



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

President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

Happy New Year! Your FOLKS Board looks forward to another active and interesting year in 2017. 2016 was a very successful year for FOLKS. Here are a few of the highlights:

Membership

FOLKS membership was at an all-time high with 387 household members. This is up from 334 in 2015, an increase of 53 members, a healthy 16% increase. We have 22 business members, an increase of over 50% from 2015.

We appreciate your membership and interest in the health of our lake. We hope you will continue to support us in 2017.

Survey

We conducted a survey of our members in the fall. We had a 52% response rate, which is outstanding. We found that 95% of the members responding felt that FOLKS does a good job, they think the quarterly newsletter is informative and worth reading, appreciate the lake alerts, believes the FOLKS social events are worthwhile and believe that FOLKS close working relationship with government agencies is extremely important.

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

Survey

Our members took the time to make 111 comments about things they liked, or felt could be improved. We are pleased that our members believe we are doing a good job, but also realize that there are always ways to improve.

Carp removal project

The Wisconsin DNR has continued to monitor the 20 carp that had the radio transmitters inserted last fall. They have tracked them by airplane, boat and ATV over the last year. Because of this tracking activity we have a lot of knowledge about where the carp are at various times of the year.

Because of the number of carp in our lake we have set a goal of removing 200,000 lbs. of carp a year for the next five years, for a total removal of 1,000,000 lbs. of carp. Because we are expanding our effort from our initial plan of one, or two years to five years it is obviously going to be a more expensive project that we had originally planned.

The WDNR plans to rebid the carp removal contract for Lake Kegonsa which will include a minimum of 15 days of fishing or 100,000 pounds removed. While this is less than the 200,000 we would like to see as the minimum requirement. The contract for 2016 had no minimum removal requirement.

There was a nice article about our carp project that appeared on the front page of the Wisconsin State Journal. We received a lot of positive feedback about the article.

We are hoping to tie down the time for a major carp removal this winter, so we can announce it possibly at our annual meeting. It will either be in February, through the ice, or just as the ice starts coming off the lake, probably in early March. Based on our telemetry study early March would have been a good time in 2016.

Financials

FOLKS is in the strongest financial position it has ever been in. Thanks to generous donations from the Bryant Foundation, Dane County, Clean Lakes Alliance, Stoughton Conservation Club and many of our members we believe we are in a position to finance the first few years of carp removal. With additional donations over the next couple of years we should be able to finance the entire five year project.

Door Creek

We started to focus more on the importance Door Creek has to Lake Kegonsa in 2016. We had a successful kayak and canoe aquatic tour trip in the creek in September. We had organizational help from the Dane County Land and Water Resources Dept. Rutabaga Water Sports donated some canoes, Ian's Pizza donated some pizzas and Leienkugel Brewery provided beverages and door prizes. We are hoping to expand this outing in 2017.

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President's Message ~ Peter Foy (Continued From Page 2)

Door Creek

You can hear about an exciting new initiative to help clean up some Dane County Creeks, including Door Creek at our annual meeting. (You can read more about this later in the newsletter.)

Monitoring

FOLKS members continued their volunteer work monitoring our lake and other waterways. Clean Lakes Alliance is driving this initiative and they are starting to accumulate some meaningful data which will become more valuable each year going forward. (There is more information about this by Board Member Bill Lamm in this newsletter)

Leaf Management

FOLKS is working to educate our members and others in the community about the negative impact phosphorus that comes from leaves have on our lake.

Proper handling of leaves can reduce up to 80% of the phosphorus making it into our lakes from leaves.

We had educational articles published in The Thistle, The Hub and our FOLKS newsletter.

Working with Supervisor Tom McGinnis, who is also a FOLKS Board member, we were able to work with the Town of Pleasant Springs to expand the hours at their refuse site this fall. We will continue to work with them in 2017 to further enhance this program.

The FOLKS Board would like to thank you for your continued support. Please consider volunteering to become a Board member. We will have two openings in 2017. We have an active, fun Board and I think you would enjoy being a part of it. If you have any questions about what is involved please contact me.



FOLKS Annual meeting

Mark the date on your calendar for our annual meeting.

When: Saturday, January 21, 2016

Where: Stoughton Country Club

Time: 10:00am

Agenda: Review of activities in 2016 and looking ahead to 2017. We will be electing Board members to two year terms. If you are interested in getting involved to help our lake please let us know ahead of time, or at the meeting. We will have room for two new Board members

Special guest; John Reimer, Dane County Water Resources Engineer, who will describe the exciting "Suck the Muck" project that could help us clean up Door Creek, that drains directly into Lake Kegonsa.

In September Dane County Executive Joe Parisi announced a significant breakthrough in efforts to clean up the Yahara Chain of Lakes. The cornerstone of Parisi's 2017 Dane County budget is a new \$12 million initiative to clean up 33 miles of streams that feed phosphorus directly in the lakes on a daily basis. This work will remove 870,000 pounds of phosphorus, the chief culprit responsible for algae growth, from area waters. Remember, one lb. of Phosphorus can result in 500 lbs. of algae.



Ice-On Contest

Who would have thought with our balmy fall weather that the lake would freeze as early as it did? Not many of you thought it would! In fact of our 92 entries only 5 of you guessed earlier than December 14, which is the date our lake historians, Ardys and Doug Pfundheller declared the lake frozen.

Our winner for our 2016 contest is Kathy Trebec, who will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Springers. Our thanks to Springers for their donation as well as hosting our FOLKS Board monthly meetings.

Thanks to all of you who entered guesses for the contest. Our earliest submission was for December 3 and our last guess was for January 21. The most popular dates were Dec. 22, 28 and 29 and January 5 with 7 guesses on each of those dates.

Watch for the email announcing the Ice-Off contest. With this unpredictable inter, (it is 42 degrees as I write this) we will start the contest soon!

2017 FOLKS Membership

Thank you for your commitment and support of FOLKS (Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society). The FOLKS annual dues run from January 1st to December 31st each year. Your FOLKS renewal request will arrive in your mail later in January.

The basic membership fee remains the same at \$20.00 per household if the newsletters and lake alerts are emailed to you. If you prefer to have the newsletter mailed, then the membership request is for \$30.00 to cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletters.

Your membership contribution enables FOLKS to continue important improvement initiatives impacting Lake Kegonsa.

Pleasant Springs Town Board Opening

The following important message is from FOLKS Board member Tom McGinnis.

Hi - My name is Tom McGinnis. I currently serve on the FOLKS Board of Directors and also as a Supervisor on the Pleasant Springs Town Board. After 18 years of service with the town I decided not to run for reelection. I have enjoyed my time on the Pleasant Springs Board and it has been a privilege to serve our residents. For many years there has been at least one member of the Pleasant Springs Board that is a lakefront owner, however with my leaving that will no longer be the case. The board is involved with many decisions regarding zoning and development and I believe it is important for lakefront owners to be represented. I would like to encourage you to consider running for the board. The caucus for nominating someone to fill my seat will be Jan 17 at 5:30 at the Town Hall. If you have any questions about serving on the board or the nominating process, please feel free to give me a call at [608-877-0462](tel:608-877-0462)
Thank you,

Tom McGinnis

Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds Networking Meeting on December 3, 2016 By Pat Guiney

FOLKS participated in an exciting gathering of local groups of people working on local actions to improve local water resources. There were 17 different presenters including FOLKS Board member Pat Guiney. Each water-related group in Dane County had the chance to give a quick "3-minute, 3-slide" overview of their major projects and accomplishments over the past year.

The FOLKS presentation covered three of our more prominent projects.

1. Carp elimination project. We described how 20 carp were radio tagged by WIS DNR for this project and how FOLKS has been following their migration patterns with the goal of removing as many as possible from Lake Kegonsa over the next 5 years. The history of how carp were once actually stocked in Lake Kegonsa during the 1800's for food. This project generated a lot of interest since FOLKS is actively collaborating with several different stakeholders including the WI DNR, Dane County and UW Limnology Department. A key challenge thus far has been figuring out when is best time (greatest concentration, vulnerability) to remove the carp and also finding the best contractor to do this work. At least one other organization (Friends of Cherokee Marsh) also mentioned that they have sponsored a smaller scale carp removal project for the past two years.

2. Door Creek tour. We discussed our recent organization and sponsorship of an educational aquatic tour of Door Creek (an important contributor of phosphorus to Lake Kegonsa). Lots of people that live on the Yahara Chain of lakes and even right on Lake Kegonsa are not aware of the Door Creek input. The purpose of the FOLKS tour and the update during the networking meeting was to educate people about the creek and Dane County management plan. This project was seen by the Networking group as a great example of how to organize an interesting educational outing and provide very useful information to people while having fun at the same time. FOLKS had excellent sponsors and a good turnout for this event and will likely consider doing something similar again next year.

3. Fall Leaves control project. We described why FOLKS is trying to raise awareness of how leaves contribute to phosphorus loading to Lake Kegonsa. We discussed the landowner survey we conducted to discover current practices and, what types of activities landowners would be interested and willing to support to manage their leaves in a more sustainable manner in the future. This particular topic was also of great interest to the networking group. Leave management was recognized by several groups including: Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership (MAMSWaP), Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, Fitchburg Stormwater Utility, and Friends of Lake Wingra. It is clear that improving how people manage the removal and disposal of their leaves each fall is a critical issue that impacts the entire Yahara Chain of lakes and creeks.

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Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds Networking Meeting on December 3, 2016 By Pat Guiney (Continued From Page 6)

After the presentations, the participants had an hour of open networking time to give everyone the chance to connect with other groups to learn more about projects that peaked their interest.

We talked with Lance Green from Friends of Starkweather Creek about their annual creek clean-up events and canoe tours. They also conduct monthly citizens water quality monitoring similar to Lake Kegonsa and sponsor a summer environmental education camp for kids at the Goodman Center.

The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy has an active program of education for 3 and 4 year-olds and is sponsoring a study of health and healing effects of the outdoors. They also have a leaf pilot program that encourages residents to keep their leaves out of the creek.

Emily Jones of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) stressed how prevention is less expensive than removing pollutants from the water later. This is a strategy that relies on help from communities to meet goals. MMSD has prevention program in place to address salt reduction, agricultural and urban run-off and mercury.

Many of the other groups shared common goals of reducing organic inputs to waterways, improving educational opportunities for their communities, and creating collaborative partnerships to accomplish these goals. There is a new improved website sponsored by the Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds that is a good resources to check out to find out more about the many activities that are happening in Dane County to improve our lakes and streams: <https://olw-lwr.dane.gov/Dane>

Water Clarity Monitoring By Bill Lamm

Volunteer members of FOLKS are collecting data for the Clean Lakes Alliance to make it available for enhanced science based decision making. The goal of Clean Lakes is to reduce the phosphorus in the Yahara lakes by 50% by 2025. The Clean Lakes Alliance has 72 near-shore and 7 offshore monitoring stations covering all five of the Yahara Lakes.

For Lake Kegonsa, members of FOLKS monitor 5 near-shore and one offshore station. Our volunteers, Harmon and Nell Ray, Jim Wilcox, Jim Cordray, Sarah Balz, and myself, made 219 observations this year. We also took over the Lake Kegonsa Deep Hole monitoring from the Clean Lakes staff. (<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/station.aspx?id=133122>)

Next year we would like to expand the monitoring of the beach in Lake Kegonsa State Park. We need a volunteer for that site as well as someone to do end of pier monitoring on AB. We can always use more monitors.

Volunteers use a Secchi tube to measure water clarity and check the air and water temperature. They also note the wave intensity, waterfowl, bathers, floating plants and algae. This data is logged into the website and is immediately available online at www.lakeforecast.org .

The clarity of the lake was lower this year with the average of 75 cm vs. 86 last year. The number of reports of maximum clarity (120 cm, almost 4 feet) was way down this year at 30 vs. 62 last year.

FOLKS Business Members

Please Shop and Support FOLKS Fabulous Business Members

Web-Net	webdesign@web-net.us
Springers	(608) 205-9300
Stoughton Country Club	(608) 873-8464
Inkworks, Inc.	(608) 873-7755
Clean Lakes Alliance	james@cleanlakesalliance.com
Computer Management & Accounting	PO Box 301 Stoughton WI 53589
Crown Point Resort	(608) 873-7833
Dean Thomas Homes, Inc.	deanh454@gmail.com
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Jensen Taxidermy	mikejensentaxidermy@gmail.com
Jim's Tree Service	(608) 838-8188
No Shorts Electric	noshortselectric@gmail.com
Smokey's Auto Body	(608) 873-6678
T.L. HOME FINISHING & PAINTING	(608) 873-9266
Terry Kahl Plumbing	305 Industrial Cir Stoughton 53589
Thane B Anderson DDS	drthaneanderson@tds.net
Thunderbird Engineering, Inc.	(608) 223-9040
Kegonsa Cove Henmas Inc.	(608) 838-6494
Town of Dunn	4156 County HWY B McFarland 53558
Bryant Foundation (Edwin & Janet)	PO BOX 600 Stoughton WI 53589
McFarland State Bank	(608) 873-2010



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**Send news of interest to FOLKS to:
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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 ConnieH@Kegonsa.org or Peter Foy at PeterF@kegonsa.org

FOLKS Lost and Found

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

For More About FOLKS, Visit Our Website at WWW.Kegonsa.org and on Facebook 

FOLKS monthly board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month and the public are welcome to attend. Next Meeting is January 11, 2017, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

Springers, 3097 Sunnyside St., Stoughton, WI 53589

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Return Service Requested