

The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter

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

www.friendsofthefox.org

Spring / Summer 08



Discovery

President's Message

As we move through the process of rewriting and updating the concept plan for the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, we have had the pleasure of meeting with many communities. They have shared their vision for the riverfront, their plans for redevelopment, and their wishes to increase public access to the water. These meetings have served to highlight the forward movement that communities are initiating independently, and have reconfirmed the belief that now is indeed the right time to be pursuing the Heritage Parkway. Now, when so much thought and action is focusing on the river. Now, when many individual plans are being executed, when it is seen that these plans are very good on their own but can be even better when pulled together. Now, when it is acknowledged that linking the communities by promoting the river and the river way will allow for all to be mutually supported, proving that we are stronger as a whole than a part.

To continue to inspire and motivate us, and to offer a bit of guidance, we are bringing in Diane Keith from the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Massachusetts. Their Corridor is a special type of National Park- a living landscape containing thousands of natural, cultural and historic treasures and represents an example of what reaching our goal could practically look like. This is going to be an evening to celebrate the opportunities of today flowing into the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway of tomorrow. Please join us.

Thank you for being a part of our effort.
Candice Mortara

Upcoming Events

Brain Walk
6/13/08

Omro Park Pavillion
Dedication
6/28/08

FOF Timber Rattler
Buck nite
7/16/08

Park to Park Paddle
7/26/08

Please Join Us For A Special Evening
"FLOWING INTO THE FUTURE -THE HERITAGE PARKWAY"

WEDNESDAY, May 28th 6 to 9 P.M.

Fratello's Waterfront Brewery & Restaurant
1501 Arboretum Dr. Oshkosh WI 920-232-2337
Call to us to make a reservation at 920-707-2065



Larry Medema FOF Vice President with John Supple on the right as John donates to the Friends of the Fox the use of their Fratello's Waterfront Restaurant in Oshkosh. The Supples brothers John Jay and Joey have for many years been front runners in waterfront economic development on the Fox River. The Friends of the Fox is appreciative of their generous gift of their beautiful establishment.

A Summary of the 1st FOF Listening Session

The purpose of the listening sessions is to bring a cohesive vision to all the groups involved in creating the Wisconsin Fox River Heritage Parkway. The 1st session was held at the Atlas Coffee Mill and Cafe in Appleton overlooking the Fox River on Thursday April 24th 2008 from 6 to 8pm. The diverse groups attending were.

**Ellen Balthazor FOF ex board Fond du Lac
 Brunhilde Courtney FOF ex board Menasha
 Pete Hensler City of Appleton Ec Dev. Planning Dir.
 Mike Kading Town of Menasha Park and Rec. Dir.
 Greg Kiel City of Menasha Dir. Community Dev.
 Chuck Kell Village of Little Chute Admin.
 Harlen Kiesow FRNSA
 Ed Kleckner East Central Planning Commission
 Jerry Ladewig Fox River Trails Green Bay
 Candice Mortara President of Friends of the Fox
 Courtney Pate Fox Valley Rowing Club
 Diane Schbach Menash Marina Harbormaster
 Pat Spiegelberg Fox Cities Greenways
 Bob Stark FRNSA President
 Karin Whealon FOF Board Member Fond du Lac**



All participants shared their communities' projects and will be exploring ways to work together.

Fox River Navigational Authority Lower Fox River Locks Restoration Activities

A lot has happened since the state legislature passed state law 237 in 2001.

The state accepted the transfer of the lower Fox River Locks and lands from the federal government on Sept 17, 2004. Also on that date the Fox River Navigational System Authority officially came into existence and Governor Doyle made appointments as required by SS Chap. 237

- ***The Authority's mission***

This board immediately went to work as directed by Chap. 237: “ ...to rehabilitate, repair, replace, operate, and maintain the navigational system.”

The first step was to develop the management plan and strategy and submit it to the Department of Administration for approval. This plan is reviewed annually and is based on a strategy of completing the restoration process on a funds available basis. The three community foundations – Oshkosh, Fox Valley (Appleton), and Green Bay are responsible for holding the funds of the authority and the investment strategy is provided by M & I Bank. The thirty-year plan is a \$28 million-dollar project. Funding is from locally raised donated dollars, a grant from the federal government, and state and federal waterways fund match grants. The plan calls for a reserve of \$10 million dollars at the end of thirty years. This reserve ensures that there is funding for continued operation past the original 30-year plan period.

- ***Timeline***

2005 - A \$16,000 project with Oudenhoven Construction Company to stabilize and protect the lock structures and machinery from further deterioration and damage pending repairs. This work was done at the five Kaukauna locks and the Combined lock.

2006 - A \$2,225,000 project with CR Meyer Construction Company to restore the four Appleton locks to operable condition. That project was completed and demonstrated to the public in May of 2007.

2007 - A \$700,000 project with CR Meyer Construction Company to restore the Cedars Lock to operable condition.

2007/2008 - A \$650,000 project with Janke Construction Company to repair and restore the nearly mile-long levee through Little Chute. The project will remove trees that are damaging the integrity of the levee, repair the damage to the levee, provide a basis for the establishment of a hiking path along the levee in cooperation with the village of Little Chute parks department, and establish fish, Eagle and Osprey habitat in cooperation with the WDNR.

2008 - A \$2,100,000 project with CR Meyer Construction Company to restore the Little Chute Guard Lock, Little Chute Lock and Little Chute Combined Locks. Operation is anticipated in 2010 after the Mill Street Bridge re-construction is completed.

2009 - The Authority plan calls for the restoration of the five Kaukauna locks with operation in 2010.

• 2008 Lock Operations

An Operational schedule for the Lower Fox locks can be found on the 5th page of this newsletter.

In Appleton, projects that impact the operation of the locks include: The Olde Oneida Street bridge project is completed, the Lawe Street bridge will be completed before the 2008 navigation season. Canadian National Railroad Bridge up-dating was completed in 2007 according to a CN spokesman. Work on the College Avenue Bridge will curtail operation of the Appleton locks beginning mid-July of the 2008 navigation season in cooperation with the city of Appleton and WDOT.

In addition to the funds being invested in the lower Fox River Locks by the FRNSA, the neighboring Counties, Cities, Communities, the Army Corps of Engineers and a private company, the Canadian National Railroad, are all making significant investments in their infrastructure along the river. All of their projects along the river system complement the FRNSA project. The Authority is working to partner with these and others to maximize for them their benefit of this restored and operating system of locks and navigation.

Submitted by Bob Stark, President of FRNSA

The Fox River Navigational System Authority is giving notice to all navigational interests that three Fox River locks will be open for the recreational navigational season at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 9, 2008. The operational schedule is:

Menasha & DePere Locks (Seven day operation)

Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Friday - Sunday &

Holidays 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Little Kaukauna Lock (Five day operation)

Thursday – Monday 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday Closed

**Direct Inquiries to
Harlan Kiesow CEO
FRNSA
Kaukauna Office
920-759-9833**

The four locks in Appleton and the Cedars Lock will operate for an abbreviated 2008 navigation season because of College Avenue Bridge construction in the City of Appleton. The dates are May 23rd through July 6th. The operation schedule is:

Appleton Locks 1-4 (Three day operation)

Friday – Sunday

Holidays Noon – 8 p.m. Alternating hourly up and down stream travel starting at noon up stream.

Cedars Lock (Three day operation)

Friday – Sunday

Holidays Noon – 8 p.m.

All other locks are closed for the season.

Seasonal Lockage Permit	\$120.00
Daily Transit Permit	
26 feet and over	\$12.00
Under 26 feet	\$6.00

The basic operational season will close on October 5, 2008.

AIS Committee Report

The AIS Committee was organized in November of 2005 by FOF and the Fox River Navigational Authority to develop a management plan to transfer boats over the Rapide Croche Lock. This is being done because we want to prevent the spread of invasive species to Lake Winnebago and surrounding waters. Our transfer plan will include inspection, removal of AIS, disinfection and the transfer of boats over Rapide Croche. During the development of our plan the DNR has requested that we conduct public forums to seek input into the transfer plan. We have conducted these public forums in Green Bay, Appleton, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac and Winneconne. The AIS Committee has reviewed the public input from these forum and has made changes to the transfer plan where appropriate. Our next step will include the development of a detailed engineering plan of the transfer station at Rapide Croche and the development of a contingency plan if a breach in the system's operation is detected. After all of this has been conducted we will submit our management plan to the DNR for approval before starting construction. Meanwhile, fundraising will continue to be done to raise around 2.8 million dollars for the Transfer Station.

Submitted by William Bush, AIS Committee Chairman.

WINDMILL BOARD VOTES UNANIMOUSLY TO BUILD ON ISLAND PARK

By Robin Dekker, Executive Director for the Little Chute Windmill Project

At their annual meeting last December, the Little Chute Windmill, Inc. board of directors voted unanimously to build their 125-foot tall authentic Dutch windmill and visitor center on Island Park on the Fox River. This decision followed a week of major developments for the Windmill Project, including a \$500,000 investment in the project by the Village of Little Chute and an announcement by U.S. Representative Steve Kagen committing federal funding for replacement of the Mill Street lift bridge spanning the canal to Island Park. The Island Park location opens up many exciting opportunities. The Windmill will provide a venue to highlight the history and heritage of the Fox River as it pertains to Dutch settlement, meshing perfectly with efforts to promote the Fox River as a heritage corridor. Plans to increase access and recreational opportunities on the riverfront will be enhanced by the cultural opportunities provided as part of the mission of the Windmill Project. The Windmill, especially in combination with the locks and Little Chute's three riverfront parks, is expected to have a significant economic impact on Little Chute and the region. Planning will continue for construction of the Little Chute Windmill and Van Asten Visitor Center on Island Park and a specific timetable set forth in the coming months. In timing with the re-opening of the locks and construction of the new Mil Street lift bridge, the Windmill will be ordered from the Netherlands this summer, construction of the visitor center will begin in the spring of 2009 and the facility will be open in the spring of 2010.

Little Chute Windmill, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to raising \$2.5 million to build an authentic 125 foot tall Dutch windmill in Little Chute to celebrate the Dutch heritage of Northeast Wisconsin. To date, \$2.1 million towards the goal has been raised. Did you know?

Out of an estimated population of 5.5 million in Wisconsin, approximately 800,000 or 15% of its residents have a Dutch surname or can point to a family lineage traceable to the Dutch heritage.

New Board Member

SUE SCHRAMFPER, CPA

Sue Schrampfer is a seasoned professional with over 25 years of corporate business experience. Sue started her career back in the 1980's with one of the big accounting firms, Deloitte & Touche but most recently has fine tuned her financial expertise with Wisconsin Financial Group as a Wealth Strategist. She enjoys helping other people maximize the efficiency of their investments while protecting their families' future.

Sue's interests include writing (she's a published author), key note speaking (personal growth and development), biking and hiking. When not spending time with her two daughters, Sue likes to escape to her home in Door County to relax and enjoy nature.

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