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Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
 P.O. Box 173
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President's Message
Ray Potempa

With the night temperatures falling into the low 40's and sometime in the high 30's, as residents on Lake Kegonsa we are faced with the inevitable decision "When do we pull boats and piers?". Psychologically, this is very difficult decision to make because it signifies the end of our boating season. Surely next week we will have some nice days to use the boat the last time continues as an optimistic thought. However, if the weather turns raw and nasty; it is no fun working in a cold lake.

Being a fisherman, the decision is must easier especially if one is after the big ones. A cold wind and little chop with maybe a little snow seems to be perfect weather for landing those trophy fish. If a contractor is being employed to handle the boat and pier, this decision is a no brainer.

Looking on the bright side, autumn is a great season on Lake Kegonsa with football games, picking apples, watching the leaves turn colors, and strolling in the outdoors. IWe just change our focus from the lake to the land for a few months until we are able to "walk on water" and start the winter season on the lake.

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FALL SOCIAL

Mark Your Calendars!
FOLKS Fall Social is scheduled for
Saturday November 11th - 6:00 PM to Midnight

Join your neighbors at the Stoughton Country Club for dinner, dancing, door prizes and good times.

Watch for your mail box for your invitation being sent the first week in October!

Do you have a door prize you would like to donate? We are looking for donations of products or services that can be awarded as door prizes.

If you would like to make a contribution or have any questions please e-mail Susan or Kris at
Susan.Luellwitz@boe.ca.gov or
Kheckman@charter.net

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Editor Wanted:

FOLKS is looking for someone to take over as Editor. FOLKS would e-mail you the Word documents and photos for you to typeset the newsletter. Once finished you would e-mail your document back to an assigned person. Please let us know if you are interested or have any questions. You can reach Kris at her e-mail address of: kheckman@charter.net or her home number of 608-877-8750.

Send news of interest to FOLKS to:
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2006 Board Members



(Pictured From Left To Right)

1. Bob Arndt, 1960 Barber Dr. 877-8540
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4. James Gray, 3144 Shadyside 345-0096
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5. Doug Pfundheller, 3354 Quam Dr. 873-3611
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6. Ed Heckman (not pictured), 2078 Barber Dr. 877-8750
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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 10/30 and 11/27 beginning at 5:30PM.

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Are We Sprouting Islands??

By Joe Edgerton



The above picture illustrates one of the floating “islands” that appeared after a recent late July storm. It is actually a dislodged chunk of the marsh land across from the Fish Camp boat ramp and a vivid reminder of why the FOLKS board is campaigning for the proposed Fish Camp breakwater.

The mouth of the Yahara River has become increasingly larger as the natural protection erodes from Lake Kegonsa wave action. The resulting outcome is a less protected Fish Camp boat ramp and a confusing channel for boaters to traverse. Very shallow water across the expanse is causing a number of damaged boat props and aggravation for unwary boaters.

The proposed breakwater will protect the boat ramp, reduce the marsh land erosion and provide a well marked channel for boater safety. FOLKS breakwater committee members will continue to keep you apprised of our progress on this important project.

“Lake Kegonsa is 100 percent better than it was a year ago,”

Such is the acclamation of cottagers at the lake, following the second lake treatment of copper sulphate to kill algae. The lake is much cleaner than it has been in many years and on some days is as clear as drinking water, veteran campers at the lake declare. Recent reports that there were wholesale fatalities of fingerlings during the spraying process are false, cottagers stated Thursday morning. There may have been numbers killed during the first spraying but not a one was killed during the second spraying, which was completed last week.

Reprint Stoughton Courier Hub, History Section, August 7, 1936

Missing a Paddle Boat?

The Dane County Sheriff’s Office Marine and Trail Enforcement Bureau recovered a Blue/White paddle boat on the East shore of Lake Kegonsa on July 31, 2006. Initial efforts to find the owner have been unsuccessful. If you are missing a boat matching this description, please contact the Sheriff’s Office at 284-6878.

Weeds in the River!

Some FOLKS members have expressed a concern with the amount of aquatic weeds growing in the Lower Yahara River. The amount of aquatic weeds in the River has not changed over the years, but this year they have not been harvested.

Weed harvesting in the River is a high priority only to control high water conditions and flooding in the upper lakes. This area is a major constriction in moving water out of the Yahara Lakes and heavy weed growth contributes to reduced flow rates. When we have high water conditions, the weed harvesters are constantly cutting in the River to keep the flow rates at their maximum levels. To date, we have not encountered the high water conditions therefore no cutting in the River which explains the apparent abundance of aquatic weeds.

Many very beneficial aquatic plants inhabit the waters between Lake Waubesa and Kegonsa, and should be protected to sustain the fishery and water fowl populations. This supports the current no cut policy unless absolutely necessary for public safety.

Coming Soon... the Yahara Water Trail Guide

Back in 2004, the Dane County Environmental Council, a county committee designed to assist public and private groups in recognizing and protecting the natural areas in Dane County, convened a Steering Committee of many interested local groups to help develop an updated and expanded water trail guide for the Yahara River and Lakes based on an earlier guide called Taychopera: A Canoe Guide to Dane County’s Four Lakes.

Jane Licht, former member of the Dane County Environmental Council, wrote the 1984 guide. Taychopera was developed primarily as an educational document that could be used at Camp Turtle in the McFarland area, where canoeing educational trips were part of the camp curriculum. The printed guide was extremely popular, but it was not republished after the initial supplies quickly ran out.

The expanded and updated guide will include points of historical, archeological, natural resource interest along with and landmarks that can be viewed from the water. The area covered in the guide includes from Cherokee Marsh south through the entire chain of Yahara Lakes (Mendota, Monona, Wingra, Waubesa, Upper and Lower Mud Lakes and Kegonsa) and the Yahara River south to Stoughton. The Environmental Council foresees this guide widely used by boaters, camps and school and community groups, water tour groups and other recreational enthusiasts or those interested in local history and natural resources.

The Yahara Water Trails guide will provide both a printed and a more detailed electronic format. The latter eventually housed on the Dane County Waters website. The guide is currently written and is being field tested and edited this summer. Final graphic designing will occur in the fall along with fundraising and marketing for the printed guide. Developed with the hope that it will serve as a pleasurable educational venue, this guide should be available in the spring of 2007. For more information on this project, contact Mindy Habecker, Dane County Environmental Council staff at habecker@co.dane.wi.us or 224-3718.

Lake History by Doug Pfundheller

The Beach Avenue Pavilion

Most of you probably do not remember the Beach Avenue Pavilion shown in the photo. The pavilion was built by Galvin Lane in 1905 on Quam Drive, on the land now known as Amundson Landing. The pavilion was a dance hall, with screen windows and wood shutters. Green's grocery store, owned by Martin Green, was also located on the site. The name was changed to Amundson's Pavilion when the Amundson brothers (Ed and A.J.) bought it in 1920. Ed ran the pavilion and A.J. the store. In 1921 A.J. bought out his brother and in 1932 the pavilion was moved parallel to the lake. The grocery store was moved into the east half of the building in 1933.

From 1937 to 1942 the business was open during the summer and was operated by Harlow Wright and Bob Scott; then Walt Eggleston, Lloyd Tholo, and Stan Sorenson; then Arn Kvalheim; and finally, Mrs. A.J. Amundson and her son Arthur. The pavilion was closed during the war but in 1946 two returning veterans, Curt Larson and Doug Stockstad, opened it again and various people ran it until it eventually closed in 1956. The building was taken down in 1958.

The land was sold to the DNR in 1989 for the boat landing that is now called Amundson Landing.

The Beach Avenue Pavilion held a lot of memories for those of us who lived around Lake Kegonsa in those days. I graduated from high school in 1947, and spent a lot of wonderful summer nights dancing with my sweetheart (now my wife of 55 years) to tunes on the juke box at six plays for a quarter. When a breeze comes in across Dewey Bay I can still almost hear Nat King Cole singing "Nature Boy".



BIG FISH and LAKE KEGONSA

By: Doug Pfundheller

Theo Hanssen and Aaron Laking grew up a block apart in Stoughton Wisconsin and have been friends since the first grade. In junior high they discovered that they both loved fishing, especially catching big fish. They have been fishing together ever since visiting places in Northern Wisconsin, Canada, and best of all Lake Kegonsa which happens to be their favorite "big fish lake".

What Theo and Aaron practice is they catch, measure, take a photo and then release everything they caught that day. They keep a written record of all their fish that are over 32" long. This summers total is a staggering 48 fish as of August. They use only lures and their favorite boat happens to be Grandma's pontoon.

Above is a shot of Theo and below of Aaron proudly displaying their catch of the day.

