

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 173

Stoughton, WI 53589-0173

October 2020

President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

We hope everyone is staying healthy during these crazy times. Your **FOLKS** Board continues to meet monthly via Zoom conferencing. We have obviously had to postpone all of our **FOLKS** social and group educational events, but we have continued to move ahead with our major projects. You will read about them in this newsletter.

I am happy to report that **FOLKS** has just reached an all-time high membership of 457 members. We want to once again thank our members for their dues payments and particularly their donations over and above their \$20 dues. Your Board has elected to continue to provide substantial financial support to the leaf vacuuming program and the barge pick up program. The cost of these two programs alone will exceed the total income we receive from dues this year. Without the extra donations from you and a grant from the Bryant Foundation we would not be able to continue with these programs in the same manner. We also allocate funds to other important programs that help our lake.

Thank you for your support.

Feel free to contact me, or any of your Board members with any questions, or comments

– *Peter Foy*

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Record **FOLKS** Membership in 2020

The **FOLKS** board is happy to announce that our household membership is at an all-time high again this year. We have 457 members (422 Household members and 35 Business members). Talk to your friends and neighbors about joining **FOLKS** – more voices and ideas makes us stronger.

Membership forms are available on our website at www.kegonsa.org. We also have all the archived newsletters on the website so potential members can learn more about **FOLKS**.

Current Lake Kegonsa Water Levels

Lake Kegonsa rose rapidly this spring (16.4" from May 14th to June 11th) but has held relatively steady throughout the entire summer even with a few large rain events. As of October 7, 2020, the Lake Kegonsa level is 843.36' (ft above sea level) which is 1.68" below summer maximum. The other three lakes are still over the maximum range.

Lake	Date	Lake Level (ft)	Summer Min (ft)	Summer Max (ft)	Inches Over Summer Max
Mendota	10/7/2020	850.25	849.60	850.10	1.8
Monona	10/7/2020	846.04	844.70	845.20	10.08
Waubesa	10/7/2020	845.80	844.50	845.00	9.6
Kegonsa	10/7/2020	843.36	843.00	843.50	-1.68

Although the goal for 2020 was to obtain summer minimum levels on all lakes to build flood capacity, all of the lakes were above summer maximum levels throughout the summer. Babcock Dam (Lake Waubesa) and LaFollette Dam (Lake Kegonsa) were completely open the entire year.

Fall 2020 Leaf Collection Program

Be sure to notice the pickup dates for your area in this article

The very popular Leaf Management Program initiated by **FOLKS** will run again this fall. The **Town of Dunn** and the **Town of Pleasant Springs** will both continue to vacuum leaves around Lake Kegonsa. This is an important initiative to help clean up our streets, yards and lake. **FOLKS** is partnering with the Towns bordering the shores of Lake Kegonsa and the **City of Stoughton** to reduce the phosphorus entering our waterways from storm water flowing over leaves. We couldn't do this without everyone's cooperation.

93% of the respondents in our **FOLKS** survey said they and/or their family deal with fall leaves themselves, while 25% use a lawn care service. Many homeowners used a combination of methods to remove leaves. 58% of the survey respondents used the leaf pick up service last year to some degree, so we are happy to be able to continue the program

To enhance the effort to help our lake we encourage you to remove the leaves from the street near your house and include them with your other leaves. As water flows over leaves, phosphorous is leached out of the leaves and into the storm water. Storm drains and runoff through leaves from steep yards flow directly into the lake.

Important Procedures for Leaf Roadside Vacuuming:

The leaf vacuum truck is specifically designed to pick up leaves - it cannot pick up sticks or brush. Sticks or brush clog the machine and takes staff a lot of time to clear the vacuum tube and could possibly damage this very expensive machine. To make the vacuuming process as efficient as possible, please:

- Rake leaves away from the lake and place piles on the shoulder of the road. Do not place piles on the pavement.
- Place your leaves in a row not more than 4' wide, not in a large pile.
- Keep brush, rocks, animal waste, tall grasses, and other non-leaf material out of the leaves.
- Place leaves at least four feet from any mailbox or utility pole.
- Clear the leaves from the street in front of your home.
- Try not to park near any raked leaves.
- If you can, cover leaves overnight if rain is forecasted, but then remove tarp by 7 AM.
- Leaves that cannot be picked up by the leaf vacuum will be the residents' responsibility to dispose of.
- If you are hauling leaves a longer distance, try raking them onto a large tarp or sheet. Dragging the tarp makes transferring leaves to the roadside much easier.

Leaf Pick Up Schedule:

The most difficult part is to determine when the leaves will fall and when the leaf vacuum truck should be on your street. **FOLKS** will send email announcements if we have new information and also to remind members of scheduled collection dates.

Leaf vacuuming is always subject to weather conditions and availability of staff. For example, an early snow would cause the Town employees to focus on that, rather than the leaf pickup.

Town of Dunn

The **Town of Dunn** has asked residents to sign up for email notifications about their leaf collection program. To subscribe to the email notification list and find leaf collection updates, visit www.town.dunn.wi.us and search 'Leaf Management'. Signs will also be posted at intersections throughout your area to notify you that a collection will be taking place.

This year the Town of Dunn will be sharing the City of Stoughton's equipment and will be vacuuming leaves on the **weekends of Nov 13-15 and Nov 27-29**. Leaves should be in your yard ready to be picked up by noon on Friday of these weekends. Only one pass through the route will be made.

Town of Dunn Transfer Site: Leaves can be dropped off at the Town's Transfer Site on the following dates and times:

- 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month from 8 am to 3:45 pm
- During October and November the Transfer Site is also open every Monday and Wednesday from 12 pm to 4:45 pm

New in 2020: To aid in phosphorus reduction, the Town of Dunn has added 6 new centralized leaf drop-off sites that are available to town residents during the months of October and November or until the first significant snowfall. Feel free to bring your leaves to these sites while you wait for the roadside leaf pick up weekends.

Where are the new leaf collection drop-off sites?

1. Amunson Boat Launch
2. Colladay Point Park
3. Fish Camp County Park
4. Barber Drive by Quickstop
5. Dunn Heritage Park
6. Goodland County Park Parking Lot

See Town of Dunn website for map and updated info.

When are the drop-off sites open?

Leaf collection sites will be set up sometime during the week of October 5th, 2020. The drop-off sites are open 24/7 for town residents only during the months of October and November or until the first significant snowfall.

What can be brought to the drop-off sites?

Drop off sites are for leaves and grass clippings ONLY. Please do not put brush, rocks, animal waste, or any other non-leaf material at the drop off locations. No bags - leaf bags must be emptied and removed from the site. Non-leaf material will damage the Town's leaf vacuum machine. If non-leaf material is dropped off at these sites, it will result in the sites being shut down.

Will I be charged?

There is no charge for participants to use the drop off sites.

Town of Pleasant Springs

The **Town of Pleasant Springs** will also be sharing the City of Stoughton's equipment on weekends and will also be collecting leaves starting on Friday of the weekend. Leaves should be in your yard ready to be picked up by noon on Friday of these weekends. Only one pass through the route will be made.

The schedule for the Town of Pleasant Springs is **November 6-9 and November 20-22**. Announcement signs will be placed every few blocks around the lake with the dates of the next collection clearly marked.



Leaves can also be dropped off at the Pleasant Springs compost site.

2020 Compost Site Schedule:

- Saturday, Oct 10 8am to 4pm
- Wed. Oct 14, 4:30 to 6:30 pm
- Saturday, October 24, 8am to 4pm
- Saturday, October 31, 8am to 4pm
- Saturday, November 7, 8am to 4pm

FOLKS Involvement

FOLKS has been involved with the Towns and the City of Stoughton to help with the coordination of this project. **FOLKS** is also continuing to provide significant financial assistance to both Towns to make sure this leaf project can be conducted for the 4th straight year.

Other ways you can help:

- Talk with your neighbors about the leaf management project.
- Remove leaves throughout the season and from the street as well as your yard.
- Remind your lawn maintenance service not to blow leaves in the lake or the road.
- Don't burn leaves. Burning leaves is not permissible in either Town and it concentrates the phosphorous that ends up in the lake.
- Volunteer to help rake leaves for people who need assistance.
- Check your Town's website for compost site days and hours.

Show your support by displaying a "We Are Helping Our Lake" sign in your yard. You can use your yard sign from last year or get one from any **FOLKS** board member.



Properly managing leaves can reduce the amount of phosphorous entering our waterways through storm water by 80% compared to no leaf removal.

We appreciate your efforts to help Lake Kegonsa!

Aquatic Debris Pick-up Program Concludes Second Year

The second year for the Aquatic Debris Collection concluded successfully in September. This program was arranged by **FOLKS** with the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department. Residents place aquatic debris from the lake on the end of their piers for pick-up by the barge crew. We had a total of six weeks of pick-up starting in June and finishing in September. The program continued to be popular with good participation by lake residents. **FOLKS** pays the County for these services with funds from member dues, donations and grants.

This year presented unique challenges for some lake residents because aquatic plants in the river and lake seemed to be thicker and more abundant compared to prior years. To increase water flow through the river and lake which is very important for flood control, the County cuts plants in the Yahara River north of the lake in addition to cutting along the lake shoreline. Much of the aquatic plants in the river are wild celery which floats on the water's surface after being cut. The County's harvesters collect the cut plants on a conveyor that moves them into a collection bin which is off-loaded when full.

The harvester crews make multiple passes through the cut areas to collect as many plants as they can. In spite of those efforts, the harvesters are estimated to be about 80% efficient at collecting cut plants; meaning, about 20% of cut plants remain and float downstream into the lake. Accumulation of floating plants can be worse depending on wind direction and water flow which can cause excessive accumulation on some shorelines. In particular, during August and September, large quantities of cut wild celery collected along shorelines on the northeast side of Lake Kegonsa adjacent to where the Yahara River enters the lake. **FOLKS** received reports of those situations from several residents and shared that information with the County. We appreciate your feedback and understand this is a challenging problem. That situation is being evaluated and we hope to have improved conditions next year.



Overall, we consider the aquatic plant collection program to be a success in providing residents with a helpful way to keep their shorelines clean throughout the summer. **FOLKS** thanks the County staff and the plant harvester and barge pick-up crews for their hard work and cooperation in working with us. Thanks to all lake residents for good utilization of the program.

Phase 2 of Lower Yahara River Trail Dane County Parks Virtual Public Information Meeting

Dane County Parks and Madison-based consulting firm KL Engineering Inc. have completed preliminary design and engineering for a proposed segment of the multi-use trail extending between Fish Camp County Park and Lake Kegonsa State Park. Dane County Parks is also coordinating with the Wisconsin DNR on planning for additional trail through Lake Kegonsa State Park to Williams Drive in the Town of Pleasant Springs. A virtual public information meeting to review plans and gather input is available on the Dane County Parks website at: <https://www.danecountyparks.com/project/detail/Lower-Yahara-River-Trail-Project>

At the Dane County Parks link above you will find the meeting presentation and individual slides with an expanded view of each section of the trail from Fish Camp County Park to Lake Kegonsa State Park.

For further information about the meeting, contact Chris James, Dane County Parks, at 608-235-2252 or james@countyofdane.com. Comments on the proposed plans will be taken until **October 31, 2020**.

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

The 40' runoff area planted last spring near the Town of Dunn, Kegonsa Sanitary District #2 building has seen about a 60% success rate of the original plantings. While many of the plantings have thrived, so have the grasses that were originally there. We hope that the native plants will spread with time and their long, dense root structures will help to soak up the runoff coming through the area. The plants that are thriving are the sedges, blue vervain, red milkweed and mountain mint.

This fall we plan to collect a variety of native plant seeds such as red milkweed, blue vervain, and early sunflower to sow an 80' section among the grasses growing upstream. This should provide additional filtering capacity and improve the aesthetics of the ditch line. Rather than disturbing the area, we will be sowing seeds of native plants to add more filtering.

FOLKS submitted and received a reimbursable Yahara WINS Innovation grant to reduce phosphorus entering our lake at this site. This fall we plan to seek expert advice on the advisability of installing a rain garden to absorb the discharge from the KSD building ground water before it flows into the drainage channel coming from the surrounding hills. This would reduce overall runoff, especially during excessive rain events. If feasible, we would evaluate planning and installing a rain garden near the office at 2240 US Hwy 51 in 2021 using this grant.

Another New Native Plant Garden at Fish Camp County Park

On August 18th **FOLKS** members: Cindy Guiney, Susan Schultz, Connie Hagen and Janice Kellogg created a native plant garden next to the boat launch area at Fish Camp County Park. Almost all of the plants were raised by Connie and Janice through their participation in the Plant Dane program which supplies native plants to civic groups in the county. While the garden was being planted, Peter Foy, John Bottorff and Grant Hone were busy weeding and mulching around numerous trees and signs throughout the park. Dick Morfey and Janice finished mulching trees by the Net House parking lot.

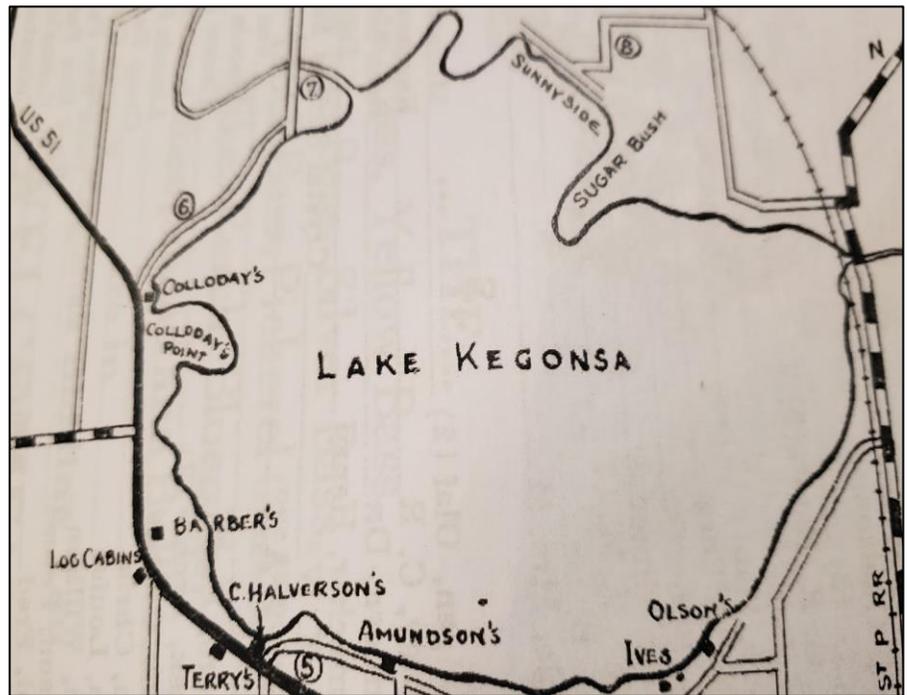
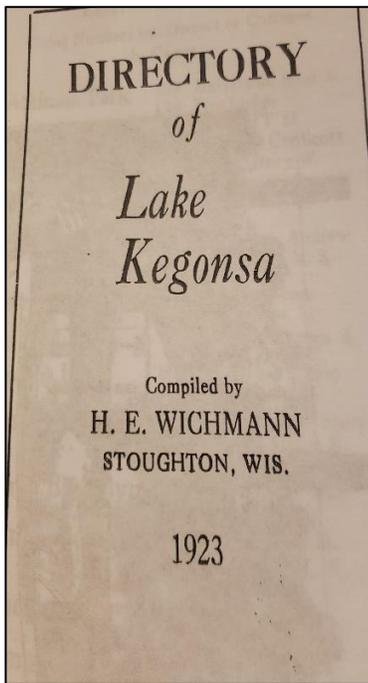
This work has added a “manicured look” to the park, which has seen a tremendous increase in use this year. Peter has been doing a lot of touch up painting as well. Many visitors have stopped to thank our volunteers for their help with park improvements.



The 1923 Directory of Lake Kegonsa

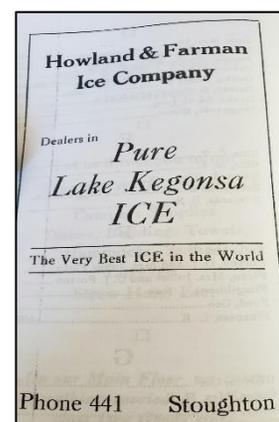
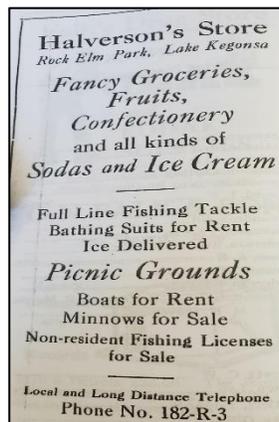
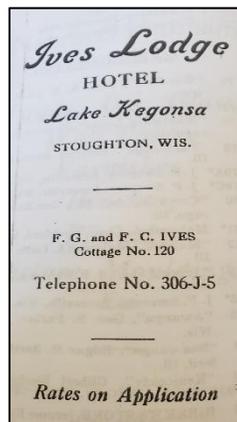
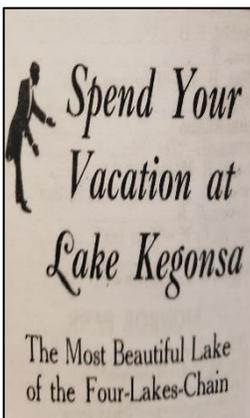
Nearly one century ago, Lake Kegonsa riparians relied upon a very special booklet called “The Directory of Lake Kegonsa,” which listed the numbers and owners of all cottages by the corresponding “Camp” they lived in. Dozens of cottages were dubbed with pet names, such as: Owl Pen, Idle Hour, The Castle, Happy Days, and White-Cap Lodge, etc.

A small telephone booklet-of-sorts, the 1923 edition begins with an alphabetical list of 14 Camps: Atkinson Park, Beloit Camp, Camp Columbia, Camp Collins, Crown Point, Camp Dewey, Camp Brooklyn, Lund’s Point, Lincoln Park, Camp Monroe, Ravenswood Park, Rock Elm Park, Shadyside Park, and Veal Park. Owners of land or cottages were listed within, by cottage number within each camp (so that visitors or delivery drivers could find them).



The Chicago, St. Paul, and Milwaukee railroads all made passenger stops at Lake Kegonsa. At the Kegonsa station, trains traveled between Stoughton, Janesville, Milwaukee, and Chicago. Those who were coming to Kegonsa for enjoyment, often boarded a ferry that traveled to various parts of the lake or to one of the two hotels: The Ravenswood and The Ives; the Ravenswood Hotel charged \$18.00 per week. Distances from the Kegonsa Station to each camp were listed in the directory, to help visitors plan their route.

In addition to listing an address, Camp, and phone number to "ring," the booklet contained a host of delightful advertisements involving products or services. Delivery of Ice, "fancy groceries," or homemade lard were commonplace. Young children were able to scamper down a path around the lake (near common day Skyline Drive,) to get ice cream and confectionaries. (See ads below). It was a magical era on Lake Kegonsa.



Replica copies of the 1923 Lake Kegonsa Directory are being reprinted for sale, at the next **FOLKS** gathering.

Please Shop and Support *FOLKS* Fabulous Business Members

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Owner

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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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The opinions and information expressed in this
publication are for general information only. Its
authors and publisher do not represent that
information herein is the official position of any
agency or governmental unit.

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 October 13, 2020, 5:30 - 7:00 PM via Zoom -
Contact Peter Foy (peterfoy49@gmail.com) to join.

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