



Rock River Reflections

A publication of the Rock River Coalition in cooperation with the Rock River Stormwater Group, Town and Country Resource, Conservation & Development and the University of Wisconsin-Extension

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UW-Madison Arboretum Secret Pond: Restoration project addresses erosion and water quality issues

by Jon H Lindert, P.E., LEED AP, Strand Associates, Inc.®

The UW-Madison Arboretum is a pioneering ecological restoration and management area founded in 1934. Most certainly a beautiful, ecologically diverse region in the heart of Madison, it has the unfortunate distinction of being located downstream of numerous urban areas that contribute polluted urban runoff and erosive stormwater flows to the Arboretum lands and Lake Wingra.

Stormwater management facilities built to control these pollutants and flows in the mid 1980s are now functionally obsolete. The UW-Madison and WI Dept. of Administration, Division of State Facilities have worked with Strand Associates, Inc.®, a Madison-based regional engineering and science firm, to provide infrastructure deficiency assessments, planning to evaluate options for rehabilitated facilities,

and facility design for the recommended facilities.

Secret Pond, one of five facilities evaluated, is one of the last to be rehabilitated. Previous projects completed include Marion Dunn Pond (2003), Pond 2 (2009), and Pond 4 (2009). Secret Pond was built around 1985 and has a tributary watershed area of approximately 1,583 acres (1,020 of which first goes through the Odana Golf Course Ponds) draining to it. The existing facilities included an energy dissipater built in 2003 at the 4-foot by-6 foot stormwater outfall, a 650-foot-long highly-erosive, nonstabilized trench and a 0.6-acre detention basin that had completely filled with sediment and had a failed outlet structure. Having lost its function, it was now contributing significant amounts of total suspended solids (sediments) and other urban pollutants to Lake Wingra.

After consideration of numerous options that weighed the impacts to the Arboretum, stormwater control, and geotechnical issues, an eco-friendly design was completed that provides a 1.4-acre clay-lined wet detention basin, a 350-foot-long turf-reinforced channel with low-flow field stone channel, and a stilling pool transition to the existing wetland complex upstream of Lake Wingra. Along with this design, provisions were included requiring all vehicles entering the project site to be power-



Pond locations in UW-Madison Arboretum

washed before entering the site to guard against the spread of invasive species.

Restoration components of the project site included close coordination with UW-Madison staff to specify three different native seed mixes, three different plug mixes and live staking of plants. So that the restored areas got off to a strong start, a robust native plant and seeding specification was written. The specification requires the restoration

contractor to conform to a 3 year extended maintenance and warranty contract. During construction, this means that the restored areas are subject to an Initial Acceptance that allows the restored area to begin the 3-year period. During the coming years (2012 through 2014), Strand will be performing a spring, summer, and fall evaluation of the restored areas alongside Arboretum staff and the restoration

Continued on page 5



Existing Pond filled with sediment

photo by David S. Liebl

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Rock River Coalition President's Message

With summer vacations over, kids in school and a grueling televised football schedule, fall is a busy time. But, to my mind, mild temperatures make fall one of the best times to be outdoors relaxing and enjoying our waters. This sense was reinforced by our successful 10th anniversary Send Your Legislator Down the River event held September 12th in Beloit on an outdoor terrace over-looking the Rock River. Ten legislators and legislative staff attended – a record number for SYLDR. First, we had the pleasure of hearing our legislator's thoughts on water quality issues during our "Town Hall Meeting". Then we slid into canoes and paddled a wide, scenic stretch of the Rock River while still enjoying conversation and sharing ideas on improving the Rock.

As I mentioned in the Spring 2011 newsletter, we almost cancelled this year's SYLDR due to political turmoil in Madison. I am so pleased we decided to hold it after all. Special thanks to Senator Tim Cullen for sponsoring the event and helping marshal his colleagues' participation! Looking ahead, we will start our

annual membership drive soon. Please renew your membership! You will receive renewal materials in the mail in November. There is also a membership form on page 7 of this newsletter. If you are not a member but enjoy reading this newsletter and value the Coalition's mission of fostering partnerships and educating the public for the benefit of our waters, please show your support by joining our organization.

Our members' support is more important now than ever since UW-Extension's financial support for publication of this newsletter may soon dry up. Although we understand the state budget is strained, it would be tragic to lose a resource like the Rock River Reflections. Where else can we find comprehensive environmental news focused on a major river basin? We plan to meet with our newsletter partners, the Rock River Stormwater Group and Town & Country Resource, Conservation & Development, to brainstorm ways to sustain this publication.

In our last newsletter, you learned that Suzanne Wade, the UWEX

Rock River Basin Educator, is retiring. During her 19 years in this position, Suzanne has put our basin in the forefront of community-based watershed management in Wisconsin. Most recently, she was the architect and driving force behind the development of the Water Star program, a statewide municipal recognition program that initiated an environmental "race to the top" among local governments. But most of all Suzanne has provided unwavering leadership and support to the Rock River Coalition Board of Directors. She has patiently guided new officers and directors. Fortunately for us, Suzanne plans to stay on the Coalition Board. Still, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Suzanne for her extraordinary contributions to our basin and to our organization.

Sincerely,

Scott Taylor

President

Rock River
Coalition, Inc.



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:

Scott Taylor
sotaylor@taylorconservation.com

DIRECTORS:

Patricia Cicero, President Elect
Jim Kerler, Secretary
Suzanne Wade, Treasurer
Lisa Conley, Past President
Paul Benjamin
Jane Carlson
Peter Hartz
Jim Koepke

Volunteer Monitoring Assistant:

Jennifer Hanneman
monitoring@rockrivercoalition.org

GFLOW Coordinator:

Vierbicher Associates
608-524-6468

Water Star Coordinator:

Andy Yencha

waterstar@rockrivercoalition.org
www.waterstarwisconsin.org

RRC Address:

864 Collins Road
Jefferson, WI 53549-1976
info@rockrivercoalition.org
www.rockrivercoalition.org

Newsletter Editor:

Suzanne Wade, 920-674-8972
wade@carrycreek.com

Next deadline is January 6, 2012.

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

Photo credits: DNR, FBCW, Jim Kerler, David S. Liebl, Marie Rubietta, Jeffrey Strobel, TCRCD, Suzanne Wade, Lori Williams, US Geological Survey and UWEX

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

TTY: 711 for Wisconsin Relay

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

News from our Chapter: Friends of Badfish Creek

This past summer, the Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed (FBCW), a chapter of the Rock River Coalition, were excited to learn that the Badfish Creek in Dane County is included as a Natural Resource Area in the draft plan of the 2012-17 Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan (POSP).

The designation is based on a watershed map created by Scott Taylor and approved by RRC. Designation will allow the group to focus protection on sensitive areas and build on existing conservation lands. Final approval of the POSP is expected before the end of the year.

At a mid-July educational program presented at, and sponsored by, the Cooksville Community Center, Lynne Diebel and Scott Taylor spoke to watershed residents about the group's activities.

FBCW continued its now-three-year battle against a 5,000 square foot stand of Japanese knotweed (and now garlic mustard) at one of the bridge crossings, a project funded by a WI DNR Aquatic Invasive Species grant.

In May, they pulled garlic mustard that had filled in after the partial eradication of the Japanese knotweed and planted oats as a cover crop. October's work day will be foliar spraying and injecting the remaining knotweed.

Another ongoing FBCW invasive species project, this one funded by the Dane County Environmental Council, has been to attack the wild pansnip in the Badfish Creek Wildlife Area. Members of the Dane County Conservation League helped during a June work day.

Since 2007, the group has been monitoring the Level I water quality parameters (temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity), as well as spring and fall biotic indexes, of the

Badfish at Riley Road, about four stream miles from its confluence with the Yahara River.

Findings are consistent with sites further upstream. Macroinvertebrate populations characterize the stream health as "Fair." However, the stream is notably clear, in part because of phosphorus reduction of the effluent from Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District's Nine Springs plant which comprises about fifty percent of the stream's flow at the Riley Road site.

Thanks to Marsha Vomastic, FBCW is now on Facebook. We'll use this page to announce events and post photos and news. Please visit our page and "like" us!



Friends of Badfish Creek members preparing to spray Japanese knotweed this summer.

Photo from the FBCW Facebook page.

Berres Brothers: The Basin's Newest Green Tier

Berres Brothers Coffee Roasters welcomed customers, state and local officials, and members of the community to their Watertown facility on October 21 to celebrate the company's acceptance into Green Tier. Wisconsin's Green Tier program, which partners sustainably-minded organizations with DNR, recognizes companies like Berres Brothers who seek to grow their business while improving the health of the environment.

Watertown Mayor Ron Krueger commended Berres Brothers for their leadership in Watertown's business community and their outstanding corporate citizenship. DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp presented Berres Brothers President Peter Berres with a certificate of Green Tier participation and lauded the company's dedication to the community's fiscal and environmental wellbeing.

"Every morning when someone picks up a cup of Berres Brothers coffee, they know they're supporting Wisconsin's economy and environment" said Stepp. "DNR is very proud to add Berres Brothers Coffee Roasters to the ranks of Green Tier businesses committed to growing and sustaining their communities."

Once accepted into Green Tier, a company designs and implements an Environmental Management System (EMS) to both guide future sustainability efforts and monitor the progress of their current environmental initiatives. The EMS 'Plan, Do, Check, Act' model is so important to Berres Brothers that they have incorporated the



message into a new 'green' logo for future use on marketing materials.

"When the Green Tier program was first presented to me I really liked the idea but was concerned about getting employee buy in. I think you will find out that our green team has enthusiastically embraced this program and taken great pride in being part of leading the citizens of Wisconsin in being committed to sustaining our environment".

An important initiative at Berres Brothers— waste reduction— starts in the café, where Styrofoam cups have been replaced with compostable cups for travel or reusable stoneware mugs for in-house use. A simple mechanical modification to the packaging process has removed one half inch of film from each bag of coffee and conserved more than a mile of plastic in the last two months alone. Berres Brothers is currently on pace to divert almost 60,000 plastic packages from their waste stream each year.

New this year to the Berres Brothers facility are rain gardens designed to prevent approximately 98% of total suspended solids in the storm water from leaving the site. Planted with native prairie grasses and vegetation,

the rain gardens have so far reduced the peak water runoff from the Berres Brothers property by 97% which will help reduce the risk of flooding in the Rock River watershed.

Though there are many new innovations planned, Berres Brothers will continue to expand initiatives already in place. Currently, 25% of Berres Brothers' packaging production is done at Bethesda Lutheran Communities, a Watertown organization providing support services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Locating part of Berres Brothers production here provides work for residents at Bethesda and future plans include moving an additional 20% of production there, to continue building a sustainable community in the Watertown area.

In exchange for a commitment to superior environmental performance, DNR grants benefits to Tier 1 participants including public recognition of participation, a single point of contact at DNR, the use of the Green Tier logo in marketing materials, and more.

If you would like to learn more about Berres' sustainability efforts, please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cea/environmental/participants/berres/index.htm> or <http://www.berresbrothers.com/>.



Rock River TMDL Approved

On September 28th, 2011 the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the Rock River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

The TMDL outlines phosphorus and sediment reduction goals needed for waters located in the Rock River Basin to meet water quality goals. With EPA's approval of the TMDL, the Department of Natural Resources will move forward with implementation planning.

In June 2009 the DNR formed an Implementation Planning Team divided into five sector teams addressing (1) agriculture, (2) urban stormwater, (3) municipal and industrial wastewater, (4) education and outreach, and (5) assessment and monitoring.

These sector teams will begin meeting shortly to evaluate how existing programs can most efficiently and effectively assist in achieving water quality goals and how emerging technologies and new programs such as water quality trading can be effectively utilized.

The DNR is working with watershed and stakeholder groups pursuing a combination of grants and private funding to address needed water quality improvements in the Rock River Basin.

Questions regarding the development of the TMDL and water quality trading can be directed to Kevin Kirsch, DNR Water Resources Engineer at Kevin.Kirsch@wisconsin.gov.

Questions regarding the implementation sector teams can be directed to Jim Congdon, Wisconsin DNR Rock River Basin TMDL Coordinator and Wastewater Supervisor at 920-387-7872 or James.Congdon@wisconsin.gov.

More information will be forthcoming on the DNR website, which will be used as the primary tool for public outreach.



Rock River Trail continued from page 8

Each of the five Wisconsin counties through which the Rock River flows, Fond du Lac, Dodge, Jefferson, Dane and Rock, and municipalities and organizations throughout the river valley have offered support for the trail initiative.

Similar support has been received from the six counties and major cities along the river in Illinois. Work has begun to develop plans for the river water trail and road route.

Informational meetings will be held in various locations over the next few months to seek public input on the trail and route plans.

Individuals who would like further information on the Rock River Trail Initiative are encouraged to contact Greg Farnham at 920-386-2450 or waterdown@powerweb.net and visit the trail website at www.rockrivertrail.com.



Hike, bike, drive and paddle - whatever you prefer - it's a great time to get out and enjoy the Rock River Basin, as these folks are doing along the Glacial Drumlin Trail near Lake Mills.

DNR file photo

Fall Clean-Water Tips

Skip municipal leaf pick-up and compost leaves for next year.



As you mow, mulch the leaves too. They'll provide good organic matter and fertilize your grass.

Chopped up leaves can also be used as a mulch around trees and shrubs.



Have your soil tested. Check with your county UWEX office for more information.

Fall is the best time to apply fertilizer, but only what your soil test shows you need.



If you have rain barrels, begin to empty them by watering your trees. Trees do best when they go into winter well-watered, especially evergreens.

Disconnect your rain barrels from the downspouts to prevent water freezing and popping the barrel.

You can place an empty barrel in your basement. Then fill it from a full outside barrel. You'll then have rain water for your houseplants all winter long.

Plants much prefer the slightly acid water to well water.

For more hints go to:

<http://cleanwaterbrightfuture.org>
or
<http://myfairlakes.com>.

Disconnect to Save Water, Reduce Flooding and Keep Your Waters Clean

by Rebecca Dill, Rock River Stormwater Group

As a concerned citizen, you may already do a lot of things to keep our waters clean in the Rock River Basin, like reducing fertilizer, collecting leaves or installing a rain garden. This fall, as you clean leaves from gutters and prepare your home for the winter, think about adding one more great, yet simple, activity to further reduce stormwater pollution. This year, the *Clean Water. Bright Future.* campaign is encouraging people just like you in the Rock River Basin to disconnect downspouts as we work together to control stormwater runoff in our communities.

Many downspouts discharge water right to your lawn, a good water quality practice, since the water has a chance to soak in.

However, if your downspout drains to your driveway or connects underground to the storm sewer - we call those downspouts connected.

They connect the rain water flowing off your roof to your roof gutters, your downspout and then either down your driveway or underground to the storm drains. Every storm drain in the Rock River Basin is connected directly to a stream, river or lake. Pouring vast amounts

of water with every rain directly to our waters, increasing flooding and erosion.

By simply disconnecting your downspout, you can decrease the flow of stormwater runoff from your property and reduce the effects of local flooding. During heavy rainfalls, a single downspout can release nearly 12 gallons of water per minute into the sewer system, contributing to combined sewer overflows and flooding in your local waterways. Disconnecting your downspout and redirecting the flow into grass or a garden allows our land to act as a natural sponge that soaks up rain and replenishes groundwater.

Take a look at the downspouts coming off your gutters. If they connect into the ground, or if they release water onto a paved surface like your driveway, this project is for you. If you have a downspout that is pointed at a paved surface, simply move the end, or get a flexible extender to point the water into a soft surface like grass or gardens. If your downspout is connected to the ground you can disconnect your downspout for under \$20 and just 30 minutes of your time.

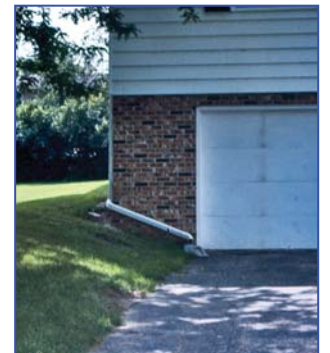
Before you begin a downspout project, make sure the slope of your yard drains water away from your house and your neighbor's house. You will need sheet metal screws, a measuring

tape, hammer, screw driver, pliers, rubber cap, hacksaw, downspout elbow, splash block and a downspout that extends at least six feet from your basement and five feet from your property line. The basic idea is to cut the downspout, plug the opening going into the ground and put a new extension onto the end that directs the water into your yard, garden or trees. To reduce the possibility of erosion, a splash block may be placed at the end of your downspout extension to help disperse stormwater flow.

Together, these small home improvement projects can add up to great progress for the Rock River basin. Details and pictures of each step outlined above can be found at www.cleanwaterbrightfuture.org/downspout.html



Three houses with downspouts that are connected directly to the storm drains. In the example above, left, the homeowner will need to 1) determine where the drain is discharging. It might be to another location on their land or it might be directly to the storm drain. If connected to the storm drain, they should check with zoning or public works to see if they can disconnect it and whether there is any assistance from the city to do so. In the top right case, the solution was easy, the land sloped away from the garage and there was no danger of water getting into the basement. So a simple switch was all that was needed. In the lower right example, the homeowners waited until their roof and gutters were redone. They then had the downspout redirected by the roofer.



Secret Pond continued from page 1

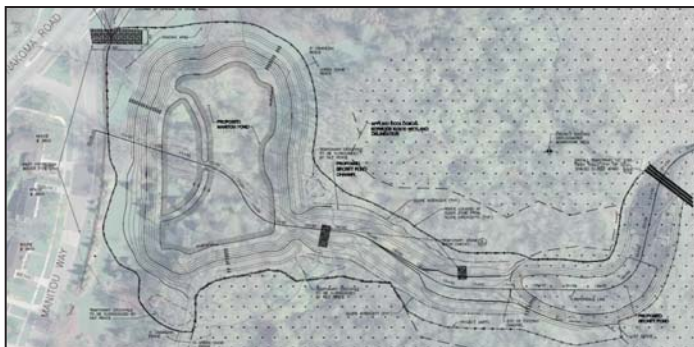


Existing highly erosive trench to pond
photo by David S. Liebl

contractor (Applied Ecological Services, Inc.) to assess conformance with coverage percentages of native species, weed species, and invasive species. Visual review of the project site, coupled with seventeen assessment quadrats will be used to

reduction in total suspended solids (sediment) reaching Lake Wingra from the tributary area, attenuate peak flow rates, and reduce scour in the downstream wetlands. This is important for the health of Lake Wingra, compliance with the UW-Madison's stormwater permit, and compliance with the Rock River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which is a regulation requiring control of sediment and phosphorus to water bodies.

All of this, of course, could not be done without considerable perseverance, collaboration, and dedication of many individuals. This starts with the intermunicipal agreement between the WI DOA/DSF, City of Madison, Town of Madison, and the City of Fitchburg that lays out the cost sharing for construction and maintenance of these facilities. It also includes the Arboretum stormwater committee, UW-Madison staff and students, Wis. Department of Transportation, Dane County, WDNR, US Army Corp of Engineering and the

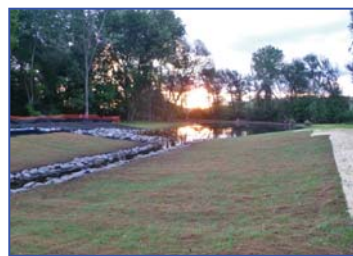


Facility Plan: clay-lined detention basin, natural channel and stilling pool transition to wetland.

determine conformance with warranty provisions. More specifically, the current Wisconsin Floristic Quality Assessment (WFOA) methodology will be used to calculate a Floristic Quality Index (FQI) for the project. The contractor will need to address any deficiencies that are found.

From a performance perspective, the new pond will provide a 52 percent

public. While this project is currently under construction (slated for a late October 2011 construction completion), we encourage you to stop by to view the completed project. Because of the ongoing restoration maintenance efforts, however, we ask that you view from a distance to give the restored areas their best chance for strong plant establishment.



Construction: natural channel (left) and stilling pond (right).

TCRCD Updates

Greg David named Badger Bioneer

If you have heard of Rocket Stoves, Bountiful Bowls, or pyrolysis, or gasifier therapy;

If you live in Jefferson County and followed the struggle for Smart Growth Plans, Dorothy Carnes Park expansion, bike trails and canoe maps;

If you have ever taken a Natural Step study circle, or know who John Ikerd is, or watched Collision Course;

If you watched Watertown Local Cable and cheered On Earth Productions show long ago, or viewed the record-breaking Peak Oil video series for The Nation Magazine; Was your first CSA box grown by Prairie Dock Farm?

Did you first hear of Town and Country RC&D through Greg's enthusiastic endorsement?

Have you tasted fresh apple cider and ground horseradish at the Prairie Dock Farm annual parties?

Was your first whiff of fermented sauerkraut at a Sustain Jefferson meeting when Greg carried in an eye-watering pot of it?

If any or all of these is true, (and others that you could write in with), then chances are you've crossed paths with Greg! Celebrate Greg David's being named a Badger Bioneer for 2011. Congratulations, change maker!

See <http://sustaindane.org/blog/post/meet-the-bioneers-greg-david>.



Greg demonstrates his gasifier

Badger Bioneers - November 11 & 12 at Edgewood College in Madison.

This is a two day event filled with ideas and inspiration, highlighting the work of local people who are busy creating a sustainable future, whether by greening their businesses, imparting Earth knowledge in the classroom, or nurturing the people and places of their communities. Here you'll learn practical skills and hear about innovative sustainability solutions. Art, music, science and innovation is a great mix.

For more information: <http://sustaindane.org/events/conferences/bioneers/>

Town and Country RC&D receives grant to continue Grazing Education and Planning Assistance

Properly managed, livestock grazing is better for the soil, water quality, the farmer's pocketbook, and the health of our families who consume the products.



Kirsten leading a grazing field day.

Town and Country is very happy to announce that we have received a grant from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to continue our programs for the next two years.

Kirsten Jurcek, grazing educator, offers pasture walks and other events to teach consumers and farmers alike about the benefits of managed grazing systems.

Mike Gehl, organic dairy farmer will help individual farmers plan to convert to grazing, or improve their existing operations.

The Town and Country RC&D area covers 13 southeastern Wisconsin counties, including nearly the entire Rock River Basin.

For more information on this program, check out our website at www.tacr.cd.com or call 920-541-3208.

Beaver Dam Lake Citizens Asked to Watch for Zebra Mussels

This past summer the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources monitored several lakes, including Beaver Dam Lake, for invasive species. They have used a variety of methods to detect such invaders. One method is fine nets to capture and concentrate species that are too small to be identified by the naked eye. This includes zebra mussel larva, also referred to as veligers. Several of the zebra mussel tows in Beaver Dam Lake have found veligers.

This indicates a presence and potential infestation in the lake. On October 21, the DNR confirmed that an adult zebra mussel was found in Beaver Dam Lake.

Every new lake that becomes infested increases the chances that this invasive species will be transferred to other lakes.

Zebra mussels are present in Fox Lake and adults have been spotted in both the lake and Mill Creek. With this presence upstream, the discovery of veligers and an adult mussel in Beaver Dam Lake is not entirely surprising. However, it is still important for

citizens to get involved. Any sightings of potential adult zebra mussels should be reported to the DNR, by following the instructions online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/report.htm>. An ideal time for lake citizens to check for adult zebra mussels is when they are taking out their piers and lift stations this year. Zebra mussels will attach themselves to these structures. In addition, DNR will continue monitoring in 2012.

Once zebra mussels are



USGS Zebra Mussel photo

established in a water body, very little can be done to control them. It is therefore crucial to take all possible measures to prevent their introduction in the first place.

Be sure to follow these procedures to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers:

INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment and **REMOVE** any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading, and before transporting on a public highway).

DRAIN all water from boats, motors and all equipment.

NEVER MOVE live fish away from a waterbody.

DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.

BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer. Use leftover minnows only under certain conditions.

More information on the steps you can take to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/prevention.htm>.

Check out this website for more information about zebra mussels: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/zebra.htm>.

EPA Funding Opportunity for Rock River Basin

The Rock River is part of the 1.8-million square mile Mississippi River Basin. Nutrient runoff from the basin is contributing to hypoxia (the dead zone) in the Gulf of Mexico. The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) has applied for a \$445,000 EPA Water Quality Grant on behalf of a group of diverse stakeholders in the Rock River Basin.

This group includes groups that have the ability to make true water quality improvements: WLWCA, DNR, County Conservationists, municipal utilities, property owners, environmental groups, industries and other stakeholders including the Rock River Coalition.

The specific grant opportunity funds projects that increase regional and national coordination to help reduce nutrient runoff and therefore hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico coastal waters and estuaries.

EPA is expecting to award \$3 million to between 10 and 50 groups which propose activities that are voluntary, practical and cost-effective; use existing programs, including existing state and federal regulatory mechanisms; follow adaptive management; identify opportunities for, and potential barriers to, innovative and market-based solutions; and provide measurable outcomes.

Please wish WLWCA and their partners success!

Legislation Will Weaken Lawn Phosphorus Fertilizer Restrictions

AB 165 has been introduced to allow the retail display of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus. An adopted amendment provides that phosphorus-containing fertilizer must be clearly marked to use for starting new lawn, and displayed next to the grass seed, along with signage warning of the damage phosphorus can do lakes and streams.

We believe that if homeowners must read potentially complex signage, remember which of the 3 numbers on the bag of fertilizer represents the phosphorus content, know the phosphorus content of their soil, and choose the appropriate product, that many busy people will grab the wrong bag and store personnel will have a difficult task policing who buys what.

While the amendment improves this situation, we are very concerned about unneeded phosphorus being applied to any land in our river basin.

Since testing shows that the very great majority of the soils in the state are already overloaded with phosphorus, our lake and streams will be further damaged by the unnecessary application of phosphorus.

Smelly, and potentially toxic algae blooms, more beach closings and increasingly degraded fisheries will result.

The Rock River, from its headwaters at the Horicon Marsh to the Illinois border and beyond, is damaged from an excess of phosphorus and sediment.

Our organization is dedicated to build partnerships and provide education to protect and improve this great river basin.

We expect the Rock River Recovery Plan to reverse the decline of the Rock River will be a long process, addressing many sources of phosphorus and sediment to the river system.

While lawn phosphorus is not the sole problem, it is a contributing factor to this decline.

You can contact your legislator to tell them about your views on this law. To find their contact information, please visit <http://legis.wisconsin.gov>.



Wetland complex at Whispering Wings Game Farm east of Jefferson is a haven for wildlife and provides many other ecosystem benefits.

Photo by Marie Rubietta



Some day in the future, people in the Rock Basin may again see these majestic birds nesting in the region. Eight whooping crane chicks were recently released in the care of adults at the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. The hope is they will learn the migration route and start a nesting population in the Marsh.

Adult whooping crane photo by Jeffrey Strobel

2nd Annual Great Rock River Sweep - 2011

by: The volunteer staff at Rock River Sweep.org - A River Clean-up Event

On Saturday, September 10, 2011, 284 volunteers from 15 registered sections along the Rock River in Wisconsin and Illinois banded together to remove an approximate 18,560 pounds of debris, along with 123 tires from our beautiful Rock River. Unlike last year, with the massive flooding experienced, this year's clean-up truly was a one-day river sweep event.

With 15 of our 16 registered sections reporting in, 44 boats, canoes, kayaks, hovercraft, jet skies, and many bank walkers participated to remove, in addition to the tires, 269 bags of trash along with the following items found by different groups:

Mark your calendars!
3rd Annual Great Rock River Sweep
Saturday, September 8, 2012

- Brake drum, pier deck, bicycles
- Truck rim, folding chair, steel barrel, swing set parts
- Shopping cart, swing set
- Metal barrel
- Wire garden sculpture, plastic chair, plastic bucket, parachute
- Section of eight-foot chain link fence complete with concrete footings, 2 barrels, 5 chairs, and some boat seats, a large political campaign sign washed down from Wisconsin, several short sections of railroad iron and spikes, hundreds of feet of electrical cord and garden hose, and two rusted brake drums



A canoe full of rubbish pulls in to Happy Hollow Park. Volunteers include a scout leader and a member of the Global Peace Youth Corp.

photo by Lori Williams

- Tricycle, basketball hoop, steering wheel, basketball, lots of insulation, Styrofoam and hundreds of plastic bottles/cans
- Several old sand bags, shoes

- Barrels, dock parts, bottles and cans, refrigerator, two car batteries, mannequin head. Three of the tires were large, tractor/earth-mover size
- Car bumper, 2 van bench seats, 2 car bucket seat, 1 plastic yard shed, 2 plastic lawn chairs, goose decoy, cast iron sink, mining rr track 4', 100# LP tank, window weights, boombox, Basket ball hoop base and pole, 5-5gal buckets of wire, twin bed frame and mattress spring, 3'x4' steel box, fuel can, 20' misc steel pipe, lil tykes plastic car, toy wagon front axle and handle, bench press 15# weight

Along with the individual volunteers that participated, this would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our Section Coordinators to organize, advertise and conduct their local event. Rock River Sweep.org wishes to thank these individuals and organizations, along with the sponsors that supported their individual communities with donations of goods, services, and financial support.

Thanks to authors, Chad Pregracke, Lina Lukashevich, and Nels Akerlund, along with the American Canoe Association, for their combined generosity toward making the door prizes available once again. Thanks also go out to American Rivers for their invaluable assistance in making this river sweep a success, Boulder Canyon Foods for their generous support by providing healthy snacks for our registered volunteers and to Specialty Premium Group in Evanston, Illinois and supporter Sigrid Pilgrim, for providing Rock River Sweep.org bumper stickers.

Success is a journey, not a destination... And this successful journey continues as an ongoing celebration of our great Rock River, through annual clean-ups of our river and increased environmental awareness, made possible by partnering individuals and groups along the river valley toward common goals of conservation and responsible stewardship of this wonderful natural resource.

With sections consisting of communities and areas between, and section coordinators ranging from individuals to municipalities, we have proven that it can be done... We can (and will) have a cleaner and healthier Rock River for ourselves, and future generations to enjoy.

For additional information visit www.rockriversweep.org.



Participants literally came from all over the world - the Global Peace Youth Corp sent five international students who worked with a local boy scout troop and Swing-n-Slide employees and their families for this clean-up. Photo by Lori Williams

Become a RRC Member

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

Name _____

Title _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

I am a member of _____ Chapter.

Memberships Fees	
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 out our website for more information.

Tax deductible donation	
Amount	Purpose
	General Support
	Citizen Monitoring
	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

Send Your Legislator Down the River Event Celebrated 10 Years on the Rock in Beloit



Senator Tim Cullen addresses the SYLDR participants at the River Town Hall meeting before legislators, RRC board members and the public head down river on the evening's paddle.

Top photo by Jim Kerler, bottom photo by Suzanne Wade

The 10th Annual Send Your Legislator Down the River town hall meeting and paddle was a success! We were honored by the participation of many legislators including the event's co-sponsor Senator Tim Cullen and his colleagues Senator Mark Miller, Rep. Joe Knilans, Rep. Amy Loudbeck, Rep. Janis Ringhand, and Rep. Evan Wynn. Representing our U.S. legislators were Helen Forbeck, Field Representative for Rep. Tammy Baldwin, and Manuel Vasquez, Regional Director for Senator Ron Johnson. Also attending were members of the Beloit City Council Sheila DeForest and Mark Spreitzer. Participants enjoyed dinner overlooking the Rock River at the Rock Bar and Grill in Beloit followed by a paddle that included sightings of Great Blue Herons and a beautiful sunset. A big thank you to all of the event co-sponsors: Senator Cullen, UW-Extension, Department of Natural Resources and Paddle and Trail! Pictures of the event can be viewed on our facebook page.



Volunteer Monitoring Director, Ed Grunden Retires for Real

The Rock River Coalition Board wishes to thank Ed Grunden for over five years of leading both the citizen stream monitoring program and the wetland monitoring program at Zeloski Marsh.

Ed has decided to truly retire, having left teaching five years ago at Cambridge High School and immediately joining the RRC as our Monitoring Director. While he loved working with volunteers and can't imagine not officially working to protect the areas waters; he wants the freedom to enjoy his grandkids and go hunting and fishing at will.

The RRC Board will wait until 2012 to decide whether they will rehire someone in this position or whether the organization will combine these tasks with a larger more inclusive position.

In the meantime, Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Hanneman, will handle communication with monitors. She can be reached at monitoring@rockrivercoalition.org or info@rockrivercoalition.org or by calling 920-674-9380.

Patricia Cicero, RRC Board Member and Jefferson County Water Resources Specialist will begin working directly with Jefferson County monitors in 2012.

Pete Jopke, Dane County LWCD, Anne Miller Rock County LWCD and Jayne Jenks, Waukesha County LWCD will continue to work with their county's monitors.

The Board also wishes to thank Stephanie Hoffmann for her work as the monitoring assistant. Stephanie is leaving the RRC to focus her attention on her two kids and her church.



Ed preparing to train monitors in the early spring on the Crawfish River at Aztalan State Park

Rock River Trail Initiative Garner's Support Throughout the Basin

In July the Rock River Coalition board heard a



presentation on the Rock River Trail Initiative by Greg Farnham, commissioner of Lake Sinissippi Improvement District, Hustisford. The Coalition board has offered its support to the trail initiative and named Paul

Benjamin, Rock County Planning Director, as its representative to the project.

The Rock River Trail is a local initiative to establish along the 300-mile river course through Wisconsin and Illinois a multi-use trail of recreational, scenic and historic interest and significance. The two-state, 11-county comprehensive effort, begun in 2010, integrates public-private partnerships and intergovernmental cooperation to establish and interpret a Rock River Water Trail from the headwaters in Fond du Lac and Dodge counties to the Mississippi River at Rock Island, IL, and a separate Rock River Route on roads with the river corridor to provide access for all to the natural resources, recreational opportunities, scenic beauty and historic and cultural assets of the Rock River Valley.

Key objectives of the trail initiative are to achieve designation of the Rock River Water Trail as a national recreation water trail; promote ecotourism and recreational opportunities throughout the river corridor, including safe portage of the dams; enhance the river ecosystem through natural resource conservation, stewardship and environmental planning; support economic development and revitalization of our river communities; and educate about our native American peoples, settlement cultural heritages and contributions of the river valley's industrialists, agriculturalists, statesmen and visionaries to the American experience.

The trail initiative uses the federal shield of the National Park Service to frame the trail's logo. The first Rock River Trail Conference was held in Rockford, IL in April 2010, with a legislative briefing with Members of Congress from Wisconsin and Illinois held February 2011 in Rockford. Suzanne Wade of the Coalition and Greg Farnham were invited speakers at the second Rock River Trail Conference held this past April.

Frank Schier, editor of The Rock River Times in Rockford and founder of the trail initiative, and Greg Farnham gave a presentation of the Rock River Trail Initiative to the Governor's State Trails Council in Stevens Point, WI in July 2011. A similar presentation will be given to the Illinois Greenways and Trails Council in Springfield, IL in January 2012.

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