



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

President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

Well, you know that summer is over when FOLKS is running the, “When is the lake going to freeze over contest”. I hope you got your entry in. We had a wonderful summer. Beautiful weather and we enjoyed another year that was relatively free of weeds and algae blooms. Now we look forward to another magical time on the lake when winter takes over and the views seem to change daily.

FOLKS Board members were closely involved with the Clean Lakes Alliance during 2013. We attended five different training classes covering everything from invasive species to aquatic plants to the effect of leaves on the lakes. Many of these studies are being conducted by members of the University of Wisconsin. Some are in their preliminary stages, but show potential of increasing our understanding of ways to improve the quality of our lakes. We have reported much of this information in our newsletters and we will continue to update our members as we get updated information on any topic relevant to the lake.

This spring Bob Arndt initiated a project to take water samples of different run off areas into our lake. Clean Lake Alliance helped us arrange to analyze the test sites samples to identify major problem areas. With the cooperation of land owners, the Clean Lakes Alliance, Yahara Pride, and Dane County, it appears that some runoff off controls may be completed before the end of the year. We are calling this the Lake Kegonsa Water Quality Improvement Project. We will have more information to share about this at our annual meeting.

You will see a notice about our annual meeting later in this newsletter. We will cover the highlights of 2013 and plans for 2014. We hope you can make it. We need your input on how we can make FOLKS even better and the annual meeting is the perfect opportunity to do it.

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Annual Meeting Announcement

The FOLKS annual meeting will be held at the Stoughton Country Club, 3165 Shadyside Drive, Stoughton, WI 53589 on Saturday, January 18, 2014, at 10:00 AM.

Agenda

Call to order

Financial report

Summary of 2013 activities/projects

Introduction of 2013 Committee chairpersons

Membership drive

Election of board officers for 2014-15

Guest presentation – To be determined.

Adjourn

Guess the Date Lake Kegonsa Freezes

It's hard to believe but there is already one date for Lake Kegonsa freezing over in 2013. According to our experts, Ardys and Doug Pfundheller, resident historians who have been tracking and recording events on the date the lake for 50 years, Lake Kegonsa completely froze November 30, 2013. However, the lake opened on December 4, 2013.

Their methodology is to drive around the lake to assure Lake Kegonsa is frozen or open at all specified points.

We had a guess for November 29 by Kurt Dickey and since it was so close and so unusual to freeze this early, he deserves a prize and will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to Springer's.

For all those who guessed later, the lake re-froze on December 7, 2013. Marian Kundert won a \$50.00 gift certificate to Springer's. The most popular guess was December 22 with 11 people choosing this date. This is the date the lake froze last year!

Thanks to all who entered the contest. We had 78 people submit their guesses. Enjoy the ice!

Camp Collins and the Lake Kegonsa Train Station By Peter Foy

We have had a lot of interest in the historical articles that we have been putting in the newsletter. People seemed to be particularly interested in the Camp Collins and Lake Kegonsa Train station that was active from 1885, until 1906. The location of the station was at about what is now 2054 Skyline Drive . When people arrived they headed out for a 10-15 minute walk over a board walk from the station to the Camp. Every night a good sized delegation would walk to the train to meet the evening train and welcome the incoming visitors and members. Once the automobile became more common and the folks from Illinois discovered that they could make the trip to Lake Kegonsa in 3 hours, rather than 6 hours, the train station got less and less traffic and eventually closed.

The following article was written by Doug Pfundheller back in January 2008 and we are happy to be able to share it with our members again. I did go to the Stoughton Public Library and read the paper that Doug mentions below that was written by Walter Parsons in 1937. It contains a list of all the original members of the Camp Collins and even the names of the guests. There are copies of pictures showing the white tents that they referred to as the white city. All the families ate together in a large dining tent. They hired a cook along with several helpers to wait tables and do some general work. If you have a chance, go look through the material at the library. It is easy to picture the fun times these families had on our lake back in the late 1800's.



Camp Collins By Doug Pfundheller

In the 1880s there were very few buildings on the lake but word had spread that the fishing was great. Groups of people from far and wide started coming to the lake in the summer months and due to the lack of buildings they stayed in tents and called their areas "Camps" or "Parks."

There was the Elgin Camp, Rockford Camp, Lee's Park etc. but the best known of all was Camp Collins located on what is now Tracy Lane. I think the reason that it was best known was due to the fine history written by sons of the original members. Mr. Palmer wrote one and Walter J. Parsons, son of the groups secretary another, both are delightful history. Many of the things that I have written came from these two men, as did the following.

In 1884 a group of Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad men came up to the lake to fish. They camped near what was later known as Ive's Lodge. This building is now owned by the Skaalen Family and is across Shadyside Rd. from the Bryant Center. There were eight families in the original group, all from Chicago except Frank Turner of Stoughton, who also worked for the railroad company.

At that time, Torge Mandt, famous for his wagon company, owned a large tract of land on what is now Tracy Lane. It was called Mandt Park and was a picnic area with refreshments and boat rentals. In 1885 Mandt sold the land to Mr. W. A. Furman and he in turn sold it to the Collins group for \$1600 plus \$100 for personal property [boats]. The area was 15 acres total, 9.75 acres on the lake with 1400 ft. of shoreline. To raise the money to buy the tract the Collin brothers sold shares at \$100 each to 20 families and Camp Collins was born.

The families each had a tent and there was a large tent where they ate as a group. In 1887 they built a two story boat house, off season they stored their tents on the second floor, and the boats on the first. They even had a telegraph room. A picture of the building is above, it still stands to this day but there have been some changes and now the top floor is a living area owned by the McGinnis family, decedents of the original group.

Back in The 1880's most of the families came up to the lake by train so the railroad Company built a small depot at the lake so the people coming and going had a place to wait. The depot was built about ¼ of a mile south of where the track crosses Skyline Dr. The little building was on the west side of the tracks. [see picture above] A wood sidewalk was built across the wet area so they could walk to the camp or wait for a horse and buggy that came to the depot through the farmer's driveway off of Williams Drive. The camp was active for 20 years. Then in 1906 it was dissolved and members were able to buy lots for cottages, if they were interested.

Membership News

First a special thank you for the commitment and support of Friends Of Lake Kegonsa Society. Your membership enables FOLKS to continue improvement initiatives for Lake Kegonsa.

Before finalizing 2014 objectives, the Board will seek input from members during the January 18, 2014 Membership meeting being held at the Country Club at 10:00 AM.

The FOLKS membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st of each year. FOLKS will once again utilize first class mail for the 2014 FOLKS membership drive, please watch for the membership renewal to arrive prior to the end of the year.

The Board would also like to invite any interested members to attend Board meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month. As any community organization, FOLKS is always in need of members who are interested in helping meet the annual and long term objectives. An example would be assisting in gather data on lake levels or submitting articles for the Newsletter.

If you would like to become a volunteer, have suggestions for FOLKS, or would like to attend a meeting, please visit our website (<http://www.kegonsa.org>) and contact a Board Member.

Questions about membership can be addressed by Gloria Kay at Gloria@Kegonsa.org or Peter Foy at PeterF@Kegonsa.org.

As you think about how you might become more involved, a review FOLKS' primary objectives may be helpful. The primary objectives are;

- To protect, maintain, and enhance environmental and recreational values at Lake Kegonsa and its surroundings,
- To organize and conduct activities intended to maintain or improve the ecology, water quality, fishing, and recreational use of Lake Kegonsa,
- To obtain and provide information to its members on lake owner concerns and recreational users of the lake.
- To provide important lake information to all of our members and lake home owners. Members and non-members are encouraged to visit the website at: <http://www.kegonsa.org>.

Your membership enabled FOLKS to accomplish so much this year. To list a few:

- We contributed to fish stocking, monitored lake levels and weed control to enhance recreational values.
- We had open communication and supportive efforts with like-minded organizations such as the Clean Lake Alliance, the Department of Natural Resources, Dane County and others.
- An annual membership meeting and social event were held.

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Membership News (Continued from Page 5)

There is a busy agenda for 2014.

- We have scheduled an Annual Meeting for members on January 18, 2014 to be held at Stoughton Country Club.
- We plan additional fish stocking on Lake Kegonsa.
- We plan to work with the Clean Lake Alliance on runoff and impacts of aquatic plants.
- We will publish four newsletters, plus numerous Lake Alert notices, as important news come up.

Thank you for your contribution and your continued support of FOLKS.

Lake Kegonsa Fish Stocking

Despite the short notice from the DNR, twenty four volunteers from the Stoughton Conservation Club and FOLKS showed up early on Tuesday October 1st to mark 5,500 walleye fingerlings to be released into Lake Kegonsa. The fish were purchased from Gollon Bait & Fish Farm with funds from the Stoughton Conservation club with an additional \$1,500 donation from FOLKS.

The fish arrived by truck and Kurt Welke and his crew from the DNR set up the equipment to clip the left dorsal fin from each fish. The DNR wants to study the fate of released fingerlings in the lakes. The volunteers moved the fish to nets in the lake and then back to the tables set up for the clipping. After clipping, the fish were then carried to a boat and distributed into the lake. The entire process took approximately 2.5 hours



FOLKS OFFICERS 2013

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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

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 January 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@kegonza.org to list lost and found items on the FOLKS website.

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P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589

Return Service Requested

FOLKS Business Members

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