please pass on my email address and I will be happy to contact them personally.

Finally, please know that as a member, we are always looking for Committee assistance and ideas on making the organizational improvements in order to meet our goals.

Gloria Kay-Schoeberl  
Gloria@kegonsa.org  
Treasurer

## Citizen Monitoring

There are new volunteer opportunities in support of our lake.

### 1. Clean Lakes Alliance

Last summer The Clean Lakes Alliance had a successful study of lake conditions with citizen volunteers. Two from our lake participated. This year they would like to have eight volunteers on our lake. Last summer we took samples from the end of our piers and made measurements of the temperature and clarity of the water as well as observed environmental conditions such as wave height, wind direction etc. We took one sample each month for phosphorus analysis. I expect a similar protocol with perhaps some expansion this summer. Clean Lakes Alliance will offer four training sessions this spring for volunteers. We will send a Lake Alert when they are announced. See the Clean Lakes website for more information. <http://www.cleanlakesalliance.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Citizen-Monitoring-Pilot-overview.pdf>

### 2. Rock River Coalition

The Rock River Coalition is looking to expand their volunteer stream monitoring network. A grant from the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network will allow 26 new stream volunteers.

As a volunteer stream monitor you will measure water temperatures, assess water clarity, test dissolved oxygen levels, estimate stream flow, and – most fun of all – identify aquatic insects. Some volunteers will be asked to collect monthly water samples. The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District will assess these samples for phosphorus and other nutrients such as total suspended solids and ammonia.

#### Level 1 Stream Monitoring Training

Saturday, 26 April: 9:00AM-2:30PM  
Stoughton Senior Center, Stoughton

Saturday, 3 May 2014 9:00 am - 2:30 pm  
Deforest Area Public Library, Village of Deforest

Saturday, 10 May 2014 9:00 am - 2:30 pm  
Amundson Center, Village of Cambridge

Saturday, 17 May 2014 9:00 am - 2:30 pm  
Dane County Location TBD

#### Level 2 & 3 Stream Monitoring

Saturday, 5 April 2014 9:00 am - 12:45 pm  
Level 2 & 3 Stream Monitoring Training - Deforest Area Public Library, Village of Deforest

Thursday, 1 May 2014 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm  
Level 3 Nutrient Sampling Training - Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District 9 Spring Plant

For more information and to register see:<http://rockrivercoalition.org/projects/citizen-stream-monitoring/>

## Trail to Link Stoughton, Lake Kegonsa

### Lower Yahara River Trail work slated for 2015

(Reprinted from ConnectStoughton.com 02/18/2014 - 06:00)

When it's all said and done, Stoughton and McFarland will be connected by the Lower Yahara River Trail.

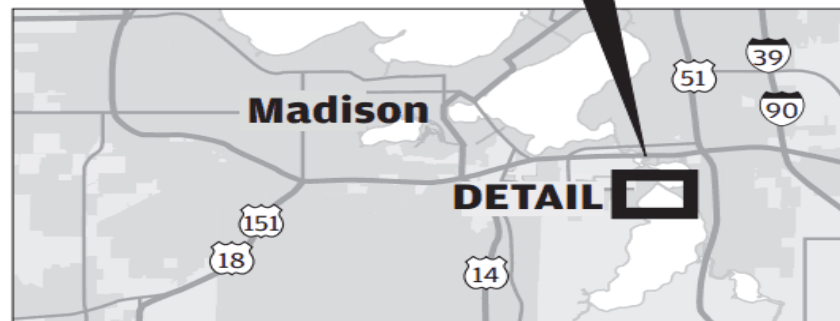
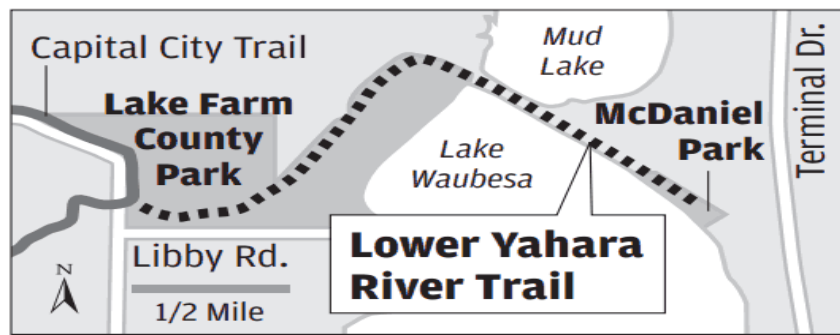
For now, the next step in the ongoing, large-scale project will be to link Stoughton to Lake Kegonsa – Phase 2 in the latest project announced by county officials earlier this week.

The first phase will connect Madison and McFarland, said Dane County Executive Joe Parisi in a press release, and will be the latest improvement in the county's extensive and "nationally known" bicycle trails.

"The Lower Yahara Trail will be a major route for those who commute by bike, and a regional draw that will help boost our outdoor recreation economy," he said.

The 2014 county budget included \$600,000 for the county's share of next steps to develop the new \$5.5 million trail. Parisi said construction could begin as early as next summer, thanks to additional local, federal and state support.

Phase 1 will feature a paved surface, boardwalks and bridges from Capital City Trail at Lake Farm Road in Madison to McDaniel Park in the Village of McFarland. Parisi said the trail will also provide new fishing opportunities on the north shoreline of Lake Waubesa, an area that historically has been relatively inaccessible to shore anglers. Phase two of will connect Stoughton to Lake Kegonsa State Park, with future plans to connect McFarland to Stoughton for one continuous route.



**FOLKS OFFICERS 2014**

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Published four times yearly by The Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.

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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 Gloria Kay at gloria@Kegonsa.org or Peter Foy at PeterF@kegonza.org

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

FOLKS monthly board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month and the public are welcome to attend. Next Meeting is April 9, 2014, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

Halverson's Supper Club, 1965 Barber Drive, Stoughton, WI 53589

**FOLKS Lost and Found**

Contact Cathie Taylor at CathieT@kegonza.org to list lost and found items on the FOLKS website.

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P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589

**Return Service Requested**

## FOLKS Business Members

### Web-Net

**Jensen Taxidermy  
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