

Rock River Basin December 2016 Update

The Rock River Update is a listing of events and other items of interest for people in and around the Rock River Basin of Wisconsin. The update is available online at the beginning of each month. Inclusion is not an endorsement of a program, publication or website.

Subscribe to this list at: <https://lists.uwex.edu/mailman/listinfo/rock-river-basin-update>

The Update will be posted at: <http://rockrivercoalition.org/events/events-page/>

“Like” the [Rock River Coalition](#) on Facebook to keep up-to-date on activities

To receive informational flyers on RRC events, send an email to marier@jeffersoncountywi.gov

Rock River Coalition (RRC) Events

December Rock River Coalition Board Meeting, TBD. Please check the website regarding time and location.

Become A Stream Steward: Volunteer to Monitor Stream Health!

What do volunteer stream monitors do? Go to:

Rock River Coalition, Citizen Stream Monitoring:

<http://rockrivercoalition.org/projects/citizen-stream-monitoring/>

Water Action Volunteers Program:

<http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/monitoring/index.html>

Waukesha County, Citizen Stream Monitoring Program:

<http://wiatri.net/cbm/whoswho/results.cfm?OrgID=191>

Access Database Help: If you are interested in lending your skills to the Rock River Coalition, and are skilled at formatting Microsoft Access databases, please contact info@rockrivercoalition.org.

Natural Resource Calendar of Events

Sustainable Strategies Webinar Series: 12:00-1:00 pm, every third Thursday. Free monthly series for municipal professionals. Produced by Wisconsin Green Tier Legacy Communities Charter and the Wisconsin Counties Association with support from UW-Extension’s Regional Natural Resources Education Program and WDNR.

<http://greentiercommunities.org/links/sustainable-strategies-webinar-series/>

Dec 2016: 12:00-1:00 pm. Recycling and Waste Reduction

Presenter – Maleesa Johnson, Director, Marathon County Solid Waste Dept.

Jan 2017: 12:00-1:00 pm. Urban Wildlife

Presenter – Professor David Drake, UW-Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology

Feb 2017: 12:00-1:00 pm. Sustainable Food Systems – The Farm to Table Movement

Presenter – Heather Cleveland, Food Justice Director – Nourish

Mar 2017: 12:00-1:00 pm. Invasive Forest Insects

Presenter – Andrea Diss-Torrance, WDNR Invasive Forest Insects Program

Dec 3 **Annual Water-related Group Networking Event:** 1:00-3:30 pm. Alicia Ashman Library, Madison, WI. Each water-related group in Dane County will have the chance to give a quick “3-minute, 3-slide” overview of major projects and accomplishments over the past year. Open networking time will follow. Register [here](#)

Dec 5 **Sustainable Energy Seminar Series-5:** 3:30-4:30 pm. Room 1115 Wisconsin Energy Institute, 1552 University Ave, Madison, WI. The series allows students and public to explore sustainable energy solutions, learn about challenges facing sustainable energy, and interact with experts from across campus. spwilliams@wisc.edu

Dec 6-8 **Groundwater Week Conference:** Las Vegas, Nevada. Keynote presentation Dec 7th will feature Peter G. McCornick, an internationally known expert in water, food, and environmental research. <http://www.groundwaterweek.com/>

Dec 7 **Issues & Trends Training: Hazardous Waste Determinations and Management Options at Remediation Sites in Wisconsin:** 12:00-1:00 pm. (Teleconference) No registration required. Presented by Gary Edelman, engineer, DNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program. <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/training.html>

Dec 9-11, 15-23 & 26-30 **Holiday Light Show:** 4:00-8:00 pm. Rotary Botanical Garden, Janesville, WI. Wintery garden paths are brought to life with over a quarter-million lights and more. Free shuttle from Dawson Field to the Holiday Light Show, starting at 3:45pm. \$5/person (3+). Skip the lines, purchase online. <http://rotarygardens.wpengine.com/holiday-light-show>

Dec 10 **Effigy Mound Culture Class:** 1:00- 3:30 pm. Arboretum Visitor Center, Madison. Learn about the mounds, the native people who created them, and their environment. Indoors, with an outdoor walk if weather permits. Instructor: Paul Borowsky, Arboretum naturalist. Preregister by Dec 8. Registration: \$20.

Dec 14 **Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants Workshop** 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Wilderness Resort, Glacier Canyon Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI. Join fellow producer-led grant recipients throughout the state and learn from each other on what works and what hasn't in their watershed projects. [Click here to register for the workshop.](#)

Dec 17 **Christmas Bird Count:** 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Devil's Lake State Park. Meet at the Nature Center for the first count when hiking along the lake and recording the bird species seen and heard. Bring a pair of binoculars or borrow a pair from the Nature Center. 608-356-8301.

2017

Jan 21 **7th Annual Horicon Marsh Candlelight Hike/Snowshoe:** 4:00-9:00 pm. Horicon Marsh Education Center. Center will be open to warm up, view the 20 minute "Horicon Marsh Story", visit gift shop or have kids do a fun craft to bring home! Snacks available for purchase. Explorium will be open to learn about Horicon Marsh through new interactive displays (fee).

Jan 21 **Friends of Cherokee Marsh Annual Meeting:** 10:00 am-noon. Warner Park Community & Recreation Center. Madison, WI. Annual meeting PLUS a presentation on cranes with Rich Beilfuss, President of the International Crane Foundation.

Feb 3-5 **Frozen Assets Festival:** 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Edgewater, Madison and on Lake Mendota. Free winter fun with ice skating, sleigh rides, pond hockey, ice science lab, snowshoe run, fat tire bike race, amateur ice fishing derby and more! Follow the events on Facebook for the latest updates. <https://cleanlakesalliance.org/frozen-assets/>

Feb 23 **Call for Posters Deadline** for 2017 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention & WAV Symposium, Apr 5-7, Stevens Point, WI. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesPPV9xF5pcw-KnlvYrWgKJorG8gyKO3SxsURQc4UFbgNusQ/viewform>

Feb 28-Mar 2 **Save the Date! 2017 Wetland Science Conference:** Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Conference will include a keynote address, organized symposia, topical oral sessions, a poster session, working groups, a banquet, and wetland field trips. Final registration deadline: February 23, 2017. www.conference.wisconsinwetlands.org

Mar 9 **Land, Water, and People Coming Together – The 6th Annual Red Cedar Watershed Conference:** UW-Stout, Menomonie, WI + Google Map. <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/event/land-water-people-coming-together-6th-annual-red-cedar-watershed-conference/>

Mar 15-17 **64th Annual Wisconsin Land & Water Conference:** 11:00 am. Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI. For content and event information: <http://wisconsinlandwater.org/events/annual-conference> Registration open soon.

Apr 5-7 **Minding Our Waters: 2017 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention & Water Action Volunteers Symposium:** Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/convention/2017/default.aspx>

WAV Symposium information: <http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/Symposium/symposium.html>

May 8-11 **2017 River Rally:** Hosted by River Network, Grand Rapids, Michigan. A national conference that focuses on education, inspiration and celebration within the river and watershed community <https://www.rivernetwork.org/events-learning/river-rally/about/>

June 22-24, 2017 **Building a Land Ethic:** Aldo Leopold Foundation, Baraboo, WI. Stay tuned for further announcements on this conference. <http://www.aldoleopold.org/home.shtml>

Grants/Awards/Contests (K-12 entries are in the K-12 section below)

Dec 10 DNR surface water grant deadline and Feb. 1st deadline for management grants. Program provides \$6.5 million annually to local groups to protect and improve water quality and aquatic habitat and control aquatic invasive species. Visit DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, and search "[surface water grants](#)"

Request for Proposals Fiscal Year 2017 Environmental Justice Small Grants solicitation is open: Under this [RFP](#), EPA will award grants that support activities designed to empower and educate affected communities to understand environmental and public health issues and to identify ways to address these issues at the local level. Approximately 40 one-year projects will be awarded at \$30,000 each. Applications are due on January 31, 2017 by 11:59 PM (ET). Go to Grants.gov and <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program#rfp>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking applications from Wisconsin landowners for its premiere wetland restoration program, the Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE). Applications are accepted year-round for funding. Contact your local [USDA NRCS Service Center](#) for more information, visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov or 608-662-4422 ext. 252, greg.kidd@wi.usda.gov.

K-12 Teachers and Students

K-12 Classroom Technology Grants: K-12 classroom teachers — write a short essay on what new technology would mean to your classroom and how the grant would be used to address a learning challenge and you could win \$1,000 to spend on new technology. Essays due February 24, 2017. [Complete Details](#)

Teach Money Skills with World of Cents, a fun and engaging, kid-friendly game designed to help teach the value of money through earning, saving, and spending money, while incorporating basic math. [Learn more](#)

Fish Hotel a new children's book, explains how trees left to fall naturally into the water provide fish habitat for years to come. <http://fyi.uwex.edu/news/2016/10/26/healthy-wisconsin-lakes-focus-of-new-childrens-book/>

The Water Cycle: The NRCS water cycle poster is back by popular demand. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/water/?cid=stelprdb1046868>

Dec 14 Live Chat with Ornithologist Helen James: 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Ornithologist Helen James will talk about her job studying bird extinctions and will take questions from the public and students from across the country. [Learn more.](#)

Publications

Final DNR Forest Health Guidance Available: Final version of "Best Management Practices for Jumping worms (*Amyntas* spp.)" now available on the [DNR Program Guidance webpage](#). Also posted are comments received on the guidance and DNR's response to those comments. Available until December 8, 2016.

Blue Mind – "The Surprising Science That Shows How Being Near, In, On, or Under Water Can Make You Happier, Healthier, More Connected, & Better at What You Do": A best-selling book by marine biologist, Dr. Wallace J. Nichols. <http://www.wallacejnichols.org/126/585/blue-mind-little-brown-amp-company-2014.html>

Waters of Wisconsin Shifting Currents: The State of Wisconsin's Waters in 2016: <https://wisconsinacademy.org/initiatives/reports-and-resources>

Websites

Help Save Rivers - **Donate to the River Alliance:** Join with several thousand Wisconsinites that value taking action to protect our state's precious flowing waters. Donate Now: https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/index.php?option=com_civicrm&view=Contributions&Itemid=153&lang=en

National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) : To better understand the people who own and manage our urban forests, Wisconsin DNR is collaborating with the USDA Forest Service to pilot an urban form of the Survey, which is also paired with the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos/>

"Changes and Choices in the Yahara": A mini-documentary series that showcases the major research implications from the UW-Madison Water Sustainability and Climate project, a five-year research endeavor funded by the National Science

Foundation. Learn more at <https://wsc.limnology.wisc.edu/>

Urban and Community Forest and National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. Two new websites launched by the U.S. Forest Service: The sites have been migrated to the Forest Service's new, modernized web platform, and information has been streamlined.

Bug-o' the week: <http://www.riveredgenaturecenter.org/bug-o-week-brown-lacewing/>

Reduce Your Water Footprint: The rainwater that falls from your roof after a storm could play an important role in protecting our country's rivers and streams. Learn how to reduce your water footprint with a rain barrel.

<https://www.rivernetwork.org/get-involved/reduce-your-water-footprint/>

Employment Opportunities

Aircraft Pilot (Multiple Positions) Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, Job Announcement Code(s): 16-03169. Counties: Burnett, Dane, Eau Claire, Oneida, Winnebago Full Time (40 hrs/wk) Contact: Julie Jaksa, HR Specialist Senior, 608-266-0520, Julie.Jaksa@wisconsin.gov Deadline to apply: 12/11/16 [Preview Assessment](#)

Water Supply Engineers, Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources, Job Announcement code(s): 16-03250. Statewide Full Time: (40 hrs/wk.) Contact: Dionne Boedeker, Human Resources Specialist - Senior, 608-266-6831. Dionnel.Boedeker@wisconsin.gov Non-Represented. Open. Deadline to apply: 12/13/2017.

Miscellaneous

Video: "Firewood, Christmas trees, and hitch hiking bugs" Presentation by P.J. Liesch, Extension entomologist specialist, Dept. of Entomology, UW-Madison College of Agricultural & Life Sciences. <http://fyi.uwex.edu/news/2016/11/25/firewood-christmas-trees-and-hitch-hiking-bugs/>

WDNR Reforestation program begins spring 2017 tree seedling sales: Ordering instructions and more information here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/TreePlanting/> or contact Griffith Nursery office at 715-424-3700. Information on seedling availability, species and tips on how to prepare a site for tree planting: Joe Vande Hey, joseph.vandehay@wisconsin.gov, 608-574-4904.

River Network's 8th Annual National Rain Barrel Program will continue through June 2017 to provide free supplies and guidance to allow member groups from around the U.S. to bring the benefits of stormwater conservation into their communities. Interested individuals should check for [rain barrel construction events planned nearby](#), and [follow the River Network on Facebook](#) for forthcoming announcements.

2017 Jefferson County Dog Park Calendars: Now available to purchase at: The Parks Dept., Jefferson County Courthouse, Rm 204, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-4:30 pm or from Dog Park Attendant at Jefferson County Dog Park or <http://bit.ly/2cqd7pl>. Calendars are sold as a fundraiser. All proceeds are used for dog park improvements.

Organizations with Frequent Program Offerings:

Aldo Leopold Foundation, Baraboo, www.aldoleopold.org

Clean Lakes Alliance, www.cleanlakesalliance.com

Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Madison, www.CherokeeMarsh.org

Horicon Marsh International Education Center, www.horiconmarsh.org

Madison Audubon Society, Inc., www.madisonaudubon.org

Midwest Renewable Energy Association, www.the-mrea.org

Niagara Escarpment Resource Network, www.escarpmentnetwork.org

Riveredge Nature Center, Newburg, www.riveredge.us

The Prairie Enthusiasts, www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org

Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee, www.urbanecologycenter.org

UW Madison Arboretum, www.uwarboretum.org

Woodland Landowner Information Education, <http://woodlandinfo.org/>

Woodland School, <http://www.aldoleopold.org/WoodlandSchool/>

Wisconsin Ground Water Association www.wgwa.org/

Wisconsin Wetlands Association, www.wisconsinwetlands.org/

This list was compiled by Marie Rubietta, UW-Extension Jefferson County, marier@jeffersoncountywi.gov and edited by Peggy Compton, Regional Natural Resources Educator, UW-Extension, peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu, 608-342-1633. Please send notices and potential listings to Marie.

For general information or to subscribe: <https://lists.uwex.edu/mailman/listinfo/rock-river-basin-update>. *University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.*

La Universidad de Wisconsin-Extensión, un empleador con igualdad de oportunidades y acción afirmativa (EEO/AA), proporciona igualdad de oportunidades en empleo y programas, incluyendo los requisitos del Título IX (Title IX) y de la Ley para Americanos con Discapacidades (ADA).