

The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter

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April 2006



Discovery

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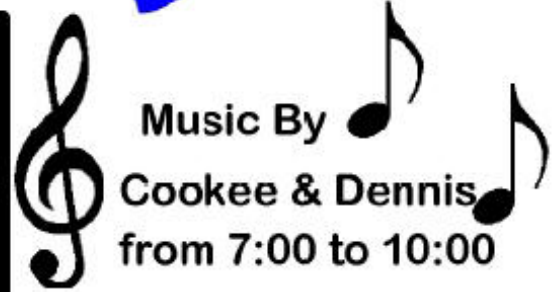
Board
Information

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

The Friends of the Fox
Presents "RIVER RHYTHM"
April 29th 2006
Waverly Beach
N8770 Fire Lane 1
Menasha WI 54952
920-733-9721
Doors open 5:00 pm
Music 7:00 to 10:00 pm
Annual Meeting 5:30 to 6:00
Community Planners Displays



COME AND ENJOY

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Celebrate the great progress on rebuilding the Locks

Meet other waterway enthusiasts

Learn what the Construction Crews are doing

Meet the new Friends of the Fox Board

Take part in creating the Fox River Heritage Parkway

River Tales as told by Rosemary Catlin Bruehl

Rosemary lived in the railroad house on the Fox River until she married. The house was located across the river from the Appleton Yacht Club and just upstream from the Memorial St. bridge. Then, she and her husband Richard moved to Lakeshore Dr. This makes Rosemary one of the oldest individuals that have lived their entire life on the Fox River.

Spring was an extra ordinary season. I would pick asparagus and sell it to area grocery stores. Of course I was the only one in the family who knew where all the patches were located.

The wild flowers decorated the river-sides with yellow and purple violets, my favorites. However the May flowers carried a scent above all the perfumes you could purchase. Magnificent!! We butchered our chickens and many ran into the water so my dad George had to hold the chicken under the water until it stopped pulsating. May of our chickens wandered onto the railroad tracks so if a train went by we had chicken for supper.

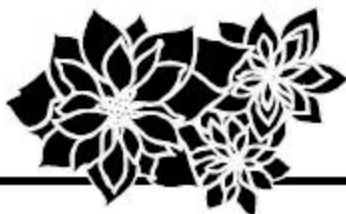
The "Boat Club Picnic" was the event of the year. It was held at Gmeiner Grove. Everyone came via small power boats carrying the entire family and their picnic baskets. All the children loved this event because the pop and ice cream was FREE. Rosemary's mother always enjoyed running the Fat Ladies Race. There was a lot of beer drinking, but everyone always had a wonderful time.

Happy Spring

Written by Brunhilde Buechel Courtney

Farewell To A Friend

Oliver Smith, an avid supporter of the Friends of the Fox for many years, passed away September 17, 2005. He was our political link to Madison, a gentle soft spoken man with great influence. Oliver will be sadly missed by Pat his wife, and son Pierce, along with our entire board. When he could not attend meetings he would call for a report. And, if things were not going well he would offer great advice. He will engineer our projects from the heavens.



Rest in Peace Oliver
Your friends

2006 Annual Meeting Has New Theme – *River Rhythm*

You can sense the excitement and see the change that is happening along the lower Fox River! You can feel the new rhythm as “old gems are polished and new activity and destination gems are added to the necklace” of our Fox River System Waterway.

What’s happening? **LOTS!** Join us for this year’s meeting. It’ll be different from the others. We’ll have our official meeting of course, but we’ve added live entertainment, so bring the family for an evening of fun and excitement. You will also be able to win some money in our 50/50 raffle. Win prizes... how about your choice of two summer boat slips on the river in Green Bay, a weekend at a Sturgeon Bay resort, a trolling motor, a kayak, and a VHF marine radio and many more items. All raffles will be given away at our Annual Meeting at Waverly Beach!

Last September the work began on the locks in Kaukauna to stabilize them and to prevent further deterioration to make it easier to repair them. In the following months, contractors prepared proposals to repair the four Appleton locks during 2006. C. R. Meyer Construction Company of Oshkosh was awarded the \$2,080,000 contract to complete that work this year. They will begin by removing the old gates and valve assemblies. The gates will be measured and re-constructed using new treated timbers that should last 30 years. The mechanical assemblies will be removed and refurbished and modernized with the installation of new types of bearings so that they will last longer and work better when they are reinstalled this summer. Lock canals and lock chambers will be cleaned of debris and silt. The stone lock walls will get a new treatment of tuck pointing and walkways and electrical lighting will be repaired. New lock tender shacks will replace the metal shacks and be historically correct.

There is a renewed energy within the Friends of the Fox. I am so proud of past our president Doug Dobbe and want to thank him for his leadership! We have new faces on our board of directors. There is a renewed excitement and purpose... **feel the rhythm**... as these dedicated folks make a difference for our landmark heritage Fox Locks. These folks are not standing still. I have challenged my board of directors to pick a project area and to get involved, and they have! We have added a new board position, a second vice president. Larry Medema has been elected to that position. This new position has allowed us to divide the management of our organization and to keep us efficient. Why do we need this? This’ll blow your mind... check out this list of activities...

Fundraising... we can get the locks done in 3 – 4 years if we finish raising the needed funds; and we are well on our way! The Fox Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau just proved their belief in the project by awarding \$250,000 to the project.

- Communications... we have groups active with our website www.friendsofthefox.org, newsletter, mailings, boat shows, and news releases.
- River Vitality... State Heritage Parkway... we have a group working with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to compile information on how the river communities see their section of river use developing as the focus of the river changes from being the back door to our front yard. It is exciting, and you can see some of these plans at the annual meeting expo!
- Aquatic Invasive Species and boat transfer at Rapide Croche... we have a group dedicated to preventing the spread of AIS into our waterway. This group is also charged with developing a plan for the boat transfer at Rapide Croche.
- Promoting tourism... we have a group actively developing a plan for Kiosks and a Passport activity that will encourage visiting the historic sites between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay. This is an educational activity in conjunction with the Outagamie County Historical Society.



**A word
with Bob
Stark**



Welcome New Members

Tom Flader Fond du Lac
Daniel Homuth Fond du Lac
David Noe Fond du Lac
Ron and Marilyn Repp Fond du Lac
Nancy Steinke Fond du Lac
Carol Witt Fond du Lac
Wayne Happel Brookfield
Carl and Leona Stapel Menasha
Mike McMonigal Berlin
Dan and Peggy Benjamin Larson
Wally Bergstrom Menasha
Lisa Coenen Hortonville
Kathy Groves Fremont
Judy Johnson Fremont
Sherri Miller Winneconne
Mark Salva Depere
Mike Schreiber Fremont
Michelle Schulz Fremont
Brian and Karen Tuttle Kimberly
Steven Heindel Suamico
Kevin Rew Eureka

FOF Board Changes and Grows

The Friends of the Fox is pleased to welcome a new board member who brings a valuable new perspective to our board. **Brian Groves** is an active boating enthusiast who lives on the water in Winneconne. He is the current president of the Tri County Power Boat Alliance and an advisory board member of CAP Services. The TCPBA has an excellent working relationship with both the DNR and the Sheriff's department.

2006 FOF Board of Directors

<i>Executive Committee</i>			
Robert Stark <i>President</i>	Appleton	Richard Abb	Appleton
William Bush <i>Vice President</i>	Neenah	Bob Aykens	Menasha
Larry Medema <i>2nd Vice President</i>	Appleton	Brian Groves	Winneconne
Nora Langolf <i>Treasurer</i>	Chilton	Barry James	Neenah
Brunhilde Courtney <i>Executive Board Member</i>	Menasha	Edward J. Kleckner	Menasha
Ellen Balthazor <i>Executive Board Member</i>	Fond du Lac	Steve Lockhart	Appleton
		Jackson Medley	Oshkosh
		Jack Nelson	Oshkosh
		Dave Peck	Appleton
		Stacey Sparks	Menasha
		Thomas J. Sitter	Oshkosh
		Nile Sweet	Oshkosh
		Karin Whealon	Fond du Lac