

The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter

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

Spring 2009



Discovery

Inside This Issue

President's Message

Clean Boats/Clean Waters

NEWSC Phosphorus
Education Campaign

Volunteer Opportunities

Water Trail Portage
Project

Appleton Trestle Trail

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage
Parkway

Warm Welcome to Our
Newest FOF Members

Upper Fox River News

History of Hydro Power on
Lower Fox River

Board Elections

2009 Locks Schedule

*"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread,
places to play in and places to pray in, where
nature may heal and cheer, and give strength
to body and soul alike."*

John Muir

It seems important to assess our value to our members and the community during such difficult economic times. What does Friends of the Fox offer you in return for your membership dollars, for your trust in our organization? First, we offer our commitment to the river – to the history, the public access, and the redevelopment of our Fox River. Friends of the Fox takes this commitment quite seriously. We dedicate many hours towards increasing navigational opportunities, towards the preservation and enhancement of specific sites, as well as the concept which pulls all the sites together – the Heritage Parkway.

Within this commitment we find connection, and offer that to you as well. Friends of the Fox is a community of people linked to one another by our love of the water and all it

means to our lives. This is the year to come together, to connect with one another and put our energy towards something that will make a difference in our daily lives We can clean up the shoreline, we can paint a house, and we can create a portage trail ... Together we can make these improvements and have some fun! Please join us.

Candice Mortara
President, Friends of the Fox

**Annual
Meeting
Wine and Cheese
Tasting
Event
To Be Held
April 17th**

**Board Members Up
For Election—Page 6**

**Invitation and R.S.V.P.—
Page 8**

**Friends of the Fox
"Historical Listening Session"
Upper Fox River—Portage to Oshkosh
Will be Held on
March 24th, 2009 6:00-8:30 P.M.**

Environmental Advocacy

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS ON WINNEBAGO POOL LAKES

Since 2006, students from UW Oshkosh have served as summer interns to educate boaters about aquatic invasive species.

Wisconsin DNR funded this local program to:

- Boost the efforts of their professionals to provide the state's busiest inland waterway with watercraft inspections
- Educate boaters about Wisconsin law
- Teach best practices for reducing the risk of spreading aquatic invasive

species including:

- Plants
- Zebra mussels
- Waterborne critters
- Diseases



Help us Keep our Waterways Clean

The paid interns have been scheduled to cover weekends, holidays and to target the days leading up to major boating events, such as fishing tournaments and sailing regattas. They have made over 13,000 boater contacts by working at local boat launches.

Over most of Wisconsin, Clean Boats Clean Waters is supported primarily by volunteers.

The state's website:

www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/CBCW/

provides more details and lists training workshops, including March 20th in Green Bay and March 28th at High Cliff State Park.

NEWSC PHOSPHORUS EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

When it rains, it pollutes. Rain and snowmelt flowing over ground surface is known as stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff washes pollutants from streets, parking lots, yards, construction sites and other areas into our rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Pollutants in stormwater runoff include grass clippings, leaves, fertilizer, pesticides, oil, pet waste and more. Grass clippings, leaves, and fertilizer contain phosphorus, which is an important nutrient for plants. However, when stormwater runoff carries too much phosphorus to area waterways there can be negative effects such as algae blooms.

During the next several months, a group of area communities will be undertaking a public education, outreach and marketing campaign to educate area citizens about the impacts of excessive phosphorus in our waterways through the Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium (NEWSC). NEWSC is a network of communities sharing resources to cost effectively address stormwater issues and regulatory compliance. The membership of NEWSC is comprised of approximately 40 municipalities located in Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Outagamie, and Winnebago counties with state issued general stormwater permits. The membership of NEWSC also

includes several engineering consultants, stormwater treatment device manufacturers, and a university.

After a number of long-term planning efforts such as a survey to learn about stormwater awareness and behaviors among area residents, NEWSC members agreed that the **core message for its regional marketing and public education plans should be "keep phosphorus out of our waters"**. We applied for and received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to implement an education, outreach and marketing program with this goal.

By implementing our marketing plan, during spring, summer and fall of 2009 we hope to educate the public and encourage behavior changes that will lead to cleaner waterways. The information in this article and more will be placed on a website. The website is currently planned to be located at: www.newwaterwisconsin.org, but the website name may change in the future.

We are currently planning to include a place for teachers to download projects for students, links to social media sites, and information and tips for area residents to keep phosphorus out of our waters.

NEWSC Phosphorus Campaign Encourages Property Owners to:

- **Sweep grass clippings and fertilizers off streets, driveways and sidewalks.** Grass clippings and fertilizers on these surfaces can be easily carried by storm water runoff into area waterways.
- **Encourage property owners to use the appropriate type of fertilizer.** Lawn fertilizers contain varying amounts of phosphorus with some lawn fertilizers containing zero phosphorus. Many lawns do not need additional phosphorus, since the soil already contains enough to sustain healthy turf growth.
- **Test soil annually to determine if there is a need for fertilizer.** (Taking a soil test of your yard is quite easy. All county Extension offices have the bags and will be able to give you instructions for typically \$14/sample.)

NEWSC will be distributing lawn stakes with the message "I use phosphorus free fertilizer. Do You?"

(The purpose of the lawn stakes is to educate property owners about phosphorus free fertilizers and show that healthy lawns can be achieved without creating problems in lakes and rivers.)

CLIP THIS, put in a handy place and PLEASE consider taking these steps to help minimize algae bloom and excessive plant growth.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TOGETHER.....WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

APRIL 25—Menasha Locktenders Porch Paint & Brushing

MAY 16—Lower Fox River Shoreline Clean-up & Brushing

MAY 30—Upper Fox River Shoreline Clean-up

JUNE 6—Lawe Street House Fix-Up & Painting

JUNE 13 & JULY 18—Water Trail Portage Project

**TO HELP WITH ONE OF THESE EVENTS OR FOR
MORE INFORMATION: PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
AT:**

**www.friendsofthefox.org Tab: Volunteer Opportunities OR
CALL US AT 920-707-2065**

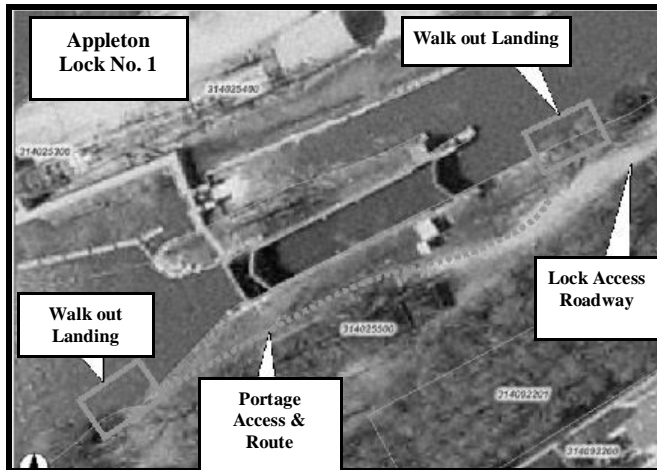
Friends of the Fox asks and challenges you to gift us with just ...



Help
us
Make
A
BIG
D
I
F
F
E
R
E
N
C
E

Hours
of
Time
In
2009

THIS YEAR!!!!



Map of the Portage around Appleton's Lock 1

WATER TRAIL PORTAGE PROJECT

As highlighted in our Winter 2008 newsletter we are well underway with the development and construction of our portage project at each of the Appleton lock locations. The picture on the left is a map of the portage around Appleton Lock 1. Please refer to the rest of the Appleton lock maps and proposed portage trails on our website located at:

www.friendsofthefox.org

Tab: Water Trail Portage Project

Additional phases of a comprehensive trail system will be developed after the four Appleton lock locations are completed.

UW Platteville Students To Help With Engineering Of Portage Project

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville requires students to complete a Senior Design Project. The project must include technical aspects for an engineering design, coordination with an outside client organization and development of specific deliverable items.

Four Civil and Environmental Engineering students have been assigned the Appleton Water Trail Portage Project.

The project includes:

- A problem definition phase
- Survey and data collection
- Design alternative development and analysis
- Actual design
- Presentation to the client
- Production of design documents

In the case of the Appleton Water Trail Portage Project, the final documents will include design details and a list of materials with related technical specifications for the project. The project will be completed by early **May, 2009**.



Friends of the Fox would like to thank Jeff Mazanec and UW Platteville Engineering Students!

Community Projects Continued

Appleton Trestle Trail Project

Utilization of the three abandoned railroad trestles on the Appleton river corridor has been part of Appleton's river trail plan for several years.

The three trestles cross the river from:

- The Atlas Mill on Water St. to Trolley Square on Edison Avenue
- The south end of the Lawe Street bridge to the vacant Foremost Dairy just below Lawrence University
- The Newberry Trail to the River Heath site just below the east end of the College Avenue bridge

As a result of conflicting opinions over ownership and responsibility for these structures they have not been converted to pedestrian use and incorporated into Appleton's river front trail network.

FOF has decided to help the process along by properly identifying owners, coordinating local and state DNR/DOT requirements and helping with design for use.

For more information and a Birds Eye View of this project, please check out our website at:
www.friendsofthefox.org
Tab: Community Projects

Ms. Janet Scalpone
 Mr. Graham Werner
 Mr. Mark Hoegh
 Mr. Robert Bush
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Jeanine Jankowski
 Mr. Gary Keller
 Mr. James Leuthold
 Ms. Patricia Pierce
 Mr. & Mrs. Kirk & Anne Haverland
 Mr. Rick Peterson
 Mr. John Giese
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Cindi Ritcey
 Mr. Rodney Boldt
 Bank of Kaukauna

Oshkosh
 Appleton
 Oshkosh
 Green Bay
 Menasha
 Kaukauna
 Oshkosh
 Menasha
 Oshkosh
 Oshkosh
 Neenah
 Kimberly
 Appleton
 Kaukauna

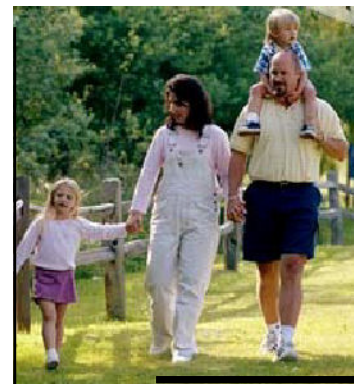
**WARM WELCOME TO FRIENDS OF THE FOX
 NEWEST MEMBERS**

WATER TRAIL PORTAGE PROJECT CONTINUED

Fox Cities Greenways Providing Signage for Fox River Water Trail

Fox Cities Greenways is partnering with Friends of the Fox (FOF) on the Fox River section of the Water Trail, to be developed later this year. Water trails were the main speaker topic at Greenway's recent annual meeting, featuring DNR State Trail Coordinator Briget Brown along with Candice Mortara and Pete Hensler from Friends of the Fox.

FOF and Greenways met a few days later and decided on a division of responsibilities for the Fox River Water Trail. Fox Cities Greenways will be responsible for signage, while FOF will construct the portages around the dams.



Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway

The Parkway Executive Committee has been meeting monthly and is working diligently to increase the partners we have on this project. Two sub-committees were formed, one to tackle the management structure and the preliminary three year budget, and another to work on the main marketing message. It was decided to create the organization as a non-profit 501c3 structure with plans to investigate pros and cons of requesting a federal or state appointed commission as the organization grows. The preliminary budget and marketing message have been formulated and are being fine tuned.

Our partners have expanded to include Willems Marketing, Lower Wisconsin Riverway Board, and South West WI RPC and the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin. Monica Rico, a professor at Lawrence University has agreed to dedicate a spring course to compile the history of the Lower Fox. Jim

Buchholz, a professor at UW Stevens Point, has agreed to dedicate a spring class on Planning and Site design to look at the former Army Corps properties along the Upper Fox and create a comprehensive plan for public access and usage. Matt Hanna, a UW Madison student is dedicating his capstone project to specifically plan two lock tender sites for alternative usage, as well as devising a general recommendation for all locktender houses.

Progress has been made on the feasibility study; the first draft is set to be completed mid-April. From that study, the following 6 themes have been proposed for the Heritage Parkway.

Heritage Parkway Themes

- **Native Peoples and the Trail of the Serpent**
- **Route of Discovery – Marquette and Joliet**
- **Waves of Immigration**
- **The Hardest Working River Highway**
- **Industry of Abundance**
- **Currents of Conservation: Theory and Practice**

For further information and Summary of Themes visit our website at:
www.friendsofthefox.org
Tab: Community Projects

NEWS FROM THE UPPER FOX RIVER

The Upper Fox River begins in the Portage area, with the mouth of the river lying below Omro on Lake Butte des Morts. This portion of the river is particularly beautiful and although it is a little known waterway, it lends itself to a superb area of water for paddle craft and shallow draft powerboats. The natural shoreline is a wonderful place in which to meander slowly, while stopping along the way to take in the scenic beauty.

The news on the Upper Fox continues to be dominated by the Eureka Lock's closing 4 years ago. The Fox River Runners Boat Club and the Berlin Boat Club are hosting a combined fundraiser this August 14-15, 2009 in Omro. It is the goal of the fundraiser to raise money toward the rebuilding of the lock doors.

A much larger impediment toward the reopening of the locks has been either the finding of, or the creation of a public entity willing to take on a lease from the Department of Natural Resources for the locks. The local communities and townships have had several meetings regarding these obstacles yet are moving the project forward. Getting the area to recognize the economic value of the waterway and the benefits of working together have been very important steps towards completing their goals. With all of these issues addressed the ultimate goal is the restoration of navigation up to Berlin. If the water



level is not too low, navigation to Princeton would also be possible.

The Highway K Bridge in Eureka is being replaced by a fixed span with the vertical clearance still being decided.

Dave Peck, Upper Fox River Committee Chair will be attending a meeting with local officials, East Central Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation. Dave will encourage a clearance of the Eureka Bridge to match that of the Omro Bridge which has a clearance of 10 feet.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Dave Peck at pennon59@yahoo.



History

HYDRO POWER ON LOWER FOX RIVER

Originally, on the Lower Fox River, the dams that are a part of each of the locks were built to control the river to provide navigation. These dams also provided a source of waterpower for the operation of machinery and finally a source of energy to generate electric power.

Coming of Age

Humans have used falling water to provide power for grain and saw mills, as well as a host of other applications. At the beginning of the twentieth century, hydroelectric power in the United States came of age with three events: the development of the electric generator; improvements in the hydraulic turbine; and a growing demand for electricity.

The first commercial hydroelectric power plant, designed by Thomas Edison, was built in 1882 on the Fox River in Appleton, Wisconsin. This first hydroelectric power generating plant was constructed just 2 years after Thomas Edison unveiled the incandescent light bulb. The power produced was 12.5 kilowatts of DC (Direct Current) power to light two paper mills and a residence (Hearthstone House). Paper manufacturer H. F. Rogers developed the plant after seeing Thomas Edison's plans for an electricity power station in New York. From: *Water Encyclopedia*, (William Arthur Atkins).

Hydroelectric Power on the Lower Fox River

"The Lower Fox River from Lake Winnebago to De Pere has a fall of 168 feet (51 m) in a distance of 39 miles (63 km), making it a valuable source of water power. Historically, the generation of hydropower at

dam sites along the Fox River has been an important factor in the development of the region." (*USACE Fact Book Report*)

Contemporary Hydroelectric power plants generate anywhere from a few kW, enough for a single residence, to thousands of kW, power enough to supply a city.

An undated report discovered while researching this information showed a total annual hydropower value well in excess of \$3,065,442 and 146,701,354 KWh of hydroelectric power generated.

There are 13 dams along the Lower Fox River at Neenah and Menasha on Lake Winnebago, at Appleton (Appleton Upper, Middle and Lower), at Cedars (New Page Paper Mill in Kimberly), Little Chute, Combined Locks, Kaukauna (2), Rapide Croche, Little Kaukauna, and De Pere. These dams create pools of water large enough to allow the generation of electric power.

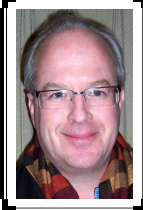
Today there are hydroelectric power generating plants operated by WE Energies at Appleton Upper dam, Neenah Papers at Appleton Middle dam, and Kaukauna Electric currently under re-construction at Appleton Lower dam. New Page Paper Mill operates a hydroelectric generating plant at Kimberly. Kaukauna Utilities operates hydroelectric generating plants at Little Chute, Combined Locks, Kaukauna, and Rapide Croche dams. Nicolet Papers operates a hydroelectric power generating plant at De Pere. There are also a number of other privately owned hydroelectric power generating plants that are not currently in operation. (*Outagamie County Historical Society*).

Friends of the Fox Leadership

BOARD MEMBERS CURRENTLY UP FOR RE-ELECTION



Ellen Balthazor has been on the FOF Board since the 1990's. Ellen has a special interest in bringing people to the Fox River to enjoy the historical treasure of the lock system. Ellen also has a passion at working to reopen the Fox River for navigation while protecting the environment.



Bill Bush has served on the FOF Board for 3 years. Bill is an Account Manager for the Great Northern Corporation. For FOF he serves as AIS Committee Chairman for the Fox River Navigational System Authority. Bill holds special interest in the Rapid Croche Boat Transfer Station.

Brunhilde Courtney has been on the FOF Board about 28 years. She and her husband have traveled through the Lower Fox locks for many summer vacations to Lake Michigan and the North Channel in their sailboat. They have a home on Little Lake Butte des Morts that they both enjoy. Brunhilde very much enjoys the opportunity to educate waterfront property owners on safe lawn practices to keep our lake and river waters pristine.



Steve Lockhart has been on the FOF Board for 4 years, most of which as Treasurer. Steve has been a boater since the age of 10. For the last 20 years Steve has been a wooden boat enthusiast. He joined the board to help make the Fox River the best possible place for boating.



Ed Kleckner has served on the FOF Board for the past 8 years, and has been active in working on the Fox-Wisconsin rivers for the past 20 plus years. Ed works for East Central Wisconsin RPC where he is the Principal Planner responsible for recreation and urban economic development planning for an 8 county region in the state.

Ed's main interest is the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway project.

FRIENDS OF THE FOX BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Candice Mortara Appleton
President

William Bush Neenah **Dave Peck** Appleton
Vice President Secretary

Larry Medema Appleton **Brunhilde Courtney** Menasha
Second Vice President Executive Board Member

Steve Lockhart Appleton **Ellen Balthazor** Fond du Lac
Treasurer Executive Board Member

Peter Hensler	Appleton
Edward J. Kleckner	Menasha
Jackson Medley	Oshkosh
Jack Nelson	Oshkosh
Dan Reinhold	Oshkosh
Sue Schramper	Door County
Robert Stark	Appleton
Nile Sweet	Oshkosh
Karin Whealon	Fond du Lac
Richard Abb	Appleton

HONORARY ADVISORS

John Forster Rotonda West

Newsletter and Website Editor and Design
Shari Manney

**Ideas, like large rivers,
never have just one
source.
Willy Ley**

Helen Young joins the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway

Friends of the Fox would like to welcome Ms. Helen Young! Helen was hired by FOF to assist in the writing of the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study to be submitted to the National Park Service. She has also graciously agreed to be our Coordinator of Volunteers for the summer.

Ms. Young is a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire where she majored in Public History and Geography. She has experience with the National Park Service, and other local planning efforts.

2009 FOX LOCKS GENERAL NAVIGATION SEASON OPERATIONS

Opened All Week Long May 8th-Oct. 4th	City			
	Menasha	<u>Monday – Thursday</u> 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. <u>Friday -Sunday & Holidays</u> 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.		(Seven day operation)
	Little Kaukauna	<u>Thursday – Monday</u> 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. <u>Closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays</u>		(Five day operation)
	De Pere	<u>Monday – Thursday</u> 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. <u>Friday - Sunday & Holidays</u> 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.		(Seven day operation)
Opened Labor Day Weekend Sept. 4th-Sept. 7th	Short Dates of Operation due to College Avenue Bridge construction for Locks in Appleton and the Cedar Locks			
	City			
	Appleton (4 Locks)	<u>4 Day Labor Day Weekend</u> <u>Friday – Monday</u> Noon - 8 p.m.		(4 Day- Labor Day Weekend Only)
	Cedar Locks (4 Locks)	<u>4 Day Labor Day Weekend</u> <u>Friday – Monday</u> Noon - 8 p.m.		(4 Day- Labor Day Weekend Only)
<u>Seasonal Lockage Permit</u> -\$120.00 <u>Daily Transit Permit (26 feet and over)</u> -\$12.00 <u>Under 26 feet</u> -\$6.00 Inquiries can be addressed to the FRNSA Kaukauna office at (920) 759-9833				



LOCKS RESTORATION SCHEDULE REVISED

The accelerated restoration schedule for the Fox River Locks was revised at the January Authority meeting. The construction on at least one lock in Kaukauna was scheduled to begin in 2009. Due to the recent economic downturn and investment performance, the Authority delayed the Kaukauna start for one to two years. The Authority will be performing some minor canal bank work in Appleton during the summer of 2009.

In 2010, historic Lock #5 in Kaukauna is scheduled to be restored with the assistance of a transportation enhancement grant of \$720,000 which helps to offset the \$1,100,000 project.

The restoration schedule is financially dependent on having dollars to do the work while also having investment to maintain and operate the system over the long term. Receipt of additional funding could therefore change the schedule.

Requests for federal appropriations have been submitted to receive the remainder of the federal dollars the Corps of Engineers agreed to in the 2001 Memorandum of Agreement before the system was transferred to the State of Wisconsin. Also, a request with the project list and cost was submitted to the State of Wisconsin as part of the Stimulus funding. We do not know how these state funds may be allocated.



Mailing 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.

We are very proud to have
Justice David Prosser

as our
Keynote Speaker

Also
Featuring-
Russ Reiser as
Guitarist



Friends of the Fox Invites You To Our 2009 Annual Meeting

A special taste of International wines from Italy, Australia, Chile and Argentina along with unique United States wine, to be complimented by a variety of imported cheeses.

April 17th, 2009
Meeting: 6:00-7:30 P.M.

**Wine and Cheese
Tasting:**
7:30-Party End

Place:
The Wave
2350 N. Casaloma Dr.
Appleton, WI
Cost: Tickets \$25 a
Person/\$35 at the door.
Price will include
International Wines
and Cheeses.

R.S.V.P. by April 3rd to:

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

Please fill out the form below, clip and mail it along with \$25 per person attending to the Friends of the Fox address listed above. Tickets available at the door for \$35 per person.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Number attending: _____

Limited Seating Availability: Please reserve your seats early so as not to miss out!

For More Information, Please visit our Website www.friendsofthefox.org