The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway is a unique and varied landscape in Wisconsin, consisting of the Fox and Lower Wisconsin Rivers, encompassing an assortment of history, inhabitants and folklore that are as diverse as its topography.

The proposed linear parkway slices diagonally across Wisconsin through parts of 15 counties following the Fox River from Green Bay to Portage and the Wisconsin River from Portage to the Mississippi River. It marks the route taken in 1673 by explorers Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet.

“The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway highlights a key portion of Wisconsin history that needs to be preserved for future generations,” U.S. Senator Herb Kohl said. “The development of the Mississippi and the West was due in part to the work of Marquette and Joliet, and it would be a shame for this piece of history to be lost as the years go on.”

Parkway supporters and organizers believe a National Heritage Area designation would provide the opportunity to protect and enhance the abundant resources and unique history of this area.

Special Thanks
We would like to thank our guest speakers and the individuals and organizations who contributed their time and resources to make this project successful:

Wisconsin Humanities Council
Christine Williams
Candice Mortara
Ruth Olson
Mandy Anthony
Jeremiah Slinde
Brunhilde Courtney
Shari Manney
Harlan Kiesow
Dan Reinhold
Scott Thompson

Dave Peck
Paul Gilsoul
Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber
Friends of the Fox
Fox River Navigational System Authority
Paper Discovery Center
East Central Regional Planning Commission
Memorial Florists
Piggly Wiggly, Menasha
North East Wisconsin Paddlers

Unlock the Memories
The history of locktending on the Fox River

Date: Saturday, September 24, 2011
Time: 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Presents
Unlock the Memories

Welcome and Introductions 2:15 p.m.

Guest Speakers 2:20 - 3:00 p.m.

Representative Penny Bernard Schaber
57th Assembly District, State of Wisconsin

Harlan Kiesow
Chief Executive Officer, Fox River Navigational System Authority
History of Fox River Lock System
Role of Fox River Navigational System Authority
Restoration of locks and reuse of lock houses

Dan Reinhold
Vice-President, Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway
Role of the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway

Christine Williams
Director of Historic and Cultural Resources, Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway
Fox River Locktender research project

Introductions of Locktender Families 3:00 p.m.

A heartfelt thank you to all the individuals who are currently employed as locktenders and those locktenders and their families who have worked in the past so diligently allowing safe river traffic throughout the Fox River lock system.

Locktender Stories oral history project 3:15 p.m.
Ruth Olson
Associate Director, Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Refreshments and Interviews 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.

This time is set aside for those locktenders, family members and descendants who would like to personally speak with Ruth Olson about the Locktender Stories Oral History Project.

Others will have an opportunity to learn more about the history of locktending through photo displays, newspaper articles, and meeting retired and current locktenders, their families and descendants. Others attendees include Fox River Navigational System Authority employees, current and retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees, supporters of the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway and area historical societies.

Closing Comments 4:45 p.m.

Research on the history of the locktenders will continue on the lower and upper Fox (DePere to Portage). If you have information on locktenders, contact information, photos or other items of interest – please contact Christine Williams at 920-749-0415 or Williams@heritageparkway.org

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