



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
March 2015

President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

Well, this is Wisconsin all right. My wife, Karen, and I have been back from Florida for only a few days and we have seen a 70 degree day, four inches of snow and everything in between. In no time at all we should be enjoying warmer weather and more lake activities.

There is an article later in the newsletter that hits the highlights of our annual meeting. We had a good year in 2014 and the FOLKS Board has a lot of work to do in the coming year. A few of our challenges and projects are outlined in the annual meeting article.

On Saturday 3/21 I had an opportunity to participate in a Watershed Tour that was run by Earth Partnership of the UW Arboretum. We were examining the Yahara River Watershed, which encompasses all four of our lakes. On this trip we were looking particularly at agricultural and dairy operations in the upper Yahara River Watershed, above Lake Mendota. This area has by far the largest concentration of dairy cows in the watershed.

One fascinating part of the tour was a visit to the Meinholz Blue Star Dairy near Middleton. This is a large sized dairy operation consisting of three farms all with over 500 dairy cows per farm. The tour was conducted by Art Meinholz, one of the five partners in this family run business. It is an impressive, complex operation. To see firsthand what was involved to grow the feed required for this size operation and see the constant milking, birthing and care required to keep this going smoothly day to day was eye opening. You have to be intelligent and have a true love of animals to choose this life.

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President's Message (Continued From Page 1)

I was particularly interested to see how they handle the manure that is generated by this many cows. Basically the raw manure is hauled to a digester that removes about 60% of the phosphorus and is then brought back to a large holding pond. This processed manure is then taken by tractor to be put on the fields. They grow all the feed for their large operation. They use improved equipment that lifts the soil and then injects the manure into the soil. This obviously reduces much of the run off that might occur if it was simply being dumped on top of the ground. This farm is a member of the Yahara Pride Farms. As a group they are practicing the latest methods to attempt to minimize runoff into our lakes. There is a lot of work to be done, but it was encouraging to see how seriously they are taking the goal of reducing potential phosphorus loading in the Yahara River watershed.

Ice Off Contest

As of today, Saturday, March 21, the Lake is still frozen! I was so optimistic that I would already see our first water skier, in a super thick wet suit of course.

Many of you were just as optimistic! The first date picked for the lake being totally open was March 16. In fact, 9 of you guessed that date. The latest guess is April 15. The most popular date is April 2 with 15 folks choosing that day. The next most popular date is March 27 with 12 guesses for that day.

Ninety-seven folks participated in our contest. That's almost a third of our members! Thanks to all who sent in their guesses. I receive emails within 10 minutes after the announcement of the contest is sent out.

I am anxiously waiting for a call from Ardys and Doug Pfundheller, our resident lake historians, letting me know the date the lake is completely open. If more than one person picks the date the lake opens, the winner is determined by the time and date the email is received by me. The winner will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate to Halverson's Restaurant. Our thanks to Halverson's for donating this to FOLKS as well as providing space for the FOLKS Board monthly meetings.

I'm hopeful that by the time you read this in FOLKS Newsletter, the lake will already be open!

Dorothy Brown

FOLKS is saddened by the passing of Dorothy Brown on Feb. 19, 2015, at the age of 87. She was the sole owner of Brown's Landing Boats and Bait on Lake Kegonsa. Dorothy was a long term member and business sponsor of FOLKS. She is preceded in death by her husband, Alfred and survived by many loving family and friends.

FOLKS Annual meeting By Peter Foy

We had a nice turnout for our FOLKS annual meeting on January 17, 2015 at the Stoughton Country Club. The highlights were:

- Reports from officers and committee chairs.
 - o Treasurer Gloria Kay Schoeberl reported on our membership and financial report. Both our membership and financial position were strong at the end of 2014.
 - o Dave Luellwitz reported on our communications committee, which consists primarily of our quarterly newsletter and lake alerts.
 - o Secretary Cathie Taylor reported on our successful FOLKS social event and our ice-on, ice-off contests
 - o Mike Amstadt reported on our fish committee and asked for volunteers. He added a couple of people, but if this would be of interest to you we are still looking for more fishermen for this committee. Please contact Mike at mikea@kegonsa.org
 - o Mike also discussed the lake levels over 2014. He mentioned the excellent relationship FOLKS has with Dane County and the people that manage the Lake Kegonsa Lake level. If you have a question or a suggestion about the lake level we would ask that you work through FOLKS and not try to go direct to the County. We have found them very willing to work with our organization on this.
 - o Bill Lamb explained how various FOLKS members were involved in Clean Lakes Alliance water monitoring program. This included both visual water and condition tests and also water samples submitted for scientific analysis.
 - o Vice-president Eric Olson explained a project he is working on to identify all locations that have a direct runoff path into the lake. If you have one on your property, or are aware of any please send an email to Eric at: erico@kegonsa.org
- President Peter Foy reviewed the changes to the FOLKS By-laws that were being recommended by the Board after many meetings and a legal review by outside council. Peter thanked Susan Luellwitz for all her help on this review. A motion was then made, seconded and voted on to accept the new By-laws. The vote was unanimously in favor. The new By-laws are on our website for anyone to look at.
- Election of Board members. Five current Board members, Mike Amstadt, Peter Foy, Dave Luellwitz, Gloria Kay Schoeberl and Jim Schoeberl were nominated. In addition two new Board members Brad Schroeder and Rick Thorstad were nominated from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of nominated Board members and the vote was unanimously in favor. Welcome to Brad and Rick to our Board. We have a busy agenda for 2015 and appreciate their willingness to help.

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FOLKS Annual meeting By Peter Foy (Continued From Page 4)

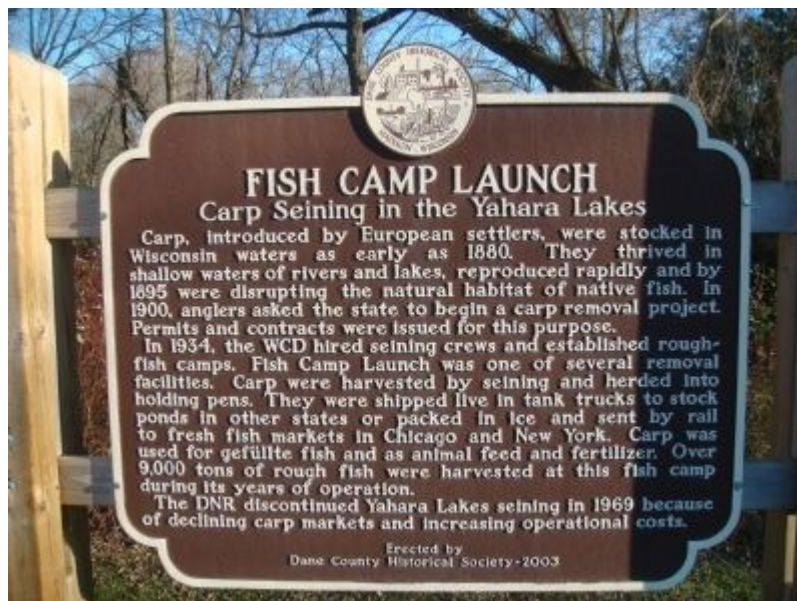
• The highlight of the meeting was our guest speaker Dr. Richard Lathrop and his excellent talk on “What it takes to improve the ecology and water quality of Lake Kegonsa” There was too much material covered in his 60 minute talk to try to detail here, but he reviewed the Yahara lakes and watershed in general including a historical perspective of the handling of pollution on the Yahara lakes, improved erosion control practices and current phosphorus loading issues. He had some interesting information about a carp removal project in Lake Wingra. He gave us the following management priorities for Lake Kegonsa:

o Support phosphorus loading reduction practice in Mendota and Monona’s drainage basins as water quality improvements in upstream lakes will cascade downstream to Kegonsa. (FOLKS supports this effort through our donations to Clean Lakes Alliance which focuses heavily on improving runoff into Lake Mendota.)

o Reduce phosphorus loads from “hotspots” in Kegonsa’s direct drainage. (The FOLKS Board will have to work with Dane County and CLA to identify the “hotspots” that directly affect Lake Kegonsa in 2015.)

o Determine if restoring the hydrology (hydrology-the science dealing with the occurrence, circulation, distribution, and properties of the waters of the earth and its atmosphere) of Door Creek wetland will reduce sediment and phosphorus loads coming from Door Creek’s watershed to Lake Kegonsa. (This is another challenge for the FOLKS Board to take on, working with other organizations)

o Fund a DNR carp tracking study (about \$20,000) to determine if a targeted carp removal could significantly reduce carp densities to promote clearer water and more aquatic plants that will in turn reduce sediment resuspension, decrease blue-green algae densities and improve the fishery. (The carp tracking study is just the start of removing large quantities of carp from our lake. This is the major cost, but then we would have the actual removal. Based on other lakes that have tried this and showed major improvements in clarity it is certainly worth considering. But it would take a major portion of our cash reserve and we have to decide if we are confident enough of the final results to move ahead. Our members will hear a lot more about this as we move forward.)



2015 FOLKS Membership

Thank you to all members who have sent their renewals in on first notice, you are in the good company of 250 other new or renewed members. The goal is to reach a minimum of 320 members in 2015. This goal is completely plausible; we have new residents around the lake, snow birds who respond to our second notices and residents of the lake who are not yet members.

As a member, please consider speaking to your neighbors about the FOLKS organization and their potential membership. Let them know that we publish a Newsletter and direct them to the website Kegonsa.org for additional information about FOLKS.

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership please pass on my email address and I will be happy to contact them personally.

Finally, please know that as a member, we are always looking for Committee assistance and ideas on making the organizational improvements in order to meet our goals.

Gloria Kay-Schoeberl, Treasurer, Gloria@kegonsa.org

Micro Beads - Down The Drain And Into Our Food Web?

(Article from Lake Tides, Volume 39, No.4 <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/resources/newsletter/vol36-vol40/vol39-4LTfall2014websmall.pdf>)

Research and analysis published over the past year has revealed a new threat to lake health coming from an unlikely source: face wash. The companies that make face wash have been increasingly using tiny plastic "micro beads" to improve the scrubbing capabilities of their products. The micro beads, often under one millimeter in diameter, slip through most municipal wastewater treatment systems. Their ability to stay suspended in liquids is both part of what makes plastic micro beads popular with manufacturers (prevents the exfoliant from settling to the bottom of a container) and part of what makes them so problematic (once floating in open water, they resemble insect eggs and other food sources to fish). The accumulation of micro beads in lakes and rivers is beginning to alarm scientists who are just starting to understand the ecological implications.

For many years, ocean researchers have pointed to the ocean gyres - the most famous being the "great Pacific garbage patch" - as evidence that human waste products are wreaking havoc on a global scale. The currents of the oceans have steadily steered floating debris into relatively small, concentrated areas. Floating on or just below the surface, plastic bags and all sorts of various flotsams gradually breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. Fish and birds perceive the bits of floating plastic as food. The debris can quickly cause health problems, as is found too often on the remote Midway Islands where nesting albatrosses feed their young a diet of plastic garbage until their chicks die on the nest. A more complex problem arises from the toxins that tend to concentrate on the floating plastic: PCBs and other endocrine disruptors that then bio accumulate in the food web and impact species that are not directly feeding on plastic debris.

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Micro Beads - Down The Drain And Into Our Food Web? (Continued From Page 5)

In the realm of inland lakes, we have taken a number of steps to minimize the amount of large floating plastic debris. Wastewater systems and storm water sewers generally intercept a great deal of litter before it hits the water, and it is now socially unacceptable in most places to simply throw garbage into a lake. The micro beads in our cleaning products threaten to introduce the bioaccumulation problem into more Midwestern food webs, potentially even impacting people who catch and eat fish from lakes.

Lorena Rios-Mendoza is an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin - Superior. She began her research on pollutants associated with plastic debris found near Baja, California in the 1990s. In 2012, Lorena participated in a research project to see how common floating plastic debris was in the Great Lakes. While large plastic debris was uncommon, the research showed surprising amounts of micro beads. The concentration generally increased along a downstream gradient in the Great Lakes system, with the highest amounts - over half a million pieces per square kilometer - found in Lake Erie. Another plastic pollution survey conducted by Dr. Sherri Mason and her team during the summers of 2012 and 2013, revealed over twice that amount in Lake Ontario (1.1 million per square kilometer). Mason, a chemistry professor at the State University of New York, Fredonia, found that approximately 70% of the plastic they skimmed off the top of the Great Lakes was between one-third and one millimeter in diameter!

More recently, scientists from McGill University in Canada reported measurable concentrations of plastic micro beads in the river sediment of the St. Lawrence River. Their findings, published in the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences this past September, indicate that plastic concentrations in river sediment are similar to the most contaminated ocean sediment samples. Face and body scrubs, even toothpaste and makeup products, may contain these tiny plastic beads. Look for "Polyethylene" "Polypropylene" and "Exfoliating beads."

No research has been done yet to look at how micro beads are impacting smaller inland lakes and rivers. Where municipal systems discharge treated wastewater into rivers or lakes, it is highly likely that micro beads are being discharged as well. We also know very little about how micro beads move and affect private on-site wastewater systems (septics). Since some septic waste is pumped and then treated at municipal plants, they too could be delivering plastic debris to the environment.

While the growing amount of microscopic plastic debris is troubling, society is already figuring out ways to turn off this pollution spigot. The simplest remedy is to stop buying and using products that contain micro beads. This includes not only soaps and toothpaste, but certain makeup products as well. This past summer, the State of Illinois passed a law that gradually bans the sale of products with micro beads, eliminating them from store shelves by 2019. According to a recent news article in Racine's Journal Times, State Senator

Bob Wirch and State Representative Tod Ohnstad are planning to introduce a bill in the next legislative session to create a similar ban in Wisconsin.

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Micro Beads - Down The Drain And Into Our Food Web? (Continued From Page 6)

Manufacturers are already responding, with industry giant Unilever pledging to eliminate micro beads in their products by 2015. In the meantime, millions of pounds of new micro beads will join the untold amounts already moving through our waterways.

What you can do: "There's an app for that"

Download the "Beat the Microbead" app to your smartphone. Simply scan a product's bar code to learn if it contains micro beads! You can also tell by looking for the ingredients polyethylene or polypropylene, meaning the product contains plastic.

Update

Wisconsin Senate passes bill to ban micro beads out of pollution concerns Article by: Associated Press; Updated: March 17, 2015

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin is joining the nationwide push to ban a key plastic exfoliant in soap, toothpaste and other personal care products out of fear it's leading to water pollution. The state Senate on Tuesday passed a bill banning the tiny bits of plastic known as microbeads. They are typically found in facial scrubs and toothpaste.

Scientists recently discovered that the particles are flowing by the billions from wastewater treatment plants into the Great Lakes and other water systems. Major manufacturers have already started substituting microbeads with natural substances including ground-up fruit pits, oatmeal and sea salt.

The bill passed Tuesday on a voice vote would prohibit making personal care products containing microbeads starting in 2018 and disallow selling them starting in 2019.

New York and Illinois already have bans in place.



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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 April 8, 2015, 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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