



# Rock River Reflections

A publication of the *Rock River COALITION* produced in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Extension Winter 2009 Volume 12, Number 1

## Discovering the Koshkonong Creek – An Unknown Treasure

Mark your calendars for our first event highlighting the uniqueness of our local watersheds.

**Discovering the Koshkonong Creek – an Unknown Treasure**, will explore all aspects of the creek located in eastern Dane and western Jefferson counties.

This educational and celebratory program will be held Sunday, April 26 starting at 1:00 at the Amundson Center in Cambridge and ending around 6:00 with food and camaraderie at Cam-Rock Park.

In between will be an assortment of field trips and recreational opportunities.

The event will begin with an examination of this undiscovered treasure looking at its history, ecology and immersing issues. Participants will also be able to talk with area organizations including Jefferson Co. Parks & DNR regarding the Glacial Heritage Area, Lake Koshkonong Wetland Association, Rock River Coalition, the River Alliance of Wisconsin and the Friends of Cam-Rock Park.

Ever wonder what's living in the Koshkonong Creek? Find out through a demonstration of stream monitoring by the Friends of Cam-Rock Park and hopefully a fish shocking demonstration by the DNR.

Do you have a concern about your drinking water quality? Bring a sample of your well water in a clean glass jar, and we'll do a quick screening test. Want more definitive information? Well water testing kits will be provided at a discounted rate to anyone interested by the Madison/Dane County Public Health Department.

Following these activities, participants will take off and explore the watershed. Planned trips tentatively include: biking in Cam-Rock Park and birding in Cam-Rock Park, Zeloski Marsh,

or the Lake Koshkonong Wetlands. Tours of rain gardens and shorelines or of the new Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant are planned to be offered as well.

After the field trips, everyone is invited back to Cam-Rock Park to celebrate



*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.*

*Photo by Joleen Henneman*

the Koshkonong Creek. Food and beverages will be served and door prizes will be drawn.

Stay tuned for more information: we're working on bringing the *Surly Surveyor* (Rob Nurre, former Wisconsin Land Records Manager) to give a fascinating program on the original landscape settlers would have discovered in this treasured Koshkonong Creek area.

"I'm still looking for people who are interested in the Koshkonong Creek area to get involved" states coordinator Joleen Henneman. "We're also looking for food, beverage and door prize donations. Give me a call or an email if you want to be part of this interesting, fun, and educational program!" 920-674-7442 or [joleen.henneman@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:joleen.henneman@ces.uwex.edu).

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# President's Message

Dear Rock River Coalition Friends and Members,

This Holiday Season I had the greatest gift of all – a brand new grandson! I held this new life in my arms, and thought about all the changes our part of Wisconsin has seen in my life. My father spent summers on Lac la Belle, just down the road from where we have lived for over 30 years. He knew a different lake than I have seen, and I have seen great changes myself in the time we have lived here – lots more houses, boats and motors, farms turning into fields of homes.



I want this child to have clean water to drink, swim and paddle around in. I want to see the environment get healthier, so that he has beautiful places to play and learn and grow strong. No rocking chair for this Granny - the good work we are doing for the Rock River Coalition seems even more vital now.

Once a year we have the extraordinary opportunity to get together with a united voice to advocate for action on issues that affect our environment, fish and wildlife. You can be part of this at Conservation Lobby Day - February 25th in Madison.

The Rock River Coalition was part of a large group process that singled out 4 top priorities for action in the coming legislative session:

- **Preserve Groundwater - Wisconsin's Buried Treasure:** manage Wisconsin's groundwater resources to preserve drinking water supplies, lakes, streams and wetlands.
- **Stop Global Warming in Wisconsin:** address the threats of global warming in

Wisconsin through clean, renewable energy jobs and energy conservation.

- **Restore Conservation Integrity:** return Wisconsin to an independent DNR Secretary and a timely appointment of Natural Resource Board members.
- **Protect Wisconsin's Drinking Water:** protect Wisconsin's drinking water supplies by making sure we safely spread agricultural, municipal and industrial waste.

Conservation Lobby Day includes a morning briefing on issues at Monona Terrace, and then a chance to meet with your own legislators to carry these priority issues to them and ask for their support. Over 400 people participated last year, and information booths ringed the capitol rotunda – it was great!

I hope you are not waiting for someone in Washington to fix all of our problems. Real change, real progress begins in our homes and communities – with each of us exercising our right and privilege as citizens. Conservation Lobby Day is a great opportunity to add your voice to the many citizens and organizations that want clean water, sound land use, and clean, renewable energy to be priorities in Wisconsin.

Registration is free at [www.conservationvoters.org/](http://www.conservationvoters.org/). I hope to see you there!

Lisa Conley, President



## Nominate a Rock River Basin Protector Today!

The RRC, every two years, recognizes individuals, organization, and businesses who have made positive contributions in the basin. The Rock River Basin Protector Awards are given for significant contributions in the areas of economics and in environmental, cultural and recreational resource improvement or protection. Protector awards are offered in the following categories:

**Individual:** For individuals, teams and families.

**Educator:** K-Adult educators (classroom and nonformal educators).

**Organization:** Non-profits, agencies, municipalities or municipal departments.

**Legislator:** Any elected official including state, federal and local.

**Business:** Any LLC, partnership or corporation who has provided support, completed projects, or instituted internal procedures or methods improving our Basin's environment.

Awards will be based on results and the significance of the accomplishment. All actions must either be completed, or major results realized.

### Nominating someone is easy, just send the following information to the RRC:

Nominator and Nominee names and contact information, the Award Category along with a Description of Accomplishments. In two pages or less, detail why the nominee deserves the award. Supporting documents can be included. We also need the contact information of two people who we could contact to corroborate the accomplishments.

Nominations are due by April 3, 2009. They should be sent to the Rock River Coalition Awards Committee, 864 Collins Rd, Jefferson WI 53549 or emailed to [rriver@excel.net](mailto:rriver@excel.net). Awards will be presented at the RRC Annual Meeting in May.



## 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"*

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*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.*



## Building Communities: Focus on Sustainability

Sustainable living is becoming more and more important to everyone. However, today's society is complex and challenging, making it hard to achieve this important objective.

The University of Wisconsin-Extension, Jefferson County, the UWEX Rock River Basin Educator, the Rock River Coalition and the Town and Country RC&D are bringing to Jefferson County a satellite education series (webinar) Building Communities: A Focus on Sustainability, to help municipal staff and elected officials, individuals, businesses, farmers and others take vital steps to introduce sustainability to their work and personal lives.

This year's Building Communities Webinar Series tackles important questions addressing global, regional and local issues and will challenge ourselves as both a community and as individuals.

Upcoming sessions held 11:30am - 12:30pm at the UWEX Jefferson County Office, 864 Collins Rd, Jefferson are:

Feb. 17, Sustainable Business Practices and Strategies

March 17, Green Collar Jobs: Sustainable Work in a Low Carbon World

April 21, Local Food Networks: Food Localization as a Sustainability Strategy

May 19, Sustainability Indicators and Measurement

June 16, Community Organizing for Sustainability

Register by calling Linda at the UWEX office at 920-674-7296 or by emailing [lindaw@co.jefferson.wi.us](mailto:lindaw@co.jefferson.wi.us).

There is no fee to attend the UWEX Jefferson County site.

Other UW-Extension sites offering the program locally include: Dane, Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Washington, Waukesha and Ozaukee counties. Fees may be charged, so interested individuals should contact them directly for registration information.



# Put Your Sidewalk and Driveway on a Low-Salt Diet\*

by Marcia Hartwig, Stormwater Education Coordinator Dane County Lakes and Watershed

For safety reasons, we need to keep driveways and sidewalks clear of ice and snow. However, choosing the right product and using it correctly is important to help protect our water resources.

1. Shovel early, shovel often. There's no substitute for muscle and elbow grease for snow and ice removal. Remove as much snow as you can during the storm if possible. Use a hoe or other tools to chip or scrape ice off the surface before any deicers are applied. Deicers work best when there is only a thin layer of snow or ice that must be melted. Divert the melting snow away from your sidewalk and driveway to an area where ice won't be a problem.
2. Buy early. Make sure to buy your deicing product well before the big storm hits, otherwise you will be looking at empty shelves, and have few, if any, environmental choices to make.
3. Check the label. The table below shows how the main ingredients of common de-icing products compare. Check the package closely to see—often a product may contain several of the ingredients listed below, but the first one listed is usually the main ingredient.
4. Apply salt early, but sparingly. No matter which chloride product you choose, a little goes a long way. Additional salt won't speed up the melting process, so follow directions for application carefully and remember to first remove as much snow and ice as you can. The recommended application rate for sodium chloride is about a handful per square yard. Calcium chloride works at much colder temperatures and you need a lot less (about a handful per three square yards—about the area of a single bed). Choose calcium chloride over sodium chloride when you can.
5. Avoid kitty litter and ashes. Although these products may seem environmentally friendlier,

they don't work to melt snow and ice—they merely provide some traction and make a mess on your floors. Stick with sand for traction, which is cheaper and easier to clean up.

6. Avoid Products that Contain Urea. Urea has been recommended as a safer alternative, reasoning that it does not contain chlorides and, as a form of nitrogen, will help fertilize your yard when it washes off. However, urea-based deicing products are a poor choice as it is fairly expensive and performs poorly when temperatures drop below 20 degrees F. The application rate for urea during a single deicing is ten times greater than that needed to fertilize the same area of your yard, and ultimately, very little of the urea will actually get onto your lawn, but will end up washing into the street and storm drain and eventually to the nearest lake or stream. Given that nitrogen is a problem for surface water resources, it doesn't make sense to use nitrogen-based products for de-icing.

7. Consider nearby vegetation. Look at the plants growing within five or ten feet of your driveway, sidewalk and road. Salt-sensitive plants are listed in the table below. If you have salt-sensitive plants close to these paved surfaces, you should avoid any de-icing product that contains chlorides (magnesium chloride, rock salt or calcium chloride), or use very small amounts. You may want to use CMA as a safer alternative, or use sand for traction.

Species at Risk from Salting

Deciduous Trees: tulip polar, green ash, hickory, red maple, sugar maple

Conifers: balsam fir, white pine, hemlock, Norway spruce

Shrubs: dogwood, redbud, hawthorn, rose, spirea

Grasses: Kentucky bluegrass, red fescue

\* Adapted from *Snow, Road Salt and the Chesapeake Bay* by Tom Schueler, Center for Watershed Protection

### De-Icing Products Comparison

Product	Works To (degrees F)	Cost	Environmental Considerations
Calcium Chloride	-25	three times more than rock salt	uses three times less, no cyanide, chloride impact
Magnesium Chloride	5	n/a	less toxic
NaCl: Sodium Chloride or "rock salt"	15	about \$5 for a 50 pound bag	contains cyanide, has chloride impacts
Urea	20 to 25	five times more than rock salt	needless nutrients, less corrosion
Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)	22 to 25	20 times more than rock salt	less toxic than other chemicals
Sand	no melting effect	about \$3 for a 50 lb bag	accumulates in streets and streams; needs to be swept up

## Learn About Your Land Programs Offered.

Woodland owners in Dodge and Jefferson counties are invited to a series of three classes to help better understand and manage your woods.

The classes will focus on:

### **Getting to Know Your**

**Local Trees:** In this session you will learn about the characteristics of many common trees found in your woods and you will learn how to use a tree id key. You will also learn about local non-native invasive plants in your woods. Speaker, Wendy Meier, Assistant Naturalist, Wisconsin DNR, Horicon. Saturday January 31, 9:30 - 11:00am



### **Success with Tree**

**Planting:** This session will take you through the steps needed to successfully establish a new forest. You'll learn which trees will grow best on your land, how to prepare your land, techniques for planting and how to care for newly planted trees. Speaker, Randy Roeseler, Dodge County Landowner and 2004 Dodge County and District 4 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. Saturday February 14, 9:30 - 11:00 am.

### **What's Best for You and Your Woods - Making wise woodland management decisions:**

Whether to harvest trees on your land is dependent on a lot of things, including your goals - like recreation, wildlife or income - not to mention the species and condition of your trees and your financial situation. This session will cover how harvesting may help you meet your goals for your woods and how cutting timber relates to other management tools. Speaker Jim Bednar, Procurement Forester, Algoma Lumber Company, Mayville. Tuesday February 24, 7-8:30pm

Whether you are a long-time woodland owner or someone completely new to the experience, the classes will have much to offer you.

The classes will be held at the Watertown Senior Center, 514 S 1st St, Watertown, with registration starting one half hour before the program starts.

Preregistration is strongly encouraged, as space is limited. We will also phone or email preregistrants if classes are cancelled due to weather.



Register by calling Marie at 920-674-7297 or by email at marier@co.jefferson.wi.us. Please leave name, phone number and address.

The program is sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension.

## Jefferson Dam Fish Passage

by Laura Stremick-Thompson, fisheries biologist, Horicon

Dams are barriers to the free migration of fish up and down stream. Many people don't realize how important this migration can be, but fishery proponents have long looked at ways to reduce the impact of dams. One such effort is active in the Rock River Basin in Jefferson. In November 2005, a fish passage was completed at the dam on the Rock River just above the confluence with the Crawfish.

The goal is to improve movement, reproduction and recruitment of fish species, such as sauger and walleye, by providing uninterrupted river access from the Indianford dam at Lake Koshkonong to the lower Watertown dam.

The fish passage consists of a series of horizontally elongated steps filled with rock. Each step provides a gentle slope that reduces water velocity so that fish are able to navigate upstream. Pools and eddies are also included to provide resting spots for fish as they travel upstream. Water flowing over the dam and down the ladder stimulates fish to continue to pass up and over each step. The fish passage design is similar to an existing structure located on the Fox River, at Eureka.

This year marks the fourth year of an ongoing fish tagging study evaluating the effectiveness of the Jefferson Dam fish passage. Over 2,500 fish have been tagged as part of the study and good numbers of tag returns have been received. So far the study has documented substantial seasonal movement of fish from Lake Koshkonong to the Jefferson Dam and up the Crawfish River. Tag returns have documented that one channel catfish, tagged in Lake Koshkonong, was recovered below the lower Watertown Dam, indicating movement through the fish passage.

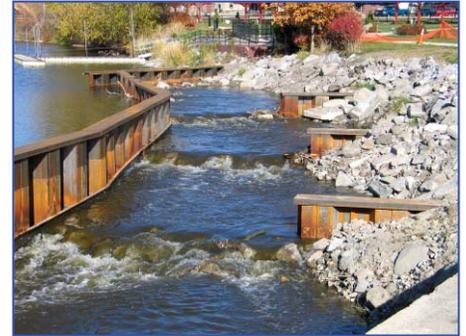
Tags used in the study resemble 2-inch, fluorescent pink pieces of spaghetti and are located near the base of the fish's dorsal fin (i.e. the fin along the top of the back). Each tag contains a unique serial number that identifies the fish and an address to send the tag to. One type of tag is shown below, attached to the dorsal fin.



Anglers should report tagged fish, along with catch date and location, tag number, length, whether the fish was kept or released, and angler's name and address to the address on the

tag, Laura.StremickThompson@wisconsin.gov or (920) 387-7876. Anglers are asked to not remove tags from fish they release.

In 2009 a series of underwater cameras will be installed within the fish passage to monitor the movement of fish through the structure. The public will be able to access live streaming video from the cameras via [www.biotactic.com](http://www.biotactic.com).



The steps of the fish passage are shown here looking upstream. The City of Jefferson Rotary Waterfront Park can be seen in the background.

Immediately below is a picture showing the full length of the dam while under construction the fish passage is on the east or top part of the picture.

Lower photo: This is a low-head dam which ran almost level during the floods of 2008.

Top photo DNR file photo, bottom photos Suzanne Wade



## Eat Your Problems: More on Japanese Knotweed

from [www.wildmanstevebrill.com](http://www.wildmanstevebrill.com)

(recipes can be found on this website: *how does Apple and Knotweed Pie sound!*)

Japanese Knotweed often displaces other plants and is difficult to eradicate, it's so tasty that some municipalities have surrendered, and hold annual Japanese knotweed festivals instead.

**SEASON:** You can eat Japanese Knotweed shoots from mid-April to early May, before the plant gets tough and woody. Rarely, after the plant's been cut down, tender new edible shoots regrow. There are no poisonous look-alikes. [Editor's note - Be sure no herbicide has been used on it before harvesting and eating!]

In the early spring, Japanese knotweed looks like an army of nondescript fat, green, red-flecked stalks poking up from the ground. While the under-developed young leaves don't provide much of a clue to the plant's identity, last year's dead stalks do: the new shoots grow among a "bamboo" jungle of jointed (polygonum means "many knees"), hollow, lightweight wooden poles up to 13 feet tall, even though the plant belongs to the buckwheat family, not the bamboo family.

**FOOD USES:** Best when 6 to 8 inches tall, the intensely tart, tangy shoots (discard all the tough leaves) taste like rhubarb, only better. A tough rind that you must peel (good for making marmalade) covers the taller ones.

Slice the stems, steam as a vegetable, and simmer in soups, sauces, fruit compotes, and jam, or bake in dessert dishes. Use sparingly—I've made terrific applesauce and excellent strawberry compotes using just 1 part knotweed to 10 parts fruit.

You may even substitute cooked knotweed, which gets very soft, for lemon juice, transforming familiar recipes into exotic ones. Or use a chopstick to pierce the membranes that separate the segments of 1-foot-tall shoots, peel, stuff the stalks with sweet or savory stuffing, and bake in an appropriate sauce.

**NUTRITION:** An excellent source of vitamin A, along with vitamin C and the antioxidant flavonoid rutin, Japanese Knotweed also provides potassium, phosphorus, zinc, and manganese. It's an excellent source of resveratrol, the same substance in grape skin and red wine that lowers LDL (bad) cholesterol and reduces the risk of heart attacks.

Excerpted from SHOOTS AND GREENS OF EARLY SPRING in Northeastern North America by "Wildman" Steve Brill, New York, 1986; revised in 2008



## Friends of Badfish Creek Expand Scope, Build Partnerships

by Scott Taylor, RRC Board and FBCW member

As winter clenches its grip on Wisconsin, the Friends for Badfish Creek Watershed (FBCW) – a chapter of the Rock River Coalition – are looking ahead to spring and summer. Building on partnerships formed during a recent stream clean-up in the Village of Oregon, we are in the early planning stages of an invasive plant species control effort in a rural reach of the Badfish. Also, we have initiated contact with the WDNR wildlife manager of the Badfish Creek Wildlife Area, Maureen Rowe, with the hope of leveraging our partnerships to focus on streambank restoration and other habitat improvements long since envisioned by Ms. Rowe.



*Friends of Badfish Creek examining the shoreline for erosion and invasives. photos by Lynne Diebel*

While exploring the creek in the summer of 2008, members of the FBCW planning committee and Laura MacFarland, an invasive species specialist with the River Alliance of Wisconsin, spotted a colony of Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) on the stream banks, near Cooksville in Rock Co. Japanese Knotweed is an aggressive bamboo-like perennial from Asia. Knotweed colonies have been reported in most Wisconsin counties. There is concern it will trigger stream bank erosion by smothering soil-stabilizing herbaceous ground cover. As with most invasives, early detection is the best form of control.

So FBCW resolved to begin control of the colony, shown in the accompanying photo. Our first



step is a grant application to the Aquatic Invasive Species Control grant program of the WDNR, with the Rock River Coalition as the grant recipient. We hope for assistance to defray the cost of herbicides, hand tools, cover crop and native seed. Several of our partners have indicated willingness to help, including the Dane County Conservation League, Stoughton Boy Scout Troop #167 and the Ecologically Concerned Students of Oregon. Controlling Japanese Knotweed will not be easy, but following the "adaptive management" model, we plan to learn through the process and share lessons with other groups.

WDNR wildlife manager Maureen Rowe attended a FBCW meeting to discuss habitat restoration potential at the Badfish Creek Wildlife Area, which contains an expanse of grassland, marsh and forest adjoining the creek. We were pleased to learn there are an abundance of volunteer opportunities in the wildlife area, most of them involving removal of invasive brush. Although not yet prepared to tackle such an effort, restoration of the wildlife area by citizen volunteers is integral to our vision of community involvement in our watershed. For more information contact Scott Taylor at [sotaylor1968@yahoo.com](mailto:sotaylor1968@yahoo.com).

### Japanese Knotweed

The Japanese Knotweed invades stream banks, lakeshores, wetlands, grasslands and woodlands spreading via dense underground rhizomes. It emerges early and grows tall (4-13 feet), preventing sunlight from reaching native plants.

**Management:** small stands - cut repeatedly over many years; large stands - spray new foliage with herbicide.

**Basic identification:** A herbacious perennial, with hollow, bamboo-like stems. The mature Asian ornamental bears large, heart-shaped, smooth-edged, alternate (singly configured) leaves, 4 to 6 inches long and 2½ to 4¼ inches wide, with pointed tips (*cuspidatum* means "make pointed") and straight bases. The mature reddish stems form a zigzag pattern.

Arising from where the leafstalk meets the stem (the axil), the tiny white flowers, blooming in late summer and fall, form such beautiful, long, lacy spikes that gardeners imported this "weed" from Japan.

For more information: [http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/japanese\\_knotweed.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/japanese_knotweed.htm). Call or email Marie at 920-674-7297 or [marier@co.jefferson.wi.us](mailto:marier@co.jefferson.wi.us) and she will send you a copy of the DNR/UWEX wild card for this or other invasive species.



## Lawn Phosphorus Fertilizer Bill is Back!

On January 12, leaders of the Senate and Assembly announced that they would re-introduce a strong bill to restrict the use of Phosphorus in fertilizers used for lawns and turf grass. The bill passed the Senate last session, but stalled in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee as the session ended. Spencer Black, the new chair of the committee has promised to put forth an ambitious environmental agenda, including this bill.

Beaches have been closed and fisheries damaged in our Rock River Basin because of excess phosphorus levels. This bill is needed to reduce the excessive use of phosphorus fertilizer that is degrading our lakes and streams by feeding nuisance algae blooms.



Photo by Lisa Conley

At the press conference, a number of citizens spoke, including Ruth Johnson, of the Lake Sinissippi Management district and the Rock River Coalition. (pictured above)

Ruth pointed out that farmers are already being asked to control phosphorus runoff from their farms, and urban areas should do their share to clean up our waters.

This bill will keep more phosphorus from being spread where soils are already overloaded – on our lawns, parks, and other public places. The grass will still be green, and hopefully our waters will be bluer as the result of this legislation.

Watch for hearings scheduled in the coming weeks, and let your elected official know how important it is to control the excessive phosphorus runoff that is polluting our lakes and rivers.

These bills, SB 5 and AB 3, have strong support in both houses of the legislature, but citizens need to make sure this stays an important priority.

The Rock River Coalition is dedicated to seeing this law passed. It is one more important step in bringing back good water quality throughout the basin.

Stay tuned.....

Did you know that you can sign up for a service that will automatically send you an email when there is legislative activity on a subject of interest to you?

Go to <http://notify.legis.state.wi.us/Home.aspx> and register to be notified about any particular bill or issue you want to follow.

## GFLOW Model Ready for Use

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) started developing a GFLOW model for the Rock River Basin in October 2006. USGS began by compiling existing information on water levels and stream flows, selecting a base map, and creating a database of groundwater withdrawals. The data and mapping efforts were used to formulate a conceptual model of the regional hydrogeology. Then the model was calibrated against measured groundwater levels and measured stream flows. The model was completed this fall and we anticipate approval of the model in the coming weeks, with approval of the report in a few months.

A groundwater flow model is a computer program that simulates the movement of groundwater through geologic materials. Groundwater scientists and planners commonly use models to study and evaluate problems such as groundwater recharge, the movement of water to wells, wellhead protection, and the exchange of groundwater with surface water features such as springs, lakes, streams, and wetlands. Many different modeling codes (computer programs) are available for constructing groundwater models. A computer program called GFLOW was utilized for the Rock River Basin effort because of its ability to simulate the interaction between groundwater and surface water.

The GFLOW model is a tool to help communities manage their groundwater resources. It can be used to evaluate potential regional changes (such as long-term climatic shifts or large-scale land use changes) on regional water levels and stream flows. With local refinement, it also can be used to evaluate local questions such as: How would a new large quantity groundwater user (such as an irrigation well, an ethanol plant, a large factory with water cooling needs, or a large subdivision) affect the existing water table? Would it interfere

with existing wells? How much would groundwater discharge to springs or wetlands be reduced? Would it reduce flow in a stream or the Rock River? The GFLOW model, or a locally refined version, can help answer these questions prior to problems developing.

We want to stress that the basin-wide model is simplified in order to cover the broad area of the basin. Nonetheless, it is also flexible, meaning that it can be refined for a local area with relative ease. In addition, the model focuses primarily on shallow groundwater resources and the relationships between shallow groundwater and surface water resources.

The final report "Simulation of the Ground-Water-Flow System and Ground-Water/Surface-Water Interaction in the Rock River Basin, Wisconsin" describes the aquifer units, their hydraulic properties, extent, thickness and elevation, and summarizes baseflow contributions by sub-basin and groundwater flow patterns.

An informational meeting for the general public on the model will be held March 10 at 6:30pm at the UWEX Jefferson County Office, 864 Collins Rd, Jefferson, WI. To be added to the invitation list, or to register, contact Joleen at 920-674-7442, [joleen.henneman@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:joleen.henneman@ces.uwex.edu).

Over the last few years, RRC staff and volunteers have been promoting the model and soliciting contributions from communities and agencies in the basin. The primary promotion activity that has been undertaken is to demonstrate the value of the basin-wide model to local communities, agencies and organizations. With the high value of the model, contributors found

it easy to justify supporting the modeling effort. Over 39 sponsors have contributed to the model: including counties, municipalities, organizations, agencies, consulting firms, and interested citizens. All stakeholders were invited to a meeting earlier in January to unveil the model.

Joe Dorava, Past-president of the RRC will continue as the GFLOW project coordinator. It is his role to solicit questions and find answers about the GFLOW model or report. He can be reached at 1-800-261-6468 or 608-393-2101 or via email at [jdor@vierbicher.com](mailto:jdor@vierbicher.com). If he cannot answer your question directly he will find an answer for you.

### The goals of Rock River Basin groundwater flow modeling are to:

- Improve the overall understanding of the hydrogeology of the Rock River Basin
- Identify areas where important hydrogeologic data is missing or sparse
- Evaluate surface water/groundwater interactions and baseflow contributions to the rivers and streams
- Provide a quantitative tool for testing the effects of possible future hydrologic changes in the Rock River Basin at a regional scale
- Provide a quantitative framework for deriving refined models to evaluate local questions
- Provide a hydrogeologic basis to interpret water quality data

## Rock River Stormwater Group (RRSG)

Cities in the Rock River Basin are joining together as the Rock River Stormwater Group (RRSG), which is being established for the creation and operation of a Stormwater Education Program to fulfill the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources MS4 permit requirements and to promote sustainable stormwater practices in the Rock River Basin.

The cities of Beaver Dam, Beloit, Fort Atkinson, Janesville, Milton, Watertown and Whitewater, as well as the Town of Beloit and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater developed the Rock River Stormwater Agreement under Section 66.0301 (2) of the Wisconsin Statutes, which authorizes cooperation between municipalities and allows joint exercise of power or duty.

This partnership isn't limited to communities that have a stormwater permit, but will be open to any municipal government, non-profit organization or agency that desires to join the effort.

The agreement calls for three tiers of membership, which are:

- Full Members, with voting privileges are any organization who must hold an MS4 Permit. Fees are based on population \$5,000 for those over 10,000 and \$2,000 for those under 10,000.
- Associate Members are municipalities and agencies that do not have to meet MS4 permit requirements, but undertake responsibility to abide by permit requirements. Their annual fee will be \$1,000 and they do not have voting privileges.
- Partners are any organization interested in promoting water quality by helping implement the stormwater education and outreach program. Partners do not have voting privileges nor do they pay a fee.

The group has completed a two year Education and Outreach Plan and a one year work plan, additionally they have begun producing stormwater related media releases, drafted a website and begun planning for a spring construction site erosion workshop. The current web address is <http://www.rockrivercoalition.org/RRB/RRSG.asp>.

Officers are Tim Whittaker, Janesville, President; Joe Radocay, Watertown, Vice-President; Bill Frisbee, Beloit, Secretary and Dean Fischer, Whitewater, Treasurer. For questions contact Tim Whittaker at [whittakert@ci.janesville.wi.us](mailto:whittakert@ci.janesville.wi.us) or 608-755-3169 or Dean Fisher, at [dfischer@ci.whitewater.wi.us](mailto:dfischer@ci.whitewater.wi.us), 262-473-0540 ext 240 or Suzanne Wade at [suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu).

### RRSG to Hire Stormwater Education Coordinator

The MS4 permit requires that all permitted entities implement a Public Education and Outreach Program. The RRSG has developed a proposed education plan to satisfy the permit requirements. The RRSG two year Education and Outreach Plan, as well as a one-year work plan can be found at <http://www.rockrivercoalition.org/RRB/RRSG.asp>.

The RRSG is seeking qualified applicants to serve as Education Coordinator, who will be responsible for implementation of this plan. The Request for Proposals (rfp) can be found on the same website as listed above.

The scope of services listed in an application should be in general accordance with the Rock River Stormwater Education Plan.

Other services required as part of this contract beyond the implementation of the RRSG Education Plan shall include: providing quarterly reports to the RRSG members and managing RRSG annual invoices and payments for member organization's dues.

The candidate, in preparation of a proposal, should not be limited by the identified scope of services. Candidates are encouraged to remain creative and to describe any additional or alternative services they believe would be beneficial in meeting the education objectives.

The term of this contract will be from signature (approximately April 6, 2009) through December 31, 2009 and will be renewable annually after the initial period.

#### Budget and Contract Type

The Rock River Stormwater Group prefers to enter into a contract for professional services on a fixed price basis.

Following the selection of an Education Coordinator, the RRSG will develop a contract with objectives, a detailed scope of services, and a work breakdown structure for the education program.

#### Proposed Time Table

Jan. 22, Advertise Request for Proposals

Feb. 9, Meeting with potential applicants to discuss the project and answer questions, 1:00 – 2:30, Fort Atkinson City Hall

Feb. 18, Proposals Due to RRSG

March 9, Candidate Interviews

March 10, Approval by RRSG followed by Execution of Contract and Start of Project Work on or about April 6, 2009.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships		
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](http://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](http://www.rockrivercoalition.org/membership.asp)



# Osprey Platform to be Raised



ATC photo of Osprey's using a similar platform as will be installed at Korth Park.

On Saturday, January 31st, an osprey platform will be installed at Korth Park starting at 1:00pm. Partners in this endeavor include: Jefferson County Parks Department; Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department; Friends of Korth Park; Trevor Goehring, the Eagle Scout who built the platform; WE Energies, who is installing the pole free of charge; and American Transmission Company, who donated the



Trevor Goehring is pictured with the platform he built as an Eagle Scout Project

52 foot pole. If you would like to attend the pole raising event or would like more information, please contact Patricia Cicero with the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department at 920-674-7121.



Photo by Joleen Henneman

The Rock River Coalition was honored at the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association Conference as the recipient of their 2008 Partner Award.

The Rock River Coalition has worked over the years with many parks departments in our basin to establish natural shorelines and install rain gardens.

We continuously look for ways to partner with all municipal departments. Contact us if you would like to discuss partner opportunities.

Pictured from left to right are Suzanne Wade, RRC Board Member, Roger Kist who nominated the RRC and is a past board member, and Lisa Conley RRC President.

## Send Your Legislator Down the River – 2009

### Paddle into the Horicon Marsh

Join us for our annual canoe outing and meet your local legislators! Our event this year will be based in Horicon and will take place on either Monday June 15, or Monday June 22, 2009. Please let the RRC office know if either of these dates are preferable for you.

At this event, participants will join city, county and state elected officials

for a paddle into the Horicon Marsh in a canoe or kayak after enjoying a picnic dinner and a River Town Hall meeting at the new DNR Environmental Education Center.



Photo by Ed Grunden

Trips of various lengths are possible, starting at and returning to Greenhead Landing. The base route into the marsh to Four-mile Island and back will be about 5 miles long and is expected to take about two hours. Longer routes of 6 and 7 miles in length are available for experienced paddlers using their own equipment.

Information on the canoe route is available at: [http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/wildlife\\_areas/horicon/maps/canoemap.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/wildlife_areas/horicon/maps/canoemap.pdf)

Further information and registration details will be available in our Spring newsletter.

Contact Ken Wiesner [ [wiesnerk@msn.com](mailto:wiesnerk@msn.com) ] with any questions, comments or if you would like to help with this unique event.

## Calendar of Events

### RRC Board Meeting

Feb 23, 2008 4:00 - 6:30pm UWEX Jefferson County, 864 Collins Rd, Jefferson

### GFLOW Informational Meeting

March 10, 6:30 UWEX Jefferson County (see page 6)

### Koshkonong Creek: An Undiscovered Treasure

Sunday April 26 (see article front page)

### RRC Annual Meeting

May 12 location tbd.

### Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the spring newsletter is March 27, 2009.

To submit contact [suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu).

A letter-sized, full color version of this newsletter is available at [www.rockrivercoalition.org](http://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>**



Pike Lake State Park pond photo by Suzanne Wade

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