



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
September 2019

President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

We have another information packed newsletter for you this quarter.

You will see that we are moving along nicely on all of our projects. Almost every Board member heads up one of our projects and their attention to detail is what keeps everything on track.

As part of our member survey the majority of our members indicated that they thought our education session last year was beneficial and would like to continue with these. Because of the continued high level of interest in water levels and aquatic plant management this will be the theme of our session again this year. You will see a save the date notice in the newsletter. We had 220 attendees last year and we are again expecting a large turnout.

Speaking of water levels, our lake has been maintained at a manageable level this year. It continues to be over summer maximum, but is in considerably better shape than the other lakes. At the time this article was written Lake Kegonsa was 6.2 inches over summer maximum, while Lake Waubesa was 18.7 inches over summer maximum and Lake Monona was 21.4 inches over maximum. John Reimer will be addressing the proposed dredging plans to help increase the flow on the Yahara River at our educational session. We’ve included his article on the proposed dredging in this newsletter.

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President's Message, continued

We are wrapping up our barge pickup project and are about to move into our leaf vacuuming project. Thanks to John Bottorff for managing the barge project and to Connie Hagen for getting the alerts out when the barges were coming through. John Reimer and his county crew did a wonderful job.

We are waiting to hear if the carp fishermen will be able to come back this fall. Last year there was so much plant growth that the fishermen couldn't use their nets. As you probably know, we had our most successful catch this spring, when we removed 162,135 lbs. of carp. We are hoping they can come back yet this fall.

We are getting complaints about the amount of cut plants being left behind by the harvesters. John Bottorff and I went out on one of the harvester's on Friday, Sept 20. We didn't entirely solve the mystery of the floating plants, but you can read about our experience in John's article. (Yes, that is John driving the harvester in the picture. So, if any plants were missed lately, you know who to blame.)

As always, feel free to contact me, or any of our Board members with questions. Everyone's contact information is in the back of the newsletter. – *Peter Foy*

Memorial Gifts in Honor of Bill Lamm



CLA Water Monitoring Award



Installing RRC thermistor in Door Creek

Bill Lamm, longtime **FOLKS** Board member died on July 21, 2019. Bill spent his career as an industrial microbiologist and held a number of US Patents. In his retirement he volunteered for many lake association projects in the Madison area. He was very interested in water quality and monitoring Lake Kegonsa and the Door Creek watershed.

Bill Lamm, continued

Bill was chair of the **FOLKS** water level committee and water monitoring and he was the liaison for information and links in the **FOLKS** website. He was part of the pilot project for citizen monitoring with the Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA) which is now a robust monitoring program with dozens of volunteers.

Bill's wife Connie Hagen (another of our **FOLKS** Board members) asked that memorials be given to **FOLKS**, the Clean Lakes Alliance or the Madison Symphony Orchestra. So far, \$2,675 has been given to **FOLKS** in Bill's honor. A memorial bench will be installed at Fish Camp County Park and additional water monitoring equipment will be purchased for Bill's memorial.

In addition, the Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society Board has committed to making a \$1,050 donation to the Rock River Coalition (RRC) to help finance their water monitoring efforts in three different sites close to Door Creek and Lake Kegonsa. The testing will include evaluation of total phosphorus, total kjeldahl nitrogen, ammonia, nitrate, and total suspended sediment. We believe this will help in our effort to provide good data to work with the county on sediment removal and land acquisition projects in the Door Creek Watershed. Bill was a strong believer of the benefits of water monitoring and was an active volunteer for the Rock River Coalition for many years.

We will all miss Bill's quiet demeanor, his easy smile and of course, his scientific expertise.

Save the Date –Lake Kegonsa Educational Program Nov. 20th

In our spring survey, 53% of our members asked for more educational programs. Over 220 people attended the talk by John Reimer and Dane County Executive Joe Parisi in November last year which covered lake levels and other issues.

In response, **FOLKS** has scheduled another special presentation at the **Stoughton Country Club on Wednesday November 20th, at 6:00 pm.** **John Reimer** is the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department Assistant Director and he is responsible for lake level management including aquatic plant harvesting and operation of the three dams in the Yahara Chain of Lakes. See his article on sediment removal later in this newsletter. **Pete Jopke** will also be presenting at the educational seminar. He is a Water Resources Planner for Dane County. Among other things, they will be covering:

- 2019 water levels and actions
- Update on future dredging plans
- Plant harvesting totals from the river and the lake
- Review of the **FOLKS** 2019 pier pick up program
- Results of the 2019 plant sonar survey
- Results of 2019 nearshore fish survey on Lake Kegonsa

We will send additional information about the program and a sign up link in a later email.

Curbside Leaf Pick Up – **FOLKS** Leaf Management Project

The very popular Leaf Management Program initiated by **FOLKS** will run again this fall. The **Town of Dunn** and the **Town of Pleasant Springs** will both continue to vacuum leaves around Lake Kegonsa. This is an important initiative to help clean up our streets and lake. **FOLKS** is partnering with the Towns bordering the shores of Lake Kegonsa and the **City of Stoughton** to reduce the phosphorus entering our waterways from storm water flowing over leaves.

76% of the respondents in our spring **FOLKS** survey said they deal with fall leaves themselves, while 23% use a lawn care service. Many homeowners used a combination of methods to remove leaves: 53% of the survey respondents used the leaf pick up service last year and 46% mow and let the shredded leaves stay on the lawn, 38% hauled to the Towns' yard waste drop off sites and 17% rake to a compost area in the yard. These are all excellent methods for keeping the phosphorus from leaves out of the lake.

To enhance this effort, we encourage you to remove the leaves from the street near your house and include them with your other leaves. As water flows over leaves, phosphorus is leached out of the leaves and into the storm water. Storm drains and runoff through leaves from steep yards flow directly into the lake.

Leaf Pick up Schedule:

The most difficult part is to determine when the leaves will fall and when the leaf vacuum truck will be on your street. As there were last year we will send **FOLKS** email announcements as we have new information and to remind members of scheduled collection dates.

The **Town of Dunn** has asked residents to sign up for email notifications about their leaf collection program. To subscribe to the email notification list and find leaf collection updates, visit www.town.dunn.wi.us and search 'Leaf Management'. The Town of Dunn plans to have two leaf collections. Signs will be posted throughout your area to notify you a collection will be taking place soon.

The **Town of Pleasant Springs** is sharing the City of Stoughton's equipment on weekends so they will collect leaves on Friday afternoon and Saturday mornings. The preliminary schedule for the Town of Pleasant Springs is the weeks of November 8th, 15th and 22nd. **FOLKS** will place announcement signs for the Town every few blocks around the lake with the dates of the next collection clearly marked.



Of course, leaf vacuuming is always subject to weather conditions and availability of staff.

Important Procedures for leaf vacuuming:

The leaf vacuum truck is specifically designed to pick up leaves but it will not pick up sticks or brush.

This clogs the machine and takes staff a lot of time to clear the vacuum tube and could possibly damage this very expensive machine. To make the vacuuming process as efficient as possible, please:

- Rake leaves away from the lake and to an area by the roadside, but don't place them on the pavement.
- Place your leaves in a row not more than 4' wide, not in a large pile.
- Keep brush, rocks, animal waste, tall grasses and other non-leaf material out of the leaves.
- Place leaves at least four feet from any mailbox or utility pole.
- Clear the leaves from the street in front of your home.
- Try not to park near any raked leaves.
- If you can, cover leaves if rain is forecasted.
- If you're hauling leaves a longer distance, try raking them onto a large tarp or sheet. Dragging the tarp makes transferring leaves to the roadside much easier.

FOLKS Involvement

FOLKS has helped the Towns and the City of Stoughton with coordination of this project. **FOLKS** is continuing to assist both Towns with mailings and educational materials. In this 3rd pilot project year, the Town of Dunn is taking the lead in funding and running their leaf pick up. In the Town of Pleasant Springs, **FOLKS** continues to assist with funding for leasing equipment from the City of Stoughton and covering some employee costs for the leaf pick up around Lake Kegonsa.

Other ways you can help:

- Talk with your neighbors about the leaf management project.
- Remove leaves throughout the season and from the street as well as your yard.
- Remind your lawn maintenance service not to blow leaves in the lake or the road.
- Don't burn leaves. Burning leaves is not permissible in either Town and it concentrates the phosphorous that ends up in the lake.
- Volunteer to help rake leaves for people who need assistance.
- Check your Town's website for compost site days and hours.

Show your support by displaying a "We Are Helping Our Lake" sign in your yard. You can use your yard sign from last year or get one from any **FOLKS** board member.



Properly managing leaves can reduce the amount of phosphorous entering our waterways through storm water by 80% compared to no leaf removal.

We appreciate your efforts to help Lake Kegonsa!!

FOLKS Board Members Ride the Aquatic Plant Harvester

“Why do I have so many so many weeds on my shoreline when they are cutting in the river and lake?” **FOLKS** receives this type of question from a number of lake and river residents during the aquatic plant-cutting season.

On September 20th, Peter Foy and John Bottorff, two members of the **FOLKS** Board rode along on the aquatic plant harvester with an operator from the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department (LWRD). The purpose of this ride along was to see the harvesting operation first-hand and learn how it works. John Reimer from LWRD willingly made arrangements for us to ride along. Peter Jopke, Water Resources Planner with LWRD, met us at Fish Camp County Park and explained the aquatic plant harvesting operation and answered questions. He introduced us to two of the LWRD staff, Donn Kidd, who operates the harvesting equipment and Cliff Kessler, who operates the conveyor on shore and drives the truck that disposes of the aquatic plants. Both of these individuals are skilled employees and were very helpful. We spent two hours with Donn on the harvester in the Yahara River and on Lake Kegonsa while in operation - cutting, collecting, and unloading aquatic plants. John Bottorff had an opportunity to drive the harvester and collect aquatic plants in open lake waters under Donn’s watchful guidance. We learned it takes skill and finesse to properly operate the harvester especially in tight spots near piers and the shoreline.



**Aquatic Plant Harvester
in the Yahara River at Fish Camp**



John Bottorff and Peter Foy from FOLKS

In 2019, Dane County increased its budget and added several new pieces of harvesting equipment partially in response to flooding in 2018. The Dane County Land & Water Resources Department has thirteen harvesters and one new transport barge that was added this year at a cost of approximately \$250,000. The harvesters are busy from the end of May to early October cutting aquatic plants on rivers and lakes throughout Dane County. Much of this cutting is on the Yahara River and the Madison chain of lakes (which includes Lake Kegonsa), but harvesting is done on other bodies of water throughout Dane County. During the peak season, the County crew consists of approximately twenty employees who are temporary, seasonal workers.

The primary objectives of aquatic harvesting are: (1) flood mitigation by increasing the flow of water through the river and lakes and (2) improving navigation for recreation, boating, and

beach access. The harvesters operate on the Yahara River north and south of Lake Kegonsa as well as around the shoreline of the lake. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) issues permits to the County regulating where harvesting can be done. For example, the WDNR permit for Lake Kegonsa allows harvesting along the shoreline out to a distance of about 30 or 40 feet from the end of piers. Harvesting is not permitted along the undeveloped shorelines adjacent to Door Creek, Kegonsa State Park, and LaFollette County Park.

Peter Jopke and the harvester operator told us that the harvesters are about 70% to 80% effective in collecting cut aquatic plants. In other words, they are able to collect most of the cut aquatic plants, but not all of them. There are several reasons for this. First, when cutting on the Yahara River, the harvesters can only effectively cut going upstream against the river's current. If cutting going downstream, the river current bends the aquatic plants over and the harvester is not able to cut effectively. The harvester collects the majority of the aquatic plants as they are cut, but some float downstream and are not collected on the first pass. The harvester's conveyor is 10 feet wide, so when aquatic plants float outside that width, they have to make several additional passes upstream and downstream to collect floating aquatic plants that are missed on the first pass. This is not foolproof and some aquatic plants still escape the harvester's collection conveyor belt. Second, water and wind currents in the river and lake push the aquatic plants causing accumulation along some shorelines. Third, some aquatic plants, such as wild celery, naturally die and float to the water's surface on their own adding to accumulation on the shoreline.

On the day we rode the harvester, we observed floating aquatic plants at the mouth of the Yahara River from cutting the day before. We were able to collect most of those floating plants by making several passes, but did not collect all of them. The harvester crews are dedicated and conscientious individuals and do their best to collect as many of the cut plants as possible. They are able to collect about 70% to 80%, but will not be able to get 100% of the aquatic plants. On a normal cutting day, each harvester collects and disposes of about five to eight large harvester loads of aquatic plants. The barge pick-up program that **FOLKS** started this year helps residents so they can place aquatic plants at the end of their piers for collection monthly. Also, several times this season, **FOLKS** received e-mails and photos from residents showing an unusually large accumulation of aquatic plants along their shoreline. In those cases, **FOLKS** contacted Dane County Land & Water Resources and they very cooperatively sent a harvester to collect those plants as soon as they could. We had positive feedback from residents on those efforts by the harvester crews.

Peter and John enjoyed the ride along and learned a great deal about the aquatic plant harvesting program. We appreciate the cooperation and thank Dane County representatives who made our ride along so informative – John Reimer, Peter Jopke, Donn Kidd, and Cliff Kessler.

***FOLKS* Is a Friend of Fish Camp County Park**

Dane County Parks Commissioners - Dave Ripp (Commission Chair & County Supervisor), Analiese Eicher (County Supervisor), Dan Wisniewski, Nancy Bogue, and Stefanie Brouwer - met at Fish Camp County Park on August 28th. Darren Marsh, Director of Dane County Parks, and

Chris James, Senior Landscape Architect and **FOLKS** attended and made presentations to the commissioners.

FOLKS board members Peter Foy, Janice Kellogg, Rick Thorstad and Connie Hagen attended and Janice gave a comprehensive presentation of **FOLKS** projects related to Fish Camp County Park to the commissioners. **FOLKS** has made numerous contributions to Fish Camp Park as a "Friend" of the park:

- **Equipment:** Provided financial assistance for the handicapped accessible pier, provided and maintains picnic tables, funded a memorial bench (a second memorial bench is funded and planned) and purchased poles for Purple Martin houses.
- **Grounds:** Planted and maintains native flowerbed at entrance sign to park, created, planted and maintains a shoreline garden, collected seeds from our plants to grow seedlings for "Plant Dane", and weeded and mulched the park's mature trees.
- **Education:** Designed the signage explaining the advantage of native plants along the shoreline, built a little house for educational brochures, conducted aquatic canoe/kayak tours of Door Creek and the Yahara River from the park, registered the park as a monarch butterfly way station and contacted other "friends" groups to create a monarch corridor in Dane County.
- **Structures:** Obtained repair estimates on roofing, siding and painting to help the Parks Dept. with planning, found a mill that would recreate the unique siding for repairing rotting boards on the two historic buildings, hired contractors to do the siding repairs, funded the wood and contractor costs.
- **Possible Future Projects:** Open the net house for public use, support the new bike trail through the park, financial assistance to repair/replace one of the fishing piers, put in goose deterrent wires near the shoreline garden, establish one or more rain gardens, provide other shoreline plantings, remove/fix drains that run directly into lake. **FOLKS** will plan on a picnic/aquatic tour next year to celebrate the completion of the refurbishment of the Fish Camp historic buildings.

The **FOLKS** board also informed the Parks Commission about other major **FOLKS** projects to educate members & clean up Lake Kegonsa such as carp removal, leaf management, aquatic debris pick up, water monitoring, and the November 2018 lake levels presentation attended by more than 220 people.

We discussed the following county projects of major importance to Lake Kegonsa and **FOLKS** members:

- **Door Creek Suck the Muck (see the following article):** Door Creek is scheduled for 2020. Door Creek contributes the 2nd highest phosphorus load to the Yahara chain but is 5th on the list to be remediated.

- **Dredging in Yahara River below LaFollette Dam (see the article below):** Scheduled for 2020. As the southernmost lake in the Yahara chain it is extremely important that water which flows into Lake Kegonsa from the upper lakes has a clear channel to flow out.
- **Land Purchase Program:** Support land acquisition along Door Creek and in the Door Creek Wetland area to decrease runoff into Lake Kegonsa and mitigate flooding.

Other Parks Commission Business:

The main agenda item for the Parks Commission Meeting was the approval to proceed with the Anderson Farm Dog Park facility improvements.

Darren Marsh, Director of Dane County Parks, gave a short history of Fish Camp Park and the way it was used in carp harvesting from the 1930's to the 1960's. Darren said now that the county has replaced the roofs and the siding has been repaired, they are hoping to get the historic buildings painted yet this fall.

Chris James, Senior Landscape Architect, at the Dane County Parks Division, made a presentation about **Phase 2 of the Lower Yahara River Trail** which will run through Fish Camp County Park, across Door Creek and on to Lake Kegonsa State Park. As Chris explained, the planning phase is proceeding on schedule and a detailed map of the proposed bike/hike trail was presented.

- The county is currently testing the soil on the path from the parking lot at Fish Camp to Door Creek and hopes that it will be firm enough so the path can be paved. The testing equipment is currently in the parking lot. From old aerial photos it appears that this was once a road going back to a few cottages and duck blinds so they are encouraged that this could be a paved part of the trail.
- The fence will be removed from the area by the net house and this area will provide additional parking for bike/hike trail users.
- Opening the net house for public use seems to make some sense given the location of the new parking lot, but the county has not studied this yet.
- The bridge that will span Door Creek is expected to be built without supports in the creek bed so that access to Door Creek by boats, canoes and kayaks will not be impeded by the bridge.
- The estimate of the cost for Phase 2 is in excess of \$2M.

FOLKS met with members of the Environment, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Commission and the Lakes and Watershed Commission on August 22nd at Fish Camp Park. The group, led by John Reimer and Laura Hicklin, was at Fish Camp to learn about the aquatic plant harvesting, barge pick up program and to learn about **FOLKS** involvement with the park. John Bottorff and Janice Kellogg provided information on **FOLKS** activities and goals to the group and answered their questions.

Dane County Legacy Sediment Removal (Suck the Muck)

FOLKS Board members, Janice Kellogg and Connie Hagen, attended the Clean Lakes Alliance field trip to the 2nd location for the Dane County sediment removal project at Token Creek on September 24th. James Tye, Executive Director, spoke about the overall clean waters initiatives in Dane County and Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive, spoke about the county's \$12 million legacy sediment removal project "Suck the Muck". Overall goals include improvement in water quality, enhancement of recreational opportunities, and restoration of aquatic habitat.

The walking tour encompassed three educational stations (information courtesy of CLA):

1. Project Background

- Token Creek: Spring fed creek ~10 miles long discharging into Cherokee Marsh. The stream was listed as impaired in 1998 due to elevated phosphorous and suspended sediment.
- Water Quality: Estimated 30,000 pounds of phosphorous, 2-3 feet of mucky sediment, expect to remove 14,000 cubic yards (20,000 tons) of sediment.
- Recreational opportunities: Expected improvements in navigation and launching access for kayaking and canoeing and stream access for fishing.

2. Removal Method

- Mucky sediments will be removed using a hydraulic dredge.
- Sediments will be pumped through a pipeline to a dewatering area where they will be captured to dry and then covered with prairie to hold the phosphorous laden soil against erosion.
- Stagnated backwater areas will be filled in to improve aquatic habitat and stream access.

3. Aquatic Habitat

- Habitat restoration will include in-stream boulder placement, rock deflectors, root wads, and ditch plugs to provide more thermal and physical habitat for hiding and spawning fish.
- Token Creek fishery is in good condition and WI DNR plans to conduct post-restoration fish surveys to gauge improvements.

Some of the speakers at the stations:



Darren Marsh, Director
of Dane Co Parks

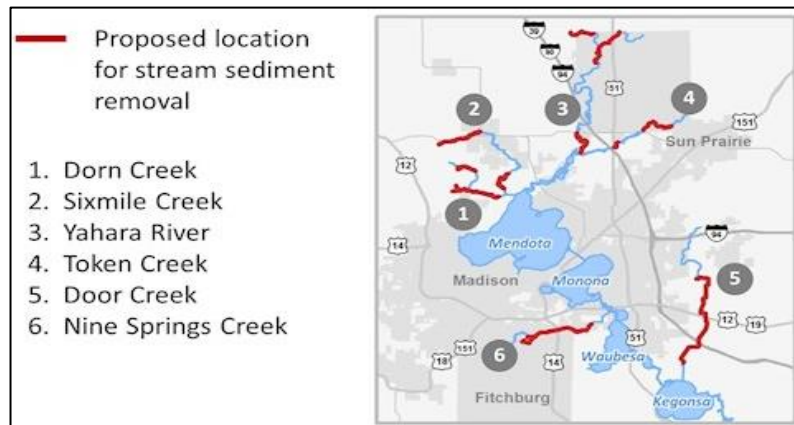


John Reimer, Assistant Director
LWRD, (Hydraulic dredge behind)



Dan Oele, Fisheries
Biologist WI DNR

Sediment removal from Dorn Creek north of Lake Mendota was completed in 2018. Door Creek which feeds into Lake Kegonsa is on the schedule for legacy sediment removal in 2020.



Multiphase Project to Mitigate Flooding and Improve Water Flow

John Reimer, Assistant Director, Dane County Lakes and Water Resources Department

After last August's heavy rains and widespread flooding, a Dane County technical work group developed a report of findings from modeling various scenarios to improve resiliency for future events. Following the technical work group report, a task force began meeting, which made final policy recommendations in March 2019. One of those recommendations that received large support from the public was removal of sediment in the Yahara River. The analysis from the technical report showed that if sediment was removed and 2018 was repeated, the water level in lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa would be 6", 12", 11", and 7" lower, respectively.

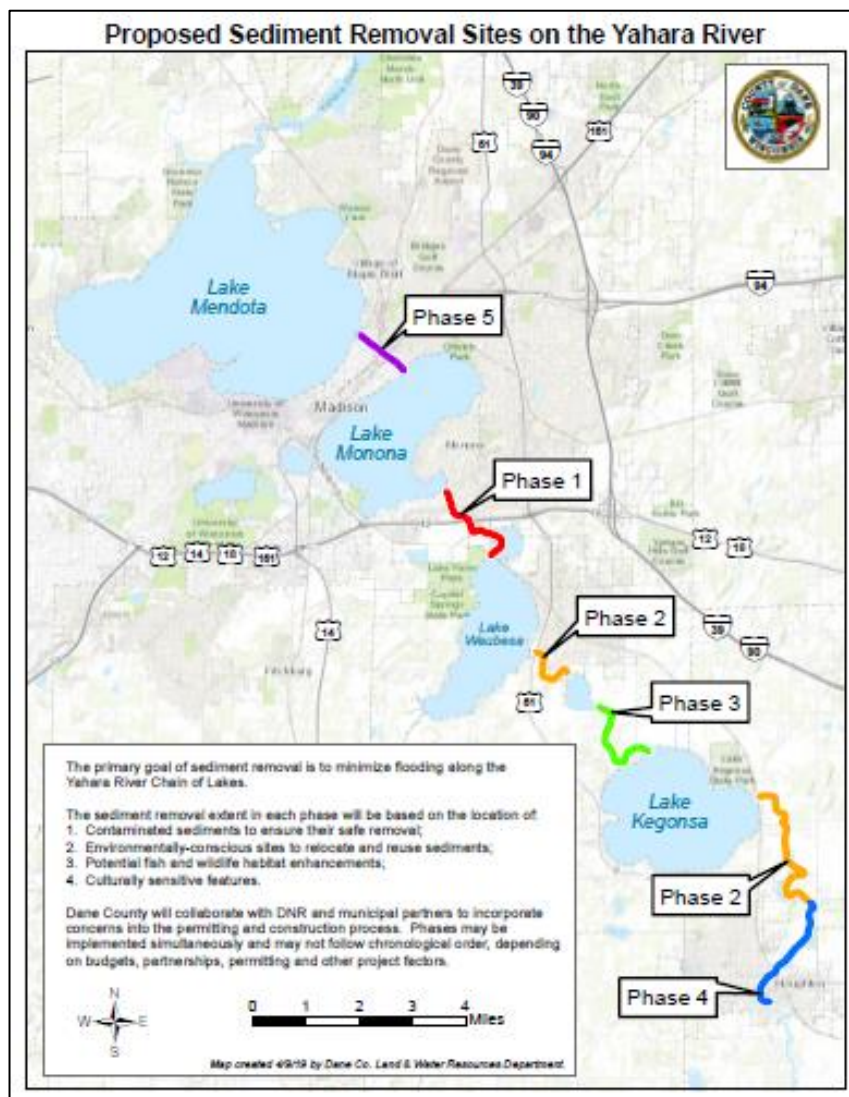
Currently, water comes into the Yahara Lakes faster than it goes out. Thus, after repetitive and heavy rainfall events, the lake levels increase. The efficient movement of water through each lake is undermined by sediment loading in the Yahara River. While sediment movement is a naturally occurring process, accumulation of sediment in the Yahara River and Lakes is greatly increased by human activity, including urban development and winter sand operations. It's estimated that over 8.5 million pounds of sediment enters the Yahara River and Lakes each year from urban runoff.

The County's multi-year sediment removal project in the Yahara Lakes will take place in five phases, with each phase carried out as Dane County secures permitting. The benefit to reduce flooding for all lakes is realized when sediment accumulation has been removed along the Yahara chain, thus it is critical that the phases are planned as timely as possible. Several factors were considered for a five-phase plan including: 1. readily available sediment and bathymetry data for developing engineering plans, 2. contaminated sediments that will impact permitting timelines, 3. proximity of dewatering locations to the river, and 4. culturally sensitive features. For example, phase 3 in the map below contains the location of the Native American fish weir. As discussions with the Ho-Chunk nation are being conducted for possible options to honor history but accommodate the needed flow in the river, sediment removal in other locations can still be performed.

The first phase, taking place between Lakes Monona and Waubesa, is expected to begin fall 2019 and completed summer 2020. Engineering plans have been completed and the project is being bid for

construction. Specifically, the project will involve removal of approximately 40,000 cubic yards of sediment between Monona to Waubesa. For some, it may be hard to imagine how much volume this is – so one way to think about the volume is to imagine that it would equate to over 3,000 dump truck loads of sediment. The removal of sediment will be performed hydraulically by suctioning the sediment from the river bottom and transferring through a pipeline to a dewatering basin. At the dewatering basin, the sediments will be separated from the water where the sediments will be reused for other projects such as roadways. The estimated cost of the first phase is \$3 million.

For the remainder of the phases, obtaining current data is necessary for permitting, engineering plan development, and contract bidding. Data on sediment contamination is critical for permitting and to ensure the sediment removal does not result in water toxicity issues. Currently, Dane County has taken sediment cores and completed laboratory testing of contaminants for all five phases. For phases 2 through 5, we are obtaining high resolution bathymetry data, which will be used to develop engineering plans. Also, the bathymetry data will be utilized during construction to confirm adequate volume of sediment is removed at the proper location in the river. These items previously mentioned are a few components of this multi-phase sediment removal project. Please stay tuned as Dane County Land and Water Resources Department will be providing information on their website for current project status.



Nonagenarians Share Historical Perspectives of Lake Kegonsa

Kim VanBrocklin

The summative knowledge we can glean from our eldest riparians is invaluable. Their stories, photographs, and intellectual capital will serve as time capsules for future decades. When interviewing these Lake Kegonsa historians (aged 90+ years young), I was captivated...and hope you will be too!

Lenore Rowe has lived on Lake Kegonsa for 61 years. As a Clinical Psychologist who had just completed her MS degree from Purdue University, she and her Physicist-husband (Ednor) decided to save all of her pay-checks for a full year. They then purchased their lake home with 66 feet of lake frontage "built by Governor (Patrick) Lucey's mother-in-law," and paid \$14,500.



Lenore is pictured (above) amid a sign honoring her late husbands' pivotal work at the UW Synchrotron Radiation building. The lab on Schneider Drive where he conducted materials research originated in 1963. "Ednor held open-houses there, to address the public's questions or concerns about radiation."

While raising their four children, Lenore relied on ingenuity. She said that "due to the sloping 305-foot lot, I put ankle bells on my children so I could hear them playing as I prepared dinner." Years later, they loved to swim, canoe, and fish. "My son caught a 9 lb. white bass on our 15th wedding anniversary! We knocked the fish head on the well cover and cleaned it up to eat it."

In winter, the kids would sled down a 150-foot swath that led to the lake's edge, and according to Lenore, "The Lake usually froze by December 1st, so we shoveled an ice rink each year (and cursed the snowmobilers who drove through it)." She once received an early-morning call that a neighbor's Collie dog (Laddie) had fallen through the ice. Already dressed for work and in high heels, she laid a ladder across the ice and crawled over it to reach the dog...and the dog made it out safely.

For decades, she's witnessed changes on the lake. "Due to erosion, our lot has lost 15 feet. Badfish Creek took on sewage from Madison around 1968. "Algae was reduced and weeds flourished because the sunlight penetrated to them." In the 60's, "dead birds appeared in the yard as the result of the pesticide DDT." She feels that the lake looks better now than it used to. Her advice to other riparians is "to get involved in civic organizations and go to the Town Hall meetings. Political engagement is so important."

Lenore attributes her longevity to several factors. "My sister lived to be 94. If you have social support, it helps a lot. I worked until I was in my 70's, and frequently see a lot of family members." Several of her adult grandchildren were present during our interview, and she is *clearly* a revered mentor, scholar, and matriarch adored by her family.



Dick Amundson and his predecessors have maintained a long and storied presence on Lake Kegonsa. His father "purchased two lake lots in 1920 (of 66 and 44 feet, respectively) at a cost of \$4,000." A popular dance hall and store existed there for decades, and in 1957 both were torn down. The bare land stayed in the family for years, and Dick and his brother were frequently approached with offers to purchase it.

Dick's father, who worked for the Department of Natural Resources, believed in lake access for all. Eventually (through coordination with the Town of Dunn and the State of Wisconsin), Dick said the 110 feet of frontage was sold around 1989 "for \$1,000 a foot." An advocate of the family insisted that a sign be erected at the landing, to pay homage to the Amundsons. Since then, thousands of people have utilized the landing annually for boating, fishing, and recreational endeavors. Fond memories of fishing, bird hunting, and swimming were also among the stories Dick shared. "My mother liked to fish for bluegills with a cane pole, so we had to row to Lower Mud Lake below Lake Waubesa." (From current day Amundson's Landing to Lower Mud Lake is about 6.5 miles)! Swimming was a common past-time in summer. "After the locks were put in at Lafollette...where the water goes over, you could stand up and the water flowed over us like we were in a bubble."

There were times of opposite extremes in water quality, however, where Dick described the thickness of the algae. "People don't realize...when you talk algae, it was so thick that we jumped off the pier and punched a hole in the algae to go swimming. Turtles couldn't get through the water. The algae problem came from the raw sewage, but they used to spray the lake with copper sulphate and it would clear it up."

A duck hunter since 1937, he recalls that Canvasback ducks were drawn to the Wild Celery plants. "The current walkway at Fish Camp was a sand road, and that's where we'd take our duck boats out." His friends Louis and Eddie would glide their sled onto the ice and snow, "and lay their 5 or 6 black powder guns on the sled. It wasn't uncommon for them to take 15-20 geese home to clean and salt." He also remembers Tom Halverson bringing his horse and wagon to Fish Camp and scraping snails with a shovel and *mashing them up to add to the chicken feed*. "It was good for their gizzards."

The contributions of Dick and his family legacy has touched countless people who have enjoyed Lake Kegonsa...and will continue to frequent Amundson's Landing or reminisce about photos of their visits to the dance hall or store for decades to come.

Please Shop and Support *FOLKS* Fabulous Business Members

**Bunbury & Associates Realtors
Carrico Aquatic Resources, Inc.
Clean Lakes Alliance
Coldwell Banker Success
Computer Management & Accounting
Crown Point Resort
Eco-Resource Consulting, LLC
Finesse Public Relations, LLC
Hammer It Construction
Hanson Electronics US Cellular
ISADEx Web Development & Marketing
Jim's Tree Service
Kegonsa Cove Henmas Inc.
LakeView Piano Academy
Mallon Tree Service, LLC
McFarland State Bank
Melissa Ratcliff, Dane Co. Sup. Dist. 36
Mike Jensen Taxidermy
No Shorts Electric
Quam's Motor Sports
Smokey's Auto Body
Springers
Stoughton Conservation Club
Stoughton Country Club
Stoughton Trailers
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PO Box 301, Stoughton WI 53589
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ttopshop@frontier.com (815) 335-7058
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Theran Kahl
General Manager



305 Industrial Circle
Stoughton, WI 53589
Phone: 608-873-7651
Fax: 608-873-7692
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Peter Foy, President
peterfoy49@gmail.com

Janice Kellogg, Vice President
kelloggja7@gmail.com

Connie Hagen, Treasurer
chagen001@gmail.com

Cathie Taylor, Secretary
cathieanntaylor@gmail.com

Tom McGinnis
mcginnis1@charter.net

Rick Thorstad
rtthorstad@charter.net

Patrick Guiney
pdguiney@gmail.com

Eric Olson
eolson@bunburyrealtors.com


Gary Smithback
garysmithback@yahoo.com

Daniele Thompson
dst@stmarieboll.com

John Bottorff
jbott53511@att.net

Kim VanBrocklin
kegonsakim@gmail.com

For More About **FOLKS**,
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Renew Your **FOLKS** Membership.

This year's dues remain \$20.00 for
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If you have any questions regarding
membership, please contact:
Connie Hagen at chagen001@gmail.com or
Peter Foy at peterfoy49@gmail.com

Send news of interest to **FOLKS** to:
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589 or
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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 October 8, 2019, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.
Stoughton Country Club, 3165 Shadyside Dr., Stoughton, WI 53589

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
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