



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
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President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

The FOLKS bylaws require that we conduct an annual meeting, at which time we elect Board members and then in turn, the Board elects officers for the coming year. The term of our Board members is set up so that about half expire every year. We would normally have held our annual meeting by now. Because of Covid-19 we postponed our annual meeting until social gathering is considered safe. I wanted to let you know that until we are able to hold our annual meeting, including our officer elections, the members of the Board whose terms would have expired this year, as well as all of the FOLKS officers have agreed to continue in their positions until we are able to hold our annual meeting. The way things are looking this may not be for a while.

The Board continues to hold its monthly Board meetings via Zoom, a web based video conferencing tool. As you will see from the articles in this newsletter almost of our projects have continued as normal. The one activity that was impacted was a fun filled day we had planned for Fish Camp County Park this summer. It has been rescheduled for next year.

Thanks for the support

The Board would like to thank all of our members for their financial support. Our membership stands at 432 households and businesses, which is outstanding. A remarkable statistic is that when our members pay their annual \$20 dues many choose to donate extra funds to help with our many projects. A remarkable 46% of our members donated extra money over and above the dues and 53 members gave \$100, or more.

New FOLKS Educational and Well Water safety project

When you read the article about well water testing, please notice that there is a deadline if you want us to deliver a test kit to you. The theme of our program is that if you are drinking water from your private well, **You Are Your Own Water Utility Manager.**

Please contact any of your Board members if you have questions about anything in this newsletter.
– Peter Foy

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Well Water Safety Project

Has it been awhile since you last tested your well water? Your FOLKS Board members have been working on a well water educational program. Water tables can become elevated when they receive more water than they drain off. This can be from unusually high amounts of rain especially when the surrounding land is composed of highly permeable sandy soils or in areas where the soil is not well drained due to high levels of clay. Under these types of conditions, there is often an increase in the amount of water that reaches the aquifer, which increases volumes and raises water table levels. Since this has been the case in our area around Lake Kegonsa over the past few years, we thought it would be worth looking at whether these changes may have affected our well water quality.

Here are the basic questions we want you to know the answer to:

1. Why you should test your well water?
2. How you could get it tested?
3. What you should do if problems are detected?

General Background: FOLKS had 10 randomly distributed families on the lake have their well tested for Bacteria and Nitrate as well as a separate metal panel which included Aluminum, Arsenic, Cadmium, Calcium, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Iron, Lead, Magnesium, Manganese, Nickel, Strontium, Vanadium and Zinc. We did this as a quick survey just to see if we could find any problems associated with these wells. Three of the households detected Total Coliform bacteria but none of the wells tested positive for nitrates or exceeded any of the health standards for metals.

Remember, if you are drinking water from your private well, **YOU ARE YOUR OWN WATER UTILITY MANAGER.** There are no requirements to regularly test your well. If you want to make sure your water is safe it's up to you to test your well every year, or so.

Here are a few important tests that you should be aware of:

- Every well should be tested for **Coliform Bacteria** annually, or if there is a sudden change in taste, color, or odor. Coliform bacteria are microorganisms found in surface water and soil. A sanitary well should not contain Coliform bacteria. While Coliform Bacteria do not usually cause disease, their presence indicates a potential pathway for disease-causing organisms to enter your well. Wells that detect Coliform bacteria are also checked for *E. coli*, a specific type of bacteria found in human and animal waste. A positive test for *E. coli* is an even more serious potential issue and should be addressed immediately.
- If your well testing detects Coliform bacteria you should:
 - Re-test first to confirm your initial results and ensure that a proper sample was taken
 - If the second test confirms the presence of Coliform, you should contact a licensed well driller or installer to help you determine possible mitigation steps. The WI DNR provides a listing of these licensed contractors at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wells/contacts.html>
 - At least one of the three wells that tested positive for Coliform in our FOLKS survey was charged (treated with chlorine bleach) by a licensed well driller and re-tested one week later and found to have no detectable Coliform.
- Testing for **Nitrate** is particularly important if wells are used by pregnant women, and infants. Nitrate is a chemical commonly found in agricultural and lawn fertilizer. It is also formed when waste materials such as manure or septic effluent decompose. Water with greater than 10mg/L of nitrate-nitrogen should **not** be consumed by infants less than 6 months of age, pregnant women and women who are trying to become pregnant. Nitrate testing should also be done once per year.

- Every well should also be tested for **Arsenic** at least one time and then tested annually if arsenic was present. Arsenic is a naturally occurring element that can be released from soils or other geological material that groundwater contacts. When concentrations are greater than 0.010 mg/l (or 10 parts per billion), steps should be taken to reduce Arsenic in drinking water because of concerns that long-term consumption of water with this level of arsenic may increase the risk of certain types of cancers.

How do I get my well water tested?

The tests **FOLKS** ran on the 10 properties were conducted by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene. They are located at 2601 Agricultural Drive, Madison, WI 53707. The cost for Coliform bacteria and nitrate test was \$30 per sample. The metals screen which included Aluminum, Arsenic, Cadmium, Calcium, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Iron, Lead, Magnesium, Manganese, Nickel, Strontium, Vanadium and Zinc was \$109. You will notice that this includes Arsenic. So, if you did the Bacteria, Nitrate and metals screening tests, the cost would be \$139. All ten of the tests we did passed the metals screen. Despite finding no problems with metals in this survey the metals screening test does provide a lot of information about the condition of your well although it isn't something you need to do annually unless you have a problem. **FOLKS** recommends that you consider testing your well for metals if:

- You notice a change in taste or odor of your drinking water
- If a previous test for metals reveals one or more metals above an established human health safety standard (identified in your well test report)
- If the water table in your area rises significantly for some reason over a short period of time
- If your house was built before 1985, you may have copper water pipes and should consider testing for copper and lead. Lead solder was banned in plumbing in 1985 so older homes are at an increased risk for detecting these metals.
- If you notice staining of your water or toilet bowls, you should consider testing for iron and magnesium.

As a service to our members, FOLKS is offering to assist making it easy for our members to get their well water tested. If you are interested, FOLKS will pick up the well water test kits from the Laboratory of Hygiene, which include sample bottle and complete instructions and drop it off at your house.

You will then be responsible for obtaining the sample, either mailing the sample back (a shipping label is included with the kit, or dropping the test off at the testing lab. You will be billed at the end of the month for the tests you choose. Contact **Peter Foy**, President of **FOLKS** - **peterfoy49@gmail.com**, **no later than 7/21/2020**, to let us know you would like a test kit and **include your address**. If you elect to do the metals test in addition to the bacteria you will be given two test kit bottles because it requires two separate kits. Most people feel confident collecting and submitting their own samples. However, some people may feel more comfortable having someone else sample their well. Licensed drillers, pump installers, or licensed well inspectors will often perform this service for a fee. Plumbers who are also licensed pump installers can also help with this.

Why might my well fail a test?

When problems are detected there may be several sources depending on the contaminant. For Coliform bacteria, which is the reason three wells we tested failed, the source of the problem may be related to something very simple like a cracked, or loose-fitting well cap, in which case, replacing the cap and disinfecting the well with bleach may take care of the problem.

Your well may have elevated nitrate because of its proximity to agricultural farm land or there is a septic system drain field on or near your property. Likewise, if you live in close proximity to agricultural fields, you might have a higher potential to have pesticides detected in your ground water. If you find elevated nitrates in these situations you should consider testing for atrazine, the most common pesticide used on corn. We have already discussed some possible sources for metals in well water.

Here is some additional worthwhile reading.

The UW-Madison, Division of Extension, along with the Center for Watershed Science and Education, College of Natural Resources University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point have published some excellent material about this, including an article about Interpreting well water quality results. Copy and paste these into your browser to view them:

- WI Well Water Viewer Link: https://gissrv3.uwsp.edu/webapps/gwc/pri_wells/
This is an outstanding interactive map of Wisconsin well water monitoring results.
- video.pbswisconsin.org/video/private-wells-and-water-quality-problems-ueloe/
This is a great video by **Kevin Masarik**, an Extension Groundwater Education Specialist from UW-Stevens Point. We also want to thank Kevin for helping us with this article and reviewing some of our well test results with us.
- <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/DG/DG0023.pdf> Tests for Drinking Water from Private Wells by the WDNR, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater
- https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/weal/Documents/Homeowner_2020.pdf
Interpreting Well Water Quality results, Common tests for private well owners
- https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/weal/Documents/metals_2020.pdf
Well Water Quality Results, for common metals and minerals

Lake Kegonsa Water Levels

Lake Kegonsa rose rapidly this spring (16.4" from May 14th to June 11th) but has now been slowly receding (3.8" lower since June 11th) even with new rains. Per the Dane County website the current goal is to reach summer minimum of 843.0'. This goal is from the lake level task force from last winter. The county has been trying to build capacity to accommodate more large rain events.

As of July 7, 2020 the Lake Kegonsa level is 843.86' (ft above sea level) which is 4.32" above summer maximum. All four of the lakes are now above summer maximum.

Lake	Date	Lake Level (ft)	Summer Min (ft)	Summer Max (ft)	Inches Over Summer Max
Mendota	7/7/2020	850.81	849.60	850.10	8.52
Monona	7/7/2020	846.23	844.70	845.20	12.36
Waubesa	7/7/2020	845.87	844.50	845.00	10.44
Kegonsa	7/7/2020	843.86	843.00	843.50	4.32

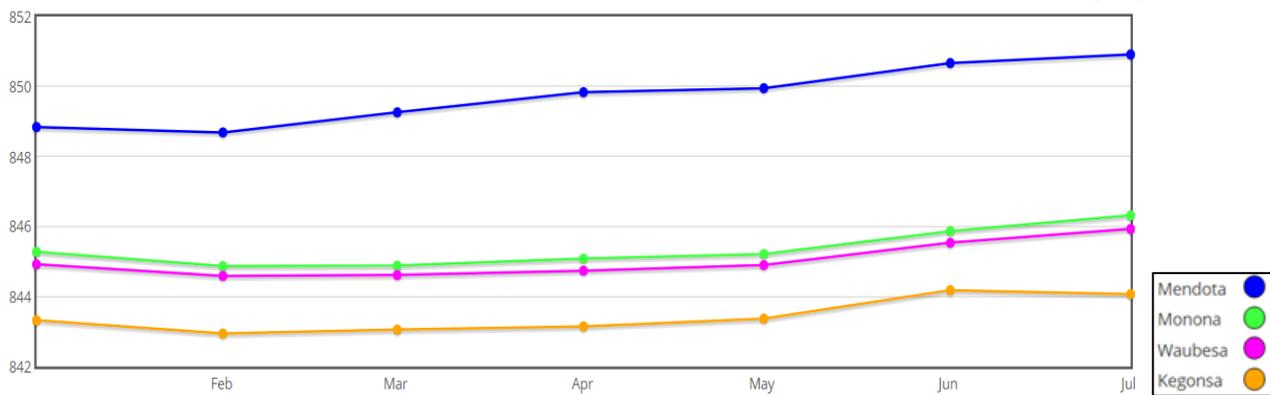
The graph below shows the 2020 **Lake Kegonsa** levels per the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department website at (<https://lwrd.countyofdane.com/chartlakelevels>).

Lake Kegonsa water level (feet above sea level) from Jan. 1 to July 2, 2020:



This graph shows the 2020 **Lake Kegonsa** levels compared to the other lakes:

Lakes in the Yahara Chain - feet above sea level from Jan. 1 to July 2, 2020:



As we noted in the **FOLKS** email in early June, water levels continue to rise in the lake for up to 2 weeks after it rains due to the size of the watershed draining into the lake. The peak rise is usually about a week after the rain.

Aquatic Plants

Flow wasn't high at the Stoughton Dam initially because the water couldn't get through the aquatic plants. Dane County put plant harvesters in the river below Lafollette Dam to reduce the blockage and the flow has consequently increased significantly in the last weeks.

As you've probably noticed, the shallow sections near the shores are densely covered with aquatic plants. We have been hearing complaints about excessive plant growth from our members all around the lake. Clearer water allows the sun to get to the plants and spurs their growth.

The county's main objective is to cut plants to keep the water flowing through the Yahara River and the system of lakes. You can find much more information on harvesting at the county's website.

<https://wred-lwrd.countyofdane.com/Aquatic-Plant-Management>

You can see where the harvesters are and the maps where cutting is permissible on this site. There were harvesters on Lake Kegonsa at the end of last week and more are scheduled to be on the lake this week.

First 2020 Aquatic Debris Collection Was a Big Success

Lake residents have been busy with Spring clean-up on their property! Who says "staying at home" can't be productive? As a result, the first aquatic debris barge pick-up by Dane County during the week of June 15 had good participation. The barge was on the lake for four days and made an extra trip around the lake to make sure all debris was picked-up. Approximately 3 to 6 barge loads of debris were collected each day. So, the total debris removed from the lake was about 20 barge loads which is roughly 20,000 pounds of aquatic "junk". Among the debris, there were a significant number of logs resulting from winter ice and deadfall.



The program will continue throughout the summer with five more pick-up weeks during the season.

2020 Aquatic Debris Barge Pick-up Schedule

July 13 through 17
July 27 through 31
August 10 through 14
August 24 through 28
September 21 through 24

Reminders:

- The pick-up may be anytime during the scheduled week, not necessarily the first thing Monday. The barge crew will typically start on Monday of the scheduled week and will make **one** complete pass around the lake and river (working through Friday if necessary). It may be a few days until the barge gets to your pier. Have all debris on your pier by 7 a.m. Monday of the scheduled pick-up week. Place the debris in a location at the end of your pier so that the barge can safely and easily access it.
- The only material allowed for collection is aquatic vegetation (lake plants, vegetation, algae) and debris washed up on shore (trash, logs, sticks, dead fish, etc.). Only debris that comes from the waterway is allowed.

Thanks again for helping to improve the cleanliness of our lake, river, and shorelines if you participated in the debris pick-up program.

FOLKS Spring Survey Results

235 of our **FOLKS** members (about 54%) responded to the spring 2020 survey – This is a great response – Thank You!! The survey was sent to one email address from each household or business.

We asked similar questions this year as the last two years to assess changing attitudes in our members. The **FOLKS** board uses the feedback in the surveys to determine our successes and failures and gauge interest in **FOLKS** projects.

Most response percentages were similar for general questions for 2020, 2019 and 2018. We show you a comparison of the years' responses below.

A few items to note:

- In 2019, the water level on Lake Kegonsa was still too high for 79% of our members. Only 21% thought the water levels in 2019 were fine. Your **FOLKS** Board continues to work with Dane County to keep them apprised of member concerns on water levels and to monitor efforts to increase the flow from Lake Kegonsa.
- Unfortunately, 64% of members said there were a lot of weeds near their property and 42% said the lake was not clean enough to swim in most of the summer. We are trying to identify and continue projects that will decrease the nutrient load (especially phosphorous) in Lake Kegonsa.
- **FOLKS** carp removal, leaf management, and aquatic debris pick up projects are well supported by our members.
- Our members also feel we should be involved with park projects on Lake Kegonsa.
- The top 5 projects our members were interested in are:
 - Identifying run-off areas 68%
 - Historical history of Lake Kegonsa Area 52%
 - More fish stocking 51%
 - More presentations like the November lake level presentation 42%
 - More fish cribs 36%
- There was also some interest in shoreline buffer gardens and rain gardens/rain barrels.
- 54% of our respondents have owned their place on the lake or river for over 20 years!

Thank you for your comments and ideas. It helps the board to know what's important to our members. Here are the survey details:

Q#1- The *FOLKS* organization represents my interests regarding Lake Kegonsa

	2020	2019	2018
• Yes, FOLKS does a good job	97%	98%	96%
• FOLKS does a pretty good job, but could do more	3%	2%	4%

Q#2- I find the quarterly newsletters to be informative and worth reading.

	2020	2019	2018
• Yes, pretty much all the time	100%	100%	100%
• I don't usually read the newsletter	0%	0%	0%

Q#3- Social events

	2020	2019	2018
• I have attended at least one and will go again	50%	49%	46%
• Have not been able to attend, but believe they are worthwhile	48%	48%	51%
• Don't believe social events are worthwhile	2%	3%	3%

Q#4- *FOLKS* emails with updates and announcements

	2020	2019	2018
• Appreciate the FOLKS emails	100%	99%	100%
• Most are worthwhile but there are too many	0%	1%	0%

Q# 5- <i>FOLKS</i> website: www.Kegonsa.org	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Use the website once in a while	46%	48%	37%
• Didn't know <i>FOLKS</i> had a website	27%	25%	36%
• Aware of website, but have not used it	27%	27%	27%

Q#6- <i>FOLKS</i> on Facebook	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• I have accessed <i>FOLKS</i> on Facebook	19%	15%	12%
• Aware that <i>FOLKS</i> was using Facebook, but have not used it	16%	22%	10%
• I don't use Facebook	42%	39%	44%
• I didn't know <i>FOLKS</i> was using Facebook	24%	24%	34%

Q#7- <i>FOLKS</i> work with government agencies	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• <i>FOLKS</i> working with government agencies is extremely important	98%	99%	99%
• These relationships are nice, but not that important	2%	1%	1%

NEW Q#8- If you don't live on the lake or river, why have you chosen to belong to *FOLKS*?

	<u>2020</u>
• I/we are interested in being good stewards of Lake Kegonsa and the watershed and <i>FOLKS</i> helps with that effort	92%
• We used to live on the lake but have moved and we still want to support <i>FOLKS</i> .	3%
• Newsletters and other informational material and presentations are of interest	21%

Q#9- Water levels for all Yahara lakes were higher than normal in 2019. How was the level at your property last year?

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Level was fine. We didn't have any problems.	21%	7%	50%
• Level was high and affected us a little. We would have liked it lower.	30%	17%	26%
• Level was really high. We ended up pulling our pier boards at least once.	32%	33%	18%
• This was as bad a summer as I can remember.	4%	29%	3%
• Water level was so high that it affected our shoreline.	12%	23%	3%

Q #10- Aquatic plant growth. How has it been near your property?

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Lake quality near our property was good, limited weeds all year.	3%	3%	21%
• There were some weeds, but generally it was good.	34%	25%	57%
• There were a lot of weeds near our property for much of the summer.	64%	72%	22%

Q #11-Lake clarity

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• The lake clarity was good last year.	7%	4%	11%
• Lake was not ideal, but in pretty good shape.	51%	35%	59%
• Lake has not been clean enough to swim most of the year.	42%	61%	14%

Q #12- Carp removal project. What do you think about the project?

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Believe that this is one of the best projects <i>FOLKS</i> has taken on.	62%	68%	72%
• Let's continue to follow through on the project for now.	35%	29%	24%
• This is worthwhile project, only if we limit our spending.	N/A	2%	8%
• Time and money would be better spent in other areas.	3%	2%	1%

Q #13- Fish Camp County Park. *FOLKS* has adopted the park and has rebuilt and painted the picnic tables, planted a shoreline garden and has volunteered to help clean up the park. In 2019 and 2020 we helped to finance the renovation of the deteriorating original 1937 Corn and Net buildings on the property. There will be other park projects come up as the Lower Yahara River Trail is extended into Fish Camp County Park and Lake Kegonsa State Park.

How do you feel about *FOLKS* involvement?

• I believe that helping with park projects on Lake Kegonsa is within our area of interest and we should be willing to fund up to \$20,000 on other park projects, as long as it doesn't stop us from doing other lake related projects.	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	28%	39%	23%
• We should help with park projects on Lake Kegonsa, but stay closer to \$10,000, if we have covered other projects.	37%	33%	31%
• We should help with this project, but only with grants and funds raised specifically for the park.	21%	21%	28%
• I believe all of our money should be spent only on projects that directly impact the lake.	12%	8%	18%

NEW Q #14- Aquatic Debris Removal Project.

In 2019 FOLKS began a program to provide regularly scheduled collection days for aquatic debris on Lake Kegonsa and the near North Yahara River in cooperation with Dane County.

What did you think of the project?

• I used the service in 2019 and believe this project is worthwhile	<u>2020</u>
	35%
• I didn't use the service, but believe this project is worthwhile	53%
• This is a worthwhile project only if we limit our spending	11%
• Time and money should be spent in other areas	1%

Q #15- How much do you feel that leaves impact the water quality of our lake?

• Significantly impact	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	47%	43%	46%
• Moderately impact	42%	44%	42%
• Limited impact	10%	11%	10%
• Not at all	1%	1%	2%

Q #16- Which of the following reflects your opinion concerning leaves around your house (select all that apply)

• Makes yard messy	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	51%	45%	52%
• Harms lawn	30%	23%	25%
• Harms lake	68%	62%	62%
• Like to reuse leaves for compost	12%	11%	13%
• Difficult to manage	25%	33%	31%
• Not of much concern	16%	19%	15%

Q #17- Who takes care of leaves that fall onto your yard (all that apply)

• I do	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	71%	74%	71%
• Family members	22%	26%	23%
• Yard care service	25%	24%	27%
• Neighbors/friends	5%	1%	4%
• Other	1%	1%	2%

Q #18- What do you do with the leaves that collect on your property?

(select all that apply)	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Mow and/or let shredded leaves go on the lawn	48%	44%	47%
• Rake to compost area in yard	13%	17%	12%
• Use as leaf mulch around plants	6%	7%	10%
• Haul to yard waste drop off site	34%	38%	40%
• Rake to lakeshore	0%	1%	0%
• Burn	15%	13%	21%
• Used the leaf pickup service provided by <i>FOLKS</i> and my Town	58%	52%	31%
• Other (answers were mostly lawn care service removed leaves)	5%	11%	16%

Q #19- What do you do with leaves that collect in the street near your home

(select all that apply)

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Nothing	24%	36%	45%
• Rake to compost area	7%	6%	7%
• Use as much	2%	4%	4%
• Haul to yard waste drop off site	17%	19%	25%
• Rake to lakeshore	0%	1%	0%
• Include them with leaf pickup provided by FOLKS and my Town	58%	46%	28%
• Burn	7%	6%	8%

Q #20- We would like to gauge your interest in new *FOLKS* projects.

Please check all that you think it would be worthwhile to pursue.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Historical history of Lake Kegonsa Area	52%	N/A	N/A
• More presentations like the November lake level presentation	42%	53%	N/A
• More fish stocking	51%	46%	N/A
• More fish cribs	36%	32%	N/A
• Additional social gatherings	16%	11%	N/A
• Rain garden workshop, tour	19%	18%	N/A
• Rain barrels	17%	16%	N/A
• Shoreline buffer gardens	30%	34%	N/A
• Identifying run-off areas	68%	50%	N/A

Q#21- Residency

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Year-round resident	67%	68%	62%
• Only part of the time	33%	32%	38%

Q#22- Age Bracket

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• 35, or under	0%	0%	2%
• 36-50	9%	8%	9%
• 51-71	63%	63%	67%
• Over 71	27%	30%	22%

Q#23- How many years have you had your place on the lake or river?

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• 0-5 years	15%	14%	14%
• 6-10 years	14%	11%	21%
• 11-20 years	17%	18%	15%
• 21-30 years	23%	22%	50%
• 31 years, or more	31%	35%	N/A

Q#24- Share with us the ways that you take advantage of being on the lake

(check all that apply)

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
• Pleasure boating	88%	86%	88%
• Swimming and other activities in the water	70%	72%	72%
• Tubing and/or skiing	60%	55%	62%
• Fishing	65%	60%	61%
• Just looking at the water and the activities on the water	79%	79%	82%
• Sailing	8%	9%	10%
• Kayaking/paddle boarding/canoeing	57%	53%	60%
• Other (mostly ice skating, ice fishing, ice sailing, jet skiing)	8%	8%	8%

We want thank everyone again for taking the time to complete the survey and adding individual comments. At our next Board meeting we will be reviewing the results and discussing the comments.

Update on the **FOLKS/Kegonsa Sanitary District #2** **Run Off Reduction Project**

As we reported in our April newsletter, the Town of Dunn, Kegonsa Sanitary District #2 asked **FOLKS** to assist them with a runoff reduction project near the office at 2240 US Hwy 51. A nearby drainage ditch runs straight into Lake Kegonsa and we are planting native plants within the ditch line to absorb rain water and slow the run-off.

296 Native Wisconsin plants were obtained through the Dane County "Plant Dane" native plant program (purchased by KSD and **FOLKS** and some were donated) for Phase 1 of the project. First, we staked off the Phase 1 planting area of 8' x 40' downstream nearest the rock pile and the culvert that drains into Lake Kegonsa. We then killed the grass with an aquatic safe herbicide. About 10 days later, we covered the area with a coco mat liner with nylon cross hatching to keep the plants in place and inhibit further growth of underlying vegetation until the plants could become established.

The site planning, preparation and planting was led by **Janice Kellogg** and **Connie Hagen**. Our volunteers: **Sally Schultz, Dolores Gruca, Cindy Guiney, Kim VanBrocklin and John & Karen Bottorff**, were incredible. On May 31, 2020, volunteers planted all of the first 296 plants for Phase 1. The plants were set about 1 foot apart in slots cut through the coco matting.





Native plants we used in the first phase of the Kegonsa Sanitary District planting:

	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>No. of plants</u>
Forbs:	Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot	32
	Pycnanthemum virginianum	Mountain Mint	28
	Verbena hastata	Blue Vervain	28
	Asclepias incarnata	Marsh (Red) Milkweed	32
Grasses:	Elymus Virginicus	Virginia Wild Rye	32
	Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed	32
Sedges:	Carex bebbii	Bebb's Sedge	40
	Carex hystericina	Bottlebrush Sedge	36
	Carex vulpinoidea	Brown Fox Sedge	36

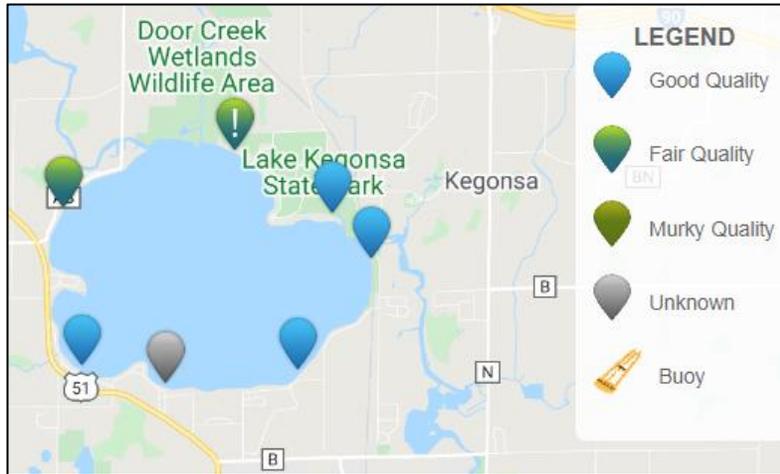
So far the native plants look like they're establishing pretty well, even though we've had a couple of big rain events and some very hot weather since they were planted. We'll continually assess the plantings in each phase before moving on with the project. We expect to revise the plan as necessary based on this information.

FOLKS and KSD will evaluate Phase 1 plantings in early August 2020. If spring plantings are thriving, we'll proceed with fall 2020 plantings probably in September/October for Phase 2.

During site preparation, we also cut down the cattail area near Hwy 51. We found a couple of baby muskrats and have since seen the adults in this area. The cattails have grown back up and will be removed as part of Phase 4 of our project.

Water Monitoring on Lake Kegonsa

Monitoring season is in full swing on Lake Kegonsa. Seven sites are currently being monitored by residents at the end of their pier through the Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA) citizen monitoring program. If you go to the website <https://lakeforecast.org/map/site/>, you can see the sites that are monitored for clarity, water temperature and air temperature. Observations of algae blooms, floating plant debris, wave intensity, water clarity, amount of waterfowl, and number of people in the water. Click on the balloon in the website to see the historical data for that location. The exclamation point in the graphic below shows evidence of a blue-green algae bloom on June 27th. Unfortunately we've had quite a number of algae blooms on the lake already this year.



In partnership with CLA, volunteers are also monitoring Lake Kegonsa at the deepest part of the lake. Dissolved oxygen and temperature readings are taken at half meter increments. Clarity measurements and other observations are also recorded.

We work with the Rock River Coalition in monitoring Door Creek. We do clarity testing, dissolved oxygen readings and take samples for water analysis. Phosphorous samples are processed by MMSD.



Sally Schultz installing a thermistor (continuous read thermometer) into Door Creek

Update on Building Renovations and *FOLKS* Projects at Fish Camp County Park

Fish Camp County Park has been a bit of a hidden treasure located on Lake Kegonsa. *FOLKS*, through its strong partnership with Dane County, has helped to revitalize two historic buildings located in the park, known as the corn and net buildings. Repairs were made to the exterior siding, the roofs were replaced and the buildings just recently received a fresh coat of paint.



Net House



Corn Storage Building

In addition, Dane County assisted with the removal of many items stored around the exterior of the buildings which has created a much more welcoming atmosphere. At this time the inside of the buildings are currently being used for storage by Dane County, but as plans progress for the Lower Yahara River Trail to pass through the park, *FOLKS* is actively thinking about ways in which the buildings may be repurposed.

As Friends of Fish Camp Park, *FOLKS* volunteers have repainted all of the picnic benches, raked and mulched trees, created and maintained a shoreline garden and native plant entry garden.



FOLKS volunteers **Janice Kellogg, Peter Foy, Grant Hone, John Bottorff, Kim VanBrocklin and Connie Hagen** mulched the shoreline garden and around a number of trees in May.



Butterfly Weed blooming in the Fish Camp Garden

As we continue to see changes at the park with the construction of Phase 2 of the Yahara River Trail, we would like to help with more improvements. To do that, we will need volunteer help. If you would like to be a part of that change, contact Janice Kellogg, Vice-President of **FOLKS** at kellojja7@gmail.com. Our next projects will be a work day to mulch trees and creating a small bed of colorful native plants next to the boat launch.

In the past **FOLKS** has hosted the Door Creek Aquatic Tour which encouraged members to enjoy a day of paddling along with an educational experience about the river and lake. This year, with the completion of the projects at Fish Camp, **FOLKS** was planning an event in August, which included a day filled with fun, family activities. Unfortunately due to the pandemic **FOLKS** made the decision to postpone this event until summer of 2021. **FOLKS** takes the safety and health of its membership very seriously and we want the event to be one in which everyone is able to relax and enjoy the day.

Stoughton Whitewater Park Project and Proposed Removal of Stoughton Dam

Over the past couple of years, the City of Stoughton has been exploring ways to increase recreational activity in and around the Yahara River in the City of Stoughton. The overall project is called the Yahara River Development Project which would involve the creation of trails and improvements to Mandt Park in Stoughton as well as a potential whitewater park. The whitewater park would create a series of whitewater river rapids for use by kayakers and other users of the river. The City believes that this project will bring economic development to the Stoughton area by making the whitewater, trail, and park features destination points for visitors and in turn economic benefits would come from money spent in the area by those visitors. In the January **FOLKS** newsletter, we informed you about a public meeting on this project held by the City of Stoughton.



The City formed an Ad Hoc Whitewater Park Steering Committee to further explore whether the Yahara River is an appropriate and feasible location for a whitewater park. As part of this process, the committee is seriously considering the removal of the Stoughton Dam located in the city limits. To be clear, the LaFollette Dam, located on the Yahara River exit from Lake Kegonsa, would remain in place and would not be affected.

The total project cost is expected to be about \$7.7 million. As a result, the Ad Hoc committee has been in the process of applying for a variety of federal and state grants and expects responses to its grant applications this summer and fall. We anticipate that we will know more about the direction of the project based on the grant funding that may be received by the City.

The development of the whitewater park and removal of the Stoughton Dam has raised some concerns from residents which include, but are not limited to, the impact on water levels in the Yahara River (and possibly Lake Kegonsa), wildlife, property values, and how the dam removal may significantly change the overall Yahara River water feature. Pleasant Springs residents who live on the river and Town of Pleasant Springs government officials have been monitoring developments of the project. Removal of the dam would require final approval by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The City would be required to complete impact studies and apply to those governmental approval agencies to be authorized to remove the dam.

As an organization, the **FOLKS** Board has been participating in the Stoughton Ad Hoc committee meetings each month to understand the issues and concerns being raised which will allow us to keep the **FOLKS** membership informed. **FOLKS** has also participated in public meetings that have been held with residents by the Town of Pleasant Springs. Information about Pleasant Springs meetings can be found on the Town of Pleasant Springs website under "Town Board" and "Special Meetings".
<http://www.pleasantsprings.org/townboard.html>

The Stoughton Ad Hoc Whitewater Committee Steering Committee meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Monday of each month at 8:00 a.m. via gotomeeting.com. If this project is of interest to you, visit the City of Stoughton's website and the link to this meeting is on the City's calendar. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/177463741> You are also able to review archived documents about this project stored on the City of Stoughton website under "City of Stoughton Document Storage" and "Ad Hoc Whitewater Park Steering Committee".
<http://stoughtoncitydocs.com/ad-hoc-whitewater-park-steering-committee-1>

As the Stoughton whitewater project proceeds, the **FOLKS** Board will continue to monitor developments and keep you informed.

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For More About **FOLKS**,
Visit our website at **www.Kegonsa.org** and

on Facebook  at facebook.com/kegonsa/

or on Twitter  @LakeKegonsa

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 peterfoy49@gmail.com

Send news of interest to **FOLKS** to:
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FOLKS Lost and Found

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

FOLKS board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and the public are welcome.
Next Meeting is July 14, 2020, 5:30 - 7:00 PM via Zoom -
Contact Kim VanBrocklin (kegonsakim@gmail.com) to join.

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
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