News Page

Annual Meeting/Summer Social

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Summer Social on June second at the Stoughton Country Club.

FISH CAMP COUNTY PARK

FOLKS adopted Fish Camp County Park in 2017 and we installed a small demonstration planting area along the shore for the public to enjoy. Our purpose is to demonstrate how native plants can be effectively used to prevent run-off into the lake, add color and interest, and attract butterflies and birds to the park. Volunteers from FOLKS are responsible for coordinating site preparation, planting, mulching, watering and weeding.

We are also working with Dane County Parks to preserve the historic buildings in the park.

LEAF REMOVAL PROJECT

In 2017, FOLKS embarked on an ambitious project to both educate property owners about managing leaves and for the first time actually removing leaves in both the Town of Dunn and the Town of Pleasant Springs. Leaves are a major source of phosphorus entering our waterways which increases the troublesome algae in Lake Kegonsa. One pound of phosphorus can produce up to 500 pounds of algae. Studies have shown that properly managing leaves can reduce the negative impact leaves have on the phosphorous entering our waterways through storm water by **80%.** A major component of this is educating people to remove the leaves from the street in front of their homes if their street has storm water culverts.

In 2017, the Town of Dunn picked up leaves from over 400 homes both on the lake and across the street from the lake. FOLKS paid

for the pickup at 150 of these homes to help with this pilot program.

In 2017, FOLKS selected 150 homes in the Town of Pleasant Springs to participate in the pilot program on streets that have culverts where phosphorus from leaves would run directly into the lake. These were streets like Shadyside Drive and Skyline Drive. FOLKS provided leaf bags to participating households to be picked up by FOLKS volunteers for transport to the Town of Pleasant Springs compost site. In addition, the Town increased the hours for the compost site to increase resident leaf removal options.

On Feb. 6, 2018, the Pleasant Springs Town Board voted to approve the FOLKS 2018 pilot program for leaf management. In partnership with FOLKS, the Town will rent a leaf collector from The City of Stoughton and pick up leaves from houses near the lake on three weekends in the fall. The Town of Dunn will continue to vacuum leaves from properties near Lake Kegonsa. FOLKS will provide educational materials about good leaf management for both Towns.

FOLKS completed the 2017 pilot projects with funding from a $5,000 Yahara WINS grant. FOLKS is currently applying for grants to help with the costs of the 2018 Leaf Management Project but we do not yet know if we have been awarded any additional funding.

LAKE KEGONSA CARP REMOVAL PROJECT UPDATE

FOLKS has initiated a major carp removal project that will be conducted over five years (2017- 2021). We are working closely with Dane County and the Department of Natural Resources on this project.

Our goal is to remove 200,000 lbs. of carp per year for 5 years. FOLKS is working with the fisherman under the current contract to supplement the price/lb. of carp to maximize carp removal.

Carp are bottom feeders and as they forage for food they are constantly uprooting vegetation and stirring up the sediments that have settled into the bottom of lake over time. Releasing this sediment reduces the clarity of the lake and resuspends nutrients such as phosphorous.

On 10/27/2015 the first element of the project on Lake Kegonsa got started when Kurt Welke and Kim Kuber from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources captured 20 carp from the lake and the Yahara River below CTH AB. Radio transmitters were inserted into the carp for tracking purposes.

The DNR conducted pre-spawn and spawning location surveys May – June 2016. Then late summer and late fall surveys were conducted. Tracking, done over 2015 to 2017, located carp with transmitters in our lake as well as Mud Lake and Door Creek.

The tracking surveys define what parts of the lake carp school in during winter. Additionally, tracking during spawning and throughout the year describes which fish stay in the lake or if migrations occur up the Yahara River and Door Creek. The purpose of the tracking study is to define where and when the best opportunities to capture carp occur.

The 2017 contract was let for commercial carp netting. The contractor was required to harvest 100,000 lbs. of carp or fish for 12 days. FOLKS added an incentive of $.10/lb. for anything over 100,000 lbs. to encourage the maximum carp harvest.

The fishermen harvested 111,084 lbs. of carp from Lake Kegonsa in 2017. The carp were either sold fresh or were sent to a fish

processing plant to be used primarily to make Gefilte fish (similar to fish balls). We were especially pleased that the majority of carp removed from our lake were used as a food source.



This is the largest project FOLKS has been involved in during their 30 year history. We have had good support for our carp removal project including:

- Funds to cover the transmitters and the DNR's air, boat, and ATV monitoring time for the telemetry portion of the project from the Dane County Office of Lakes and Watershed,
- Major grants from the Bryant Foundation, the Clean Lakes Alliance, and the Stoughton Conservation Club, and
- Numerous large contributions from our FOLKS members.

In 2018, commercial fishermen have again been awarded the contract for carp fishing in Lake Kegonsa. As in the prior year, the fishermen are required to harvest 100,000 lbs. of carp or fish for 12 days. To encourage harvesting more carp, the FOLKS board has voted to provide $0.10/lb. of carp after the first 100,000 lbs. harvested up to a total catch of 500,000 lbs.

WATER QUALITY

FOLKS is working with two organizations, The Clean Lakes Alliance and the Rock River Coalition on water quality monitoring projects. Volunteer members of FOLKS are collecting data to make it available for enhanced science based decision making.

The goal of the **Clean Lakes Alliance** is to reduce the phosphorus in the Yahara lakes by 50% by 2025. The Clean Lakes Alliance has 62 near-shore and 7 offshore monitoring stations covering all five of the Yahara Lakes. For Lake Kegonsa, members of FOLKS monitor 6 near-shore and one offshore station. Our volunteers, Dick Wallace, Greg and Claudia Quam, Jim Wilcox, Jim and Joan Cordray, Sarah Balz, and Bill Lamm, made 243 observations in 2017.

Clean Lakes volunteers use a Secchi tube to measure water clarity and check the air and water temperature. They also note the wave intensity, waterfowl, algal surface presence, floating plant debris and number of bathers. This data is logged into the website and is immediately available online at www.lakeforcast.org .

Lake clarity was slightly improved over 2016 with the average clarity of 2.8 ft. vs. 2.5 ft. The number of reports of maximum clarity (3.9 ft.) was nearly twice 2016. The volunteers update their information daily and it is immediately available at https://lakeforecast.org/#/

Also as part of the Clean Lakes-DNR Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, measurements were taken at the deep hole of Lake Kegonsa which is approximately 10 meters deep (~33 ft.). Secchi measurements and dissolved oxygen and temperature readings were taken at a series of depths on 15 occasions from 6/1/17 to 10/8/17.

The average Secchi depth (clarity) for July-August was 3.89 ft. which was similar to the 2016 average. The depths where the dissolved oxygen was too low to support game fish (<5 mg/l) varied during the summer. The worst reading was in July and was below 6 meters (of 10 meters). In other words, due to low oxygen levels game fish could only survive in the top approximately 18

feet of the lake. The average depth where dissolved oxygen was below 5 mg/l was 7.7 meters.

The **Rock River Coalition**'s mission is to educate and provide opportunities for people of diverse interests to work together to improve environmental, recreational, cultural and economic resources of the Rock River Basin. The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) is funding the Coalition's sampling of the Yahara Lakes for the Watershed Adaptive Management plan.

Sampling the tributaries of Lake Kegonsa is part of this program. Samples are obtained monthly at the following sites.

Tributaries	Latitude	Longitude
Door Creek at Hope Road	43.0413	-89.2317
Little Door Creek at Navig Rd	43.0413	-89.2029
Door Creek at CTH MN	43.0131	-89.2366
Unnamed Tributary at Green Rd.	42.9571	-89.2986

The volunteers measure the water clarity with a Secchi tube, dissolved oxygen and temperature. They take a sample which is analyzed by the MMSD laboratory for phosphorus, total suspended solids, and Kjeldahl nitrogen. The data is recorded on the DNR's SWIMS data base.

Door Creek clarity average for 2017 was 1.9 ft. with only one reading at 3.9 ft. The average for 2016 was 2.9 ft.

In 2017 there were 2 samplings, July and August, with dissolved oxygen levels at less than 5 mg/l. Ned and Delores Gruca reported in June the dissolved oxygen at 1.5 mg/l at their site at Door Creek and Femrite Dr. The team at Hope Road reported

2.34 mg/l. These readings are taken at the surface. These reports show the poor conditions in Door Creek.