

# The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter

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# Discovery

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## President's Message

### President's Message

I am honored to follow Bob Stark in service to this organization. He embodies the qualities of focus and dedication to vision and deserves to be commended for all he has accomplished during his tenure. We thank him and look forward to continuing to work with him.

### Fox River Heritage Parkway Update

We have some exciting work at hand, work that brings our mission to life. We were established to preserve and develop the environmental, cultural, historical, economic and quality-of-life assets offered by the Fox River Corridor. Our chosen avenue for this has been support and advocacy for the Wisconsin Heritage Parkway, which follows the Lower Fox and continues through Lake Winnebago to the Upper Fox, Wolf and Lower Wisconsin Rivers. A navigable waterway was seen as the infrastructure, the base on which the historic and recreational usages would build. For the past decade, Friends of the Fox has been a catalyst for the reopening of the waterway and as you know great progress has been made -- the lock restoration plan is being implemented by the Fox River Navigational System Authority. With that dream working toward reality, we have the opportunity to broaden our efforts to the support of historic and recreational sites along the corridor.

### Omro Pavilion Donation

### AIS Committee Report

### Make a Difference Day

### Welcome New Members

People and municipalities who have long turned their back on the river and simply deemed it our workhorse are now turning to face and appreciate it. This means there are many more who share in our mission. Think of what we can accomplish if we work together, if we partner with these municipalities, and with the many local conservation and recreation organizations in an active creation of a shared vision.

### The Fox River Navigational System Authority Meets...

A vision that involves being committed to the health of our waterways, being good stewards of the gift of this wonderful natural resource, being advocates for development which allows us to better view and recreate on our river and being keepers of the unique heritage of this corridor.

The fourth Wednesday of  
each month at 3 pm  
at the Army Corp of  
Engineers building in  
Kaukauna

It is an exciting vision and an exciting time.

Thank you for being a part of our effort.

Candice Mortara

## **The Wisconsin Heritage Parkway is Launched with Funding from the Region's Community Foundations**

Nearly every community along the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, and Lake Winnebago, has very deep historic and cultural heritage roots. The Wisconsin Heritage Parkway will be a unique new way to showcase our State's rich cultural heritage and strengthen our heritage tourism economy at the same time. With funding provided by several Fox River & Lake Winnebago Community Foundations representing Oshkosh, the Fox Cities, Green Bay, Fond du Lac and Green Lake, and other interested community organizations and individuals, the Friends of the Fox and the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission have partnered to prepare a report outlining how the Wisconsin Heritage Parkway can be established and implemented. The Wisconsin Heritage Parkway will promote the enjoyment of many heritage related recreational attractions, and allow them to be accessed by watercraft, by auto routes, and by persons traveling on bike tours, or others just out for an afternoon walk using waterfront pedestrian trails and venues consistent with the new urbanism concept.

Nearly 400 years ago, the Fox River was an important transportation corridor for Native American populations, living around Lake Winnebago, but European explorers mistakenly perceived it as the fabled "Route to the Orient". The Orient proved to be as elusive as ever, but early exploration left Wisconsin with a heritage as rich and colorful as any to be found on the east coast of North America.

In October of 2007 work got underway to rewrite the 10 year old *Fox River Heritage State Parkway Concept Plan* and update it to reflect the current visions of the Fox/Wisconsin River and Lake Winnebago communities. The revised plan is expected to be completed by mid-year 2008, when the 3 year project will shift to the implementation phase. The East Central Wisconsin RPC staff will provide assistance to communities, non-profit organizations, civic groups, and developers wishing to improve heritage related recreational opportunities along the Fox and Lower Wisconsin Waterways. The project has now secured over 70% of the needed funding and is continuing to expand participation from additional interested partners. The project will include pursuing designation as a National Heritage Corridor which would make the region eligible for Federal National Park Service funding.

If your business, community group or organization, is interested in learning more about the creation of the Wisconsin Heritage Parkway please contact Ed Kleckner, Principal Planner with the ECWRPC at (920) 751-4770.



FOF President Candice Mortara presenting a \$ 500.00 check to Fox River Runners Boat Club members John Steen on the right and Dave Peck. This donation is toward a new multi use community pavilion on the water in Omro's Scott Park. Omro is the 1st community up stream from Lake Butte des Morts on the Upper Fox River and important to developing the Wisconsin Heritage Parkway.

For more information contact Steve Volkert, Omro Economic Development Director 920-685-7005

## AIS Committee Report

Many people are probably wondering what the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee is and what we are doing. This committee was set up by the Fox River Navigational Authority in 2005. Our goal is to develop a safe method to inspect, cleanse and transfer boats over the permanent invasive species barrier at Rapide Croche Lock without transferring aquatic invasive species. Additionally we are educating citizens of the Lake Winnebago Water Basin on how to prevent the spread of AIS.

In order to gain insight and help from different disciplines, the AIS Committee is made up of a diverse group of people. Members include Bill Bush FOF Vice President; Robert Stark, Chairman FRNSA; Harlan Kiesow, FRNSA CEO; Philip B. Moy, Ph.D. Fisheries and Nonindigenous Species Specialist University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute; Mike Arrowood, Chairman Walleyes for Tomorrow; Candice Mortara, FOF President and Project Manager Regional AIS Mgmt. Plan; and David Wentland, P.E. Coastal Engineer. (Previous members of the committee included Bill Willis, environmental fishing advocate and former FRNSA board appointee, Charles Verhoeven, WDNR Secretary designee to the FRNSA board, and Richard Sachs, former WDNR northeast Wisconsin AIS coordinator.) The group is also assisted by Bart DeStasio, Ph.D. Associate Professor Biology Department at Lawrence University. His team of college students have been actively monitoring for invasive species both above and below Rapide Croche.

Our past activities have included public outreach to a variety of groups for education and input into our transfer plan. Some of these groups include the Great Lakes Sports Fishermen, Tri County Powerboat Alliance, Walleyes for Tomorrow, the League of Women Voters and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Future outreach and Public forums are planned to be held December 5 in Green Bay, December 12 in Appleton, December 13 in Oshkosh, January 7 in Fond du Lac and January 9 in Winneconne. The location of the forums will be announced in the near future. The input from these forums will be used to further develop our plan to inspect, cleanse and transfer boats at Rapide Croche. Once our transfer plan has been developed we will present it to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for final approval.

Please watch for the location of these public forums. Further information on the public forums will be found in the local newspapers and on the websites of FOF and FRNSA. Your input is important to us.

William R. Bush

AIS Committee Chairman



### Make a Difference Day

Friends of the Fox helped the nation celebrate "Make a Difference Day" on Saturday, October 27. Karin Whealon coordinated with Harlan Kiesow, CEO of the FRNSA to have Friends of the Fox members clear brush and trees from the banks of the Fox River at Appleton's historic Lock #1. In 2008 Appleton's four Fox River locks will be open for navigation. Pictured are Gary Long Commodore of the AYC and Dennis Arnoldussen Lock Site Manager with Harlan Kiesow on the left.

## Welcome New Members

Jack Boatman      Fond du Lac

Ron Brockman      Ottawa IL

Robin Dekker      Little Chute

Andrew Ison      Milwaukee

Tim Koller      Winneconne

Dave Norton      Winneconne

Jim & Lori Rodgers      Brookfield

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