



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
January 2011

FOLKS Annual Meeting Agenda January 29

The annual meeting of FOLKS will be held at 10:00 AM, Saturday, January 29 in the lower level of the Stoughton Country Club. All members are invited to this meeting, which is expected to last about one hour.

Agenda

- Annual financial report
- Summary of years activities
- Election of officers and board members for 2011
- Aquatic Plant Management in Lake Kegonsa and the Yahara River
(Presentation by Sue Jones (see newsletter article for description))
- Question and answer session

After meeting

- Board members will be available to assist anyone needing help to fill out forms for registering piers

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

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President's Message ~ Bob Arndt

Aquatic plants to be discussed at Annual Meeting

I wish I could tell you that FOLKS had found the answer to the weed and water quality problems and that is why the water conditions were so much better in 2010, but I obviously cannot. I think most would agree that the water quality was the best it has been in several years, including both weeds and clarity. If you have lived here for some time you know that conditions seem to be cyclical. Rain patterns and the resulting runoff are most often pointed to as a determining factor, but there certainly seem to be other influences. We have asked Sue Jones, Watershed Management Coordinator for the Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds to address these questions at our annual meeting and hope that she can give us some insight into the factors affecting lake condition.

Our recent survey of members clearly indicated that water quality and aquatic plants (alias weeds) are the most important issues. Limited County funds and extensive weed cutting in the river above Lake Kegonsa to improve the flow out of Lake Waubesa can reduce the amount of cutting time on the lake. The survey asked whether you would be willing to pay for extra weed cutting, either with FOLKS reserve funds or through additional revenue from dues or assessments. A majority of FOLKS members indicated they would be in favor of looking into this possibility. So we will definitely be looking at this as a priority item in 2011. We will need to determine the best way to proceed. There are a number of issues that will need to be addressed, however, including how to determine which areas can be cut (DNR permits are required), which areas should receive the highest priority, and making sure that we get our fair share of cutting by the county, before FOLKS starts to pay.

The survey results also indicated that about 95% would like to receive these newsletters electronically. This could save us a lot of money, and paper, so we will definitely be moving in this direction. Thanks to the more than 200 members who completed the surveys on-line or by mail. The response rate was one that any organization would envy. Many of you took the time to add comments. It is my intention to start a practice this year of presenting and discussing a number of these comments at each board meeting. Thank you.

Aquatic Plant Management in Lake Kegonsa and the Yahara River

Presentation at Annual Meeting January 29th

Sue Jones, Watershed Management Coordinator for the Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds, will be making a presentation during the annual meeting about aquatic plant management in Lake Kegonsa and the Yahara River. The presentation will begin with photos and maps of what plant species are present in the lake and river (native and non-native), and a discussion of their ecological benefits. Jones will then talk about Dane County's aquatic plant harvesting program, recent harvesting records from Lake Kegonsa (tons of plants harvested), and preliminary research results from Lake Monona regarding the effectiveness of early-season harvesting and chemical application. She will conclude with a discussion of the possibility of FOLKS contracting with Dane County for additional harvesting in Lake Kegonsa, and there will be plenty of time for Q&A.

From Corn To Prairie Grass

by FOLKS Member John Thomas

For years, the parcel of farm property located on the southwest quadrant of Highway B and Highway 51 by the Kegonsa Sanitary District has been a source of pollution during heavy rains. This six plus acre plot is usually planted in corn by a rental farmer. The storm water from this parcel travels underneath 51 on both sides of the Sanitary, into a culvert between two residences and empties directly into the lake. Pictures have been taken by residents to document the plumes of soil emptying into the lake during heavy rains. Unfortunately, agricultural property is not held to the same stringent erosion standards as residential property even with its proximity to the lake.

Last summer, two lake residents approached the Town of Dunn to ask for help and to find a way to stop the lake pollution from this land. This meeting with Ben Kollenbroich and Erica Schmitz is the start of this success story. Erica and Ben worked with the County Conservationists, Pat Sutter and Duane Wagner, and a plan was developed to remove the property from farming for a period of time, and prairie grass would be planted over the acreage. The property owners agreed to the plan and requested a one-time cash payment of \$3,000. Grants were obtained to partially cover the seeding and the cash payment. FOLKS contributed \$750 to this project. The seeding was completed early this summer, and now the vegetation received the first cutting on August 13th as seen in the picture. It is a beautiful sight to see this thick, deep-rooted vegetation in place of the corn. The contract with the property owners guarantees the land will remain with prairie grass and not be farmed for ten years. The property passed its first test with the heavy rains at the end of July with no visible plumes of soil and nutrients entering the lake through the culvert! Special thanks, to Erica, Ben, Duane and Pat for seeing this project through to a successful completion. The lake is cleaner for their efforts.



Lake Kegonsa Ice Season

By Bob Arndt

On January 15 you can figure that we are about 1/3 of the way through the ice over season on the lake. There is no agency or group that keeps track of this information for Lake Kegonsa, but with the help of some FOLKS members I have put together some preliminary historical data concerning when the lake ices over and when it breaks up. The following table provides some of the more recent data. As can be seen we usually get iced over in early to mid December and it breaks up sometime after the first week of March. The earliest freeze over date in this set of data was November 27 in 1996. The ice off date is much more variable. In 1998 the ice had broken up by February 26 and in four of these years there was still ice in April. You may remember that in 1996 the ice broke up on January 1st and was open again for two weeks.

It is my understanding that some members may have information available going back into the 50s. If anyone has additional data and would like to forward it to me at BobA@kegonsa.org I will put it together and share it with the membership in the next newsletter.

Winter	Ice In	Ice Out
84-85	12/5	03/25
85-86		03/29/86
86-87		3/8
87-88		3/24/88
88-89		4/3
89-90		3/15/90
90-91		3/23
91-92		3/9/92
92-93		
93-94		
94-95		
95-96		3/25/96
96-97	11/27	3/26
97-98	12/4	2/26
98-99	12/25	3/6
99-00	12/18	3/6
00-01	12/8	4/6
01-02	12/29	3/14
02-03	12/6	3/27
03-04	12/13	3/15
04-05	12/19/04	4/4/05
05-06	12/5	3/13/96
06-07	12/8	1/1
	1/16	3/27
07-08	12/4	4/7
08-09	12/5	3/22
09-10	12/11/09	3/24
10-11	12/5	

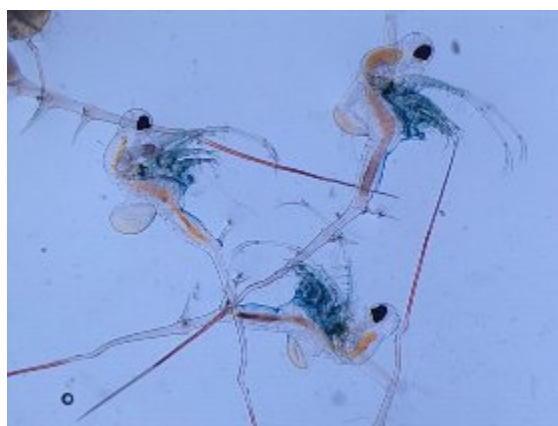
Aquatic Invasive Species

Reprinted From Wisconsin DNR Website

Spiny Waterflea - Lake Kegonsa

Date First Found 10/1/2009

About Spiny Waterfleas



Waterfleas entered the Great Lakes in ship ballast water from Europe – the spiny waterflea arrived in the 1980's, followed in the 1990's by the fishhook water flea. Only about ¼ to ½ inches in length, individual waterfleas may go unnoticed. However, both species tend to gather in masses on fishing lines and downrigger cables, so anglers may be the first to discover a new infestation. Spiny waterfleas are predators - they eat smaller zooplankton (planktonic animals), including Daphnia. This puts them in direct competition with juvenile fish for food. Young fish have trouble eating these waterfleas due to their long, spiny tails. The spiny and fishhook water fleas produce rapidly through parthenogenesis, commonly known as asexual reproduction, which means that no males are required and populations can explode in number.

FOLKS Board Secretary Position Open

We are in desperate need of someone to fill the position of secretary being vacated by long-time board member Susan Luellwitz. Duties could be limited to taking minutes at monthly meetings if desired. We could also use someone with a strong interest in fishing on Lake Kegonsa. A number of other board positions are available, including two 1-year positions. If you are interested in running for one of the positions or would like more information you can contact any board member or call Bob Arndt @ 347-3746. You can also let the board know of your interest at the annual meeting.

Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings, which are held at the Country Club from 5:30 – 7:00 on a day to be set by the new board (Jan – Nov).

Although 22% of our members reside out of state we have no board member that might represent any possible special concerns. If you are interested but cannot be at all of the meetings you should know that much of our business could be carried out electronically.

Lake Levels - Past And Present

By FOLKS Member John Thomas

Dane County has the responsibility of controlling the levels of the four Yahara lakes, Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa. The DNR has established levels for each of the lakes known as Summer Maximum, Summer Minimum, and Winter. The County's objective is to maintain the level of the lake during the summer between the Maximum and Minimum levels for each lake. This can be a difficult task at times and is very dependent upon the amount of water present due to snow melt and excessive or reduced rain. During the Fall, the County begins drawing down the lake levels to or near the Winter level to preclude the chance of shoreline damage due to the ice formation.

The lake levels are measured in feet above sea level. The levels of the lakes are measured each day and are recorded on the Dane County website, www.countyofdane.com. This data can be accessed from two spots on the County's home page, either "Lake Information & Levels" or "Lake Level Data." Once at this site, the most recent measurement is available as well as the Minimum and Maximum DNR levels for each of the four lakes. On this page, there is also a link to obtain historical level data. It is listed in the middle of the page as "Lake Level Search Page." Accessing this search page allows access to almost 15 years of lake level data for each lake. It is very user friendly and has a provision to chart the data that has been obtained. This chart is very informative since the Summer Maximum and Minimum levels are automatically placed on the chart as well as the level data obtained by the user.

In the future, if you believe your lake's level is too high or too low, you can go to the County's site and obtain [today's](#) level. It is also good to look at what the current levels are on all four lakes as a system. All the lakes are connected by the Yahara River and the excess volume in the upper three lakes will eventually need to be passed through Kegonsa.

FOLKS OFFICERS 2010

Bob Arndt President

1960 Barber Dr.
Stoughton, WI 53589
877-8540
BobA@kegonsa.org

Mike Amstadt Vice President Civic Affairs

2333 Williams Point Road
Stoughton, WI 53589
205-2041
MikeA@kegonsa.org

Eric Olson Vice President Lake Affairs

3044 Shadyside Drive
Stoughton, WI 53589
873-1834
EricO@kegonsa.org

Kris Heckman Treasurer

2136 Colladay Point Drive
Stoughton, WI 53589
877-8750
KrisH@kegonsa.org

Sue Luellwitz Acting Secretary

2059 Skyline Drive
Stoughton, WI 53589
873-8519
SusanL@kegonsa.org

Board Members 2010

Ray Potempa
3411 Stony Crest Drive
McFarland, WI 53558
838-9329
RayP@kegonsa.org

Tom McGinnis
2949 Tracey Lane
Stoughton, WI 53589
877-0462
TomM@kegonsa.org

Bill Lamm
3147 Sunnyside Street
Stoughton, WI 53589
205-2067
BillL@kegonsa.org

David Luellwitz
2059 Skyline Drive
873-8519
DaveL@kesonsa.org

Robbie Kritz
3492 Orvold Park Drive
McFarland, WI 53558
576-6323
RobbieK@kegonsa.org

Peter Foy
3130 Shadyside Drive
873-8836
PeterF@kegonsa.org

FOLKS monthly board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and the public is welcome to attend. Next Meeting February 8, 2011, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

Stoughton Country Club 3165 Shady Side Drive Stoughton WI, 53589

**Send news of interest to FOLKS to:
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589 or
DaveL@kegonsa.org**

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