

The Friends of the Fox Quarterly Newsletter

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Discovery

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The Fox River Navigational System Authority Meets...

The fourth Wednesday of each month at 3 pm at the Army Corp of Engineers building in Kaukauna

Here is an update on the Lower Fox River Locks Project:

Kevin Forres, project manager for CR Meyer Construction of Oshkosh reports that he is satisfied with the progress being made on the four Appleton locks. To date, they have removed many of the lock doors. These are huge doors made by stacking huge wooden beams on top of each other and then fastening the assembly together and shaping the edges to get a water seal at the hinge joint and the and the faces where the two doors come together when the "gates" are closed. All of the machinery and valve pieces needed to operate the doors has been refurbished and is back on site for re-installation when the new doors arrive. Kevin reports he hopes to complete this work by Thanksgiving this year.

The work with the State Historical Society to ensure the restoration project will be authentic is progressing well. You will be pleased at the period of restoration they have chosen. If you had been a user of the system before it closed or maybe had grown up around the locks in "the good old days", you will feel right at home!

Meanwhile, volunteers continue to assist with site clean-up and fund-raising efforts. It may be difficult to understand the need to raise funds, especially when you hear that we received money from the federal government. Well, that money is not sufficient to complete the project, and it was received based on the promise that we would raise locally the balance of the funds needed to complete the project. To complete the projects requires raising money for the boat transfer and cleaning station at Rapide Croche Lock, where the sea lamprey barrier is installed to protect against invasive species ever getting into our waterway.

Thank you for your continued support to preserve our great asset.

Bob Stark



A word with Bob Stark

Menasha Lock Celebrates 150 Years of Service

The City of Menasha with the help of Harbormistress Diane Shabach, the Menasha Historical Society, and the Friends of the Fox celebrated its lock with several events. The "mod" music group "Chasen Mason" played on Friday night in Menasha.

At the lock site on Saturday morning, FOF served donut holes donated by Mandfield's Bakery and orange drink donated by Menasha McDonalds. Karin Whealon, Brunhilde Courtney, Ellen Balthazor and Marilyn Orvedahl sold lime-green tee-shirts promoting the Fox locks. Sales got a boost when Menasha Mayor Laux and Fox River Navigation Authority's Ron Van De Hey wore the tee's during their speeches commemorating the lock's 150 years. Their speeches as well as FOF President Bob Stark's were timed to take place when antique wooden boats were in the lock waiting to lock through on their trip from the Menasha Marina, which was celebrating its 20th anniversary, to Lutz Park in Appleton.

Saturday morning there was a Grand-Opening of the Friends of the Fox information/exhibit center on the porch of the locktender's house adjacent to the lock. A highlight was a power point presentation, which included photos from Winn Palowski's archives. The center is open to the public when the locktender is on duty. We thank Larry Konz for donating the signs for the porch.

The celebration concluded with a steak-fry at Menasha Marina. Harbormistress Diane Shabach, was recognized for her contributions to FOF and the Unlock the Fox project, accepted a \$20,000 check and another donation for her effort to name a lock. "Cookie and Dennis" provided music.

"River Tales" as told by Rosemary Catlin Bruehl

(This is the 5th story in a series of Rosemary Catlin Bruehl's life in the early 20th century living in the railroad house under the Memorial Drive Bridge. Brunhilde Courtney visits with Rosemary and prepares the stories.)

Rosemary remembers that as soon as the ice was gone, usually in March, navigation began on the Fox River. Barge travel increased as tugboats with names like "Herman Hits", "Nellie B", and "Carter Paul L" would pull coal barges from Oshkosh to Green Bay. Boat travel made her life fun!! About 1918 Rosemary dated two brothers whose father operated Appleton Lock #4. The brothers would get off at George Catlin's railroad bridge to visit. They sat on the porch glider to talk and eat fudge prepared by Rosemary's mother Rose. When it was time to leave the brothers would hop on another boat going to where their father operated the lock. Rosemary has a word of advice: never date brothers.

An interesting feature was that the railroad ran three feet from the Catlins' house. The house would shake and many cups were broken. However, when the family took trips the train would stop to pick them up and drop them off at their doorstep on the way back. Great Service!

Life wasn't always happy near the river. One day George, Rosemary's father, saw a man jump off the Bridge. He ran and Rosemary screamed, "Pa, what's the matter?" George ran to a rowboat. He extended a pole to the man, but the man did not want to be saved, so George had to push the man's head under water every once in a while. Quite a rescue!

A reply to remember: When Rosemary is asked, "How are you?" she answers when she is feeling well, "Soft and lovely"!

Happy Fall

Written by Brunhilde Buechel Courtney

Report from the Fox River Navigational System Authority Aquatic Invasive Species Committee

Many people have expressed their beliefs and ideas about the re-opening of the lower Fox River to navigation and the potential for the upstream spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Some of these beliefs are based on misinformation. The following information is intended to give everyone a better understanding of the earnest effort involved in AIS prevention.

Sixteen of the seventeen locks will be operational, but the lock at Rapide Croche Locks will remain closed. The sea lamprey barrier at Rapide Croche will remain in place. The AIS Committee of the Fox River Navigational System Authority (FRNSA) is drafting an AIS prevention plan. Members of the AIS committee represent the FRNSA, Friends of the Fox, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant, Lawrence University and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The draft plan proposes removing vessels from the water and killing all AIS that are on or in the vessel before lifting the vessel over the sea lamprey barrier and placing it into the water on the upstream side of the lock. This will involve inspection of boats approaching the lift station and cleaning the boats and equipment with 145°F water. Cleaning boats with 145 degree water will kill or remove all AIS including the resting eggs of spiny waterfleas. The boat lift will be operated by trained FRNSA staff; boats that cannot be cleaned will be turned away. The FRNSA has approved a study by STS Consultants to prepare a plan for a boat cleaning and transfer station for moving, inspecting and cleaning boats at the Rapide Croche lock site.

Dr. Bart DeStasio of Lawrence University will oversee monitoring for AIS above and below the Rapide Croche Lock. The monitoring effort has already begun and will continue when the lift station is in operation.

As part of the draft AIS plan development, public input and comments will be accumulated through upcoming public forums. The draft plan must also undergo the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approval process including public forums before it is enacted.

The Rapide Croche boat lift is not the only inlet for AIS into Lake Winnebago; Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels have already entered the system through one of the 48 other access points on the system. ***Everyone bringing material with the potential to support living organisms to the Lake Winnebago basin must take action to protect Lake Winnebago from AIS.*** This includes boats, live bait and plant life on trailers. We are committed to protecting the Lake Winnebago ecosystem to ensure that the lake and waterway will continue to be a place that fishermen, visitors and boaters will all enjoy for generations to come.

Please e-mail your comments to the Fox River Navigational System Authority at: Lock269735@sbcglobal.net

William R. Bush
AIS Committee Chairman
Fox River Navigational System Authority

"River Rhythm" was the FOF annual meeting theme. The event was held at Waverly Beach in Menasha on April 29th. Chairman of the event, Bob Aykins, was flanked by Larry Medema and Brunhilde Courtney as coordinators of events. Music was provided by Cookee and Dennis. Light food was provided. Fundraising activities included a "Giving Tree" with Rana Schbach collecting donations; a 50/50 raffle with Larry Medema and Dave Twohig selling tickets; the Spinning Wheel with Bob Aykens at the helm; and a Silent Auction under the direction of Diane Schbach. The Master of Ceremonies was FOF 1st Vice-president Bill Bush, who was a natural.

FOF President Bob Stark conducted the meeting and introduced the present Board of Directors and new additions: Brian Groves, Steve Lockhart, and Karin Whealon. The Vision award was presented to Past-president Doug Dobbe for bringing his ideas and strategies and hard work to "Re-Discover the Fox". A memorial plaque honoring FOF charter member Oliver Smith was shown to the audience. The plaque recognized Oliver's many contributions to the Fox River project.

Bob Stark also gave an overview of what the Fox River Navigational System Authority has already done and their plans for the future. He addressed questions from the floor. Many were regarding the timeline for opening the locks. People were happy to have their questions answered.

The Waverly Beach hall was filled with displays. Most were from Community Development departments from communities along the Fox River. The displays highlighted present and future projects. The City of Oshkosh sent information. Nile Sweet was available to explain their projects. Others present were: Future of Neenah KarenHarkness; City of Appleton Bill Lecker; Town of Menasha George Dearborn; City of Menasha Ed Kleckner; City of DePere Bill Patzke sent pictures of the projected new bridge; City of Green Bay Rob Strong. Also represented were the Paper Discovery Center Val Wylie; the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Peter Peregrine; and River Place Marina and Yacht Club of Green Bay Ryan Rosenthal.

FOF appreciated all who setup displays and gave their time on a Saturday evening.

A volunteer booth was available to sign up people to volunteer for future FOF projects, such as cleaning up the locks or staffing FOF booths. The volunteer booth was staffed by Steve and Betty Lockhart. Kevin and Terry Quinn assisted Ellen Balthazor and Karin Whealon in a booth dedicated to signing up new members. Marcia Medema and Karen Peck checked in members and handled door prizes. Jackson Medley manned the FOF booth.

The result of the evening is that FOF now has an additional \$4,000.00 to help it continue its efforts. Everyone who donated is greatly appreciated. Items for donation were received from

Appleton Yacht Club	Ed Barnes
Bay Marine	Jacks or Better
Bridge Port of Sturgeon Bay	Mercury Marine
Community First	Naut's Landing
Brunhilde Courtney	Oscar's
Ed's Boat Sales	River Place Marina and Yacht Club
Fond du Lac Yacht Club	Salty's
Fond du Lac Lakeside Park and Marina	Dave Twohig
The Goldsmith—Ron Emanuel	Waverly Beach
Hi Seas Marina	West Marine
Dave Loyde	Whealon Towing and Service

If you made a donation and we neglected to mention you here, please accept our apology and notify us. We will correct our error in the next newsletter.)