



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
September 2013

President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

Fall has arrived, but hopefully we still have a lot of beautiful weather to enjoy. Our summer started off pretty strange with the heavy rains and high water on the lake, but we ended up with a very nice summer.

Lake Kegonsa was once again virtually free of aquatic plant issues, with very few active algae problems. Harvesting in the river did result in some floating plants. Your FOLKS Board would love to take credit for the two great years in a row that we have enjoyed, but there are a lot of factors in play to make this happen, primarily the weather in the winter, spring and summer. We are encouraged with the actions that Clean Lakes Alliance has introduced that should have a positive impact in future years on phosphorus runoff into the lakes.

Our Fall Social that was held on August 24 at Stoughton Country Club was a big success.

- We ended up with about 130 people. Some people came in late and might not be in this count.
- We had four new members sign up at the door.
- The Country Club did an outstanding job. The food was excellent and the service was very good. Because the weather was perfect, the patio was a huge hit and every seat was filled the entire evening.
- When our members registered they were asked to put a sticker on a map of the lake where they lived and by the end of the evening you could see that the entire lake was represented.
- We also had people complete a little quiz about the lake and awarded some prizes to the five winners. Prizes were donated by Springer’s, Quam’s, Halverson’s and the Stoughton Country Club.
- We want to thank our secretary, Cathie Taylor who organized the entire party.

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President's Message (Continued From Page 1)

Our notices about this party went out via email. We want to remind all of our members to make sure that we have your email address on file. We use email to communicate our Lake Alerts and other FOLKS information. If we don't have it please tell our treasurer, Gloria Kay-Schoeberl at, Gloria@kegonsa.com to add your email to our data base.

FOLKS July Survey Results

First, we would like to thank everyone for responding to our electronic survey regarding our high water and slow no wake order. 75% of the members that we have an email on file responded to the survey.

For those of you that have been involved in any kind of survey you know that this is an unbelievable high response rate for a survey. It gives us very accurate information about the attitudes of our FOLKS members.

Second, we would encourage those of you that don't have an email on file to provide it to us. We have email addresses for almost 90% of our members and this is the only way that we have of getting you involved in our periodic surveys. Also, this is how we notify you via our LAKE ALERTS about important activities regarding Lake Kegonsa and FOLKS. 99.4% of the members responding to our survey said that LAKE ALERTS are either Very Important, or Somewhat important. Please send our treasurer, Gloria Kay, Gloria@kegonsa.com an email telling her to add your email address, so you receive all future notices.

Survey results

- 91% of people responding felt that implementing the slow no wake order on 6/28 was a good decision
- 43% felt that removing the slow no wake order on 7/4 was a good, or an acceptable decision. 42% believed it was a bad decision.
- 55% had to remove all, or part of their pier. 18% secured the pier and left it in. 17% didn't have to do anything. 10% had damage, or lost pier sections.
- 43% had no problems with their shore line. 49% required easily repairable, cleanup work. 8% had substantial damage that might require a contractor
- 56% of those that replied don't have a boathouse. Of those that do 18% had no problems, 18% had water in their boathouse, but no major damage. 5% had some physical damage
- 82% had no damage to their property. 13% had some damage.

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FOLKS July Survey Results (Continued From Page 2)

- 55% said that high water caused no, or minimal damage, 45% had some, or substantial damage.
- 50% said that wind/wave action caused no, or minimal damage. 50% had some, or substantial damage
- 67% said that boat waves after 7/4 cause no, or minimal damage. 33% had some, or substantial damage

o There were numerous comments from members stating that if boats would just adhere to the 200 ft. slow no wake law that is always in effect there would have been no problems. Please be careful to observe this law and help your fellow lake owners protect their property.

- 64% of respondents live on the lake full time, while 36% are part time.
- 99.4% felt the newsletter was very important, or somewhat important
- 99.4% felt that the email lake alerts were very important, or somewhat important
- 60% felt that social activities were very important, or somewhat important. Based on this response we decided to hold a FOLKS Summer Social on 8/24, at the Stoughton Country Club.
- 95% felt that having FOLKS work with the various government agencies on water related issues was either very important, or somewhat important. We did meet with Dane County and shared the results of this survey with them. We had a good discussion about the opinions and desires of our members. The meeting was well received by Dane County personnel.

Lastly, we would like to thank everyone for taking the time to put comments in the various sections of the survey. We received hundreds of comments and they are helpful and appreciated by your FOLKS Board.

Boat Safety

With well over 25,000 registered boats in Dane County, and an increasing amount of tourist boating traffic, the summer boat patrol period is very busy with enforcement of the laws, investigation of accidents, and rescue operations. A very important component of keeping the lakes safe and enforcing the law is boating safety education. The Sheriff's Office strongly encourages all boaters to take a boater safety course. For information on where a class is available, please call [608-275-3266](tel:608-275-3266). To view an online list of Boat Safety classes currently offered by the Dane County Sheriff's Office go to <http://www.danesheriff.com/boatSafety.aspx>



Normal Slow-No-Wake Restrictions

On the Yahara Lakes, Dane County has in effect a slow-no-wake ordinance; see Chapter 72, which goes beyond the minimum state boating requirements.

The ordinance establishes a 200-ft slow-no-wake zone along the entire shorelines of Lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa and Kegonsa. Within that zone, boaters must not travel faster than slow-no-wake speed, which means the minimum speed at which a motorized watercraft is able to move and maintain adequate steering control.

There is an exception to this requirement on Lake Monona from Law Park to a point 1000 feet due north of the intersection of John Nolen Drive and Lakeside Street. Beware of water skiers practicing and performing in this area.

What is the Purpose of Slow-no-wake Restrictions?

The slow-no-wake requirements were created to minimize conflict between various user groups, avoid accidents or lessen their severity, protect human life, provide safe swimming zones, assure and encourage multiple use of surface waters, reduce shoreline erosion, protect fish spawning areas and protect wetlands, bogs and other sensitive areas.

Lake Kegonsa Historical Points of Interest

We are back with some more points of interest about Lake Kegonsa that you can use to impress your family and friends on your boat trips around the lake. Do you know the history and where they are located?

1. Lake Kegonsa State Park opened to the public in 1967. The 342-acre property is a mix of woodland, restored prairie, wetlands and lakeshore frontage. Because of the variety of ecosystems, it is common to see deer, fox, otter, raccoons, herons, ducks, geese, turtles, snakes, reptiles, and songbirds.

The park has a number of Native American mounds along a self-guided trail located in a mature Oak forest. Numerous historical, archaeological, and natural resource features are found here, as well as a boat launch, beach, hiking trails and restrooms.

2. The LaFollette Dam was a 10-foot high, 520-foot-long dam constructed in 1938 at the lake's outlet to control water levels and improve navigation. The dam received extensive repairs in 2012. The 75-year-old concrete, which had worn away due to erosion, was replaced. Most of this work took place underwater. The second phase included updating the dam or spillway gates used for water control, replacing the lock gates and control mechanisms and then installing barrier fencing to bring the facility up to safety code.

Farther down the Yahara River is the Stoughton Dam, built in 1843 and owned and operated by the City of Stoughton. This dam generated power until 1999.

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Lake Kegonsa Historical Points of Interest (Continued From Page 4)

3. Colladay Point includes a pond near the southeastern tip of the point. William Colladay established his family farm here in the 1840s. His was the second Yankee family in the area. William was active in the community and served in the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate.

4. "Saloon in the Lake" was established by George Barber and Anton Anderson in 1895. The saloon dispensed both malt beverages and hard spirits to anglers and other thirsty individuals who visited by boat. The proprietors claimed that the 12 by 15-foot sand bar was out of the local jurisdiction's control, so the owners obtained a federal liquor license.

5. LaFollette County Park. The park is best known for its wayside picnic areas with restrooms and shore fishing at the locks and dam. Canoes can be launched at the north end of the park below the locks and dams.

Where are they?

1. Lake Kegonsa State Park-North East Side of the lake. You will see the swimming beach and boat launch.

2. The LaFollette Dam-also on the North East side of the lake. Water leaves the lake between Lake Kegonsa State Park and LaFollette County Park.

3. Colladay Point- on the west side of Kegonsa and yes, there is a point.

4. Saloon in the lake- Off Colladay Point on a shallow bar in the lake, now marked by three buoys.

5. LaFollette County Park-On the East shore of the lake. You will see where the homes end and the park begins. During the summer months there are often boats anchored near the shore and people are in the shallow water.



Lake Kegonsa passenger boat

A 1915 postcard shows a 100-person passenger board which plied the waters of Lake Kegonsa early in this century. The boat was launched in 1911 and stayed in service for many years.

Pleasant Springs Boat Landing Closure

The Pleasant Springs Boat Landing will be undergoing some significant upgrades over the next few weeks. These include a new 8 foot by 40 foot handicap accessible pier, 2 new launch ramps each made up of six 8 foot by 12 foot concrete pads, and a bio-retention basin. Additionally, to help prevent the spread of invasive species, a cleaning station will be set up to help boaters comply with the law regarding removing all aquatic plant material from their boat and trailer. Tools will be provided along with a basket to dispose of the material. In order to accomplish this, the boat landing will be closed from Sept 18 to Oct 31.

Volunteers Needed For Fish Stocking

In the next couple of weeks, FOLKS in conjunction with the Stoughton Conservation Club (SCC) will be stocking walleyes in Lake Kegonsa. FOLKS donated \$1,500 to this program. At this time the number of fish is not known, but will be reported in the next newsletter. The fish will be released at the Fish Camp boat launch and this year the fish will be marked (fin snipped) such that they can be identified in the future if caught.

Based on fishing reports the quantity and quality of Walleyes has been improving over the last couple of years and it would be interesting to find out if this is a result of Mother Nature or the fish stocking program. Volunteers are needed to help mark the fish (last year we released 5,500 fingerlings). If interested in helping you can contact me at mikea@kegonso.org. We have asked for a weeks' notice prior to the release, but we may only get a day or two.

Clean Lakes Alliance: Yahara Lakes 101

Jon Standridge presented a program on the pilot citizen lake monitoring program. He enumerated the causes of water borne illnesses and some of the sources of the organisms. One part of the program was to take daily samples at James Madison Park Beach to be analyzed for E. coli bacteria. The other was to sample water from all four lakes at the end of the piers of the volunteers. The beach samples were collected by the staff of the Clean Lakes Alliance and volunteers were recruited for the lake samples, four on Mendota, and two on the other three lakes. They were to make measurements of the temperature and the clarity of the water as well as observe environmental conditions such as wave height, wind direction etc. They also were to take one sample per month for phosphorus analysis.

Cathie Taylor and Bill Lamm are the Lake Kegonsa volunteers.

The results of the beach samples showed that daily sampling would show contamination of the beach that would be missed by the weekly samples currently obtained at the beaches. The end of pier results showed that volunteers could collect meaningful information to better understand toxic algae blooms. He concluded that the pilot program for the 'end of pier' sampling should be expanded to have better coverage of the lakes and additional beaches should be added to the beach monitoring program.

FOLKS OFFICERS 2013

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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@kegonza.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 9, 2013, 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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Return Service Requested

FOLKS Business Members

Bunbury and Associates	873-3252
T.L. Home Finishing and Painting	873-9266
Quam's Motor Sports	873-3366
The UPS Store	877-2679
Web-Net	alan@web-net.us

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