

The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter



Discovery

P.O. Box 741, Appleton, WI 54912-0741
www.friendsofthefox.org

Fall 2013

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Message From Our President

It has been a particularly good year for boating on the Winnebago system after a late start this spring.

The Oshkosh waterfront has busy new downtown docks; and the Oshkosh railroad bridge project is complete.

The Eureka bridge is not quite open for highway traffic, but the beams are in place and its deck has been poured. The 2nd design of the bridge doesn't restrict the height clearance for boats.

Our partners on the Upper Fox River improved the traffic through the Eureka Lock this year. With the new dock in

downtown Berlin, several downtown businesses have been encouraged to join the Berlin Boat Club, one of our partner organizations. We are always pleased to see growth throughout the local organizations that support Friends of the Fox (FOF).

The efforts FOF and its partner organizations to revitalize navigation on the Fox River have moved forward again this season. FOF, as well as Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway, feels that it is not enough to reopen many miles of river; it is also a necessity to make trip planning and operating easier and safer for new boaters, as well as individuals unfamiliar with the area. We are working together to make that a reality.

With the 2013 Annual Meeting Flotilla in early summer, FOF created a waterway chart of the Lower Fox River from Lake Winnebago down to Little Chute. The chart has been well received. The 1st edition printing of 150, selling for \$5.00 each, have been sold. A new and enlarged 2nd addition will be printed for spring of 2014. We have decided to enlarge the chart to include the rest of the Lower Fox River, Oshkosh and the Upper Fox River to Berlin. Please watch our 2014 spring newsletter and website (friendsofthefox.org) to find out where copies of the chart will be available for sale.

I, personally, am looking for an individual with up-to-date boating knowledge of Green Bay and De Pere. It is my goal, as well as that of FOF, to list destinations in which to dock your boat and walk to area establishments, in the Green Bay and De Pere area. FOF is encouraging the potential downtown Green Bay waterfront planners of Walmart to include cruising boat access in their development plans. *(Article Continued on Page 7)*

*"The water ripples as it passes by..
Who knows to where it goes ..." Andrea Rieck*



Community Projects

FOX-WISCONSIN HERITAGE PARKWAY PARTNERS WITH RIVERS AS BRIDGES

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (Parkway) has partnered with Rivers as Bridges, an organization that connects teenagers from the Mississippi River to the Yangtze River regions in China. Students are able to share experiences in culture, conservation and commerce through education. Top students from certain provinces are eligible to tour the United States visiting colleges and universities. This year the students ventured off the Mississippi River to the Fox River in order to tour Lawrence University, downtown Appleton, and partake in a river tour which highlighted how an industrial river can be cleaned up and successfully used for both manufacturing and recreation.

The Parkway arranged for a presentation on the PCB cleanup from the Boldt Company, as they are currently managing the river clean up. Following that, the students went on a river tour from Sunset Park in Kimberly to the Old Oneida Street dock. The river excursion was made possible by the commitment of Dave Peck who secured enough donated boats, captains and crew to accommodate the fifty five Chinese students and their chaperones. This route was specifically chosen to

allow the students to go through four of the hand-operated locks, a unique educational experience

In the first lock the students were greeted with a banner saying "Connecting Us All" in their native language. The partnership between the Parkway and Rivers As Bridges made this experience well worth venturing off from the Mississippi and hopefully will be repeated in years to come. The Parkway would like to thank Friends of the Fox for all of their navigational support throughout this event.

Snapshot from one of the boats:

The Mortaras' graciously donated the use of their 27' Formula bow rider. Jim Courtney was captain for the day with Marilyn Orvedahl and Brunhilde Courtney acting as crew.

Friends of the Fox hosted a group of six Chinese students on the Mortara boat. We were fortunate to have a young gentleman named Lee, as our translator for the day.

Our group had several delightful conversations throughout the day. One particularly interesting topic was regarding the fact that the wrappers for the snack Twinkies, that the students are familiar with in China, were

manufactured locally in Little Chute. They were all surprised that the wrappers were not made in China.

Another area of interest was the housing accommodations in our area. We proceeded to give them information about the new River Heath and Eagle Flats project along the shores of the Fox River.

It was amazing to see the fascination that some of the students had with our insects. They had not seen dragonflies before. One student pretended he was going to eat it. We held our breaths at such a thought.

The trip through four locks seemed a little labor intensive for the students. All of the students rushed to the bow when Jim was able to give them a taste of speed. We encountered a boat full of smiles when we dropped off the students at the Fox River Navigational System Authority pier, located downstream from Lock #1 on Old Oneida Street.

We all shared a beautiful day on the water while entertaining our new friends from China. It was indeed a cultural experience for us all.

Written by Brunhilde Courtney



Miles may separate us...

*Friendships will bond us... The river will unite us...
Relationships are made as we journey the Fox River.*

Community Projects Cont. Page 3

THANKS TO DONATORS OF RIVERS AS BRIDGES CRUISE

Friends of the Fox was proud to assist the Parkway in this cultural event and we want to give a special thanks to the following people.

Thank you to the following waterway supporters who made this event possible.

- Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway for taking a lead role in setting the event up
- Fox River Navigational System Authority for allowing us 8 special lockages through the Appleton locks
- Kevin and Candice Mortara - use of 2 boats
- Mark and Mike West - Captain and 2 boats
- Tom Peck - 1 boat
- Dave Peck - Captain and 1 boat
- Steve Stevenson - 1 boat
- Dick Shramer - Captain and 1 boat
- Wayne Weckworth - Captain and 1 boat
- Tom Goudy - Captain
- Chuck Brook - Captain
- Harlan Kiesow - Captain
- Jim Courtney - Captain



We appreciate all of the time and effort you each put into this day to make it a pleasant cultural experience.

Written by Dave Peck



River Heath and Eagle Flats project in background
River Trip Photos by Dave Peck

LARGE CONTRIBUTORS

Friends of the Fox was presented with a large contribution from the Wisconsin Recreational Boaters Association.

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!

Community Projects Cont.

GEOLOGIST TO HELP INTERPRET PADDLE POINTS IN 2014



Retired UW-Madison professor of geology Dave Mickelson and his wife, will join Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (Parkway) and North East Wisconsin Paddlers (NEWP) for some of 2014 Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Paddles. Dave will serve as their paddling geology



interpreter, adding an additional heritage element to the paddles that he participates in.

Not only will both organizations learn what questions the public have, and what they don't know about Wisconsin geology, but Dave will also be preparing a preliminary "strip map" content related to geology -- i.e., what geological features can boaters see from the river for the river segments we paddle next year.

This will be a good start towards a comprehensive set of maps detailing history, geology and "sites of interest" paddle points. The Parkway and NEWP look forward to working with Professor Dave Mickelson and his wife in 2014, as Dave will add a deeper interpretation and understanding of the geology of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. Please make sure you say "Hi" to them if you see them at a 2014 paddle event. Dave is known by his university students for his red hat with white polka dots.

Written by Ann Clausen

PARKWAY AWARDED 2 GRANTS

The Parkway has received a generous grant awarded by River



RIVER ALLIANCE
of Wisconsin

We Save Rivers

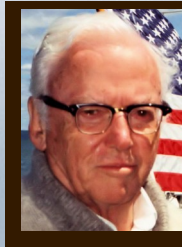
Alliance of Wisconsin to fund research centered on improving access to, and appropriate use of the river by the Fox Cities' extensive Hmong population. The Hmong population come from a river-oriented culture.

The Parkway wants to learn if there are barriers to Hmong access to the Fox River that could potentially be remedied. This grant will look at this issue by working with U.W. Oshkosh Professor Paul Van Auken to interview and analyze responses to a targeted survey, as well as other methods. It is important to have all who live by the rivers feel comfortable using them.



Frank C. Shattuck Foundation, through the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, Inc., recently awarded the Parkway with its first water trail ADA contribution grant.

Awareness and education will let people know the recreational opportunities on the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, but access is still an issue.



The Parkway is working to solve the access issue by not only completely building out the water trail, but by also installing much needed ADA accessible landings from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien. The physically disabled population is grossly underserved when it comes to paddling access in the Fox Valley.

Many counties and municipalities along this route see this need and are anxious to have one of the ADA landings in their community, but do not have the funding in their budget. The Parkway is committed to this project, and

knowing the fiscal issues, set out from the beginning to raise the funds necessary to make this trail fully functional, accessible to all, and well enough outfitted to warrant paddlers traveling from surrounding states to use it.



Community Foundation
FOR THE FOX VALLEY REGION, INC.



Information for grants from
www.heritageparkway.org

Miscellaneous

DONATION OF HISTORICAL CRUISING GUIDE

Friends of the Fox would like to thank Jeff Buchta for donating his fathers 1961 Great Lakes Cruising Club Guide. The guide is a rare historical item with information about cruising the Great Lakes during the heyday of this style of boating. Jeff took one final cruise with his family on his sailing yacht, BUK-N-DEAR, down through 17 locks before parting with his family's cruising guide. Jeff's family cruised their yacht from Ephraim, where it was docked for the summer, through Lake Michigan, Mackinac Island, North Channel and Lake Superior along with many other journeys throughout summers past.

What stories we would hear if the yacht could tell of its adventures on the Great Lakes waterways. The Great Lakes Cruising Club guide is truly an heirloom of the past.

Thank you Jeff for your donation.

Article by Brunhilde Courtney

RAPIDE CROCHE LOCK UPDATE

The Rapide Croche Lock upstream of Wrightstown was permanently closed in 1988.

At that time, wood stop logs were placed above and below the Rapide Croche lock and the lock was dewatered to prevent sea lamprey from getting into the Winnebago pool lake system. The sea lamprey barrier has functioned as designed, however the timbers are getting toward the end of their useful life. The expense of keeping the lock dewatered is getting worse. The stop logs are not really the barrier as much as the dewatered deep well just upstream of the downstream stop log wall. More important is that many of the current invasive species are very small and not as easily blocked as the sea lamprey.

Fox River Navigational System Authority (FRNSA) has moved forward with a plan to install concrete barrier walls inside of the current stop log walls that will eliminate or reduce the leaking and expensive pumping. These walls will also update the barrier to better block AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species).

A recommended plan to convert this location to a Transfer Station which will cleanse and transfer watercraft was developed by FRSNA and STS Engineering Consultants back in 2007-2009. In 2013, work was resumed by the *Rapide Croche committee*, (reporting to FRSNA) to take the next steps required to implement this project.

The following are the activities of the *Rapide Croche committee* currently underway and reviewed at the committee meeting held on September 18, 2013:

- Provide answers to questions raised by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding the transfer station.
 - A consultant has been hired to provide a written response to these questions and this response is in the process of being reviewed. Answers will include minor changes in the recommended cleansing method.
- Refining a water sampling program which provides records of which invasive species are present above and below the site and when they are found.
- Developing a response protocol if an AIS is found which is new to the body of water.

The committee's next meeting will be in late October or early November.

Written by Steve Lockhart



Remembering A Dear Friend

Friends of the Fox would like to pay tribute to a dear friend, David A. Liskow. Dave served as a treasurer for Friends of the Fox for many years until he was transferred by his employer, Valley Banks to Henderson, Nevada. Dave brought a level of professionalism to our board of directors that helped us continue through our formative years.

We would like to express our sincere condolences to his wife and family. Dave will be missed by all who knew him!

Written by John W. Forster



Navigation Operations

2007-2013 Fox Locks General Navigation Season Statistics

2013	MENASHA	LITTLE KAUKAUNA	DEPERE	UREKA LOCK	APPLETON (LOCKS 1-4)	CEDARS LOCK	2013 TOTALS
Lockages	1,412	686	1,183	454	128	58	Lockages: 3,921
Crafts	1,950	975	1,775		181	73	Crafts: 4,954
Passengers	8,314	3,938	7,364	1,630	794	313	Passengers: 22,353
Canoe & Kayak	218	6	117		111	0	Passengers: 452
2012							2012 TOTALS
Lockages	1575	849	1271	261	116	65	Lockages: 4,137
Crafts	2488	1169	1983		186	95	Crafts: 5,921
Passengers	9455	4351	8301	820	778	413	Passengers: 24,118
Canoe & Kayak	152	15	82		147	12	Passengers: 408
2011							2011 TOTALS
Lockages	1396	738	1152		68	43	Lockages: 3,377
Crafts	2167	1027	1723		107	71	Crafts: 5,095
Passengers	8255	4351	6003		369	255	Passengers: 19,233
Canoe & Kayak	151	29	51		119	7	Passengers: 357
2010							2010 TOTALS
Lockages	1318	727	1252				Lockages: 3,297
Crafts	2055	1106	2062				Crafts: 5,223
Passengers	7395	4821	8087				Passengers: 20,303
2009							2009 TOTALS
Lockages	1563	934	1504				Lockages: 4,001
Crafts	2252	1470	2329				Crafts: 6,051
Passengers	8837	5761	8665				Passengers: 23,263
2008							2008 TOTALS
Lockages	1220	732	1348				Lockages: 3,300
Crafts	1580	1291	2202				Crafts: 5,073
Passengers	6677	4501	9048				Passengers: 20,226
2007							2007 TOTALS
Lockages	1439	911	1431				Lockages: 3,781
Crafts	2303	1452	2403				Crafts: 6,158
Passengers	8117	6059	9749				Passengers: 23,925



Fox River Navigational System Authority

1008 Augustine Street Kaukauna, WI 54130 Phone: 920-759-9833

For More Information: www.foxriverlocks.org

PRESIDENT LETTER (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE 1)

Destinations to resupply food and water while boating in the Green Bay area are necessary, as it is our goal to attract the interest of Great Lakes cruising boats looking to explore Wisconsin, by traveling up the Fox River.

FOF efforts to place buoys on the Lower Fox River from Appleton down to Little Chute have entered a new phase. Tri-County Power Boat Alliance (TCPBA) has arranged for one of its supporters to donate a large pontoon boat to be used as a buoy tender. FOF has in turn donated the boat to Hawks Nest Bar, a waterfront business near Little Chute. We have arranged to borrow the boat in the spring and fall to do the necessary buoy placements and repairs on the Fox River, using a removable hoist. Hawks Nest Bar will use the pontoon to give rides to patrons from their dock just upstream of the Cedars Lock. It is the perfect solution for both parties, as well as providing river enthusiasts a trip on the river, that was not possible prior to this. We are very grateful to TCPBA, as well as the donor of the pontoon boat, for their patience throughout the summer long process completing this transaction. My buoy lifting back is particularly grateful. FOF began the setting and removing of buoys 3 years ago as no other organization was willing to get involved. FOF navigation committee feels that using boat clubs and private organizations are not

the best way to place buoys on public waterways. The future long term goal of the buoy project, is to involve the U.S. Coast Guard and local counties, with input from informed local groups, while using the necessary permits as required from the Department of Natural Resources for placement of the buoys. Before that can be done, we must increase the economic importance of boating on the Fox River.

FOF is grateful to all our supporters over the years who have shared our dream of returning through navigation to the Fox River.

So another boating season draws to a close.

Written by Dave Peck, President



2013 FOX-WISCONSIN HERITAGE PADDLE STATISTICS



2013 FWHP Paddle Statistics	5/18	5/19	6/1	6/22	6/23	7/20	8/17	9/28	Total Paddles
Male Participants	19	17	10	11	9	160	70	68	364
Female Participants	5	5	12	12	4	140	65	50	293
Total Participants	24	22	22	23	13	300	135	118	657
Average Male Age Per Event	60.7	59.7	58.5	54.0	52.8	47.8	54.2	47.6	
Average Female Age Per Event	56.5	56.5	53.2	58.7	55.1	45.1	52.0	46.4	

Date Paddle Event Description

5/18 Lower Wisconsin River - Arena to Spring Green
 5/19 Lower Wisconsin River - Spring Green to Gotham
 6/01 Upper Fox River - Pardeeville to Portage
 6/22 Upper Fox River - White River Dam to Berlin
 6/23 Wolf River - Winneconne to Oshkosh
 7/20 Park-to-Park Paddle - Neenah to Appleton
 8/17 Tall Ships Paddle - De Pere to Green Bay
 9/28 Appleton Locks Paddle - Appleton to Kimberly

Total Male Participants - 252 Average Overall Male Age - 49.07

Total Female Participants - 239 Average Overall Female Age - 46.99

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS - 491 AVERAGE OVERALL AGE - 48.07

Statistics provided by Jeff Mazanec - North East Wisconsin Paddlers



Tom Young
photos



Discovery

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.

WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Karen Brooks Donald Koskinen

Please Renew
Your Membership
or Join
Friends of the Fox
Today ~



Enclosed Are My Membership Dues to Friends of the Fox

Sustaining Donor: \$25 _____ Gold Donor: \$50 _____ Platinum Donor: \$100 _____
***Additional Donation _____

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: _____

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!!