

The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter

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Autumn 08



Discovery

Presidents Message

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Presidents' Viewpoint

As the season draws to a close, we hope that everyone was able to get out and enjoy our wonderful river. The conditions were perfect this year, whether you boat or hike, fish or bird watch – Wisconsin gifted us with a lovely summer.

Make a Difference Day

Flowing into the Future Meeting

Water Trail Beginnings

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Fox Locks Restoration

Historical Listening Session

Friends of the Fox has been busy promoting the Heritage Parkway ... talking with our Congressmen, our Senators, the philanthropic leaders in the community ... reminding them of this second phase of the project. We have been meeting with East Central RPC and forming a steering committee to guide us as the Parkway moves forward. We have also been planning the portages around the Appleton locks and have been considering the possibility of establishing an Aquatic Invasive Species information center at Rapid Croche. As you know, the Heritage Parkway is a grand project, large in scope and breadth, and involves varied interests. We are steadily working to make it a reality, but to do it well, we need your help and support.

We thank you for all that you have done, and continue to do, for the opportunity to once again navigate from Lake Winnebago to Lake Michigan. You have been loyal members through the many years that it has taken for us to get this far, and we appreciate your continuing loyalty as we now work to connect and enhance the riverway around the navigation channels. We need extensive public involvement to make this *your* Heritage Parkway, and so in the months to come we will be working on our strategy, our plan, to best hear what you have to say. We will be listening so that you own this project and you use it to further the pride you already feel in this amazing piece of land we call home.

Candice Mortara

My summer in Wisconsin this year was my best and most productive vacation since I retired in 2002. I've enjoyed spending time with and getting to know Candice Mortara and am very impressed with her commitment and expertise relating to the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway. The Heritage Parkway will provide the protection and assure the sustainable future of the waterway for future generations. I was impressed to find that Candice has met with U.S. Park Service people, talking about a possible designation as a National Heritage Corridor. Candice and I met with Justice Prosser, Senator Kohl's office, local community leaders and East Central Regional Planning staff. We did a radio talk show on WHBY with Jeff Jirschele. We were part of a celebration of State Senator Carol Roessler's years of service at the Oshkosh Country Club. I also met with Dan Reinhold, who heads the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Committee for the Friends of the Fox. Dan lives on the waterway and is a boater, and understands how the Heritage Parkway brings people from history, health and tourism together to protect this unique waterway. As I return to my home in Florida I'm so happy to know that the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Plan is now getting closer to reality.

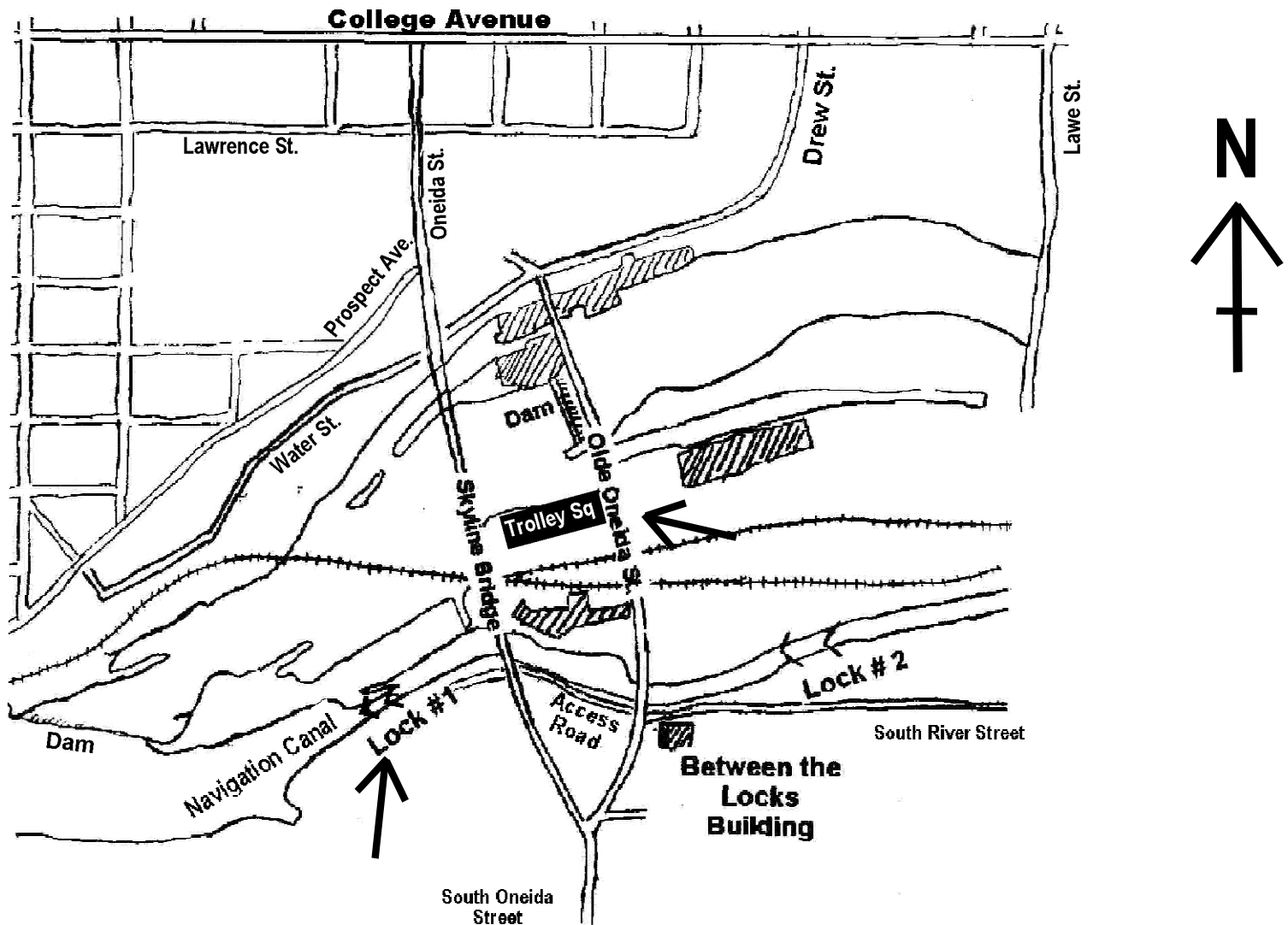
John Forster

"Make a Difference Day"

October 25th 2008

Help make a difference, on our historic Fox River at Appleton's Lock # 1. We will be clearing the South bank around the lock tender house, and garage. The plan is to work in small groups in conjunction with the Fox River Navigational Authority who manage the lock sites for the State. Maintenance crews will be cutting and shredding brush and small trees. Work will commence at 9:00 am and end at 3:00.

Not Available to stay the whole day? No problem, come when you can. Please bring gloves, tools to work with brush ect. and a bag lunch. The Authority will provide a refreshing beverage for our lunch. Park in the Trolley Square Parking Lot on Olde Oneida Street. Let's help beautify our historic Fox River. Invite your friends to help. Together we can "Make a Difference" !!! Any questions or further information, please call Karin Whealon at 920-922-2643 or email to klwhealon@charter.net .



Getting to the Lock # 1 site

Oneida Street gives the best access to the Lock #1 general area. Oneida Street runs South of downtown Appleton's College Ave. There is a traffic light at Lawrence St. and another at Prospect Ave. The Oneida St. Skyline bridge then passes high over the Fox River and the small access road alongside the navigation canal leading to the lock site. Turn left at the traffic light at the South end of the Skyline bridge and onto Olde Oneida St. The gravel access road starts at South end of the Olde Oneida Street drawbridge across the street and just West of the Between the Locks Building. Drive North over the drawbridge to park and walk back to the Access road.

2008 Meeting educates attendees on the value of a National Heritage Corridor Designation

The Setting: An inviting restaurant showcasing the natural beauty and serenity of the Fox River.

The Event: Friends of the Fox hosts Flowing into the Future - The Heritage Parkway

The Place: Fratello's in Oshkosh, WI

Attendees: Current members, political figures, tourism supporters and water enthusiasts.

While attendees sipped on wine or imbibed their favorite libation, a fifteen minute video played on a constant loop showcasing the major accomplishments of the Friends of the Fox over the past year. We enjoyed photo upon photo of lock restorations and local celebrations showcasing the deep cultural roots and the history surrounding the length of this river system.

The highlight of the evening was our guest speaker, Diane Keith from Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. She is an employee of the National Park Service and works promoting the Blackstone River Valley which runs South out of Massachusetts through Rhode Island. She gave a very detailed account of how their area came together in common cause and formed an organization to create a heritage corridor. This allowed them to efficiently work with various government entities to receive a National Heritage Parkway designation, improving their ability to showcase their cultural background and history while educating current residents and visitors on the historical importance and how their area grew into what it is today.

Friends of the Fox is excited to promote the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway and work toward receiving a National Park Service designation.

You'll learn much more about the Heritage Parkway in the months to follow...so stay tuned!

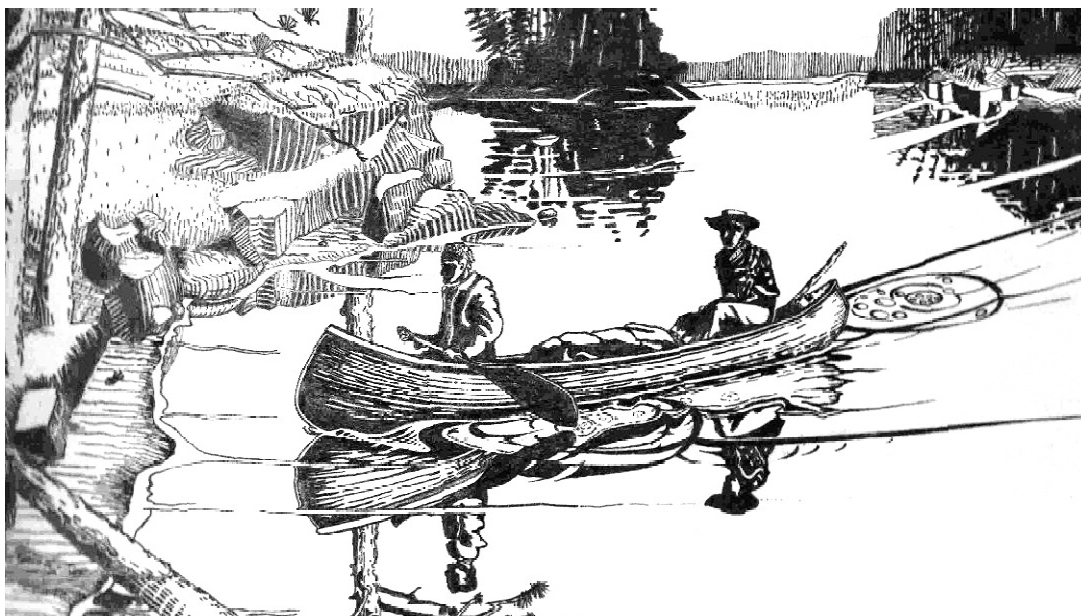
Benefits of a Heritage Parkway designation Comments received from Annual Meeting participants

- We will benefit by combining the history of the area (especially the multicultural aspects) with outdoor recreation. A few lessons--a little biking--perfect!
- Expansion along the Fox River of the natural resources of Walkways, Canoe/Kayak and motorized craft for education and recreational purposes which residents enjoy and many visitor come to Wisconsin to enjoy.
- Knowledge of the Fox/Wisconsin Waterway. There is a lot of history behind the Fox River. It gives a personal link to the area. It also builds pride in our river environment.
- We will have a corridor that bridges the past (history) with the future (recreation and economy). We will bike and canoe the Heritage Parkway and spend some money along the way while celebrating our heritage.

Water Trail Beginnings

With a gift from Neenah Paper Company, we are able to facilitate the design and creation of portages around Lock 2 and 3 on the Fox River in Appleton. Funding for the portage around Lock 1 is in progress and Lock 4 portage will be part of Phase 1 of the Residences at RiverHeath. We are excited to start this project as the first step in working toward a Water Trail. A Water Trail is a route along a river or across other bodies of water set for people using small beachable boats like kayaks, canoes, day sailers or rowboats.

We plan to ask the Fox River Navigational System Authority to approve our project at their September meeting, as the trails will be situated on their land. We will then secure contractor bids or contractor partnerships to design and build the portages. Work is projected to begin in the spring of 2009, and should be completed and ready for use by late summer. A special thank you goes to Neenah Paper Company and RiverHeath for their generous donations allowing this first project of the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway to commence.



Park 2 Park Paddle

The Northeast Wisconsin Paddlers (NEWP) with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) sponsored the 7th Annual Park-to-Park Paddle from Neenah to Appleton. With the assistance of official escorts, fellow paddlers and favorable weather, all enjoyed another safe and fun paddle event. According to the registration information, 209 participants - 87 female (45.3%) and 105 male (54.7%) with an average age of approximately 43 years took part in this years outing. A new record for the number of boats in a single “lockage” was set this year, 169 boats were counted.

Friends of the Fox sponsored the “lockage” fee and Outdoor Outlet supplied the participants with great dry bags. Local law enforcement and emergency service teams supplied both on-water escorts and on shore logistics assistance.

The day of the P2P was a perfect paddling day. Light winds came up as the paddlers entered Little Lake Butte de Mortes. The paddlers adjusted to winds by moving to the leeward side of the lake and paddling the west shore. The paddlers finished the day with food supplied by the Appleton Yacht Club.

Next years' Park-to-Park Paddle is scheduled for July 25, 2009 (information collected by Greenways)

Fox Locks Restoration Progress

Harlan Kiesow, CEO of the Fox River Navigational System Authority reports the restoration of the Fox River Locks is proceeding on schedule. The four locks in Appleton were completed in 2006 and the Cedars lock completed in 2007. By the end of 2008 the guard lock, middle lock and combined locks in Little Chute will be completed. Also, the one mile long levee rebuild in Little Chute is nearing completion and will be able to accommodate a proposed recreation trail for the Village of Little Chute. According to the current plan the five locks in Kaukauna are scheduled for restoration in 2009. This schedule is being re-evaluated because of a potential complication in rebuilding Kaukauna lock #1. The rebuild may potentially require a two year work schedule for the five locks.

The Appleton and Cedars locks were operated briefly this spring until dangerously high waters required closure. These locks were scheduled to be closed in July because of the College Avenue Bridge construction. While the locks are proposed to reopen for operation on August 1 of next year the opening may be postponed pending the bridge completion. Likewise the Little Chute locks may not be operated until the spring of 2011 because of bridge reconstruction on the Little Chute canal. The old lift bridge connecting to Island Park will be removed and replaced. While on an accelerated design and construction schedule the bridge may not be finished until the end of 2010. The three locks in DePere, Little Kaukauna and Menasha will continue to operate as usual with *this navigation season ending on October 5th*.

For questions on operations or special openings contact
Dennis Arnoldussen, Operations Manager at 920.202.1853.

Listening Session Nov.2008

Historical Society representatives from the Lower Fox River Communities will be invited to attend a "listening session" on Tues. Nov. 11th 2008 at the Atlas Mill in Appleton. Our objective is to listen and share your communities story. This history will be compiled and used in interpretative centers throughout the Heritage Parkway.

Welcome New Members

Mark Geall Chicago
(representing Riverheath development)

Tracey McCormick Appleton

Stephen Smits Combined Locks

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Dan Reinhold	Oshkosh
Karin Whealon	Fond du Lac

Newsletter Editors

Dave Peck and Brunhilde Courtney

FOF Work Plan

- **Continue to work with East Central Regional Planning Commission to write a new concept plan for the Heritage Parkway project.**
- **Continue to meet with all communities on the system to gather their riverfront plans to incorporate in the project plan.**
- **Compile a steering committee to advise on the Parkway.**
- **Begin the feasibility work required by the National Park Service when pursuing National Heritage Corridor status.**
- **Work with area municipalities and organizations to support and promote navigation.**
- **Help to maintain the permanent aquatic invasive species barrier and support development of the marine transfer station at Rapid Croche.**
- **Oversee design and creation of portage trails around the four Appleton locks.**
- **Work with area trails groups to help improve connectivity along the corridor.**
- **Encourage responsible development along the Fox River, which will enhance the Parkway Plan.**