



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

President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

I hope that you agree that we have had a beautiful summer on the Lake. In my opinion the conditions of the lake have been wonderful. I tend to judge this by looking at it through the eyes of the family and friends that visit us and use the lake. I can’t remember missing a day of boating or swimming all summer because of poor lake conditions. Everyone that visits us feels we are very lucky to be living on the lake.

We are now heading into another beautiful season. As we start to plan when the pier will be coming out along with other projects that must be done in the fall, it is an invigorating time of the year.

The FOLKS Board has been involved in a number of projects over the summer and you can read about some of them in articles in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Cathie Taylor for organizing our successful summer social that was held August 2. Based on the attendance and positive feedback we will plan to continue this tradition next summer.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me, or any other Board member, if you have any questions or comments about your FOLKS organization.

In This Issue:

Water Level.....	2	Fish Stocking.....	2
Pleasant Springs Boat Launch ReOpened.....	2	A Little Lake Kegonsa Indian History.....	3
Clean Lakes Alliance.....	3	FOLKS Officers 2014.....	4
FOLKS Business Members.....	5		

Water Level

On September 12th our water level was 843.08 feet above sea level. The Land and Water Resources Department is responsible for maintaining lake levels for Lake Kegonsa and their goal is to keep the level above our summer minimum level, which is 843.00, so we are just barely above that. It has been dropping steadily for the last 10 days, so we have requested that they don't let the level drop anymore for the next couple of weeks. We realize that our members will be taking their boats in shortly and many will have trouble getting their boats off their lift if the levels continue to drop.

Fish Stocking

The Stoughton Conservation Club will be stocking the lake with walleye again this fall. The plan is to put 6,000 walleye fingerlings into the lake from Fish Camp. The fins of the fish are clipped, so when the County does their fish counts throughout the year they can identify how many are fish that were stocked here and how they are growing. If help is needed for this effort FOLKS will put out a lake alert.

The problem is that we won't know until almost the day before when this will happen. It will probably be at the end of September, or the first of October. FOLKS will be donating \$1,500 towards this effort again this year.

The County will also be stocking the Madison lakes this year. They could be putting in as many as 97,000 fingerlings into the lakes. This will also benefit us, as some of these fish will certainly make it to Lake Kegonsa. This is a new effort this year and we were told that the success of the stocking in Lake Kegonsa helped in the decision to expand this to the Madison Lakes. This will be happening in early October.

Pleasant Springs Boat Launch ReOpened

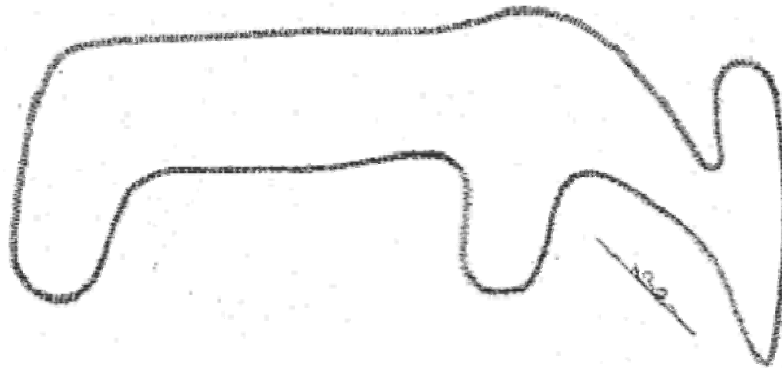
The Pleasant Springs Boat Landing has reopened and is operational. Problems from the construction that was done last fall have been rectified.

A Little Lake Kegonsa Indian History

The first settlers in this area immigrated across the Bering Strait landbridge in 10,000-8,500 B.C. They were the Paleo-Indians which lived in small, scattered groups of 25-30 people. The Paleo-Indians lived during the retreat of the last glaciation when the climate was much colder and the spruce and fir forest were only beginning to appear.

About 1,000 B.C. the first Woodland Indians appeared. The Woodland Indians were hunters and fisherman, just as were the Paleo-Indians, however, they also began to settle down and farm during the summer months. This is the period when the effigy mounds were built. The Effigy Mound Builders, a tribe of Indian characterized by their burial mounds, were dominated by the spirit world. Every tree, animal, bird, or rock possessed an identical spirit counterpart in a separate world. Upon the death of certain prominent tribespeople who possess the spirit of such animate or inanimate objects in the form of a stone amulet, the body is buried, along with many personal belongings, in a mound. This mound may be conical, linear, or in the shape of the tribesman's guardian spirit.

The Winnebago Indians succeeded the Effigy Mound Builders around the lake. Winnebago villages were located on Sugarbush Point on the northeast shore near the outlet of the lake. The Winnebago Indians camped along the shores of Lake Kegonsa during the summer as they journeyed to the Rock River during the late 19th century.



Clean Lakes Alliance

This summer Clean Lakes Alliance organized a program to monitor all five lakes in the Yahara chain. Volunteers from our lake: Joe Baldazzi & Sara Balz, Harmon & Nell Ray, Stanley & Ellen Pollan, Jim & Joan Cordray, Karl & Julliette Schick, Emerson & Cathy Taylor, and Bill Lamm & Connie Hagen sampled the lake and reported their results to Clean Lakes Alliance. We recorded air and water temperatures, the clarity of the water (Secchi reading), the water conditions (floating plants, algae, and wave intensity) as well as the presence of people and animals. The results are available for each lake under the "Lakes" tab at <http://ccw.cleanlakesalliance.com/#/map>.

We would like to thank our volunteers and Clean Lakes Alliance for helping to gain an understanding of our lakes.

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

For More About FOLKS, Visit
Our Website at
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 October 8, 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@kegonsa.org to list lost and found items on the FOLKS website.

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Return Service Requested

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