# The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter

President's Message

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

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Heritage Parkway and Feasibility Study Update

FOF Participates in Park to Park Paddle

> Locks and Portages Progress

Historic Mills Coffee Fundraiser

Rapide Croche Lock Site

**Financial Donations** 

Volunteer Opportunities

**Board Member Retires** 

Fox River Valley...Heart of America's Dairyland

Warm Welcome to Our Newest FOF Members

Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern "...the people of the valley regard the river as their life. They measure time by the river, and by it gauge the accomplishments of their lives. And the wind blows the valley; young children are told the legends. And the river of history remains the river of history. --Historian, Robert E. Gard"

This summer was both beautiful and productive. The weather gave us countless days to enjoy our wonderful river and the parks that surround her.

Even with these distractions, our Heritage Parkway committee accomplished a great deal. With the committee's and supporters' help, our congressional delegation was persuaded to sponsor the bill to create a National Heritage Area!! **THANK YOU to our senators and congressmen for listening to the voices of the citizens!** We would also like to say a **HUGE thank you to all of our supporters for your calls to Senator Kohl's office asking him to support the Parkway!!** His office is drafting legislation and expects to submit it to the floor this fall.

Meanwhile, John Forster has once again graciously donated his summer to help our cause. John is applying for nonprofit status for the board of directors that will eventually run the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway ... not an easy task ...**thank you John!** 

The summer has brought much progress on the river portages. Two of the four portages around the Appleton locks are completed (minus a hand rail, which is coming soon). The other two portages

# will be completed by the end of the year ... thank you portage committee and donors!

Fall 2009

Alongside this progress, however, comes a delay regarding the backbone of the Parkway, the locks themselves. FRNSA has reported that due to the unfortunate market downturn, though their funds were responsibly invested, they lost a healthy percentage of their operating budget. To allow time to recoup some of that money, and to stay fiscally responsible, they are regrettably slowing down the rehabilitation schedule please see page 3. They want to get the locks open as soon as they possibly can, and so will continue to monitor their financial situation. They will adjust the schedule if at all feasible.

Every large scale project is full of ups and downs, progress and delays – this is no exception. Thank you for sticking with us for the long haul!

The Heritage Parkway – locks and all - will be completed one day, and when it is, we will be quite proud of our part in this historic endeavor.

Candice Mortara President, Friends of the Fox Page 2 Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway

## HERITAGE PARKWAY and FEASIBILITY STUDY NEWS UPDATES



#### FOX-WISCONSIN HERITAGE PARKWAY FUNDING GENEROSITY

The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (FWHP) project received generous funding recently from several community foundations, corporate power company foundations, private individuals and organizations. The project is being directed by an executive committee which receives guidance from a partnership coalition of advocates including principally:



\*Friends of the Fox \*Friends of the Lower Wisconsin \*East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Project Funding has been received from the following general sources:

\*Community Foundations - \$38,000 \*Utility Company Foundations - \$10,500 \*Private Individuals and Non-profit organizations - \$10,250

\*In-kind contributions of staff time and materials will provide another \$50,000 in support for the project. The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Executive Committee chaired by Dan Reinhold would like to express

our appreciation to the following organizations and individuals for their generous gifts: \*The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region \*Oshkosh Area Community Foundation \*Dan Reinhold \*Green Lake Community Foundation \*Fond du Lac Area Community Foundation \*Wisconsin Energy Foundation \*Alliant Energy Foundation \*Fox River Navigation System Authority \*Ellen Balthazor

\*Friends of the Fox Board \*Friends of the Lower Wisconsin \*Fond du Lac Convention and Visitor Bureau \*Green Bay Planning Department \*East Central Wisconsin RPC \*Bay Lakes RPC \*Southwest Wisconsin RPC Anyone wishing to support this project which seeks a National Heritage Area Designation for the FWHP, may contact Friends of the Fox for more information at 920-707-2065.

#### FEASIBILITY STUDY

Senator Kohl has graciously agreed to take the lead in sponsoring legislation to designate the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway as a National Heritage Area. Senator Fenigold, Congressman Kagan, Congressman Petri, Congressman Kind and Congressman Baldwin have agreed to co-sponsor the bill. The first draft is set to be completed by the end of September. The legislation is set to be introduced to the Senate floor this fall.

Friends of the Fox is extremely pleased with their decisions. THIS IS A MILESTONE AND WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO CELEBRATE HOW FAR WE HAVE COME!!



#### FRIENDS OF THE FOX CO-SPONSORS THE 2009 PARK TO PARK PADDLE







Park to Park Paddle 2009 was hosted by Northeast Wisconsin Paddlers/ ACA, Friends of the Fox and Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance

The 8th Annual Park-to-Park Paddle held on July 25th set a new participation record, with 234 participating canoes and kayaks and nearly 350 registered participants traveling from around Wisconsin and beyond. People came from as far as California, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Texas.



FRNSA has reported that due to the unfortunate market downturn, they lost a healthy percentage of their operating budget. To allow time to recoup some of that money, and to stay fiscally responsible, they are regrettably slowing down the rehabilitation schedule. The following is the newest schedule. We will alert you to any new updates as they are made available.

- In 2010, restoration of Kaukauna Lock #5 is scheduled.
- The restoration of one lock annually of the remaining four Kaukauna Locks is set to begin in 2011. Completion may be earlier than 2014 pending financial ability with receipt of remaining federal funds and investment income returns.

**REMINDER: LOCKS OPERATION SCHEDULE CAN BE ACCESSED BY visiting our website at:** www.friendsofthefox.org Tab: River Navigation Link: Locks and Bridges Schedule

# **NEWS UPDATE ON PORTAGES**

The portages around Appleton Lock 1 and 4 have been com-New Portage on pleted. Lock 4 includes a stair Lock 4 landing on the upstream side (minus a hand rail, which is New Portage on coming) and a typical landing on Lock 4 the down steam side of the river. Lock 1 has a typical landing on both the upstream and downstream sides of the river. The Boldt Company has been gener-Stair Landing ous in their role as general con-Lock 4 tractor. Thank you! **Close-up** Views Construction on portages around Lock 2 and 3 will also be completed this fall. Signage will be placed by Fox Cities Greenways by the end of the year.

#### **GREAT WORK !! THE PORTAGES LOOK TERRIFIC!!!**

\*\*\* FRIENDS OF THE FOX NEWEST FUNDRAISER

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX KOKKYKKYKKYKKKKKKKKKK A percentage of the proceeds of all coffee sales made by Historic Mills Coffee at the following locations will be donated to FOF. Historic Mills Coffee provides high-end fair trade organic deep flavored coffee blends. Their beans are locally roasted every day in small batches to preserve freshness and provide a consistent product.



Coffee can be purchased at the following locations:

Anchor Marine, N495 Railroad ST, Appleton, WI 54915, (920) 731-5313 Ed's Boat Sales, 2545 S. Oneida ST, Appleton, WI 54915, (920) 733-8934 Muntz Audio, 1828 W Wisconsin AVE, Appleton, WI 54914, (920) 734-3001

The above locations are also offering a chance to win a \$25 gift card. Anyone who purchases the

coffee will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win the gift card. Each location will have a winner. Thank you in advance for all of your support. We would also like to say "A Special Thank You" to

Historic Mills Coffee for this opportunity. \*\*\*\*\* Page 4

Community Projects Continued

# **RAPIDE CROCHE LOCK SITE** AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES EDUCATIONAL CENTER AND VESSEL CLEANING/TRANSFER STATION

In 1988 a permanent sea lamprey barrier was constructed at Rapide Croche Lock near Wrightstown to prevent the spread of sea lamprey and other aquatic invasive species into the Lake Winnebago watershed. A vessel cleansing and transfer station is being proposed for

this site to enable navigation to once again continue along the Fox River. There are also discussions in the works to include an AIS educational center. This would become a destination in which visitors from a variety of backgrounds and interests could visit to learn more about AIS and the history of the Fox River.

The Fox River Navigational Authority has conducted engi-

neering studies to determine the type of cleansing and lift equipment that would be required at the transfer station. During the Fall of 2008, 5 public forums were also conducted to solicit public input into the transfer station. These forums were well attended with individuals

geons for Tomorrow, the Wisconsin DNR, FOF, FRNSA, City and County officials and concerned citizens and boaters. Information from these forums has been used to further develop the proposed inspection and transfer station.

determine that no new AIS have been spread from downstream to upstream on the Fox River.

Very soon the FRNSA will be commissioning a survey to help determine the types of boats and



In an effort to understand the current level of AIS in the Fox River, the FRNSA has been contracting with Lawrence University in Appleton to monitor for AIS both above and below the Rapide Croche sea lamprey barrier. This monitoring is now in its third year.

transfer station could expect to have. The survey will also help in determining what interest there would be in making this an educational center. This information will help to further develop the type of transfer station and educaactivities tional that could be conducted at Rapide Croche.

amount of use that the

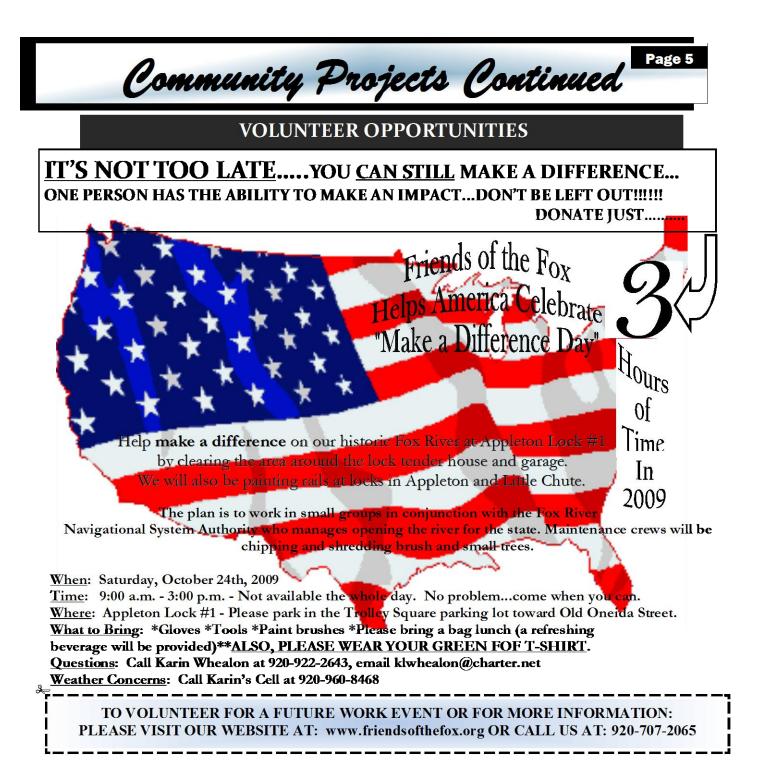
One of the next steps that will take place will include the development of an Environmental Impact Report. This report and FRNSA transfer plan will be presented to the Wisconsin DNR for approval. We would hope to have all of this done the Fall of 2009 so that fundraising can get started

from Walleyes for Tomorrow, Stur- The monitoring has been able to early in 2010.

SPECIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR FOF PROJECTS

Solo from Nile Sweet estate \$500 from the Bemis Corp.
Solo from the Mielke Foundation \$500 from Oshkosh Rotary S/W
S9000 from Mark Geall/Riverheath (For Portage Project)
S6952 from an anonymous donor for temporary staff salary
FRIENDS OF THE FOX WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS GIFTS!

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m second}$ 



# Best Wishes to Retiring Board Member –Larry Medema



Larry Medema, Appleton is resigning from the FOF board after having served for over 8 years. Larry has held various positions, most recently as Vice President. During Larry's tenure he has been instrumental in supporting the clean up and reopening of the locks as well as supporting other waterway initiatives.

Thank you -We wish you the best Larry ... you will be greatly missed by us all!



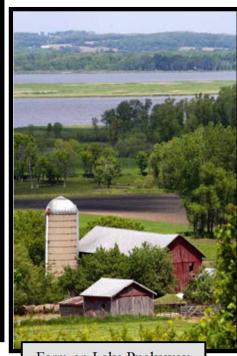
### FOX RIVER VALLEY—HEART OF AMERICA'S DAIRYLAND

Wheat began as the first cash crop of the Fox River Valley. Throughout the 1860s and into the 1870s, this crop helped to determine where people settled, and established Wisconsin's identity as "America's Breadbasket." During this time, the state produced onesixth of all wheat grown in the nation.

However, as wheat production declined, farmers turned to dairying and cheese making as a viable agricultural venture. Several influences spurred the rapid spread of dairy: (1) the settlement of many skilled New York dairy farmers from the 1830s to the 1850s; (2) the research undertaken by the University of Wisconsin's College of Agriculture; and (3) the acceptance of this industry by many German and Scandinavian immigrant families. As a result, the first dairy and cheese operation in Wisconsin was established in Ladoga, near Lake Winnebago, by New York dairyman, Chester Hazen, in 1864.

The Fox River Valley was a prime location for dairy agriculture due to its high quality of farmland, proximity to urban markets, and ethnic makeup. Cheese making particularly reflected the strong

ethnic composition of the Fox Valley. Along the Lower Fox, German cheese makers crafted Brick and Muenster cheeses, the Dutch made Gouda. On the Upper Fox, scattered English farmers produced Cheddar cheese.



Farm on Lake Puckaway Photo: Mark Hoffman

By the 1870s, dairy farming grew to incorporate larger dairy operations. By 1890, over 17 percent of Wisconsin's farms were dairy and 90 percent contained dairy cows. This growth can be attributed to advances in dairying technology. The specialized breeding of a "single purpose" dairy cow along with the invention of better quality testing and preservation methods increased the profitability of dairying. By 1907, Wisconsin, the thirteenth largest state, produced nearly half of all the nation's cheese and a tenth of the butter.

Wisconsin's tradition as America's Dairyland has remained strong in the Fox River Valley. Several cheese factories bring in tourists from all over the nation, and festivals, such as the Great Wisconsin Cheese Festival in Little Chute, draw large crowds to celebrate our agricultural heritage. However, the last eighty years have also been difficult for dairy farms. Falling prices and an increase of large "agribusiness" firms has resulted in an average loss of 1,000 family farms each year, leaving America's Dairyland in the Fox River Valley with an uncertain future.

#### WARM WELCOME TO FRIENDS OF THE FOX NEWEST MEMBERS

Ms. Bev Draxler Mr. Thomas Will Robert & Judith Orth Ms. Nancy Peterson

Fond du Lac Fond du Lac Appleton Appleton Ms. Virginia Palmer Mr. Dale Rice Ms. Amy Suprise Ms. Erica Raleigh Milwaukee Appleton Kimberly Fremont

Friends of the Fox Mistakenly Overlooked <u>The Bemis Company of Neenah</u> as one of our Newest Members in our Spring Newsletter. Please accept our sincere apologies as we now Welcome you.

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Environmental Advocacy

# LOWER GREEN BAY AND FOX RIVER AREA OF CONCERN

The Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern (AOC) is one of 43 that were identified in the mid 1980s by the U.S. and Canada under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). The AOC includes 7.4 miles of the Fox River below the De Pere Dam and 21 square miles of southern Green Bay.

In 1987, the GLWQA was amended to define Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs). The eleven BUIs that were identified for the Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern are:

- Degraded fish and wildlife populations
- Loss of fish and wildlife habitat
- Degraded benthos
- Degraded phytoplankton/ zooplankton populations
- Eutrophications or undesirable algae
- Beach closings/recreational restrictions
- Degradation of aesthetics
- Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
- Restrictions on dredging activities
- Bird or animal deformities or reproductive problems
- Restrictions on drinking water or taste/odor problems

The GLWQA attributed these BUIs to the discharge of contaminated sediments from industrial and municipal sources throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Since this time, the WDNR, EPA, and several other regional and national agencies and organizations have been working to delist BUI targets, and eventually the entire Lower Green Bay and Fox River AOC.



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In 1987, the WDNR completed a Remedial Action Plan (RAP), and a year later it was adopted as part of Wisconsin's Water Quality Management Plan. Now, over 20 vears later, nearly two-thirds of the RAPs 120 recommendations have been implemented or initiated. Activities such as PCB contaminated sediment dredging, the development of a Total Daily Maximum Load, and fish and wildlife consumption advisories are examples of implemented recommendations. Despite significant progress, WDNR staff still project at least another decade until BUI targets are delisted.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, the WDNR held a public input session at the Bay

Beach Wildlife Sanctuary to educate the public about the AOC and discuss the possible next

steps. WDNR staff suggested that 2010 will be an important year for the Lower Fox River and Green **Bay AOC delisting process** as \$475 million has been appropriated by Congress to help with the cleanup as part of the Great Lakes **Restoration Initiative. With** this economic boost the WDNR plans to develop a control strategy for vegetative and aquatic invasive species, form a fish and wildlife habitat committee, and to continue the sediment remediation project over the next ten years, among

Throughout this process, the WDNR is seeking help from local organizations and individuals to assist with delisting target activities, including the development of a public advisory committee.

If you are interested in helping with this process or would like to learn more about the Lower Green Bay and Fox River AOC, please visit the following WDNR and EPA websites: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/ wm/foxriver/

> www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/ greenbay.html

www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri/index. html



IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER AND ARE NOT A MEMBER, PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING. TO JOIN, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.friendsofthefox.org Tab: <u>How to Join</u> OR CALL US AT: 920-707-2065