

The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter



Discovery

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

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Message From Our President



Friends of the Fox's (FOF) annual meeting cruise was fun filled and pleasurable, but somewhat challenging for those attending. A few of the rail road bridge openings took longer than expected, delaying our schedule. All of the Fox River System Navigational System's (FRSNA) locks and car bridges operated perfectly. We traveled down through the four Appleton locks and the Cedars lock to reach Little Chute. After a pleasant refreshing break we returned up through five locks to the Appleton Yacht Club. After the cruise, I particularly enjoyed talking with the boaters who had never before been on that section of the Fox River. We enjoyed the boating experience as a group.

The summer has been a very good season for boating on the Winnebago system. There are a number of new changes being implemented to improve public access along the Fox River waterway. I would like to share an overall of a few upcoming improvements:

- **The new City Deck in Green Bay is becoming a waterfront focus for the Washington Street area.**

A very large new hotel with docking is being discussed just downstream of the Main Street bridge. Across the river a large shoreline restoration project is being planned near the Neville Museum. The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway has secured a \$125,000 grant to move that work forward. *(See more information on page 6)*

- **FRNSA has extended hours from last year to allow passage thru Appleton lock 1 and the new FRNSA overnight dock in the middle of Appleton's Fox River Flats entertainment district.** *(More information foxriverlocks.org)*
- **The City of Oshkosh has built finger piers on most of the north side of the Fox River between the Main Street and Jackson Street bridges.**
- **The City of Berlin has recently completed a 104 - foot seawall in the downtown area for public boat tie-up.**

The seawall has been badly needed for years. This is a particularly good year to learn or refresh your boating skills on the Upper Fox River with current high water levels.

- **The reopened Eureka Lock has been busy with many of the boats being larger with drafts of up to 3 feet.**

FOF is working with the Berlin Boat Club to develop a chart to assist with trip planning on the Upper Fox River. This will be a companion to the new chart books we just made available for the Lower Fox River this spring. The chart will be available on the Berlin Boat Club web site before their Corn Roast on August 9th - 10th. *(<http://berlinboatclub.com>)*

Their web site has a great link to USGS water level information site as well.

I have been a member of the Berlin Boat Club for years, and am currently their commodore.

- **There are 2 bridge construction projects going on this season that effect boating on the Upper Fox River.**

The **Rail Road bridge project in Oshkosh** will block navigation for the week of August 18th - August 23rd. Boats needing less than 6 feet of clearance will have some limited passage later in that week.

The **Eureka bridge project** has restricted the channel width temporarily, but is not scheduled to block navigation except for a few hours during a yet unannounced weekday.

Thanks for supporting the Friends of the Fox and our efforts to improve on the water recreation along the Upper and Lower Fox River. Dave Peck, President



2013 Annual Meeting

Meeting Highlights & Board Re-Election

Cruise the Locks

Friends of the Fox would like to extend our sincere thanks to all who contributed to our 2013 “Cruise the Locks” Annual Meeting which took place on June 1st. The beautiful and spacious **Appleton Yacht Club** located on the shore of the scenic Fox River, provided a beautiful setting to begin our meeting and cruise through the locks. The event was well attended and was a **HUGE SUCCESS!**

We all enjoyed a delicious continental breakfast as we watched the Power Point presentation given by our President Dave Peck. It was rewarding to see all the work that has been completed along the Fox River corridor. It is the goal of FOF to continue working towards the completion of all of the locks along the Fox River system.

The meeting ended with a Captain’s meeting and distribution of beautiful river charts at which time the cruise of the locks began.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ENTIRE FRIENDS OF THE FOX TEAM FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE DAYS SUCCESS! IT WAS A FUN FILLED DAY ENJOYED BY ALL WHO ATTENDED.

Dave Peck ~ *Power Point Presentation/Captains meeting*

Brunhilde Courtney ~ *Chairman*

Richard Abb ~ *Co-Chair, New Member Registration*

Dan Reinhold ~ *Master of Ceremonies*

Steve & Betty Lockhart ~ *Reservations*

Ellen Balthazor & Ed Kleckner ~ *Membership Table*

Marilyn Orvedahl ~ *Silent Auction*

ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO THE DAYS EVENT WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR WARM THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

Tom Baron & Karl Kaufman ~ *Table Set-up*

Marilyn Orvedahl ~ *Set up and Arrange Auction Items*

BOARD ELECTIONS WERE HELD AND THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE RE-ELECTED FOR A THREE YEAR TERM:

Tom Baron

Dan Reinhold

Dave Peck

We appreciate your continued dedication!

Annual Meeting Continued

Sponsors & Thank-Yous

MAIN SPONSORS

Dr. Kevin and Candice Mortara
Appleton Yacht Club

DONORS FOR AUCTION ITEMS

Appleton Yacht Club ~ *Tim Porter, Commodore*
Tom Buechel ~ *Taxidermy*
Menasha Marina ~ *Menasha*
Airfire Wireless ~ *State Coverage*
Pullman's at Trolley Square ~ *The Reider Group*
Fratello's, Appleton and Oshkosh ~ *The Supple Group*
Memorial Florist, Appleton & Neenah ~ *The Aykens Family*
Atlas Café Coffee Mill & Boutique ~ *Larry & Sue Bogenshutz*
Fox River Navigational Systems Authority

ALSO A DEEP GRATITUDE TO:

Brunhilde Courtney & Richard Abb ~ *Friends of Fox Annual Meeting Coordinators*
Dave Peck ~ *President, Friends of Fox*
Shari Manney ~ *Newsletter, Postcards, Posters & Creation of Power Point*

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Friends of the Fox Board of Directors



SPECIAL AWARDS PRESENTED

Visionary Award

Candice Mortara ~
Candice has graced Friends of the Fox with her vision, devotion, organization, passion and dedication. She has been instrumental in the development of Historical Listening Sessions and the Interpretive Master Plan for the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway. Candice is the first woman to have ever received this prestigious award.



Paddle Awards

These were presented to following board members as a token of appreciation for donating their time and efforts:

Karl Kaufman Pete Hensler

**WE ARE PLEASED YOU ARE PART
OF OUR TEAM!**

Article by
Brunhilde Courtney

**WE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE FOR ALL OF THE SUPPORT OF OUR
BENEFACTORS...YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR ANNUAL MEETING
AND GIVE US THE RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT OUR MISSION.**

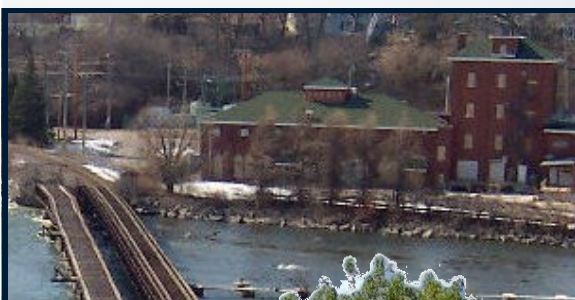
Annual Meeting Continued

Past and Present Accomplishments

The Power Point presentation continues to be the major feature of our Annual Meeting. Six topics reviewed the past, earlier efforts and the current status of the projects that FOF participated in throughout the year. Board members described the individual projects as we viewed the enlightening presentation.

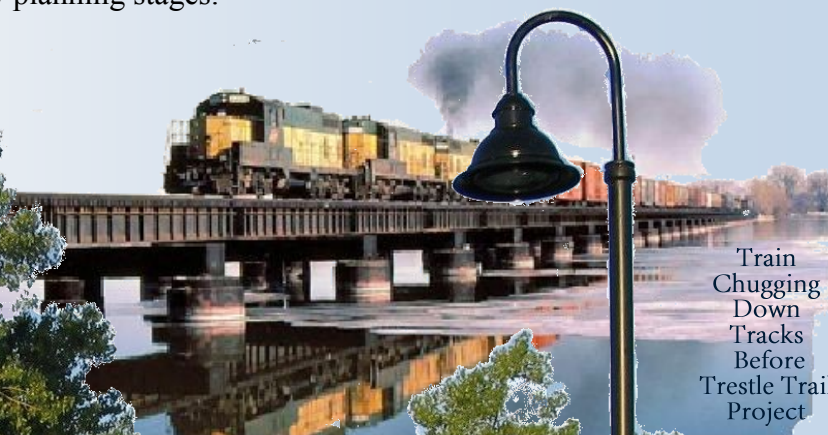
Dave Peck gave a report on the new, operational **EUREKA LOCK**. FOF has supported, as well as advised, the Berlin Boat Club for almost ten years. We have worked together to realize the major development of the opening of the Eureka lock. This allows greater access to a scenic portion of the Upper Fox River with good water depth to Berlin. Another way Berlin Boat Club is keeping "Berlin on the Fox".

Berlin Boat Club Christening the new doors at Eureka Lock



Lawe Street Trestle Trail

Brunhilde Courtney gave a detailed description of the popular **TRESTLE TRAIL** on Little Lake Butte des Mort which annually attracts 300,000 walkers and bicyclists. Two other Appleton trestles, one from the Atlas Mill to Pullman Center and the other on Lawe Street below the Student Union at Lawrence University are in early planning stages.



Train Chugging Down Tracks Before Trestle Trail Project

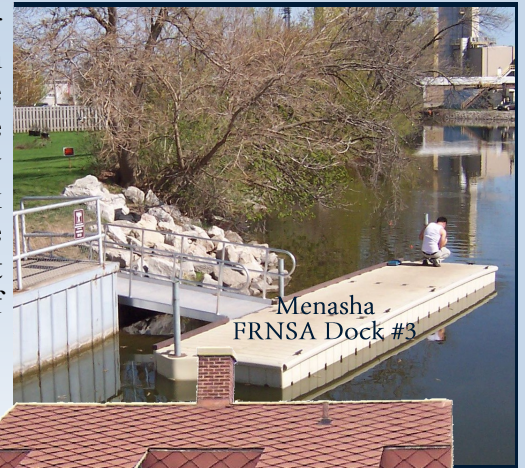


Trestle Trail

Annual Meeting Continued

Highlights of the Past Years

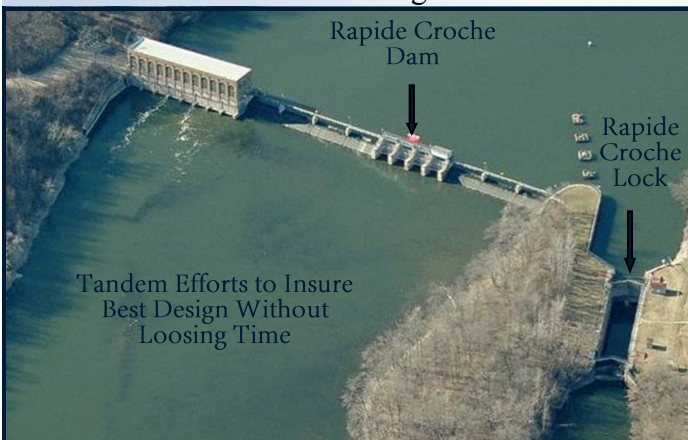
PORTAGE SITES around some the Lower Fox River locks were then shown by Pete Hensler. These portages now facilitate kayak and canoe movement without need of lock activity.



We were then informed about the current status of the **LOCK TENDER HOUSE RESTORATION** which was presented by Dick Abb. Working in collaboration with the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (FWHP) and the Fox River Navigational System Authority (FRNSA), four of the lock tender houses are in the planning stages of complete restoration, beginning with the house at the Cedars lock. This represents one of the more ambitious efforts to totally restore each home and furnish them with period furnishings of the era in which they were built to be used for overnight rentals.



Cedars Lock House Before & After



Rapide Croche Dam

Rapide Croche Lock

Tandem Efforts to Insure
Best Design Without
Loosing Time

Harlan Kiesow then discussed the **RAPID CROCHE TRANSFER STATION** and other floating dock sites where FRNSA has taken the lead to complete the lock system and enhance full usage of the Fox River waterway.

Dave Peck concluded the Power Point presentation with a discussion and illustrations of the **NAVIGATIONAL AIDS and BUOYS** which have been placed between the Appleton Yacht Club and the down

river locks. A nine page detailed book of charts with these aids was shown and later used the Captains' meeting for the cruise through the locks which followed the Annual Meeting.

Article by Richard Abb



Berlin Boat Club pulling buoys

Community Projects

FOX-WISCONSIN HERITAGE PARKWAY CELEBRATES!



The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway is celebrating several recent milestones!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service just announced that it is awarding **\$125,000** for the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (Parkway) to lead efforts to create shovel-ready restoration plans for 1,200 feet of Fox River shoreline at the Neville Public Museum, in Green Bay. The plans will develop and enhance near-shore, shallow water fish habitat, and increase public access to the water.

This award comes on the heels of the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) decision to designate the **Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway as a national recreation trail**, the first and only Wisconsin water trail given this designation.

"This is exciting news in our ongoing efforts to promote the history, improve access and preserve the future of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers," says Candice Mortara, board president of the Parkway. "The designation is a huge nod to one of our state's best water resources. The restoration project will not only improve fish and wildlife habitat



along the Fox, it will help guide sustainable restoration efforts at other sites."

More on the Restoration Plans

Lower Green Bay and the Fox River are one of five "Areas of Concern" (AOC) in Wisconsin. The AOC was established in the mid 1980's because of major environmental problems caused by toxic substances, primarily PCBs, excessive nutrient and sediment loads and physical habitat alterations. The area outside the Neville Public Museum is one of the areas within the AOC that suffers from loss of natural shoreline habitat and contaminated sediments.

While dredging and capping to address contaminants within this portion of the Fox River is already planned, beginning in 2015, there are currently no plans to integrate habitat restoration into the remediation process. The Parkway is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other organizations to fill that gap by developing a restoration plan that will enhance aquatic and wildlife habitat along the 1,200 feet of Fox shoreline by the museum.



Menasha Trestle Trail Bridge



Community Projects Continued

Parkway Designated As A National Recreational Trail

On June 1, the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway received word that the Department of Interior has designated **Wisconsin's Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Water Trail** as a national recreation trail. The 280 miles along the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers represent 40 percent of the miles added to the National Trail System (NTS)

In a press announcement released on May 31st, DOI Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis said of the Parkway, "significant as the exploration route of Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet, the trail celebrates how the Lower Fox, Upper Fox, and Lower Wisconsin Rivers have shaped the State's journey through significant historical events, industrial breakthroughs, cultural advances, enjoyment of recreational riches, and environmental recovery."

Speaking further on the exciting news Candice Mortara adds, "The NTS designation is a very important step in our efforts to share the past and present significance of the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway with Wisconsin residents and visitors. While the water trail on the Lower Wisconsin and portions of the Upper Fox River are already accessible to paddlers other segments, such as the Lower Fox River, are currently under development. We continue to seek support from individuals and businesses to improve access, safety and signage along the water trail."

Fox River Trail at City Centre Marina

Please consider making a contribution to the Parkway, joining or volunteering by visiting:

**www.heritageparkway.org or contact them at
office@heritageparkway.org to learn how you can help.**

Menasha Library 6th Annual Brain Walk



Friends of the Fox was one of 15 sponsors of the 6th Annual Brain Walk planned by the Menasha Public Library, Assistant Children's Librarian, Cassie Payne.

The Brain Walk was set up in stations. At each station children answered literature trivia questions. FOF provided questions pertaining to boat safety, historical and biological data from the Menasha area.

One hundred and one individuals walked 2.25 miles with the course ending at the Menasha Fire Department at which time an ice cream social was held.

Kathy Kleckner, Marilyn Overdahl and Brunhilde Courtney each handled a different age group. Our station ran like a swiss watch.

I would like to thank my assistants for their time, effort and enthusiasm.

Fun was had by all who attended!

Article by Brunhilde Courtney



**Warm Welcome
To Our Newest
Members**

*Tim & Kristy Begun
Clyde Holmes
Wally & Marshelle Bergstrom
Mike & Jenni Krahnnebuhl
Dave Merry
James Jossie
Walter & Milly Rugland*



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P.O. Box 741
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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 Join Us Today!!



Enclosed Are My Membership Dues to Friends of the Fox

Sustaining Donor: \$25 _____ 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.

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