

Rock River Basin March 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

Rock River Coalition (RRC) Events

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! Just click on this link: www.thebigshare.org/organizations/RRC

Mar 12 Tentative Rock River Coalition Board Retreat. Location TBD.

Mar 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.

June 3 Rock River National Water Trail Grand Opening Celebration: 9:00 am. Help celebrate the trails opening and bring awareness to the great recreational assets here in Wisconsin. Paddle the Rock River from Kaul Park to Kanow Park in Northwestern Jefferson County, which will be roughly 5.5 miles and take an estimated 2-3 hrs. Doyles Dogs will have a food truck at the take-out. More info will be coming soon on www.jeffersoncountywi.gov/parks webpage or call at 920-674-7260.

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 (9:00 am-2:30 pm)

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

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

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

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

Location: UW-Waukesha Field Station, Oconomowoc

Jayne Jenks, Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department

Pre-registration required. Contact: Jayne Jenks: JJenks@waukeshacounty.gov

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

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

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

Location: Marsh Haven Nature Center, Waupun

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

Pre-registration required. Contact Nancy Sheehan: 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/>

Mar 2017: 12:00-1:00 pm. Invasive Forest Insects
Presenter – Andrea Diss-Torrance, WDNR Invasive Forest Insects Program

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 10-12 **Canoecopia:** World's largest paddling Expo presented by Rutabaga Paddlesports at [Alliant Energy Center](#), Madison, WI. Want to stand-up paddle on local ponds? Considering an expedition? Thinking about fishing from a kayak? Join over 20,000 paddling enthusiasts from beginners to experts to experience Canoecopia! www.canoecopia.com

Mar 11 **Sustainable Living Fair:** 10:00am-1:00pm. Hedberg Public Library, 316 S Main St., Janesville, WI. Presented by Rock River Stormwater Group. Learn more about regional efforts to understand and improve water quality, with topics covering groundwater, stream monitoring, and much more. [Visit the event website](#)

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 now open.

4th Annual **Webinar Series: Wisconsin First Detector Network (WIFDN):** Fridays, noon-1:30 pm. FREE webinars; open to all interested participants. Past webinars have trained over 150 people in invasive species identification, detection, and reporting, in addition to exploring other topics. See schedule below and **register [here](#)**. Visit [website](#) or learn more: WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com, 608-262-9570

March 17th **What to Look for in 2017:** Guest speakers from UW Extension, Paul Skawinski, Tim Campbell, Brian Hudelson and PJ Liesch, will share what new and priority species to look for in 2017.

April 7th **Passengers vs. Drivers:** Explore the ideas of invasive species acting as drivers or passengers of ecosystem change with Don Waller (UW-Madison) and Mike Siefkes (Great Lakes Fishery Commission).

April 21st **Take Action!** In addition to learning how to use the GLEDN app to report invasive species, learn about statewide *Phragmites* efforts from Jason Granberg (DNR) and purple loosestrife efforts in Washington County from Bradley Steckart (Washington Co. Land & Water Conservation Div.)

May 5th **Citizen Science and Volunteer Opportunities:** Learn about impacts of citizen scientists from Alycia Crall (National Ecological Observatory Network), as well as volunteer opportunities from Art Wagner (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), Amanda Perdsock (River Alliance of Wisconsin), and Niels Jorgensen (UW-Madison).

Mar 21 **Evenings with Audubon - Ecology and Conservation of Wisconsin's Reptiles and Amphibians:** 7:00-8:30 pm. Madison Audubon Society, Capital Lakes, WI. Wisconsin is home to over 55 species. Learn about their fascinating life histories and importance to healthy ecosystems, Free/open to public.
<http://madisonaudubon.org/events/2017/3/21/evenings-with-audubon-ecology-and-conservation-of-wisconsins-reptiles-and-amphibians>

Mar 22 **Effective Communication Strategies and Working Towards Behavior Change:** First Watershed Network Gathering of the year. Free event and open to public. Find out more: (<https://olw-lwrd.countyofdane.com/Event/Home/Detail/90>) [RSVP here](#).

Mar 25 **Build a Rain Garden:** 9:00-11:00 am. Dane Co. Land and Water Resources Dept., Madison WI. Cost: \$10. Workshop by Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership to help participants learn how installing a rain garden can help protect our lakes, rivers and streams and add beauty to their property! Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/plant-dane-advanced-rain-garden-workshop-tickets-31644908774>.

Mar 28 **Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association 21st 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

Apr 1 **Eye on Invasives:** 10:00 -11:00 am. [Horicon Marsh Education Center](http://www.horiconmarsh.org). Garlic mustard, buckthorn, wild parsnip, dame's rocket oh my! What are these alien invaders and how can you help them from spreading?

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>

Consultants' Day 2017:

Apr 12 Stevens Point Holiday Inn Convention Center, WI

Apr 20 Country Springs Conference Center, Pewaukee, WI

[Registration](#) Open. Space limited at both events. Environmental consultants, developers, local government officials and anyone interested in more technical aspects of contaminated land cleanup are encouraged to attend. Questions: [Mick Skwarok](mailto:MickSkwarok@uwsp.edu) 608-266-9263. <http://www.uwsp.edu/conted/ConfWrkShp/Pages/Consultants%27-Day-2015.aspx>

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/>

May 20 **4th Annual Wildflowers for Wildlife:** 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center (Hwy. Z). A native plant sale includes displays and consultants. Native landscape demonstration tours between 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Native plants are available for pre-order until April 14. Forms and info: www.horiconmarsh.org or 920-387-7893.

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

June 22-24 **Building a Land Ethic:** Aldo Leopold Foundation, Baraboo, WI. Watch for further announcements.

<http://www.aldoleopold.org/home.shtml> <https://www.aldoleopold.org/post/conference-to-explore-urban-rural-divide/>

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](http://www.usda.gov/nrcs) 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

"Fish Hotel" - A new Children's book by Lynn Markham explains how trees left to fall naturally into the water provide fish habitat for years to come. Bonus: Each copy will include a [poster](#) that gives a quick review of why we should leave trees in the water after they fall (while supplies last.)

“What Makes a Lake?” <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/nature/habitat/makelake.htm>

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 16-18 **“Going for Gold” WSST (Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers) Conference:** Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc, WI. Join the 2017 conference and participate in more than 60 sessions (free), extended workshops, field trips, special events, and socials. <http://www.wsst.org/conferences>

Apr 22 **Celebration of Excellence in Environmental Education:** Lussier Family Heritage Center, Madison, WI. Event will include tapas-style dinner, a silent auction, and a recognition ceremony. Event proceeds will support future environmental awards and education programs.

Apr 22 **Library STEM: Biology of Rose Lake:** 10:00-11:00 am. Dorothy Carnes Shelter, Ft. Atkinson, WI. The Friends of Rose Lake will introduce students to water, plant, and animal ecosystems of this special Jefferson Cty. Park. A special prize is offered to Ft. Atkinson Regional Science Fair participants who work on a project related to biology. 920-563-7774.

Publications

“Stream Monitoring News, Water Action Volunteers” – January 2017
<http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/monitoring/news.htm>

2016 Annual Wisconsin Report (*Jan 2017, 5MB pdf*)
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/newsroom/factsheets/>

Wisconsin amphibian and reptile field guides: Bring these little field guides on your next outdoor adventure to identify any frog, snake or turtle you may see along the way. All proceeds from sales of these field guides goes to reprinting them and to educational materials. [Order your field guides today](#)

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

Websites

Make Sure You Are Prepared for EAB: Recently, Iowa DNR conducted a survey of its community foresters to understand preparedness for ash mortality from EAB in their communities. No communities surveyed contain private land owners that were prepared for the increased ash mortality. [View the survey](#) to see other results and barriers to EAB preparedness.

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>.

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/>

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.rivernet.org/get-involved/reduce-your-water-footprint/>

Employment Opportunities

Communications and Marketing Coordinator: Full-time staff position for the Aldo Leopold Foundation at their headquarters facility in Baraboo, Wisconsin. This is an entry-level position with growth potential within the organization.

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.vandehey@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).
