



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173  
**April 2021**

**President’s Message ~ Peter Foy**

We enjoyed some real bonus weather in early April and we are now waiting for the 70’s to return. It won’t be long.

**2021 Projects**

We had our Board meeting on Tuesday, 4/13 and reviewed all of our current projects for 2021. We are pleased to tell you that we will be continuing with our popular leaf and barge pickup programs as well as our many other activities. We also have a new **FOLKS** Wildlife Committee, headed up by Board member Kim VanBrocklin. You will read about all of these activities in this newsletter.

**Carp project**

What isn’t good news is that the carp fishermen didn’t remove any carp from our lake this spring. We had previously identified the many challenges facing the program this spring, one of the major ones being Covid-19’s impact on the live fish market. We were still hopeful that the issues could be overcome and it would result in a sizeable carp removal.

With help from the WDNR and the fishermen that held the permit, the **FOLKS** Board had developed a substantial financial incentive for the fishermen to encourage them to make an effort to be removing carp this spring. With a successful removal **FOLKS** could have paid them over \$25,000, depending on the pounds of carp they removed.

We are now looking forward to 2022 and what can be done to maintain this successful program. We have already discussed some other possible fishing projects with the WDNR and will be exploring what we can do going forward.

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## President's Message, continued

### Save the Dates for Annual Meeting and Summer Family Outing

Our 2021 annual meeting is scheduled for **June 19<sup>th</sup>** at the Stoughton Country Club. We are hoping that it can be a combination of an in-person and a Zoom meeting to allow our members a choice of how they prefer to participate. **FOLKS** and the Stoughton Country Club will be monitoring the County Covid-19 regulations. For now just save the date and we will be sending you more information, as we get closer to the date.

**FOLKS** is also planning a fun family celebration **August 21<sup>st</sup>** at Fish Camp County Park. The day will include a variety of activities for all ages so please mark your calendars.

– Peter Foy

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We'd like to send a huge thank you to Rick Thorstad, long time board member for being such an important part of the **FOLKS** organization. He and his wife Terry will be moving to Florida this summer and making that their permanent home so he will no longer be on the **FOLKS** board. Please join us in wishing them all the best on their new adventure.

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### Current Lake Kegonsa Water Levels

Dane County personnel have partially closed dams in the Yahara chain of lakes this spring. Babcock and LaFollete dams have been completely open for a number of years but due to low lake levels this March, Babcock Dam (Lake Waubesa) is currently 90% closed and **LaFollette Dam (Lake Kegonsa) is currently 95% closed**. Lake Kegonsa typically rises rapidly in late spring, especially mid-May to mid-June, then stays relatively at the same level throughout the summer.

As of April 20, 2021, the Lake Kegonsa level is 843.17' (ft above sea level) which is within the summer minimum/maximum target range.

Lake	4/20/2021 Lake Level (ft)	Summer Minimum (ft)	Summer Maximum (ft)
<b>Mendota</b>	849.89	849.60	850.10
<b>Monona</b>	844.73	844.70	845.20
<b>Waubesa</b>	844.70	844.50	845.00
<b>Kegonsa</b>	843.17	843.00	843.50

You can find more information on Lake Kegonsa levels per the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department website at (<https://lwr.dane.gov/chartlakelevels>).

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## **FOLKS Membership Renewal and Contributions**

Thank you to everyone who has returned their 2021 membership renewal. We've had a very good response so far. We're amazed at the additional member contributions which tell us of your support.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2021, please send your check to:

**FOLKS, PO Box 173, Stoughton, WI 53589**

and talk to your friends and neighbors about supporting our efforts on behalf of Lake Kegonsa and the surrounding watershed. Our dues are still only \$20 for households and \$30 for businesses.

We also appreciate all those who sent us contributions as a memorial for Ardys Pfundheller who passed away in February. She and her husband Doug were an important part of **FOLKS** since 1997 and contributed their time and talents in many different ways.

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### **Lake Kegonsa "Ice Off" Contest**

The lake was ice free on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Only 3 people guessed this date which is a low number for dates around this time in March. Over 140 members tried their luck with 19 choosing March 17! Unfortunately, St Patrick didn't pass on his lucky charm. The contest was emailed to members on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and by the end of the day, we had 99 guesses!

Our winner of the \$50 gift certificate to **Springers** is Warren Harrington! Congratulations and enjoy! The winner is the first person to guess the correct date as well as being the first person to submit it. I track the date and time I receive the guesses as we can only have one person win.

We thank **Springers** for their continued donation of gift certificates for our contests.

We thought you might find the history interesting so we added the continuous "Ice On"/"Ice Off" listing to the newsletter page on our website ([www.kegonsa.org](http://www.kegonsa.org)) this year.

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### **Amundson Landing Dock is Repaired and Back in the Water**

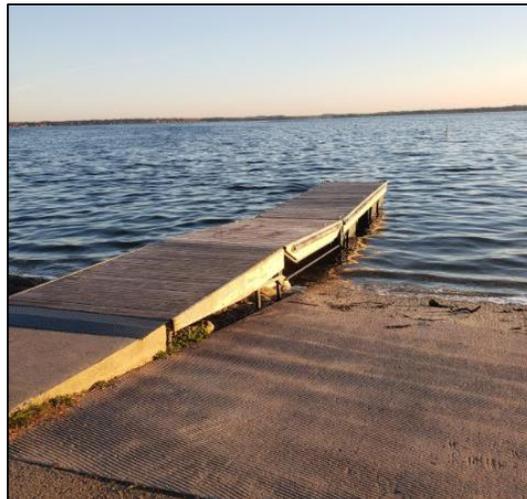
**FOLKS** is happy to report that the Town of Dunn installed the newly repaired pier at Amundson landing on April 12! Thank you to the Town of Dunn Public Works team for their efforts.

You may think that installing a dock is a routine matter – which it usually is - but that was not the case this past year. For those of you who don't know, the dock was not in the water all of 2020 because someone stole the "stabilizing arm" before the boating season last year. That is a key part of the dock and it could not be safely used without that part.

**FOLKS** received several inquiries from lake residents about not having the dock in and it was also reported in feedback on the **FOLKS** 2020 member survey. As a result, we contacted the Town of Dunn to check on the matter and discovered they had been working on the problem and were attempting to locate the dock design drawings from the Wisconsin DNR to make a replacement part. That research took a lengthy amount of time and the drawings never were located. By that time, it was well into the fall and too late to make repairs and install the dock.

This spring, the Town of Dunn Public Works staff designed and fabricated a new stabilizer arm for use on the dock. **FOLKS** wants to thank the Town of Dunn Public Works Department crew for getting this

work done for lake residents and others who use Amundson Landing. The crew had to slot this project among their many other work priorities. The dock will enhance the convenience and safety for boaters and others for the 2021 season.



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## Aquatic Debris Collection Dates for 2021

**FOLKS** will be sponsoring and paying the cost of the Aquatic Debris Collection program for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. This program has been popular and well utilized by lake and river residents. We hope you make good use of the program again this year to keep your shoreline clean and the lake beautiful!

The Dane County Land & Water Resources Department will bring a barge onto the lake and pick-up debris that residents place on the end of their pier.

The 2021 schedule will be every two weeks as follows:

**June 14 thru 18**

**June 28 thru July 2**

**July 12 thru 16**

**July 26 thru 30**

**August 9 thru 13**

**August 23 thru 27**

**September 6 thru 10**

Here is how the barge pick-up program works:

- The barge will cover all of Lake Kegonsa and Yahara River residences on Orvold Park Drive, Alsmo Lane, and Fish Camp Road.
- Please have all debris on your pier by 7 a.m. Monday of the scheduled pick-up week. The barge crew will start on Monday and make **ONE complete pass around the lake and river**. It usually takes the barge crew two or three days to make a complete pass. So, please have all debris out by Monday morning or you may get missed. It may take a few days for the barge crew to get to your pier.
- Material **ALLOWED** - Aquatic vegetation (lake plants, vegetation, algae) and debris washed up on shore (trash, logs, sticks, dead fish, etc.). Only debris that comes from the lake or river is allowed.

- Material **NOT ALLOWED** - Yard waste or brush (grass clippings, leaves, tree limbs) and household waste (garbage, pet waste, etc.). In other words, the program only removes debris that comes from the lake.
- Place debris at the end of your pier so that the barge can safely and easily access it. If the water is too shallow at the end of your pier, the crew will not be able to pick up your debris. Maybe you can use your neighbor's pier with their permission, of course. If you don't personally reside at your waterfront property, please inform those who live there of this program.
- It is possible that more urgent County work requirements may take priority over vegetation collection and the crew might be diverted during a given week.

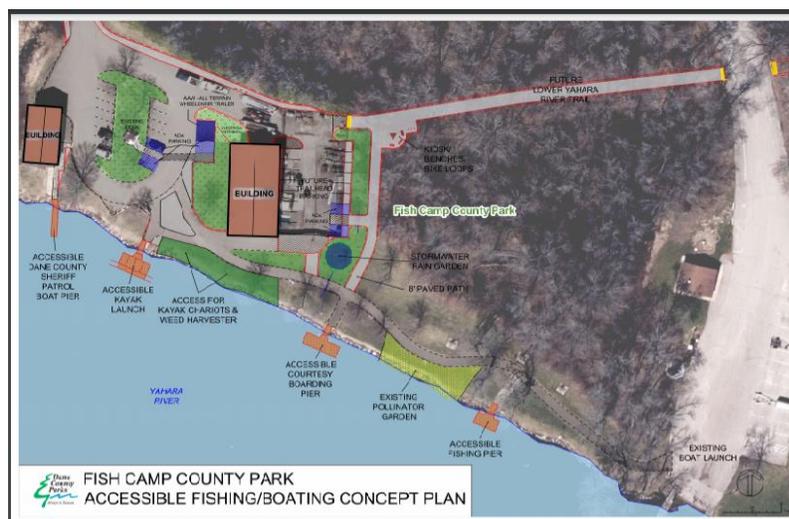
## Fish Camp County Park Accessible Kayak Launch

Dane County Parks is planning to install an accessible kayak launch at Fish Camp County Park. The accessible launch will replace one of the existing fishing piers on the Yahara River. The accessible launch at Fish Camp will provide access to Lake Kegonsa as well as Yahara river access between Lake Waubesa and Lake Kegonsa. The installation is scheduled to be completed by fall of 2021.

Dane County Parks is partnering with the Foundation for Dane County Parks, Madison Fishing Expo, Wisconsin Fishing Expo, and Access Ability Wisconsin to develop system-wide improvements at county lake access sites for all ages and abilities.



Fish Camp County Park Accessible Fishing/Boating Concept Plan:



Dane County is continuing with the plan for construction of Phase 2 of the Yahara River Trail through Fish Camp Park and on to Lake Kegonsa State Park this summer.

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## **FOLKS** Creates New Wildlife Committee



The **FOLKS** Board recently approved a new Wildlife Committee to support injured, orphaned, rehabbed and rehomed wildlife from Lake Kegonsa and our existing watershed. Committee members include board members Kim VanBrocklin, Patrick Guiney and Daniele Thompson. We encourage the membership to learn more about the **FOLKS** partnership with the Wildlife Center at the Dane County Humane Society.

**FOLKS** members are invited to attend a free virtual presentation:

### **Wisconsin Wildlife Rehabilitation: Caring for Sick and Injured Animals**

**When:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Presented by:** Jackie Sandberg, Wildlife Training Supervisor at Dane County Humane Society's (DCHS) Wildlife Center

Topics covered:

- **Data** about specific species of birds, mammals, and amphibians from the Lake Kegonsa region about orphaned or injured animals brought in. (Over 150 in the last 18 months)!
- **Overview** of how "Rehoming and Releasing" occurs at Fish Camp County Park.
- **Native species of plants, flowers, berries, nuts, seeds that you can collect and donate** from your own property to help these animals during their recuperation.
- **E-bird project.** A free electronic app to record sightings of bird species in our area.

Jackie Sandberg will present ways that **FOLKS** members can get involved through species monitoring, building nest boxes, drilling holes in logs for rehabbing woodpeckers, knitting baby bird nests, and more!

Members who would like to attend the free virtual presentation on May 12th should complete the Sign-up Genius form here **by Saturday, May 1, 2021.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084FACAF2CAAFE3-dchs>

If you're not able to follow this link to Sign-up Genius, pasting the address into your browser should work. After signing up, a link to the meeting will be forwarded to you by May 11th.

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Eric Olson (608) 575-9272  
 207 S Forrest St, Stoughton WI 53589  
 james@cleanlakesalliance.com  
 Peter Sveum (608) 575-1054  
 PO Box 301, Stoughton WI 53589  
 crownpointresort.com (608) 873-7833  
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 305 Industrial Circle, Stoughton WI 53589  
 drthaneanderson@tds.net  
 3039 Shadyside Dr., Stoughton WI 53589  
 1314 Canal St., Black Earth, WI 53515  
 4156 County Hwy B, McFarland WI 53558  
 2354 County Rd N, Stoughton WI 53589  
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**FOLKS OFFICERS AND  
BOARD MEMBERS  
2020-2021**

**Peter Foy, President**  
peterfoy49@gmail.com

**Janice Kellogg, Vice President**  
kelloggja7@gmail.com

**Connie Hagen, Treasurer**  
chagen001@gmail.com

**Cathie Taylor, Secretary**  
cathieanntaylor@gmail.com

**Tom McGinnis**  
mcginnis1@charter.net

**Patrick Guiney**  
pdguiney@gmail.com

**Eric Olson**  
eolson@bunburyrealtors.com

**Gary Smithback**  
garysmithback@yahoo.com

**Daniele Thompson**  
dst@stmarieboll.com

**John Bottorff**  
jbott53511@att.net

**Kim VanBrocklin**  
kegonsakim@gmail.com

For More About **FOLKS**,  
Visit our website at [www.Kegonsa.org](http://www.Kegonsa.org) and

on Facebook  at [facebook.com/kegonsa/](https://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](mailto:chagen001@gmail.com)  
or Peter Foy at [peterfoy49@gmail.com](mailto:peterfoy49@gmail.com)

Send news of interest to **FOLKS** to:  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589 or  
[chagen001@gmail.com](mailto:chagen001@gmail.com)

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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](mailto:eolson@bunburyrealtors.com)

**FOLKS** board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and the public are welcome.  
Next Meeting is May 11, 2021, 5:30 - 7:00 PM  
Contact Peter Foy ([peterfoy49@gmail.com](mailto:peterfoy49@gmail.com)) to join.

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Stoughton, WI 53589