



# Discovery

Friends of the Fox Mailing: P.O. Box 741, Appleton, WI 54912-0741

Fall 2010

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## Old Friends - New Adventures

*"Any river is really the summation of the whole valley. To think of it as nothing but water is to ignore the greater part."* Hal Borland, *This Hill, This Valley*



Tom Young Photo



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- "Warm Welcome" to Our Newest Friends

Many of you have been wonderful loyal friends of the *Friends of the Fox* (FOF) organization from its' earliest beginnings.

To our "Loyal Friends" the FOF Board says...

**"Thank You" and welcome to the next phase of this great adventure.**

To those who have more recently discovered what can be accomplished by a dedicated group of individuals with common interests, we say

**"Welcome and Please Join Us!"**

**In brief, over the past 20 years the FOF organization has:**

- Saved the historic Fox River lock system from destruction
- Been instrumental in the transfer of the locks to the people of Wisconsin
- Assisted with the creation of the Fox River Navigational System Authority (FRNSA) which has restored and improved 12 of the 17 locks to date
- Encouraged greater recreational and historic interpretation opportunities for public enjoyment
- Been an advocate for protection of this great environmental and cultural resource
- Created the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (FWHP) Board as a 501(c)3 non-profit
- Sought Federal legislation for designation

of the FWHP as a National Heritage Area

To our loyal friends who are wondering if we are still supporting the locks, know that we most definitely are. Studies have shown that the locks will be most successful if multi use is promoted. We want the whole river system to be used and appreciated by a broad range of people with differing interests. Moving forward does not mean forgetting the past.

We could not have accomplished all that we have throughout the years without the steadfast involvement of our volunteers, and the financial support of our members – **namely you!**

Membership is just:

- **\$25.00 /year for sustaining member**
- **\$50.00/year for gold member**
- **\$100.00/year for platinum member**

ALL memberships include wonderful quarterly newsletters.

Written by Ed Kleckner

**Be a Part of the Fox River Legacy!**

If you would like to renew your membership commitment... or to become a new member please complete the brief form on back page and send it to the address on the Form:

**OR GO TO:**

**[www.friendsofthefox.org](http://www.friendsofthefox.org) Tab: How to Join**

# Environmental Advocacy

## WHO CONTROLS THE LAKE WINNEBAGO WATERSHED?

If you were to ask the question of any boater, fisherman, or land owner along the shores of Little Lake Butte des Mort or Lake Winnebago as to who controls the Lake Winnebago watershed, you'd probably hear:

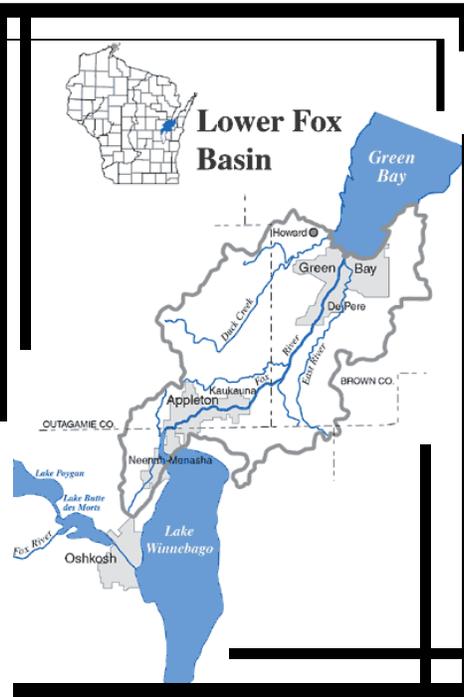
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Well, that's essentially correct but the real control of the watershed is with Mother Nature. The Lake Winnebago watershed and indeed water levels and flows start with the annual Winter snow fall, as well as the yearly rainfall on the land areas feeding the tributaries to this watershed and the Upper and Lower Fox River.

The actual water levels of Lake Winnebago during the navigational season are: 747.35 feet at the Neenah Dam. These levels are accomplished by managing the three controls on the flow of water from Lake Winnebago into Little Lake Butte des Mort and the lower Fox River.

### Those control points are:

- The *Menasha Dam*, owned and operated by the Corps
- The *Neenah Dam*, acquired by Neenah Paper, Inc. from Kimberly-Clark Corporation
- *Menasha Lock*, owned by the State of Wisconsin when it was acquired from the U.S. government as part of the entire 17 lock system. That lock is managed by the Fox River Navigational System Authority.

Control may sound reasonably simple but the erratic supply of water requires close coordination and continuous adjustments to the two control dams and eight other dams owned by the Corps. It performs this function by monitoring water levels at nine gauges within various points in the watershed through satellite signals sent to the Corps District headquarters in Detroit



and relayed to the Corps facilities in Kaukauna. Neenah Paper, Inc. and other owners of private dams at Appleton, Kaukauna and DePere are coordinated so the levels and flow of water is appropriate to current conditions.

Therein is a potential problem because Lake Winnebago is like a big saucer... a relatively shallow reservoir, which can accumulate and hold a large inflow of water.

### Under ideal conditions this allows uniform water levels for:

- Boating
- Fishing
- Uninterrupted intake of water for municipal water plants in Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha and Appleton
- Adequate flows for electrical power generation in Appleton and Kaukauna
- Stable shore lines on Lake Winnebago and Little Lake Butte des Mort

When that supply of water is significantly changed balancing these competing interests becomes a problem. Too little water can not be restored without new moisture (rain or snow). This is particularly true when in a hot summer Lake Winnebago can lose 3-4 inches of its total surface water in a single, hot, dry windy day. Conversely, excessive water in a short period of time from unseasonably heavy rains as we experienced this past July can cause shore line flooding if the total flow passing through the two control dams is greater than what the lower Fox River can pass through the other dams in between Appleton and Green Bay.

This is where the Corps must act to balance the lake levels so they're adequate for safe navigation and adequate municipal water intact. In the last analysis, if the water in the reservoir has been depleted, only more rain and snow can restore that balance. The opposite is true too when excessive water must be released through the control dams to avoid or minimize flooding both on Lake Winnebago (North Fond du Lac) and upstream on the tributaries at New London, Winneconne, Omro. The saucer characteristics of Lake Winnebago compound this situation, particularly if high winds "pile" up the water at either the north or south ends of Lake Winnebago.

So you can see controlling the Lake Winnebago watershed in no easy task. Better monitoring information and faster response time helps, but we are all still very much at the whims of nature and the supply of water we have at any given time.

Written by Richard C. Abb

# Navigation

## NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Friends of the Fox Navigational Safety Committee have hosted several meetings focused on placement of navigational aids on the Lower Fox River waterway system. East Central Regional Planning Commission, Appleton Yacht Club, Fox River System Navigation Authority (FRSNA), Outagamie County, Winnebago County and the U.S. Coast Guard have participated in these meetings with all partners recognizing the need for improved aid placement on the Lower Fox River from the Menasha lock downstream.

The group have discussed a number of different options, but concerns over cost, liability and jurisdiction have created stumbling blocks that have not yet been resolved.

Currently FRSNA, Winnebago County and Appleton

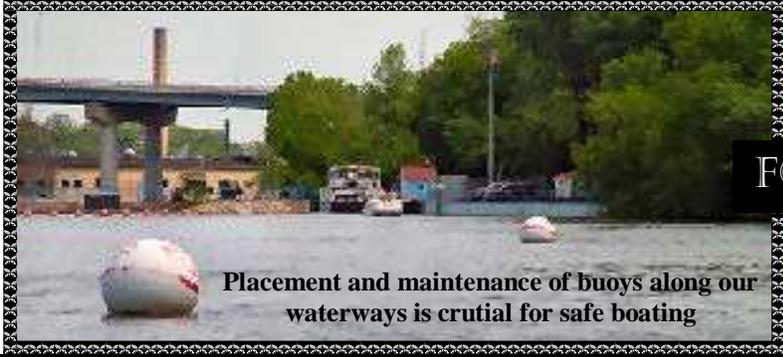
Yacht Club play a role in aid placement between Menasha and Appleton Lock 1. There are no navigational aids below Appleton Lock 1 until downstream of the De Pere Lock. The goal of the committee is to find a solution for aid placement in this section of the Fox River.



Navigational Buoys Repaired by FOF Board Member Dave Peck

The committee will continue to meet and involve additional interests in an attempt to resolve all of the issues involved.

Written by Pete Hensler



Placement and maintenance of buoys along our waterways is crucial for safe boating

## FOX RIVER BRIDGE LIGHTS

*Friends of the Fox would like to congratulate Coast Guard Auxiliarist B.J. Hinckley of Flotilla 47-02 (Green Bay) as she was commended in June by the Bridge Management Specialist for the Coast Guard's Ninth District.*

*Hinckley, was commended for doing an outstanding job, as she had reported 17 bridge lighting discrepancies on the Fox River in Green Bay.*

*Submitted by Ellen Balthazor*

## FOX LOCKS RESTORATION UPDATE



Restoration of the Fox River Locks is again proceeding after a year hiatus. No lock restoration work was completed in 2009 and 2010 because of funding constraints due to the financial down turn. Design work is now underway for Kaukauna Lock #5 construction in 2011. According to the current financial situation the four locks in Kaukauna are scheduled for completion by 2014.

During 2009 and 2010 minor work was completed including bank restoration, wall repairs, building maintenance and emergency lock repairs. Also, based upon a special stimulus grant eight of the historic lock tender houses are having exterior restoration and stabilization. This work will be completed by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Written by Harlan Kiesow, FRNSA



# Navigation Continued

## ST. NORBERT COLLEGE SURVEY OF AREA

### "Thank You"

*to our Friends at St. Norbert College For all of Your Assistance!*

*"The song  
of the  
river ends  
not at her  
banks but  
in the  
hearts of  
those who  
have loved  
her."*

*Buffalo Joe*



Earlier this summer, the Fox River Navigational System Authority commissioned Saint Norbert College to conduct a survey of registered boaters.

The objective of this survey was to:

- Evaluate boater's knowledge of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
- Gauge boater usage of the Fox River System
- To gather opinions relative to navigational issues for boaters who may use the proposed Transfer and Inspection Station at Rapide Croche Lock

Surveys were sent to boaters in the counties of Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Outagamie, Waupaca, Winnebago, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette and Sheboygan. The results of this survey will help in the development of the Transfer and Inspection Station.

Some of the information that has been gathered by the survey includes:

- Anticipated demand for usage of the station
- The number and types of boats that may use the facility
- The potential number and types of visitors who may be attracted to the facility

Saint Norbert College has preliminary results that should be ready for publishing in FOF's next news letter.

Written by William Bush



*Enjoying a Family  
Adventure at  
"2010 Park to Park Paddle"*



Please Help Support the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway by purchasing a T-shirt.

For More Information:  
[www.friendsofthefox.org](http://www.friendsofthefox.org)  
Or Call 920-707-2065

## Community Projects

### FOX RIVER HERITAGE PADDLE AWARDS BANQUET – Sunday, November 7



ments, with 4 individuals completing all 12 segments.

All are welcome to attend the banquet - postcards will be sent to anybody who participated in any of the 12 paddle segments as soon as details are finalized. There will be photos and videos to share, some fun awards, good food and of course, **GREAT** company! Hope to See you there!!!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.wisconsinpaddlers.org](http://www.wisconsinpaddlers.org)



**The banquet is scheduled to be held at the Whiting Boat House in Neenah.**

Plans are being developed for a Fox River Heritage Paddle Awards Banquet to celebrate this year's Journey of Rediscovery! The 2010 Heritage Paddle was a great success, drawing in 424 participants. Many completed multiple seg-

# Community Projects Continued



## FOX-WISCONSIN HERITAGE PARKWAY CELEBRATES!

**The proposed Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway took a major step forward in July when two Wisconsin lawmakers, Senator Herb Kohl and Representative Steve Kagen introduced legislation to designate the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway as a National Heritage Area.**

WASHINGTON – July 30, 2010, Senator Herb Kohl and Congressman Steve Kagen introduced legislation to establish the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway as a National Heritage Area. The proposed Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway runs through parts of 15 counties throughout Wisconsin and marks the path of Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet's exploration through Wisconsin to the Mississippi River.

*"The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway highlights a key portion of Wisconsin history that needs to be preserved for future generations. The development of the Mississippi and the West was due in part to the work of Marquette and Joliet, and it would be a shame for this piece of history to be lost as the years go on," Kohl said.*

*"As Aldo Leopold taught us, there is no separation between Mankind and our natural environment, and it is therefore our duty to preserve the environment we enjoy today for future generations. The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway is not just an important piece of the Wisconsin landscape, but a key*

*part of American history, and protecting this route of exploration in its natural form is essential," Kagen said.*

The National Park Service defines a National Heritage Areas as:

*"...places where natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representatives of the American experience*

are currently 49 NHAs, though none are located in Wisconsin. Unlike a National Park, a NHA is not managed by the National Park Service, and no land exchanges are made. Instead, the NHA designation serves as a structure for residents, non-profit organizations and businesses to work together on education and conservation of the historic resources of the area.

The proposed Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway NHA includes approximately 1,400 square miles of land in 15 counties in central and southeastern Wisconsin, including **Brown, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green Lake, Iowa, Marquette, Outagamie, Richland, Sauk, Waushara, and Winnebago counties.**

This area was chosen to tell the story of Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet and their voyage in 1673 from the Great Lakes down the Mississippi River, the results of which helped establish European settlements in the Mississippi River Corridor. National Heritage Areas can only be designated through an act of Congress; accordingly, like other acts of Congress, the bill introduced today must pass the House and Senate and be signed by President Obama.

FOR MORE INFORMATION :

[www.friendsofthefox.org](http://www.friendsofthefox.org)

Tab: [Community Projects/](#)

[Fox-WI Heritage Parkway](#)

[Click on Feasibility Study](#)



Photo By: Craig Eggleston

*through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. These regions are acknowledged by Congress for their capacity to tell important stories about our nation. Continued use of National Heritage Areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscape enhances their significance."*

The National Heritage Area (NHA) concept was created in 1984, with the goal of preserving our national history and resources, and telling a unique story about American history. There



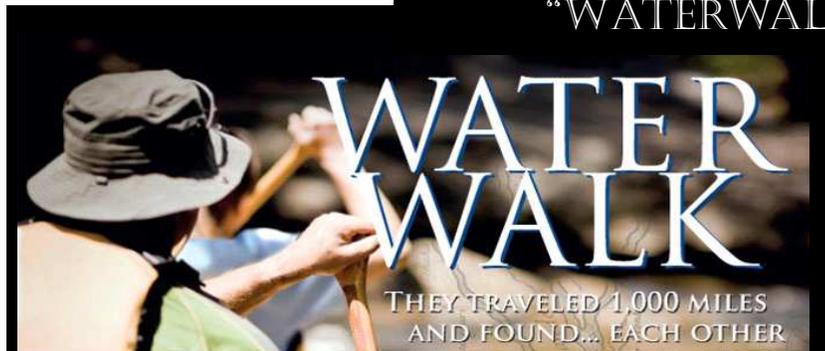
## APPLETON TRESTLE TRAIL PROJECT

Friends of the Fox, working with the City of Appleton, contracted with Pöyry (Appleton) LLC to complete a structural integrity study on the railroad trestle spanning the river between Trolley Square and the Atlas Building. **Donations from Stadtmueller & Associates, Rollie Winter & Associates, and Fox Cities Greenways made this study possible. Thank you!**

The findings were encouraging and are leading us to the next step. The City of Appleton will be working with Canadian National on an appraisal for the structure, and then will move to final negotiations for ownership to be transferred. This should be an exciting addition to the Appleton Fox River landscape.

# Community Projects Continued

## "WATERWALK" – THE MOVIE



Friends of the Fox have been assisting Roger Rapoport, an independent movie producer with his new film titled "Waterwalk". The movie is a beautiful story in which a Kansas father (played by actor Robert Cicchini, a veteran Hollywood actor) and his 16-year-old son spent 63-days retracing the 990-mile Marquette-Joliet route from St. Ignace, Michigan, across Wisconsin and down the Mississippi River to St. Louis, Missouri. It is an adventure packed, historic, very compelling family-type movie.

"The Fox River has a very special significance to Waterwalk," said Rapoport.

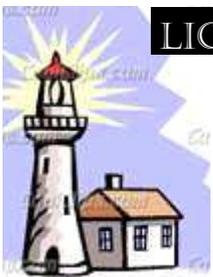
**Candice Mortara, FOF President, met earlier this summer with Roger Rapoport to discuss the filming of "Waterwalk" on location in the Fox River Valley and discussed how FOF could play a supporting role. Candice felt it was a great opportunity to have a movie depicting the route of Marquette-Joliet being produced and released in theaters around the time the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway receives its designation as a National Heritage Area.**

FOF board members, members and volunteers have been busy this summer helping with all of the logistics of making sure the producer and staff had the necessary equipment, vehicles to transport the equipment, places to stay, meals, support staff and volunteers to pull off the movie that they were shooting on location in the Fox River Valley.

**WE VERY MUCH THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS FILM A REALITY AND TO MAKE OUR GUESTS FEEL WELCOME!!**

The filming of this movie will not only showcase Wisconsin's beautiful scenery, but will also include 20 state actors who have landed roles in the movie. The movie, scheduled for release in the spring of 2011, is the first movie being made about the 1673 Marquette-Joliet voyage of discovery. A 15-minute educational documentary is also being produced in association with Marquette University and the Michigan Council of History Educators.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE MOVIE WATERWALK:  
<http://waterwalkthemovie.com>**



## LIGHTHOUSES TARGETED – LACK OF NEED OR BUDGET CUTS

Many lighthouses are being either shut down or sold to a willing buyer due to lighthouse budget cuts and decreased visitor traffic.

An article in July tells that the Sturgeon Bay, 129 year old **North Pierhead Lighthouse** is for sale by the U.S. Coast Guard. In 2009 the **Ke-waunee Pierhead** and **Manitowoc Breakwater lighthouses** were put on the market for sale. Due to the high operating and maintenance costs neither has been sold as of yet.

**Other lighthouses for sale are:**

Michigan:

· **Frankfort North Breakwater**

· **Middle Island**  
· **South Haven South Pierhead**

Canada:

· **Port Dover Light**

Connecticut:

· **Penfield Lighthouse**

These lighthouses are an important part of our heritage. Michigan's most famous nautical wreck, the Edmund Fitzgerald in 1975, may have been helped to its watery grave because of a power failure of the Whitefish Point Lighthouse on Lake Superior.

Modern electronics has reduced the need for many of these lighthouses and many lighthouses are being either shut down or sold to a willing buyer due to lighthouse

budget cuts and less of a need for the historical lighthouses. They often are transformed to museums, bed and breakfast inns and occasionally living quarters.

**In our area we have several important navigational lights:**

· **Buoy 100** just outside the Menasha channel entrance

· The historic **Kimberly Point** in Neenah

· **Asylum Light** in Oshkosh (inactive)

· **Fond du Lac Lighthouse**

· **Bray's Point** near Oshkosh

· **Fisherman's Fishing Club Lite**

· **Calumet Harbor Light** at Pipe, rebuilt in recent years using volunteer dollars.

Written by John Forester



# History

## PORTAGE CANAL: THEN AND NOW

The Portage Canal bridges the 1.5-mile land gap between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. This land is arguably one of the most significant portages in United State history.

For thousands of years, the portage was utilized by the Wisconsin Indians. They called this marshy stretch of land the *Wauona Trail*, which means “*the place where one takes up his canoe and carries it on his back.*” The portage marked the divide between the Fox River, flowing northward to the Great Lakes and eventually to the Atlantic, and the Wisconsin River, which empties into the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico.

According to the Portage Canal Society, the first mention of the portage was probably made by **Nicolet** who may have visited the area in 1640. **Father Marquette**, however, provided the first description of the portage on his momentous 1673 journey to the Mississippi; “...the road is broken by so many swamps and small lakes that it is easy to lose one’s way, especially as the river leading thither is so full of wild oats that it is difficult to find the channel.”

Increasing settlement and the success of similar systems in the east prompted the discussion of creating the Portage Canal. In 1834, the Portage Canal Company was formed and a year later construction began. However, after months of digging through the muddy terrain, the work was abandoned due to a lack of funding. In 1853, the project was taken up again under the Fox and Wisconsin Improvement

Company, only to fall into bankruptcy a few years later.

In 1874, the U.S. Corps of Engineers resumed canal work, finally finishing in 1876. The canal was 75 feet wide, 7 feet deep and 2.5 miles long. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the *Boscobel* became the first ship to enter the canal. In 1951, however, decreasing usage forced the U.S. Corps of Engineers to close the Portage locks. For many years the canal remained unused.

In 1973, the original **Fox-Wisconsin Portage site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places**. Four years later, the canal was also placed on the register. The



designation cemented the importance of these sites within the annals of United States history.

In the summer of 2006, after years of neglect, canal renovation began. The lock doors were opened, and the waterway was beautified. Today, the Portage Canal Society oversees all canal activities.

Article was taken from the **Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Feasibility Study**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE FOX RIVER:**

[www.friendsofthefox.org](http://www.friendsofthefox.org)

Tab: **Community Projects/Fox-WI Heritage Parkway**

Click on Feasibility Study

## HUGE “THANK-YOU” TO OUR SPONSORS!

- *Oshkosh Rotary*
- *Fox Cities Convention and Visitor’s Center*
- *Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region*
- *M&I Foundation – 1<sup>st</sup> grant for the Upper Fox*
- *Neenah Boat Club*



*We Simply Could Not Do it Without the Support of Friends Like You!!!!*



# Discovery

P.O. Box 741  
Appleton, WI 54912-0741

## *Our Mission and Purpose*

*The Friends of the Fox is a not-for-profit advocacy group established to preserve and develop the environmental, cultural, historical, economic and quality-of-life assets offered by the Fox River.*

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN US TODAY – YOU WILL RECEIVE 2 MONTHS FREE!**



### Enclosed Are My Membership Dues to Friends of the Fox

Sustaining Donor: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Gold Donor: \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Platinum Donor: \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form, clip and mail it, along with your financial donation to:  
Friends of the Fox, P.O. Box 741, Appleton, WI 54912-0741, Phone: 920-707-2065

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

All contributions to the Friends of the Fox are tax deductible. Friends of the Fox is a 501-C3 not-for profit corporation.

*Thank you in Advance for all of your Support! We could not succeed without you!!*

## *Warm Welcome to Friends of the Fox*

### *Newest Members*

*Jim O'Rourke  
Kimberly Krzycki  
Lorenz Starfeldt  
Bemis Co., Neenah*



*If you are receiving this newsletter and are not a member, Please consider joining.  
[www.friendsofthefox.org](http://www.friendsofthefox.org)  
Or call: 920-707-2065*