

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc. P.O. Box 173 Stoughton, WI 53589-0173 **July 2022**

President's Message ~ Peter Foy

I would like to thank everyone that attended our Annual **FOLKS** meeting. We had a full house and your Board appreciates your interest in our activities and that you took the opportunity to spend time with friends and neighbors. Our secretary, Cathie Taylor did her usual great job in organizing the food and all the rest of the activities that go into having a successful meeting.

The continuity of the *FOLKS* Board will continue with the Board members that were reelected at the annual meeting and the officers that were then elected by the Board.

Officers are elected for a one-year term:

President – Peter Foy Treasurer – Connie Hagen Vice President – Janice Kellogg Secretary – Cathie Taylor

Other Board Directors:

John BottorffClaudia QuamGeorge CorriganGary SmithbackPatrick GuineyKim Van BrocklinEric OlsonKim Walz

Your entire Board is heavily engaged in various **FOLKS** projects. You will read about some of them in this newsletter and others as the year goes by. Feel free to contact any of us with questions you might have.

-Peter Foy

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FOLKS 2022 Annual Meeting June 4th

Our **FOLKS** Annual Meeting was held Saturday, June 4th at Stoughton Country Club. 138 members attended and enjoyed a tasty dinner buffet. Congratulations to the Colladay Point/Barber Drive neighborhood for having the most members attend. They had 18 "red dots" (homes) on the map!

Paul Dearlove, the Deputy Director of Clean Lakes Alliance spoke on the Yahara Clean Compact 3.0 which describes the current status of the Chain of Lakes as well as recommendations for improving the water quality of all five lakes. As you would expect, there were several comments and questions on how this plan will improve the water quality for Lake Kegonsa.

The Annual Meeting was called to order by our President Peter Foy. Connie Hagen, Treasurer presented the *FOLKS* financial report and membership for 2021. She reported a record 463 members for 2021. Updates on our *FOLKS* projects were presented. The meeting closed with the re-election of the following Board Member for two-year terms: George Corrigan, Peter Foy, Connie Hagen, Janice Kellogg, Gary Smithback and Kim Van Brocklin.

Our thanks to Stoughton Country Club for continuing to support our event as well as giving away a Social Membership to the club. We also want to thank Springers, Quam's Marina, and Pizza Pit for continuing to provide gift cards and "Love My Lake" (lovemylake.us) for giving a "Love My Lake Kegonsa" sweatshirt and hat to the winners of our Lake Kegonsa Trivia Game.

1934 Lake Kegonsa Directories and Maps were for sale and as usual were a hit with our members. If you would still like one, contact Cathie Taylor at cathieanntaylor@gmail.com. A reminder for next year. **FOLKS** guarantees to pay the number of dinners we ask the club to provide. If you find you are not able to attend, please let us know so we can adjust our number.



Our speaker, Paul Dearlove from Clean Lakes Alliance (Center) with Matt Diebel, Dane County Land & Water Resources (Left) and *FOLKS* President, Peter Foy (Right)

Lake Kegonsa Water Levels

Lake levels are close to summer target ranges on all lakes. As of July 13, 2022 the Lake Kegonsa level is **843.08'** (ft above sea level).

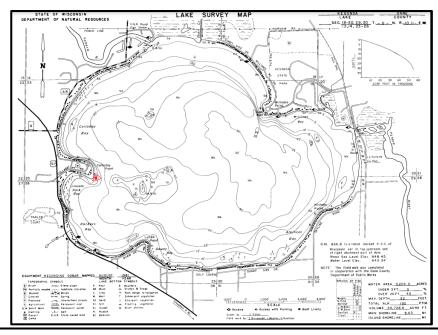
Target level ranges were set at the WDNR and are reviewed periodically - the target range for Lake Kegonsa is **843.0** to **843.5** ft above sea level. The county tries to manage the lake within this very narrow 6 inch range to protect fish spawning and prevent flooding as in 2008 and 2018. Lake Kegonsa was almost a foot over summer maximum in June and the worry was flooding with historical June rains. Since we've been pretty dry this hasn't been the case.

In June the Dane County website at https://lwrd.countyofdane.com/Lake-Levels reported "There is significant aquatic plant growth downstream of LaFollette Dam that has been restricting the flow of water at the outlet of Lake Kegonsa. Aquatic plant harvesters have been successful in removing restrictions between the Yahara River between LaFollette Dam and City of Stoughton as Lake Kegonsa has dropped nearly 4" in a week. We are expecting the lake to continue to decline towards summer water level targets."

Tenney and Babcock have now been partially opened to lower the levels in the upper lakes and maintain all lake levels within the summer ranges. The Tenney Dam (Mendota) is 14% open while Babcock Dam (Waubesa) is 60% open and LaFollette Dam (Kegonsa) is only 13% open. With the upper dams open and LaFollette only slightly open, the level on Kegonsa is expected to rise a bit but it depends on the flow through the Yahara and the level of rains.

Lake	7/13/2022 Lake Level (ft)	Summer Minimum (ft)	Summer Maximum (ft)	Inches > Summer Minimum
Mendota	850.06	849.6	850.1	5.52
Monona	845.05	844.7	845.2	4.20
Waubesa	844.84	844.5	845.0	4.08
Kegonsa	843.08	843.0	843.5	1.00

With the water low, some people have been experiencing problems running into rocks while boating especially around Colladay Pt as shown in red on the map so remember to be extra cautious and cruise further from shore.



FOLKS Membership Renewal

If you haven't had a chance to return your renewal, please send your check to: **FOLKS**, PO Box 173, Stoughton, WI 53589

Membership contributions:

- \$20 per household for membership if the newsletter is emailed to you
- \$30 per household for membership, printing and mailing if you want a hard copy of the newsletter mailed.
- \$30 for business membership; Business name is included in our newsletters.

We've been steadily adding to our record membership for the previous five years.

2021- 463; **2020** - 457; **2019** - 456; **2018** - 440; **2017** - 398

2022 Year to Date – **424 members**

We'd be thankful if you could try to recruit your friends and neighbors to join *FOLKS* to support efforts on behalf of Lake Kegonsa and the surrounding watershed and give us another record year.

Aquatic Debris Pick-up Program begins 4th Year

The Aquatic Debris "Barge Pick-up" Program is entering its fourth summer season. This has been a well utilized and helpful program for lake residents.

According to the 2021 *FOLKS* survey, 44% of respondents reported they used the barge pick-up program in 2021. An additional 89% felt the project was worthwhile whether they used it or not and 9% said it was worthwhile if spending is limited (which it is) for a positive total of 98%. However, on the unfavorable side, a large number of respondents expressed frustration with the amount of plant growth in the lake in 2021. Also, lake and river residents felt the pick-up of cut plants by the harvester machines should be more efficient with a larger quantity of plants collected. *FOLKS* has discussed these issues with Dane County officials. While the amount of plant growth in the lake is beyond anyone's control, *FOLKS* is hopeful that harvester plant collection efficiency will be improved this season.

With regard to the end of pier barge pick-up program between 2019 and 2021, a total of 148 barge loads of debris were collected which is approximately 26,700 pounds of material removed from the lake. This equates to about 76 pounds of phosphorous diverted from the lake. Just one pound of phosphorus in the lake can create 500 pounds of wet algae. So, the amount of phosphorus removed through the barge pick-up program between 2019 and 2021 would have been responsible for diverting almost 38,000 pounds of algae growth!







The first barge pick-up weeks for 2022 occurred during the weeks of June 13 and 27 and this week beginning July 11. The remaining dates for this summer season are the weeks of:

- July 25
- August 8
- August 22
- September 5

Reminders about procedures for the barge pick-up program:

- Please have all aquatic debris at the end of your pier by 7 a.m. on Monday.
- The Dane County barge crew will pick up any debris that comes out of the water.
- Yard or lawn waste (grass clippings/yard brush) will not be collected. The barge crew makes one complete trip around Lake Kegonsa and the near north Yahara River inlet.
- Depending on weather, crew availability, and quantity of debris, it usually takes them more than one day to make the trip around the lake.
- If the County has more urgent work priorities, the barge crew could be reassigned to other duties during a pick-up week.

In addition, Dane County manages the plant harvesting program. According to the Dane County 2021 Aquatic Plant Management Harvest Report, the aquatic plant harvesters removed 217 loads of cut plants which is about 1,001 wet tons or 100 dry tons of plant material. That equates to about 571 pounds of phosphorous diverted from the lake which reduces algae.

While this program is under the jurisdiction of Dane County, **FOLKS** communicates and coordinates with County lake management officials on issues related to the harvester program. **FOLKS** communicated with the County about extensive plant growth during June. As a result, the County did a plant observation tour of the lake and put two plant harvesters to do quite a bit of work on the lake during mid-June.







At times two harvesters were working together to maximize the amount of cut plants captured by the conveyors. Harvesters were unloaded onto dump trucks at Fish Camp Park.

Through these efforts, both lake residents and Dane County are working hard together to keep Lake Kegonsa clean and beautiful. Thanks for your concern and work for lake improvement.

Save the Date (September 11th) for the FOLKS Kids Raptor Fest

FOLKS is sponsoring an educational "Kids Raptor Fest" at Fish Camp County Park on September 11, 2022. It's Grandparents' Day so gather up your family and head for the park.

FREE and FUN...for kids from 1 to 101!

Educational Kayak/Canoe tour leaving at 8:30am

Morning **paddle-and-talk**, to a nearby Osprey nest with DNR raptor specialist, **Rich Staffens**. 8:30 a.m. departure from Fish Camp Canoe launch. Learn about Osprey habitats and behavior. If conditions are not suitable for the 8:30 a.m. canoe/kayak paddle, Rich will instead give a talk to the group under our large tent.







FOLKS Kids Raptor Fest, Cont.

Kid's fest at the park: 9:00 am to Noon



Experience birds of prey! Captivating live show!



Interactive Touching Tables Talons, skins, skulls, feathers!



"TENT Talks" Kestrels/Owls/Rehabbed Birds



STEM-based Games/Crafts Science/Tech/Engineering/Math



Educational Booths

- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Aldo Leopold Nature Center
- The International Crane Foundation
- Raptor Education Group, Inc. (REGI)
- Dane Co Humane Society Wildlife Center
- Cool Mode Ice Cream Truck
- E.D Locke Library (with birding/nature books for all ages and a portable check out system)

Event inquiries? Email: raptorfest@Kegonsa.org

Other Wildlife Committee Updates





Kestrel and Screech-Owl Nesting Box Winners

The Wildlife Committee had an overwhelming response at our annual meeting sign-up, of those who had interest in receiving one of the 10 complimentary nesting boxes. We had 4 pages of names! We will also be contacting the winners **by mail** prior to Mid-August to discuss installation, as the boxes will be mounted in late October or November.

Kestrel/Owl box winners are:

Debbie Beaver Beth Murphy
Gina Buettner Theresa Provencher
Mike & Shari Krueger David Ross
Julie Liddicoat Kelly Rowe

Leslye Wiesbrock David Zolawski

Notes to Kegonsa bird-lovers:

- 1. There will be birding experts at our September 11th morning "Kids Raptor Fest" at Fish Camp to speak about Kestrels/Owls, Birds of Prey (with Live Bird show), and also Ospreys (specifically). The Osprey talk will occur at 8:30 a.m. only if conditions are not suitable for the 8:30 a.m. canoe/kayak paddle with Rich Staffens to the nearby Osprey nest. Rich will instead give a talk to the group under our large tent.
- 2. It's BERRY season! Our partnership with the Wildlife Center (Dane County Humane Society) is flourishing. They are in need of all types of berries, for their recovering song birds and even ducks! You may deliver to: 3152 Voges Road, Madison WI. The Wildlife Center is to the left of the Humane Society's main building.

Lake Property Numbers

We've had some questions about the blue number signs on the lakeshore at some properties. The following is from the Dane County website. If you're interested, the form and mailing address can be found at this site: https://lwrd.countyofdane.com/tools/lake-property-numbers

"Each lakeshore property on lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa and Kegonsa has been assigned a unique "lake address" that is cross-referenced in the 911-emergency response system with the property street address. This lake property numbering system aids in rapid response to on-water emergencies and enhances the personal safety of everyone who uses the lakes.

Lake Property Numbers, Cont.

Boaters in distress can report their location by cell phone using the nearest lake property "address" as a reference point. Similarly, a landowner who observes an emergency on the water can dial 911 and the dispatcher will be able to translate the street address to a water location. For an emergency in a lakefront home, the nearest response may be the Sheriff's recreation patrol.

Property owners can purchase a reflective blue sign with their lake property number to participate in this voluntary program, and mount the sign at the end of their pier where it will be visible from the water. Signs can be purchased for \$20."

Dane Co Yahara River Dredging and Sediment Removal Project

You may have recently driven along Williams Drive, adjacent to Lake Kegonsa near LaFollette Dam, and seen a large earth-moving construction site and asked "What is that?" **FOLKS** is happy to report that it is the latest progress in the Yahara River dredging and sediment removal project by the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department.

The dredging project was initiated by Dane County in May 2020 in response to the extensive flooding that occurred along the Yahara River in August 2018. That flood caused extensive damage and affected properties along the entire Yahara River and the Yahara Lakes area including Lake Kegonsa. The goal of the sediment removal project is to improve water flow, increase flood storage capacity, and improve fish and wildlife habitat in the Yahara Lakes. When completed, sediment removal will improve water flow so that the delivery of two inches of rain that currently takes about two weeks to travel through the Yahara Lakes system will take half as long – one week. This is a multimillion dollar and multiyear project comprised of five phases currently projected to extend into 2024 or 2025. The overall Yahara River Sediment Removal Project involves dredging from Lake Mendota to Stoughton. This major undertaking will have a positive impact on the river and lake chain. Dredging in the river immediately north and south of Lake Kegonsa are Phase 2B and Phase 3 of the project.

The construction work being done on Williams Drive started in May of this year and is referred to as Phase 2B. The first step is to construct a "Dewatering Pond" which is the work currently underway. The Williams Drive pond site, located one mile south of LaFollette Dam, is 15 acres and is being leased by the County for three years. The dewatering pond will fill most of that 15 acre area. When work in the Yahara River starts, sediment and water will be pumped through pipes for as far as two miles from the dredge in the river to the dewatering pond.



Construction of a dewatering pond along Williams Drive near the LaFollette Dam southeast of Lake Kegonsa as part of Phase 2B of the Yahara River Dredging Project. This pond should be complete in the Fall of 2022.

In the dewatering pond, water will filter out and sediment will be contained. It is expected that about 100,300 cubic yards (which is the equivalent of over 7,700 dump truck loads) will be removed from the

Dredging Project Update, Cont.

river in Phase 2B. The dewatering pond is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2022 and dredging work in the river will start in the Spring of 2023. The river dredging can only begin after fish spawning has ended.

The dredging for Phase 2B will extend from LaFollette Dam to the County Road B bridge – about 3.2 miles. The dredge will work in a channel in the deepest part of the river (which is not always the center of the river) based on a previously conducted topographical study. The channel will be up to fifty feet wide and approximately three or four feet deep. Dane County Land and Water Resources

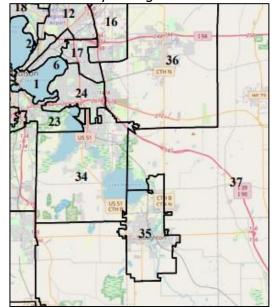
Department's work plan has been approved under a permit issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Phase 2B, including both construction of the dewatering pond and the dredging, is being performed by Michels Construction. The company is headquartered in Brownsville, Wisconsin and was the low bidder for the 2B project. The dewatering pond will be decommissioned and restored when the project is completed by the end of the three year lease period. It is hoped that some of the sediment removed from the river may be used for road construction or fill for large construction projects.

Removing sediment from Lake Waubesa to Lower Mud Lake, which is Phase 2A of the project that started in 2021, is currently continuing and should conclude this year. Dredging from Mud Lake to Lake Kegonsa north of the lake (Phase 3) is currently in the engineering, planning, and specification phase. Phase 3 construction work is expected to begin in late 2023 and extend into 2024.

This entire Yahara River dredging and sediment removal project is being managed by John Reimer, Assistant Director, Dane County Land and Water Resource Department. *FOLKS* thanks John for providing information for this article.

Lake Kegonsa Dane County Supervisors

The Dane County Board of Supervisors redistricting was completed last fall and was in effect for the Spring 2022 election. We are fortunate to have four of our Dane County Supervisors as members of **FOLKS** and very strong advocates for our lakes, rivers, streams and surrounding areas.



District #34 - Patrick Miles, County Board Chair

District #35 - Michael Engelberger

District #37 - Kate McGinnity

District #36 - Melissa Radcliff

Contact information for all supervisors may be found at https://board.countyofdane.com

This partial map of the new districts is from a Cap Times article about the redistricting.

Reporting Foam Accumulation on Lake Kegonsa for PFAS Study

Many of you saw foam accumulating along the north shore of Lake Kegonsa on Monday. The following request for assistance comes from Prof. Christy Remucal, Phd, UW Assistant Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering and her postdoctoral research associate, Summer Sherman, PhD:

"Hello All - Our team at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is studying PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in rivers and lakes in Wisconsin. We are continuing a new project on PFAS in foams that form on our waters. Foams often form naturally due to organic matter in the water, but can have high concentrations of PFAS because these chemicals like to accumulate in foams.

Foams are hard to sample because they form intermittently (usually on windy days or after a storm event) – therefore, we never know when they will be present. We are hoping for help notifying our research team when you see foams on our local waters. **We are looking** for foams that accumulate and could be easily scooped up (like the pictures below) rather than the small bubbles/froth that often form. We want to collect samples from sites with both low and high PFAS concentrations (so any sightings are helpful).

If you see foam, please email both of us (Christina Remucal <<u>remucal@wisc.edu</u>> and Summer Sherman <<u>slsherman3@wisc.edu</u>>) with details on the foam sighting (incl. specifics on when and where you saw the foam) and your contact info. Photos and pins are welcome as well (this really helps us out)! If possible, someone from our team will come out to sample the foam and nearby water as soon as we receive word of a sighting.

Thank you all for your continued assistance! Best, Christy and Summer"

On Monday, June 11th, one of our board members emailed Professor Remucal with these pictures of foam on Sunnyside St. The research team came to the north shore of Kegonsa and collected some of the accumulated foam and took water samples.







Foam on Sunnyside St., Monday, July 11, 2022

UW Research Team Members collecting samples

Refer to the July 2021 *FOLKS* newsletter for other information about PFAS chemicals and the fish consumption advisories for the Yahara Lakes.

Please Shop and Support FOLKS Fabulous Business Members

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Please Shop and Support FOLKS Fabulous Business Members









Steve Schmitt (Owner)

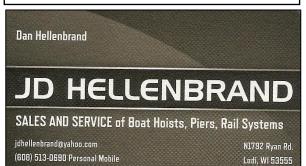
We Love Lake Kegonsa and You!!





Bunbury Realtors – Stoughton 1712 Hwy 51 608-575-9272

Real Estate Professionals on Lake Kegonsa







Theran Kahl General Manager



1015 N. Main St.

PROS

Oregon, WI 53575 608.835.2980

HOMETOWN COMPUTER

305 Industrial Circle Stoughton, WI 53589 Phone:608-873-7651 Fax: 608-873-7692

Email: theran@terrykahlplumbing.com





FOLKS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2022

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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: P.O. Box 173 Stoughton, WI 53589 or 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.folks@qmail.com

FOLKS board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month except for a couple of months in the winter. The public are always welcome.

Next Meeting is August 16, 2022, 5:30 - 7:00 PM, Stoughton Country Club

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