



Celebrating 10 Years of Managing  
the Fox River Locks !!

# Fox River Locks

As the 2015 boating season winds down, we'll use this newsletter issue to look back at some of the many events that took place along the River. The highlight of the season was the Anniversary Event that took place on August 26 in Kaukauna. The event provided a good opportunity to step back and acknowledge those who played a part in the the locks restoration project.

An event of a different type took place also in August, downstream of the Neenah dam where a small invasive species fish that goes by the name of "Round Goby" was identified. Results of this discovery are ongoing...

Previously published newsletter issues will be archived and available from the [foxlocks.org](http://foxlocks.org) website. Your suggestions for future newsletter articles and feedback comments are always welcome.



*A few of the many that turned out for the  
FRNSA anniversary event*

## WHAT IS FRNSA ??

FRNSA (*Fox River Navigational System Authority*) is a public authority created by the Wisconsin Legislature in 2001 to oversee the navigational system on the Lower Fox River following the transfer of the system from the federal government to the state in September 2004. As outlined in Chapter 237, Wisconsin Statutes, the authority's primary responsibility is to, "repair, rehabilitate, replace, operate and maintain the navigational system."



### Have You Visited [foxlocks.org](http://foxlocks.org) lately?

Some website remodeling has taken place and we have a whole new look including registration to receive this newsletter via email.



# Fox River Locks

## HARLAN KIESOW RETIREMENT



*Harlan Kiesow and U.S. Congressman Reid Ribble watch on as a boat enters Kaukauna Lock #3*

After 10 years of service, Harlan Kiesow retired on July 31 as CEO of the Fox River Navigational System Authority. Prior to his role with FRNSA, Harlan worked with the East Central Planning Commission. Harlan played an important role in the organization during the rebuilding of the system locks and was a tireless supporter of the locks system. . Good luck in retirement Harlan!!

*Past FRNSA Chairman Ron Van De Hey (Left) and Harlan team up to operate Lock #3.*



Fox River Navigational System Authority  
1008 Augustine Street  
Kaukauna, WI 54130-1608  
(920)759-9833



*Harlan taking a moment to explain lock operation (above) and visit with a friend (below) at the Anniversary Event in August*







# Fox River Locks

## ANNIVERSARY EVENT

August 26, 2015 was a notable day along the locks canal in Kaukauna. With the help of local representatives, politicians and community residents, FRNSA celebrated 10 years of Locks management and restoration of the system. There were plenty of stories shared by those that recall the days when boat traffic kept this canal busy day and night. But there were also families that came out to simply learn more about an important historical feature within their community.



*In the photo above, Robert Stark takes a break from his FRNSA CEO role to help push a boat through Kaukauna Lock #3. Retired CEO Harlan Keisow can be seen in the background explaining the basics of lock operation to curious event attendees.*





## ROUND GOBY FOUND BELOW NEENAH DAM; MENASHA LOCK CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Native to Europe and Asia, these aggressive fish were thought to arrive here via ocean going ships' ballast water. First identified in the Great Lakes in 1990, the goby can now be found in all of the Great Lakes. Late this summer, this invasive species fish was identified in the waters below the Neenah Dam in the Neenah Channel. Working with DNR officials, the decision was made to close the Menasha lock temporarily until further notice. It is thought that this action will prevent the goby from migrating upstream through the Menasha lock.

### ***How can a small fish cause such a concern?***

The bottom-dwellers compete with native fish by eating their eggs and young, taking over optimal habitat and spawning up to six times per season. These fish have sharp senses that allow them to find food in murky, dark conditions. Also worth noting that Round Gobies also serve as food for a variety of predatory fishes in the Great Lakes, including bass, lake trout, lake whitefish, burbot, and walleye. Unfortunately, these fish are very successful and their sheer numbers can over-power native species.

### ***So what's next?***

Discussions that would allow the Menasha Lock to operate without permitting migration of the goby upstream are ongoing. As soon as new information becomes available it will be published on the FRNSA Facebook page and at [www.foxlocks.org](http://www.foxlocks.org).



Boaters take advantage of a one-time lockage September 24th to move their vessels upstream. (Above) A number of boats were stranded downstream since the lock was closed due to discovery of Round Gobies below the Neenah Dam. Once the ten boats were "locked in", the water within the lock was treated to prevent passage of any Gobies along with the boats.



*This invader is a bottom dwelling fish with a large head, resembling a tadpole. It can grow to be 10 inches long but is usually five or six- inches-long. Look for the unique bottom fins on the belly that are connected. They form a suction disk that helps this fish hold onto rocks in fast moving water. The goby also has dorsal fins without spines. Young are a solid slate gray in color and larger fish have black and brown patches with a greenish dorsal fin. (description courtesy of WDNR)*



FRNSA CEO Robert Stark (above, right) providing updates to local media regarding the Goby discovery and lock closure.



# Fox River Locks

*"In the early years in the settlement of this country, the rivers and lakes would have to serve as the highways for transportation. Until the employment of the steam engine as a source of power, there were no railroads. All overland transportation depended on wagons pulled by horses or oxen. Road building at the time was in its infancy and even after a road was built, there was little provision for its maintenance. Occasional passing of a wagon was insufficient to keep down the regrowth of the vegetation. It is said that roadway over the Cumberland Pass was overgrown in six weeks. It fell to the rivers, lakes, and canals, therefore, to be the highways to carry the manufactured goods of the East to the new territories that were being settled and for a way to get the raw materials and produce from the western frontier to the manufacturing and population centers of the East."*

*A Tale of Twin Cities : Or the Development of the Fox River Waterway*

Arva Luther Adams

## BOARD MEMBER FOCUS



**Timothy Rose**

FRNSA Chair  
Outagamie County

### **What do you do in "real-life"?**

I've recently retired from the dental health field, have been in dentistry for 44 years.

### **How long have you been on the FRNSA board?**

Five years.

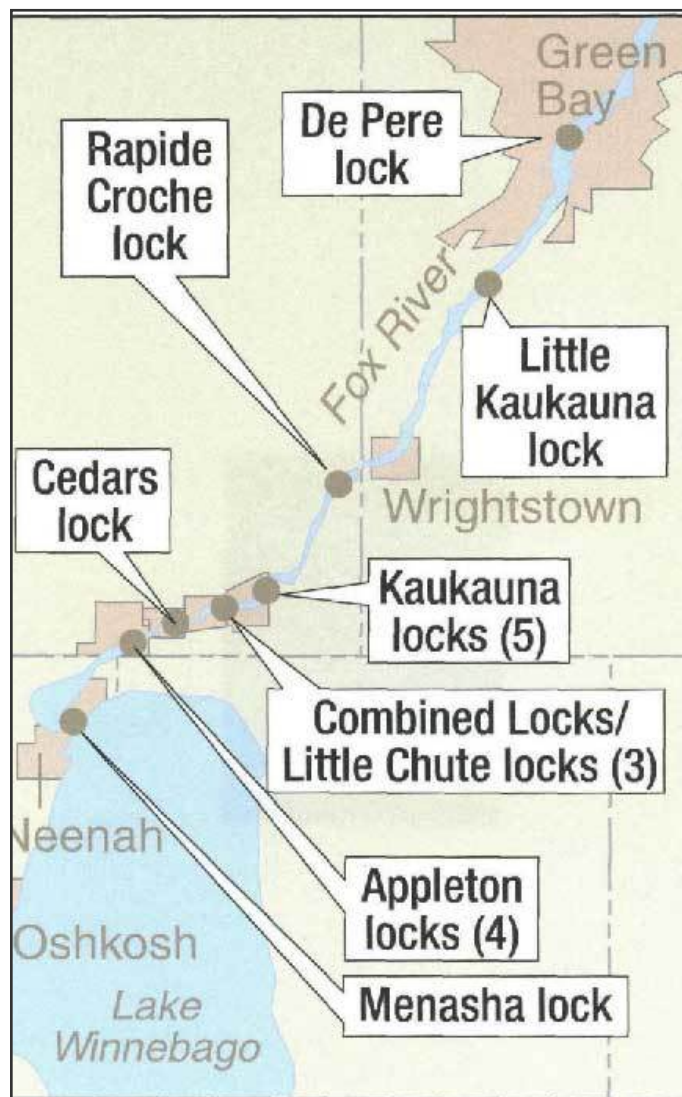
### **What initially brought you to the Authority?**

I've always had a interest in the River and thought that getting involved with FRNSA would be a good way to feed that interest. One of my other interests related to the river was early involvement (1980s) with the Hearststone Museum in Appleton. Originally a private home, this structure was the first in the world to be lit with an Edison hydroelectric dynamo in 1882.

### **Why do you think it's important to preserve the Fox River System Locks?**

Three reasons come to mind:

1. The importance of historic preservation.
2. Unique recreational opportunities.
3. Economic development; catalyst for job creation







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### A Busy Traffic Year Thru the Locks!!

Year	Lockages	Craft	Passengers	Canoe/Kayak
2015	3,693	5,632	21,692	281+
2014	2,754	4,097	16,399	150
% Increase	+34%	+37%	+32%	+87%
Daily Pass Fees: \$12, 228.00				
Season Pass Fees: \$3,700.00				

## 2015 FRNSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**S. Timothy Rose:** Chair (Outagamie County)  
**William Raaths** Vice Chair: (Winnebago County)  
**John L. Vette:** Treasurer, Engineering Committee (Winnebago County)  
**Jeffery W. Feldt:** Secretary (Outagamie County)  
**Jean Romback-Bartels:** Property Committee (WDNR)  
**Will Dorsey:** Engineering Committee (WDOT)  
**Daina Penkiunas:** Property Committee (WI Historical Society)  
**Kathryn Curren:** Property Committee (Green Bay-Brown County)  
**H. Bruce Enke:** (Green Bay-Brown County)  
**Robert Stark:** FRNSA Chief Executive Officer



*Aerial View of the De Pere Lock  
courtesy of quadcopter pilot  
Jerry Wenzel.*