

The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter



Discovery

Friends of the Fox P.O. Box 741, Appleton, WI 54912-0741
friendsofthefox.org

Fall 2014

Year End Annual Renewal Letter

Dear Friends of the Fox Members and Supporters,

Friends of the Fox would like to thank you for your generous support in 2014! The accomplishments we have achieved to date would not have been realized without your help. In the past year, the committed group of volunteers serving Friends of the Fox has generously donated their time and talents, as we have supported the following projects and organizations:

- ♦ **Hosted an Annual Meeting at Riverview Gardens** providing information to members regarding the lock restoration project.
- ♦ **Provided buoy placement and removal of buoys with a new buoy barge** between Appleton Lock 4 going through Cedars Lock in Little Chute.
- ♦ **FOF has continued input with the Rapide Croche haul over committee** as they work to take the next steps required to implement the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) barrier, at the Rapide Croche Transfer Station.
- ♦ **We have prepared a Chart Book for boaters** that provides trip planning information through the re-opened locks, from Lake Winnebago to Little Chute. We are pleased to have received a grant, generously donated by the **Bemis Corporation**, that will allow us to publish a second edition of the chart book which will extend from Lake Winnebago to the bay of Green Bay.
- ♦ **FOF has partnered with municipalities and other non-profit organizations** in all the above endeavors, and will continue to do so in support of the Fox River waterway projects.
- ♦ **Partnered with Fox River Environmental Education Alliance (FREEA)**, as Friends of the Fox has moved our office and meeting place to the FREEA Monte Alverno site, to provide support to FREEA. We feel this will also allow FOF more opportunities to interact with local river oriented groups.
- ♦ **Partnered closely with Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway**, focusing on navigation through the entire lower Fox River, an integral part of the vision of FOF. We also continue to support the restoration of the Lock House at Little Chute.
- ♦ **We have supported Fox River Navigational System Authority** as they continue to make great strides in rehabilitating more of the five Kaukauna locks.

We are also accepting contributions to the **Unlock the Fox** fund at the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, and the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. All donations so designated for that fund will be specifically dedicated to restoration work on the remaining locks, and are tax deductible.

Friends of the Fox would like to thank you for your generous support in 2014!

Our organization has worked enthusiastically to renovate and regenerate our precious Fox River with our time, resources and finances. We would like to share that enthusiasm with you, as we invite you to once again partner with us during our **2015 Annual Dues Renewal**. Non-designated donations or membership dues will be used by Friends of the Fox to support and advocate projects like those mentioned above, allowing us to continue improving water recreation on the Winnebago pool lakes and the lower Fox River. We desire your continued support for the coming year, and look forward to partnering with you as we work toward our vision. We need your help. **Please fill out and return the attached dues form on the back of this newsletter, along with your tax-deductible commitment of support.**

Thank you!

Written by Steve Lockhart



Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Paddle

13th Annual Appleton Locks Paddle Highlights



wooden gates.

There must be some magic left in that old iron. This was the fifth year that North East Wisconsin Paddlers and Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway offered the locks trip as part of the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Paddle series. Each year the number of participants continually grows.

For the whole 2014 series of eight paddles, we had 613 event participants. Adjusting for those who did multiple events, we come up with 484 unique



Living history, unseasonable warmth and the promise of eagles - all trimmed in fall color - made for a perfect combination to draw a crowd to the last Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Paddle of the season.

194 paddlers took to their kayaks, canoes and stand-up boards to tour the four Appleton locks Saturday, Sept. 27. Everyone launched from Appleton's Lutz Park and landed just over two hours later, 6.5 miles downstream at Kimberly's Sunset Point Park.

Along the way four lockages, courtesy of the Fox River Navigational System Authority, required sardine-like proximity for the 130 paddle craft, two 10-person voyageur canoes, and safety patrol boats from the Outagamie County Sheriff's Department and Appleton Fire Department.

The lock tender opened the valves and the water drained quickly, lowering us the six feet or so that in pioneer times would have been a rocky rapids. The lower Fox River drops about 170 feet in all from Lake Winnebago to Green Bay.

During July's Park-to-Park paddle, the locks drew a lot of attention due to the need to portage around the disabled Menasha lock, which has since been repaired. During the Locks Paddle, the four locks operated flawlessly, to zero fanfare.

Once the water level is equalized with the river downstream, the tender grips a steel rod and walks around and around the large gear assembly that opens the lock's

individuals. I'm especially pleased to say that 307 of those were first-timers for our events, and 47 were younger than 16 years of age. It is wonderful seeing the youth participate!

I was traveling in one of the voyageurs, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, but loaned out to us for several paddles. Before I knew it, we were racing Mark Gehrke's voyageur-for-hire, the good ship Nature Current, for the landing in Kimberly. The boats of many styles and colors landed at the concrete boat ramp. As always, paddlers helped each other haul boats and gear; then loaded up and drove off back to their lives.


Article by David Horst



Navigation on the Fox River

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2009-2014 Fox Locks General Navigation Season Statistics

2014	MENASHA	LITTLE KAUKAUNA	DEPERE	EUREKA LOCK	APPLETON (LOCKS 1-4)	CEDARS LOCK	2014 TOTALS
Lockages	746	688	1,210		70	40	Lockages: 2,754
Crafts	1,063	1,044	1,850		88	52	Crafts: 4,097
Passengers	3,726	4,169	7,944		377	183	Passengers: 16,399
Canoe & Kayak	4	6	6		134	0	Passengers: 150
2013							2013 TOTALS
Lockages	1,412	686	1,183	454	128	58	Lockages: 3,921
Crafts	1,920	975	1,175		181	73	Crafts: 4,954
Passengers	8,314	3,938	7,364	1,630	794	313	Passengers: 22,353
Canoe & Kayak	218	6	117		111	0	Passengers: 452
2012							2012 TOTALS
Lockages	1,575	849	1,271	261	116	65	Lockages: 4,137
Crafts	2,488	1,169	1,983		186	95	Crafts: 5,921
Passengers	9,435	4,351	8,301	820	778	413	Passengers: 24,118
Canoe & Kayak	152	15	82		147	12	Passengers: 408
2011							2011 TOTALS
Lockages	1,396	738	1,152		68	43	Lockages: 3,377
Crafts	2,167	1,027	1,723		107	71	Crafts: 5,095
Passengers	8,255	4,351	6,003		369	255	Passengers: 19,233
Canoe & Kayak	151	29	51		119	7	Passengers: 357
2010							2010 TOTALS
Lockages	1,318	727	1,252				Lockages: 3,297
Crafts	2,055	1,106	2,062				Crafts: 5,223
Passengers	7,395	4,821	8,087				Passengers: 20,303
2009							2009 TOTALS
Lockages	1,563	934	1,504				Lockages: 4,001
Crafts	2,252	1,470	2,329				Crafts: 6,051
Passengers	8,837	5,761	8,665				Passengers: 23,263

Information Provided By: Fox River Navigational System Authority

1008 Augustine Street

Kaukauna, WI 54130 Phone: 920-759-9833

For More Information: www.foxriverlocks.org



Rapide Croche Transfer Station

Proposed Rapide Croche Transfer Station ~ News Release



PROPOSED BOAT TRANSFER STATION AT RAPIDE CROCHE TO OPEN WATERWAY FOR BOATERS FROM GREEN BAY TO LAKE WINNEBAGO

Station Offers Best Science Available for Keeping Aquatic Invasive Species Out of Lower Fox and Winnebago Pool Lakes, While Increasing Boater Compliance

KAUKAUNA, Wis., (November 14, 2014)

The Fox River Navigational System Authority (FRNSA) is announcing plans to build a boat transfer and cleansing station at Rapide Croche, to open the waterway from Green Bay to the Winnebago Pool Lakes for commerce and recreational boating. Planned for 2017, the proposed boat transfer station will greatly diminish the current threat of aquatic invasive species (AIS) from impacting some of Wisconsin's most valued fisheries. It also enables boaters to be compliant in cleaning their boats and equipment, while protecting the waters from harmful hitchhikers.

The boat transfer system works by lifting boats into the transfer station, where they are high pressure-washed with 110-degree water to dislodge any organisms adhering to the hull, and then lowered into a 112-degree water cleansing chamber for ten minutes, where engines and systems will be operated and flushed before being placed back into the Lower Fox upstream of the transfer station. Studies completed by Dr. Bart De Stasio, at Lawrence University, concluded that the Rapide Croche boat cleansing process meets performance standards, can cleanse watercraft in a minimum amount of time and is an efficient, effective and safe way to keep AIS out of the Lower Fox and Winnebago Pool Lakes.

"This is the best science available for preserving and protecting our waters from invasive hitchhikers," said Bob Stark, chief operating officer at FRNSA. "We can effectively protect the river system, while allowing navigation through an historic river and canal system."

Sixteen of the 17 locks on the Lower Fox have been, or

will be refurbished by 2015. The Rapide Croche lock must remain closed in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 237, which requires a solid barrier be in place to prevent sea lamprey and other AIS from moving upstream. Without the boat transfer station, the greatest risk for AIS to enter the Lower Fox currently comes from boats, trailers, and equipment that are moved from place to place, and primarily from anglers who fish on the Great Lakes. There are more than 100 boat landings for boaters to enter the Pool Lakes. When the boat transfer station is completed, boaters will be able to trailer to Rapide Croche and have FRNSA's trained staff do the cleansing for them.

Organizations like Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers recommend a rigorous cleansing process before boaters trailer to a new location. It is recommended that boaters remove all visible mud, plants, and fish from their boats as well as clean and dry anything that has come in contact with water. The entire process can take up to five days to be completely safe. Due to the multi-faceted cleansing process and the length of the process, compliance is very low.

Friends of the Fox, a not-for-profit advocacy group, representing the voice of the general public regarding the future of the Fox River System, is partnering with FRNSA to get the word out to the general public.

"We recognize that compliance for boaters to properly clean their boats, trailers and equipment before transferring their boat is extremely difficult, because it requires a lengthy, cumbersome process," says Dave Peck, board president of Friends of the Fox. "We support the building of the boat transfer and cleansing station, and believe Rapide Croche is an effective and safe alternative solution."

FRNSA's cleansing method will be strictly monitored and may serve as a prototype, which with modification, could be installed at strategic points around the Winnebago Pool Lakes system.

"Lake Winnebago and its pool lakes are home to some of the Midwest's finest fisheries," added Stark.

"Protecting their environmental resources are the sole reason for the years of AIS monitoring, technical studies, planning and public input that have gone into this proposal."

The Rapide Croche Boat Transfer and Cleansing Station will include an AIS education center and observation deck, to allow visitors to watch and learn more about the process of AIS prevention.

For additional information visit:

www.FoxLocks.org and click Rapide Croche Transfer Station



Hmong Report Completed

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway and Catalyst Consulting entered into a contract in the summer of 2013 to carry out a research project known as *Hmong Voices*, the purpose of which was to explore the relationships between Hmong people and the Fox River in the Oshkosh, Appleton, and Green Bay areas.

The Parkway is pleased to announce the study on the Hmong and their interaction with the river, has been completed.

Hmong people are clearly an important part of the landscape of the Fox Valley, while the landscape of the Fox Valley has likewise become an important element of Hmong life in this area. The completed report has shed additional light on the many interesting and complex dimensions of these relationships, for the benefit of Fox River ecosystems and all who inhabit its bioregion, including the Hmong with their deep connections to nature, and interesting experience with the river. There is much that can be learned from Hmong people, and much that they can learn about the Fox River system and others who interact with them.

This project was supported in part by the River Alliance of Wisconsin's Urban Rivers Program

For Additional Information Please Contact:
mortara@heritageparkway.org

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

Bemis Company Foundation

*Thank you for your generous grant to allow us to publish a second
edition of the Chart Book which will extend from
Lake Winnebago to the bay of Green Bay*

FRNSA Courtesy Tours and Lockages

Lock	Tours	Guests
Menasha	18	247
Appleton Locks 1-4	5	71
Cedars	1	17
Rapide Croche	1	14
*De Pere	27	625
Total	52	974
* Includes 1 lockage & 12 passengers		
Courtesy Lockages		
Group	Lockages	Guests
Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway	12	49
Law Enforcement	42	86
Kayaks	4	151

This is a list of tours and lockages provided as a public service by the Fox River Navigational System Authority staff (FRNSA) during the 2014 boating season. FRNSA appreciates the public's interest and participation using and learning the operation of our historic lock system. FRNSA very much look forward to even more interaction next season!

**Don't Forget to Give Them A
Big Thank-You When You See
Them For All They Are Doing For
Our Beloved Fox River!**

**For More Information Contact FRNSA:
920-759-9833**

Parkway Projects

Lock House at Little Chute Prepares for Winter



Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (Parkway) is delighted to have completed the stripping and refinishing of all the Lock House at Little Chute windows. What a job it was! No one anticipated the hours upon hours this project would

take. The great news is it was totally done by volunteers!!! All of the volunteers can now sit back with a sigh of relief and bask in the beauty of the wood windows.

Half of the windows have been glazed and are back home and anxiously awaiting the moment they are placed back into their frames, and we can once again view the beautiful Fox River. The second half of the windows are being glazed at this time and will be home soon.

A stumbling block arose with the second batch of windows. The Parkway discovered there was not enough antique glass to complete their restoration. Amazingly enough, they found a portion of the glass that was needed from a home being refurbished in the Milwaukee area. The best part was....they donated it all to the Parkway!!! The Parkway extends a GREAT BIG thank you!!! Now, all they need are 10 panes of antique glass measuring 26" x 28" to complete the project. They are working toward the goal of having all of the windows in their frames by the end of November. If you have any antique glass this size, please contact them.

All of the radiators have been removed and are being sanded and repainted. Once they are re-installed the gas will be turned on and FINALLY they will have a home with some toasty heat in it...just in time for



Lock House Interior Furnishings

the holidays!

The Parkway is excited to report that they have been able to start collecting some of the furnishings for the house. They have had a kitchen table, a Hoosier cabinet, a tin cake/bread box and a metal bed

donated to them. How awesome is that???

They also obtained a gorgeous 1930's refrigerator that has been

restored, as well as a wonderful period stove. They are so ecstatic to see how everyone is pulling together to get this home back to its historical period. It is so exciting to watch the progress!!! The Parkway would like to thank everyone for all their help and donations! If you have any period objects from the 1920's-1930's that you could donate, please contact them. They would be thrilled to accept them, as well as give you a donation receipt for your taxes!!

With all of the house furnishings being donated, it actually is beginning to feel like Christmas. Once the heat and plumbing are completed, a person could actually spend a night and watch for Santa!!! Well, maybe???

Please consider a donation of time or finances after the holiday season.

Article by Shari Manney

For More Information or to Donate to the Project:

<http://www.heritageparkway.org/riverfront-initiatives/lock-house-renovation/>

office@heritageparkway.org heritageparkway.org

Parkway Projects

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Purchase Gifts As You Contribute to the Parkway

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway - 280 miles, 2 rivers, 1 great river route! All in the great state of Wisconsin. The Parkway wants to help you celebrate, highlight, and *fall in love with these rivers*, just like they have.

The Parkway has partnered with some very talented photographers and would like to share their work with you. Run to your computer and take a look at the new photo gallery that offers you some special gifts for your home this holiday season, as well as all year round. There are so many choices to pick from: flowing rivers, bridges, urbanism, historic, historic maps, birds, landscapes, eagles, sunrises and sunsets as well as paddle photos. You will definitely find something for everyone's taste within their gallery of photos. Pick your favorite photos, order it framed for your wall or table....in a canvas wrapped print....on a magnet....playing cards....photo book or mug. After you pick your favorite print or two, click on checkout and it will take you to the framing and gift center. Enjoy!

To Purchase Some Absolutely Gorgeous One-Of-A-Kind Christmas/Gift Photos and Keepsakes:
<http://heritageparkway.smugmug.com/> Questions Call: 920707-2965



The Parkway Thanks The Photographers Who Are Responsible for the New Photo Gallery:

Craig Eggleston, Mark Hoffman, Troy Jones, Randy McSorley, Kyle Mortara,
Steve Wagner and Tom Young
(List in Alphabetical Order)

**Parkway
Opens
Online
Bookstore**

The Parkway is also pleased to announce that they have also opened an online bookstore so that you may enjoy some interesting reading on historic topics, as well as supporting the Parkway. This is another wonderful opportunity to keep the work on our rivers moving forward! Please consider supporting them today as you purchase gifts for the holidays!!

To Purchase A Book (That will make a difference)
<http://astore.amazon.com/foxwiherpar-20>



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
Open
Immediately**
**Annual Year End Renewal
Letter Is On Front Page**
(Use the Form Below to Submit)



Enclosed Are My Membership Dues to Friends of the Fox

Sustaining Donor: \$30 _____ Gold Donor: \$50 _____ Platinum Donor: \$100 _____

***Additional Donation _____

**If You are Receiving This Newsletter and Are Not a Member,
Please Consider Joining by filling out form, enclosing dues and mailing to the below
address.**

Friends of the Fox PO 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.

**IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER AND ARE NOT A MEMBER,
PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING AT: www.friendsofthefox.org Tab: How To Join OR CALL: 920-707-2065**