



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173  
**July 2018**

**President’s Message ~ Peter Foy**

It has been an eventful three months since our last newsletter. The rains kept coming and the lake kept rising. One of our members told me it reminded him of the Johnny Cash song, “How high’s the water mama? Well, it’s five feet high and risin”.

We have tried to address the questions that our members have been asking about the lake level in an article in this newsletter. Please review the Q&A article and let us know if you have any additional comments, or questions.

We reached an all- time record level of 845.75 feet above sea level on 6/22/18. The previous record had been 845.73, set on 6/16/08. So, on 6/22/18 we were 27” above our summer maximum. The County worked with Stoughton to increase the flow from the Stoughton Dam. It has gone from about 325 cubic feet per second to about 900. The lake seems to have crested and was down 3.6” from the high level at the time this message was written on June 26<sup>th</sup>. If the rain will just stop we should see a steady drop.

You will see a nice story about the sandbagging effort. There was such an outpouring of support that we just hope we recognized everyone that helped. I want to personally mention Connie Hagen, our Treasurer, and her husband Bill Lamm for their tireless work on this effort. They aren’t mentioned in the article because Connie wrote the article.

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

Nothing is happening on the carp removal project over the summer, but we will hopefully have more success to share this fall.

Likewise, you won't be hearing much about our leaf project until the next newsletter, when we will be laying out the schedule in detail. Just be aware that leaves will be vacuumed from all homes on the lake and across from the lake in both the Town of Dunn and the Town of Pleasant Springs for the first time in history.

There is a lot going on at Fish Camp County Park, which is our adopted park. There is an update included in this newsletter.

We have also included the results of our recent FOLKS survey. We had an amazing 63% response rate and people took the time to provide over 100 comments. Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback.

As always, feel free to contact me, or any of the other Board members with any questions.

### **Annual Meeting and Summer Fling**

Moving our Annual Meeting and Summer Fling to a combined event was a huge success. 142 members came which is the most that have ever attended. There were many positive comments on changing the dates for the Annual Meeting to June so more could attend.

Peter Foy, President of FOLKS conducted the annual meeting which included the financial report by our treasurer Connie Hagen and presentations by committee chairman on the current FOLKS projects as well as the election of Board Members. This was followed by a lively Q&A on areas of interest or concern for Lake Kegonsa.

The Lake Kegonsa Trivia and "Catch a Fish" games let members win prizes donated by Quam's Kegonsa Cove, Springers and Stoughton Country Club. Thanks to all of them for their continued support for our event.

Everyone continues to enjoy the pictures and postcard collection dating back to the early 1900's that Marian Kundert, Tom McGinnis, Cheryl Heiliger and Ardys and Doug Pfundheller brought to display. Let us know if you have any old pictures or memorabilia that we can display next year.

We ended the evening by setting up tables around the room with the streets names so folks could go to their street table and meet others who live near them. Many met neighbors for the first time!

A special thanks to Stoughton Country Club for hosting our event without a room charge. We appreciate your generosity. The summer buffet was delicious, the drinks are always plentiful and the service was excellent.

For those who came and enjoyed the evening, spread the word to your neighbors. We will continue to hold our Annual Meeting and Summer Fling in June and hope more will join us. Next year, we will NOT hold it on Stoughton's Graduation Weekend!

## Fish Camp Park

The Net House (the larger building) was constructed in 1937 to store the nets and equipment used for seining carp from Lake Kegonsa. Sport fishermen wanted the state to remove (nonnative) carp because their habits and numbers were causing disruption of the food chain for native sport fish. Nets were stored in bins in the house based on the size of their openings. The 3 1/2 " openings were best for catching the big carp and the fewest game fish. Mud pans were attached to the bottom of the nets to make them glide over the lake bottom. Nets were winched by motors and the large fish stored in holding pens for market. Many informative signs are on display at the park illustrating and explaining the processes in detail.

Both of the historical buildings need refurbishing. FOLKS has provided Dane county with estimates for repairing the two historical buildings. Dane county will be putting roof repairs out to bid this year. FOLKS is providing the lumber and contractors to make the necessary repairs of damaged boards on the buildings so the houses will be ready for painting in the future.

The garden was looking good despite the damage caused by ice heaving last winter. Plants that were lost have been replaced. The garden has been mulched and we hoped to enjoy the benefits of watching our native plants blossom and multiply. The high water is causing some damage so it is unclear how the plantings will prosper this summer.

FOLKS has assumed responsibility for permanently maintaining the shoreline garden. We would also like to create a colorful garden at the entrance to the park. If you would like to help in this or other areas at Fish Camp Park, please contact Janice Kellogg.

A pamphlet house for distribution of literature related to shoreline planting and lake conservation issues has been installed at the garden. The martin house above the garden is busy with new families. Soon a memorial bench, donated by FOLKS, commemorating Ray Potempa's contributions to Lake Kegonsa will be installed in that area.



## FOLKS May 1, 2018 Survey Results

Question #1- The Folks Organization represents my interests regarding Lake Kegonsa?

- Folks does a good job-95.5%
- FOLKS does a pretty good job-4.5%

Question #2-I find the quarterly newsletters to be informative and worth reading?

- Yes, pretty much all the time-99.5%
- I don't usually read the newsletter-.5%

Question #3-Social events

- I have attended at least one and will go again-46.1%
- Have not been able to attend, but believe they are worthwhile-51.0%
- Don't believe social events are worthwhile-2.9%

Question #4-FOLKS emails with updates and announcements

- Appreciate the FOLKS emails-100%

Question # 5-FOLKS website [WWW.Kegonsa.org](http://WWW.Kegonsa.org)

- Use the website once in awhile-37.1%
- Didn't know FOLKS had a website-36.1
- Aware of website, but have not used it-26.8%

Question #6-FOLKS on Facebook

- I have accessed FOLKS on Facebook-11.8%
- Aware that FOLKS was using Facebook, but have not used it-9.8%
- I don't use Facebook-44.1%
- I didn't know FOLKS was using Facebook-34.3%

Question #7-FOLKS work with government agencies

- FOLKS working with government agencies is extremely important-99.5%
- These relationships are nice, but not that important-.5%

Question #8-Water levels in 2017-How was level at your property last year?

- Level was fine. We didn't have any problems-49.7%
- Level was high and affected us a little. Would have liked it lower-26.2%
- Level was really high. We ended up pulling our pier boards at least once-18.2%
- This was as bad a summer as I can remember-3.2%
- Water level was so high that it affected out shoreline-2.7%

Question #9-Aquatic plant growth. How has it been near your property?

- Lake quality near our property was good, with limited weeds all year-21.7%
- There were some weeds, but generally it was good-56.6%
- There were a lot of weeds near our property for much of the summer-21.7%

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## FOLKS May 1, 2018 Survey Results (Continued From Page 4)

### Question #10-Lake clarity

- The lake was in good condition in 2017-11.2%
- Lake was not ideal, but in pretty good shape-59.2%
- There was more plant growth than in other years-15.6%
- Lake has not been clean enough to swim most of the year-14.0%

### Question #11- Carp removal project. What do you think about the project?

- Believe that this is one of the best projects FOLKS has taken on-72.0%
- Let's continue to follow through on the project for now-24.4%
- This is worthwhile project, only If we limit our spending-7.6%
- Time and money would be better spent in other areas-1.0%

### Question #12-Fish Camp County Park. FOLKS has adopted park. We are considering helping to renovate the deteriorating original 1937 Corn and Net buildings

- I believe that helping to restore these building is within our area of interest and we should be willing to fund up to \$20,000 of the project, as long as it doesn't stop us from doing other lake related projects-23.0%
- We should help with this project, but stay closer to \$10,000, if we have covered other projects-31.0%
- We should help with this project, but only with grants and funds raised for the park-27.8%
- I believe all of our money should be spent only on projects that directly impact the lake-18.2%

### Question #13-How much do you feel that leaves impact the water quality of our lake?

- Significantly impact-45.6%
- Moderately impact-42.4%
- Limited impact-9.8%
- Not at all-2.2%

### Question #14-Which of the following reflects your opinion concerning leaves around your house (select all that apply)

- Makes yard messy-51.7%
- Harms lawn-24.7%
- Harms lake-61.5%
- Like to reuse leaves for compost-12.6%
- Difficult to manage-30.8%
- Not of much concern-14.8%

### Question #15-Who takes care of leaves that fall onto your yard (select all that apply)

- I do-70.7%
- Family members-23.4%
- Yard care service-26.6%
- Neighbors/friends-4.4%
- Other-1.6%

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## FOLKS May 1, 2018 Survey Results (Continued From Page 5)

Question #16-what do you do with the leaves that collect on your property? (Select all that apply)

- Mow and/or let shredded leaves go on the lawn-46.6%
- Rake to compost area in yard-12.0%
- Use as leaf mulch around plants-10.4%
- Haul to yard waste drop off site-40.4%
- Rate to lakeshore-0.0%
- Burn-20.8%
- Used the leaf pickup service provided by FOLKS and my Town-31.2%
- Other-15.9%

Question #17-What do you do with leaves that collect in the street near your home (select all that apply)

- Nothing-44.8%
- Rake to compost area-7.0%
- Use as much-4.1%
- Haul to yard waste drop off site-25.2
- Rate to lakeshore-0%
- Include them with leaf pickup provided by FOLKS and my Town-27.9%
- Burn-8.1%

Question #18-Residency

- Year-round resident-62.3%
- Only part of the time-37.7

Question #19-Age Bracket

- 35, or under-2.1%
- 36-50-8.5%
- 51-71-67.2%
- Over 71-22.2%

Question #20- How many years have you had your place on the lake?

- 0-3 years-14.4%
- 4-10 years-20.7%
- 11-19 years-14.9%
- 20 years, or more-50.0%

Question #21- Share with us the ways that you take advantage of being on the lake (check all that apply)

- Pleasure boating-87.9%
- Swimming and other activities in the water-72.1%
- Tubing and/or skiing-61.6%
- Fishing-61.1%
- Just looking at the water and the activities on the water-81.6%
- Sailing-9.5%
- Kayaking/paddle boarding/canoeing-60.0%
- Other-7.9%



## Northern Pike Spawning and Egg Collection at Lake Kegonsa

Every year the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) collects and fertilizes Northern Pike eggs from Lake Kegonsa and Lower Mud Lake. Northern Pike spawn as soon as the ice goes out and water temperatures are 38-44 degrees. In 2018, Northern pike were collected on Lake Kegonsa the last week of March.

The Department sets fyke nets to trap the fish around the shoreline in locations that the spawning fish are likely to congregate or travel through. Nets are checked and emptied daily; "green" fish are returned to the lake while ripe fish are collected and brought to the boat ramp.

When enough males and females are collected, staff will squeeze the females gently to remove the eggs and collect them in a pan. Then 1-2 males are expressed into the pan as well. After the DNR staff add water to the pan, the sperm is activated and the eggs are fertilized. Staff will gently stir the eggs with a turkey feather to ensure good fertilization. The eggs develop a hard shell during the first hour after fertilization. Once they become water hardened, the fertilized eggs are treated with an iodine bath to remove any virus or bacteria on the outside of the shell. The eggs are then transported to Lake Mills or Wild Rose State Fish Hatcheries.

A small section of tail fin is removed from each fish for DNA testing so that the WDNR can evaluate the effectiveness of fish stocking in subsequent years. The fish are then returned to the lake.



WDNR Fisheries Technicians Paul Kruse and Nancy Hefty collect eggs from a Northern Pike from Lake Kegonsa (Photograph from the WI DNR - 2018)

The eggs will hatch and grow through the spring and summer. Lakes that have poor natural reproduction and low numbers of pike are stocked to increase the fishable populations and keep a healthy number of predator fish in a lake so panfish and rough fish don't become too numerous. Lake Mills SFH produces around 150,000 small fingerling (2-4 inch) pike for stocking in area lakes. Wild Rose SFH produces about 50,000 large fingerling (7-9 inch) pike.

In 2017, Lake Kegonsa received 112,101 small fingerling pike and 2,248 large fingerling pike. In 2016, Lake Kegonsa received 16,000 small fingerling pike and 2,500 large fingerling pike.

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## Northern Pike Spawning and Egg Collection at Lake Kegonsa (Continued From Page 7)

The DNR fish stocking database allows you to quickly see where fish have been stocked by DNR facilities throughout Wisconsin in past years (you can find the link on the WI DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/stocking>). Information from 1972 to the present is included.

The table below shows Walleye and Northern Pike stocking information for Lake Kegonsa for the last several years from the WDNR. This does not include additional fish stocking from private organizations such as the Stoughton Conservation Club.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Fingerling Description</b>	<b>Number Stocked</b>	<b>Avg Length (inches)</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>9.6</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>WALLEYE</b>	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>WALLEYE</b>	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>101,277</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>WALLEYE</b>	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>112,315</b>	<b>1.48</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2.65</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>WALLEYE</b>	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>1.48</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>WALLEYE</b>	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>54,243</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>WALLEYE</b>	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>8.8</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>WALLEYE</b>	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>57,797</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>2,077</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>WALLEYE</b>	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>112,016</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>1.94</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>8.4</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>WALLEYE</b>	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>112,101</b>	<b>1.27</b>



## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The high water on Lake Kegonsa has been a trial for everyone. Yards full of water, within feet of houses and right up to the top of the rip rap along the shore. We've been very lucky to have a calm lake the last few days and not much wind since Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>. The water level was down almost 2 inches when these pictures of the shore were taken (Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>).



Boats in the driveway, piers on the lawn, filling sandbags and building pier/tarp walls to protect land are not the ways we'd like to celebrate summer.



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## Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Continued From Page 9)



But the **bright side** of the picture is the way our neighborhoods and Towns have pulled together to help each other protect homes and shorelines. We had dozens of volunteers and immediate help from our townships. On Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> the Town of Pleasant Springs did an assessment and had a sand truck moving within about half an hour of their first call. Both the Town of Pleasant Springs and the Town of Dunn provided sand, sandbags and public works personnel to help make sandbags. The water level in Lake Kegonsa was 21" over summer maximum on Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> when sandbagging started and went up to 27" over summer maximum by Thursday. Sandbagging continued through Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A lot of sandbags were filled by hand. One person shoveling sand and a second person holding bags open to be filled and then tying them closed. The Chairman of the Town of Pleasant Springs, David Pfeiffer, was wielding a shovel helping residents fill sandbags for much of the morning on Tuesday and helping to coordinate the resupply of sand and bags.



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## Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Continued From Page 10)

On Tuesday the Town of Dunn moved Dane County's sandbagging machine to the end of Sunnyside Street to take over from residents who'd been filling sandbags by hand. The sandbagging machine has four ports that can be opened to fill a sandbag. Town staff used a bobcat to fill the machine from huge piles of sand. Our system was that one volunteer was running the auger and shaker levers on the machine, a person was opening bags and handing them to the filler, the filler was operating the foot lever to fill the bag then delivering them to another person who was tying the bags closed (harder than you think) and then other volunteers were moving the bags to trailers for delivery to the house being worked on or to piles waiting for pickup. Estimated weight of a filled bag was over 40 lbs.



We received an excellent and immediate response from the Chairman of the Town of Pleasant Springs, David Pfeiffer, and the Chairman of the Town of Dunn, Ed Minihan. Township staff – Jim Alme from the Town of Pleasant Springs and Hardy Krueger, Todd Klahn and Dale Martinson from the Town of Dunn - worked tirelessly for 5 days. Help came from the Stoughton, McFarland, Deer Grove and Cottage Grove fire squads. We had Dane County Emergency Management personnel, the Stoughton Fire Chief, the McFarland Fire Chief and the Cottage Grove Fire Chief monitoring the water levels and sand bagging operations.

We had help from around the lake, a number of FOLKS board members, grandsons from California, Illinois and other states, families from a lacrosse club, a 911 operator from Madison, the fire squads and many more. Stoughton Lumber Company donated huge rolls of plastic.

Approximately 90% of the homes on either side of Sunnyside and a good portion of Williams Point Drive used sandbags to protect their homes and shorelines. People also took sandbags to Shadyside, Barber Drive, Co Hwy AB and other streets. If anyone still needs them, there are some filled bags at the end of Sunnyside and sand with bags at the Pleasant Springs boat launch.

We worked one day in the sweltering heat and another day through off and on rain. We used 18 loads of sand (195 tons) and about 5,500 bags. It was an unbelievable coordination of efforts and goodwill and one that should make our communities very proud.



## **Friends of Lake Kegonsa (FOLKS) - Questions and Answers about the historic high-water level on Lake Kegonsa-June 25, 2018**

Following are questions that were raised by FOLKS members. The answers were prepared by the FOLKS Board and have been reviewed and modified, where necessary, by the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department.

- Q1. How much rain did we get in May and how fast did Lake Kegonsa's water level go up?
  - In May, the total rain was 9.78 inches (according to the Dane County Airport), compared to the average rain of 3.55 inches. We experience near record rain during May. The past record was set in 2004 with 10.84 inches. The total rain measured through June 25<sup>th</sup> is 5.06 inches. The average rain for the entire month of June is 3.19 inches. In summary, the total rain for the two months is 14.84 inches. The water level on May 1<sup>st</sup> was 843.16 feet above sea level (below summer maximum) and rose 31 inches to 845.75 feet on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Several factors affected the rise in water levels which was almost double the rainfall amounts. First, rainfall causes runoff from the larger watershed which adds additional water into the lake. Second, the excessive rainfall amounts caused saturated soils which inhibit infiltration and further exacerbate runoff amounts. Third, cooler temperatures resulted in reduced evaporation rates.
  
- Q2. What were the other factors that made Lake Kegonsa so much higher than the other lakes?
  - The Lake Kegonsa water level was 11.5 inches over summer maximum on 6/4. By 6/13 it was 15.6 inches over and on 6/22 it was 27 inches over summer maximum. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the water level was 24.8 inches above summer maximum. In comparison, Lake Monona was 10 inches over summer maximum on 6/13 and 22.4 inches over on 6/25. Lake Waubesa was 10 inches over summer maximum on 6/13 and 21.5 inches over on 6/25.
  - The LaFollette Dam on the Yahara River flowing out of Lake Kegonsa has been open since April 2018. However, a substantial amount of water coming in from Door Creek was added to the flow coming down the Yahara River from the upper lakes so water levels were rising faster on Lake Kegonsa.
  - Other factors that limited the flow out of Lake Kegonsa are resistance from aquatic plant growth in the river, a railroad choke point in Stoughton, and the Stoughton dam.
  
- Q3. When did we start to get excited about the Lake Kegonsa lake level?
  - The FOLKS Board started working with John Reimer, Assistant Director at the Dane County Land and Water Resources Dept. (DCLWRD) about Lake Kegonsa's water level on Monday (6/4) after our FOLKS annual meeting. At that time Lake Kegonsa was at 11.5 inches over summer maximum, while Lake Waubesa was only 8.64 inches over summer maximum. FOLKS noticed that Lake Kegonsa was going up, while the other lakes were going down. FOLKS also raised the alert that the water flow out of the Stoughton Dam was in the low 300 range. We wanted to know why this couldn't be increased.

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## **Friends of Lake Kegonsa (FOLKS) - Questions and Answers about the historic high-water level on Lake Kegonsa-June 25, 2018 (Continued From Page 12)**

- Q4. What was the response from the DCLWRD?
  - Dane County LWRD performed the following:
    - On June 6, Dane County staff traveled the Yahara River in a boat, between the LaFollette Dam and the Stoughton Dam, looking for impediments to flow. They thought there might be trees or blockages within the river limiting the flow. They didn't find any down trees, but they did observe abundant aquatic plant growth. They now have five aquatic plant harvesters in the river below LaFollette Dam and have removed over 25 dump truck loads of aquatic plants. Aquatic plant harvesters have never been put south of the LaFollette dam before. Dane County received an emergency permit from the DNR to perform the work. As a result, the flow has improved from 300 cfs to over 800 cfs.
    - They worked with Stoughton to open their dam more. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> the flow out of the Stoughton Dam was up to 873 cubic feet per second.
    - They noticed a constriction under the railroad bridge and have worked to get permits to start to dredge in areas to improve flow. This work started today.
    - They also are working to relocate an Alliant Energy pipe that is sticking out of the river.
  
- Q5. Is it the intent to manage flow and balance the entire chain to keep all water levels below damaging elevations or is there a priority for Mendota which has a greater shoreline/area that can be damaged?
  - The County's goal is to operate as a system. This year we had sporadic rainfall due to strong cells primarily located in the southern lakes. For example, the rainfall over the weekend 6/16-6/17 produced about 5 inches on the west side of Madison (draining to Lake Monona) and 5 inches in the Town of Pleasant Springs (Lake Kegonsa). In comparison the Dane County Airport reported 1.84 inches of rainfall. The goal is to ideally manage the lakes uniformly, however, non-uniform rainfall patterns affects lake levels as well in a non-uniform manner.
  
- Q6. If Mendota is not a priority, per the lake level orders, can't the flow be reduced out of Mendota to take advantage of the current storage available?
  - The County has been reducing the flow in Lake Mendota since May 17, 2018. The flow 6/25 was approximately 130 cfs. In 2008, when the southern lakes were at similar levels, the flow from Tenney was approximately 600 cfs. Water being released out of Tenney is approximately 22% of what we were in 2008 with similar levels on the lower lakes. In summary, the county has reduced the flow significantly. The focus is getting water out of Lake Kegonsa. The County has been cutting plants in the river out of Lake Kegonsa and this has dramatically improved flow. Also, the Stoughton dam is open 64 inches and was previously open 16 inches.

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## **Friends of Lake Kegonsa (FOLKS) - Questions and Answers about the historic high-water level on Lake Kegonsa-June 25, 2018 (Continued from Page 13)**

- Q7. The lake management guide recommends that to protect property on Lake Kegonsa slow-no-wake shall occur at 844.5 with water levels increasing. Is there a reason the recommendation outlined in the guide was not followed and no wake enforced a week earlier (even prior to the heavy rains late last week)?
  - The slow no wake was not issued due to the belief that the water level could be drawn down without putting it on. As anyone can imagine, this is a controversial subject. Half the people want it on and half the people don't want it. Understanding that once it is put on it could remain on for a month, or longer, it was decided to see if we could get it down without going on slow-no-wake.  
Slow-no-wake obviously does nothing to lower the lake level, but it does help prevent shoreline damage from boats driving too close to shore.  
The continuous heavy rains resulted in the draw down plan not working. If the rain patterns had been predicted the slow-no-wake would have gone on sooner.
- Q8. How long will it take to get the water down to where the slow-no-wake can be lifted?
  - The slow-no-wake will be rescinded when the water level stays at or below elevation 844.7 for five consecutive days. This will require the water level to drop 10.4 inches lower than it was on 6/25. For two days, from June 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup>, the lake level dropped 1.6 inches. This two-day water level decline occurred while water stored within wetlands and floodplains were draining. The rate of water level decline could increase when water has finished draining out of these storage areas. For the slow-no-wake to be rescinded, it may take much of the summer especially if we receive more rain. We obviously need a few weeks of sunny weather.
- Q9. How often has Lake Kegonsa reached/passed the maximum summer water level in the last 10 years? High water seems to be causing residents of Lake Kegonsa problems fairly often.
  - From January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2017 (10 years), the water elevation was above summer maximum (elevation 843.50) for 791 days out of 3,653 total days or 21.6% of the time.
- Q10. Does the Dane County Land and Water Resources Dept. have a contingency plan in place when we get the inevitable heavy rains in future years? It appears that we need a more proactive plan that allows us to address water levels on a more timely and active basis to avoid crisis management. It seems as though every time this happens, we are experiencing it for the first time and are scrambling to figure out what to do.
  - The historic high-water level was previously set on June 16, 2008 at a water elevation of 845.72. The period of record for assigning the historic high dates back to 2003. On June 21, 2018 the water elevation was 845.74 setting a new historic level by 0.02 feet (0.2 inches) higher. Some of the heavy rains we did receive were above forecasted amounts. Unfortunately, lake levels did rise. Specifically, during the June 15 rainfall of 1.80 inches, the lake rose 2.6 inches the first day and 1.7 inches the second day. Using this information and other past data, Dane County LWRD is working on developing information for providing water level forecasts in the future.

## **Friends of Lake Kegonsa (FOLKS) - Questions and Answers about the historic high-water level on Lake Kegonsa-June 25, 2018 (Continued from Page 14)**

- Q11. What is the current management plan for the dams? How often are the readings assessed? Are regulating the dams a judgement call on someone's part?
  - The water levels are assessed multiple times a day. Opening the dams is done in a manner to balance water levels in the system. For the recent June rainfall, the Babcock and LaFollette dams were open in April, well before the majority of the rainfall occurred, and remain fully open today. Per the DCLWRD flow out of Tenney dam on Lake Mendota was reduced starting May 17<sup>th</sup> to limit the flow into the lower lakes.
  
- Q12. Are the permeable surfaces regulations applied to anyone besides lakeshore owners? Shouldn't it apply to everyone?
  - Permeable surface regulations apply to everyone. A storm water management permit is required for new development and redevelopment projects. Specific requirements can be found at the Dane County webpage: <https://wred-lwr.dcountyofdane.com/Permitting/stormwater-management>
  
- Q13. What has been the response to the high water from the County, the Town of Dunn, the Town of Pleasant Springs and residents?
  - The response from everyone has been outstanding. Some examples:
    - The County supplied 8,400 sandbags to the Town of Dunn and the Town of Pleasant Springs and a sandbag filling device.
    - The Town of Pleasant Springs provided sand and manpower to help with the effort.
    - The Town of Dunn provided sand, a Bobcat and manpower to assist.
    - Many individuals showed up to help fill bags and transport them to properties in trouble. The neighbors on Sunnyside Street and Williams Point Drive were amazing as they worked side by side for days helping each other.
    - Fire department personnel assisted filling and moving sand bags on multiple days. These strong men can move a lot of bags in a hurry.
    - We saw Ed Minihan, Town of Dunn Chairman, David Pfeiffer, Town of Pleasant Springs Chairman and Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive at the sandbagging operation on Sunnyside Street.
  
- Q14. What is the biggest concern going forward?
  - The heavy rains seem to be the new norm, so we should consider a contingency plan that can be implemented as soon as it appears that the levels could rise at an unusually fast level. The water level when the slow-no-wake order gets implemented to prevent additional shoreline damage might be lower than a lot of people like, but hopefully it can be lifted quickly when the water levels get back to normal.



## **Olbrich Botanical Gardens – 2019 Home Garden Tour Friday, July 12 & Saturday, July 13, 2019**

Do you have a beautiful garden you would like to showcase for a good cause? Every July, Olbrich Botanical Gardens hosts a garden tour featuring 7-8 private home gardens that display a variety of gardening styles, techniques and challenges (like gardening on a windy lake). In 2019, the Home Garden Tour (HGT) will be held in Stoughton and the surrounding area. This annual two-day fundraiser helps support the mission and daily operations of Olbrich Gardens. The HGT committee will set up appointments to preview possible garden sites this June-August for next summer's tour. If you are interested in having your garden considered for the 2019 Home Garden Tour, please contact: Missy Jeanne, Special Projects Manager, at 608-246-5616 / [mjeanne@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mjeanne@cityofmadison.com). For more general information on the Home Garden Tour visit Olbrich's website – [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org).

### **Kegonsa.org**

We have a website for Lake Kegonsa - [www.kegonsa.org](http://www.kegonsa.org) - that contains information about our lake and the FOLKS organization.

Recently one of the most popular pages has been the links page, where websites devoted to lake levels can be found. Of particular interest is <http://www.infosyahara.org/>. This is a Dane County site that has lots of useful information. The lake levels on this site are updated about every 4 hours and it is the only site where the flow and level of Door Creek can be seen. This information has been helpful to understanding our lake level changes on Kegonsa. Also, the water level outlook on the forecast page predicts the water levels over the next week.

Another link related to water levels is the location of aquatic plant harvesters. <https://wred-lwr.d.countyofdane.com/Aquatic-Plant-Management>. Keeping the channel free of plants helps the flow of water through the system.

Several times a week, seven FOLKS members around the lake go to the end of their piers and make observations about the lake and record air and water temperatures. They use a Secchi tube to determine the clarity of the water. This information is recorded on the Clean Lakes website <https://lakeforecast.org/#/> where it is immediately available.

There are also links about the parks, water quality, boating regulations, local governance, and lake organizations.

The Newsletter page has FOLKS newsletters as far back as 2006 where you can find information on projects, lake issues and other interesting material.

## FOLKS Business Members

Please Shop and Support FOLKS Fabulous Business Members

Bunbury & Associates Realtors	Eric Olson (608) 575-9272
Carrico Aquatic Resources, Inc.	(920) 541-3600
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FOLKS monthly board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month and the public are welcome to attend. Next Meeting is July 11, 2018, 5:30 - 7:00 PM. At Springers, 3097 Sunnyside St., Stoughton, WI 53589

**Send news of interest to FOLKS to:  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589 or  
dluellwitz@gmail.com**

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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 chagen001@gmail.com or Peter Foy at peter.foy@charter.net

**FOLKS Lost and Found**

List lost and found items on the FOLKS Facebook page or contact Eric Olson at erolson@bunburyrealtors.com

For More About FOLKS, Visit Our Website at

WWW.Kegonsa.org and on Facebook



at facebook.com/kegonasa/ or

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