



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
May 2011

President’s Message ~ Bob Arndt

I would like to welcome new board members Cathie Taylor and Bryon Thompson. Tom McGinnis, Peter Foy, Mike Amstadt, Kris Heckman, and I were re-elected for two-year terms. I will also take this opportunity to thank departing officer Susan Luellwitz who served a number of terms as secretary. We were fortunate to have three other FOLKS members, Don Lund, Chuck Geurink, and John Thomas throw their hats in the ring in what turned out to be a close election at the annual meeting in January.

Over 60 members attended the annual meeting held at the Stoughton Country Club and heard updates from the various FOLKS committees. In addition, Sue Jones, Watershed Management Coordinator for the Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds, made a very enlightening presentation about aquatic plant management in Lake Kegonsa and the Yahara River.

Some spirited discussion centered on ways to improve the collection of weeds that are not effectively picked up by the weed cutters. In response, FOLKS will be surveying members this summer during the weed harvesting season to determine where these weeds might be collecting so that we can work with Dane County and look into the best approaches to reducing this problem. One approach will be to contract with the county to pick up weeds collected by riparians and placed on piers. If this is done, dates will be posted on the FOLKS website.

About 30 members remained after Susan’s presentation to listen to Peter Foy present instructions on submitting pier registrations by the April 1, 2011 deadline. If you did not get your registration in by the deadline, you may get another chance as consideration is being given to extending the deadline into 2012. Call your state representative if this would be a benefit to you.

Finally, watch for other new features on our website. We will be continuing to improve the site to include helpful services such as a “lost and found” for common items such as life jackets, skis and pier sections.

Let’s get warm.

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

In This Issue:	
FOLKS Spring Social.....	2
Lost and Found.....	3
Report Excessive Noise.....	3
Boater Education.....	3
NR 115 Shoreland Zoning.....	4
Water Level Advisory Group.....	6
FOLKS Membership Renewal.....	6
Board Info Page	7

FOLKS SPRING SOCIAL

Featuring Food and Wine Pairing

When: Thursday, May 26, 2011

*Where: Halverson's
1965 Barber Drive - Stoughton*

Time: 6:00PM - 9:00PM

Cost: \$25.00 per Person

*Come join your neighbors in a casual setting
visiting food stations paired with
complementing wines. There will be door
prizes & a raffle. Space is limited to members
and a guest so reserve your ticket today!*

*Make checks payable to FOLKS. Return your
request to PO BOX 173-Stoughton, WI. 53589*

NAME/s: _____

Number Attending: _____

***Any profit will be donated to the Stoughton Senior Center.*

Lost and Found Section to Be Added to FOLKS Website

In the very near future the FOLKS website (Kegonsa.org) will feature a lost and found section. This new service will allow members who have lost items to "advertise" such items on the website. Members who have found items along their shore will also have the opportunity to return these items to their rightful owners. Our Secretary Cathie Taylor CathieT@kegonsa.org will be responsible for monitoring this site and matching found items with lost items.

Report Excessive Noise

FOLKS has recently been alerted to problems with excessive noise created by a few lake users. FOLKS encourages all lake users to be considerate of others while boating or playing music. When noise becomes a problem please contact Dane County Sheriff Sergeant Dave Ritter at (608) 284-6878.

BOAT OPERATOR EDUCATION IS NOW MANDATED BY LAW

A person born on or after January 1, 1989, and at least 16 years old may operate a motorboat (including PWC) only if he or she has completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR.

Upcoming Courses

Stoughton (Class #5)

June 7, 14, and 21 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Stoughton Fire Department 381 East Main Street

McFarland (Class #6)

June 15, 22, and 29 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

McFarland Municipal Center 5915 Milwaukee St.

NOTE: Students must plan to attend all 3 dates.

- Adults are encouraged to attend (even if you have taken a safety class in the past). Many insurance providers offer discounts for completing this course.
- There is a book to read (given at class), and a multiple choice test at the end of the course.
- While the minimum age is 10, it is recommended that students are closer to 12 years of age or older (due to reading/comprehension requirements).
- Graduates receive a DNR boating safety certificate valid once the graduate is 12 years old.

Registration: Please register prior to class. (Some locations have limited seating.) The cost is \$10.00, collected at class. E-mail the below information to gueldner@danesherriff.com or mail to: Deputy Matt Gueldner Dane County Sheriff's Office 115 W. Doty St. Madison, WI 53703. You will receive registration confirmation. Parents must sign authorization paperwork at the first class for students under 18. In addition to registering, all students must obtain a DNR customer id number by calling 1-888-936-7463. Bring this number to class.

The \$10.00 fee for attendees who are a member of Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS) will be reimbursed by FOLKS. Email robbiek@kegonsa.org for reimbursement.

NR 115 - Shoreland Zoning: Working Our Way to Healthier Waters

(Excerpts from the Fall 2010 "Lake Tides" published by UWSP Extension Lake, Stevens Point, WI)

Shoreland Zoning is Required by Law

Section 281.31, of Wisconsin State Statutes, provides that shoreland subdivision and zoning regulations shall: "further the maintenance of safe and healthful conditions; prevent and control water pollution; protect spawning grounds, fish and aquatic life; control building sites, placement of structure and land uses; and reserve shore cover and natural beauty." Other provisions of law require counties to implement these protections through shoreland zoning regulations for unincorporated areas as guided by the Department of Natural Resources. These 44-year-old laws have not changed, but the DNR has modernized its Administrative Code to guide how the law is implemented.

What exactly do counties have to do?

At a minimum, counties must revise their ordinances to meet or exceed the new standards identified in NR 115. Since the code replaces or modifies some of the old statewide standards, all current ordinances will need some modification. What counties do not need to do is simply repeal their current ordinance and adopt the new model. The fact is, since the DNR shared the original model ordinance with counties in the 1960s, many communities have developed their own rules to reflect a stronger local desire to protect lakes. In these cases, adoption of the model ordinance would be a step backward and inappropriate since many counties integrate shoreland development regulations with other land use, subdivision and building codes. Almost all counties have responded to requests from local people familiar with the nearby lakes and streams for some provisions in their local ordinances that are more restrictive than the state minimums. To keep their lakes healthy, counties may choose to retain their more restrictive provisions, or even use this opportunity to include more shoreland protection measures.

How does this affect homeowners?

None of the new rules immediately affect existing properties or structures, and until a county adopts a revised ordinance, their existing rules still apply. "Keep what you have" is one of the main points of the new NR 115. When a homeowner is considering a future change or expansion of their home or other structures in the shoreland zone, the new rules will likely mean more options and opportunities than are available today.

Some standards will remain the same. The shoreland zone is still 1,000 feet from lakes and 300 feet from rivers and streams. Homes must still be set back at least 75 feet from the water. Minimum lot size requirements remain at 20,000 square feet for homes with septic systems and 10,000 square feet for those served by municipal sanitary sewers.

Continued on Page 5

NR 115 - Shoreland Zoning: Working Our Way to Healthier Waters

(Continued From Page 4)

Major changes to shoreland standards include:

Vegetation removal

There are more explicit standards limiting the removal of shoreland vegetation in new development. Previously the code allowed clearing most but not all shoreland vegetation. The new law requires the preservation of trees, shrubs and understory, eliminating existing "loopholes" that in effect allowed clear cutting.

Legal pre-existing (or nonconforming) structures

Expansion of an existing home closer than 75 feet from the water is allowable under the new NR 115 in some cases: a property owner can build a second story or otherwise add-on vertically, if their existing house is at least 35 feet back from the water. The new law also allows unlimited interior repairs and modifications. However, property owners expanding the physical footprint of a non-conforming structure will be required to offset or "mitigate" the environmental impact of the expansion.

Some shoreland standards are new:

Height restrictions

The new law limits the maximum vertical height of a shoreland structure to 35 feet. Previously there was no maximum. This provision protects the visual integrity and natural beauty of lakes and rivers.

Impervious surface restrictions

A new standard caps the total amount of hard or "impervious" surfaces such as roofs, pavement and decks allowed on shoreland property. The caps apply only to properties within 300 feet of lakes or rivers, and they do not affect existing property owners unless the owners seek to make changes that would cover up more land with hard surfaces. No limitations exist for additions or new buildings where the lot's impervious surfaces do not exceed 15 percent of the total lot size. Where the sum total of impervious surfaces is between 15 percent and 30 percent of the lot size, property owners would be required to mitigate the environmental impact of their proposed project.

Dane County Update April 2011

The Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee and the Lakes and Watershed Commission has appointed a subcommittee to address changes in Dane County's shoreland zoning ordinance required by NR 115. For more information in this area, please contact Brian Standing of Dane County Dept. of Planning and Development at (608) 267-4115 or email at standing@countyofdane.com. To obtain summary information the subcommittee's discussions to date, contact Dane County Dept of Planning and Development's webpage.

Water Level Advisory Group

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has created a second advisory group (YLAG2) to make recommendations regarding the water level on the Yahara Lakes, including Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa and the Stoughton millpond. The advisory group, which a member of FOLKS is participating, had their first meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2011. The hope is that the participants will help develop the process to identify, analyze, build consensus and make recommendations for DNR to consider for the future of the Yahara Lakes System.

In 2000, DNR gathered representatives from area governments, organizations and interests to discuss lake levels and other actions to reduce flooding. At a recent meeting, lake and government representatives decided that a similar group should be reestablished to discuss and evaluate any new information, review previous recommendations and determine if additional recommendations should be made. The new advisory group will develop recommendations on how to best manage the lakes as a system and to build consensus on the issue instead of fragmented approaches.

The advisory group is facilitated by Mindy Habecker from the UW-Extension in Dane County and the series of 10-12 meetings will begin with sharing, learning and dialogue before moving into recommendation development. The second advisory group again consist of city, village, town, county and regional planning representatives, user groups, lake associations' representatives, University of Wisconsin educators, and DNR staff. The public is invited to attend and future meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday of each month from 3:00 to 5:00 at the Lyman F. Anderson Agriculture and Conservation Center in Madison. There will be an opportunity for public comments at each meeting. Interested parties can join a distribution list for regular information on the meetings by emailing Mindy Habecker at habecker@countyofdane.com. Please put 'YLAG2 email list' in the subject line.

FOLKS 2011 Annual Membership Renewal

Please Support YOUR Lake Association – FOLKS! We have a busy agenda for 2011 and look forward to another exciting year. One of our hot topics this year includes monitoring our lake levels and weed control. In order for us to be proactive for you, we are asking you for your support in renewing your membership.

This year's dues remain **\$20.00 for households and \$30.00 for business;** which includes 4 newsletters per year.

E-mails were sent to all members (who provided e-mail addresses) with renewal forms and information. For those who have not responded you will receive a letter in your mailbox in the near future.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact Kris Heckman at krish@Kegonsa.org. Thank you for your contribution and your support of FOLKS.

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

FOLKS monthly board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month and the public is welcome to attend. Next Meeting June 8, 2011, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

Halverson's Supper Club, 1965 Barber Drive, Stoughton, WI 53589

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