



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 173  
 Stoughton, WI 53589-0173  
**December 2015**

**President’s Message ~ Peter Foy**

On behalf of the FOLKS Board of Directors I would like to wish you a happy holiday season and a Merry Christmas.

We hope you had a wonderful year on the lake. We were blessed with beautiful weather and the lake was in nice shape for us to enjoy the many fun activities we have available to us.

Our last FOLKS Board meeting for the year was held on Wednesday 12/15. We would like to thank our members for their continuing support. We have been busy, and with our carp project we are undertaking the largest project in our 27 year history. There is a detailed report about this later in this newsletter, but please realize that we could not have taken this project on without having some financial reserve that we have built up because of your ongoing membership. When you get your dues donation request for 2016 shortly, please not only renew your membership, but consider adding a few extra dollars to put towards our carp project.

I attended a Clean Lake Alliance (CLA) meeting last month. A new website called: lakeforecast.org where you can review beach closure date, volunteer lake observations and E.coli data. Based on the data collected it is becoming unquestionable that water quality after heavy rains is negatively impacted. In 2016 beaches will be monitored to provide targeted bacteria sampling, determine bacteria sources and lifeguard monitoring. There will also be more volunteer sites to monitor phosphorus sampling. We have some FOLKS members that are involved in a citizen monitoring program on Lake Kegonsa, but there isn’t as much information about the condition of the beach at Lake Kegonsa State Park, as there is at Madison beaches. FOLKS will be determining if we can help improve this monitoring activity.

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## **President's Message ~ Peter Foy (Continued From Page 1)**

Try it out. Go to lakeforecast.org. You will see the various beaches that are being monitored and see if the beach is open. This information will continue to be expanded and improved and is intended for people to check on their phone to see the condition of the beach before they head there. As we all know the lake conditions are not the same everywhere on a lake. One site could be closed and the other in beautiful condition. Also if you go to "I'm looking for collection sites" on "Lake Kegonsa" you will be able to see where the six volunteer monitors are collecting data and what they are finding. This website has a lot of potential to provide valuable information in the future.

You will also see that there is also a buoy in Lake Mendota. If you click on it you will see that shows: surface water temperature, wind direction, air temperature, wind speed and dew point, which will be kind of fun to look next summer when it is back in operation.

### **FOLKS Annual Meeting**

Mark the date on your calendar for our annual meeting:

When: Saturday, January 23, 2016

Where: Stoughton Country Club

Time: 10:00am

Agenda: Review of activities in 2016 and looking ahead to 2017.

Special guest will be Kurt Welke, Fisheries Biologist Wisconsin DNR who will discuss our carp tracking and removal project.

### **53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Stoughton Conservation Club Lake Kegonsa Fisheree**

Date: Saturday January 30, 2016 (storm date Jan. 31). Fishing - 12 midnight to 4 p.m. day of the event.

Location: Springers on Lake Kegonsa (north shore)

Drawings throughout the day for cash prizes. Framed fine art, ice auger, and much more in raffle prizes.

Raffle Tickets: \$5 each, 3 for \$10, 10 for \$20— need not be present to win.

For more information please contact Al Wendorf: 873-3431 or Roy Quam: 575-5633.

## **A Visit With Local Historian Lorraine Hawkinson**

**By: Bradley Schroeder**

FOLKS member Lorraine Hawkinson sent us a note recently asking if we had a little black book about Lake Kegonsa. She had a similar book as well as her very own published articles on our lake. The board decided Lorraine deserved a personal visit and I was told I was the guy and that Lorraine was 93 so I better get out there to talk to her about her information sooner than later.

Previous to calling Lorraine I did some research (GOOGLE) and discovered she has spent most of her life in Stoughton and was a Librarian for many years and also very involved with our Norwegian culture. She had dug up a lot of history on Stoughton and Lake Kegonsa through the years. She has received many awards for all of her work such as The Community Appreciation Award from the city of Stoughton, Local History Award from the Wisconsin Historical Society, and the Notable Norwegian Award given by Dane County Son's of Norway Lodges.

Now, I had spent a lot of time working with seniors in the past so I knew I was the right guy for this task. My first call to Lorraine involved explaining who I was and why I was calling as did the second and third call. Lorraine reminded me that she's 93 and doesn't always remember things real well. Eventually it was time to stop by and meet Lorraine. I called early one morning and stated that I could come out around 2:00 p.m. that day and there was a pause on the line..... Lorraine then asked if I could come out at this minute as she had broken her glasses and would have to come to town in the afternoon to have them fixed. It was clear that NO grass grows under Lorraine's feet as I discovered from my visit.

Lorraine copied some of her articles and put them into a 3-ring binder for me. There was the article she wrote titled 'The Emma' once sailed Kegonsa which talked about how a steamboat would be launched on Lake Kegonsa shortly after May 8, 1878. It had been built in Pittsburgh, Penn. and eventually brought to Lake Kegonsa. She weighed 10 tons and could transport 65 passengers around the lake for a half hour tour. In May of 1882 Emma was transported to Lake Monona and used to carry members of a Sunday School Assembly that held meetings in Madison during the summer.

I so enjoyed my visit with Lorraine and have other articles that we can share another time. I told Lorraine that I would keep in touch and she told me that would be a good idea so she knows what I'm up to. Sounds like the librarian or maybe the Norwegian in her - no it actually sounds like a sweet person that we can all consider a Friend of Lake Kegonsa Society.



From the McFarland Thistle

## **Update on Carp Tracking and Removal Project-Peter Foy**

As previously reported FOLKS has initiated what is hoped will result in a major carp removal project that will be conducted over the next two years on Lake Kegonsa. An initial carp tracking study is intended to identify times and locations where large concentrations of carp might be targeted for removal. FOLKS is working closely with Dane County, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the UW Limnology Department on this challenging project. The project will be supervised and monitored by Kurt Welke, Fisheries Manager, WDNR with support from Dr. Richard Lathrop, honorary fellow at UW-Madison Center for Limnology and retired DNR limnologist.

FOLKS is financially responsible for this approximately \$21,000 project, but has now received financial support from Dane County, the Bryant Foundation and from the Stoughton Conservation Club. Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA) has also committed to provide support for the project in 2016.

### **Reminder about the benefit of removing carp from the lake.**

Carp are bottom feeders that constantly stir up sediments as they forage for food. As a result of this feeding activity, phosphorous contained in the sediment is re-suspended in the water where it is available to fuel nuisance algae blooms. Aquatic plant growth, important as fish habitat, is also limited by the lack of light penetration that the shading algae creates.

It has been demonstrated in other lakes, such as Lake Wingra in Madison, that removing carp can have the following benefits:

- Water clarity improves
- Native aquatic plant growth increases.
- Invasive aquatic plant growth of Eurasian Water Milfoil may be decreased.
- Desirable, sight-feeding fish populations improve

Of course, it is impossible to predict the exact results of the tracking, or the impact that removing carp will have on Lake Kegonsa, but FOLKS and the other organizations that we have worked with believe it to be worth the time and money to try to help the lake by moving forward with this endeavor. Carp were introduced into our lake over 100 years ago and have negatively impacted the condition of our lake ever since. We are committed to doing what we can to try to minimize this problem.

### **First step in the Lake Kegonsa Carp Project has been completed**

On 10/27/2015 the first step in the project 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.

This initial step in this major project included:

- Capturing the fish
- Specific fish were selected in an attempt to get a diverse mix of males, females, weight and length to track. The results were:
  - o 12 females
  - o 4 males
  - o 4 where the sex couldn't be identified

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## **Update on Carp Tracking and Removal Project-Peter Foy (Continued From Page 4)**

- o Length varied from 21 to 32 inches, with the average being 25 inches
- o Weight varied between 5 and 17.5 lbs., with the average being 8.4 lbs.

- Anesthetize the fish prior to inserting the transmitter
- Inserting the radio transmitter. (About the size of an AA battery). These specific transmitters were selected because they are designed to operate a minimum of 21 months
- Test the radio transmitters to make sure that each fish can be picked up on its unique frequency
- Observe the fish after the process to make sure they were fully recovered
- Release them back into Lake Kegonsa

### **The Second step in the carp tracking was just completed**

On Wednesday 12/2/15 Kurt Welke, Kim Kuber and Jeff Oimoen from the DNR spent a couple of hours in an airplane making over 20 low flying passes over Lake Kegonsa trying to locate the 20 carp that have the radio transmitters. They first went East to West and then North to South. While the tracking was taking place I was able to monitor the flight activity on a computer screen and talk to them by radio from the DNR office.

I would say that this first tracking exercise was only mildly successful. They made a solid identification on 4 of the 20 carp, with a light ping on a few others. When I visited with Kurt when he got back he didn't seem too disappointed. He felt that they were probably in deeper water which kept them from being detected. The next tracking will take place on the ice by snowmobile and will take place directly over the area that we anticipate the carp will end up during the weather. Kurt is hopeful that we will detect most of them there.

The good news is they didn't detect any of the carp in Mud Lake, the Yahara River, or Door Creek, which means they are still in the lake, where we hope to remove them.

### **The remaining Schedule of the Carp tracking Project**

Future tracking efforts will follow this tentative schedule:

1. Conduct a minimum of 2 winter 2015-2016 location surveys on the ice (using ATVs once good ice has set)
2. Conduct pre-spawn and spawning location surveys May – June 2016.
3. Late Summer (August) 2016 location surveys
4. Late fall 2016 (pre-ice) location surveys
5. Winter 2016-2017 locations surveys

The tracking surveys will define what parts of the lake carp school during winter. Additionally, tracking during spawning will describe which fish stay in the lake or if migrations occur up the Yahara river and Door Creek.

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## **Update on Carp Tracking and Removal Project-Peter Foy (Continued From Page 5)**

**The purpose of the tracking study is to define where and when the location and periods of concentration and vulnerability to capture carp occur.**

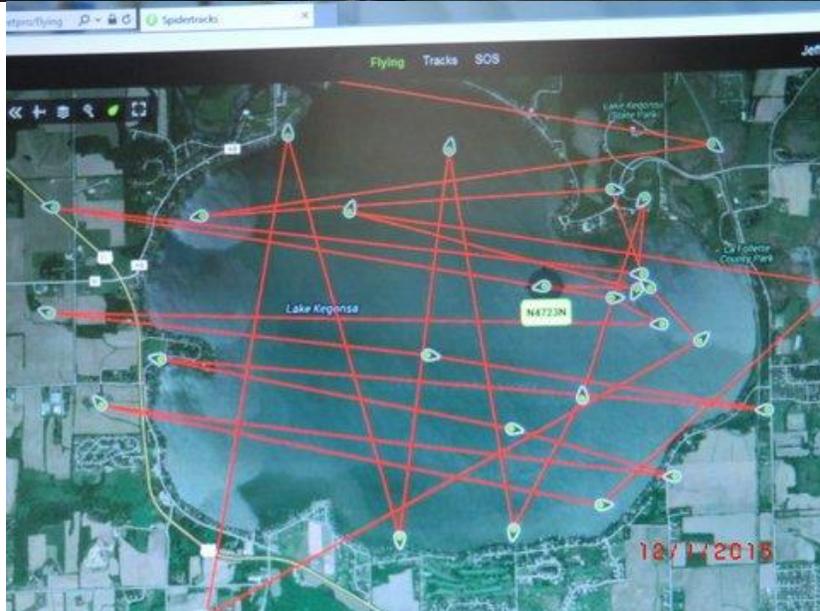
### **· Planned future carp removal activity**

- o Because carp prefer warm water, the assumption is that as the water cools down the carp will migrate to the deepest, warmest part of the lake. Also, during the spring, as the water warms, carp may have major spawning runs up the Yahara river to Lower Mud Lake, or into Door creek
- o If the tracking can detect where the majority of the carp go in the winter, a commercial fishing company will be hired to remove the fish using a large seine net pulled under the ice. This will be done by placing a small radio-controlled submarine type device under the ice to spread the net to various drilled holes so that a small pulling engine can move the net through the area where the carp are located.
- o The captured carp are then brought up in the net at the exit hole and removed from the lake. Only carp are removed from the lake, any other fish caught in the net will be replaced. It is anticipated that thousands of carp will be removed from the lake.
- o The majority of the carp that are caught are sold to markets in Chicago and New York.
  - Besides the potential removal of carp under the ice during the winter, the tracking study may also indicate carp may be vulnerable to being captured by weirs placed in the river or creek during the spring spawning season. Such a removal effort may be desirable as a longer-term solution to suppressing the carp population especially if the initial removal under the ice is successful.

We will, of course, keep you updated on additional tracking studies in future newsletters.

If you have any questions about this project please contact Peter Foy, President of FOLKS at: [peterf@kegonsa.org](mailto:peterf@kegonsa.org)





## 2016 Membership

First a special thank you for the commitment and support of Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS), a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your membership enables FOLKS to continue improvement initiatives for Lake Kegonsa.

The FOLKS membership contribution year runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. In order for us to be proactive for you, we are asking for your continued support in 2016. This year's membership contribution request is \$20.00 per household and \$30 for a business membership. Please also consider an additional donation for the Carp Removal Project initiative that is underway; all donations are appreciated.

FOLKS will utilize first class mail for the 2016 FOLKS membership drive please watch for the membership renewal to arrive in January 2016. If you prefer to donate in 2015, please send your donation to FOLKS, P.O. Box 173, Stoughton, WI 53589.

If you would like to become a volunteer, have suggestions for FOLKS, or would like to attend a meeting, please visit our website (<http://www.kegonsa.org>) and contact a Board Member.

## We Need Your Help!



Any information regarding "New England Place" such as location, owners, or purpose would be greatly appreciated. This postcard was postmarked October 1916. It was sent to Lena Helgerson of Soldiers Grove, WI from Helmer Burkum(n) of Brookline, WI. There is also a friend of Earl Courtier mentioned on the card.

Please contact [DaveL@kegonsa.org](mailto:DaveL@kegonsa.org) with any information.

**FOLKS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2015**

**Peter Foy**  
**President**  
873-8836  
PeterF@kegonsa.org

**Eric Olson**  
**Vice President**  
EricO@kegonsa.org

**Gloria Kay**  
**Treasurer**  
(414) 688-4215  
Gloria@kegonsa.org

**Cathie Taylor**  
**Secretary**  
838-9220  
CathieT@kegonsa.org

**Mike Amstadt**  
MikeA@Kegonsa.org

**Tom McGinnis**  
TomM@Kegonsa.org

**Bill Lamm**  
BillL@Kegonsa.org

**Brad Schroeder**  
bschroeder@tricolorinsurance.com

**Rick Thorstad**  
rthorstad@charter.net

**Send news of interest to FOLKS to:  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589 or  
DaveL@kegonsa.org**

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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

**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 January 13, 2016, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

Springers, 3097 Sunnyside St., Stoughton, WI 53589

**FOLKS Lost and Found**

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

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P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589

**Return Service Requested**

## **FOLKS Business Members**

**Web-Net**

**webdesign@web-net.us**

**Mobile Dent Repair**

**mobiledent@tds.net**

**Springers**

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**Halverson's Supper Club**

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