



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173  
**July 2023**

**President’s Message ~ George Corrigan**

June was bittersweet for **FOLKS**. Peter Foy retired as President and Cathie Taylor retired as Secretary. We will greatly miss them. But we are grateful to both for their more than a decade of service, and we are happy for them knowing they have more free time to pursue other passions. I want to thank Peter for the many hours he spent working for us, and the great job he did. Also, I'd like to thank Cathie for the fantastic job she did, and the many hours she spent on **FOLKS**. Both Peter and Cathie have been instrumental in keeping **FOLKS** effective, and working on many of our current **FOLKS** projects. The Board and I look forward to drawing on their experience and expertise in the months and years ahead. Thank you, Peter! Thank you, Cathie!

I would like to introduce myself. I am George Corrigan, and the new President of **FOLKS**. My wife Tiffany and I bought a small cottage on Colladay Point more than 20 years ago, with an eye towards (eventually) retiring to Lake Kegonsa. After a few years we built the home we live in today, and started spending most of our time at the lake. In 2016 we became full time residents, and consider ourselves lucky to be living on Lake Kegonsa.

I have been on the Board of **FOLKS** for 3 years, and I am impressed with the talent and dedication of the Board. It is a working Board, and every member puts in time and effort to help the lake. We have 16 committees working on projects like debris pickup, leaf collection, Fish Camp County Park, fisheries, and more. These committees strive to improve Lake Kegonsa so that we can all enjoy it more. I hope I can serve you, **FOLKS**, and the Board, to help our talented and dedicated group succeed.

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One issue I've heard about from friends and neighbors is boating safety and regulations. Everyone wants a safe lake, and no one wants an unexpected ticket. We have links to Wisconsin and Dane County Boating Regulations on our website, should you need them. I am confident **FOLKS** members know most of the regulations, including the more strict Dane County slow-no-wake zone. But, I am not sure we know all regulations. Perhaps I'm dating myself, but I did not know that anyone born after 1988 needs to complete a boater safety course to operate a boat or PWC. Back in the day, only children had to take the course. I am not the only old person that had been unaware of that change – an adult guest of a lake resident was recently ticketed on Lake Kegonsa because they had not completed the boater safety course (nor had any other adult on board).

**FOLKS** will highlight a boating safety regulation or safety tip in each newsletter – just to make sure we keep abreast of changes, and to help newcomers and guests avoid problems.

**-George Corrigan**

## 2023 Membership – Be Our Ambassadors

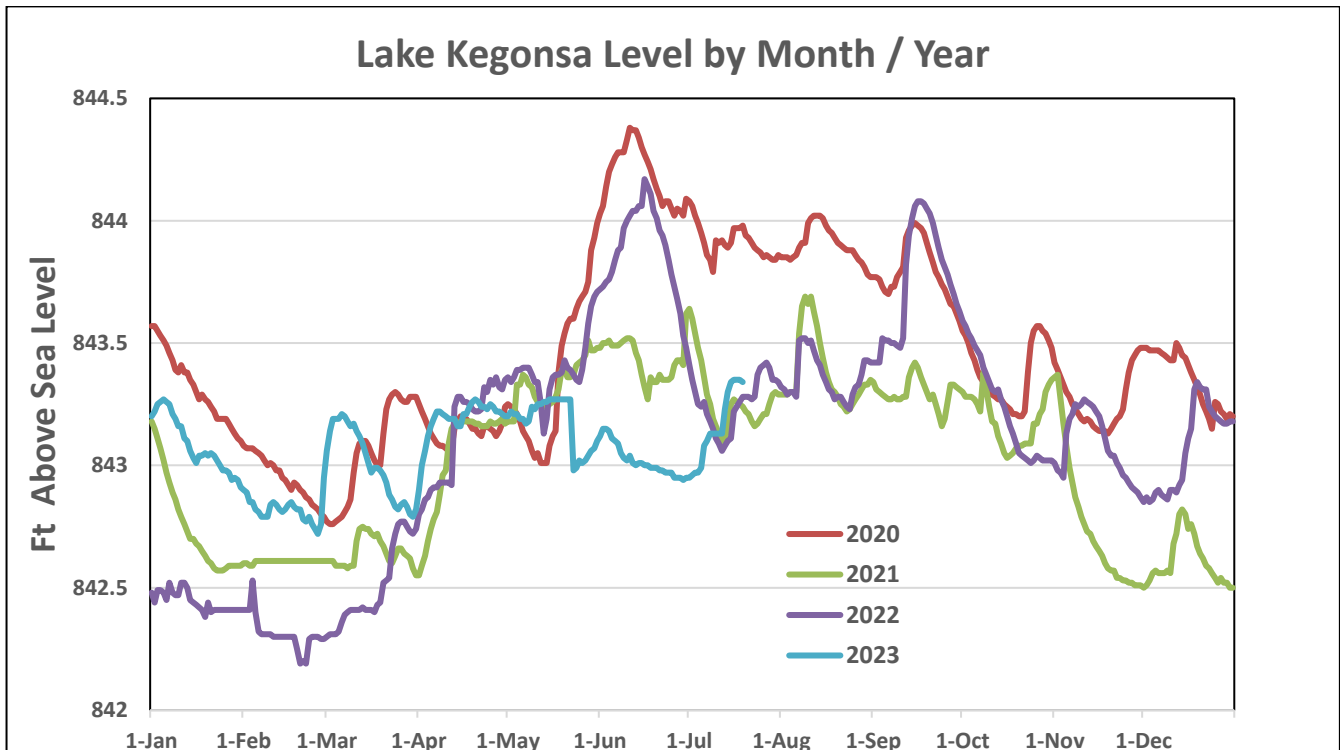
To date we have 429 **FOLKS** members (households and businesses) for 2023 which is normal for this time of year. We would like to exceed our total of 464 from last year so please **be our ambassadors** and talk to your friends and neighbors about joining **FOLKS**. There are links to the membership forms on our website.

**Newsletters and Lake Alerts** – Some of the member emails are not being delivered to certain charter.net and comcast.net accounts. Please be sure the **FOLKS** emails aren't going into your spam folder.

## Lake Kegonsa Water Levels

We've had a very unusual year – an extremely dry spring and summer and finally quite a bit of rain last week. As of July 19, 2023 the Lake Kegonsa level is **843.35'** (ft above sea level).

Lake	7/19/2023	Summer	Summer	Inches > Summer
	Lake Level (ft)	Minimum (ft)	Maximum (ft)	Minimum
<b>Mendota</b>	849.98	849.6	850.1	4.56
<b>Monona</b>	844.96	844.7	845.2	3.12
<b>Waubesa</b>	844.78	844.5	845.0	3.36
<b>Kegonsa</b>	843.34	843.0	843.5	4.08



The Lake Kegonsa water level data is collected by a **USGS gauge** located on Barber Drive (Latitude 42°57'15", Longitude -89°16'47"). Per the USGS, stations are visited every 6-8 weeks to ensure that they are producing good data. A sensor's accuracy for surface water is typically +/-0.02 ft at the deployed location and the data produced from the Barber Drive location rarely needs a correction.

### **FOLKS Annual Meeting Held June 17<sup>th</sup>**

**FOLKS** Annual Meeting and dinner was held on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at the Stoughton Country Club. About 115 people attended. As we mentioned, we introduced the updated **FOLKS** website at [www.kegonsa.org](http://www.kegonsa.org) (see article below), presented project updates, financial reports and membership data and elected the new Board of Directors.

**Two notable retirements from the board** were recognized:

- **Peter Foy – FOLKS President** 2013-2023, Joined the Board 2009
- **Cathie Taylor – FOLKS Secretary** 2011-2023, Joined the Board 2011

Please thank them when you see them (probably on the golf course); they both put extraordinary effort into making **FOLKS** a success.

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The meeting featured our guest speaker **Lars Higdon, Dane County Naturalist/Botanist**. Lars talked about the Dane County process for using WI native plants for preserving and restoring county lands. He described the county's year-round work:

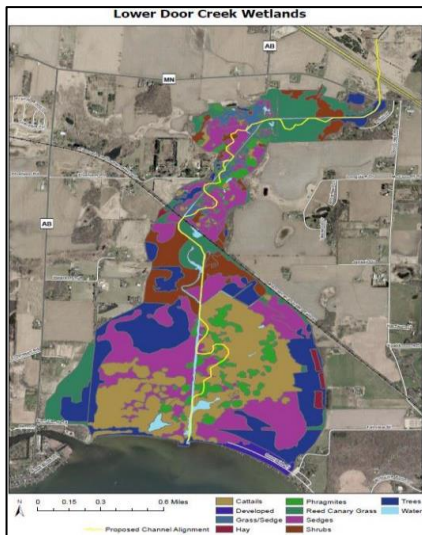
- summer effort to maintain the county lands and remove invasive species
- fall seed collection and cleaning program
- controlled burning of prairies in the spring
- seed sowing on snow cover in winter

Lars discussed the removal of dead ash trees at Fish Camp County Park and the preliminary plans for restoring 3.5 acres at the park. The county has been cutting the invasive Weed Canary Grass at Fish Camp before it can flower.

He is happy to answer questions on the project and can be reached at:  
*Higdon.lars@countyofdane.com, Cell: 608-286-9497*

Lars also gave us updates on three **Dane County projects** happening near Lake Kegonsa.

1. "Suck the Muck" in Door Creek which is designed to decrease high concentrations of legacy phosphorus flowing into Lake Kegonsa from the creek. The plan is to re-meander 2.5 miles of Door Creek which will enhance the wetland and increase flood abatement capacity. It is also expected to improve fishery, particularly northern pike.

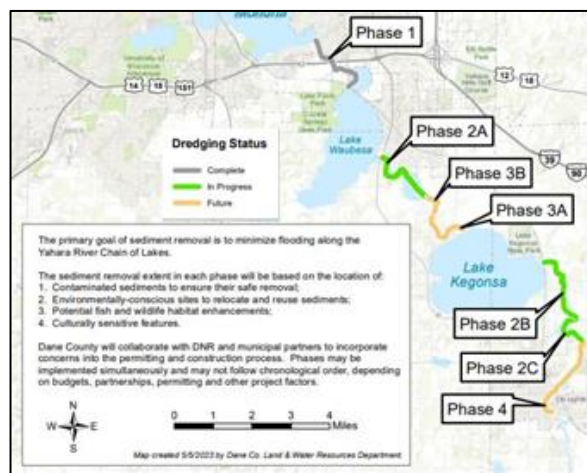


The Dane County plan for Door Creek was given conditional approval from the Dane County Drainage Board. Public meetings will be held in August or September. We'll send an email message when we know the dates. The re-meander is expected to begin in 2024.

Direct questions to: **Kyle Minks, Watershed Manager,**  
*Minks.kyle@countyofdane.com,*  
*Cell: 608-669-1864*

2. Dredging in the Yahara River will increase water flow and decrease flood risk. Phases 2A, 2B, and 2C of the dredging project are in process. Phase 2A is above Lake Kegonsa and is expected to be completed this summer. Phase 2B and 2C are below LaFollette Dam and expected to be completed in 2024.

Direct questions to: **John Reimer, Assistant Director,**  
*Reimer.John@countyofdane.com,*  
*Phone: 608-224-3612*



3. Lower Yahara River Trail Phase 2: Fish Camp County Park to Lake Kegonsa State Park. Construction will start this fall and will be completed in 2024.

Direct questions to: **Chris James, Park Planner**, [James@countyofdane.com](mailto:James@countyofdane.com) ,  
Cell: 608-0235-2252



Thanks to Lars for a very informative talk and to Dane County for continuing to partner with **FOLKS**.

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## **New Members of the Board of Directors**

**FOLKS** elects half of the board each year and they serve two-year terms. At the annual meeting we reelected 5 board members and elected 3 first time members. Our new members are:

**Anne Meisner**, lives on Williams Point Dr. and is new to Lake Kegonsa. She is pleased to be a full-time member of the Lake Kegonsa community. She enjoys canoeing, kayaking, biking and skiing.

**Deb Kundert**, purchased a lot on Tracy Lane in 1995, recently built a lake house and now lives at the lake full time. Deb enjoys the beauty of the lake, lake wildlife, boating, fishing and flower gardening.

**John Quam**, lives on Shadyside Dr. and has been on the lake for many years. He owns Quam's Marine & Motor Sports on Barber Drive.

The **FOLKS** board elects the officers from among its members at the first meeting after the annual meeting. Your officers for this year are:

**George Corrigan**, President  
**Janice Kellogg**, Vice President  
**Connie Hagen**, Treasurer  
**Current open position**, Secretary

The website ([www.kegonsa.org](http://www.kegonsa.org)) has additional bio and contact information for each of the board members.

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## ***FOLKS Updated Website Goes Live***

Our **FOLKS** Website committee (Kim VanBrocklin and George Corrigan) and Webmistress (Kelsey Shepperd) have updated the **FOLKS** website ([www.kegonsa.org](http://www.kegonsa.org)). We hope it is easy to view and use on any device: computer, tablet or phone. We value your feedback!



### **Bookmark our new website!**

(To bookmark, open the link  
**[www.kegonsa.org](http://www.kegonsa.org)**,  
and click on the star on the right side of  
your browser).



To show our appreciation, if you are a **FOLKS** member you may **enter a random drawing** where three winners will choose a **\$100 gift certificate** at one of the following businesses, owned by Lake Kegonsa residents! Check out the links below to learn more about them!

- [The Madison Mallards](#)
- [Springer's Restaurant](#)
- [The Shoe Box \(Midwest's largest shoe store\)!](#)
- [Steve Schmitt's Sports Treasures Plus](#)

Once you view the website, complete the form under Get Involved/Website Contest or email a note to: **[kegonsafolks@kegonsa.org](mailto:kegonsafolks@kegonsa.org)** with **your full name, phone number and either one suggestion to improve our website, or 3 features that you will access most often. One entry per person - Due by Friday, August 11, 2023.** We'll contact winners by 8/15/23.

### **Examples of website information:**

- Barge Pick-up dates in summer and Leaf Collection dates in the fall.
- Lake Alerts (listed in red at the top of the home page, as needed).
- **Google** Calendar (listing upcoming events sponsored by **FOLKS**).
- Lake level links and water monitoring information.
- **FOLKS** Projects, Committee work, lake history and newsletters.
- **Contact info:** Board members' emails/bios, and **FOLKS** Facebook posts.
- Opportunities to get involved around the lake!

Thank you for offering us your perspective!

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## **Aquatic Debris Pick Up**

The Aquatic Debris Collection Program was off to a good start on June 13<sup>th</sup>. We've had 3 pick-up weeks so far this summer with quite a few lake residents utilizing the program. **FOLKS** offers this program in cooperation with Dane County Land and Water Resources Department. The 2023 schedule and specifics of the program are posted on the **FOLKS** website [www.kegonsa.org](http://www.kegonsa.org).

As a reminder, only debris that comes directly from the lake is eligible for pick up. According to the county, plants from the shoreline will not be picked up.

The remaining 2023 debris pick up schedule is:

- July 25 – 28
- Aug 8 – 11
- Aug 22 - 25

There were very large piles all around the lake for last week's pick up. These photos are from the Borsecnik and Lepine piers on Shadyside.



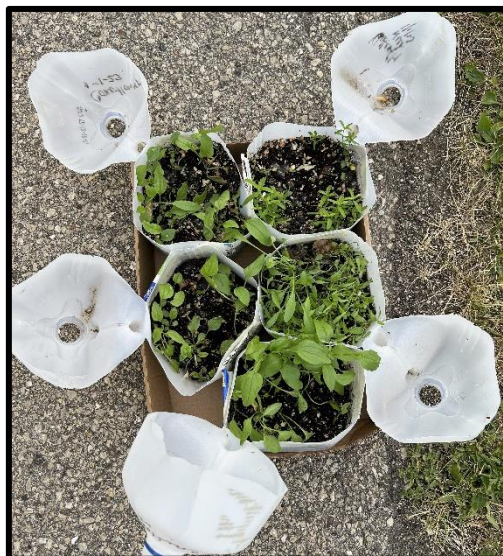
One of the rules that LWRD sets for the program is they only pick-up debris that comes out of the lake. They do not pick up yard waste or growth that does not come directly from the lake. Recently, LWRD has informed us that plants that grow up in the shoreline, but do not come out of the lake, are not eligible to be picked up. The photos below show examples of those types of plants. They grow up either on the shoreline in riprap or may grow from rotting plant debris. They may also grow from lake debris if it is left on your pier too long. However, LWRD will not pick up these plants.



Please do not mix those types of plants in with other lake debris because that will most likely cause the entire load to be rejected for pick up. LWRD advises us that the intent of the program is to remove plants from the lake that impede boating, swimming, etc. The intent is to not to pick-up plants resulting from residents cleaning up their riprap or shoreline. You can dispose of those types of "unauthorized plants" by composting or by taking them to the Town of Dunn or Town of Pleasant Springs disposal sites. We want to avoid situations where debris may not be picked up by LWRD. We hope this clarification is helpful. Thanks for utilizing the program.

## Native Plant Swap

**FOLKS** members who attended the fall growing workshop gathered on Tuesday, June 6 to talk about gardening and their own gardens and exchange extra native plants. All of the plants were grown from seed and overwintered outdoors. We had a great group and some spectacular seedlings.



It was fun to not only swap plants but garden ideas. We hope to have some "dig up" days where we share larger plants from our gardens and to sponsor Lake Kegonsa garden tours later in the summer so stay tuned. This fall we'll gather to harvest seeds for sharing and overwintering. We hope these programs will inspire all gardeners.

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## Water Information and Safety





You need an **operator's certification** to drive a boat in Wisconsin if you're under 35. At least one person was ticketed on Lake Kegonsa last weekend.

Wisconsin boating safety certification or out of state equivalent certification is required for all operators born on or after **January 1, 1989**.

#### **Who may operate a Motorboat (other than a Personal Watercraft)**

- A person **younger than 10** years may **not** operate a motorboat.
- **10 or 11 years old:** *only* if accompanied by a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian *and* the parent, guardian, or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before January 1, 1989.
- **12–15 years old:** *only* if he or she is accompanied (as above) *or* has completed a boating safety course.
- **16–35 years old** (born on or after January 1, 1989): *only* if he or she has completed a boating safety course *or* is accompanied (as above, at least 18 years of age).
- **35+ years old:** A person born before January 1, 1989, is exempt from the safety course requirement.

#### **Who may operate a Personal Watercraft (PWC)**

- A person **younger than 12** years may **not** operate a personal watercraft (PWC).
- 12–15 years old may operate a PWC *only* if he or she has completed a boating safety course. **Parental supervision is not a substitute** for a boating safety course certificate.
- **16–35 years old** (born on or after January 1, 1989): *only* if he or she has completed a boating safety course.
- **35+ years old:** A person born before January 1, 1989, is exempt from the safety course requirement.

You can find "**The Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities**" at [dnr.wisconsin.gov/](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/). Visit the DNR website and search for "boat safety" to find Boat Safety Education Courses including online options.

**FOLKS** plans to add this information section to our newsletters on a regular basis. Let us know if there are specific topics you'd like us to cover.

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## **Swimmer's Itch**

A number of people on the lake have experienced "swimmers itch" this summer. Typically, the reports have come from people who have vigorously disturbed the lake bottom by raking or pulling plants and not those who are leisurely swimming or wading. General advice has been to wear waterproof sunscreen or oils and to rinse/shower off and dry thoroughly after being in the lake. The following article on swimming itch comes from the WDNR (<https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/swimmersitch/>).

"Swimmer's itch occurs in some Wisconsin Lakes each year. Swimmer's itch is caused by the larvae (immature stage) of certain flatworms that can be picked up while swimming. Technically known

as schistosome dermatitis, swimmer's itch appears as red itching, bite-like welts within several hours of leaving the water. It is neither dangerous nor contagious, but is very uncomfortable.

When the larva penetrates the skin, it causes a small red welt. The degree of discomfort and bodily reaction varies with the person's sensitivity and the degree of infestation. In some people, the reaction may be hardly noticeable. Others have considerable pain, fever, severe itching, and swelling. The swelling usually subsides within a week, but the redness can last longer.

Swimmer's itch organisms are most commonly noticed in early summer, when the water is its warmest. The season is relatively short - usually four to six weeks, depending on the weather.

It's best to regard swimmer's itch in the same manner as mosquitos, woodticks and deer flies; there really is nothing that can be done to eliminate them, and our best action is to learn how to reduce exposure. Often these creatures we consider pests are signs of a healthy and diverse outdoors environment. Overall, they shouldn't discourage us from enjoying the many outdoor activities we can experience when we venture into their outdoor habitat.

### **Preventing Swimmer's Itch**

Some people have noted that waterproof sunscreens and lotions reduce the infections.

If you decide to go in the water when and where swimmer's itch larvae are present, stay clear of plants growing in the lake. Swimming rather than playing or wading in shallow water will reduce exposure. Swim offshore if possible. If swimmer's itch is known to be present, avoid swimming when winds are likely to be carrying the organisms into the beach.

The most important thing to do to prevent the itch is to rub down very briskly right after leaving the water. This can crush the organisms before they can penetrate the skin. Showering shortly after leaving the water also should help.

### **Easing Swimmer's Itch**

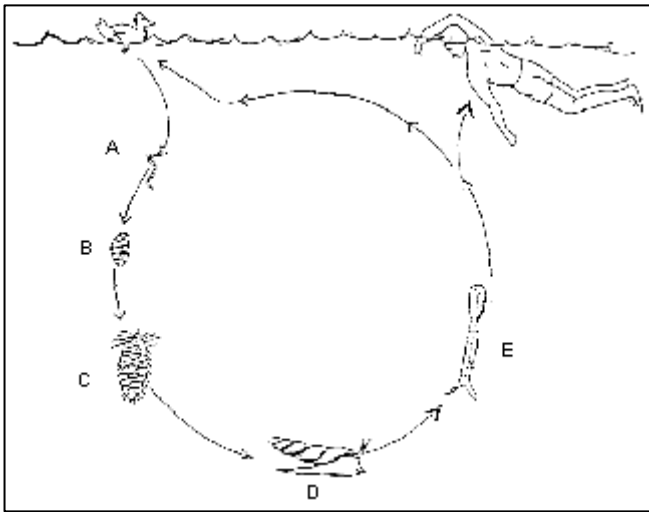
After the swimmer's itch organisms have penetrated the skin, there is little that can be done to treat it. You may get some relief by using soothing lotions such as calamine or lotions containing antihistamines and/or local anesthetics. In severe cases, see a physician.

### **More About the Cause of Swimmer's Itch**

Swimmer's itch is widespread in Wisconsin and has been reported in many other states and also in Europe and elsewhere in the world. There seem to be no special characteristics of lakes having the problem. Some of the finest recreational waters in the state experience swimmer's itch annually, whereas other lakes may have an occasional outbreak or none at all. An outbreak may be severe, but last for only a few days, or minor and last much of the season.

The flatworm parasite (schistosome) lives as an adult in suitable mammals and birds, such as mice and ducks. The adult worm sheds its eggs via the host's excretory tract into the water. Here they hatch into a free-swimming stage called a miracidium. The miracidium swims in search of a proper second host animal, a particular type of snail. If a proper snail is found, the miracidium will penetrate into the snail's tissue and develop further. After a three- or four-week development period, another free-swimming stage called a cercaria emerges from the snail in search of the proper primary bird or mammal host.

### **Life cycle of a flatworm:**



(A) blood fluke carried by bird. (B) egg. (C) miracidium. (D) snail host. (E) cercaria seeking host.

The cercariae release normally occurs when the water temperatures reach their near-maximum summer temperature. This usually occurs in late June or early July in northern Wisconsin, coinciding with peak water recreational activities. At this time the organism can accidentally contact bathers and cause swimmer's itch. In years of warm spring weather, swimmer's itch has occurred as early as May in northwestern Wisconsin.

A swimmer's itch problem may develop with as few as 2 percent of the snails infected. However, snail populations may be as high as 400 per square meter. One infected snail may release up to 4,000 cercariae per day. At the 2 percent infection rate, this would mean up to 32,000 cercariae would be produced per square meter per day. On a typical 100' x 100' beach area, this translates into a potential 30 million cercariae released each day.

Most cercariae are released between noon and 2 p.m. With little free-swimming abilities, the cercariae will swim to the surface to optimize their chance of contacting a suitable animal host. Concentrated near the surface, wind and currents may carry the cercariae up to four miles from the release area. The cercariae may not penetrate the skin until after the bather leaves the water, at which time the person may feel a slight tingling sensation. The cercariae are soon killed by the body's natural defense mechanism, but will continue to cause irritation. Studies have shown that 30 to 40 percent of people contacting the parasites are sensitive and experience irritation. Small children playing in shallow water are most susceptible because of the alternate wetting and drying with the arms, legs and waist area most prone to infection.

**There is no effective way for people to eliminate swimmer's itch on their beach.** Any attempts to control swimmer's itch by treatment to kill either the cercariae or their snail hosts are ineffective because cercariae are capable of swimming or drifting long distances from non-treated areas. It makes no difference if your beach area is sandy, rocky or weedy. Host snails will live on all sites and one species which commonly harbors swimmer's itch actually prefers sandy-bottom areas.

Feeding of ducks should be discouraged if swimmer's itch is known to be a problem on the lake, since waterfowl are an important adult host to the parasite. New occurrences of swimmer's itch seem to be strongly associated with people feeding and attracting ducks. In recent years, there have been experimental attempts at treating the host birds with veterinary medicines. The theory is to rid the birds of the adult parasite before they can infect the snail population with miracidia. Depending on the different kinds and numbers of adult hosts, success at this method will be limited to very specific situations. Thus far, the procedure is considered impractical on a lakewide scale in Wisconsin. Modern pesticide laws prohibit treatments as they were historically attempted. Treatments to kill snails are very harsh and kill many non-target plants and animals and may also lead to contaminated sediments. Some high-use public beaches on specific sites where incoming drift of cercariae is unlikely, have been issued permits for a highly reduced treatment, but the result is very temporary and questionable. Anyone proposing any kind of pesticide or chemical treatment for any purpose must obtain a permit from the Department of Natural Resources.

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**Eric Olson (608) 575-9272**  
**207 S Forrest St, Stoughton WI 53589**  
**201 Bus Park Circle, Stoughton WI 53589**  
**james@cleanlakesalliance.com**  
**PeterSveum@coldwellhomes.com (608)575-1054**  
**PO Box 301, Stoughton WI 53589**  
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**miles@countyofdane.com**  
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**doghutcare.com (608) 838-2470**  
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(Owner)

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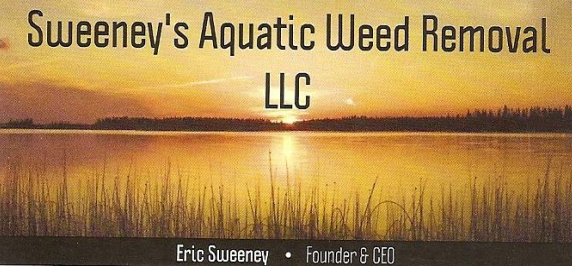
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**Theran Kahl**  
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Stoughton, WI 53589  
Phone: 608-873-7651  
Fax: 608-873-7692  
Email: theran@terrykahplumbing.com



**ECO-RESOURCE CONSULTING, INC**

PO Box 730  
2554 CTH N  
Stoughton, WI 53589

**Stephen J. Hjort**  
Senior Biologist/Principal

Office: (608) 877-9372  
Mobile: (608) 432-0113  
Email: shjort@eco-resource.net  
www.eco-resource.net



**Sue Schmitz®**

Lake Kegonsa Resident / Realtor

(608)345-8500  
sue@thehubrealty.com

**FOLKS OFFICERS AND  
BOARD MEMBERS  
2023**

**George Corrigan, President**  
corrigan@corrigan.pro

**Janice Kellogg, Vice President**  
kelloggja7@gmail.com

**Connie Hagen, Treasurer**  
chagen001@gmail.com

**Patrick Guiney**  
pdguiney@gmail.com

**Eric Olson**  
eolson.folks@gmail.com

**John Bottorff**  
jbott53511@att.net

**Kim VanBrocklin**  
kegonsakim@gmail.com

**Claudia Quam**  
claudiakquam@gmail.com


**Kim Walz**  
kwalz99@gmail.com

**Anne Meisner**  
meisnera16@gmail.com

**Deb Kundert**  
dakundert@aol.com

**John Quam**  
john@quamsmotorsports.com

For More About **FOLKS**,  
Visit our website at [www.Kegonsa.org](http://www.Kegonsa.org) and

on Facebook  at facebook.com/kegonsa/

or on Twitter  @LakeKegonsa

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:  
Connie Hagen at chagen001@gmail.com  
or George Corrigan at corrigan@corrigan.pro

Send news of interest to **FOLKS**:  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589 or  
chagen001@gmail.com

Published four times yearly by The Friends of  
Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc. (**FOLKS**)

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**FOLKS Lost and Found**

List lost and found items on the Website  
([www.kegonsa.org](http://www.kegonsa.org)), Facebook page or contact  
Eric Olson at eolson.folks@gmail.com

**FOLKS** board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month except for a  
couple of months in the winter. The public are always welcome.  
Next Meeting is August 8, 2023, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Stoughton Country Club

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 173  
Stoughton, WI 53589