

Rock River Coalition Annual Report

2005



Mission

To educate and provide opportunities for people of diverse interests to work together to improve the environmental, recreational, cultural, and economic resources of the Rock River Basin.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rock River Coalition is pleased to announce that the financial condition of the organization is in good condition. The Board of Directors this past year reviewed and updated the By-Laws, and made several other changes due to increased membership, adding employees, and continued growth.

The Coalition continues as a volunteer organization and depends on the involvement of individuals, communities and organizations with an interest in the river. The Rock River Coalition intends to continue to coordinate the resources needed to help in building the river into a more attractive place to live, work and visit; a place to enjoy the domain of our Natural Resources.

The task of coordinating activities on a river that runs through so many counties and cities is formidable, but so are the benefits if they are successful. Stream Monitoring, Installing Rain Gardens, Stream Bank Restorations will continue because of our core of dedicated Members and Volunteers. We tip our hats to all of you who make the Coalition an award winning organization.

Digging through some old news papers I found a series of 1971 articles by Bill Stokes of the Milwaukee Journal On Wisconsin Series. Filthy Rock River Just an Example of Our Shame. " Judging by the Rock, we can forget about the pleasant stroll, splashing children and walleyes. The river is for toileting cows and, indirectly, man; for runoff silt and chemicals from nearby; for ink , canning waste, cyanide, tallow, acids, chunks of wood and plastic and steel and glass. You name it, it's all there." As Stokes so accurately put it, it was " a sad, shameful record of money grabbing, hog wallowing environmental disregard by the king of the species."

We have come a long way baby, but there is a lot more to do. Please tell your friends about our cause, we need more members and volunteers and money as new projects begin.

Your President

Warren Topel

Warren Topel





A Word from our DNR Partners

WDNR's Basin Partnership with the Rock River Coalition is the result of a visionary venture directed by then WDNR Secretary George Meyer. Secretary Meyer recognized that the Department could not accomplish its mission without the active support and involvement of our citizens. Our basin partnership was an experiment to learn how to engage citizens of the Rock River Basin in the protection and management of our basin's water and land resources. Our partnership with the RRC, and the UWEX that provides our basin educator, has been a big success receiving recognition statewide. We need to continue to build on our successes to meet the challenges we will be facing in the future. The WDNR is facing additional staff cuts due to reductions in both state and federal budget allocations. George Meyer, at the Citizen's Monitoring Confluence in March 2005, emphasized that the role of concerned, involved citizens will become increasingly critical to address our resource protection and management needs. Ken Johnson, the newly appointed South Central Region Water Leader, Sue Josheff, the new Lower Rock River Basin Leader, myself and the Rock River Basin staff will continue to work with the leadership of the RRC to accomplish our mutual goals of making the Rock River Basin an even better place to live, work and play. We look forward to working with all the RRC members and volunteers to accomplish bigger and better things this coming year.

Jim Congdon, Upper Rock Basin Water Leader



Rain Garden in Every Community

In 2005, the RRC began a new partnership program with basin schools, community groups and city parks and public works departments, "A Rain Garden in Every Community". The Rock River Coalition works with a 5 - 9th grade teacher to include the study of storm water and rain gardens into their curriculum. This is followed up with the students designing and helping install a local rain garden. In 2005, two rain gardens were completed with planning begun for several more. These two programs are:

Boys and Girls Club of Dane County The Project: 175 ft² rain garden with 1,500 ft² impervious = 22,500 gallons rain/year

In late summer of 2005 RRC worked with youth from the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County to design and install a rain garden on the Club's property. More than 20 youth between the ages of ten through twelve assisted in design, plant selection, site preparation, planting, weed barrier application and mulching. Boys and Girls Club staff member, Beth Reschke, initiated the project and applied for a grant for more than 100 plants from Plant Dane! which is funded by the Graham Martin Foundation. Site preparation, design and planting oversight was provided by Earth & Water Works, LLC. The youth presented their work to more than 100 people at the Boys and Girls Club Fall Family Festival.

City of Stoughton The Project: 1875 ft² rain garden with 5,400 ft² impervious surface = 82,733 gallons of rain/year

The Stoughton rain garden was a partnership effort between Stoughton High School Landscape Architecture students & teacher, Jerry Wendt; City of Stoughton; The Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission with the Graham Martin Foundation (plants); Vierbicher Associates (site engineering & preparation); Earth & Water Works, LLC (rain garden planting plan & installation oversight); and the RRC. The Stoughton rain garden is located on city-owned property in a residential neighborhood near the City Public Works Department which is located at 521 South 4th Street.

Watertown Riverwalk Mayor's Committee

by Ellen Rulseh, RRC Outreach Coordinator

RRC is proud to have played an important role along with Mayor John David and The Mayor's Riverwalk Committee, in enlisting support for TIF District Number Five by Watertown's Plan Commission and Common Council. The TIF District will provide more than \$800,000 to support commercial and public development along the Riverwalk. The Mayor's Committee has provided support and recommendations for a design that will showcase and enhance the natural features of the Rock River. A PowerPoint presentation has been developed and will be offered to Watertown community service organizations after a premiere showing to the Watertown Common Council. The RRC would like to thank the Quirk Foundation for their financial support of this effort.

Rain Garden in Every Community Funding

We gratefully acknowledge the following for their financial support of our rain garden education work.

\$10,000 Department of Natural Resources River Planning Grant

\$ 5,090 Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Grant

\$ 4,593 UWEX Southern District Resource Management Committee

\$ 4,993 Wisconsin Environmental Education Board: Environmental Education Grant Program

Plus many donations of time and resources for each individual rain garden.

John David, Mayor, City of Watertown

Jim Badde

Carol Bohlman, owner
Carol's Water Street Realty

Susan Dascenzso, Manager
Watertown Main Street Program

Greg David, Jefferson County Board Supervisor
Co-owner, Prairie Dock Farm & CSA

Yvonne Duesterhoeft, County Board Supervisor
Manager, The Market

Dennis Heling, Executive Director, Jefferson County
Economic Development Consortium

Steve Grabow, UWEX Jefferson County
Community Development Educator

Ruth Johnson, DNR Rock River Basin
Planner

Ellen Rulseh, Community Outreach
Coordinator, Rock River Coalition

John Steber, Director
Watertown City Parks & Recreation

Augie Tietz, Alder, City of Watertown

Mark Weaver, Community Planner
National Park Service



Citizen monitoring grows in depth and breadth in 2005

New Wetland Volunteer Monitoring Program Report

The Rock River Basin Wetland Restoration Volunteer Monitoring Project focuses on the 1500 acre Zeloski Marsh/Muck Farm west of Lake Mills. The RRC uses volunteers to gather aquatic and terrestrial pre and post restoration information from the site. Our purpose is to gain insights into the effectiveness of different restoration techniques on water quality and ecological diversity, determine best protocols for monitoring using citizen scientists and how to recruit, maintain and train citizens as wetland monitors.

The data collected during 2005 included floristic quality analysis of plant communities and monitoring of water quality, invertebrates, birds, amphibians and small mammals.

Monitoring results:

Amphibian Monitoring: Using the WDNR Anuran survey protocol we performed four surveys, recorded 8 out of 12 possible species and had 10 citizen scientist volunteers participate.

Bird Counts: Performed annual Midwest Crane Count, spring migration, breeding birds, pheasant broods, waterfowl, fall migration and annual Christmas Bird Count. Nine volunteers contributed to these seven events.

Mammals: In early fall, eight volunteers performed two small mammal surveys using snap traps. Over 100 animals comprising four species were collected for lab work.

Invertebrates:

16 volunteers contributed to four odonata (dragonfly and damselfly) surveys at three nearby natural areas. 12 species were recorded including seven new records for Jefferson County. Also, five volunteers contributed to one butterfly survey.

Plants: Two volunteers ran a floristic quality analysis of the oak island along with neighboring Hope Lake Bog.

Water Quality:

Six volunteers contributed to four monitoring sessions in May, June, July and November.

Field Trips: Suzanne Wade, UWEX Rock River Basin Educator and Bryan led a Natural Resources Foundation-sponsored group on a tour of the Jefferson Marsh and Zeloski wetland restorations.



Several invertebrate monitors before sampling at Red Cedar Lake

-by Bryam Huberty, Wetland Monitoring Coord.

Financial Support:

\$10,000 DNR Citizen-based Monitoring Grant
\$ 2,000 Madison Audubon Society

In-Kind Donations:

Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) donated, as part of the Earth Team Program, field guides for freshwater invertebrates, plants, amphibians, reptiles and mammals.

Eagle Optics donated two pairs of binoculars.

Many thanks to the resource staff helping to make the wetland

monitoring program a success:

Loren Ayers, WDNR, Terrestrial Ecologist
Tara Bergeson, WDNR, Environmental Toxicologist
Thomas Bernthal, WDNR, Wetland Ecologist
Jeff Bode, WDNR, Lake & Wetlands Chief
Caroline Clarin, NRCS, Agricultural Engineer
Robert Domagalski
Bob DuBois, WDNR
Laura England, WWA, Outreach Programs Director
Karen Etter-Hale, MAS Exec Sec
Jason Forest
Jennifer Hauxwell, WDNR, Research Scientist
Bob Hay, WDNR, Herptile Scientist
Greg Kidd, USDA-NRCS, WRP Biologist
Charles Kilian, WDNR, Wildlife Mgr
Alice Klink, NRCS, WRP Biologist
Roland Liebenow,
Mark Martin, WDNR, Natural Areas Protection Specialist,
Rori Paloski, WDNR, Conservation Biologist



Julie Pleski, WDNR, Research Technician,
Mike Reese
Brian Resch, NRCS, District Conservationist,
Sara Schmidt, Beaver Creek Reserve, Director of Citizen Science,
William Smith, WDNR, Biologist,
Joy Zedler, UW-Madison, Professor of Wetland Ecology,
Dennis Zeloski

2005 Wetland Volunteer Monitors

The following volunteers contributed to our monitoring efforts in 2005.

Mike Ayers, Rock Lake Improvement Association
Laura Cotting
Liz Daines
Leslie DeMuth
Shirley Ellis, Friends of Cam-Rock Park
Karen Etter Hale, Madison Audubon Society
Tania Kane
Jennifer Kiser
Deb Klass
Les & Kennedi Kloss
Jeff Kranz
Margaret Krueger
Jerry Matzelle
Ron & Sue Probst
Randy Radtke, Lake Mills Leader Editor
Brian Resch, NRCS
Marty Rye
Brand Smith
Arlie Wilke Jr., Town of Lake Mills Supervisor

Monitoring efforts rewarded:

The Rock River Coalition was honored with two awards in 2005. They received the Wisconsin Stream Monitoring Group Effort Award for their stream monitoring efforts.

Then, for both their wetland and stream monitoring efforts they received the DNR's 2005 Citizen-Based Monitoring Program of the Year Award.



Water Quality

The Citizen Stream Monitoring Program was challenged in 2005 with many small streams drying up, some for the first time in memory. Continuing to monitor these streams and recording how they survive this disaster will be an important aspect of the 2006 campaign.

Water Quality Issue Team Members

Lisa Conley, Rock River Coalition
Jayne Jenks, Waukesha Cty Conservation Specialist
John Krug, City of Sun Prairie WWTP Director
Anne Miller, Rock County Conservation Technician
Dan Rambo, Riveredge Nature Center, Monitoring Coor
Janice Redford, Friends of Cam-Rock Park
Ellen Rulseh, Rock River Coalition, Local Coordinator
Kris Stepenuck, UWEX/DNR WAV Coordinator

Citizen Monitors

To be considered an official RRC Stream Monitor volunteers must go through official training and certification. They must then submit data for inclusion in the state database: <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/wav>. The number of monitors are less than previous years due to changes in local leadership and early season flooding followed by a drought. With our staff changes some records have not made it to the RRC office, if you monitored and are not listed, let us know.

Columbia

Jeff Kranz
Danelle Anderson

Dane

Paula Allen
Friends of Cam-Rock Park
Kay Gabriel
Karen, Scott & Lance Johnson
Dean Kalmerton
Ken Mahr
Jenny, Sam & Ben McGinley
Fiona McTavish
Don Nettum
Ursula Petersen
Janice Redford
Cheryl Redman
Rebecca Schettler-Peterson
Nancy Schlimgen
Debra Weitzel, Middleton High

Dodge

Jim, Sarah & Cheryl Congdon
Laura Congdon
Rick Eckerstorfer
Scott Hurlbert
Kristen Waas
Joel Wondra, Mayville High School

Jefferson

Mark Anderson
Douglas & James Bleecker
Margaret Burlingham
Shirley Ellis
Scott & Teri Holloway
Jayne Jenks
Elvira Kau
Les & Kennedi Kloss
Charles & Evelyn Payson
Uli, Haas & Karina Wagenpfeil
Mary Wendt

Rock

Samantha Foster
James & Nancy Heidt
Chuck & Lorraine Heidt
Jeff & Tracey Leider
Anne & Carolyn Miller
Bruce Mulder, Rock County
Christian School
Charles Schulte
Penny & Gary Shackelford, Lake
Koshkonong Wetlands Assoc

Washington

Steve Anderson, Slinger High
Stephanie Egner
Andrea Rose, Central Middle

Waukesha

John & Beth Berchiatti
Kathy & Juliana Bridge
Linda Foss
Judy McBroom
Betty Jo & Jim Nelson
Jerry & Kay Perkins
Craig & Ann Runyard
Richard Schlondrop
Jeanne Weber
Brad Weber

Actions on Basin Issues in 2005

2005 Participants on all issue teams:

Jim Congdon, WDNR UR Basin Water Leader
Ken Johnson, WDNR LR Basin Water Leader

Ruth Johnson, WDNR RR Watershed Planner
Suzanne Wade, UWEX RR Basin Educator

Groundwater

The Rock River Coalitions spent 2005 promoting the establishment of a GFLOW computer model for the basin. Two informational meetings were held as were numerous meetings with local municipalities. We expect the work on the model to begin in October 2006 and be completed by September 2008.

Groundwater Issue Team Members

Paula Allen, WDATCP Envir. Hydrogeologist
Tim Banwell, Rock Cty Environmental Health Officer
Dennis Bries
Chuck Dunning, USGS Assistant Director
Madeline Gotkowitz, WGNHS Hydrogeologist
David Johnson, WDNR Hydrogeologist

Ed Morse, WI Rural Water Assn Groundwater Specialist
Dave Neuendorf, Dodge County UWEX CNRED Educator
Orson Tingey, DNR Rock River Basin Intern
Rick Wietersen, Rock County Health Department
Groundwater Program Manager

Land Use

Protecting farmland and encouraging development near existing development drives the work of the Planning the Rock Issue Team. In 2005 they hosted two 'Cost of Community Services' workshops, two 'Using the Internet for Land Use Decision' workshops and began work on the second edition of the RRC Rural Development Policies and Guidelines Manual.

Contributors to the successful workshops which had more than 120 participants include: UWEX Center for Land Use Education, Ruckert and Mielke, Virchow Krause, and DNR Science Services staff.

Planning the Rock Issue Team Members

Margaret Burlingham, LanDesign
David Carpenter, Dodge County Zoning Director
Gloria Hafemeister, Wisconsin Woman in Agriculture
Daphne Holterman, Jefferson Cty Animal Agriculture

Ken Rowley, Walworth Farm Bureau President
Mark Weaver, National Park Service Community
Planner

Storm Water

The Storm Water Issue Team focuses on hosting educational activities for municipalities to reduce the impact of stormwater on the Rock River. Annually they offer Environmental Grant Workshops which have helped numerous cities write successful urban, river and runoff grants. In 2005, the team held two stormwater roundtable discussions groups. The team also sponsored a DNR River Grant application to host focus groups on the development of a new recognition program 'River Friendly City'.

Storm Water Issue Team

Jim Bertolacini, WDNR Storm Water Specialist
Ann Dansart, MSA Professional Services Inc.
Joe Dorava, Vierbicher Associates Inc. Consultant
Sue Jones, Dane County Lakes & Watershed Coordinator

Pete Jopke, Dane County Land Conservation, Watershed
Manager
Craig Kunkel, Kunkel Engineering Group President
Paul Moderacki, Johnson Creek Village Administrator
Tim Whittaker, City of Janesville, Stormwater Engineer

Thank you to the 2005 Supporters of the Rock River Coalition who help make all this happen!

\$5,000 - \$20,000

Quirk Foundation
WI DNR

\$100-\$5,000

Bob & Lisa Conley
City of Fitchburg
Earth & WaterWorks, LLC
Glen Korntved
Horicon State Bank
Kunkel Engineering Group
Marshall Meier
Madison Fishing Expo
Rock River Soap Company
UW-Extension
Larry & Suzanne Wade
Waukesha County
Warren Topel

\$50-99

Anonymous
City of Beloit, Public Works
City of Delavan, Public Works
City of Horicon, Public Works
City of Lake Mills
City of Mayville
City of Middleton
Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce
Friends of McCarthy Park
Friends of Riverfront
Green Lake County Department of Land Conservation
Lake Koshkonong Wetland Association
Lac LaBelle Management District
Lake Sinnissippi Association
LanDesign by Margaret Burlingham
Rock County Parks Department
Rock River Rescue
Roger & Denise Kist
Upper Nemahbin Lake Management District

Village of DeForest
Village of Johnson Creek
Village of Sussex
Village of Therese Public Works
Walworth County Farm Bureau
\$25-49
Todd Ambs
Mark Anderson
Bill & Cindy Arbiture
Jeff Bahls
Andy & Debbie Bissonnette
Lee Block
Kim Buchholz
Brad Cantrell, City of Janesville
David Carpenter, Dodge County Planning Dept.
Jim & Cheryl Congdon
Laura Congdon
Elizabeth Daines
Dick David
Greg David
Bill Ehlenbeck, Dodge County Parks
Barbara Feeney, WI DOT
Nelson Fischer
Kevin Freber, City of Watertown
Ralph Froelich
Kay Gabriel
Thomas Ganfield
Donnell Geib
Matthew Groppi
George & Kathleen Groskopf
Michael & Wendy Haag
Bonnie Hamer
Mo Hansen
Paul & Grace Hauser
Mike & Kim Herro
Mike Hoppenrath, City of Watertown
Mark Horn
Ken Johnson, WI DNR
Ruth Johnson, WI DNR

Dale, Kim & Evan Karow
Jeff Kranz
Kiwanis Club of Watertown-Sunrise
Paul Lange, City of Watertown
Marilyn Lohman
Carol Mankiewicz & Carl Mendelson
Roger Martin
Ron Martin, Midwest Prairies
Jeanine Mason
Daniel Moore
Steve Nass & Deb Haines
Jim & Betty Jo Nelsen
Dave & Sandra Neuendorf
Charles & Evelyn Payson
Ursula Petersen, DATCP
Don Quarford, City of Beaver Dam
Mark Roffers, Vandewalle
Jan Ruster
Tom Schnaderbeck
Greg Searle, WI DNR
Donna Sefton, WI DNR
Rock Aqua Jays
Tom & Lois Shearer
Debora Sielski, Washington Cty Planning & Parks
Lawrence Sullivan Family
Scott Taylor
Bob Weiland
Herbert Wolf, Washington Cty Planning & Parks

\$10-24
Michael Ayers
Ronald Bergsten
Nancy Hall
Tania Kane
Lake Comus Protection & Rehabilitation District
Richard McLaughlin
Dana Meads
Elroy Mittelstadt
Brian Resch, NRCS
Ray & Ginny Seaholm
Wayne Staude

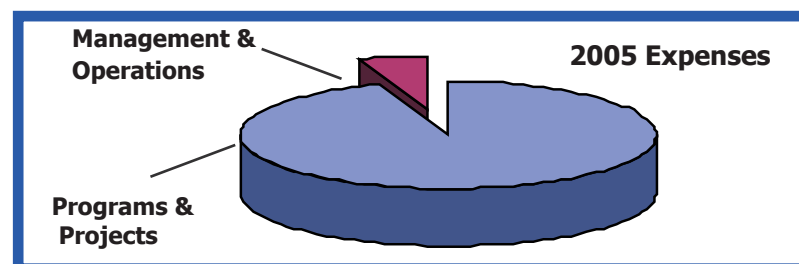
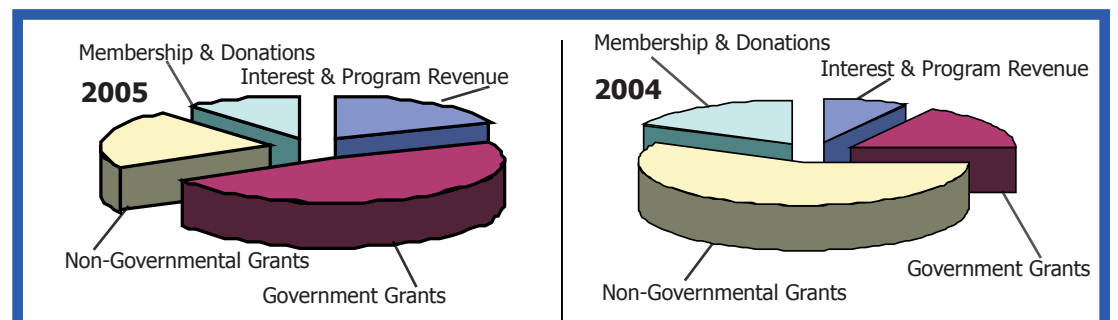
Financial Summary

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005
(with comparative totals from December 31, 2004)

Support and Revenue	2005	2004
Membership & Donations	\$ 5,354.22	\$ 9,902
Non-Government Grants	\$10,914.00	\$27,169
Government Grants	\$37,100.00	\$12,010
Interest and Program Revenue	\$11,637.10	\$ 6,176
Total Income	\$65,005.32	\$55,257

Expenses	2005	2004
Programs and Projects	\$59,911.30	\$39,175
Management & Operations	\$ 3,346.95	\$ 3,500
Total Expenses	\$63,258.25	\$42,675

Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$36,666
Net Assets End of Year	\$38,413
Change of Assets	\$ 1,747



Send Your Legislator Down the River

Monday June 19, 2006 Indian Trails Scout Camp
5795 River Road, Janesville



Join city, county and state elected officials for a paddle down the Rock River in a regular canoe, a Voyageur canoe or pontoon boat after enjoying a picnic meal, and a River Town Hall meeting with local legislators and elected officials.

Organized by
The Rock River Coalition
Green Rock Audubon Society

Sponsored by
State Senator Neal Kedzie
University of Wisconsin - Extension
Department of Natural Resources

4:00 - 6:00pm Registration
4:30 - 5:30pm Picnic meal served
5:00 - 5:45pm Welcome and River Town Hall Meeting
6:00 - 8:15pm Canoe launch for a six mile paddle to Traxler Park Janesville:
Voyageur canoes and pontoon boat will be available.

Picnic Dinner: Locally produced brats and hot dogs plus veggie dogs, salads, fruit, raw veggies, cheese & crackers, bars and beverage. A snack and beverage will be provided during the paddle.

Cost: \$22 for non-members, \$18 for Rock River Coalition or Green-Rock Audubon Society members.

\$9 fee for youth (6-18), Children five or under free. Late fee \$5 after June 12.

Sorry, we cannot guarantee meals for walk-in registrants.

Rock River Coalition T-Shirts available for \$15 if ordered in advance or \$17 at the door.

Send Your Legislator Down the River - 2006 Registration Form

Please make checks payable to the Rock River Coalition.

Send signed forms and payment to UWEX Jefferson County, ATTN SYLDR, 864 Collins Road, Jefferson WI 53549.

Registration can also be done on-line at <http://www.rockrivercoalition.org>. Payment through PayPal.

For questions call Kim at 920-674-7297 or email kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____ email _____
adults attending RRC/GRAS Member @ \$18 \$ _____
adults attending not a Member @ \$22 \$ _____
attending age 6-18 @ \$9 \$ _____
attending age 5 or under free \$ _____
Late registration fee (after June 12) \$5 \$ _____
RRC membership - category _____ \$ _____
T-shirt, short sleeved (\$15) _____ size(s) \$ _____
Total enclosed \$ _____

I would like vegetarian dinner
 I will only be at the Roundtable, & dinner
 I/We have a canoe/kayak,
 I do not have a canoe, please provide space in one partner name (if any) _____
 I would like a spot in the Voyager Canoe (if available)
 I would like a spot on the pontoon boat
I am an elected official representing _____

In consideration of the "Sponsors" (as defined below) accepting this registration, I, the undersigned entrant, intending to be legally bound, do hereby agree not to sue and hereby waive and release all sponsors, governmental bodies, organizations, officials, elected officials and individuals associated with the 'Send Your Legislator Down the River' canoe and pontoon event (the "Event") and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns from any and all claims, actions, damages or injuries suffered or incurred by me or which arise out of my participation in the Event, unless caused by the willfull misconduct of any of the Sponsors. I hereby agree to the use of my voice or picture or any other record of the Event for any purpose whatsoever. This release applies to and binds the undersigned entrant, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns and is for the benefit of all of the Sponsors. This registration is invalid unless signed by the entrant. If entrant is under 18 years of age, the parent or legal guardian of the entrant must also sign the form.

Participant: _____ Age (if under 18) _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (under 18): _____ Date: _____

Parent Name/Guardian (printed): _____

One hold harmless clause must be signed for each person attending. Extra forms will be available at the event.



Rock River Coalition a Partner in Winning Stormwater 360's National Grant Competition

by Ellen Rulseh, RRC Outreach Coordinator

Penni Klein, the City of Middleton's Public Lands Manager, recently congratulated Ellen Rulseh, RRC Outreach Coordinator, for her role in initiating and writing the winning proposal to Stormwater 360's national stormwater mitigation grant challenge. "You did it, you made it happen, you're the one," Klein told Rulseh, noting that their proposal was ranked first ahead of more than 30 applications, nationwide.

The grant was awarded based on Earth & Water Works, LLC's collaboration with Klein on the initial site assessment, proposal, photos and preliminary drawings to provide stormwater mitigation to Tiedeman and Stricker Ponds, two Middleton-area kettle ponds, which drain into Lake Mendota and the Rock River. The majority of the site preparation and labor will be provided on an "in kind" basis by the City of Middleton. Through RRC's "Rain Garden in Every Community" program, Rulseh and Earth & Water Works, LLC's Susan Priebe will work with Middleton's Elm Lawn Grade School teacher, Lynn Karle and her fourth grade classroom. She will incorporate learning about stormwater mitigation and rain gardens using the new Storm Water Curriculum & Teaching Guide developed by UW-Madison Arboretum, UW-Extension and the Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership.

The successful application included a community outreach component in which the school children will help learn about design and plant the site this spring with a summer or fall "picnic in the park" to present information about the project to their parents and the community. Karle's students will continue to study and help maintain the site as they progress into fifth and sixth grades.

Said Rulseh, "It's been a pleasure to work with Penni Klein and Lynn Karle on the formulation of this project. Penni's on-going support and acknowledgement had a lot to do with our success. And it has been satisfying to work with Lynn Karle, a teacher who began by asking: 'What is a rain garden, anyway?' to now incorporating the new, recently-available storm water curriculum into her classroom."

In addition to Middleton, Rulseh is reaching out to Madison and other communities for basin-wide participation in the "Rain Garden in Every Community" program. For more information about participating in the program, contact Ellen Rulseh at 920-674-7443 or 608-240-9424.

Johnson Creek Rain Garden a True Partnership

by Margaret Burlingham, LanDesign and RRC Board

The Rock River Coalition's "A Rain Garden in Every Community" project is working with Peter Hartz, superintendent of the Johnson Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Johnson Creek High School classes to install a demonstration rain garden at the treatment plant entrance.

22 students in the Ecology and Fish & Wildlife classes taught by Brian Zachgo and Ed Bielinski will learn about the rain garden concept in the classroom from RRC Outreach Coordinator Ellen Rulseh. The following week they will help create the planting design with assistance from consultants Hope Oostdik of Dutch Designs and Margaret Burlingham of LanDesign.

Weather permitting, the students will measure the rain garden, calculate how many plants are needed, assess soil texture, observe run-off patterns into the rain garden, and select plant species. About one third of the 9000 sq. ft. garden will be planted with plant plugs and the remaining two thirds will be seeded with native plants to demonstrate different techniques. The students will help plant the rain garden in May and then make a presentation to the community on what they have learned.

The goals for the project are to slow down and infiltrate stormwater before it reaches a wetland along Johnson Creek, to improve water quality and replenish groundwater, to create a beautiful focal point at the Village's west entrance, to demonstrate what a rain garden is to homeowners and developers, and to provide habitat for birds, amphibians, and native insects.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant is located on Hwy B just west of Johnson Creek. Prairie Nursery provided native plant catalogs for use by the students in learning about native plants. The Village of Johnson Creek and a WDNR River Protection Grant, are providing the funding.



Margaret and Johnson Creek staff work on plans for the Johnson Creek rain garden

photo by Ellen Rulseh

Become a RRC Member

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

Name _____
 Title _____
 Affiliation _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
 E-mail _____

Annual tax deductible membership fees

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

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

Tax deductible donation

\$ 100	_____
\$ 250	_____
\$500 or above	_____

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

Please mail this completed form with check to:

Rock River Coalition
224 Conneley Dr
Jefferson, WI 53549

or register and pay online with PayPal at:

www.rockrivercoalition.org/membership.asp

Rock River Coalition Annual Meeting & Elections

Tuesday May 9th, 2006 5:00pm
Cafe Carpe, 18 S Water Street, Fort Atkinson
Please RSVP by May 5, 2006 to RRC Board Member Tim Reel, at treel@fortatkinsonwi.net
or by calling 920-563-7766

All members are welcome to attend our eleventh RRC Annual Meeting at Cafe Carpe overlooking the beautiful Fort Atkinson River Walk.

Join us for complimentary homemade salsa and chips available throughout the evening. Dinner will be ordered around 5:30 pm on a separate check basis. A business meeting will be held during the evening including Board of Director elections and annual report. The RRC will honor Madison Gas and Electric with a presentation of their 2005 Protector Award in the Business Category. then take a stroll along the river and enjoy Cafe's new rain garden.

Hope to see you there!

Board members up for reelection:

Roger Kist, Washington County Convention & Visitor's Bureau
Tim Reel, City of Fort Atkinson, Waste Water Treatment Plant

New board nominee

Tracey Novak, Pleasant Valley Acres

Storm Water Forum on storm water planning and storm water utilities

June 6, 2006 9:30 - 11:00 Johnson Creek Village Hall 125 Depot Street, Johnson Creek followed by the RRC Storm Water Issue Team planning meeting.

The RRC Storm Water Issue Team is hosting a forum to address questions about storm water plans and the development of storm water utilities. Panel members will share their experiences, tips and methods used with both planning and utilities.

Panel members:

David Botts, City of Beloit
Tom Kennedy, City of Beaver Dam
Joe Radocay, City of Watertown
Dave Caverson, City of Fitchburg

Wetland monitoring calendar for May, June and July



April 30 1pm-4pm, Zeloski Intro to Odonata Monitoring

May 14 1pm-4pm, Jefferson Wetland, Odonata Monitoring

May 20-June 5 2nd Anuran Survey Period (minimum water temp 60F)

May 21 Noon-4pm, Zeloski Marsh, Intro to Plant Sampling Techniques & Spring Flora Survey

May 28 1-4pm, Zeloski Marsh, Odonata Monitoring

June 4 12-3pm, Lepidoptera Survey, Brandt Prairie

June 11 Noon-4pm, Zeloski Marsh. Spring Flora and Odonata of Hope Lake Bog

June 18 6am-9am, Zeloski Breeding Bird Survey,
10am-noon, Zeloski Sampling of MAS Wetland Plantings

June 25 10am-2pm, Jefferson Wetland or Red Cedar Lake SNA, Odonata Monitoring

July 1 Start 3rd Anuran Survey Period (through July 15, minimum water temp 70F)

July 2 Noon-4pm, Faville Grove Sanctuary NABA's Annual Butterfly Count, Brandt Prairie

July 9 Noon-4pm, Jefferson Wetland or Red Cedar Lake SNA, Odonata Monitoring

July 16 10am-2pm, Zeloski Marsh, Sampling of MAS Wetland Plantings

July 23 Noon-4pm, Zeloski Marsh, Macroinvertebrate Monitoring

July 30 Noon-4pm, Jefferson Wetland or Red Cedar Lake SNA Odonata Monitoring

For more information about any of these or other monitoring activities contact Bryan at wetlands@rockrivercoalition.org or by calling 608-345-4024.

Calendar of Events

Cost of Community Services Workshop
April 20, 2006, UWEX Jefferson County Rm 104 (top floor)

RRC Citizen Monitoring Training - Waterloo
April 29, 2006, Waterloo Fireman's Park 8:30am - 3:15pm

RRC Annual Meeting and Board Elections:
May 9, 2006, Cafe Carpe, Fort Atkinson 5:00 - 7:00

Clean Boats, Clean Water Workshop
May 13, 2006, Rock Lake County Park northside of lake, contact Patricia Cicero at 920-674-7121 or patriciac@co.jefferson.wi.us

RRC Citizen Monitoring Training - Edgerton
May 13, 2006, 8:30am - 3:15pm, see page 4

RRC Citizen Stream Monitoring Training
June 3, 2006, Waterville 8:30 - 3:15, see page 4

Stormwater Planning and Utilities Forum
June 6, 2006, Johnson Creek Village Hall 9:30 - 11:00

Send Your Legislator Down the River
June 19, 2006, Janesville, see page 11

Tile Salvage Day, Zeloski Wetland
July 8, 2006, 2:00 - 4:00, see page 1

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for summer newsletter is July 7, 2006

For more information about these and other RRC Events go to www.rockrivercoalition.org



Senator Neal Kedzie speaks to monitors at the annual Confluence prior to reading from Sand County Almanac to commemorate Aldo Leopold Day on March 4, 2006. Senator Kedzie is the sponsor of this year's Send Your Legislator Down the River on Monday June 19.
photo by Ellen Rulseh