

## Rock River Basin February 2017 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](mailto:marier@jeffersoncountywi.gov)

### Rock River Coalition (RRC) Events

Feb 22 **Rock River Coalition Board Meeting**, 5:15-7:15 pm, Rm 12 at UW-Extension office, Jefferson, WI. Please confirm time and location prior to meeting.

Mar 7 **The Big Share Giving Day**: Community Shares of Wisconsin (CSW) is hosting an online giving day. The RRC goal is \$1,500. This will provide critical support for our monitoring effort including providing equipment, training and support to four new teams. The RRC is asking you to:

- Mark your calendar for MARCH 7, 2017
- Follow us on Facebook and help build the buzz.
- We’re counting on you to spread the word. Share our Facebook posts with your friends and family members along with a personal note as to why you believe in our work, and why they should give on March 7, 2017.

The minimum gift is \$10. The maximum is . . . up to you!

### Become A Stream Steward: Volunteer to Monitor Stream Health!

Do you live by a stream or river? Looking for a way to take action to protect streams in the Rock River Basin? Become a citizen stream monitor with the Rock River Coalition (RRC). No prior skills are necessary. Only a few hours each month are required. From April to October, our citizen stream monitors collect data vital to understanding the health of our streams across the Rock River Basin. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and various county Land and Water Conservation Departments will use the data to better understand watershed protection and restoration needs.

Sign up for a workshop today. These workshops are hands-on, in-stream look at life in streams. Learn to measure stream flow, temperature, water clarity and dissolved oxygen. Equipment provided – just bring a towel, waders or wear shoes with toe protection that can be worn in the water.

Pre-Registration Required. Spaces fill quickly so register today!

### 2017 Training Opportunities

Saturday, April 29, 2017 (9:00am-2:30pm)

Location: Waunakee Village Center, Waunakee

Nancy Sheehan, RRC Stream Monitoring Program Coordinator. Co-facilitated with Kyna North, Program Coordinator, Waunakee Village Center

Pre-registration required. Contact Nancy Sheehan: [nancy@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:nancy@rockrivercoalition.org)

Saturday, May 6, 2017 (9:00am-2:30pm)

Location: Amundson Center, Cambridge

Nancy Sheehan, RRC Stream Monitoring Program Coordinator. Co-facilitated with Patricia Cicero, Water Resource Management Specialist, Jefferson Co. Land & Water Cons. Dept.

Pre-registration required. Contact Nancy Sheehan: [nancy@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:nancy@rockrivercoalition.org)

Saturday, May 6, 2017 (9:00am-3:00pm)

Location: UW-Waukesha Field Station, Oconomowoc

Jayne Jenks, Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Dept

Pre-registration required. Contact: Jayne Jenks: [JJenks@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:JJenks@waukeshacounty.gov)

Saturday, May 13, 2017 (9:30am-3:30pm)

Location: The Town of Merton Town Hall, Merton

Nancy Sheehan, RRC Stream Monitoring Program Coordinator. Co-facilitated with Jayne Jenks, Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Dept. and Tom Steinbach, Operation Manager, Oconomowoc Wastewater Treatment Facility. In partnership with Jill Bedford, Tall Pines Conservancy, as well as Clean Water Association and The North Lake Management District.

Pre-registration required. Contact: Nancy Sheehan: [nancy@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:nancy@rockrivercoalition.org)

*\*\*Please note that this training will include instructions on how to be a volunteer stream monitor as well as how to be a "Mud Chaser" monitoring streams during storm events and how to collect samples for phosphorus.*

Saturday, May 20, 2017 (9:30am-2:30pm)

Location: Turtle Creek Parkway Facility, Clinton

Nancy Sheehan, RRC Stream Monitoring Program Coordinator. Co-facilitated with Anne Miller, Conservation Specialist, Rock Co. Land Cons. Dept. and David Hoffman, Community Coordinator, Rock County Parks

Pre-registration required. Contact Nancy Sheehan: [nancy@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:nancy@rockrivercoalition.org)

Saturday, June 10, 2017 (9:30am-3:00pm)

Location: March Haven Nature Center, Waupun

Nancy Sheehan, RRC Stream Monitoring Program Coordinator. Co-facilitated with Amanda Perdzock, AIS Program Director, River Alliance of Wisconsin

Pre-registration required. Contact Nancy Sheehan: [nancy@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:nancy@rockrivercoalition.org)

*\*\*Please note that this training will include instructions on how to become a volunteer stream monitor as well as how to monitor for a number of aquatic invasive species.*

For more information 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>

## 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/>

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

Feb 2 **World Wetlands Day:** An annual celebration of the vital importance of wetlands to the world's ecological health and of efforts to conserve these invaluable habitats. The day marks the anniversary of the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, February 2, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. <http://www.worldwetlandsday.org/>

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 4 **Owl Prowl:** 3:00-8:00 pm. Horicon Marsh Education Center, Horicon, WI. Free, open to public. Co-sponsored 2-part field trip, come to one or both parts. At 3:00 pm, meet at Education Center and caravan in search of owls. At 6:30 pm meet at the Auditorium for a program and then hike to Indermuehe Island to call owls. [www.horiconmarsh.org](http://www.horiconmarsh.org) or 920-387-7893.

Feb 4-5 **Orchid Quest 2017:** 10:00 am-4:00 pm on Feb 4 and 10:00 am-3:00 pm, Feb 5. Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI. This Free event will be a visit to beautiful tropics in middle of winter. Enjoy over 2,000 orchids in displays and over 3,000 orchid plants for sale with seminars, raffles, silent auctions, and vendors of orchids. Terri Jozwiak, 608- 592-7906.

Feb 8 **Dodge County Healthy Soil, Healthy Water Workshop and Evening Event:** 7:00 pm. Dodge County Administration building. Co-sponsored by Dodge Co. Farm Bureau and UW-Extension. Main speaker, Ray Archuleta, NRCS in North Carolina, will inform audience about improved agricultural best management practices and positive effect on runoff, water quality.

Feb 8 **Issues & Trends - Environmental Issues for Demolition:** Noon-1:00 pm. Join by phone: 1-855-947-8255, passcode: 6612 745#. Overview of requirements for managing hazardous materials as part of renovation and demolition projects, will be provided. Questions in advance: [DNRRComments@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRRComments@wisconsin.gov) Mick Skwarok 608-266-9263.

Feb 10-12 **Wisconsin's Public Television's Garden Expo:** Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI. Discover latest trends in gardening and landscaping; talk with Master Gardeners and UW Extension horticulture experts; hundreds of exhibitors and lectures. [www.wigardenexpo.com](http://www.wigardenexpo.com) or 608-262-5256.

Feb 15 **Insights on Recent Changes to Wisconsin Land Use Law:** 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. [REGISTER ONLINE](#) or call 608-262-0810. Each teleconference is \$20. For information about each teleconference, [download the 2017 Local Land Use, Planning and Zoning brochure](#) <http://lgc.uwex.edu/WisLines/>

Feb 18 **Pruning Shrubs & Trees and Spring Garden Prep:** 9:00 to 11:00 am. Rm 261, University Center, UW-Whitewater. Learn the art and science of pruning dormant trees and shrubs. If weather permits, class will go outside to apply theories to trees and shrubs on the campus. 262-472-3165, [www.uww.edu/ce/garden](http://www.uww.edu/ce/garden) or Kari Borne, [bornek@uww.edu](mailto:bornek@uww.edu).

Feb 21-22: **Volunteer Training Days for Maple Education program and Festival at Mackenzie Center:** 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Over 1,200 participants attend the program each year and its success is owed to [dedicated volunteers](#). Send email to [DNRMackenzieCenter@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRMackenzieCenter@wisconsin.gov) or call 608-635-8112 if you are interested in volunteering.

Feb 25 **The Wonderful World of Water:** 8:30-11:30 am. Retzer Nature Center, Waukesha, WI. Celebrate and learn about Earth's most important resource- water! See special exhibits with hands on activities and listen to a lineup of speakers on different water topics. [Online Registration](#). 262-896-8007

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 **2017 Wetland Science Conference:** Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI. 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](http://www.conference.wisconsinwetlands.org)

Mar 4 **Let's Talk About Weeds:** 9:00 – 11:00 am. Free class. UW-Whitewater, University Center: Rm 261. Discuss managing weeds and using some of the habits of weeds to make gardening more fun and interesting. Instructor: Linda Holmes, retired UW-W professor, Master Gardener. Registration required. [www.uww.edu/ce/garden](http://www.uww.edu/ce/garden). 262-472-3165.

Mar 9 **Land, Water, and People Coming Together – The 6<sup>th</sup> 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 **64<sup>th</sup> 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 now open.

Mar 28 **Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Fundraising Banquet:** 5:00-10:00 pm, Bayside Supper Club. All net proceeds go back into improving and protecting Beaver Dam Lake. 920-356-1200 [www.bdlia.org](http://www.bdlia.org)

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/>

Jun 3 **Rock River Trail Grand Opening Ceremony:** 10:00 - 11:00 am. Rotary River Center, Beloit, WI. Event coincides with National Trails Day. Events will be held in the Beloit/South Beloit area that celebrate the trail, including paddling, hiking, flying, biking, horseback riding, history and chocolate! <https://rockrivertrail.com/>

Jun 16-18 **Save the Date! 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Energy Fair:** Midwest Renewable Energy Association, Custer, WI.  
<http://www.theenergyfair.org> <https://goo.gl/maps/a9G5GGASesP2>

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)

**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](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov) or 608-662-4422 ext. 252, [greg.kidd@wi.usda.gov](mailto:greg.kidd@wi.usda.gov).

**Register Now for Two New Grant Application Webinars Announced by Wisconsin DNR:** Each webinar includes an overview of the grant program followed by information about what makes a good project, and how to write a strong application. (Applications for both grant programs must be postmarked no later than April 17, 2017.)

1:00-2:00 pm: 2018 Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant Program: Offers competitive cost share grants to local governments for controlling nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, including practices that contribute to implementation of TMDL load reductions. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3622207297237566466>  
2:30-3:30 pm: Urban Nonpoint Source & Stormwater Management Planning Grant Program (UNPS). Offers competitive grants for local governments for planning projects, including water quality planning for TMDL implementation. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7564987824873515522>

More Information: Contact Ann Hirekatur, Runoff Management Grants Program Coordinator and/or your regional nonpoint source coordinator.

## 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](#)

**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>

Mar 9 **Inside the Smithsonian's Fossil Prep Lab with fossil preparator, Michelle Pinsdorf:** 10:00-10:30 am. Bring a Smithsonian Scientist into your classroom with *Smithsonian Science How*, a live television-style program streamed through the web that takes questions from students. <http://naturalhistory.si.edu/calEvents/si-science-how-webcasts.htm>

## Publications

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

**Two Final DNR Grants Guidance Available:** Final versions of following two guidance related to **grants** are now available on the [Proposed DNR Program Guidance webpage](#) until Feb. 14, 2017: "Hunter Recruitment, Development, Training and Education Grant Program"

## Websites

**Be Salt Wise!** Once you put salt down, it doesn't go away. It washes off surfaces and accumulates in local lakes, streams and drinking water. You can keep sidewalks and driveways safe this winter while protecting our waters by following three simple steps. <https://www.wisaltwise.com/>

**Purple loosestrife biocontrol:** See how you can help raise special beetles to feast on this plant and protect wetlands.  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/loosestrife.html>.

**NRCS Announces EQIP Signup for 2017 Funding, providing Conservation Practices to Improve Soil Health and Protect Natural Resources.** Farmers will want to plan ahead and apply by March 3, 2017 for USDA conservation funding. [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP). Applications are taken at all USDA Service Centers in Wisconsin

**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.

**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

**Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources: Wetland Identification Specialist - Deadline Extended to 2/12/2017**. Water Resources Mgt Spec-Senior. Job Announcement Code(s): 17-00062 \*Statewide. Full-time: 40 hrs/wk. Contact: Julie Jaksa; HR Specialist Senior; Julie.Jaksa@wisconsin.gov; 608-266-0520

## Miscellaneous

**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](mailto: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](http://www.aldoleopold.org)

Clean Lakes Alliance, [www.cleanlakesalliance.com](http://www.cleanlakesalliance.com)

Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Madison, [www.CherokeeMarsh.org](http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org)

Horicon Marsh International Education Center, [www.horiconmarsh.org](http://www.horiconmarsh.org)

Madison Audubon Society, Inc., [www.madisonaudubon.org](http://www.madisonaudubon.org)

Midwest Renewable Energy Association, [www.the-mrea.org](http://www.the-mrea.org)

Niagara Escarpment Resource Network, [www.escarpmentnetwork.org](http://www.escarpmentnetwork.org)

Riveredge Nature Center, Newburg, [www.riveredge.us](http://www.riveredge.us)

The Prairie Enthusiasts, [www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](http://www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org)

Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee, [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org)

UW Madison Arboretum, [www.uwarboretum.org](http://www.uwarboretum.org)

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

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

Wisconsin Ground Water Association [www.wgwa.org/](http://www.wgwa.org/)

Wisconsin Wetlands Association, [www.wisconsinwetlands.org/](http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/)

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This list was compiled by Marie Rubietta, UW-Extension Jefferson County, [marier@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:marier@jeffersoncountywi.gov) and edited by Peggy Compton, Regional Natural Resources Educator, UW-Extension, [peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu](mailto: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.

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