



Rock River Reflections

A publication of the Rock River Coalition in cooperation with the Rock River Stormwater Group and the University of Wisconsin-Extension

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Two New Chapters Are in the Works

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. -Margaret Meade

But it can be a small death by a thousand cuts when these committed citizens spend most of their time developing by-laws, organizing officers, spending money on corporation papers, buying insurance and all the other sundry items that go into developing today's organizations.

The Rock River Coalition has a solution that we hope will work for many nascent groups in the basin: Become a RRC Chapter.

Chapters work under the umbrella of the Rock River Coalition, taking advantage of our non-profit [501 (c) 3] status, insurance, by-laws and governing body. However, the people who form the chapter develop and oversee their own action plans and activities

These committed citizens still need to develop their own leadership and identify and gather the resources necessary

to accomplish their goals. In many ways it's the best of both worlds.

The Coalition currently has one chapter, the Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed. Two other groups are pursuing this option this winter, one in Johnson Creek and another in Waterloo.

Johnson Creek

The Johnson Creek group, lead by past RRC Board Member Peter Hartz is working with local youth organizations, churches and the historical society as well as interested individuals.

They are interested in a revitalized Johnson Creek, a tributary of the Rock, with a goal of making the creek a valuable amenity for Jefferson County and the Village of Johnson Creek.

Their interest of course includes monitoring and water quality, but will also work on improving shorelines, restoring wetlands and improving stormwater quantity and quality, and promoting educational awareness in the watershed from the headwaters to the mouth at the Rock River.

The initial meeting of the Johnson Creek group will be on Thursday Feb. 5 at 6:30 at the Historical Society located at 110 Aztalan Street in Johnson Creek. Contact Peter at peterhartz@tds.net.



A successful day of angling on Johnson Creek: JC catfish YES!
Photo by Peter Hartz

Peter and his kids spend much of their free time in and around the creek. As he says "JC catfish you bet"!

He invites everyone in the community to help them .. help you in getting connected to your local watershed. Water is life.

Waterloo

The Waterloo group, with a focus on the Maunasha River, is spearheaded by City Councilman, Matt Ziaja. Since the dam was removed in Waterloo a group of local citizens has have held several stream clean-up days, removed barriers to canoeists and helped improve launch sites.

"It's important to those of us living in Waterloo to have a stream that is clean and inviting, a destination for canoeists, particularly in the spring. Waterloo is the site of a new trail center as part of the Glacial Heritage Area.

We're excited to explore becoming a chapter which will provide us with the organizational structure that

has been lacking in the past," says Matt Ziaja, one of the chapter organizers.

The Waterloo group will meet on Tuesday Feb. 4 at 6:30 at Waterloo Regional Trailhead Facility.

To learn more contact Matt Ziaja, Alderman, Ward I, City of Waterloo, 920-541-6942 or Matt.Ziaja@gmail.com, or check the Maunasha River Alliance Facebook page.

Thanks to a grant from the Brandt-Quirk Foundation, the RRC will provide a facilitator to help these two groups develop their action plan for their chapter, including organizing events this spring.

The Coalition Board is excited about this opportunity. One of the board's challenges is how to work locally on stream specific actions while maintaining a basin-wide vision. Chapters provide the perfect vehicle to meet this challenge.

If you would like to know more about forming a Chapter contact Suzanne Wade at suzanne@rockrivercoalition.org.

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Not Ready for a Chapter?

Do you have a group who has a single project in mind, and needs just a little bit of assistance. We can help talk you through a project, and if need-be hold funds and pay invoices. Unfortunately, we do not have staff to be an active participant, but will do what we can to help out. Contact us via email at info@rockrivercoalition.org.

Rock River Coalition President's Message

20th Anniversary to Highlight Year

2014 is a momentous year for the Rock River Coalition. It is our 20th Anniversary!

As is the case with any anniversary, it is a time of reflection on the past and looking toward the future. The Rock River Coalition has certainly had many accomplishments. We take pride in the partnerships we have forged, the numerous projects we have completed, and the countless educational programs we have implemented.

All of these activities have been done to benefit the resources and the people of the Rock River Basin. Our efforts have resulted in a strong stream monitoring program powered by dedicated citizens, more native plant restorations along stream banks and lake shores, opportunities for people to interact with their elected officials, protection of our groundwater resources, preservation of open space and agriculture through promotion of

rural development guidelines, and a program to aid municipalities in taking action to protect water resources.

The future of the Rock River Coalition looks as bright as our past. I am very fortunate to work with a dedicated and hardworking Board.

Our vision promises to lead the organization toward implementing additional programs that will continue to achieve protections and enhancements of the resources in the Rock River Basin. One such endeavor is highlighted in this newsletter – to identify land where wetland restoration could be done with willing landowners to provide a multitude of benefits to the basin including flood retention, pollution reduction, and habitat improvement.

This year, the Board has decided that we will do what we do best: work with our partners to offer events that will educate us about water resources and actions needed to protect them, explore some of the recreational amenities in the basin, and inspire us.

If you are interested in partnering on any of these events or would like to offer another event that will highlight some aspect of the Rock River Basin, please contact us! Another way to contribute to our anniversary is to become a member of the Coalition and donate some additional funds. The memberships and donations we receive enable us to maintain and develop programs to benefit the Basin.

What would an anniversary be without a party? On November 2, 2014, the 20th anniversary events will culminate in a fun celebration. Please plan to join us at Koshkonong Mounds Country Club on the eastern shore of Lake Koshkonong.

Patricia Cicero,
RRC President



While winter lies its heavy blanket across the ground, the RRC Board is busy planning events to celebrate our 20th anniversary.

Activities are being planned that accent the mission of the Rock River Coalition and celebrate all aspects of the human experience including:

1. Mind = Knowledge
2. Body = Active Experiences
3. Heart = Human Spirit

Watch for further announcements on our website, Facebook page and in this newsletter.

In the meantime, enjoy winter activities throughout the basin - whether fishing, skiing, or just hiking along the shore.

The Rock River just upstream of the Indianford Dam. Share your photos of the Rock on our Facebook page.

Photo by Jim Kerler

Jefferson Community Foundation Raising Funds for a New Park

The Jefferson Community Foundation is taking the lead to raise funds for the purchase of a new Jefferson County park located along the Crawfish River just west of the City of Jefferson. The land for sale is near the Glacial River Trail, so it will be a beautiful rest stop for bikers. The park will also provide a paddle launch put in/take out site as well as great picnicking and hiking alongside the River. Want to help out? Donations of any amount are welcome.

Please make your donation out to Jefferson Community Foundation and write Crawfish River Park Fund in the memo area. The mailing address is P.O. Box 81, Jefferson, WI 53549.



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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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Next deadline is March 24, 2014.

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

Sign up for a monthly email update at <https://lists.uwex.edu/mailman/listinfo/rock-river-basin-update>.

Contact Marie Rubietta at marier@jeffersoncountywi.gov if you'd prefer a pdf of the newsletter emailed to you.

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.

Coalition Receives Funding from Yahara WINS to Support and Expand the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program in Yahara River Watershed

Nancy Sheehan, Volunteer Stream Monitoring Coordinator, Rock River Coalition

In December 2013, the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINS) awarded funding to the Rock River Coalition to implement Year 2 of the Yahara River Watershed citizen stream monitoring program. This grant for \$14,348 will help to sustain most of twenty-three volunteer teams established in 2013 as well as launch twenty-six new volunteer teams into various tributaries of the Yahara River in 2014.

Rock River Coalition project partners include Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, Yahara WINS partners, Water Action Volunteers Program, Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds, Dane County Land and Water Resources Division, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Friends of Starkweather Creek, Friend of Pheasant Branch Conservancy-Kids for

the Earth Program, Friends of Yahara River Headwaters and the Village of Deforest, Town of Windsor and Token Creek Conservancy Committee, Stoughton Senior Center, and Yahara Lakes Association.

On behalf of the Rock River Coalition Board, I would like to especially recognize Friends of Yahara River Headwaters, Village of Deforest, and Town of Windsor Token Creek Conservation Commission for their substantial matching contributions to this effort.

I look forward to working with these and other partners during Year 2 of this project to recruit, train and support volunteers to collect baseline (Level 1) and trends (Level 2) data as well as sample for total phosphorus, nitrates+nitrites, ortho-phosphates,

total suspended solids, ammonia and Total Kjeldahl nitrogen.

The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District remains a critical partner. The MMSD staff at their Nine Springs Plant will continue to analyze volunteer-collected water samples.

All volunteer-collected data will be uploaded to appropriate state-wide databases to be used for enhanced decision-making. Volunteer-collected data will help Yahara WINS partners assess both interim and long-term impacts of innovative water quality land improvements undertaken by farmers, municipalities, county departments, businesses and individuals throughout the Yahara River watershed. Volunteer-collected data will also help Yahara WINS partners verify compliance to new phosphorus standards.

Water Quality Category	Sites Added 2013	Sites To Be Added 2014	Total Sites
Baseline Monitoring (Level 1): Monthly - Dissolved Oxygen (HACH kit), Water Temperature, Water Clarity, and Velocity. Spring/Fall Biotic Index.	10	10	20
Tends Monitoring (Level 2): Dissolved Oxygen (YSI meter) and Water Clarity, monthly Water Temperature OnsetTidBit), continuous	5	-	5
Trends Monitoring and Nutrient Sampling (Level 2 & 3) Nutrient Sampling, Dissolved Oxygen (YSI meter) and Water Clarity, monthly Water Temperature OnsetTidBit), continuous	-	10	10
Nutrient Sampling (Level 3) Nutrient Sampling/monthly	4	6	10

Become a RRC Stream Monitor

Spring Training Schedule: I already have a great spring line up for stream monitoring trainings.

- Saturday, April 5 Level 2 & 3 stream monitoring training at the DeForest Area Public Library, Village of DeForest.
- Saturday, May 3 Level 1 stream monitoring training at the DeForest Area Public Library, Village of DeForest.
- Saturday, May 3 Level 1 stream monitoring training at the UW-Waukesha Field Station, Waterville.
- Saturday, May 10 Level 1 stream monitoring training at the Amundson Center Village of Cambridge.
- Saturday, May 31 Level 1 stream monitoring training at the Turtle Creek Parkway, Clinton.
- Saturday, June 7 Level 1 stream monitoring training at the Marsh Haven Nature Center, Waupun.

No registration fee required. If you wish to register or learn more about these training workshops, please contact Nancy Sheehan, RRC Stream Monitoring Coordinator: nancy@rockrivercoalition.org.

It is helpful for prospective volunteers to hear the stories of current volunteers—so any current stream monitors are encouraged to attend, please let me know if you will be joining me during any of these training workshops.



Chloe Wardropper Nine Springs

Save the Dates

For either event, or if you have a penchant for data analysis, contact Nancy Sheehan at nancy@rockrivercoalition.org.

Going Down the Toilet Event:
Saturday March 8, 2014, Madison

Have you ever wanted to know more about where your waste water goes when you flush your toilet or wash your hands in the sink? If this question has plagued you over the years, now is your chance to find out some answers.

Join Nancy on Saturday, March 8, 2014 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM for a tour of the MMSD Nine Springs Treatment Plant in Madison. With 37% of the world's population lacking access to adequate sanitation, we are fortunate to have facilities like the Nine Springs Plant. MMSD staff will tailor a tour for all RRC volunteer stream monitors.

2014 Monitoring Confluence:
Saturday March 29

Please save Saturday, March 29 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM for the Rock River Coalition's biannual conference for citizen lake, stream and wetland volunteer monitors and all RRC members.

This year the 2014 Confluence will take place at the City of Fitchburg Community Center. There will be plenary speakers, a panel discussion on nutrient management and several concurrent sessions targeting specific topics. We are still in the midst of planning for this event... so stay tuned!

Monitoring Training: See "Become a RRC Stream Monitor".

Data Crunching and A Different Type of Volunteer Opportunity

Are you someone who loves to play with data? Perhaps you would rather wade through streams of data rather than water...I have the perfect opportunity to get your data fix. During the cold days ahead, I will be crunching stream monitoring data. My goal is to better understand the condition of our local water ways in the Rock River Basin based on your volunteer-generated data. This is no small task as the data includes multiple sites, different stream categories and variable periods of time and weather conditions.

Discover the Outdoors at the Glacial Heritage Area Winter Fair

By Clare Carlson, Friends of Glacial Heritage Area Board Representative



The Friends of Glacial Heritage Area are hosting the first Glacial Heritage Area Winter Fair on Saturday, February 8 at the newly-opened Waterloo Regional Trailhead Facility, 760 McKay Way in Waterloo. The Winter Fair focuses on nature and recreation in the Glacial Heritage Area (GHA), the network of trails and water trails linking together wildlife areas, parks and communities in greater Jefferson County. All are welcome, and reservations are not necessary. Please visit glacialheritagearea.org for an event flyer.

Wildlife in Winter - Animal Tracking

The morning will start with free muffins, donuts and beverages served at 9 a.m., followed by a children's program at 9:15 a.m. by UW-Whitewater Professor George Clokey. Children will see animal tracks and skull exhibits, as well as have an opportunity to cast their own wolf track. "Identifying animal tracks is an especially relevant skill this winter with the consistent snow cover we've had in our region," remarked Professor Clokey. "Learning animal track identification is also a great way to get families outdoors together and to get children thinking about wildlife in the winter."

This knowledge also helps people who want to know what kind of resources to put out for wildlife that is already being attracted to their backyards.

Cross-Country Ski Clinic

At 10 a.m., 2 Rivers Bicycle and Outdoor of Watertown and Fort Atkinson will run a free cross-country ski clinic and winter "fatbike" demonstration on the trail behind the Facility. If you have skis and poles, please bring them.

After the demonstration, ski on the Facility trail, or check out the trail at Garman Nature Preserve, less than half a mile away. Jefferson County Parks Department will have both trails groomed for skiing and snowshoeing all day.

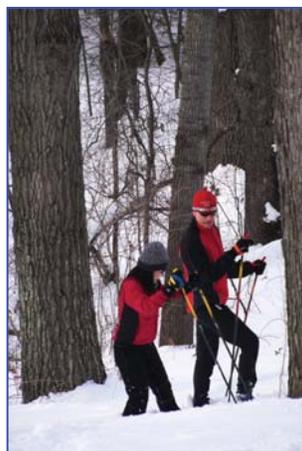
Artist Exhibit

Also at 10 a.m., local Artist Amy E. Arntson will display and answer questions related to her watercolor

paintings of wave patterns in water. Inspired by light and movement, her paintings at one moment look photo-realistic and in the next expressionistic. Arntson is a renowned artist from Lake Mills, displaying works in public collections throughout the region and has exhibited throughout the world.

Faville Grove Highlighted

At 11 a.m., Matt Weber, Faville Grove Sanctuary Land Steward,



Skiing at the Garmin Preserve, enjoy this and many more activities in the Glacial Heritage Area.

Photo by Margaret Burlingham

will share the history and public use opportunities at Faville Grove Sanctuary. This 605-acre Sanctuary, located near Lake Mills, seeks to protect and expand upon Faville Prairie State Natural Area, the world's first publicly-protected prairie saved by the efforts of Aldo Leopold in the 1940s. Today, it is home to rare plant species and a large variety of grassland and wetland birds.

The Friends of Glacial Heritage Area organize hikes, paddling trips, bird-watching excursions, bike rides, picnics, habitat restoration work days, and other events throughout the year to get people interested in trails, recreation and wildlife.

Visit glacialheritagearea.org for upcoming events or contact friendsofgha@gmail.com to join the GHA mailing list.

Permaculture Design Certificate Training 2014

By Kate Heiber-Cobb

"Permaculture focuses on thoughtful designs for small-scale intensive systems, which are labor efficient and which use biological resources instead of fossil fuels. Designs stress ecological connections and closed energy and material loops. The core of permaculture is design and the working relationships and connections in a system performs multiple functions, and each function is supported by many elements. Key to efficient design is observation and replication of natural ecosystems, where designers maximize diversity with polycultures, stress efficient energy planning for houses and settlement, using and accelerating natural plant succession, and increasing the highly productive edge-zones within the system." ~Bill Mollison, originator of the Permaculture design system

Madison Area Permaculture Guild is offering up the 2014 Permaculture Design Certificate Training beginning in mid-February and ending in early June. The training offers a wide variety of instructors over 80 hours of training. We will be relying upon the expertise and knowledge of people within our wider communities, instead of instructors from other climates and zones coming in to teach. Over half of our training hours involve participatory education, hands-on projects and local tours, so don't plan on sitting in a classroom for very long! The schedule involves one intensive weekend, several Saturdays then ending in another intensive weekend. This format is more accessible to working adults, parents and students, as compared to an intensive 8-14 day training requiring a large initial financial outlay and time commitment.



Yahara Watershed site for design practice as part of the PDC 2013.



2013 PDC Training at Token Creek Conservancy - Studying our watershed. Photos by Kate Heiber-Cobb

Topics covered:

- Permaculture Design and Natural Systems
- Soil Building and Ecosystems
- Foraging and Wild Crafting
- Fungi: Food, Soil and Remediation
- Water Harvesting, Management and Remediation
- Plant Guilds and Forest Gardens
- Natural Built Environment
- Energy Systems
- Invisible Systems, Social Permaculture and Community Building
- Large and Small Scale Permaculture
- Intensive Food Systems and Animals
- Urban Permaculture Solutions
- Biomimicry and Patterns
- Participatory Education - our collective knowledge of all the students and instructors is greater than any one of us.

Madison Area Permaculture Guild cultivates diverse, healthy, and productive gardens, streetscapes, and local agriculture by sharing information, building relationships, and creating learning opportunities within our community and bioregion.

We promote integrated water, food, and waste systems designed to increase local resilience.

The Guild has worked within the wider community on water projects, such as swale, berms and rain gardens for water harvesting at numerous sites around the wider Madison area.

For more information about, or to register for, the training please see MAPG's website at www.madisonareapermacultureguild.org.

Coalition Receives DNR Grant for Wetland Study in the Rock River Headwaters

By Scott Taylor, RRC Past President, Owner Taylor Conservation, LLC

The Rock River Coalition's impact on the Rock River Basin often exceeds expectations for a small organization thanks to its habit of leveraging two key resources: grants and partners. In particular, the WDNR Lake Grant has fueled some of the Coalition's projects with the strongest and most lasting impacts. That's why we are delighted to receive another Lake Grant, this time for the benefit of two important water bodies near the headwaters of the Rock River – Horicon Marsh and Lake Sinissippi.

We are also pleased this project provides the opportunity to build on the work of our partners, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Lake Sinissippi Improvement District.

The NRCS has invested significant staff time in boosting landowner enrollment in water quality-related farm bill programs on the West and South Branches of the Rock River in Fond du Lac County. These streams now benefit from miles of riparian buffers and grassed waterways.

Lake Sinissippi Improvement District has worked for years to mitigate the impacts of sediment and invasive species on its lake.

Our current project takes a slightly different approach to protecting Horicon Marsh and Lake Sinissippi. We plan to identify drained croplands with wetland restoration potential in several subwatersheds of these waterbodies. Restoring these croplands, which in some cases produce poor crop yields in

their current condition, to wetlands will directly reduce nutrient and sediment sources to nearby waters, as well as provide pollutant removal and flood storage functions that wetlands are well known for.

Wetland specialists at the DNR have already created maps of "Potentially

Restorable Wetlands" for the entire Rock River Basin. Based on soil and land cover maps, the PRW maps highlight "hydric" soils (soils formed under wetland conditions) that are not currently wetland but are not developed either. Most of these areas were ditched and tilled and now support corn, soybean and hay crops, but they still have potential to be returned to their original wetland state.

We plan to build on the DNR's work

by overlaying property maps, using Geographic Information System software, onto the PRWs; this will allow us to identify drained wetland basins that are entirely, or mostly, contained within single properties. Once we find some restorable single-ownership basins, we will inspect air photos and

drive nearby roads and glimpse the sites from road shoulders. However in other cases we might contact landowners and walk properties. The final product of this study will be a portfolio of field-confirmed restorable basins, complete with maps and notes for use by wetland restoration practitioners, including those with the Wetland Reserve Program, US Fish & Wildlife Partners for Wildlife and Ducks Unlimited.

As you probably know, vast landscapes in the Rock River Basin were wetlands before European settlement in the early 19th century. We value our agricultural industry and do not seek a return to presettlement conditions, but our waters – and especially our lakes – benefit tremendously from increases in wetland pollutant removal and flood storage services. So why not restore more wetlands where landowners are willing and soils are suitable?

The Rock River Coalition is fortunate to have proactive partners like the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Lake Sinissippi Improvement District. We are also lucky our DNR had the vision to create programs like the Lake Grant that allow the vision of small non-profits to take shape.

We look forward to sharing the results of our restorable wetland study in next fall's Rock River Reflections.



This drained crop field was once a wetland. Closing and re-filling the ditch can restore the field to its original condition.

Photo by NRCS

topographic maps of the sites to assess surrounding land use for compatibility with wetland restoration. The suitability of surrounding landscapes for wildlife habitat is critical to healthy wetlands since most wildlife that use wetlands – frogs, ducks, small mammals – also rely on nearby uplands to meet their life history requirements.

The final, and most enjoyable, step will be to visit the restorable basins once we have identified them on maps. In most cases we will simply



Village of DeForest Starts Watershed Improvement Grant Program

The Village of DeForest is excited to announce that it is now accepting grant applications from local non-profit organizations for projects that help improve stormwater quality in the Upper Yahara River and Token Creek watersheds. The Village of DeForest designates money annually to be used for water quality improvements in these watersheds. Starting this year, the Village is opening this money up to local non-profits with a new grant program.

Funding is intended to be used toward baseline data collection, analysis, planning, monitoring, education, best management practices and other functions necessary for a comprehensive and effective overall water management program. The primary focus of the program is water quality, quantity, temperature control, and monitoring. Preference will be given to projects targeting phosphorous reduction.

Project must be completed in the 2014 calendar year. The application deadline is March 14, 2014. More information and project applications can be found online at www.vi.deforest.wi.us under the Village Government tab. Or search "water quality improvement grant" on the website homepage.



Dane County Accepting Grant Applications for Projects That Would Enhance County's Lakes, Lands

Applications are now being accepted for two county grant programs aimed at partnering Dane County with local conservation organizations to help enhance and protect the county's lakes and lands. The grants are being offered through the Dane County Environmental Council (DCEC).

As part of the Land and Water Legacy Initiative, the Capital Equipment Grant Program will make awards of up to \$2,500 to assist with the purchase or rental of equipment or services that will benefit Dane County conservation projects.

In addition, the Community Partners Grant Program will provide up to \$1,000 for projects that promote environmental education, conservation, and restoration in Dane County. The programs, administered by the DCEC, are competitive. Application materials are due on Tuesday, February 28, 2014. Grant applications and guidelines can be downloaded from the Dane County Environmental Council website at: <http://www.countyofdane.com/commissions/environmentalcouncil>.

For more information, contact Mindy Habecker at habecker@co.dane.wi.us or call 608-224-3718.

Save Money and the River - Use Less Salt This Winter

Salt and sand contribute greatly to lake and stream pollution. Once it's spread on parking lots, streets, sidewalks and driveways, it's on its way to the nearest lake or stream and cannot be recovered. Fifty pounds of salt (one large bag) can pollute 10,000 gallons of water—which is equivalent to one teaspoon in a five-gallon bucket of water. Increases in sodium and chloride have been shown to decrease the biodiversity in wetland areas, altering the development of wood frogs, decreasing the number and types of fish available, and increasing mortality rates of organisms that rely on an aquatic system.

Municipalities are working to cut salt use while still keeping streets safe. So, let's all save money this winter with these helpful tips and help the lakes and rivers at the same time.

- Always use a shovel first, especially if the pavement temperature is 32°F or more—don't waste money on deicers.
- Reserve deicers for ice, not snow. Shovel as soon as possible so that wet, heavy snow doesn't have the opportunity to turn to ice.
- All salt is not created equal. Various types of deicers perform differently at different temperature ranges. The most common and cheapest is sodium chloride ("rock salt"), but doesn't work when the pavement is colder than 15°F. Magnesium chloride and calcium chloride cost more, but you'll use less and it works in colder temps.
- You should also be careful about your deicing choice if you have pets that go outside, or kids that could get dirty snow in their mouths. Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), and calcium chloride (CaCl₂) are all less toxic than basic rock salt, and there are some completely chloride-free products (e.g. "Safe Paw") if you're willing to spend more.
- Consider getting a pavement thermometer (~\$30) to help determine pavement temperatures, which can vary widely depending on how much sun shines on your driveway. (Plus, they're kind of fun to play with.)
- Measure your sidewalk and driveway so you know how much you need. A general guideline is to use 1-3 cups of salt per 1,000 square feet, but follow the instructions on the product you choose.
- Apply a salt solution to the pavement before the storm with a sprayer. Then, shovel a little while it's snowing. After the storm, shovel; don't salt. Most times, you won't need any salt. Use deicers on ice, don't waste it on snow.
- While salt is sometimes mixed with sand to keep the sand from freezing into a solid block, it's not a good idea to use both at the same time on your sidewalk. The salt will melt the ice, but when it refreezes, the sand will be frozen below the surface where it can't do any good. Choose one or the other. Try removing the ice by hand first before using either sand or salt.
- If you have an area that tends to ice up, consider making it a priority to remedy next summer so you won't need to deice in the future.

Love Your Lakes, Don't Salt Them

Using less salt on your sidewalk and driveway this winter shows your love for the lakes.

If you must use a deicer, use it sparingly and make sure you read the label for application rates & environmental effects.

Don't use salt when you can use a shovel.

Learn more at myfairlakes.com

Be a "Label Reader"!

Read the label on the ice melt product so that you know exactly what you are spending your hard-earned cash on. If the bag doesn't say otherwise, it's probably sodium chloride, but you're better off using something that says exactly what's in the bag. Some products claiming to be "green" or "pet safe" are simply chloride compounds. You can always ask for the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the product—it will show percentages so that you can see if you are paying for pretty packaging of rock salt. And while you're reading, be sure to follow the application rates. You need much less of some products than others, so be sure not to waste money by over applying. The following materials are generally available in our area, and you may also see a variety of combinations of these materials.

Labeled as:	Works Down to:	Approximate Cost	Pro's & Con's
Calcium Chloride	-20°F	\$18/50 lbs	Use much less than rock salt, chloride impacts; may damage concrete
Magnesium Chloride	5°F	\$18/50 lbs	Less toxic than calcium chloride and less damaging to concrete and pavement, but may corrode metals over time
Sodium Chloride ("rock salt")	15°F	\$6/50 lbs	Keeps sidewalks dry, but can damage concrete, vegetation, vehicles and infrastructure
Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)	15°F	\$20/50 lbs	No chlorides; less toxic
Amide/Glycol	5°F	\$17/8 lbs	An alternative to salt, safe for pets and plants, but expensive
Sand	No melting effect	\$5/50 lbs	Not a deicer; for traction only; do not use with salt; accumulates in streets, lakes and rivers; needs to be swept up, easily tracked into buildings

This message is brought to you by the Rock River Stormwater Group in partnership with the Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership. Both groups thank you for helping to Renew the Rock by reducing stormwater pollution throughout the Rock River area.

Learn more at www.renewtherock.com.

Municipal members of the Rock River Stormwater Group include: Beaver Dam, Beloit, Town of Beloit, Fort Atkinson, Janesville, Jefferson, Milton, Watertown, and Whitewater. Non-municipal partners include Rock River Coalition, Lake Sinissippi Lake District, Town and Country RCD.



Sustainable Strategies Webinars Offered by Wisconsin Water Star and Wisconsin Legacy Communities

Wisconsin Water Star and Wisconsin Legacy Communities are jointly producing a series of informative webinars in 2014. Twelve programs in the Sustainable Strategies series are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month, from noon - 1:00 pm. These interactive sessions are open to all and designed to help Wisconsin's municipalities manage their land and water resources.

The series features local experts and case studies. Participants need not travel, but access the information from their office or home computers using Go-To-Webinar. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/243535617>. Next webinar, "Get to Know Wisconsin Legacy Communities and the Wisconsin Water Star Program" will be held on Feb. 20.

January Sustainable Strategies Webinar Highlighted Green Infrastructure Code and Ordinance Concerns - archive available

The first webinar took place on Thursday, Jan. 16 and is archived www.waterstarwisconsin.org.

The title of the presentation is "Impacts of Local Codes and Ordinances on Green Infrastructure."

Program presenters Kate Morgan, Water Policy Director for 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, and Juli Beth Hinds, Principal at Birchline Planning, talked about research they've conducted that shows how green infrastructure (GI), an effective means to improve water quality and aquatic habitat by reducing stormwater runoff, is often unintentionally discouraged by municipal codes.

Stormwater runoff is the primary source of pollutants entering our waterways, yet critical barriers in

ordinances discourage or prohibit use of GI in public and private lands. The project team for the initiative, "Advancing Green Infrastructure in the Menomonee River Watershed through Enhanced Municipal Codes and Ordinance Review," will present their process and key findings to address this challenge.

Using the Menomonee River watershed restoration plan; Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's Regional Green Infrastructure Plan; GIS mapping of zoning districts, percent imperviousness, and pollutant hotspots; the project team identified prohibitive codes and ordinances that, if amended, will have the greatest potential to reduce pollutants.

About the Sponsors



Wisconsin Water Star is a cooperative effort by public, private and non-profit organizations to support communities in Wisconsin that are doing exceptional work to manage their water resources for public recreation, drinking water and wildlife habitat. Communities fill out a comprehensive online application to earn recognition as either a Bronze, Silver or Gold level Water Star Community.

Wisconsin Water Star is seeking funding to strengthen its ability to accomplish its mission.



The Wisconsin Legacy Communities Charter is a unique partnership between Wisconsin communities, non-profit organizations, and state agencies to assist communities in developing and implementing sustainability measures. Under a shared agreement, municipalities take actions and share information to achieve superior environmental stewardship by focusing on water resources management and/or sustainability practices.

Readers wanting to learn more about the program and how to help it succeed are encouraged to visit <http://www.waterstarwisconsin.org> or contact program coordinator UWEX Natural Resources Educator Andy Yencha at andrew.yencha@ces.uwex.edu, 414-256-4631, or from Town and Country RC&D program host Beth Gehred at beth.gehred@tacrcd.com, 920-541-3208.

WI DNR TMDL Guidance Documents

"A Water Quality Trading How To Manual", Guidance No: 3400-2013-03, September 2013, 85p. http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/documents/wqt_howto_9_9_2013signed.pdf

"TMDL Development and Implementation Guidance: Integrating the WPDES and Impaired Waters Programs, Edition No. 3", Guidance No: 3400-2013-02, November, 2013, 52 p. <http://dnr.wi.gov/water/wsSWIMSDocument.aspx?documentSeqNo=86221960>

"Guidance for Implementing Wisconsin's Phosphorus Water Quality Standards for Point Source Discharges, Edition No. 1", Guidance No: 3800-2011-02, 2012, 152 p. http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/documents/WQT_guidance_Aug_21_2013signed.pdf

In addition to these guidance documents, the DNR has produced a series of webinars on TMDL Implementation, trading, and adaptive management. Users may register to attend upcoming webinars via internet, or view past webinars online. WI DNR TMDL Webinars <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/atlas.html>

Job Opening: TMDL Project Manager

Location will be Fitchburg or Milwaukee. More information at Wisc.Jobs.

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
Municipal**	\$125
Corporate	\$ 200

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

**Covers entire municipality including all departments, administrative staff and elected officials

Any donation or membership of \$150 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 Donations

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
864 Collins Rd
Jefferson, WI 53549

or register and pay online with PayPal at: www.rockrivercoalition.org/membership.asp

RRC Launches a New Website and 20 Year Anniversary Logo



While our current website has served us well, the board has discussed refreshing the site and making it easier to update. Need met with opportunity this fall when we found out about "Design Like Mad," a Madison program that pairs programmers and designers with community-minded organizations. We successfully applied to the program and -- building on initial work by our webmaster, Marsha Vomastic -- the design team donated their time to create a new website for us.

The Design Like Mad event included a team of student and professional designers who worked for an entire day to redesign our website and develop a logo for our 20th anniversary. We are delighted with the results! We would like to thank our team of designers: Claire Tomm, Jack Saxe-Staral, Mike Kylo, Nicholas Staffanson, and Jason Hardies. Their hard work is greatly appreciated!

Our goals for the new website are to better communicate with our members, to freshen up the organization's look, and to allow more people to contribute and view content. We'll be including more upcoming events and content in our newsletter. Overall, the site will provide more up-to-date information about our projects and basin news. The new website should be up by early February. Check it out at RockRiverCoalition.org and let us know what you think!



Congratulations to the Glacial Heritage Area for the Waterloo Regional Trailhead Facility ribbon-cutting event held in December 2013. The new facility was inspired to serve as a stopping point for regional bicyclists traveling within Jefferson County or coming from Madison. The interpretive center will promote an active and healthy lifestyle through educational displays, health-focused vending and outdoor amenities providing space for outdoor recreation.

Left to right are: Laura Cotting, Waterloo Alderwoman; Dick Jones, Jefferson County Board Representative; John Molinaro, Jefferson County Board Representative; Joe Nehmer, Jefferson County Parks Director; Greg Matthews, Glacial Heritage Area Project Manager; Clare Carlson, Friends of the GHA; David Musolf, Resident Manager of Madison Audubon's Faville Grove Sanctuary; and Elyse Eastman, Naturalist Intern at the Waterloo Regional Trailhead. Photo courtesy of The Courier.

Welcome Mark and Mike to the Rock TMDL Effort!

Mark Riedel is very happy to join the DNR and grateful for the opportunity to return to public service. He will work out of the WDNR Fitchburg Office and serve as the Outreach Specialist and Implementation Planner for the Rock River TMDL Project. Mark is a Professional Hydrologist with 18+ years of experience in watershed management, river processes, and water quality. This includes a combination of private sector consulting work in river restoration and hydroelectric projects, and watershed hydrology, climatic, and river research with the U.S. Forest Service in Wisconsin, the Upper Midwest and the southern Appalachians.

He holds graduate degrees in water resources engineering and fluvial geomorphology, and an undergraduate in Natural Resources and Forest Hydrology. Mark spends his free time working on his old house, playing with his dogs, hunting, fishing, hiking, kayaking, and as a volunteer firefighter for the Village of Albany.

Contact Mark at the DNR Fish Hatchery Office, 608-275-3471 or marks.riedel@wisconsin.gov.



New DNR TMDL Outreach Coordinator and Implementation Plan Developer, Mark Riedel with his German shorthair, Heidi



Mike and his wife Marilyn with their children.

Mike Gilbertson joined our team in Water District South this fall at Fitchburg as the Nonpoint Source Coordinator. His job duties include a major role with coordinating the agricultural and nonpoint source component of the Rock River TMDL. Contact Mike at mike.gilbertson@wisconsin.gov, 608-275-3288.

He comes into this position with an excellent background and a great deal of experience. Currently the Animal Waste Specialist working out of the Dodgeville Office, he received his Bachelor of Science Degree from UW-La Crosse in 2001, where he majored in Biology with an environmental science concentration. He also worked in the Bureau of Watershed Management as a Water Resources Management Specialist, where he focused on water quality assessment/management projects and coordinated the statewide Surface Water Assessment Team (SWAT). His job responsibilities also included the development and implementation of several TMDL projects throughout the state (including the Upper Fox River and Wolf River Basins).

Mike and his wife Marilyn live in the Madison Area and are very busy raising their three children. He enjoys playing hockey, biking, camping and trying to keep up with kids.

2014 Rock River Monitoring Confluence

DATE: Saturday, March 29

TIME: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

PLACE: Fitchburg Community Center
5510 Lacy Road, Madison, WI

RSVP: Nancy Sheehan
nancy@rockrivercoalition.org

More information will be on the website by Mid-February.

Active monitors will be sent an invitation

Don't miss spring training workshops - complete list on page 3



Janice Redford of Friends of Cam Rock Park sharing their groups monitoring experiences at the 2010 Confluence. Photo by Carl Glassford

Rock River Recovery TMDL and Implementation Plan News

With formal approval of the Rock River TMDL, emphasis within the WI DNR shifted to TMDL Implementation. TMDL Implementation actually has two parallel and connected paths, implementation planning and on-the-ground implementation of best practices at the local level to realize P and TSS load reductions to the Rock River and its tributaries. Implementation planning consists of developing the framework and a formal RRR Implementation Plan for submittal to the US EPA. Local level on-the-ground implementation has already begun as industrial and municipal discharge WPDES permit holders work with local agricultural agencies and producers to identify pollutant reduction strategies through trading and adaptive management practices or plan upgrades to their facilities, if needed, to meet their allocations.

DNR has been working with local WPDES permitted facilities and holding regular meetings using a watershed approach to facilitate incorporation of the approved wasteload allocations into reissued permits. On the Implementation Planning front, the DNR has developed a number of formal guidance and policy documents. (See Page 7) In addition a guidance document for MS4's is being finalized and should be available on the DNR website by early spring.

With the guidance documents completed, the DNR is now developing a draft implementation planning framework and strategy for review by the U.S. EPA. Once approved, drafting of the formal Rock River Recovery Implementation Plan (RRRIP) will begin. This will be a significant milestone and we envision holding a watershed wide informational public meeting to provide updates on the TMDL Implementation progress, the status of WPDES permits, conduct educational forums to discuss pollutant trading and adaptive management, and solicit public input and answer questions.