



# Friends of Lake Wingra



Promoting a healthy Lake Wingra  
through an active watershed community

## Wingra Watershed News

Spring 2008 volume 5, number 1



Brimming with carp, the net is hauled up through the ice.  
Photo by David S. Liebl

### 6,308 Wingra Carp Bid Adieu

- David S. Liebl

After years of planning, setbacks and delays, the Friends-sponsored carp removal project netted 20 tons of carp from Lake Wingra during March. Supported by funding from a DNR Lake Protection Grant and contributions from the Friends, a commercial fishing crew, working under the supervision of DNR regional fisheries staff, seined beneath the surface of the frozen lake. Aided by submersibles, ATV's, airboats, and lift buckets, the carp were hauled out of the lake and shipped to fish markets in Brooklyn, NY and Fulton, IL.

By counting recaptured fish that had been marked in 2005 and 2006, DNR Fisheries Biologist Kurt Welke was able to estimate the total number of carp in the Lake at 13,200. So with nearly half removed, will Lake Wingra begin to look like the water inside the carp exclosure? Probably not yet. We expect that additional removals will be needed to suppress the carp population to a small fraction of the original numbers. We also will need to guard against the carp repopulating the lake, either by spawning, or coming in over the Lake Wingra dam.



### From the Chair

#### Ten Years of Promoting a Healthy Lake Wingra Through an Active Watershed Community

Yes, this issue of Wingra Watershed News is briefer than usual. But that's because we're busy working on a special issue which will be bigger and better than ever. This forthcoming issue will focus on "health goals" for Lake Wingra in the context of the lake's history and current ecological condition, and it will help to celebrate our 10-year anniversary as an organization.

Consider joining us at our upcoming events to help us celebrate our anniversary (see Calendar on back page). The pontoon tours we offered in partnership with Tyler Leeper of the Wingra Canoe and Sailing Center were so popular that we are running them again this summer (see page 3).

We'll also be cooperating again with the Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association at the annual Lake Wingra Clean-up (associated with Jazz in the Park) on June 14. Come out and enjoy the lake and the watershed community!

  
Jim Lorman

# Friends of Lake Wingra, Inc.

## Mission

We promote a healthy Lake Wingra through an active watershed community.

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## Special Thanks To:

Mike Healy, Brad Herrick, Amy Kama-rainen, Betty Les, Eric Liljequist, Mark Wegener, Nancy Zolidis, DNR Southern District Fisheries Staff, Dane County, Dane County Fishing Expo, City of Madison, and Edgewood College (our fiscal sponsor and frequent host).

## Become a Friend

To become a Friend of Lake Wingra, send your tax-deductible contribution to Friends of Lake Wingra Inc. c/o Office of Advancement, Edgewood College, 1000 Edgewood College Drive, Madison, WI 53711-1977. Please make checks to: Edgewood College - FOLW.

## Friends of Lake Wingra, Inc.

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## Wingra Watershed News

Spring 2008, Vol. 5, No.1

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# Yahara Lakes Legacy Partnership

- Jim Lorman

Three independent initiatives emerged last fall aimed at protecting and improving the Madison area's signature chain of lakes—Mendota, Monona, Wingra, Kegonsa, and Waubesa, and the Yahara River that connects them.

- ◆ Yahara CLEAN (involving Dane County, DNR, DATCP, and Madison) formed to decrease nutrient and sediments input and to address bacterial outbreaks at beaches.
- ◆ City of Madison funding (in a budget amendment sponsored by Alders Brian Solomon and Satya Rhodes-Conway) "to initiate a planning process to pull together stakeholders and community members to establish clear and achievable goals and an implementation plan for cleaning the lakes."
- ◆ Funding from the Madison Community Foundation to Clean Wisconsin

and Gathering Waters Conservancy to document historical lake rehabilitation efforts and "develop a common vision and practical strategies for restoring and maintaining a healthy, sustainable [Yahara lakes] watershed."

Key people involved in these separate initiatives came together to discuss how to coordinate their efforts. The "Yahara Lakes Legacy Partnership" emerged from this and has begun to work toward a plan intended to provide community ownership in a common vision and a practical strategy for the lakes. For more information on the Yahara Lakes Legacy Partnership, see: [www.danewaters.com/YaharaLakesLegacyPartnership.aspx](http://www.danewaters.com/YaharaLakesLegacyPartnership.aspx).

Friends of Lake Wingra is engaged in this exciting initiative, which we hope will inspire broader community involvement in and funding for lake protection and enhancement.



## Sights in the Watershed

This dragline is removing about 1,400 cubic yards of sand and sediment from in front of the storm water outfall at Wingra Park. Primarily from street sand, debris and erosion, the dredge spoils are being used to fill low areas in the Park. The Friends support efforts to intercept runoff and remove sediment before it reaches the Lake. Photo by David S. Liebl



# Eton Ridge Rain Gardens

- Steve Arnold

The City has offered homeowners on three streets in the Lake Wingra watershed the opportunity to be participants in reducing storm water flow and improving the water table by building rain gardens during street reconstruction this summer. The streets involved are Eton Ridge, Rugby Row and Vista Road. The rain gardens will be built on the terrace between the sidewalk and street. The City will share the cost of constructing the rain gardens with the homeowners.

The project got its start last summer when the Regent Neighborhood Association-Lakes Committee surveyed homeowners on Eton Ridge and discovered a high level of interest in having rain gardens constructed in their terrace area. The Eton Ridge rain garden project represents the city's first effort to significantly broaden homeowner participation in rain garden construction. The city has determined that 27 of the 60 homes affected by the street redevelopment have terrace sites suitable for rain gardens.

Check with your Alder and find out when the next street reconstruction project is scheduled for your neighborhood, and help us to protect our Lake Wingra watershed.

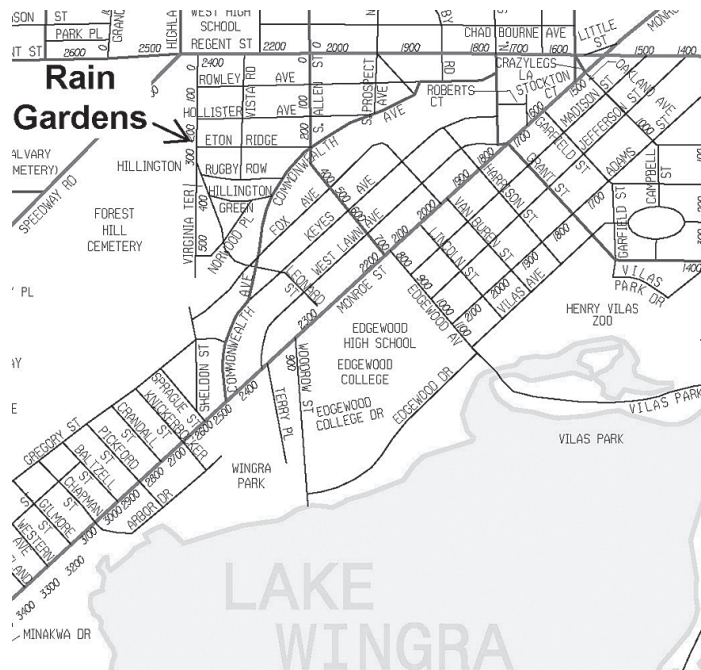


Photo by Wingra Canoe and Sailing Center

## Lake Wingra Boat Tours

Curious about the science, history and management of Lake Wingra? Interested in getting close-up views of sediment deltas, a carp exclosure experiment, or some of the unique flora and fauna that inhabit the lake? If so, then consider joining us for a family-friendly pontoon boat tour around the lake this summer. The free, half-hour tours will be conducted by the Friends of Lake Wingra in partnership with the Wingra Canoe and Sailing Center.

Tours will leave from the Wingra Park boat landing at at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursday in June, July and August. Space is limited, so please call 233-5332 to ensure a spot on the boat.

## WOW! Windows on Wingra Workshop Spring Cleaning for Clean Springs!

**May 10, 9:30-Noon, Edgewood College, Mazzuchelli Center, Rm 103**

Among Lake Wingra's most special places are the springs along the shoreline where groundwater bubbles up from deep in the earth to carry cool, clear water to the lake. Although many original springs dried up as the City grew, those that remain are environmental and cultural treasures.

Join the Friends of Lake Wingra to do some "spring cleaning" by removing invasive plants and sediment, and planting native wetland species around newly discovered springs along the shores of Lake Wingra. Refreshments included.

No fee, but please register by contacting [info@lakewingra.org](mailto:info@lakewingra.org) or 663-2838. Minors must come with a parent or a signed volunteer release form. Indicate if you are a minor and will need a release form. For more information visit [www.lakewingra.org](http://www.lakewingra.org).

## Join The FOLW Email Community

Would you like to be notified by email about upcoming FOLW events?

Join our listserve! Go to [http://www.danenet.org/mailman/list-info/friends\\_wingra](http://www.danenet.org/mailman/list-info/friends_wingra) to sign up. Once you're signed up, you can also post messages about Lake Wingra to the rest of the list. (Don't worry about your inbox getting swamped; there's normally just a few messages per month.)

# Spring Calendar

See our online calendar at [www.lakewingra.org](http://www.lakewingra.org) for more details on these and other upcoming events.

**April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28, Sept 25**  
**5:30- 7:30 p.m.**

## **Monthly FOLW Board Meetings**

Mazzuchelli Center, Edgewood College, fourth Thursday of each month. All are welcome! Please contact [info@lakewingra.org](mailto:info@lakewingra.org) or 663-2838 to confirm the location and agenda.

**May 10 - 9:30-Noon**

## **WOW: "Spring Cleaning" for Springs**

Meet in Rm. 103 of Edgewood College's Mazzuchelli Center for a "spring cleaning" of one of Lake Wingra's beautiful springs!

**June 5, June 19, July 3, July 17, August 7, August 21**

## **Lake Wingra Boat Tours**

The half-hour tours leave from the Wingra Canoe and Sailing Center at 6:30pm and 7:30pm.

**June 14**

## **FOLW Tenth Anniversary Celebration**

We'll be celebrating and enjoying the music with our friends and neighbors at Jazz in the Park.

**June 14, 9:00-Noon**

## **Take a Stake in the Lakes**

Lake Wingra Clean-up - (Meet at the Wingra Boathouse, with Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association, followed by Jazz in the Park, 2:30-8:00.)

Wingra Creek Clean-up - Meet on Plaenert Dr. at the pedestrian bridge)

## **FOLW Restorations Provide Native Garden Volunteer Opportunities**

◆ **May 18, August 17, 4-6 PM**

Odana Golf Course Rain Garden (Near the end of the parking lot along the bike path)

◆ **June 15, September 21, 4-6 PM**

Vilas Park Lagoon Shoreline Planting (Along the lagoon near the tennis courts)

◆ **July 20, 4-6 PM**

Wingra Creek Prairie Restoration (Beld Street Bridge, just off W. Wingra Drive)

**Contact [info@lakewingra.org](mailto:info@lakewingra.org) or call 663-2838 for more information on any of these events**

*Friends of Lake Wingra, Inc.*

c/o Office of Advancement

Edgewood College

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