

The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter

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Discovery

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Hot News

The Fox River Navigational System Authority Meets...

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

**Bob Stark is retiring as president of Friends of the Fox, Inc.
effective September 12, 2007.**

"I have enjoyed my time serving as President of the Friends of the Fox, Inc. You all know my reasons for getting involved: ... Family and personal beliefs. I set some goals for the organization... I challenged you to accomplish those goals, and you did, and I had some fun as we achieved those goals.

The FOF board is organized. We have established a plan. We have some commitments to keep. We have a dedicated Executive Committee.

I think that we need to keep moving forward and to advocate new challenges so that we are truly "Friends of the Fox." Our mission is no longer just about the locks, although we need to finish raising the funds to sustain operation to ensure the promised Federal Match, and to complete the Boat Transfer at Rapide Croche ... and we will!

The locks project is now a reality, it IS happening... YOU did it!! Congratulations!!!

As Chairman of the FRNSA, I am committed to the Governor and Citizens of the State of Wisconsin and to you to manage the locks project. I need to honor that commitment to the best of my ability.

Thanks for your support! ..."

Bob Stark



The State Heritage Parkway Corridor Moves Forward

The proposed State Heritage Parkway Corridor retraces the famous 1673 Route of Exploration taken by early explorers Marquette and Joliet, which followed the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers diagonally across Wisconsin from the Bay of Green Bay to the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien.

The Friends of the Fox organization which has long been supportive of the idea of establishing a State Heritage Parkway Corridor has entered into an agreement to be the grant funding applicant and fiscal agent for an effort to be undertaken by the three Regional Planning Commissions which serve the Corridor. As the lead agency, the East Central Wisconsin RPC will work closely with the Bay Lakes RPC on the Lower Fox, and the Southwestern Wisconsin RPC on the Lower Wisconsin Waterway. The State Heritage Parkway Corridor would include historic sites, museums, parklands and other river or lake related attractions that are located within a corridor which encompasses the Lower Fox, Lake Winnebago, the Upper Fox, the Wolf River and the Lower Wisconsin River Waterway.

The Parkway Corridor effort would include updating the now 10 year old original plan to reflect the current status of activity and the new visions of communities along these waterways. The 3 year planning effort will produce a new plan for the Heritage Corridor, and provide 2-1/2 years of assistance to communities, organizations and groups, and other interested partners working to implement the plan's objectives and community visions. The project will include: drafting the new plan; creation of a structure to establish and manage the historic corridor; providing assistance to strengthen existing heritage related attractions and create new ones; help with securing funding for related projects; and developing a coordinated marketing plan. A primary objective is to pursue a National Heritage Corridor Designation which would make the corridor eligible for National Park Service funding.

The corridor project has received significant funding commitments from the Oshkosh, Fox Valley and Green Bay Community Foundations, and the project is now seeking smaller funding commitments from many of the communities on the Upper Fox, and the Lower Wisconsin Waterway. The project will provide a real economic boost to the heritage tourism economy of the state but to be successful needs the support and participation of many communities, relevant state agencies, and other organizations. Participants are expected to include local economic development groups, Chamber of Commerce organizations, local historic preservation societies, visitor and convention bureaus, community service clubs, The Fox River Navigation System Authority, the FOF, the NEW North organization, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, and other interested entities.

If you wish to learn more about this project, or would like to be included in the effort, please contact the project coordinator, Ed Kleckner, at the East Central Regional Planning Commission by phone at (920) 751-4770 or (920) 751-4751, or by email using ekleckner@eastcentralrpc.org.

Dr Phil Moy's Update on Asian Carp

The Asian jumping Carp are being held back from Lake Michigan in the Chicago shipping canal by a temporary electric field barrier. The Carp are being found in greater numbers 2 river pools below the barrier and so far have not turned up in samples closer to the barrier. The original demonstration barrier continues to run but the electrodes are deteriorating. For this reason, the Corps of engineers will replace some or all of the electrodes in the fall of 07 with new cables. This will allow the old barrier to continue to operate until adequate funds are appropriated to complete the construction of a new barrier. The Corps is asking for 8.5 million for a permanent barrier and funding is hopeful for this budget cycle. Legislatively, right now it looks as though the Water Resource Development Act may have a chance of passing this year. If that occurs the Corps will have authorization to operate the new and the old barriers with full federal funding but will still need appropriations to finish building the new barrier.

Philip B. Moy Ph.D. pmoy@uwc.edu

Fisheries and Nonindigenous Species Specialist University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute

Rapide Croche Barrier and AIS Update

This is an update on the plans to develop a watercraft transfer station at the Rapide Croche Lock site. In 1988 a permanent sea lamprey barrier was constructed at Rapide Croche and the associated dam was modified to prevent the spread of the sea lamprey upriver. **By law, this barrier will not and can not be removed.** The transfer station is being developed to provide a method to move boats over the barrier. The Fox River Navigational System Authority (FRNSA) hired STS Consultants to develop a report that would provide a framework for this transfer station. This report was finalized February 28, 2007 and will help the FRNSA develop the Rapide Croche Lock site. The scope of the report includes bathymetric surveying to help determine the amount of dredging that may need to be conducted at the lock site. Included in the report is the identification and evaluation of different transfer methods. These methods include the use of a mobile boat hoist with either slings or forks. Other methods identified would include self propelled or semi-submersible transporters that can handle boats to 65'. The report also identifies a preferred method of inspecting and cleansing of boats at the transfer station. The proposed cleansing method would include the use of a cleansing tank and 105 degree (F) water to ensure that all vessels are cleansed of AIS. Boat traveling upstream will be removed from the water and transferred to the cleansing tank. The boats external surfaces and propulsion units will be sprayed with 105 degree (F) water. The engine(s) will be started to flush the cooling system. Other systems such as air conditioning and refrigeration units will be operated to flush them of all possible AIS. Both the transfer and cleansing methods will be reviewed further by the FRNSA to ensure that the most appropriate method(s) will be used. The STS report will be used in public forums to help solicit public input into the development of the Rapide Croche Transfer Station. Public input will be included in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that the FRNSA AIS Committee will present to the DNR for review and input before further developing the transfer station. We are planning on conducting the public forums later this fall.

Meanwhile, monitoring for AIS in the 2 pools above and below Rapide Croche will continue to be conducted by a team of Lawrence University students headed up by Associate Professor Bart DeStasio. No new invasive species were found in the areas tested. However, Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) has been found in Lake Winnebago and Little Lake Butte Des Morts. The most likely vector that may have transferred this virus is through the transfer of infected bait. This virus is harmful to fish but not too human beings. Continued education and outreach to users of the waterway has already begun. Educational brochures are being sent out to various marinas, available at the 3 locks that are currently open and will be available at various sportsmen's groups.. Further education will be done through the JASON project, a middle school outreach program in Green Bay. Other educational opportunities will also be explored as they come up. It should be noted that some invasive species have already found a home in the Lake Winnebago Water Shed. Both the Zebra Mussel and Eurasian Water Milfoil have been carried into our waterway despite the barrier at Rapide Croche. These invasive species have more than likely been transferred by trailered boats from Green Bay or Lake Michigan to Lake Winnebago. This is made possible by the numerous unsupervised boat landings on Lake Winnebago and the surrounding areas that are not being monitored for the transportation of AIS. Many trailered boats that have used these landings have not been cleaned of invasive species even though there is a \$154.50 fine for the transporting of AIS to other bodies of water. The spread of Aquatic Invasive Species can and will be controlled. But this effort will only be accomplished through the additional help of all users of the water way. We need the help of pleasure boaters, fisherman, and the DNR. Boaters need to remember to remove all AIS from their vessels, trailers and equipment before entering another body of water. Further information can also be found at our website www.friendsofthefox.org.

William R. Bush

**Aquatic Invasive Species Chairman
Fox River Navigational System Authority
Vice President Friends of the Fox**

The Crossroad to Family Adventures

The Friends of the Fox has partnered with the Town of Menasha to redevelop Fritse Park

The Town of Menasha has committed 1.2 million dollars over the next 3 years for the redevelopment of Fritse Park. The park improvements will include: relocating the entrance, rebuilding the seawall and boat launch area, providing better access to the Trestle Trail, improved access to the conservancy, and the Heritage Adventure Center. The key objectives of the project are to develop a parksite that is....

family orientated.

- reconnecting use to the rich heritage of the Fox River.
- free and open year around

The Park Commission has authorized the development of a "Capitol Campaign Cabinet" and the "Friends of Fritse" to help further the Fritse Park Redevelopment Project.

From Mike Kading Town of Menasha Park and Rec Director



Menasha Whitewater Public Park Update

The Fox Cites Whitewater committee under the direction of Brian Tungate, Menasha Park and Rec Director began this project by asking The Friends of the Fox to be their fiscal agent. They have hired a project manager from a firm in Boulder CO. that builds white water parks. Four locations were surveyed and the Menasha site showed the greatest potential because it by-passes the channel and has a 71/2' drop. The next step is to secure grants for engineering studies, water quality and flow. A Natl. Resource Damage Assessment grant is pending.

Greg Keil the Menasha City Planner says the TIFF District Project developer has 3 major goals.

A new 14,00 sq ft office building on Ahnaip St.

An inner renovation of the Gilbert offices creating leased to pay for space tearing down the Gilbert mill.

Office renovations will be built out on the lower level to create a park atmosphere along the White Water Park

The project will tie together for economic and recreational improvement.



**Park to Park Paddle Event
July 2007**



**Boats using the Appleton #2 lock
during May 19 Event**

Lock Restoration Celebration

On May 19th we celebrated the completion and restoration of the 4 Appleton locks. After major renovation and new construction, boaters and historians were able to view, tour and witness the operation of locks that have not seen pleasure boating for many years. The restored Old Oneida Street bridge was also operated. There was a huge turnout of diverse and interested people. The support this 18 year long project has developed was also shown by boatloads of leaders and elected officials. One large boat present was the the 7C's from Oshkosh provided by Mr Mike Castle. The use of his 65' vessel to help commemorate this historic event was most generous again from this long time supporter of the locks project and Friends of the Fox.. Those interested in the historic importance of the Fox River to the area were entertained by Giles Clark in fur trader period dress and Alex Nimphius with a replica large voyager cargo canoe. Many thanks to the committee members, exhibitors, and representatives of interested organizations who helped make this celebration such a success.

Friends of the Fox Highlights of 2007

The visibility began Karin Whealon volunteered to set up exhibits beginning at the Boat Show April 21/2007 at Waverly Beach in Menasha. July 21 2007 we supported the Park to Park Paddle event with a exhibits at the Lutz Park take out point. There were many organizations supporting the river and boat safety at this event. The Appleton Yacht Club graciously provided an all you could eat luncheon for \$ 5.00 for everyone. Thank you to Jeannie Burren and her staff for a delicious meal. Karin Whealon orchestrated a Timber Rattlers Night in Appleton on July 26th brought 90 enthusiastic FOF supporters together showing their bright green FOF shirts. Everyone enjoyed the game and ballpark food "what a bargain on Dollar Nite" A bus from the Fond du Lac Yacht Club and another from the Oshkosh Southside Ice Yacht Club made the event even more fun. The Winnebago Boat Rally on August 2nd and 3rd 2007 was well attended. The FOF had staffed an information tent. Thanks go out to all the water enthusiasts for their support and interest in current Winnebago basin issues.

FOF Supporters at a Timber Rattlers Baseball Game



From left FOF President Bob Stark, Senator Carol Roessler, Representative Steve Wieckert, 8th District Congressman Dr. Steve Kagen at the May 19th dedication Ceremony



2007 FOF Board of Directors

Welcome New Members

John Anderson	Oshkosh
Kurt Barnes	Appleton
Loyd Carpenter	Green Bay
Marilyn Cyr	Menasha
Skip Jones	Bowler
John and Vickie Resch	Menasha
Donald Schulde	Chilton
Todd Sorenson	Winneconne
Lindsey Rose Smith	Appleton
Melanie Steen	Omro
John Steen	Omro

Executive Committee

Robert Stark	Appleton
<i>President</i>	
William Bush	Neenah
<i>Vice President</i>	
Larry Medema	Appleton
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	
Steve Lockhart	Menasha
<i>Treasurer</i>	
Dave Peck	Appleton
<i>Secretary</i>	
Brunhilde Courtney	Menasha
<i>Executive Board Member</i>	
Ellen Balthazor	Fond du Lac
<i>Executive Board Member</i>	
John Forster	Rotonda West
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Richard Abb	Appleton
Bob Aykens	Menasha
Brian Groves	Winneconne
Edward J. Kleckner	Menasha
Jackson Medley	Oshkosh
Candice Mortara	Appleton
Illa Mullen	Little Chute
Jack Nelson	Oshkosh
Thomas J. Sitter	Oshkosh
Nile Sweet	Oshkosh
Dan Reinhold	Oshkosh
Karin Whealon	Fond du Lac
Ryan Rosenthal	Ashwaubenon

Newsletter Editors

Dave Peck and Brunhilde Courtney