



Rock River Reflections

A publication of the Rock River Coalition
in cooperation with the Rock River Stormwater Group and the University of Wisconsin-Extension Summer 2009 Volume 12, Number 3



Friends of the Rock River Coalition Awards were presented to (from left to right) Roger Kist, Marsha Vomastic, Joe Dorava, Tim Reel and Nolan Kollath at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Awards are photos of birds taken by Jeff Strobel at the Horicon Marsh.

Rock River Coalition Honors Protectors and Friends

At the 2009 Annual Meeting, the Rock River Coalition (RRC) presented their 2009 Rock River Basin Protector Awards, given for significant contributions to the mission of the Rock River Coalition to improve and protect the environmental, economic, cultural and recreational resources of the Rock River Basin in Wisconsin to:

Educator Category: Mary Beth Steven, Cambridge Elementary School Teacher, for her high quality education on water quality and her 13 years of engaging students in water quality monitoring of, and caring for, Koshkonong Creek.

Individual Category: Janice Redford of Friends of Cam-Rock Park, for her commitment to improving Cam-Rock Park and the Koshkonong Creek. Janice helped launch the RRC monitoring program and is always willing to give a helping hand for events and programs.

Elected Official Category: Senator Mark Miller, D-Monona, for his extensive support of legislation to improve Wisconsin's and the Rock River Basin's environment, most notably the ban on excessive use of phosphorus on lawns and the passing of the Great Lakes Compact. Senator Miller's award will be presented at a later date.

Organization Category: Lake Sinissippi Improvement District for their commitment, not only to improving Lake Sinissippi through actions such as pioneering the use of Geotubes in shoreline protection and wetland restoration, but also for their work to improve the entire watershed. They've taken a variety of steps to reduce phosphorus and sediment runoff in the watershed including coupons for no 'P' fertilizer and hosting rain garden workshops.

Organization Category: Friends of Allen Creek Watershed (FACW) Fort Atkinson, for their extensive monitoring program and their quality research projects which have identified rare natural communities and species of special concern. They've utilized both DNR River Grants and UW-Whitewater students to conduct the research and they've involved citizens through the use of the BioBlitz, the first of its kind in the Rock River Basin.

The Friend of the Rock River Coalition Awards were also presented. The Friend Award is given for significant contributions to the Rock River Coalition as it strives to meet its mission. 2009 recipients include: Joe Dorava RRC past president and GFLOW coordinator; Bryan Huberty, past wetland monitoring coordinator; Roger Kist, a founding member of the Rock River Coalition and long-term board member; Nolan Kollath, wetland monitoring volunteer; Tim Reel, past board member, RRC secretary and award's committee; and Marsha Vomastic, the RRC web master.



The Rock River Coalition presented 2009 Rock River Basin Protector Awards, a hand painted feather on a wood plaque to (from left to right): Mary Beth Steven, Janice Redford, Jim Gronowski and Greg Famham, Lake Sinissippi Improvement District, and Kim Karow, Peter Jacobs and Dale Karow, Friends of Allen Creek Watershed. Photos by Ken Wiesner

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President's Message

Dear Rock River Coalition Friends and Members,

One of my more enjoyable volunteer jobs is being the water chemistry monitor on Lac La Belle – in fact, I just got my 20 year pin! I monitor water clarity, dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles, and Chlorophyll a levels in the lake, looking to establish long-term water quality trends and red flag any short-term problems. It's also a good excuse to go paddling for a whole morning, and get back in touch with the lake – the smells of freshwater, the bird life, the plants, both native and exotic, and see what's happening to the shoreline.

I am seeing better water clarity this spring on the lake, and know that the drier weather means less polluted run-off, less phosphorus in the lake and less algae. The cooler nights help keep algae levels down. It's pretty dramatic, and a very visible reminder of how much clearer our lakes could be if we better controlled the phosphorus going into the system.

Does this sound like something you would like to do? You can learn about the lake monitoring program and see the data I collect, along with that of all the other lake volunteers, at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/lakes/clmn/>.

Lac La Belle is the last of the chain of lakes of the Oconomowoc River, which feeds into the Rock River. You could paddle from here to the Gulf of Mexico. A reminder of this connection surprised our Village president when an American eel swam between his legs a few summers ago. You can imagine his reaction and the questions that followed – the amazing discovery that these eels breed in the Sargasso Sea, and this guy (or gal) made it all the way through the Gulf, up the Mississippi and into Lac La Belle.

Included in this newsletter is an article on Lac LaBelle Management District activities (see page 3). We are truly all connected, a real coalition, and the work of the many volunteers, and lake and river organizations through out our large river basin make this a better place to live.



Lisa Conley, RRC President

Great thanks to our outgoing board members

Joe Dorava - As President, and then Past President, Joe took a major role in the coordination and development of the Groundwater Flow Model for our basin – a tool that will help our basin communities make better decisions about siting high capacity wells. He also led the development of our PowerPoint presentation on the impacts of phosphorus, which was instrumental in the passage of the lawn fertilizer law this spring. Our waters will be clearer, and our groundwater used more wisely because of Joe's contributions to the RRC.

Tim Reel - As a representative of the wastewater plant operators in our basin, Tim brought us great expertise in point source impacts of phosphorus and other pollutant loadings to the rivers of our basin. As Secretary of our Board, he kept our records up to date and organized, a very necessary and appreciated job. We expect to keep this man engaged as we tackle the Rock River TMDL project in the coming year.

Tracy Novak - Tracy helped us better understand agricultural issues, and how to work cooperatively with farmers in our basin. Her contributions, and her pumpkin bars, will be missed.

Koshkonong Creek Forum

The rain did not affect the attendance of an educational and recreational program about the Koshkonong Creek held at the Amundson Community Center in Cambridge on Sunday, April 26th. The event explored all aspects of the creek located in eastern Dane and western Jefferson counties. This was the Rock River Coalition's first event highlighting the uniqueness of a local watershed. Almost 70 people from all over the Rock River Basin attended the event – participants came from Cambridge, Edgerton, Fort Atkinson, Jefferson, Milton, Madison, Watertown, Lake Mills, and Whitewater.

Following presentations, participants went on a number of field trips, including the birding trip to Zeloski marsh pictured above. Photo by Ed Grunden.



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

Lac La Belle Management District Carp Fest, Shoreline Restorations and Goose Roundup

by Lisa Conley

The Lac La Belle Management District has had a busy spring! First there was the announcement that three lakeshore property owners would be selected to receive up to \$2000 for a natural shoreline restoration. Size, visibility, and the need for habitat improvement were the criteria used to select the winning sites, and work will begin this summer. On this well developed urban lake, many lawns go right to the lake, and seawalls create a hostile environment for the rich biology needed for a healthy lake. We hope this is just the beginning of a new appreciation for the beauty and benefits of a more natural approach.

June Carp Fest

Next was the June Carp Fest weekend, with prizes for the biggest carp and the most carp in several age categories. While we probably didn't put much of a dent in the abundant carp population in the lake, fun was had, and the need to better control the carp population was highlighted for the community. We also helped the DNR fishery survey project estimate the total population – they clipped some fins the week before the contest, and then checked the weight, age and number of clipped fins in the Carp Fest catch.



Goose Roundup

Next came the goose roundup. Property owners complain about the mess the large population of resident Canada Geese leave on their shorelines. There is also concern for the fertilizer and bacteria that wind up in the lake.

We are working with the US Fish & Wildlife Service to roundup as many geese as possible in mid-June (while the geese are flightless).

High lead levels were found in the geese, probably because of the continuing use of lead fishing sinkers.

There has been ongoing interest at the state level to ban the use of lead shot and fishing tackle to save the lives of loons and other waterbirds.

www.northland.edu/sigurd-olson-environmental-institute-loon-watch-get-the-lead-out.htm

You can keep track of activities of Lac La Belle at <http://llbmd.org/>.

Clean water. Bright future.

Rock River Communities

Brought to you by the Rock River Stormwater Group

In 2008, cities, towns and organizations from around the region came together to create a united plan to address stormwater issues in the Rock River basin. After a year of planning, the Rock River Stormwater Group is proud to launch its stormwater education and outreach campaign: *Clean Water. Bright Future.* Based on the fact that healthy waters create healthy communities, this campaign will promote the many actions homeowners, businesses, towns and industries can take to prevent dirty water from reaching the waterways that connect our region.

Since its creation, the Rock River Stormwater Group has become a vibrant coalition of 16 members: City of Janesville, City of Watertown, City of Beloit, City of Fort Atkinson, Town of Beloit, UW-Whitewater, City of Milton, City of Beaver Dam, City of Whitewater, City of Jefferson, Department of Natural Resources, UW-Extension, Lake Sinissippi Improvement District, Lake Sinissippi Association, Rock River Coalition, and Town and Country Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. As a unified group of organizations, this coalition helps cities and towns comply with Wisconsin's clean water laws and creates a strong infrastructure to educate the community about stormwater and what we can do to protect our rivers and streams for future generations.

Why does stormwater deserve such attention? An EPA study in 2000 found that stormwater runoff and discharges from storm sewers are a primary cause of poor water quality in the United States. When water flows into the drains in street curbs and parking lots, it goes directly to the local lake, stream or river. Unlike the water that runs down a sink drain, this stormwater does not get cleaned, filtered or processed. This untreated water carries chemicals, sediment and trash that pollute the river. Luckily, simple actions like reducing the amount of fertilizer and pesticides used on lawns, collecting leaves and grass clippings and capturing rainwater in barrels or gardens can make a big difference.

The Rock River Stormwater Group is already off to a great start. This spring, the group conducted a successful Erosion Control workshop for developers and municipal staff. It also hired Biodiversity Project, a non-profit communications organization, to lead the *Clean Water. Bright Future.* campaign.

As part of this educational campaign, groups of volunteers are stenciling warning messages on storm drains to serve as a constant reminder to people who walk, bike, or drive past that anything that goes into the drain goes straight into the streams and rivers of

our communities. This is a great activity for school groups, Boy and Girl Scout troops and any other group that wants to make a mark on their community--literally. The campaign has created storm drain stencil kits with materials and instructions for painting warning messages on storm drains in your area.

Working together, we can improve the water quality for our community, our

children and our future. Keep an eye out in this newsletter and around your community for *Clean Water. Bright Future.* updates, events and a new website. If you would like to paint storm drains or have questions about the *Clean Water. Bright Futures.* campaign, please contact Rebecca Dill at Biodiversity Project, rdill@biodiverse.org. Article by Rebecca Dill



River Walks are an important community assets in many of our Rock River Stormwater Group communities, including Fort Atkinson pictured here. Floodwaters have devastated a number of these riverwalks in the past. By working together these communities are striving to have water stay where it lands, infiltrating into the ground and not contributing to the stormwater woes.



Stormdrain Stenciling - painting the message 'Dump no Waste - Drains to River' is a great environmental project for youth.

Rock River
COALITION

Black Tern Nesting Platforms Installed at Zeloski Marsh

Associate Professor David Shealer of Loras College (Dubuque, Iowa) along with the help of citizen volunteers Nolan Kollath & Steve Oostdik, and Monitoring Director Ed Grunden installed 30 floating nest platforms at Zeloski Marsh. The platforms are designed to rise and fall with the changing water levels. This was the first year such platforms have been placed in the open waters at Zeloski Marsh to encourage Black Tern nesting.

The Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) is on the special concern status in Wisconsin due to a decline in population numbers.



Citizens Monitors Honored at RRC Annual Meeting

Lisa Conley, RRC president thanked and recognized the citizen scientists who help collect important data on streams, rivers and the Zeloski Marsh.

Each monitor received a certificate along with our thanks.



Stream and wetland monitors from left are: James Kerler, Chris Clayton, Wisconsin Tier 2 Coordinator, Suzanne Wade, Dale and Kim Karow, Peter Jacobs, Janice Redford and Nolan Kollath.

photo by Ken Wiesner

Snap Shot Day - a Wisconsin First

In what is hoped to be an annual event, Volunteer Citizen Monitors took to the streams to 'test the waters' of the Rock River Basin on "Snap-Shot Day", Saturday June 13th. Many new monitors joined the RRC veteran monitors to take water samples between 8:00am and 2:00pm throughout the basin. By doing this at least annually, everyone testing on the same day, a more comprehensive story about the Rock River Basin water quality can be determined.



Pictured here are a number of veteran and new monitors, clockwise from right: Julie Hellwig and Laura DeGouler filter a water sample for further analysis; James Humphrey and Richard Pollack are preparing to gather stream data; a biotic index is determined by monitors identifying stream macroinvertebrates and Richard Pollack is collecting stream profile data.



Duck Nesting Survey Provides Key Insights

For a third year, the WDNR with the assistance of the Rock River Coalition and our volunteer citizen monitors monitored duck nesting success at the Lake Mills Wildlife Area. Total nesting counts are slightly down from last summer. The success rate of avoiding predation and overcoming weather conditions remains the same as last summer, with a success rate at 17 percent on the fields around open water. Some of the ducks whose nests were predated moved their nesting sites to island areas in a reattempt to raise young. Research currently underway has initial results indicating a 100 percent success rate.



James Kerler and Carl Glassford discover a Blue-Winged Teal nest while assisting with the London Marsh duck nesting survey. Shown below is the more common Green-head Mallard nest. photo by Ed Grunden



200th Species at Zeloski Marsh!

Master birder Nolan Kollath identified a Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) at the Lake Mills Wildlife Area (Zeloski Marsh Unit) in early June.



Least Bittern: photo by Bob Macleod, © 2003 Santa Barbara, Ca. - printed with permission

Two individual Bitterns were identified from the bike trail in the North-West corner of Zeloski Marsh. More often heard than seen, this secretive bird is a species of special concern in Wisconsin

due to declining numbers, primarily caused by the loss of habitat. This identification marks the 200th species that visit or use the marsh/prairie as their home. This in just three years since the restoration began. The number of birds utilizing this prairie/marsh area and the recent sighting of the Least Bitterns exemplifies the need to preserve and restore Wisconsin's native areas.

All sightings at Zeloski are recorded at www.ebird.org.

Badfish Knotweed Eradication Update

The Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed (FBCW) held another knotweed party on June 13, 2009. On this drizzly Saturday morning, eleven volunteers gathered at the Riley Road bridge over Badfish Creek to chop and haul the invasive Japanese knotweed that covers the stream banks at that crossing.

In less than three hours, 5,000 square feet of knotweed had been cut and hauled on hay wagons to landowner Ted Keehn's barnyard. The cut stalks will dry on a concrete slab until ready for burning. It's important to prevent the stalks from re-sprouting, which they will do if left in a brush pile or damp place. Repeated cutting weakens knotweed. Spraying the leaves and injecting the stalks with glyphosate (Roundup) in the fall weakens it further. But the plant grows from



Volunteers at the June knotweed party, left to right: Zander Gunderson, Stoughton Boy Scout Troop 167; Greg Diebel of Stoughton; Christine Schelshorn of Cooksville; Bob Diebel of Stoughton; Sharon Beall, FBCW; Cathy Royer of Cooksville; Scott Taylor, FBCW. photo by Lynne Diebel



Volunteers at the June knotweed party, left to right: Scott Taylor, FBCW; Christine Schelshorn of Cooksville; Henry Royer of Cooksville; James Danky, FBCW; Lynne Diebel, FBCW; Sharon Beall, FBCW. photo by Cathy Royer

deeply rooted rhizomes and it may take three years of repeated cutting and spraying to clear the area of knotweed.

The project began with the River Alliance of Wisconsin's Project Red (wisconsinrivers.org), which trains canoeists to identify riverbank invasive species while paddling. The work is funded by an AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) grant from the Wisconsin DNR. Anyone interested in volunteering for the upcoming August knotweed party should contact Lynne Diebel at 608-873-7910 or lsdiebel@gmail.com.

See the side bar article for an upcoming Project Red workshop and follow the Friends of Badfish Creek's lead in taking serious steps towards stewardship in the Rock River Basin.

Volunteers Needed to Detect Invasives in the Basin Project RED Workshop Training Offered August 29th in Lake Mills

Do you know what invasive species are lurking in your river corridors? The River Alliance of Wisconsin has launched Project RED (riverine early detectors), a new citizen monitoring program that trains river enthusiasts (paddlers, fishermen, WAV monitors, etc.) to identify and report 15 invasive species found within river corridors statewide.

During a free training hosted by the Rock River Coalition and the River Alliance, we will teach you to monitor your river by canoe, kayak, or on foot for 15 species of concern. The Alliance will help you choose locations and a monitoring schedule that is convenient to you and your volunteers. The Alliance will also provide you with online data management tools available through www.citsci.org that help you report and map your findings.

The protocols are easy and fun. In addition, you can use this activity to become more familiar with your river or stream and to engage your friends and neighbors!

The 15 species of concern are purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hops, common reed, flowering rush, hydrilla, curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, Brazilian waterweed, didymo, zebra mussel, quagga mussel, New Zealand mudsnail, Chinese and banded mystery snails.



Terri Lyon is searching for invasives from the luxury of a canoe. Many other methods to detect new or existing infestations will be discussed at the workshop. -photo by Laura MacFarland

The Project RED training will be held on Saturday, August 29th, 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Lake Mills Community Center. To reserve your space, please call Patricia Cicero with the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department at 920-674-7121.

To learn more about invasive species in our river corridors and how you can help in the fight against invasives, please visit the River Alliance's website: <http://wisconsinrivers.org>.

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Meet our Summer Intern

Hello!

My name is Gina Cook, and I have been spending



my summer as an intern for Suzanne Wade and the Water Star Program. I am a recent graduate of UW Whitewater where my focus of study was Physical/Environmental Geography, with a focus on fresh water systems.

I contacted Suzanne last spring, explaining I was a funded

intern with the McNair Scholars Program, and interested in many aspects of water quality. Suzanne graciously agreed to take me on for the summer.

I have been a volunteer for the DNR for the last 4 years, monitoring several points on Otter Creek in Rock County. I have worked with Dr. Peter Jacobs and the Friends of Allen Creek, helping them with nutrient analysis and field collection of data. I am also working on developing a watershed management program for the Whitewater Creek Watershed with Dr. Dale Splinter.

The title of my research during the internship is "Water Quality and Public Policy". I have learned that even though Wisconsin is at the forefront of water protection, there is a lot to still be done, and it must be done creatively, as funding sources have been drastically reduced in recent times. Without the thousands of volunteers, friends groups, and environmental organizations, much of the work would go un-done and placed on the "back burner", so to speak.

Working with Suzanne and the Water Star pilot program has given me the opportunity to see how municipalities can voluntarily comply with reduction of stormwater impact and water quality standards above and beyond what is mandatory, and what it takes to be either at or above what is required by law. Many people worked very hard to develop this program, and I am excited to know I could help with the small stuff.

It is very important to recognize those who go beyond the call of duty when it comes to environmental protection, and I am very fortunate to have been a part of this process. I want to thank Suzanne and the RRC for allowing me to participate in this program, and everyone at the UWEX-Jefferson office who made me feel at home. It has been a wonderful experience I won't soon forget.

The Water Star Community Program is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a UW System Program Innovation Fund Grant which will allow a web-based application to be developed.

Town and Country RC&D expands livestock grazing program

Raising livestock on grass is a business that meets the 'triple bottle line' of economic, social, and environmental benefits. Grazing

offers a profitable, low capital business model that opens new opportunities for livestock producers. Grass-fed meats and dairy provide health benefits for consumers. And green pastures benefit our soil, our climate, and our water resources. Town and Country Resource Conservation and Development, Inc, supports grass-based livestock enterprises through our grazing assistance program, and we're pleased to introduce our newest team member: grazing education specialist Kirsten Jurcek.

Kirsten's passions in life are clean water, healthy food, and family farm preservation. She manages a 100% grass-fed cow/calf beef operation near Palmyra and markets her products locally. Also an experienced hydrogeologist, she can articulate the linkage between permanent pasture and clean lakes and streams. Kirsten will direct outreach and education for producers and consumers, promoting the economic, environmental, and human health benefits of grass-fed meats and dairy. The Town and Country RC&D area covers 13 southeastern Wisconsin counties, including nearly all of the Rock River basin.

Kirsten joins Peter G. Pitts, Town and Country's grazing technical specialist, who provides individual production assistance to grass-based

livestock producers throughout our region. To talk with Peter or Kirsten, just call 920-541-3208 or stop by the USDA service center in Jefferson. We also

invite anyone involved in production, processing, or marketing to be part of our informal grazing advisory group, which will be meeting in late July to discuss strategies for advancing our grazing program in the coming months.

The Many Benefits to Local Grass Fed Beef

Eating local foods supports the local economy, is likely to reduce food safety risks, and reduces fossil fuel consumption.

Human Health. Grass fed beef products are higher in beta carotene, conjugated linoleic (CLA), and Omega-3 fatty acids (important in reducing cholesterol, diabetes, cancer, and high blood pressure). They are also lower in fat, cholesterol and calories. In addition, the risk of infection by E. coli in grass fed beef products is virtually eliminated.

Animal Health. Grass fed beef animals are healthier as they are raised on their mothers' milk and pastures – eating the food they evolved to eat.

Environmental Health. Grass-fed beef is an environmentally friendly product requiring less fuel, fertilizer, and water input to produce the animal. Pastures sequester carbon, prevent soil erosion, and soak up more rainfall to reduce overland flow. These pastures also provide habitat and food sources for native pollinators.



Town and Country RC&D new Grazing Education Specialist - Kirsten Jurcek.



Representatives of Dodge County lake groups gathered in Hustisford to thank Senator Scott Fitzgerald and Representative Jeff Fitzgerald for their support and vote for state-wide use of phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer for retail and commercial applications. This important water conservation measure will reduce phosphorus runoff into lakes, rivers and streams and help to improve water quality. The bill was signed into law by Governor Doyle on April 14. Shown left to right are: Howard Kriewald (Dodge County Land Conservation Committee), Gary Knipper (Lake Sinissippi Association), Howard Pegelow (Beaver Dam Lake Citizens' Alliance), Nancy Schraufnagel (Beaver Dam Lake Development Corporation), Paul Hartzheim (Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association), Representative Jeff Fitzgerald, Ed Benter (Fox Lake Property Owners), Senator Scott Fitzgerald, Jeanne McDermott (Neosho Pond Association), Kathy Rydquist (Fox Lake Inland Lake District) and Jim Gronowski (Lake Sinissippi Improvement District).

Jefferson County's Farmland Preservation Initiative

John Molinaro, chair of the Jefferson County Farmland Conservation Easement Commission, announced that the Commission is hosting three public information sessions in August and September about the county's Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program.

"Jefferson County has spent two years developing a new program to permanently protect our important farmland and support our farming economy" said Molinaro. "Anticipating new funding from the state to purchase agricultural conservation easements -- potentially available next spring -- the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission has been developing criteria to rank applications to the PACE program. This voluntary program will give farmers and landowners a new tool to conserve farmland, and the Commission is very interested in getting feedback from citizens about the most important farmland to protect."

The forums will be held at three locations around the county on different dates, all from 7:00 - 8:30pm. Each session will have similar presentations, so citizens are invited to the session that works best for them.

Monday, 8/31 Palmyra

Young Community Room, Palmyra-Eagle High School, 123 Burr Oak Street

Monday, 9/14 Jefferson

Activity Center, Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 North Jackson Avenue

Monday, 9/21 Waterloo

Waterloo Town Hall, N8193 STH 89

Each forum will include an overview of the PACE concept and brief talks by John Molinaro, Dan Poulson (a co-chair of the steering committee for the state's Working Lands Initiative from Palmyra), and a landowner who has permanently protected his/her farm with an agricultural easement.

Members of the Jefferson County Farmland Conservation Easement Commission, appointed by Sharon Schmeling, County Board Chair, include: John Molinaro, County board member, Cambridge; Steve Nass, County board member, Lake Mills; Margaret Burlingham, farmer & citizen, Palmyra; and Daphne Holterman, farmer & citizen, Watertown.

For more information, please contact Michelle Staff at the Jefferson County Zoning and Planning Department, 920-674-7130 email: MichelleS@co.jefferson.wi.us



Homes creep up on this farm near Hartford. The Jefferson County Farmland Preservation Initiative will help preserve quality farmlands in a targeted manner.

Help Shape the Work Plan of Jefferson County's Land and Water Conservation Department

Are you a citizen of Jefferson County who has some interest in land and water resources? Then you should consider becoming part of a citizen's advisory committee for the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department.

The Land and Water Resource Management Plan is a document that sets forth a strategic work plan for achieving goals toward protecting and enhancing the land and water resources of Jefferson County. Updated every 5 years, the initial plan was completed in 2000. The next plan will be completed in 2010, but work will begin on it this year. Not only will state and local resource organizations be asked for input, but citizens are also invited to join the process of identifying the critical resource concerns and what the Land and Water Conservation Department should do to address them.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Patricia Cicero at 920-674-7121 or patriciac@co.jefferson.wi.us.

All counties go through this process every five years, you can find out when your county is up for revising its Land and Water Resource Management Plan at: http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/land-water/conservation/land_water_rmp.jsp. In addition to Jefferson County in the Rock River Basin, going for approval of their new plan in 2010 are: Walworth, Washington, Columbia, Waukesha and Green Lake counties.

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

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

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

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Rock River Coalition

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Jefferson, WI 53549 -1182

or register and pay online with PayPal at:

www.rockrivercoalition.org/membership.asp

Meet Your New RRC Board Members

The Rock River Board's two new members, voted in at the Annual Meeting, are Jim Koepke and Peter Hartz, both with an interest in improving the Rock River's water quality by helping to reduce phosphorus: one from the agricultural and the other from urban and land use perspectives. We are pleased to welcome them. Below are the reasons they gave for wanting to be on our board.

Jim Koepke:

I joined the Board in order to represent agriculture and how it affects the river's environment. I have had a relationship with the land on our farm since I was 12 years old. So I have 52 years of first-hand observations about how the soil reacts to different practices. I have my bachelors degree from UW-Madison and have taken many other courses. I've also had the honor of being on several University committees: Fertilizer Research Council, Center for Integrated Agriculture Systems committee, the Waters of Wisconsin committee and I helped NRCS redo their tillage standards.



Jim Koepke (on left) gives an overview on his successful farm practices to reduce erosion to other RRC board members at the June Board meeting.

This is our 23rd year of no-till, and I can NOT say enough good about it. We are one of the state's Discovery Farms, and we also have worked on the Buffer Strip Initiative program. I have observed agriculture across the United States, Canada, seven European countries, Russia, and Tajikistan.

I have a lots of hands-on experience as to what works to reduce run-off and what does not. I hope I can make a positive contribution to the committee as we make recommendations to reduce the phosphorous load going into the Rock River. -Jim Koepke

Peter Hartz:

I look forward to serving as a Board member to the Rock River Coalition and want to help improve the Rock River Basin and over time have it removed from the EPA's 303d listing as an impaired waterway. I think a localized approach to watershed management would help encourage citizens to make a stronger connection with their water resources. I feel that the younger generations need more outdoor interactions to make a connection with the natural world through educational and outreach opportunities. I hope that someday the Rock River Basin can be an example at the national level showing how a river that once was beautiful, but damaged ecologically by human intervention and poor land use management can be restored to a more historical balance of natural land uses. -Peter Hartz



Peter with his 'younger generation' and the main personal reason why he joined the Rock River Coalition Board: Isaac-6, Silas-4, Luke-2

Send Your Legislator 2009 – Horicon Marsh

Over 40 attendees escaped the heat and enjoyed a lovely summer evening paddling in the Marsh during this year's Send Your Legislator Down the River (SYLDR). The flotilla was joined by many herons, other interesting birds and several beaver.



Prior to the paddle, elected officials addressed the group and answered questions including State Senator Scott Fitzgerald and State Assemblyman Jeff Fitzgerald, both of Horicon. DNR staff welcomed us to the new Horicon International Education Center and gave a history of the Marsh and a summary of ecological features and challenges. Support for this successful event was provided by Wisconsin DNR, Dodge County Land Resources and Parks and Rock River Coalition staff and members.

Flotilla photo by Lisa Conley



The Rock River Stormwater Group announces its new educational campaign - Clean water. Bright future.

For more information about this program and the activities of the group see page 3.

The RRSWG welcomes both permitted communities, non-permitted communities and other groups to join them in educating citizens, businesses, staff, elected officials and others about their contributions to the stormwater issues facing the Rock River Basin.

Permitted municipalities pay an annual fee of either \$5,000 or \$2,000 depending on population. A non-permitted municipality's dues are \$1,000.

All other entities including non-profits, lake districts and agencies can become a member simply by filling out an application for membership and having a desire to assist with educational efforts in the basin. The RRSWG has joined the Rock River Coalition and UW-Extension in helping to develop and fund this newsletter.



Ed Grunden RRC Monitoring Director is reaching out to you! - the RRC needs new citizen stream monitors to broaden our basin monitoring to more sites on local rivers and streams.

Email ed@rockrivercoalition.org for more information.

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Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the fall newsletter is October 2, 2009.

To submit, email suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu.

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

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