

FOLKS Business Members

Mike Jensen Taxidermy - Mike Jensen - 838-4862
The UPS Store - David Gasner - 877-2679
Coldwell Banker Sveum Realtor
Peter Sveum - 873-7731
Kegonsa Cove - Tom Ellis - 838-6494
Jim's Tree Service - James Lapp - 838-8118
Evergreen State Bank - 873-6681
Quam's Motor Sports - John Quam - 873-3366
Anchorbank - Linda Midthun-Olson - 877-4100
Stoughton Country Club
Steve Hlavacek - 873-7861
Dean Thomas Homes,Inc - Dean Harding - 873-1935
Sonny's Bar & Grill - Tim & Karie Manhart - 873-4422
Springer's - Steve & Laura Rowley - 205-9300
Stark Company Realtors
Marjie Hanssen & Tony Hill - 873-8181
REMAX Preferred - Tom Franke - 877-0871

We thank everyone that has renewed their membership so far this year. In addition, we like to acknowledge our new 2006 members:

Paul & Karen Becker
Tom & Mary Brown
Patricia Brugger
Nancy Decker
Gunther & Diane Dorth
Julie Enloe
Howard & Joyce Foss
Bruce & Lisa Johnson
Ted & Cindy Markee
Tim & Kathleen McGahan
Linda Nelson
Eric Olson
Rob Peters
Ryan Quam
George & Janice Rice
Brad Schoeder
Thom & Deborah Thomassen
Robert & Heather Wahlin
Herbert & Carol Wilson

FOLKS appreciates your additional donation & support!!

Tim Albion
Tim Bachman
Mary Alice Brennan
Paul Burrill
Tammy Guidarelli
Paula White & Jim Keen



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

May 2006



**President's Message
Ray Potempa**

The 2006 season on Lake Kegonsa is starting with the all too familiar activities being noticed. Boat lift and piers are reappearing in their usual places in the lake, but just a little early for all of the boats. Lawns are greening up and the spring flowers are opening. Most importantly, I see people reemerging from their homes into the joy of outdoor lake living. Fishing season will open completing the official starting ceremonies on Lake Kegonsa.

Many of the newly formed FOLKS committees have been meeting during the last two months with some new volunteers attending. Fresh viewpoints have added to the overall perspectives on our 2006 projects. Don't be surprised to find a FOLKS webpage up and running within the next few months. More on the webpage will be reported in the next newsletter. Please reconsider volunteering your time and talents in FOLKS activities.

I wish more definitive answers were available on the proposed changes in the rules and regulations affecting lake matters, but they are not at this time. Promise to keep you posted when the answers do become available. I would suggest focusing on making the 2006 Lake Kegonsa summer season enjoyable, fulfilling, memorable, and safe.

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FOLKS In Summary
By: Susan Luellwitz

Interview with Ray Potempa, by S. Luellwitz. Mr. Potempa has been an active member of Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS) since its inception in 1987 and is currently the President of this non-profit organization.

Q: For those that don't know, what is the purpose/goal of FOLKS?

A: According to the by-laws, the purpose of FOLKS is to protect, maintain and enhance environmental and recreational values at Lake Kegonsa and its surroundings; and to represent the collective interests of the members. In my own words, I would simply say that FOLKS is volunteer organization interested in preserving our neighborhood.

Q: I have been reading the past newsletters (available at the Stoughton Public Library), and see FOLKS was involved in various projects over the years. For instance, FOLKS was involved with the Door Creek Wetlands Project (July 00). What was this project and why was it important?

A: The Door Creek Wetlands is the undeveloped area on the far north side of the lake, just east of the Yahara River inlet. The wetlands area is important because rainwater is filtered through the wetlands thus trapping pollutants and sediment from the water before it enters the lake. The marsh also provides a large amount of habitat for aquatic and terrestrial life, a fish spawning area, and it can be useful as a natural flood control area. Starting in the 1920s, Door Creek was ditched and straightened to improve drainage of farmland. Needless to say, this had an overall negative effect on the lake and wildlife habitat.

Since 1993, FOLKS had been involved in efforts to restore the wetlands to its natural state. FOLKS administered an environmental study to address concerns about the wetlands. In 1998 Dane County received a DNR grant to develop the Door Creek Wetlands Resource Protection Plan.

FOLKS was one of several groups involved in putting the plan together. Ultimately, the plan was approved by the Dane County Board of Supervisors and was included in the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan.

Q: What are some of the goals for the Wetlands?

A: We want to re-establish the original stream channels and redirect the flow back into the Marsh to restore the wetlands and encourage storm water management. Since Door Creek is the second largest inflow into Lake Kegonsa, active working wetlands are a definite asset in improving overall water quality in the Lake.

Q: Has the Wetlands project been completed?

A: This is an ongoing project and one we will be working on this year. So far, FOLKS has helped to facilitate public land acquisitions which are necessary before any physical projects can be undertaken. Numerous State and County acquisitions of wetland parcels have been made during the last four years.

Q: What about the Fish Crib Project? I've read that 250 fish cribs were constructed and placed in the lake during the 1980's and an additional 30 cribs were placed in 2000. What was FOLKS roll in this project? Is there a map available to show fishermen the location of the cribs? Were the fish cribs effective?

A: The DNR fishery manger wanted to experiment with the use of fish cribs to improve fishing on the Madison lakes. FOLKS volunteered to undertake the project because of the limited amount of structure in Lake Kegonsa. This was a five year project with FOLKS supplying all of the materials and labor required for the building and placing of the cribs. DNR staff obtained the permits and identified the eight locations. Free lake maps distributed by Dane County Parks show the GPS crib locations. Effectiveness of the fish cribs vary depending on the fisherman providing the opinion, but based on the number of boats fishing over the cribs each year, I would guess that they are producing.

Q: Has FOLKS been active in any projects that produced legislative changes?

A: FOLKS is a non-profit organization which is prohibited from many political activities, however, it is responsible for representing the interests of its membership in matters affecting Lake Kegonsa. A good example is the concentrated effort made by FOLKS in defeating the proposal of the Dane County Drainage Board to lower Lake Kegonsa by ten inches to improve the drainage of some agricultural properties.

Q: Is there a social aspect to FOLKS?

A: The number of social activities has varied over the years. Our largest social event has traditionally been a November annual meeting/dinner at a local restaurant. This is a great event for neighbors to get out and meet one another. This year we are hoping to include a few more social events. We would especially like to have a summer event so that the out-of-towners could get involved.

FOLKS OFFICERS 2006

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Send news of interest to FOLKS to:
P.O. Box 173
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2006 Board Members



(Pictured From Left To Right)

1. Bob Arndt, 1960 Barber Dr. 877-8540
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Pictured above is our 2006 FOLKS volunteer board members. This year we have established a new system where our board members will work on various committees and projects. **All FOLKS Board Meetings are open to the public** and we encourage you to attend and become involved in any project. The more of you involved, the more proactive we can become for Lake Kegonsa. Some areas we are looking at this year include: Aquatic Plant Management, Northern Pike Rearing Ponds in Door Creek Wetlands, Fish Camp Boat Launch Breakwater, Tracking Acts, Rules, and Ordinances.

FOLK's remaining Board Meetings will be held at the Stoughton Country Club on 5/22, 6/26, 7/31, 8/28, 9/25, 10/30 and 11/27 all beginning at 5:30PM.

Thinking About Changing Your Pier? By: Bob Arndt

If you are thinking about substantially changing your pier configuration this year, there are some important things to consider. (Substantial changes would include adding boat slips, or widening or lengthening your pier or loading platform. Replacement and repairs are not considered substantial changes.)

- It is very likely that your new pier will have to meet exemption requirements similar to those listed below in items d, e, and f; or you will have to go through some type of permit process as described in item g.
- If your pier configuration (including the number of slips) remains the same as it was before 2/6/2004, you will be able to keep it, if it meets the less stringent requirements listed below in items a, b, and c, through registration or a permit.

Governor issues temporary Executive order concerning piers and wharves

On May 8, Governor Doyle issued Executive Order #148. The Executive Order directs the Department of Natural Resources to exercise enforcement discretion that will ensure that family piers will not be affected and everyone will maintain their right to have access to Wisconsin's lakes. The Governor's press release stated "While we have to continue to guard against the worst cases of abuse, like someone who might block a narrow river with an unnecessarily long pier, family piers are under no threat this summer."

Governor Doyle also restated his intention to veto Assembly Bill 850, the attempt by the legislature to regulate piers and wharves.

The order directs the Department of Natural Resources to do the following:

A. Not seek removal or modification of any pier or wharf originally placed by the waterfront property owner before February 6, 2004, provided that:

- i. The pier or wharf does not exceed 8 feet in width;
- ii. Does not have a wider loading platform at the waterward end of the pier that is more than 200 square feet or more than 300 square feet if it is no more than 10 feet wide;
- iii. That the pier or wharf does not interfere with the rights of other waterfront property owners; and
- iv. That the pier or wharf was not the subject of enforcement action initiated by the Department before February 6, 2004

B. Continue to allow minor reconfigurations or relocations of any pier or wharf originally placed by the waterfront property owner before February 6, 2004, provided that the size of the pier or wharf is not increased

C. Continue to recognize the terms of any existing permit or other written authorization for a pier or wharf provided that the pier or wharf is in compliance with the conditions of the permit or authorization

D. Not seek removal or modification of any pier or wharf originally placed by the waterfront property owner on or after February 6, 2004, provided that:

- i. The pier or wharf does not harm the public interest
- ii. The pier or wharf is no more than 6 feet wide except that a pier may have a loading platform at the waterward end that is not more than 8 feet wide and which is perpendicular to the pier; and
- iii. The pier or wharf meets existing length and boat slip density standards;

E. Continue to implement the terms of s. NR 326.04(1) with respect to pier length by allowing piers to extend the greater of the three foot depth contour or to the point where there is adequate depth for mooring a boat or using a boat hoist or boat lift in common use on the waterway;

F. Grant an individual permit for new piers or wharves on lakes 50 acres or more, for a property on which there are three (3) or more dwelling units or commercial structures, provided that the standards in s. 30.12(3m), Stats., are met, and provided that the piers or wharves are not located in an area of special natural resource interest, and provided that the piers or wharves do not have more than the following number of boat slips, whichever is smaller:

- i. Four (4) boat slips for the first 50 feet of the property's shoreline footage and no more than two (2) boat slips for each additional 50 feet of the property's shoreline footage; or
- ii. One boat slip for each dwelling unit, plus an additional number of boat slips if the additional slips are open to the public and the use of the additional slips is limited to the transient docking of boats for less than 24 hours;

G. Continue to accept and review individual permit applications for any new or existing pier or wharf;

H. Continue its practice of refraining from ordering the removal of any pier or wharf or from denying a permit for any pier or wharf unless all reasonable alternatives are considered.

AB850 would have placed no width restrictions on piers, wharves or loading platforms placed in service before 2/6/2004. The executive order does not address registration requirements included in AB850 for these "grandfathered" piers.

Sources: http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/journal_media_detail.asp?locid=19&prid=1985 and the Department of Natural Resources.



Abel Rasdall, Lake Kegonsa's First Resident
By: Doug Pfundheller

Abel Rasdall was originally from Kentucky. He came to the Wisconsin Territory in 1828. In 1831 he settled on the east shore of the lake (then called First Lake) to build his cabin and establish trade with the Indians. His cabin was one-half mile south of the Catfish River outlet in a horseshoe shaped ridge on what later became the Old Quam farm. Abel lived with his first wife, a Winnebago Indian named Onck Say On Ah whom he married on December 15, 1834. She was reputed to have no nose...it having been bitten off by her former husband for infidelity reasons. Therefore, she always covered her face with a blanket. On a trip to Fort Winnebago she contracted small pox and died.

On March 01, 1837 Able married his second Indian wife named No Wa Chock Wink Ah. However; her people decided to migrate west and she decided to follow them. Abel was okay with this so he tore their blanket in half and they each took a side. This meant divorce Winnebago style.

Later Abel remarried his third wife a white woman named Lydia Ann Pitcher on May 24, 1845 and they moved to Madison. He built a grist mill and was caught in the gears and died of his injuries at the age of 52.

Other early families to first settle on Lake Kegonsa were William Colladay (Colladay Point) John Williams (Williams Point) Richard Palmer, OJ Quam and the Barber families.

A Passenger Boat on Lake Kegonsa

By: Doug Pfundheller

In 1860 John Williams a wealthy founder of a major steel mill in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania came to Wisconsin and settled in our area. He had purchased much of the land on the east end of the lake which we now know as Lafollette Park, Sticklestad Farm, Lake Kegonsa State Park and most of Williams Point. The famous Carriage House Barn (seen throughout many pictures) was erected just south of his home in 1887 and was torn down after the State bought the land on October 21, 1970.

Mr. Williams had a steam boat built in Ohio and shipped by rail to Lake Kegonsa and launched near the Lake Kegonsa rail road stop. The boat was christened "Emma" and he started a passenger service on September 16, 1887. The boat was 57 feet long and 9 feet wide and was reported to carry 65 people at a time and reached speeds of 25 miles per hour. After a few years of service on Lake Kegonsa the boat was refurbished and moved to Lake Mendota and renamed "Maggie."

Passenger Boat Postcard Pictured Below

Courtesy Of Doug Pfundheller



Take a Stake in the Lakes 2006 Dane County's Lakes Cleanup Event



Volunteers are needed.....

The 19th annual Take a Stake in the Lakes volunteer cleanup of the Yahara Lakes will be held on June 10 and June 17, 2006.

Lakes Mendota, Kegonsa and Wingra will be cleaned on Saturday, June 10 from 9:00-12:00, with the information center at Wingra Park in Madison.

Lakes Monona and Waubesa will be cleaned on Saturday, June 17 from 9:00-12:00, with the information center at Law Park in Madison.

Over the years, thousands of volunteers have removed hundreds of tons of waste from Lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa and Kegonsa. During Take a Stake in the Lakes groups, individuals and families adopt a beach or shoreline, collect litter and rake aquatic debris from the shoreline and shallow waters. Some adopt boat launches, and some clean rivers while paddling their canoes or kayaks. Many groups then have a picnic in the park they've just cleaned up. Garbage bags, T-shirts and door prizes are provided.

Volunteers can also stencil storm drains in their neighborhoods using a stencil kit and spray paint provided by Dane County Extension. The stencil is a reminder to keep leaves and grass clippings out of the gutters, which drain directly to the lakes and encourage the growth of lake weeds.

Shoreline residents: Dane County Public Works barges will conduct the annual aquatic debris pickup from your piers on Lake Mendota and Lake Kegonsa on Monday June 12 and on Lake Monona and Waubesa on Monday June 19, starting at 6:00 a.m. Note: Aquatic debris must be on shoreline residents pier by the Monday after the perspective lakes clean-up event.

Call now to reserve your group's favorite park or stretch of shoreline, or to find out how you can help protect our beautiful lakes.

Take a Stake in the Lakes is sponsored by the Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission and is part of Yahara Lakes Week, which celebrates and promotes public awareness of the Yahara Lakes. The event is held in cooperation with Dane County Parks, Dane County Public Works and Dane County/UW Extension, and is sponsored by many local businesses and organizations.

To participate or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, call Rhea Stangel-Maier, Take a Stake in the Lakes Coordinator at 608-224-3601 or stangel-maier@co.dane.wi.us). Volunteers may also come to the information centers, where stencil kits and garbage bags will be available. Visit our website WWW.DANEWATERS.COM

National Safe Boating Week is May 20 through May 26, 2006

Learn to be a safe boater!

The Dane County Sheriff's Office is holding a Boat Smart Boat Safety Class again this spring.

Boat Safety Class

Dates: June 24th, 2006

Time: 8:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: McFarland Municipal Center

5915 Milwaukee St, McFarland, WI

Registration fee: \$10.00 due at first class

On line registration: <http://www.danesheriff.com/boatsafety.htm>

NOTE: Participants must be at least 10 years old. The DNR boat safety certificate does not become active until you are 12 years old.

FOLKS in Summary, Continued from Page 2

Q: There also seems to be an educational aspect to FOLKS. Can you explain?

A: One of our goals is to help educate our members. For example, in January of this year we combined our board meeting with three educational presentations: Pier, Boat Lift and Boat Shelter Regulations, Shoreline Zoning Rules, and Shoreline Erosion Control. This was a very well attended event and according to those who participated, very educational. Over the years we have included some very interesting articles about the history of Lake Kegonsa in our newsletters. In the past we have organized and conducted boater safety classes and other activities for our members.

We are hoping to keep the information coming this year in the newsletters and possibly some classes/presentations. Again, we welcome ideas from our members. If we know what is most important to our members we will be better able to meet those needs.

Q: What are the projects/goals for 2006?

A: We've already mentioned three of them – Door Creek wetlands restoration, education/safety and social events. Besides that we are looking at Aquatic Plant Management (last year was an especially bad year for weeds), Fish Management including the Northern Pike Spawning area in the Door Creek Wetlands, repair of the breakwater at Fishcamp, tracking various rules and regulations that affect the lake, and we are also considering a web site and are gathering e-mail addresses so we can communicate more effectively with our members.

Q: Tell me about the breakwater project at Fish Camp Boat Launch. Why is it important? What still needs to be done?

A: Originally, there was a natural breakwater at Fish Camp (at the Yahara River inlet), but a few years ago, after a couple of years of very high water, this breakwater was worn away. FOLKS would like to see the breakwater repaired. The breakwater is important because it directs the water through a narrower opening at the base of the river, thereby allowing the river to remove the sediment and rocks, creating a deeper channel for the boat launch. Without the breakwater the mouth of the river is filling with sediment and rocks, making the boat launch area a hazard for boaters. The breakwater also helps to protect the river shoreline from waves and erosion.

Currently, FOLKS is preparing to have revised engineering plans for a breakwater drawn up and

resubmit the applications for the necessary permits. Potential flooding concerns were expressed with original breakwater designs. The intergovernmental agreement between the DNR, Dane County, and the Town of Dunn has been executed for the project. If the plans get approved, the break water project could proceed. Grant applications for project funding are already in place awaiting the required permits. This has been a four year commitment by FOLKS.

Q: How can a person become more involved?

A: That's a great question and one I wish more people would ask. As we've already discussed FOLKS has plans to work on some very important projects in the coming year. FOLKS has five officers, six board members and (so far) a couple of extra volunteers to work on these projects. We would be happy to welcome anyone who is interested to join in!

Officers and Board Members are listed on this newsletter. You may contact one of them for more information.

Interesting Facts...

Ice on Lake Kegonsa – The Past Fifty Years

Below are some interesting facts on Lake Kegonsa's "freeze up" and openings over the past fifty years. Dates are based on the entire lake being covered with ice or water.

Earliest Freeze November 12, 1993

Earliest Opening February 26, 1998

Shortest number of closed days 1997-1998 = 72 days

Longest number of closed days 1959-1960 = 148 days

Average number of closed days Over the past fifty years 109.7