

# Friendship Lake District



IMI Photography  
April 2018

## A word from Our Chairman:



I would like to start out by hoping everyone has had a good winter and all are doing well. Other years I have talked about how it's now spring and we're looking

forward to getting out in the warmth and seeing our neighbors. But this year, winter seems to be hanging on longer than we wish it would, but it will get here. At least the ice has melted, the loons and the herons are back. We've been seeing the eagles all winter. Soon we will be out enjoying the lake in its summertime glory; boating, swimming, fishing and just hearing the giggles and screams from the kids jumping off the boats. The splash in the morning or evening from that big bass you've been trying to catch. We all look forward to this.



This has been a busy and interesting year since I last wrote this message. We have finally taken ownership of the dam. Though we have a long journey to go yet, the end is in our favor at least. I, as well as most of you, would like things to have moved faster but we are dealing with many different requirements and regulations that need to be satisfied. We are trying to keep everyone updated via the website;

[www.friendshiplake.org](http://www.friendshiplake.org), so, look there for updates. I want to thank everyone who has been attending our board meetings with interest, ideas, and comments. It's good to see everyone wanting to get involved. The annual Spring Fling is coming up on May 19th, you can find more information in this newsletter and on the website. This is always a very fun time to revisit with our neighbors and welcome them back if they have

been gone away for the winter. Things are moving forward on our Big Dam Party plans for this summer to welcome the community back to Friendship Lake. We're hoping to make it an educational and fun experience for everyone. More information on the Big Dam Party can also be found on the website.

Written by Bob Berry  
Commissioner Chairman  
[FLDChair@friendshiplake.org](mailto:FLDChair@friendshiplake.org)



## A word from our Secretary:



Spring is the season of new beginnings. The earth and waters come to life again. This spring, Friendship Lake is still quiet and unaware of the new beginnings that await her. The Friendship Lake District has accomplished so much over the last two years. The best decision

we, the property owners, made was to agree to hire the law firm of Axley Brynerson towards the acquisition of the dam. It has been a pleasure to work with Attorney Michael Hahn and my fellow board and committee members during this process. We, as a Lake District Board, would like to thank all of you for your support. As you all know our "to do" list is quite extensive and we still have so much to accomplish before Friendship Lake is restored to her new life. It has been our goal to keep you informed by updating the website, [www.friendshiplake.org](http://www.friendshiplake.org), first with any new developments. We also reach out to you by email and then by newsletters twice a year. Understandably this information can change so I ask that you please make sure we have your most current and updated contact information on file.

Happy Spring,  
Karen Pokorny  
Commissioner Secretary  
[FLDSeclt@friendshiplake.org](mailto:FLDSeclt@friendshiplake.org)  
414-840-2076



## Upcoming Events



### Friends of Friendship Lake

#### Spring Fling

Come get to know your neighbors, enjoy some dinner and drinks and let the Friends of Friendship Lake honor you, as a member of the Friendship Lake District. Celebrating their 20th Annual Spring Fling. Raffles and 50/50 will be available. **May 19, 2018** - Cash bar starts at 5pm, Buffet Dinner starting at 6pm at Connell's Cedar Shack. Contact Linda Moonan to RSVP. See below for contact information.



### Friends of Friendship Lake Brat Fry

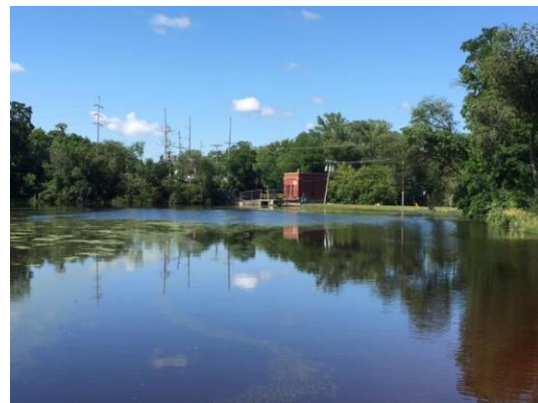
The Brat Fry has been scheduled for **July 3, 2018**. The Friends of Friendship Lake are hosting this fundraiser. District members need to get involved and help. We will be selling bratwursts, soda, water, and baked goods. We need volunteers to grill, sell, and bake some goodies we can sell. We will also have the ATV there with a booth to sell raffle tickets. We will need volunteers to sit at the booth and sell raffle tickets. Contact Linda Graf or Karen Pokorny for more information or to volunteer.

### Friendship Lake District Big Dam Party



Friendship Lake District is hosting a celebration of Friendship Lake this summer. Save the date for **August 4, 2018** from 12pm-6pm. This will

be an educational and informational event. Vertical Illusions will be offering 50% off zip line tours that day and they will have free guided kayak tours of Friendship Lake. We will have boater safety, fishing clinics, CPR classes, historical society, chambers of commerce, basket raffles, 50/50, food, and music. This will all be held at Friendship Lake Beach. Be sure to stop by. If you have not contacted Tina Meinen for selling your share of the ATV raffle tickets, please email her. We are asking that each district member sell at least 10.



#### Event Contact information:

Linda Moonan – [mclin621m@gmail.com](mailto:mclin621m@gmail.com)

Linda Graf – [lbgraf83@yahoo.com](mailto:lbgraf83@yahoo.com)

Karen Pokorny – [FLDSeprt@friendshiplake.org](mailto:FLDSeprt@friendshiplake.org)

Tina Meinen – [FLDTreas@friendshiplake.org](mailto:FLDTreas@friendshiplake.org)

## Dam Information Time line

September 2016	FLD Annual Meeting Approved Attorney & Spend \$50,000
April 2017	Dam Appraisal \$110,000.00
May 2017	FLD Special Meeting Approved Condemnation
June 2017	Relocation Order Served to Chuck Pheiffer
September 2017	FLD Annual Meeting Approved Increase Special Charges, Mil Rate, and Spending \$300,000.00
September 2017	Jurisdictional Offer Served to Chuck Pheiffer
October 2017	Restraining Order Issued by Chuck Pheiffer to FLD
October 2017	Judge lifts Restraining Order per Condemnation Statutes
November 2017	Amended Jurisdictional Offer Served to Chuck Pheiffer
November 2017	Comprehensive Title Search per Wisconsin Statutes
January 2018	Award of Damages Served to Chuck Pheiffer for \$110,000.00
January 31, 2018	Friendship Lake Dam Deed transferred to FLD by Clerk of Courts
February 2018	Ayres Engineering Hired Dam Inspection and Dam Failure Analysis
February 2018	Grant Applications submitted to WE-Energies & Alliant Energy
March 2018	Ayres Engineering Reports \$200,000 in Dam repairs
April 2018:	FLD Board approved and signed DNR Municipal Dam Grant Application

If you are looking for more detailed information, all the minutes for every meeting is listed on the website.

### Our Financial Advisory Committee

The Financial Advisory Committee was developed to help the Friendship Lake Board with financial decisions and tasks. The groups consist of Bob and Carol Berry, Karen Pokorny, Tina Meinen, Frances Schmidt, Larry Swaziek, and Chuck Spargo. They meet when there is a need. The minutes for these meetings are also posted on the website.

## A word from our Treasurer:



Well, it's been a challenging year regarding the budget. Many expenses that we didn't plan for last year have

popped up. One of the big expenses that was not in the budget was the loan payment for the dam. Although we had voted and agreed to pay the loan, the numbers were not in the budget. Some other things that were not considered is additional insurance and additional legal fees. The budget will need to be revisited come September.

The Friends of Friendship Lake had an account for their fundraising at BMO. We moved that account over to Grand Marsh Bank and have tied it in with our Tax ID. Linda Graf will continue to be the treasurer for that account, however we are also using that account for fundraisers that the District hosts.

Here are some numbers to show you where the money is and where it has gone:

#### Bank Accounts – As of April 12, 2018

<b>NOW Checking</b>	13,956.16
<b>Money Market</b>	69,104.91
<b>Friends Fundraising</b>	3,877.19
<b>Investment (CD)</b>	16,633.43
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>103,571.69</b>

As of the end of March we have paid \$48,278.42 in legal fees.

Beginning in January 2018, we started paying \$811.02 a month towards the \$110,000 loan from Grand Marsh Bank for the purchase of the dam. A total of \$3,244.08 has been paid out through April.

Ayers Engineer completed the Dam Failure Analysis and we paid them \$9,800.

We did receive payments from the Town of Adams, Town of Preston and the Village of Friendship for special charges.

Village of Friendship: owed \$17,137.50, paid \$15,920.4  
 Town of Preston: owed \$18,676.50, paid \$17,136.90  
 Town of Adams: owed \$22,423.25, paid \$21,993.66

Written by Tina M Meinen  
 Commissioner Treasurer

[FLDTreas@friendshiplake.org](mailto:FLDTreas@friendshiplake.org)

## The history of Friendship Lake Dam

Compiled by Pat Kierstyn



After all the negative issues we have had these past few years about Friendship Dam, it would be nice to learn a bit about its history. Did you know that Friendship Dam is the reason for the settling of

the Village of Friendship? It all began in 1856 when two gentlemen from Friendship, New York, Luther Stowell and Willard Burbank, decided to build a grist mill in a very picturesque location on a stream at the base of a rocky outcropping of a sandstone bluff. Early reports state that this spot was used in the past by Native Americans as a settlement location.

This early grist mill served the area farmers for many years; even up to 1919, local newspaper at that time indicated that feed was ground there each Friday morning. Mr. Burbank was the manager of the mill until 1862 when he sold his interest and moved back to New York State. He died there 7 years later at age 51.

The other partner, Mr. Stowell's son-in-law, Jerome B Harrison, an attorney who served as County Judge from 1877 to 1884, moved into the area and purchased Mr. Burbank's interest.

In 1874, Mr. Stowell sold his interest to Mr. E. Hunt. News accounts indicate others bought in that same time because owners are listed as Strickland, Harris, Hunt and Bolton. Business was going well as in 1876 news accounts say that over 2000 bushels of buckwheat had been ground so far that year.

Improvements and updates were undertaken in 1890 when the old original millstones were replaced with newer roller mill machinery. In 1907 it was upgraded again by the new owner William Sweet, installing six new milling machines. By 1910 it was only grinding cornmeal and feed. Mr. Sweet was granted authorization to convert the mill to an electric power source. However, he wasn't able to persuade the Village to have him install and furnish street lights. Mr. Sweet had been given one year to have his system up and running and he did not meet that time limit, so his franchise was voided.

Local "movers and shakers" C.L. Meinke, Theodore Werner, and George W Bingham formed the Friendship Electric Light and Power Company in 1911, later Mr. Meinke appears to have bought out his partner's interest.

In May 1912, the coffer dam was washed away during a sudden heavy rainstorm. E.H. Oltendorf of Strongs Prairie was hired to construct the new concrete dam. However, Meinke and partners were unsuccessful in their endeavor to generate electric power.

In May 1914, George Polivka, a local farmer, traded his large stock farm for the dam. He was a member of the local Bohemian community. He and his small crew worked in the erecting power lines during that summer. He increased the ten-foot head, that had been in effect since at least 1867, to an eighteen-foot head of water power. The dam caused much flooding and property owners whose farm land was being flooded tried to bring a lawsuit against Mr. Polivka, however, but Mr. Polivka prevailed.

In the spring of 1915, day current was being offered to the community during Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons. It was a gradual process to electrify both Friendship and Adams which had just come into existence after the Chicago and North Western Railroad came thru in 1911.

Several dam failures occurred over the years, in 1912 and 1928, repairs were made. Polivka created a new hydro-electric plant at Cottonville in Preston, beginning



to generate in 1926. He sold both dams for \$100,000 in April 1929 to the Wisconsin Power and Light Company.

On March 14, 1928 a devastating dam break occurred, washing out and damaging the old wooden gristmill structure and the bridge below the dam. The Wisconsin Power and Light Company announced their plan to immediately rebuild the dam and power plant with a totally new design. Adams County was reimbursed for part of the cost of the bridge reconstruction.

C.R. Mecklenburg became the local manager for about 4 years. In 1933 Herbert Helgeson took on the job. Improvements were made, including top of the dyke

which was “sheet piled” for its entire length which “eliminated the possibility of failures from frost, cracks, muskrats or other surface acts”. Also, the height of the concrete spillway was increased, and a high-water alarm was installed.



About five years following the 1928 dam break another disaster occurred in April 1933. The creek washed out a part of the dike north of the dam near the ice

house owned by George Nemetz. A channel washed away 50ft wide by 20 ft. deep. It sent tons of ice blocks washing away with the flood when the south side of the ice house collapsed. The new power house was not affected. But, the dike was reinforced by placing interlocking steel piling the entire length of the west end of the mill pond.

The Village of Friendship acquired the dam on October 23, 1964 for \$1.00, when the Wisconsin Power and Light Company removed the generators and abandoned the facility, secured a permit to transfer the dam. The Village could not generate power, but they maintained the floodgates until 1985 when it was sold to Charles Pheiffer.

In 2018 the Friendship Lake District acquired the dam and can now manage its operation.

*The information in this article was gleaned from the two volume book FRIENDSHIP WISCONSIN A HISTORY, Written by Dennis M. McFarlin and donated to the Adams County Historical Society. Available for \$65.00 a set at the Heritage Books and Gift Shop, all proceeds from the sales of the book benefit the historical society and its mission to preserve and share the history of Adams County.*

*Much more information and many photographs may be seen at the Heritage Center at 311 Main St. in downtown Friendship. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from Noon to 5:00.*



## *The history of Friends of Friendship Lake*

Written by Linda Moonan  
The Friends of Friendship Lake began as a group of women who decided to meet causally once a month for lunch shortly after the



District was formed in 1992. It was a way to meet others who lived on and around the lake. That casual monthly lunch helped form long standing friendships.

In those early years an award dinner was held each year to recognize those men and women who had helped establish the Lake District, acquire grants for the first harvester, and work the harvesting equipment. Fundraising ideas started to form, and a rummage sale was held to help offset tool costs or other needs for the harvesting crew. Other fundraising ideas were formed later, which included a brat fry and bake sales.

After several years the harvesting program expanded, and a seasonal crew was hired, which included property owners. It was then that the Friends of Friendship Lake began hosting an annual Spring Fling. It still is the one event held each year specifically for all Lake District property owners, their family and extended family.

At this year's Spring Fling, held on May 19, 2018, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of this event and it will be focused on acknowledging all our property owners for their efforts to help save Friendship Lake. Your approval to proceed with the Dam purchase to accomplish that goal will improve the quality of our lake. Soon, everyone will be able to, again, enjoy what a lake has to offer. It is in that spirit that we encourage you to attend this year's Spring Fling to meet with your neighbors. We are hosting the Fling at a larger venue this year and RSVP's are coming in, so we look forward to seeing you. RSVP before May 11, 2018. All information is included on the flyer in this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you on May 19, 2018.

The Friends of Friendship meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 A.M. at Highway 21 & 13 Café. Please join us for lunch; we look forward to seeing you! Keep in mind that you do not have to attend our lunches to be involved, or to volunteer! Just contact Linda Graf at lbgraf83@yahoo.com for information on how you can be involved or volunteer

