



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
December 2014

President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

We have had a great year on the lake and the FOLKS Board would like to tell you what they have been up to this last year at our upcoming annual meeting.

Annual meeting-Saturday 1/17/14

Be sure to look at the announcement later in the newsletter about our annual meeting. We have an interesting speaker lined up. Richard Lathrop has a Ph.D. in Oceanography and Limnology from the University of Wisconsin. The FOLKS Board has been discussing the possibility of doing a carp tracking study and Dick will talk about what is involved to do this and what could happen after the study is completed. Dick has been involved in carp removal programs in other lakes and will provide the results of those efforts.

Also, Lake Kegonsa is scheduled for a comprehensive fish study in 2016. He will explain how this works and what information we can expect to get from the study.

He will also share some other information specific to Lake Kegonsa. It should be an enlightening talk and we hope you can make it.

Stoughton Conservation Club

The Stoughton Conservation Club put about 6,500 walleye in Lake Kegonsa this fall. This is the 5th year that they have stocked the lake with walleye. They are hoping to stock perch next year. We will keep you posted.

Their fisheree is Saturday 1/24/2015. Information should be on their website any day
<http://www.stoughtoncc.com> .

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President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

Membership Dues

You will also see the first notice of our membership drive for 2015 in this newsletter. A membership mailing will be going out in early January. We are happy to report that we met our membership goal for this year. Thanks to your support. Just this week we were able to send checks for \$1,000 to Clean Lakes Association to support their efforts to reduce phosphorus in the Yahara Lakes and also \$1,500 to the Stoughton Conservation Club to help fund the fish stocking program.

Ice on/ice off the lake

You will see an announcement later in the newsletter by Cathie Taylor about our ice on contest. This fun, little contest generates a lot of interest. The lake froze for good this year on 11/21/2014.

This early date prompted some of our members to ask if this year's ice on date of 11/21 was the earliest that the lake has ever frozen. So, we did some research and this is what we found out.

A couple of years ago Bob Arndt with help from other families on Lake Kegonsa put together information on ice on/ice off on Lake Kegonsa that went all the way back to 1957. So, amazingly we have 57 years of data. As Bob found out there is no official source of ice dates on Lake Kegonsa, so when we look at the dates we have to keep in mind that some people might have defined, particularly the ice off date differently. It might have been the day you could navigate from point A to B, the day the ice all broke up, or the day there is no ice on the lake. Regardless the information is interesting and certainly close to being accurate. Based on what we have these are the interesting facts:

- 11/21 is the third earliest date the lake has ever frozen.
 - o The earliest recorded date was on 11/12/1993
 - o The second earliest date was 11/15/1959
- The latest date the lake has ever frozen over was just a few years ago, when the lake didn't freeze at all at the end of 2011 and finally froze on 1/13/2012. It then opened up on 3/10/2012. So, the lake was only closed for 57 days, which is by far the shortest ice season we have ever recorded. For comparison, last year the lake was frozen for 124 days.
- The latest ice off date we have recorded was 4/19/1975
- The earliest ice off date was 2/26/1998

It is fun to look over this history. If you want a copy of the report just send me an email at peter.foy@charter.net and I will send you a copy of the Excel report.

FOLKS Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday January 17, 2015

Where: Stoughton Country Club

Time: 10:00am

The FOLKS Board spent several meetings this year reviewing and modifying the By-Laws of our organization. These changes will be voted on by the membership at this meeting. In order for you to review this prior to the meeting, we have posted it on the FOLKS website. We will have an election of Directors for a two year term. If you are interested in joining the board, please come to the meeting or let us know. We particularly need help getting our fishing committee more active. If you are a fisherman on Lake Kegonsa, we need your help.

We have a great guest speaker lined up for our meeting. Dr. Richard Lathrop.

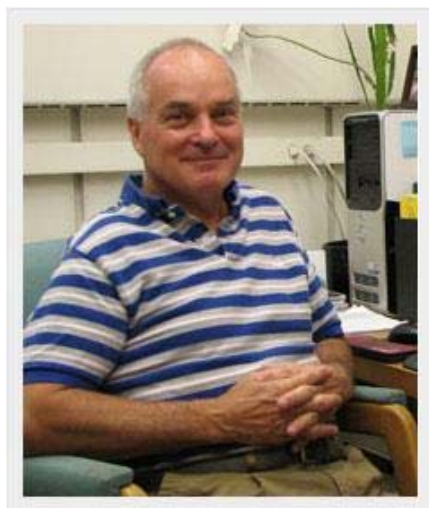
Dr. Richard Lathrop has worked foremost on Yahara lake water quality issues since arriving in Madison in 1975. In 1977, Dick began a 33-year career as a limnologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources where he conducted research on the Yahara lakes as well as led other successful lake restoration projects including removing phosphorus by bottom water withdrawal from Devil's Lake and removing carp from Lake Wingra. After retiring, Dick continues to work and volunteer on various water-related projects, including the UW's North-Temperate Lakes Long-Term Ecological Research project through his Honorary Fellowship appointment at the UW Center for Limnology.

His subject will be: "What it will take to improve the ecology and water quality of Lake Kegonsa"

One of the ideas he will be addressing is reducing the carp in our lake and what that would accomplish. This is just one of the topics that he will be addressing, along with others that you will find of interest.

Coffee and cookies will be served.

We hope to see you there.



2015 FOLKS Membership

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.

Membership in FOLKS runs from January 1st through December 31st of each year. FOLKS will once again utilize first class mail for the 2015 FOLKS membership drive, please watch for the membership renewal to arrive in January 2015.

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.

Water Test Project By Bob Arndt

FOLKS members share something in common in addition to the lake. We all have well water. It is recommended that private well owners should test their water for bacteria and nitrate/nitrites yearly or sooner if changes in taste or odor are noticed. Testing after significant flooding is also recommended.

Given the fact that we all have wells, FOLKS decided to see how prevalent well contamination might be around the lake. In early September nine FOLKS members agreed to collect water samples from their wells. The sample sites are indicated on the map accompanying this article.

The samples were collected and submitted to the Madison and Dane County public health department. The samples were tested for nitrates, nitrites, coliform and plate count (non-coliform bacteria).

Heterotrophic Plate count

This is a count of the total bacteria in the water. Most coliform bacteria do not cause illness, but indicate a breach in the water system. However, since *E. coli* are found in fecal material, they often occur with other bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause flu-like symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, fever and diarrhea.

The Heterotrophic Plate Count exceeded the 500 cfu/mL EPA recommendation for one well.

Correction requires chlorination of the well (pouring chlorine into the well). This is something that can be done by the well owner or by a professional.

Nitrate/Nitrite

Although high nitrate levels are usually due to human activities, they may be found naturally in ground water. They come from the breakdown of nitrogen compounds in the soil. Flowing ground water picks them up from the soil. Drinking large amounts of nitrates and nitrites is particularly threatening to infants (for example, when mixed in formula). One well exceeded the 10mg/mL EPA recommendation and another well tested at 9.39. While these are not alarming levels they would deserve attention if infants were drinking the well water. Nitrate/nitrite levels found in the nine samples were: 11.8, 9.39, 5.55, 4.81 and 4.31. The remaining 4 were <0.320 (none detectable).

Water Test Project By Bob Arndt (Continued From Page 3)

Coliform Bacteria and E. coli

Bacteria, viruses, parasites and other microorganisms are sometimes found in water. Shallow wells — those with water close to ground level — are at most risk. Runoff, or water flowing over the land surface, may pick up these pollutants from wildlife and soils. This is often the case after flooding. Wells can also become contaminated if the cap on the well is old or improperly installed. Some of these organisms can cause a variety of illnesses. Symptoms include nausea and diarrhea. These can occur shortly after drinking contaminated water. The effects could be short-term yet severe (similar to food poisoning) or might recur frequently or develop slowly over a long time.

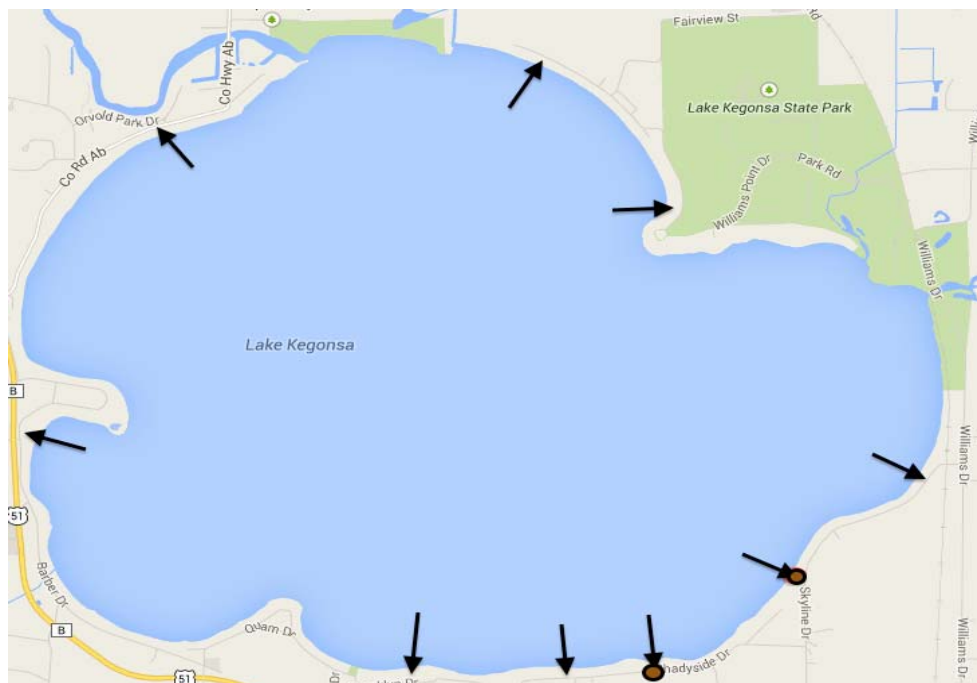
Coliform and E Coli were found to be present in one of the nine wells tested. (A different well than the one that tested positive for a high Heterotrophic Plate Count.)

FOLKS is not planning any further testing at this time.

Private well drinking water should be tested annually, especially in households including pregnant women, infants and young children. If you have questions for what types of testing you should do for your well, Public Health staff are available to help. Unexplained illnesses or changes in taste, odor or appearance of water may suggest the need for testing. Testing after significant flooding is recommended. Call (608) 266-4821 and ask for the lab. For additional information you can go to <http://www.publichealthmdc.com/environmental/laboratory/water.cfm>

The process for testing your well is relatively easy. FOLKS will have a limited number of sampling kits available at the January annual meeting. Tests are paid for when you drop off the samples at the lab. The Coliform Bacteria test costs \$16. Testing for Nitrate/Nitrite, Coliform and Plate Count is \$45.

As of October 1, 2014, any new well or well transferring ownership must be tested for arsenic along with the previously required bacteria and nitrate/nitrites testing.



Lake Clean-up Efforts

There is a lot going on regarding efforts to clean up our lakes. In case you missed the following reports we thought we would share them with you.

A message from Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

There's no single fix that will clean up our lakes, that's why we're working together on many fronts, with many partners, to address phosphorus run-off at its source. That's also why I have continued to increase Dane County government's commitment to confronting this challenge. In a tight 2015 budget, we found a way to support our lakes with more than \$10 million in resources. We augmented that support through new and innovative partnerships that can serve as a national example as other communities struggle with toxic algae blooms that can have a devastating impact on our waters.

These new resources will be targeted at key, proven strategies that have shown to have maximum impact. We're also testing cutting-edge technology, like a system to eliminate 100% of the phosphorus from manure - being installed and tested at the Springfield digester. There is a half million dollars to help farmers store manure, grants to stop pollution from the worst urban outflows, \$750,000 in the Yahara Clean Fund to establish new conservation practices and the addition of two new soil conservationists joining our efforts due to a new partnership with the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District.

Across this community, the list is growing of the partners stepping up to work with the County to clean up our lakes. Whether its agricultural, business, environmental or public sector interests, we have a coalition committed to reducing phosphorus and protecting and restoring our waters. My thanks to all of you who are a part of our coalition, working to protect our lakes.



FOLKS supports the Clean Lakes Alliance both financially and through volunteer lake monitoring activities. We believe that Clean Lakes Alliance is a worthwhile organization to support with some of your annual dues.

Clean Lakes Alliance reported that thanks to the support of the community and donors, they accomplished a lot in 2014:

- **Work on the Farms**

In 2013, farmers in our watershed completed an impressive 2,983 acres of conservation practices that protect soil and water quality. This year, our farmer surveys indicate that well over 5,000 acres will be covered by additional practices, financed in part by the Yahara Pride Farms cost-share program.

Lake Clean-up Efforts (Continued From Page 6)

- Money for the Lakes

We helped secure funding to improve water quality at a critical gateway to the Yahara lakes by helping to pass the City of Middleton stormwater utility referendum. The utility will provide dedicated dollars for stormwater management, reducing the amount of phosphorus and sediment that ends up in the lakes.

- International Recognition

In November, we won the North American Lake Management Society's Technical Merit Award for Public Education and Outreach, and received international attention for our community engagement efforts that include a first-of-its-kind monitoring program, a highly successful farmer-led conservation model, and a suite of effective outreach and education programs.

- Phosphorus reduction

The 2013 phosphorus reduction goal was achieved and reached 11% of the Yahara CLEAN goal to reduce phosphorus loading to the Yahara lakes by 46,200 pounds by 2025. **Remember each pound of phosphorus = 500 lbs of algae.** We will get the 2014 report next year.

Lake Freeze Contest

It's hard to believe that the lake has been completely frozen since Thanksgiving Day, 11/29. It actually froze over a week earlier on November 21 but reopened a few days later. We decided to reward both folks who guessed the first freeze and the final freeze with gift certificates to Springers. (Our thanks to Springers for donating one of the certificates!) Many thanks to Ardys and Doug Pfundheller, our resident historians who have been tracking and recording the date the lake freezes and thaws for years. They are our source for determining the winners.

There were four people who guessed 11/21. The rules dictate that the person who submits the guess first is the winner. Dave Mannis submitted his guess on 11/15 at 8:45 pm. Ahnna Weber guessed 11/29 and she was the sole person who guessed this date.

Thanks to all who submitted guesses. We had 93 folks participate. The most popular date was December 10th with 12 people guessing that day. The latest date guessed was 1/10/15!

With the early freezes and reopening of the lake occurring twice in the three years we've held the contest, we have decided that there will be a winner for the date the lake first freezes over and if it re-opens we will reward the person who guesses the date the lake permanently freezes over. If the lake does not re-open after the first freeze, the winner only gets one certificate. The rule for one guess per household still applies.

Thanks to all who entered the Ice-On contest. Watch for our Lake Thaw contest in the Spring.

Happy Holidays!

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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 January 14, 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.

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
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Stoughton, WI 53589

Return Service Requested

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