

FOLKS Business Members

Anchorbank, SSB	877-4108
Coldwell Banker Success Realtor	873-7731
Crown Point Resort	873-7833
Dean Thomas Homes, Inc	873-1935
Jim's Tree Service	838-8188
Kegonsa Cove	838-6494
Mike Jensen Taxidermy	838-4862
Quam's Motor Sports	873-3366
Springer's	205-9300
Stark Company Realtors - Stoughton Country Club	Marjie Hanssen (205-3003) and Tony Hill (205-3030) 873-7861
The UPS Store	877-2679
Web-Net	alan@web-net.us
Brown's Boats and Bait	873-6770
The Utschig Group of Chiropractic Clinics	274-2266



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
August 2009

President's Message ~ Bob Arndt

In June we sent out a request to members to complete a brief online survey regarding opinions on a variety of lake issues and FOLKS activities. The survey was sent to all those on our current email list (about 80% of our members). These members received invitations to complete the survey since it offered an effective and inexpensive option. While we would like to increase our focus on renewable resources and other sustainable practices, by saving paper, and money in the process, we will continue to offer options for those who do not have internet access, or simply prefer paper. Please contact us if you would like to complete a paper copy of the survey.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey as well add additional comments. The response rate was over 70%. Some of the results are presented later in this newsletter and a complete report will be prepared and made available to members at a later date.

As would be expected, weeds, algae, and lake quality in general, were the primary concerns of most respondents. Over the past couple of years, legislative and regulatory issues including pier rules, zoning restrictions and lake levels have occupied a disproportionate amount of time for the FOLKS board. While the membership has been very supportive of these efforts, the results of this survey confirm what has been very obvious the past two summers. Weeds and blue-green algae deserve the most attention. I can assure you that this is now the primary focus of FOLKS. We are currently forming subcommittees to look at what we can do as an organization to improve the quality of the water. Anyone interested in participating can contact Ray Potempa, at RayP@Kegonsa.org.

Lake levels also continue to be an issue. The level was actually allowed to drop below the DNR established minimum for about one week in mid July. The current level is about 1-2" above the summer minimum of 843 feet above sea level. According to the survey most members would prefer a level between 843.25 and 843.75, or about 2-8 inches higher than the current level. We must keep in mind that maintaining a higher level will increase the risk of high water, shoreline damage, and no-wake restrictions. 50% of those responding to the survey reported damage to property or possessions from high water in 2007-08. Drawing down to winter levels can also be more difficult, leading to more ice damage to shorelines and boat houses. In a continuing effort to find and maintain reasonable lake level, we met with Town of Dunn, Dane County and DNR representatives the last week of July.

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P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589

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

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DNR Increases Invasive Species Enforcement By Mac Hannon, DNR

The prime boating and fishing season is now upon us in Dane County and Lake Kegonsa. We at the DNR and in the Warden Service are looking forward to another safe and productive year on the lakes. In the past few years aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil, and the fish disease VHS have become huge issues in the state. To combat the spread of these and other harmful exotic species, the DNR and the State have enacted new laws affecting both boaters and shore anglers. We had a largely informational year in 2008 trying to get the word out on the new laws and maintaining a more visual presence at boat landings and on the water. This year we have stepped up enforcement, with special attention on Dane County lakes due to the boating and angling pressure they receive. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight many of the laws seeing increased enforcement, in an effort to keep our lakes as clean as possible. Listed below are the statutes and the minimum/maximum penalties associated with each. I hope everyone has a fun and safe summer!

Statute Number	Statute Text	Minimum Penalty	Maximum Penalty
30.715(2)	Place or use boat or boating equipment or place boat trailer in navigable water if the person has reason to believe the boat, boat trailer, or boating equipment has any aquatic plants attached	\$154.50	\$249.00
30.715(6)	Refuse to obey the order of a law enforcement officer acting under sub.(4) to remove or not place boat/trailer in water <i>1st offense</i> within 1 yr.	\$186.00	\$249.00
NR 19.05(3)	Transport live fish away from waters or shores of any water body.	\$329.00	\$2138.00
NR 19.055(1)	Fail to drain water from boat, trailer or equipment before transporting away from water or shore of any water body.	\$228.50	\$329
NR 19.27(4)(a)1	Illegally possess, use, or release live crayfish on inland waters. Possess crayfish while fishing in waters of the state.	\$208.40	\$2138.00
NR 20.08(3)	Release any unused bait into any waters.	\$630.50	\$2138.00
NR 20.08(7)	Illegal use or possession of dead fish as fishing bait.	\$208.40	\$2138.00

For more information contact: Mac M. Hannon, Deputy Conservation Warden, Bureau of Law Enforcement, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, phone: (608) 279-9142
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FOLKS monthly board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and the public is welcome to attend. Next Meeting September 8, 2009, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

Stoughton Country Club 3165 Shady Side Drive Stoughton WI, 53589

Board Members 2009

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**Send news of interest to FOLKS to:
P.O. Box 173
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DavidL@kegonsona.org**

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FOLKS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Volunteers Needed

FOLKS has formed three new subcommittees in response to the recent member survey. Volunteers are needed to fill these vitally needed subcommittees. Below are mission descriptions.

Lake Levels and Flow Rate Subcommittee

The primary focus to this group will be the monitoring of lake levels and correlated with flow rates. In essence to track the effectiveness of the Temporary Order on Lowering Lake Kegonsa levels in the effort to reduce flooding in the upper lakes. Secondly, periodically sharing these ongoing effectiveness reports with the appropriate legislative representatives, local affected governmental officials, county board members, Lakes and Watershed officials, and DNR management. Lastly, the Subcommittee will develop a strategy for addressing any future changes to the lake level orders.

Aquatic Weed Harvesting Subcommittee

The primary focus of this group will be gain a comprehensive understanding of Dane County’s harvesting plans, DNR permits, and riparian harvesting rights. Explore the most effective harvesting procedures as recommended by industry and/or equipment manufacturers, in order to evaluate current harvesting procedures on Lake Kegonsa and the Yahara River. For example, what is the expected recovery rate of the cut weeds deposited into the machine vs. discarded into the lake? Determine the feasibility of a regular weed pickup service during the recreational season including the proper disposal of the cut weeds. Monitor and report on the County’s aquatic weed harvesting activities throughout the recreational season of Lake Kegonsa.

Water Quality Subcommittee

The primary focus of this group is the review of existing reports and data on Lake Kegonsa water quality levels and development of a lake management plan to improve overall water quality. Propose research studies with associated budgets to obtain any additional information on water quality issues to the FOLKS Board. This plan should include a continuing lake monitoring program, assessment of invasive aquatic plants status, determination of water quality levels effects on real estate assessed valuations and businesses, and algae alerts for swimming and other water recreational activities. It is anticipated that these activities will be on a multi year basis.

Please advise if you are interested in volunteering to serve on any of the above subcommittees. If interested, I would appreciate your preferences on meeting’s dates and times. Thank you

Ray Potempa
838-9329
RayP@kegonasa.org

Water Quality Data Available on FOLKS Website

The FOLKS website WWW.KEGONSA.ORG now features weekly lake quality reports provided by Dave Lewis. Click on the button located on the upper right corner of the Welcome page.

In June we sent an electronic survey to our members that have email addresses on our data base. Over 70% of our members respond to the survey, which is an outstanding response and provides the FOLKS Board of Directors with a clear indication of the concerns and interests of our members. Thank you for completing the survey.

If you have an email address, but have not provided it to FOLKS please do so, if you are interested in participating in future surveys and receiving email “Lake Alerts”. 89% of the respondent’s to the survey reported that they felt the “Lake Alerts” were very important.

Here is a summary of the survey. We also received many useful comments and suggestions that will be used in deciding our future direction.

FOLKS Lake Survey
7/16/2009

What issues concern you most about lake Kegonsa

	Rated 1 priority	Rated 2 priority	Total
Water quality	48%	24%	72%
Aquatic Plants and Algae	22%	36%	58%
Water level	23%	23%	46%
All others were less than 20% total			

Do you live here full time, or part time

Full time	61%
Part time	39%

Did the high water and flooding in 2007-2008 damage your property and possessions

Yes	51%	Total of \$185,000, an average of \$3,200 for people reporting damage
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Water Level Preference-At time of survey 6/8/09 water level was 4" above summer minimum. On 7/14/09 water level was 1/2' below summer minimum

Preference	
6" higher than current level	19%
3" higher than current level	30%
About current level	45%
3" lower than current level	5%
95% wanted water to be 4' above summer minimum or higher	

Other issues impact your enjoyment of Lake Kegonsa

Weeds	90%
Algae	90%
Shoreline erosion/repair permits	32%

Continued on Page 4

FOLKS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY (Continued)

How important are each of the following folks activities to you

	Very important	Somewhat	Total
Email lake alerts	89%	10%	99%
Newsletter	79%	20%	99%
Working with various gov. Groups on water issues	82%	10%	92%
Informational meetings	34%	52%	86%
Boater safety classes	11%	39%	50%
Social Activities	7%	41%	48%
Boat inspections	4%	33%	37%

There were 53 members who took the time to add additional comments or suggestions

New Members

FOLKS welcomes the following new members to our organization:

Jon Dary	Douglas Nelson	Franklin & Phyllis Jasensky
David Read	Deanne K. Eccles-Rotar	Jack & Georgia Lazzaro
Eric Olson	Lloyd & Linda Bialas	Walter Biggs
Cameron & Michelle Birch	Robert & Karen Buser	Jeff & Shelly Davis
Lori Malin	Tim Neitzel	Laura & Dave Borsechnik
John & Karen Bottorff	Tom & Susan Bush	Dennis B. Walling
John R Zumstein	Russell & Betty Curtis	Christopher Queram
Timothy Kotlowski	Lorraine Hawkinson	

The Utschig Group of Chiropractic Clinics (Business Member)

No More Phosphorus in Fertilizer

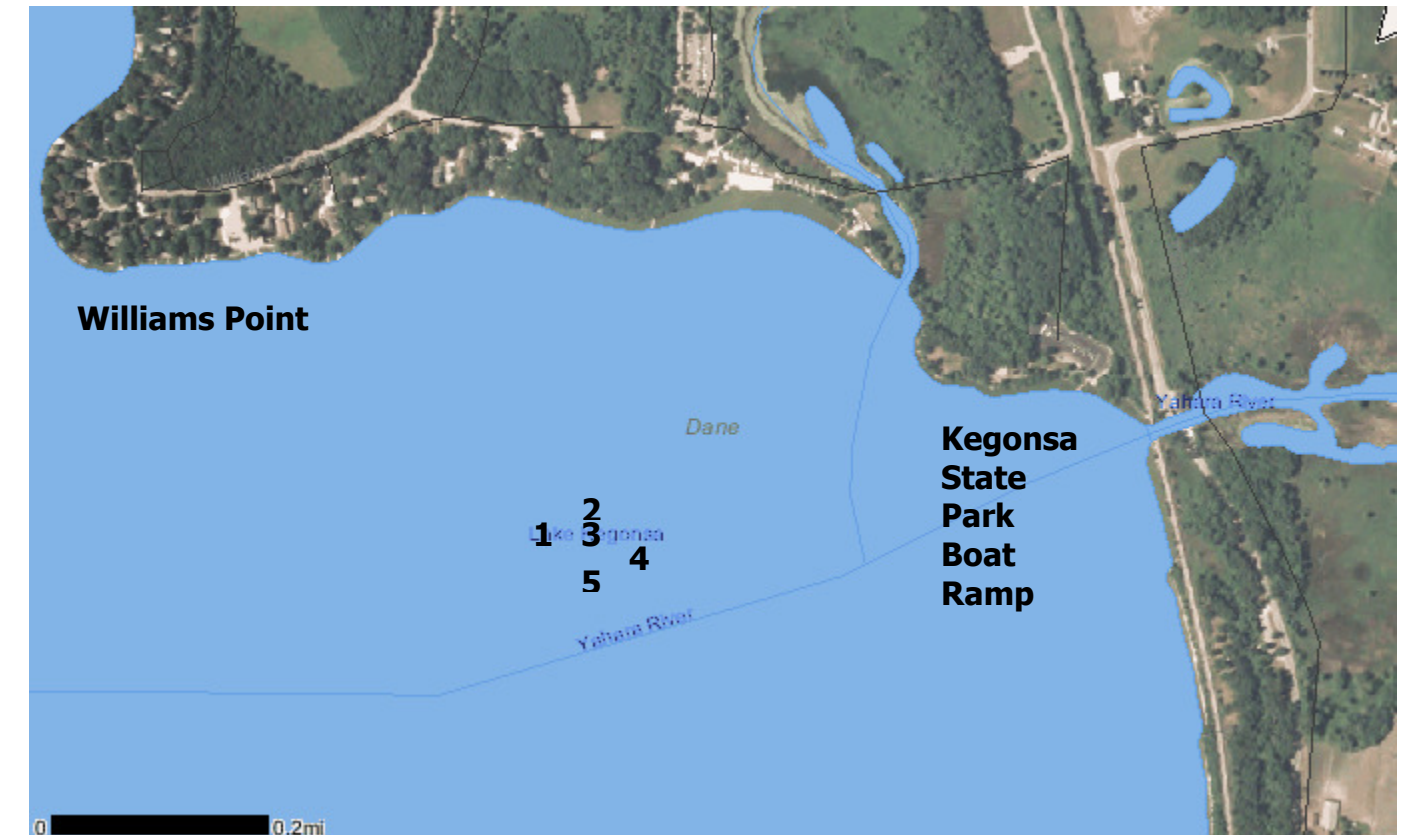
Governor Doyle signed the "Clean Lakes" bill (2009 Wisconsin Act 9) into law on April 14th. Wisconsin now has a statewide law which prohibits the display, sale, and use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus, with certain exceptions. Citizens, conservation groups, natural resource professionals, elected officials, businesses and other partnered on this bill. The law will take effect in 2010, which gives retailers time to order phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer for next year.

To read the statute, go to <http://nxt.legis.state.wi.us> and click the "2009-10 Session Related" folder, then open "2009 Wisconsin Acts".

Reprinted from "Lake Tides" Volume 34 No. 2 Spring 2009.

Lake Kegonsa New Fish Crib Location

FOLKS recently sponsored the assembly and placement of fish cribs. Below is the approximate map location of the fish cribs and the GPS coordinates.



GPS Coordinates

1. 42.96754 x -89.23289
2. 42.96765 x -89.23277
3. 42.96760 x -89.23247
4. 42.96746 x -89.23231
5. 42.96741 x -89.23260

