

The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter

Friends of the Fox Mailing: P.O. Box 741, Appleton, WI 54912-0741

Winter 2009



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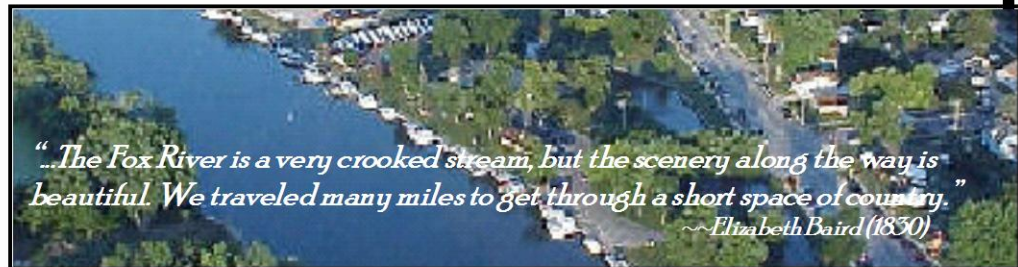
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2009 was an extremely productive year for Friends of the Fox! We are excited and looking forward to 2010 at being no less noteworthy! We are hitting the ground running and will be:

- Following up with our Congressional Representatives to ensure forward progress on the **Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway** designation
- Moving to construction of Phase II of our **Water Trail Portage Project** development
- Organizing and implementing river clean-ups
- Advocating for navigational safety
- Co-sponsoring the **Fox River Voyage 2010**
- Advocating and assisting in the **Appleton Trestle Trail Project**
- Assisting in the survey preparation for **Rapid Croche**

With those ambitious goals being set, I want to hear from our FOF members on two issues:

1. *Would you like FOF to put time into an environmental advocacy project this year? (If so, what is the greatest need in your view and would you like to help?)*
2. *Would you like FOF to contribute more funds to the final phase of lock restoration? (If we give \$250,000 from our membership we will be granted naming rights for one lock. You have generously given \$187,500 through the years toward this goal – would you like to complete this challenge?)*

We look forward to receiving your views on the above questions. Let us know what you think..Please go to our website and email us your answers:

www.friendsofthefox.org
Tab: Contact Us Link: Email Us!

Candice Mortara President,
Friends of the Fox

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway

HERITAGE PARKWAY LEGISLATIVE NEWS UPDATE

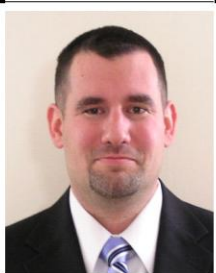


Senator Kohl is sponsoring legislation to designate the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (FWHP) as a National Heritage Area. Senator Fenigold, Congressman Kagan, Congressman Petri, Congressman Kind and Congressman Baldwin are co-sponsoring the bill.

The draft legislation has been put into bill format by the Legislative Council and is now in the process of being approved by the co-sponsors.

While we are waiting for this legislation, work is still being done to set up the structure of the Parkway. John Forster, with help from Tom Baron, Amy Cotrell, and Candice Mortara have completed the necessary processes and the application for filing for the IRS 501 (c)(3) exemption for the FWHP board. Since this application normally requires legal representation to prepare, this volunteer group not only provided cost savings for the Parkway board, but more importantly developed better processes which will provide faster results for Parkway development.

Anyone wishing to support or receive more information on the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (FWHP), may contact Friends of the Fox at 920-707-2065.



Friends of the Fox Welcomes our Newest Board Member – Tom Baron

Tom Baron is a Planner with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. He earned a B.A. in Urban and Regional Studies with an emphasis in Urban Planning from University of Wisconsin at Green Bay. Tom is a member of Appleton's Riverfront Advocacy and Promotion Group (RAPG). He is currently working on the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway and serves on the project's Executive Board.

We Welcome Tom to our Board of Directors and look forward to working with him!

History

DREAMING OF A RIVER HIGHWAY

In the 1830s, the Fox River Valley was beginning to develop economically. From the river's banks, miles of wheat fields stretched out along the Central Plain, and logging operations carried oak and pine from the forests. At this time, these products traveled the long journey down the Mississippi and eastward from New Orleans. For industrialists and farmers, this method was costly and time consuming.

The success of the Erie Canal in 1825 roused interest in developing the Fox-Wisconsin corridor as a direct water highway to the west. It would connect two major bodies of water, the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. Engineers predicted that the success of this project would make Green Bay a major United States port, rivaling Chicago.

In 1837, the Portage Canal Company was formed and work began connecting the two rivers. For the rest of the Fox, the U.S. Corps of Engineers recommended a slack-water system. A land grant was au-

thorized for the project in 1846, and work began on the locks and dams. After the project was handed over to the state, the Fox and Wisconsin Improvement Company was incorporated, and by 1856 the nine locks were completed along the river. To commemorate the event, the first

over as a primary means of travel. In the end, the Fox-Wisconsin waterway was simply unable to compete with the canals in the Chicago area or with the dependability of the railroads.

In 1951, the U.S. Corps of Engineers closed the Upper Fox to industrial navigation, and in 1983, the entire system was shut down for commercial traffic. After 130 years, the dream of the Fox-Wisconsin industrial water highway was finally laid to rest.

After several years of inactivity, the locks are now being restored, making the Fox River locks one of only two remaining hand-operated lock systems in the United States. While the Fox River will never be a great industrial route, it will remain an important environmental and recreational resource in Wisconsin.



Steamboat going through Canal Lock, Appleton, WI;
Postcard 1910 Fox Valley Memory
Courtesy of Rose Marie DeBruin

steamboat, the *Aquila* traveled the entire distance of the Fox-Wisconsin system.

From the 1850s to the 1930s, regular steamboat travel continued on the Fox River, with the total tonnage remaining between 150,000 and 300,000. Throughout this time, however, the corridor faced many chal-

FRIENDS OF THE FOX CONTRIBUTES TO OUR COMMUNITY

It is our goal to make a difference in the community in which we live.

We have worked hard to gather financial contributions from Neenah Paper, RiverHeath, Mielke Foundation and Oshkosh Rotary combined with inkind contributions from Fox Cities Greenways and Fox River Navigational Authority to complete Phase I of the Water Trail Portage Project totaling \$22,900.00.

OUR COMMUNITY + WORKING TOGETHER = GOALS ACCOMPLISHED!!!!

Community Projects

CONTINUED PROGRESS ON THE LITTLE CHUTE WINDMILL

Little Chute Windmill, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating Dutch heritage by building an authentic Dutch windmill and visitor center in downtown Little Chute is continuing toward their goal. The Little Chute Windmill is an authentic 1850's design from the province of North Brabant in the Netherlands.

The purpose of the **Van Asten Visitor Center** is to interpret the history and legacy of Dutch settlement in northeast Wisconsin, and to be a hub of information for the community of Little Chute.

On the first floor you will find...

- A **Museum** on the Dutch his-



Architectural design: Thomas Miron, Quantic Architecture, LLC
Architectural rendering courtesy of Robert Ulrich, © 2009

tory of Little Chute and the region, implemented in partnership with the Little Chute Historical Society.

- The **Van Dyn Hoven Media Room**, where visitors will watch a short film on the

building of the windmill and history of Little Chute.

- A **Gift Shop** selling various souvenir items, including bags of flour ground in the windmill.
 - An **Information Desk**, sitting area and restroom facilities.
- On the second floor you will find...**

- The **Little Chute Historical Society Workspace**.
- The **Windmill Office**, archive and storage space.

Little Chute Windmill, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising \$2.8 million to build an authentic 100-foot tall Dutch windmill in Little Chute.

*If you are interested in supporting the Windmill Project please visit:
www.littlechutewindmill.org*

**FREE
EVENT**

Paper Discovery Center Fox River Water Quality

Improving Fox River water quality will require work to reduce nutrients and sediment. A soon to issue report will set water quality goals and establish limits from various sources.

Erin Hanson from Wisconsin DNR in Green Bay will discuss what tracking has been taking place.

PLEASE JOIN THEM!

When: Monday, February 8, 2010

Where: Paper Discovery Center

425 W Water St

Appleton, WI

Contact: Barb@paperdiscoverycenter

Phone: 920-380-7491



**EVENTS
YOU
DO**



Photo: Tom Young

North East Wisconsin Paddlers Fox River Voyage 2010

The **Fox River Heritage Journey 2010** will follow the 189 mile length of the Fox River from Portage to Green Bay.

The event is being planned and coordinated by a group of people representing several organizations, (Friends of the Fox being one of those) as well as individuals with interests in the river, it's history and paddling.

Look for the first paddle to start in April!

More information: <http://wisconsinpaddlers.org/activities/events/fox-river-heritage-voyage-2010>

Environmental Advocacy

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ASIAN CARP...EFFECTS ON BOATING/FISHING INDUSTRY IN THE GREAT LAKES

Lake Michigan is on the brink of being invaded by the Asian carp, a massive and voracious fish known to leap out of the water at the sound of approaching boats. Scientists fear the fish could decimate the \$7 billion sport fishing industry on the Great Lakes and permanently damage the ecosystem of the largest body of fresh water in the world.

On Friday, November 21, 2009, federal officials reported biological evidence that the fish appear to

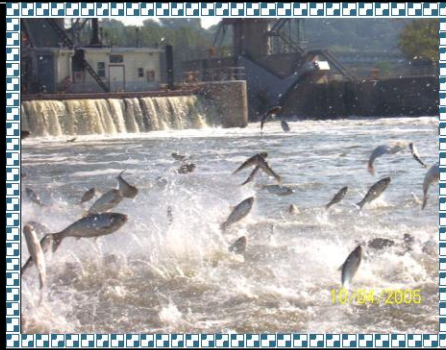


Photo: Great Lakes Fishery Commission

have breached an electrical barrier

designed to keep them out of the Great Lakes. The fish themselves haven't been seen but if the evidence is accurate two species of Asian carp are now about eight miles from Lake Michigan.

Conservation groups immediately called for the closure of all Illinois locks and gateways leading to Lake Michigan in a last-ditch attempt to keep the fish from invading the Great Lakes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.glfc.org/fishmgmt/carp.php>

707 Thanks Area Photographers

A "SPECIAL THANK-YOU" TO CRAIG EGGLESTON, MARK HOFFMAN, TOM YOUNG AND STEVE WAGNER



Photo by Steve Wagner



Photo by Craig Eggleston

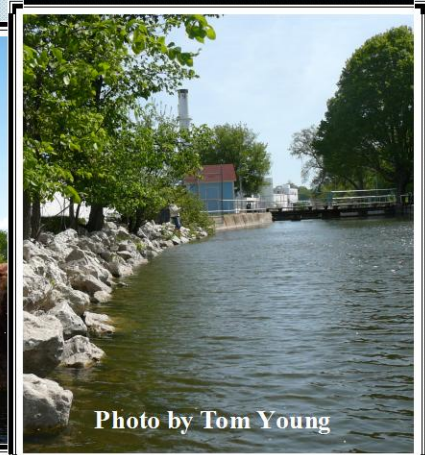


Photo by Tom Young



Photo by Mark Hoffman

Friends of the Fox would like to extend our gratitude to **Craig Eggleston, Mark Hoffman, Tom Young and Steve Wagner**, for all of the valuable time and gorgeous photos that they took for Friends of the Fox.

You are all extremely talented photographers!

We LOVE your photos! They will add a special depth to our newsletters and publications!

We very much appreciate all of your hard work!

Navigation

2009 Fox Locks General Navigation Season Statistics

2009 Boating Season
May 9 - October 4, 2009

City	Recreational Lockages	Crafts	Passengers	Commercial Lockages/Vessels
Menasha	1563	2252	8837	14/18
Little Kaukauna***	934	1470	5761	126/190
De Pere***	1504	2329	8665	285/394

***EPA DREDGING ACTIVITY

Opened
September 4 - 7, 2009

City	Recreational Lockages	Crafts	Passengers	Commercial Lockages/Vessels
Appleton (1-4 Locks)	24	58	234	2/3
Cedars Locks (4 Locks)	31	140	150	10/23

*PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMMERCIAL LOCKAGES/VESSELS ARE MOSTLY BARGES DUE TO PCB CLEAN-UP.

THE PORTAGES around Appleton Locks 1-4
ARE COMPLETED!!!!
Watch for the Portages
GRAND OPENING
In the Spring of 2010!!!



NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY COMMITTEE FORMED

At the September meeting, the Friends of the Fox Board formed a Navigational Safety committee with a charge to facilitate coordination and implementation of navigational safety throughout the Fox River. The Board recognized that safety on the water has been a high priority in some segments of the river, but a lower priority in sections of the river that have not been open to through navigation for many years. Now with the opening of the locks, the development of the Heritage Parkway and availability of paddle portages ~ portions of the River that have had light use recently, will see increasing activity. FOF wants to insure that the Fox River is safe and fun for all to enjoy.

Pete Hensler and Dave Peck volunteered to chair the committee and have enlisted help from FRNSA and

the East Central Regional Planning Authority. Thus far the Committee has met with representatives of the Coast Guard, and representatives from Outagamie and Winnebago Counties to discuss issues involving:

- Placement of navigational aids
- River surveying and charting
- Incident response
- Potential partners

It's fair to say that all parties are in agreement that safety on the water is a high priority but definition of who is responsible for what aspects of these issues will be a challenge. The **FOF Navigational Safety Committee** will continue to facilitate discussions and report back to our members on continuing progress.

Membership

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FRIENDLY REMINDER TO OUR CURRENT MEMBERS

Friends of the Fox mailed
our "2010 Annual Membership" Forms in early December.
If you have not taken the time to fill out the form and mail it in, Please do so.
If you misplaced your letter, please use the form below.
Thank you for your Support!!!

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER AND ARE NOT A MEMBER

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING.

COMPLETE THE BELOW FORM, ENCLOSE IT, ALONG WITH YOUR FINANCIAL DONATION (checks made out to Friends of the Fox) AND MAIL IT TO THE ADDRESS LISTED ON THE FORM.



Enclosed is my financial donation to Friends of the Fox for:

Sustaining Donor: \$25 _____

Platinum Donor: \$100 _____

Gold Donor: \$50 _____

Corporate Donor: \$500 _____

Executive Donor: \$1000 or more _____

Please fill out this form, clip and mail it, along with your financial donation to:

Friends of the Fox, P.O. Box 741, Appleton, WI 54912-0741, Phone: 920-707-2065

Name: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ 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.

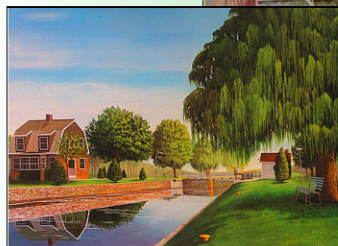
Thank you in Advance for all of your Support! We could not succeed without you!!!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND THANK-YOU

Special Thank~You to Allen and Kay Buboltz

*Allen and Kay Buboltz
graciously donated 12 Lock
prints to Friends of the Fox. The
lovely prints were originally
painted by Thomas J. Schultz.
Friends of the Fox will cherish
them.*

*We thank
Allen and Kay
for their
generosity.*



*22" x 32" Additional prints are
available for purchase at the
Paper Discovery Center in
Appleton. For more information
call 920-380-7491.*



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.

**Friends of the Fox
Asks You To
Save This Date**

ANNUAL MEETING - April 22, 2010

"Wine and Hors d'oeuvres Party"

Please Mark Your Calendars for this Special Evening!!

Time for Board Elections...If you are a FOF Member...You have a Vote.

