



Rock River Reflections

A publication of the *Rock River COALITION* produced in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Extension Summer 2008 Volume 11, Number 3

RRC Welcomes New Board Members

In the tradition of having wide representation on the board, the Rock River Coalition elected three new board members at their annual meeting, increasing the board size from 8 to 9.

New board members are:

Scott Taylor, owner of Taylor Conservation LLC, brings expertise in ecological land management as well as in developing non-profit organizations. Scott was a founding member of the Friends of Starkweather Creek in Madison. Currently Scott is also the Treasurer for the Friends of Badfish Creek, a Chapter of the RRC.



Bill Biesmann is an engineer with Vierbicher Associates of Madison. Bill is a Fitchburg resident and has worked extensively with Dane County communities involved with stormwater permits. He has also been active on the Rock

River Coalition Storm Water Issue Team and is a volunteer stream monitor. His goal is to get more involvement from Dane County municipalities into the Rock River Coalition.

Sandra Prebeg lives in the Town of Bristol near Sun Prairie and is a Senior Tax Specialist for Badgerland

Financial. Currently, she serves on the Farm Safety Committee for the Dane County Farm Bureau and has been a 4-H project leader for well over 15 years in the area of environmental education.

Sandra received a National Award for her volunteer work with 4-H youth in Wildlife and Fisheries from the Fish and Wildlife Service, US Dept of the Interior and the US Department of Agriculture. She is an experienced educator having developed

environmental education curriculum for use by 4-H members and has taught numerous workshops on Wisconsin wildflowers, plant folklore of early Wisconsin settlers, butterfly gardens, wild edible plants, aquatic habitats and teaching kids to fish.

She is committed to teaching young people to appreciate and protect Wisconsin's waterways and wildlife habitat.



2008-2009 Rock River Coalition Board members:

Back Row: President-elect Ken Wiesner, Past-president Joe Dorava, Treasurer, Jan Ruster and new board member, Scott Taylor.

Bottom Row: Suzanne Wade, President Lisa Conley, Patricia Cicero and Secretary Tim Reel. Not pictured: new board members Bill Biesmann and Sandra Prebeg.

-photo by Michael Forster-Rothbart

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RRC New President and Officers

The new President for the Rock River Coalition is Lisa Conley, Oconomowoc. Lisa has a long history of working with local, state and national lake organizations on watershed issues and is a current member of the Town and Country RC&D Vision Team. In the past Lisa served on a number of DNR and DATCP advisory committees dealing with polluted runoff, forestry management, and phosphorus effluent. Lisa is an avid kayaker and sailor as well as being a lake monitor and a past stream monitor.

"This year we hope to launch the Water Star Program statewide, to inspire communities to make the protection and improvement of local waters a major priority. Our award winning river monitoring program continues to grow, and gives citizens an opportunity to know first-hand about the condition of their local rivers and streams. Communities all around the basin are learning about the damage too much phosphorus can do to water quality, and are passing ordinances to restrict the use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus. All this takes lots of volunteer effort, and we welcome the help of anyone who would like to get actively involved – growing our membership is key to meeting our ambitious goals for the coming year." explains Lisa.

Tim Reel, Whitewater Wastewater Treatment Plant will continue as Secretary and Jan Ruster, Assistant Vice-President Premier Bank, Fort Atkinson will continue as Treasurer. Ken Wiesner, retired DNR, Madison is our President-elect. Other board members include: Patricia Cicero, Jefferson County Water Resources Management Specialist; Tracey

Novak, Pleasant Valley Acres Farm, Palmyra; Suzanne Wade, UW-Extension Rock River Basin Educator; Bill Biesmann, Engineer Vierbicher Associates; Sandra Prebeg, Senior Tax Specialist Badgerland Financial and Past-President Joseph Dorava, Water Resources Project Manager, Vierbicher Associates, .

"We have a board with great talent, dedication and experience representing a breadth of interests in our Rock River Basin. Our outgoing President, Joe Dorava has done an outstanding job of helping to implement a plan to study the dynamics of groundwater in our basin. As groundwater and surface water planning is of growing concern, this will be an invaluable tool for our local communities. We are grateful that Joe will continue on the board, and will continue to oversee this project." states Conley. "If you would like to join us or learn more about the Rock River Coalition go to www.rockrivercoalition.org or e-mail us at rriver@excel.net or call 920-674-7443."



New RRC President Lisa Conley, kayaking past the shoreline restoration site on Lac la Belle.

Thanks Joe!

The Rock River Coalition Board would like to publicly thank Joe Dorava for his years as President. Through his leadership we were able to accomplish much.



In particular, his work resulted in the development of the GFLOW groundwater computer model. This model will soon be completed by USGS. Joe plans on continuing in his role as the GFLOW Coordinator to insure that

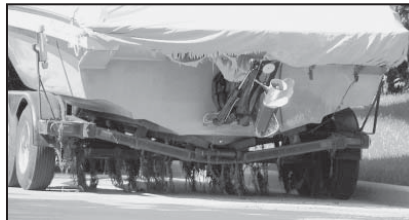
the model is used to its fullest by basin communities.

Joe also wrote the successful DNR Lake Planning Grant which allowed the RRC to develop a compelling presentation on the need to restrict phosphorus into our lakes and rivers and why a ban on residential phosphorus fertilizer in most cases makes sense.

Finally it was during his two years that we started Water Star, saw the establishment of our first Chapter and updated our by-laws. Joe thanks for everything. We're glad you will continue to be part of the RRC as Past-President and GFLOW Coordinator.

Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring

It is more important than ever to monitor for species that are not native to our waters. If they are identified early, then control is more feasible which will save money down the road. In addition, monitoring efforts can help stop the spread of invasive species to other waters. The Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department is hosting an Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Training on Saturday, September 27 in Rome, WI. For more information, contact Patricia Cicero at 920-674-7121.



Mission

"To educate and bring together people of diverse interests to protect and improve the economic, environmental, cultural, and recreational resources of the Rock River Basin in Wisconsin"

PRESIDENT:

Lisa Conley

DIRECTORS:

Ken Wiesner, President Elect
Tim Reel, Secretary
Jan Ruster, Treasurer
Joe Dorava, Past President
Bill Biesmann
Patricia Cicero
Tracey Novak
Sandra Prebeg
Scott Taylor
Suzanne Wade

Citizen Monitoring Director:

Ed Grunden, 920-648-2673, ed@rockrivercoalition.org

GFLOW Coordinator:

Vierbicher Associates, 608-524-6468

Water Star Community Project Coordinator:

Suzanne Wade, 920-674-8972
waterstar@rockrivercoalition.org

Administrative Assistant:

Jennifer Hanneman, 920-674-9380
jennifer@rockrivercoalition.org

RRC Address:

864 Collins Road
Jefferson, WI 53549-1976

rriver@excel.net

www.rockrivercoalition.org

Newsletter Editor:

Suzanne Wade, 920-674-8972
suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu

Photos: Margaret Burlingham, DNR file photos, Ed Grunden, Chelsea Lenz, Michael Forster-Rothbart, Jason Smith, Suzanne Wade

RRC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, providing equal opportunity in employment & programming.

If you need special accommodation for programs please contact the RRC at least two weeks in advance.

How wet has it been?

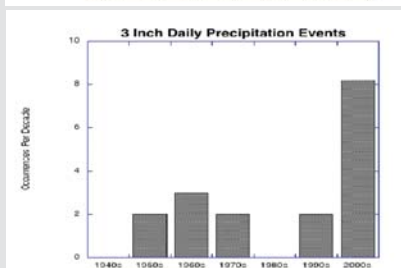
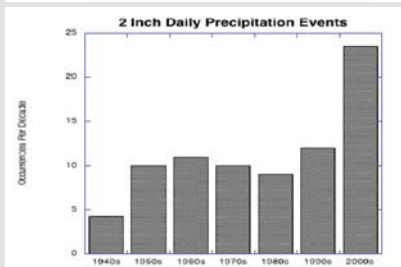
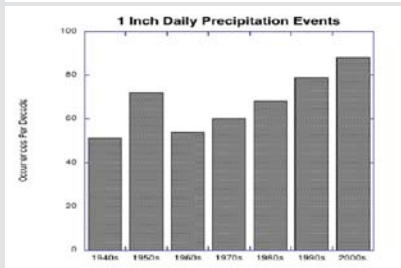
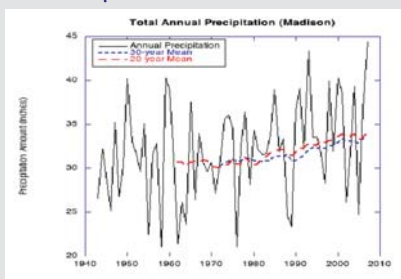
It's not your imagination, It has been wetter this past decade, with an amazing 6 out of the top 10 largest rain fall events recorded since 1879.

MADISON TOP 10 24 HOUR PRECIPITATION AMOUNTS*

VALUE	DATES
1. 5.31 INCHES	9/7/1941 TO 9/8/1941
2. 5.27 INCHES	6/7/2008 TO 6/8/2008
3. 5.20 INCHES	9/12/1915 TO 9/13/1915
4. 5.00 INCHES	8/18/2007 TO 8/19/2007
5. 4.51 INCHES	6/17/1996
6. 4.38 INCHES	5/21/2004 TO 5/22/2004
7. 4.32 INCHES	7/21/1881
8. 4.21 INCHES	7/15/1950 TO 7/16/1950
T9. 4.11 INCHES	6/8/2008
T9. 4.11 INCHES	5/17/2000 TO 5/18/2000
10. 3.95 INCHES	8/1/2001 TO 8/2/2001

Not only have we had a number of very large storms, we've also had many more 1-3 inch storms, with an overall increase in total precipitation.

Recent Precipitation Trends in Madison**



* National Weather Service

**Steve Vavrus, UW Center for Climatic Research

Climate Change in Wisconsin

Can we blame the recent heavy snows, two seasons of record breaking floods and recent droughts on climate change?

Not with certainty, but we can say that what we're seeing in today's weather, fits well with what the models say we should expect.

Here's some of the things we know based on data from 1950-2006:

- Annual highs are 0.3-0.6C (0.5-1.1F) warmer
- Annual minimums 0.6-2.2C (1.1-4.0F) warmer
- Last spring freeze is 6-20 days earlier
- First fall freeze is 3-18 days later
- Growing season is 1-4 weeks longer

An analysis of temperature and precipitation changes along with model predictions conclude:

Temperature:

- Greatest amount of warming is occurring in the winter and spring
- Nighttime low temperatures are warming faster than daytime highs, with the most significant change being warmer nighttime lows in winter and spring
- Other seasons actually show a trend towards cooler maximum temperature particularly in summer and fall
- Over time, evaporation will be greater with possible soil moisture decreases.

Precipitation: (in addition to side bar information)

- Seasonal trends are mixed, but overall we are now receiving 10-15% more precipitation than 60 years ago. We can expect greater total precipitation in winter and spring, summer is less certain, but could be dryer than today.
- We can expect a shift to more rain and less snow in winter.
- Likely shifts toward more heavy precipitation events and fewer light rain events.

In addition recorded declines in Great Lakes and inland lakes days of ice cover are expected to continue.

The report "Wisconsin: Findings from Confronting Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region" states that by 2030 Wisconsin summers may resemble those of Illinois and by century's end, the Wisconsin summer climate will generally resemble that of current day Arkansas with winter feeling much like current day Iowa.

More information can be found at the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts:
<http://www.wicci.wisc.edu>

Based on information from Steve Vavrus, UW Center for Climatic Research, Christopher Kucharik, Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment, John Magnuson, UW Center for Limnology and others

What does this mean for the Rock River Basin?

One of the biggest impacts will be, and has been, to our infrastructure. With more heavy rains and fewer gentle soaking rains, our stormwater ponds, ditches, and storm sewers won't be able to handle this load. The excess water will pour into our rivers and streams with great force, eroding the banks and overwhelming the river's capacity leading to wide-spread flooding.

Regardless of the cause, if this trend continues municipalities are likely to have to reevaluate their flood prone areas and how extreme flows are conveyed through their storm water systems. Wastewater treatment plants may also have to be upgraded to handle the increased flow as will bridges and dams. In many areas, the current system is reaching it's expected useful life and can be upgraded when replaced, but in other areas replacement will come at an additional cost to taxpayers.

Some of this impact can be reduced down if more water is held higher in the landscape instead of running off directly. This means it is the responsibility of every citizen, business and municipality to look for ways to catch and hold back water, not just the responsibility of those living along the rivers and lakes. Five years ago we had very few acceptable tools to do this. But every year new methods are developed.

The homeowner can be sure their downspouts discharge onto lawns and not driveways or roads. They can install rain barrels or cisterns, plant a rain garden and reduce their carbon 'footprint'.

Businesses can do some of the above and they can perform an environment management assessment and make changes based on the results. (See SHWEC website below)

Municipalities can enforce strict stormwater management and infiltration standards on all new developments. As well as install rain gardens at their buildings or natural shoreline buffers in their parks. They can also establish sustainability committees to look for ways to reduce their impact on the environment. Finally they can prepare for potential impacts by planning and improved emergency preparedness.

Websites with information on these suggestions are:

<http://runoffinfo.uwex.edu/urban/education.htm> and <http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/publications/publications.cfm>. Search for LID and pollution prevention.

September Conference to Promote Sustainability

GOING GREEN SUSTAINABLE communities and farms



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF RC&D'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE HOSTED BY TOWN AND COUNTRY RESOURCE, CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Thursday, September 11 – Friday, September 12, 2008
Olympia Conference Center – Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Do you want to learn more about a green lifestyle – healthier for you and for the planet? Join us for an invigorating two days of discussion, learning, networking, and great local food! Whatever your focus – urban or rural, local food or sustainable agriculture, conservation or preservation, individual or community – connect with other Wisconsinites working towards a more sustainable future, for us all.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Climate Change Implications for Wisconsin
Dr. John Magnuson, Professor Emeritus,
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Opening Event Address on Sept. 11th

Going Green at Johnson Controls
Mr. Clay Nesler, Vice President of Global Energy and Sustainability,
Johnson Controls
Dinner Banquet Keynote on Sept. 11th

Ecological Capitalism
Dr. John Ikerd, Professor Emeritus,
University of Missouri at Columbia
Morning Keynote Address on Sept. 12th

SESSION THEMES

- Green Your Home & Work
- Conserving Natural Resources
- Fresh Local Food
- Green Energy
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Sustainable Communities

BANQUET

Dinner at the Oconomowoc Lake Club featuring
fresh local food at the peak of harvest, prepared by
Executive Chef Jack Kaestner.

REGISTRATION

Rates for Conference Attendance	Early Bird	After August 15th
Full Conference (Thursday & Friday)	\$99	\$120
Thursday Registration Only	\$65	\$75
Friday Registration Only	\$50	\$60
Banquet Fee for Registrants	\$20	\$20
Additional Dinner Tickets	\$35	\$35

Reduced Rates Available for Volunteers

Full Registration Information available at
www.townandcountryrcd.org
or by calling 414-774-6562

RRC Promotes Sustainable Living

Someone once asked me what I did to teach about sustainability. It got me thinking about the work I do with the Rock River Coalition. We may not call it sustainability, but much of the work we do towards our mission is about sustainability.

First and foremost have been the outreach projects we did under Ellen Rulseh; she reached into many communities in the basin teaching kids and adults alike about our responsibilities regarding our surface water and groundwater. They learned about it first hand by digging into the soil and converting a grassed area into a truly functioning ecological landscape - a rain garden. These rain gardens continue to collect and infiltrate stormwater every year.

The RRC sponsored one of the first workshops in the state to encourage new developments to take this idea of a functional landscape one step further. The Grow Smart Grow Green Workshop, taught not just developers and consultants about what it means to build low-impact conservation residential developments - but many elected officials came as well.

For almost ten years, the Rock River Coalition has been training volunteers to monitor our wadable streams and rivers, after all how can we sustain something if we don't know what we have. Since the program started more than 200 volunteers have been trained on how to measure water quality, some with basic tests and others using more advanced tests.

Today we are not just sponsoring one of the keynote speakers for the "Going Green Sustainable Communities and Farms" Conference, we're also spearheading the Water Star Community Program and the development of a GFLOW computer model for the basin.

We invite you to join us in our mission, become a member, volunteer and if not with us, then join a local community group. Together we can make a difference locally, in the basin, in the state and over the globe!



Forum on Koshkonong Creek in Planning

The University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Department of Natural Resources are just beginning to plan a forum on the Koshkonong Creek Watershed. Koshkonong Creek stretches from Sun Prairie, down to Lake Koshkonong and eastward almost to Rock Lake.

It's a fairly flat watershed that was known historically for its prairies and its marshes. Today the watershed is primarily agricultural, but with many growing communities including Sun Prairie, Cottage Grove, Cambridge, Deerfield, and Rockdale.

If you would like to be part of the planning team for the forum, or would like to receive an invitation to it, please contact Suzanne Wade at 920-674-8972 or suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu.

Thank you Henry for 24 years of volunteer groundwater monitoring!

Henry Stoffers of Palmyra has recently retired after 24 years of dedicated voluntary service in providing water-level measurements for well JE-0849, Jefferson County, WI.

Hank took monthly measurements on the well (pictured to the right) that is part of the Wisconsin Well Observation Network. Hank used a simple steel tape measuring device to take the water levels. The old steel tape is also probably due for retirement after 284 times of use!



The Wisconsin Ground-Water Observation Network (WGWON) is a comprehensive and ongoing effort to maintain a water-resource database responsive to the needs of the State and the nation. This program has been in place since 1946 and continues through the efforts of the staff of the US Geological Survey, the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, and an extensive network of volunteer observers. The WGWON is comprised of 106 monitoring wells across the state measuring water levels in all major aquifers.

Collected data are used by Federal, state, and county agencies, local municipalities, private consultants, water managers, and universities.

Data are used for monitoring local water resources, assessing aquifer response to drought or wet conditions, calibrating groundwater flow models, measuring the effect of pumping on ground-water



Chuck Dunning, USGS Regional Director presents a plaque to Hank Stoffers and his wife. The well he tested for 24 years is shown to the right. -photos by Jason Smith

levels, and addressing other water-resource needs.

Groundwater is often referred to as Wisconsin's buried treasure, and the monitoring network provides a historical perspective on the resource. Monitoring helps protect this valuable resource, ensuring the availability of clean groundwater throughout Wisconsin into the future.

The USGS is very thankful for people like Hank Stoffers. His services are greatly appreciated and will be missed in years to come.

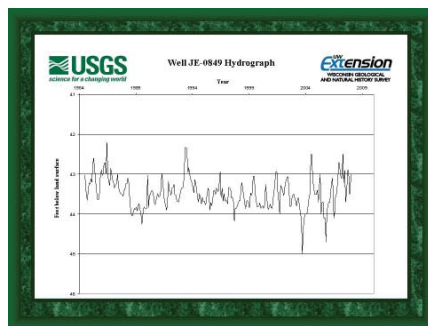
Contact call Jason Smith at 608-821-3849 for more information on the WGWON.

Citizen Monitoring Updates

Damselfly & Dragonflies

The summer 2008 Odonata Survey took place Saturday July 19th. Joining the volunteers were Ms. Lucien Bado and Mercy Poih Achu from the West Bank of Africa. The surveys are led by Benjamin Spaier who is currently attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Sunny weather after a few days of rain made for good viewing with the following Damselflies being identified: River Bluet, Marsh Bluet, Eastern Forktail, and Violet Dancer. Dragonflies identified included the Common Green Darner, Variegated Meadowhawk and Blue Dasher.

Volunteers are needed for the August survey. If interested in spending a Saturday Morning in pursuit of Odonata please contact Ed Grunden, Director of Citizen Monitoring at (920) 648-2673 or ed@rockrivercoalition.org.



Hank's plaque contained the hydrograph of water depth from his well.



-photo by Suzanne Wade

You can help protect surface and groundwater by installing rain barrels or rain gardens and by having your downspouts discharge on lawn and not driveways.

Treat rain as a resource instead of just letting it runoff to local streams, rivers and lakes.

179th Bird Species Identified at Zeloski Marsh



The discovery of a Bobolink on Saturday July 19th brought the total bird species count at the Zeloski Marsh/Lake Mills Wetland area to 179 species in just two years since restoration from existing farmlands. Seen for the first time have been the following: Scarlet Tanager, Bay-Breasted Warbler, Marsh Wren, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, and Northern Parula Warbler. In addition to the new arrivals immature Black Terns have been observed feeding furiously on the Carp fry that arrived because of the summer flooding. Breeding pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds and consistent populations of Sedge Wrens (one bird observed last year), White Egrets and White Pelicans, as well as a Peregrine Falcon are potential greeters for birding enthusiasts visiting the marsh. Thanks to Nolan Kollath who records bird species weekly for the Coalition.

Wisconsin Groundwater Websites

For more information about the Wisconsin Ground-Water Observation Network and other information about groundwater check out the following:

USGS Wisconsin Water Science Center
<http://wi.water.usgs.gov>

Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey
<http://www.uwex.edu/wgnhs>

Ground-Water Observation Well Network
<http://wi.water.usgs.gov/public/gw>

Ground-Water Data for Wisconsin
<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wi/nwis/gw>



-photo by Margaret Burlingham

RRC Receives Water Star Grant

The Rock River Coalition received a 2008 DNR River Protection Grant which will allow the finalization of the Water Star Program and manual.

Under the direction of Water Star Coordinator, Michael Forster-Rothbart, the program is taking shape.

Once it's ready to be launched, communities will be able to determine whether they meet the standards to be a Bronze, Silver or Gold Water Star Community.

Michael pulled together a number of work groups to begin the hard work of determining what actions would be encouraged by municipalities in order to earn a star.

More than 350 different activities in four categories: surface water, groundwater, habitat and the environment and human health and recreation, are currently included in the list of options.

The Steering Committee will further hone this list into priorities and assign points to the activities.

Once this is completed, selected pilot communities will work through the program, offering suggestions on how to improve the program.

This new grant will take the suggestions from the pilots to revise the draft manual into a final version.

Fortunately for him, but unfortunately for us, Michael has received a Fulbright Fellowship. He'll be spending 10 months in Ukraine, photographing around Chernobyl and interviewing Chernobyl survivors.

He has done an amazing amount of work for us since January, we will miss him and wish him well.

The current plan is for Suzanne Wade to take over the Water Star Coordinator position piloting the materials and finalizing the manual.

UW-Extension will hire a half-time project assistant as backfill for 6 to ten months. This person would help organize and run the Koshkonong Creek Forum (See page 4), GFLOW municipal meetings and other Rock River Basin projects. For more information e-mail suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu

You can read more about Michael's 'After the Nukes' project at <http://mfrphoto.blogspot.com/>



Michael Forster-Rothbart, Water Star Coordinator will soon be leaving Madison for Chernobyl on a Fulbright Fellowship. Thanks Michael for all you've done to move the Water Star Program forward.

-photo by Michael Forster-Rothbart

DATCP and DNR Announce Presence of Emerald Ash Borer near Rock River Basin

Officials with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Department of Natural Resources today announced the first confirmed occurrence of emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive, destructive insect pest of ash trees, in Wisconsin. The discovery was made by forest health specialists investigating a citizen report of dying ash trees in a private woodlot in Ozaukee County, near the Village of Newburg.

"We expected to find EAB in Wisconsin sooner or later, but this is still disappointing," said DATCP Secretary Rod Nilsestuen. However, we now have a revised plan that outlines several management alternatives. Our focus now is to find out exactly what we're up against."



Dying ash trees in Ozaukee County, near the Washington County line, portend difficult times ahead for the Rock River Basin's urban and rural trees.

-photos DNR

Officials announcing the find emphasized that the first steps in responding to the infestation will be to quarantine movement of hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock, timber or any other article that could spread EAB out of the infested area. Following placement of the quarantine there will be a thorough survey of the area around the find to determine the size of the infestation, its boundaries, and the possible source. Finding EAB at this location does not mean it is the origin of the infestation in Wisconsin.

Since the infestation site is near Washington County, it's likely that both counties will be quarantined. Additional counties may also be included.

"Beyond the immediate quarantine and survey of the area a management strategy will not be suggested until the survey is complete and the responding agencies and partners have had an opportunity to consult with additional state and local officials," said Brian Kuhn, Plant Industry Bureau Director with DATCP.

"We've worked with partners, scientists and key stakeholders to draw on the real world experiences of other states to draft a comprehensive response plan to EAB," said Darrell Zastrow, the Director of the Office of Forest Science with the DNR. "DNR Secretary Matt

Frank and DATCP Secretary Rod Nilsestuen recently approved an updated Wisconsin EAB Response Plan that takes into account the latest science and research regarding the control and management of the emerald ash borer."

The plan describes a range of possible management actions and recommends balancing any recommended treatment with environmental impacts, land ownership, cost, sociological impacts, size of the infestation and traditional ecological knowledge.

"A lot is at stake in Wisconsin," Zastrow said. "There are an estimated 737 million ash trees in our forests and another five million in our communities. Impacts to the forest products industry, tourism and communities could be substantial."



D-shaped exit hole made by adult emerald ash borer as it emerges from the ash tree.

Citizens can help prevent the spread of EAB and learn more in several ways:

Follow all quarantine guidelines. For many people, that will mean not moving firewood out of the quarantined area.

Learn about the signs and symptoms of EAB infestation, including the characteristics of an infested tree. This information can be found at the Wisconsin EAB Program Web site at www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov.

Report suspicious ash trees or request information by calling the Wisconsin EAB Program hotline toll-free at 1-800-462-2803.

The adult emerald ash borer is a metallic green insect about one-half inch long and one-eighth inch wide. The adults burrow into the bark of ash trees and lay eggs.



The larvae hatching from the eggs chew their way through the fluid-conducting vessels under the tree's bark, cutting off the flow of nutrients in the tree, leading to

decline and eventual death of the tree in 2-4 years. EAB is native to Asia.

Cities Join in Stormwater Partnership

A number of cities in the Rock River Basin are exploring a joint venture for stormwater education.

All municipalities over 10,000 in population, as well as a few others on urban fringes, are required to do meaningful public education as part of their stormwater permit.

It makes sense for these cities to share resources, thus doing a better, more efficient job of educating the public.

So far they have held three meetings and are beginning to establish organizational logistics, including what educational activities they will do together over the next couple of years, and how they will fund the program.

This partnership won't be limited to communities that have a stormwater permit, but will be open to any municipal government that desires to join the effort. Associate memberships will likely be available for Friends groups, lake associations and others interested in stormwater education.

The stormwater permit states that the permittee shall implement a public education and outreach program to increase the awareness of storm water pollution impacts on waters of the state to encourage changes in public behavior to reduce such impacts. It requires the program to establish measurable goals and, at a minimum, include the following elements:

- Promote detection and elimination of illicit discharges and water quality impacts associated with such discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems.
- Inform and educate the public about the proper management of materials that may cause storm water pollution from sources including automobiles, pet waste, household hazardous waste and household practices.
- Promote beneficial onsite reuse of leaves and grass clippings and proper

use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides.

- Promote the management of streambanks and shorelines by riparian landowners to minimize erosion and restore and enhance the ecological value of waterways.
- Promote infiltration of residential storm water runoff from rooftop downspouts, driveways and sidewalks.
- Inform and where appropriate educate those responsible for the design, installation and maintenance of construction site erosion control practices and storm water management facilities on how to design, install and maintain the practices.
- Identify businesses and activities that may pose a storm water contamination concern, and where appropriate, educate specific audiences on methods of storm water pollution prevention.
- Promote environmentally sensitive land development designs by developers and designers.

There is also a public participation requirement. The cities need to implement a program to notify the public of activities required by this permit and to encourage input and participation from the public regarding these activities.

Some of the activities that the Rock River Coalition has promoted over the years includes public participation thru installation of rain gardens, stream monitoring and stormdrain stenciling. It's anticipated that the RRC and its Stormwater Issue Team will work closely with the group.

It will be exciting to follow the development of this partnership, which is currently being facilitated by Rock River Basin Educator for Natural Resources, Suzanne Wade. If you have any questions please contact Suzanne at 920-674-8972 or at suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu or Dean Fischer, City of Whitewater at dfischer@ci.whitewater.wi.us.

Lake Sinissippi District to Host Rain Garden Workshops

The Lake Sinissippi Improvement District (LSID) plans on holding a fall and a spring rain garden workshop, followed by a session of choosing your rain garden plants and a plant sale.

While planning is just beginning, they hope to offer the fall workshop in either Mayville or Horicon in late October and the spring workshop in Waupun.

Lake Sinissippi, which is located below the Horicon Marsh believes in taking a complete watershed view in working to improve water quality. Since their watershed stretches north to Waupun on the west and on the east to Theresa, Mayville and even into Washington County, they feel they need to work with everyone who lives in this area in order to ultimately have better water quality in the Horicon Marsh and in their lake. This year their effort was focused on reducing phosphorus runoff into the lakes by working with local stores to stock no phosphorus fertilizer and offered watershed residents \$2 off coupons.

Become a RRC Member

In addition to supporting RRC work, members receive newsletters, notices of forums, conferences, and special events. To become a member, complete the following:

Name _____

Title _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Individual	\$ 25	_____
Family	\$ 35	_____
Student/Senior Citizen	\$ 15	_____
Classroom	\$ 25	_____
Affiliates*	\$ 50	_____
Corporate	\$ 200	_____

**Includes small businesses, organizations, lake districts, and municipal departments*

Any donation of \$100 or more will be recognized and linked to your website from our website:
www.rockrivercoalition.org

Donors of \$500 or greater will receive an ad in this newsletter. Check the website above for more information.

Tax deductible donation	
Amount	Purpose
	General Support
	Citizen Monitoring
	Rain Gardens
	Other:

Donations are greatly appreciated and can be targeted towards specific projects.

Please mail this completed form with check to:

Rock River Coalition

823 Lucas Lane

Jefferson, WI 53549 -1182

or register and pay online with PayPal at:

www.rockrivercoalition.org/membership.asp

Recent Flooding a Result of Climate Change?

We really can't answer the question of whether the unprecedented nature of the June storms, falling on the heels of an extraordinary winter, is the result of climate change? But it does give us pause, and the responsibility of examining what the future could be like if the climate models are correct.



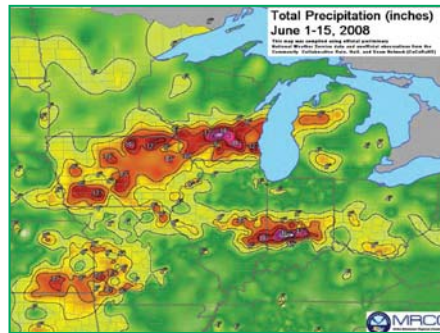
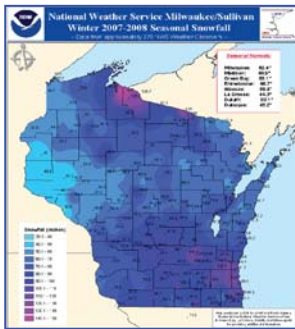
-photo by Suzanne Wade



-photo by Chelsea Lenz

There are implications for our cities, our farms, our personal lives and our sense of place.

A more in-depth discussion of the changes that have been documented and computer model projections can be found on page 3.



Friends of Badfish Creek Sign 1st Charter

The Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed (FBCW) have become the first Chapter of the Coalition. As a chapter, the FBCW will be a self-governing member under the auspices of the RRC Board.

A RRC Chapter is a non-incorporated group of individuals working towards improving the environmental, economic, cultural or recreational resources within a specified area of the Rock River Basin. A Rock River Coalition Chapter follows the Coalition by-laws and policies and is under the direction of the RRC Board of Directors. The chapters benefit by having non-profit status, an existing organizational framework, administrative support and insurance coverage.

The Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed are a small but enthusiastic group who want to promote good environmental policies in the Village of Oregon and surrounding area. They have been meeting since March 2007, developing a vision, purpose and action plan.

Their purpose is to educate themselves and others about the Badfish Creek Watershed and to work in partnership to improve riparian habitat and water quality, and to encourage land use policies that protect the Creek.

In 2008, they plan to implement this by hosting educational programs, including presentations and a tour; inventorying the quality of riparian areas and establishing a water quality monitoring program.



President Joe Dorava signs the first Charter establishing the Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed as the first Chapter at the 2008 Annual Meeting. FBCW Chair, Caroline Werner awaits her turn to sign.



Members of the FBCW along with RRC President Joe Dorava include, Sharon Beall, Caroline Werner and Scott Taylor.
-photos by Suzanne Wade

Calendar of Events

RRC Board Meeting

September 30, 2008 4:30 - 6:30 UWEX Jefferson County, 864 Collins Rd, Jefferson

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the fall newsletter is October 10, 2008.

Contact Suzanne if you would like to submit an article.

A letter-sized, full color version of this newsletter is available at www.rockrivercoalition.org.

For more information about these and other area events, meetings, workshops, or conferences go to <http://www.rockrivercoalition.org/events/calendar.asp>

Go With the Flow: A Riverwalk Party

Saturday, Sept. 27, 8am - 4pm, Fort Atkinson

The flood waters rose high, but our sense of community rose higher.

This is something to celebrate. Join the Rock River Coalition, jugglers, artists, street performers and musicians along the banks of the mighty Rock River on Fort Atkinson's beautiful downtown riverwalk.



Nominate a hero who helped others during high waters for an overhead "Rock River Heroes of the Flood" collective photograph taken from the Main Street Bridge. Time to Go With the Flow! -- For more information call the Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce, 920-563-3210

Look Inside to Find Articles on:

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