

News Page

LAKE KEGONSA CARP REMOVAL PROJECT UPDATE

The commercial fisherman, who has the 2017 contract to catch carp in Lake Kegonsa, had a very successful catch on Friday, 5/5/17 and Saturday 5/6/17. The fisherman estimated it was in excess of 80,000 lbs. Over 20,000 lbs. were shipped live to Michigan and held in ponds. Another 40,000 lbs. was shipped to Stoller Fisheries <http://www.sfishinc.com/home.html> who produce a number of products. Another 20,000 lbs was loaded out on Monday, 5/8/17. Combining this last catch with the two previous catches in March and April should bring the total for this year to over 100,000 lbs.

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 and reach or exceed our 200,000 lb. goal for 2017.





CARP PROJECT BACKGROUND

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.

FOLKS has initiated a major carp removal project that will be conducted over five years. We are working closely with Dane County, the Department of Natural Resources and the UW Limnology Department on this challenging project.

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 the last year, recently located 10 of the 20 carp in our lake as well as Mud Lake and Door Creek.

The tracking surveys define what parts of the lake carp school 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 is required to harvest 100,000 lbs. of carp or fish for 12 days. FOLKS is prepared to add an incentive to encourage the maximum carp harvest.

This is the largest project FOLKS has been involved in during their 28 year history. We have had good support for our carp removal project including \$25,610 from our members. We had a \$5,000 grant from The Clean Lakes Alliance, \$5,000 from the Bryant Foundation and \$1,500 from the Stoughton Conservation Club. The Dane County Office of Lakes and Watershed also donated money to cover the transmitters and the DNR's air, boat, and ATV monitoring time for the telemetry portion of the project.

If you have any questions about this project, or are interested in making a donation towards the project please contact Peter Foy, President of FOLKS at peterf@kegonsa.org

Annual Meeting

The FOLKS 2017 annual meeting was held at the Stoughton Country Club Saturday January 21st.

We had 387 member households in 2016, up 16% over last year. We currently have 22 business members.

The election of Board members was held. Peter Foy, Connie Hagen, David Luellwitz, and Rick Thorstad were reelected along with new members, Janice Kellogg, Gary Smithback and Daniel Thompson.

John Reimer, Water Resources Engineer with the Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds told us about the “Suck the Muck” project to remove the legacy phosphorus from Dorn Creek and Door Creek. Door Creek, which flows into Lake Kegonsa is the second largest source of phosphorus for the Yahara Lakes.

FOLKS PROJECTS

CARP REMOVAL PROJECT

The FOLKS Fisheries committee reported on the ongoing carp removal project and acknowledged the great support we’ve received from the membership and our other partners. (See update above).

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 Clean Lakes is to reduce the phosphorus in the Yahara lakes by 50% by 2025. The Clean Lakes Alliance has 72 near-shore and 7 offshore monitoring stations covering all five of the Yahara Lakes. For Lake Kegonsa, members of FOLKS monitor 5 near-shore and one offshore station. Our volunteers,

Harmon and Nell Ray, Jim Wilcox, Jim Cordray, Sarah Balz, and Bill Lamm, made 219 observations this year. We also took over the Lake Kegonsa Deep Hole monitoring from the Clean Lakes staff. (<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/station.aspx?id=133122>) Next year FOLKS would like to expand the monitoring of the beach in Lake Kegonsa State Park.

Clean Lakes volunteers use a Secci tube to measure water clarity and check the air and water temperature. They also note the wave intensity, floating plants and algae. This data is logged into the website and is immediately available online at www.lakeforecast.org.

The clarity of the lake was lower this year with the average of 75 cm vs. 86 cm last year. The number of reports of maximum clarity (120 cm, almost 4 feet) was way down this year at 30 cm vs. 62 cm last year.

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 Trib at Green Rd. 42.9571 -89.2986

The volunteers measure the water clarity with a Secci 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.

LEAF PROJECT

In the fall, leaves contribute phosphorus to the lake. We have started to look at ways to help property owners keep leaves out of the lake. To date we have been working with the Pleasant Springs and Dunn townships to extend the hours for their composting sites. This will help residents to get rid of their leaves. The townships have also assisted by including information about leaves in their newsletters.

RUN-OFF PROJECT

Eric Olson has located over 20 run-off pipes that empty into the lake. We are asking members and others interested in the lake to report on locations in their area as there are probably more since they are difficult to identify from the lake. We want to eliminate the mud that runoff carries into the lake.