



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
April 2016

President’s Message ~ Peter Foy

I will keep this short because you will find most of what has been happening over the last three months in the articles included in the newsletter.

One thing that I wanted to mention is that the DNR is conducting a fish survey on Lake Kegonsa. This survey is only done every five, or six years. There are capturing fish at about six locations around the lake. If you see a flag sticking out of the water that is where the net is. They empty the nets every day and then identify and count the fish in the net. They are weighed and measured to gage the health of the fish population. Before the fish are released back into the lake they are marked, so they don't recount the same fish. As of 3/31 this has already been going on for two weeks and has over a week to go.

This is obviously a labor intensive effort, but will result in some valuable information. The bad news is because of limited manpower at the DNR it will probably be over a year before we get the full analysis of the study. The most interesting finding to me will be the comparison of this year’s study to the one done five years ago. We are hoping to see an increase in the walleye population because of the ongoing stocking by the Stoughton Conservation Club, which FOLKS helps support. All you fisherman better keep this a secret, but the DNR guys said they are finding some exceptional sized bluegill in the nets.

As we see the piers start to go in you know it won't be long before we are enjoying another beautiful summer on Lake Kegonsa.

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Update on our Carp Project-Peter Foy

On Wednesday March 30, 2016 Board members Jim Schoeberl, Rick Thorstad and I met with Kurt Welke and David Row from the DNR and Dick Lathrop, retired scientist from the WI Limnology Dept. to get an update on our carp project.

Tracking

As previously reported the DNR inserted radio transmitters into 20 carp last fall. The plan was to track them over the winter of 2016 and also the summer and winter of 2017 for the purpose of identifying their movement. Once a pattern of movement had been determined a final plan for a major removal could be established.

The DNR tracked the carp by air over the winter, with limited success, trying to locate the tagged carp through the ice. They had slightly better, but still disappointing result, using an ATV on the ice.

On 3/13/16 using a boat they were able to locate 10 of the 20 carp. Most of them were on the North Shore, but a few spread around the lake. Then on 3/29, again in a boat, they were able to locate 16 of the 20 fish and all of them were on the North Shore.

The tracking will continue to take place about twice a month, for about the next year, in order to observe and record their movement.

Based on what has been observed so far the best chance for success of a major removal might be shortly after the ice comes off the lake next year.

Fish Contract

The DNR awarded the fishing contract for Lake Kegonsa to Larocque Fisheries. Members of the FOLKS Board will be meeting with Luke Larocque to understand how he intends to remove carp during 2016. We have to make sure that if any of the tagged fish are caught they are returned to the lake.

Our understanding is that fishing will not be done at night with boats with the bright lights. All fishing will take place during the day. FOLKS will be notified whenever they will be on the lake. All carp that are removed will be weighed and any game fish that are netted will be returned to the lake.

The reason a commercial fishing company removes carp is purely a financial one. They want to catch fish when there is a market and the price is the highest. We found it interesting that they should catch both carp and buffalo fish. Buffalo are more desirable, so they get about four times at market for Buffalo. Wikipedia said, "Though it has numerous small bones, its good flavor makes it one of the most valuable of the non-game freshwater fish." It will be interesting to see what percent of buffalo we have in our lake.

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Update on our Carp Project-Peter Foy (Continued From Page 2)

The commercial fisherman's interest is in making money and FOLKS interest is in getting rid of as many carp as possible, regardless of the market price. For this reason, FOLKS has put a considerable amount of incentive funds in the project budget. We will probably have to use these funds to incent them to fish more often, in order to remove more carp than would be financially in their interest.

We are realizing with each meeting we have with the experts that this will not be a short term project. We are coming to the realization that this will be a multiple year project, but we are determined to do whatever has to be done to eliminate as many carp from our lake as possible.

Thanks to the generous donations of our members and local organizations we should have the funds necessary to do this right.

We will keep you up to date on our progress, as we move through the summer.

If you have any questions, please send them to me at: peterf@kegonsa.org

Potential Leaf Project to Reduce Phosphorous

Leaves that are blown into the lake, or are left in the yard, or street are a major source of phosphorous in our lake. The FOLKS Board has looked into organizing a leaf removal project in the fall, based on a successful project in DeForest this past year. The plan was to set up a time in the fall where lake owners could rake and pile their leaves on the roadside of their houses. FOLKS would contract with a company that had the capability to either pick up, or vacuum up the leaves and take them to a compost site. Unfortunately, our initial study concluded that the cost of hiring the vacuum trucks was prohibitive.

We still think this is a worthwhile project and we plan to contact other possible providers of this service in the next few months to see if we can find a lower priced service. We presented this idea to the members who attended our annual meeting in January and several suggestions were offered on how we could remove the leaves. One that was mentioned was to ask high schools who require volunteer hours or organizations that do volunteer projects to help rake leaves for owners who are not able to rake their leaves. Another suggestion was to ask if the current waste management company that is servicing the property if, for a nominal fee, they would include a pick-up of bagged leaves with their weekly pickup. We would welcome any other ideas you may have.

Contact Cathie Taylor at cathiet@kegonsa.org if you have other ideas or would like to help with the project.

New Board Members

Welcome Patrick Guiney and Jim Stratton who were elected to the FOLKS Board at this year's annual meeting.

FOLKS Membership Update

Thank you to all members who have sent their renewals in on first notice, you are in the good company of 311 other new or renewed members; there are approximately 90 non-renewed members at this point.

A goal of over four-hundred members is completely plausible this year; we have new residents on and off the lake, snow birds who respond to our second notices as well as other residents who hear about FOLKS from members like you.

As a member, please consider speaking to your neighbors about the FOLKS organization and their potential membership. Let them know that we publish a Newsletter and direct them to the website Kegonsa.org for additional information about FOLKS.

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership please pass on my email address and I will be happy to contact them personally.

Finally, please know that as a member, we are always looking for Committee assistance and ideas on making the organizational improvements in order to meet our goals.

Gloria Kay-Schoeberl
Gloria@kegonsa.org
Treasurer

Ice Off Contest

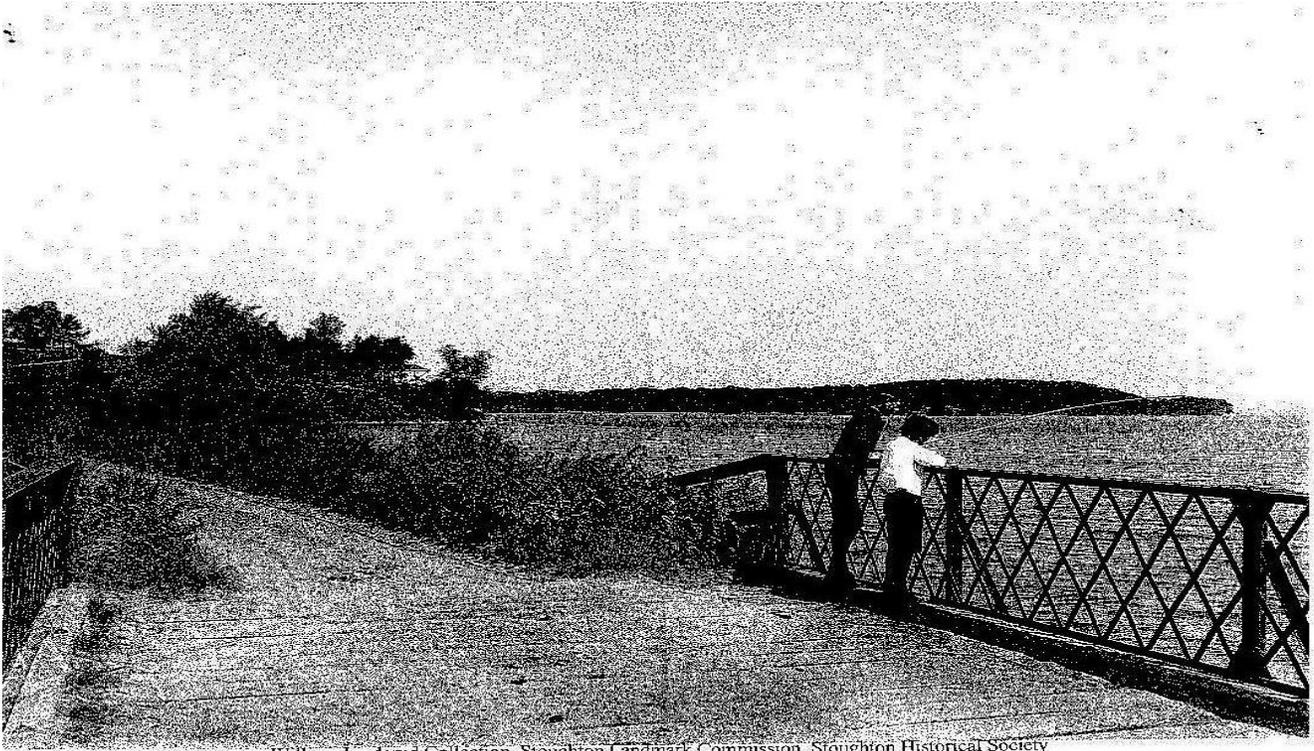
Who would have thought the lake would open up before the last date for entering the "Ice Off" contest! I don't remember the lake ever opening this fast. Near 70 degree temperatures and 20 mile an hour SW winds helped! Although it was not until March 11 that the lake was completely free of ice, most of the lake was open by March 9. The last day for entering the contest was March 13. Of course several folks sent in their guesses on March 10 & 11 as the lake was opening before them. But they were too late!

The winners of this year's contest are Kaye and Mark Oostdyk who submitted their guess for March 11 on Sunday, March 6 at 2:38 pm. Three other folks guessed this date as well but their entries were submitted later. In fact we had a number of even more optimistic folks who guessed March 8, 9 and 10! Kaye and Mark won a \$50.00 gift certificate to Halverson's Restaurant.

We had 93 entries this year. The most popular date was March 17 with 7 guesses. Maybe they were hoping for the "Luck of the Irish" to help them win! The earliest guess was March 8 and the latest was April 7.

Let's hope for a long beautiful Spring, Summer and Fall before we announce the "Ice On" contest.

Lake Kegonsa Memories



William Linderud Collection, Stoughton Landmark Commission, Stoughton Historical Society

1903- Old Highway 51 Bridge looking north at Colladay Point and Crown Point Resort



William Linderud Collection, Stoughton Landmark Commission, Stoughton Historical Society

1903- Bridge at Old Barber Trailer Court

FOLKS Business Members

Please Shop and Support FOLKS Fabulous Business Members

Web-Net	webdesign@web-net.us
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Stoughton Country Club	(608) 873-8464
Inkworks, Inc.	(608) 873-7755
Clean Lakes Alliance	james@cleanlakesalliance.com
Computer Management & Accounting	PO Box 301 Stoughton WI 53589
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Dean Thomas Homes, Inc.	deanh454@gmail.com
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No Shorts Electric	noshortselectric@gmail.com
Smokey's Auto Body	(608) 873-6678
T.L. HOME FINISHING & PAINTING	(608) 873-9266
Terry Kahl Plumbing	305 Industrial Cir Stoughton 53589
Thane B Anderson DDS	drthaneanderson@tds.net
Thunderbird Engineering, Inc.	(608) 223-9040
Kegonsa Cove Henmas Inc.	(608) 838-6494
Town of Dunn	4156 County HWY B McFarland 53558
Bryant Foundation (Edwin & Janet)	PO BOX 600 Stoughton WI 53589



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**Send news of interest to FOLKS to:
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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 Gloria Kay at gloria@Kegonsa.org or Peter Foy at PeterF@kegonsa.org

FOLKS Lost and Found

Contact Cathie Taylor at CathieT@kegonsa.org to list lost and found items on the FOLKS website.

For More About FOLKS, Visit
Our Website at
WWW.Kegonsa.org

FOLKS monthly board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month and the public are welcome to attend. Next Meeting is April 13, 2016, 5:00 - 6:00 PM.

Springers, 3097 Sunnyside St., Stoughton, WI 53589

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Return Service Requested