



# Rock River Reflections

A publication of the *Rock River COALITION* produced in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Extension Spring 2009 Volume 12, Number 2



## Send Your Legislator Down the River

Monday June 22, 2009

### Horicon International Education Center

Organized by the Rock River Coalition: Sponsored by UW-Extension, Department of Natural Resources

This year's outing will be in the Horicon Marsh, near the headwaters of the Rock River, in Dodge County. Participants can talk to their legislators and enjoy a picnic meal at the Horicon International Education Center/ DNR Horicon Service Center before enjoying a paddle through the marsh. Canoes, paddles and life jackets will be provided for participants who need them. Spaces for up to 14 people will be available in the DNR's two 25 foot-long Voyageur replica canoes. Participants are encouraged to bring their own canoes or kayaks if convenient.

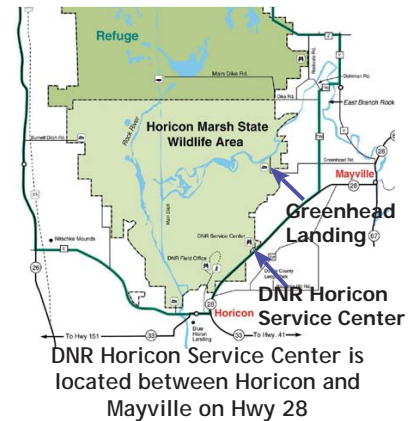
**Rock River Coalition T-Shirts available for \$15 if ordered in advance or \$17 at the door.**

**Cost:** \$17.50 for non-members, \$12.50 for RRC members. \$9 for youth (6-18). \$5 Children five or under. Plus canoe rental fee of \$5/person. You're encouraged to bring your own canoe or kayak. Late fee \$5 after June 15. Sorry, we cannot guarantee meals for walk-in registrants.

#### Agenda

- 4:00 - 6:00pm Registration
- 4:00 - 5:30pm Picnic meal served
- 4:45 - 5:30pm Welcome and River Town Hall Meeting: a chance to talk to your elected officials and legislators.
- 6:00 - 8:00pm Enjoy a canoe paddle start and returning to Greenhead Landing, about 2 miles west of Mayville. The base route into the marsh to Fourmile Island and back is about 5 miles long and is expected to take about two hours. Longer routes of 6 and 7 miles in length are available for experienced paddlers using their own equipment. Information on the canoe route is available at [http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/wildlife\\_areas/horicon/maps/canoemap.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/wildlife_areas/horicon/maps/canoemap.pdf)

**Picnic Dinner:** Locally produced brats and hot dogs plus veggie dogs, salads, fruit, raw veggies, cheese & crackers, deserts and beverage. Beverages will also be provided for the paddle.



**Register by filling in and returning the form on page 7 or at [www.rockrivercoalition.org](http://www.rockrivercoalition.org) with payment via PayPal.**

Return Service Requested

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864 Collins Rd  
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Rock River COALITION  
In cooperation with  
Jefferson County  
UW-Extension

# President's Message

Dear Rock River Coalition Friends and Members,

Transition time - I'm putting away my skis, and dreaming about a really good veggie garden. I really should touch up the varnish on my favorite paddle, but there is still ice on the lake - procrastination. Our new grandson is starting to give us big smiles, and this summer he can tickle his toes in a Wisconsin lake for the first time - now that's something to celebrate!

The Rock River Coalition is in transition too, as some major successful projects are growing up and leaving our nest, and other opportunities are in the works or maybe just around the corner.

- The Groundwater model (GFLOW) is ready for prime time - a tool for communities to evaluate the impacts of new high capacity wells on local surface and groundwater
- A stormwater education specialist has been hired to coordinate the efforts of communities in the basin. It's a great thing to see our ideas and team-building efforts take root and be ready to grow on their own.

In the works:

- The Rock River Basin TMDL - a model of our entire watershed for sediment and phosphorus sources to the rivers, marshes, and lakes. This can be used to target the most effective cleanup locations, and make the smartest use of local and state efforts to make our waters cleaner. We will be looking for ways to make this information an effective tool for cleaner water.
- The Water Star Program promises to inspire and reward communities who take extraordinarily good care of their local

waters - lots more to do, but we are getting closer to seeing this program in action.

- Citizens monitoring the changes in our lakes, rivers, and the Zeloski Marsh continue to be a vital force for clean water, letting us know how all these efforts are working, and giving us a chance to see the long-term trends in water quality as our basin's land use changes.

Because we are a Coalition, we don't do all this ourselves, but to serve as a key catalyst to bring communities, organizations and individuals together to accomplish what none of us can do alone.

## You are invited to join us and get involved

- Come celebrate the year's efforts - share good stories, food and drink at our annual meeting at the historic 1855 Saloon and Grill in Cottage Grove - May 19th.
- Learn frog calls, and count birds at the wonderful Zeloski Marsh - spring is a busy time in this recovering wetland.
- Come paddling - Explore the Horicon Marsh, the new visitor center there, and meet and greet the brave legislators who will join us. - June 22nd



Come learn how to monitor a river - a one day water quality 'Snapshot' event is being planned for June 13 - details on page 5.

If you live, work and play in the Rock River Basin, you are most welcome to join us!!

*Lisa Conley, RRC President*

## Eat those Invasives!!

### Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) Pesto

1/2 Cup Olive Oil  
1 Cup Pine Nuts or Walnuts  
1/2 Cup finely grated Parmesan Cheese  
Enough Garlic Mustard leaves to choke a horse (or to clear a forest floor)

Finely mince the walnuts and garlic mustard. An electric coffee grinder works like a charm.

Add Oil and Cheese, serve with pasta or rice or other whole grain. For vegan pesto use Nutritional Yeast instead of Cheese.

Harvesting Garlic Mustard: Take out the entire plant including the roots early in the season before it has a chance to flower. Young first leaves are best for pesto (and for salads or as a steamed green). Use only the leaves for this recipe. Remove the roots from the area you are clearing as they will re-establish themselves if left in a pile on the ground. If you pull up garlic mustard after it has flowered do not leave it on the ground - destroy it, or bag it as it will develop the seed head even after it is pulled from the ground. If you bag it, clearly write "Garlic Mustard" on the bag or on tape and put out for your rubbish collection. Only invasive species can be landfilled. More recipes at: <http://www.ma-eppc.org/weedrecipes.html>. More information on garlic mustard at: [www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives).



## 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"*

### PRESIDENT:

Lisa Conley

### DIRECTORS:

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Tim Reel, Secretary  
Jan Ruster, Treasurer  
Joe Dorava, Past President  
Bill Biesmann  
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Tracey Novak  
Scott Taylor  
Suzanne Wade

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**Photo credits:** Joleen Henneman, Ed Grunden, Carolyn Johnson, Bob Queen, Michael Forster Rothbart, Jeffrey Strobel, Suzanne Wade

*RRC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, providing equal opportunity in employment & programming.*

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



## Looking for a Speaker?

RRC board members or staff, DNR staff or UW-Extension Educator Suzanne Wade can speak to your group on a number of topics that are listed below.

If interested, contact Suzanne Wade with your contact info, organization and requested dates. She will contact speakers make arrangements the program. These are adult focussed programs and only very limited school or youth group programs will be able to be scheduled at this time.

**The Rock River Coalition: Partnerships Make Things Happen:** Learn the story of the Rock River Coalition from a small group focussed on the main stem of the Rock to a major basin-wide partnership effort and what we are up to now.

**Groundwater Issues in the Rock River Basin:** A focus on groundwater issues and our efforts to develop a computer groundwater flow (GFLOW) basin model and how it can be used.

**Rain Gardens-Making a Beautiful Difference:** Several programs available from why they're important, to how to build a rain garden. Rain barrel information can be added.

**Citizen Stream and Wetland Monitoring:** The focus can be on the program itself: what it is and why it is important, or it can focus on how to monitor with specific training on the protocols.

**Water Quality in the Rock River Basin: How Can We Make a Difference:** Sediment, nutrients and habitat destruction are the three biggest problems we have in the Rock, learn why these are a problem and what each of us can do about it.

## Wetland Monitors Needed

Contact Ed Grunden at [ed@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:ed@rockrivercoalition.org) or 920-243-9673 if interested in helping monitor any of the following at Zeloski Marsh:

Migrating Birds, Shoreland Birds, Duck Nests, Spring Frogs, Dragonflies and Damselflies or Butterflies.



-photo by Jeffrey Strobel

## Looking for a Service Project?

The Jefferson County Rain Garden needs some TLC. We are looking for someone who can come once a week and help with weeding, mulching babying new plants, and completely redoing the berm on the east end. Call Suzanne if you would like to help. 920-674-8972.

## Federal Stimulus:

### What's in it for the Rock River Basin?

by Scott Taylor, RRC Board and Taylor Conservation

Signed into law February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – a.k.a. the stimulus bill – will infuse billions into state and local governments. How much will fund water quality-related infrastructure and improvements? Compared to the amounts dedicated to tax cuts and transportation, very little. Nonetheless, the Rock River and its tributaries stand to benefit from stimulus-funded investments in stream-side wetland restoration, wastewater treatment and improved stormwater management.

Details are scarce at this stage, but a brief survey of on-line sources and government officials uncovered 4 important areas of water quality-related stimulus money available in our basin (**note:** this list may not be exhaustive):

- (1) A Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) **floodplain easement purchase program** (roughly 30 million per state)
- (2) Fish & Wildlife Service spending for agency properties, some of which can be used for **wetland and riparian habitat improvements** (280 million nationwide)
- (3) EPA spending for **water quality planning** (400 thousand for Wisconsin)
- (4) **Clean Water State Revolving Fund** money (106 million for Wisconsin)

Part of the "Emergency Watershed Protection" program, NRCS floodplain easements are for lands with recent histories of flooding. Easements convey the right to return stream-side lands to their original wet conditions by reconnecting them to annual or semi-annual flood waters. The agency worksheet used to rank potential properties suggests it is seeking large, flood-prone acreages of cropland adjoining existing protected lands. The sign-up period for the program is scheduled to end April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Planned wetland and riparian habitat improvements on U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service properties could benefit parts of more than 20,000 acres in the Horicon National Wildlife refuge, and thousands more acres in "Wildlife Production Areas" scattered around the basin. Although this was not confirmed with agency staff, stimulus money could improve wildlife habitat in these settings by funding such tasks as brush management, invasive plant control or water level manipulation.

By far the largest chunk of water quality-related federal stimulus money is for the Clean Water Fund. Traditionally, this money is used to make low-interest loans to municipalities for wastewater treatment infrastructure. DNR officials stated projects worth many times the amount available have already been proposed. However, there is a clause in the stimulus bill that requires 20%

be spent on "green infrastructure" projects. This refers to non-traditional stormwater systems that rely on natural, or restored, vegetation to absorb, treat and infiltrate water – for example rain gardens, retention basins with marshy margins or even cropped floodplains converted to wetlands.

According to sources both in the DNR and in non-governmental organizations, few potential Clean Water Fund projects that are ready to begin immediately also meet the definition of green infrastructure outlined above. However many involve energy efficiency improvements to wastewater plants – which may satisfy federal requirements if states cannot find enough green projects to fund. Encouragement from citizens and NGO's, in addition to willingness by DNR to seek out and fund creative "green" stormwater projects, may be needed to take advantage of federal money set aside for green infrastructure.

Since the stimulus bill was intended to cure a deep recession, timelines for project proposal submission and approval are short. As mentioned, floodplain easement applications are due before the middle of April. Moreover, states can shift money for green infrastructure projects over to conventional ones if they don't have enough green proposals to fulfill the 20% mandate by June 17<sup>th</sup>. Groups and citizens who want to put this money to work for our waters must act soon.

For more information:

**Wisconsin Office of Recovery & Reinvestment**

<http://www.recovery.wi.gov/>

**Association of State Wetland Managers**

<http://www.aswm.org/fwp/stimulus/index.htm>

**Wisconsin Wetlands Association**

<http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/stimulus.htm>



*Green Infrastructure, just like our public infrastructure, performs important tasks for everyone. Here a riverside park in West Bend protects water quality, provides cooling to the river as well as habitat. Additionally, recreational trails run through it. A perfect place for a family to enjoy a hike or fish for the big small mouths that linger in the deep holes.*

-photo by Carolyn Johnson



Koshkonong Creek stretches from Sun Prairie down to Lake Koshkonong and eastward almost to Rock Lake. It's a fairly flat watershed that was known historically for its prairies and marshes. Today this watershed is primarily agricultural but with many growing communities including Sun Prairie, Cottage Grove, Cambridge, Deerfield, and Rockdale.

photos by Joleen Henneman

## Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# of People Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\$5/person, \$10/couple, \$15/family  
(no charge for RRC or FCRP members )

- Member of the RRC
- Member of the Friends of Cam-Rock Park
- Will join RRC or Friends of Cam-Rock at event (enter zero below)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Rock River Coalition

### Field Trip Choice:

- Biking in Cam-Rock Park
  - Bring own bike(s)
  - Plan to use bike(s) provided
  - Plan to use golf cart
- Birding in Zeloski Marsh
- Lake Koshkonong Flood Plain Forest
- Cambridge/Oakland Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Raingarden and Shoreline Restoration

Mail this form by April 20 to:

Joleen Henneman  
UW - Extension Rock River Basin  
864 Collins Rd. Jefferson, WI 53549

Call or email this info to:

920-674-7442  
joleen.henneman@ces.uwex.edu

# Discovering the Koshkonong Creek - An Unknown Treasure

Sunday, April 26, 2009

1:00 - 6:00 pm

**Amundson Community Center  
200 Spring St., Cambridge, WI**

\$5/person, \$10/couple, \$15/family

Free for members of the Rock River Coalition and the Friends of Cam-Rock Park

Pre-registration encouraged by Monday April 20, drop-ins are welcome as space allows

## Schedule of Events

### 1:00 pm: Amundson Community Center

Presentations about the creek's history, ecology and emerging watershed issues by natural resource professionals from the DNR, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Wetland Association, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and a long time resident.

Talk to area organizations including Jefferson Co. Parks & DNR regarding the Glacial Heritage Area, Lake Koshkonong Wetland Association & Wisconsin Wetland Association, Rock River Coalition, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Friends of Cam-Rock Park, Madison Audubon Society, Jefferson Co. Bike Club, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Sustain Dane.

Stream Monitoring Demonstration by the Friends of Cam-Rock Park.

### 3:00 pm: Field Trips (leaving from Amundson Center)

#### Biking in Cam-Rock Park

Explore natural features along the creek including a large spring, beaver pond and a panoramic view of the restored creek.

Limited number of bikes available. Limited space in golf carts available for those unable to use bikes. Bike helmets required.

#### Birding in Zeloski Marsh

Tour this 1900 acre restoration to see prairies, sedge meadows and marsh.

Discover many migrating birds including waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds and songbirds. Bring binoculars if you have them and wear clothing that will protect you from the wind.

#### Lake Koshkonong Flood Plain Forest

View this rare habitat where the creek flows into Lake Koshkonong, discover the beauty and value it has as a habitat for endangered species, and discuss the threats of frequent flooding and high lake levels.

Wear appropriate footwear.

#### Cambridge/Oakland Wastewater Treatment Plant

Visit the new treatment plant and learn what happens to water once it goes down the drain.

#### Raingarden and Shoreline Restoration

View several raingardens and shoreline restoration sites in the area.

### 5:00 pm: Celebration at Cam-Rock Shelter #1

Dinner and beverages will be served, donated by Friends of Cam-Rock Park, Heather's Bar & Grill in Rockdale and Subway in Cambridge.

Door prizes drawn, including a donated framed picture from Koshkonong Galleries in Cambridge, donated gift certificates from Chris' Curve Cafe in Cambridge, Dane Co. park passes, Jefferson Co. dog park passes, Friends of Cam-Rock Park tee-shirts, and many more!

  
Cooperative Extension





# Rain Garden Workshops

## Session 1: *Rain Gardens: A Beautiful Solution to Water Pollution*

### "Diggin' into Rain Gardens: Why are they important?"

Suzanne Wade, UW-Extension Rock River Basin Educator

### "How to Build a Rain Garden"

Matt Hanson, UW-Extension Dodge County Crops & Soils Educator

Tuesday, April 21 2009

6:30-8:30 PM

Fox Lake Town Hall  
W10543 County F  
Fox Lake

Thursday, April 30 2009

6:30-8:30 PM

IAM LODGE 873 -  
Glausen Bowling Green Park  
258 Barstow, Horicon

Registration begins at 6:00 at both locations.  
At Horicon come early and visit the rain garden.

## Session 2: *Make it Beautiful: Designing the Garden & Selecting Plants*

Lisa Reas of LJ Reas Consulting

**Saturday May 9 Fox Lake** (address above) session starts at 9 AM with plant sale from 11 AM to Noon Plant Sale open to all.

**Saturday May 16 Horicon** (address above) session starts at 9 AM with plant sale from 11 AM to Noon Plant Sale open to all.

Session 2 can only be attended by those who attended Session 1 last fall or April of this year. Session 2 attendees receive special pricing on plants.

**Pre-registration appreciated:** Call Matt Hanson at the UWEX Dodge County Office at 920-386-3790 or email [matt.hanson@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:matt.hanson@ces.uwex.edu)

These free workshops are brought to you by the Lake Sinissippi Improvement District, the Fox Lake Inland Lake Protection District, UW Cooperative Extension, and the Rock River Stormwater Group.

## Volunteer Stream Monitoring — Fun for all Ages!

*A story from Waukesha's Volunteer Stream Coordinator, Jayne Jenks:*

The room at Retzer Nature Center held people of all ages—from 5 to 65—with one thing in common. These people were all volunteer stream monitors enjoying a volunteer appreciation evening. During the past year, they had visited their stream site once a month to collect data like dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature, flow and an index of the living creatures collected in a net.

Though they all monitored different streams, they enjoyed sharing their experiences—from flood waters to drought. Some had just completed their first year of monitoring, while others have monitored for several years. But they all agreed that stream monitoring was worth the effort. Kathy Bridge, a long time monitor on Scuppernong Creek said, "It's a good family activity that uses my kids science lessons in a real application and encourages their respect for nature and their responsibility to protect it." Her sons Ben and Matt enjoy looking for the critters that live in their stream. "Sometimes you find small fish; that's the best part!" exclaims Ben.

You don't have to be young to enjoy monitoring. Clarence Gerbig, a retired monitor, enjoys the camaraderie with his partner as they collect data in the headwaters of the Pewaukee River. Gerbig says, "Monitoring has been a wonderful experience, very interesting and enjoyable."

## Rock River Basin Snapshot Day - Saturday June 13, 2009

What can you learn from taking a 'Snap Shot' of water quality in the Basin? Actually quite a lot. So the Rock River Coalition is piloting a new method of monitoring stream water quality. Many people are needed and anyone can help, whether you have monitoring experience or not. If you want to help collect water quality information, but only want to get your toe wet before 'jumping in' then this new program is for you. It only takes a commitment of a training day and the Saturday Snapshot Day where you will work with a veteran monitor.

This first annual Rock River Basin Snapshot Day will be held Saturday June 13th from 8am to 2pm. A snapshot day is a day when volunteer monitors from all parts of the basin take monitoring samples of the water conditions of a riverway, near their home, using the WAV monitoring protocol. If you're interested in joining the Rock River Coalition's Snapshot Day, or if you are a veteran monitor and want to help, contact Ed Grunden, RRC Volunteer Monitoring Director at [ed@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:ed@rockrivercoalition.org) or by calling 920-243-9673.

A report will be produced that offers a glimpse of water quality in the Basin based on the citizen monitors' findings. It will be shared with local officials, DNR biologists, and citizens.

The following training days are for both those who want to be a snapshot monitor or a regular monitor.

### Volunteer Monitoring Training Days: (times vary)

May 2nd Waukesha area: contact Jayne Jenks at [jjenks@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:jjenks@waukeshacounty.gov) or 262-896-8305

May 9th Lodi area: contact Pete Jopke at [jopke@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:jopke@co.dane.wi.us) or 608-224-3733

May 16th Madison/Cross Plains area: contact Pete Jopke at [jopke@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:jopke@co.dane.wi.us) or 608-224-3733

May 23rd Janesville/Edgerton area: contact Anne Miller at [amiller@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:amiller@co.rock.wi.us) or 608-754-6617

May 30th Horicon/ Watertown area: Contact Ed Grunden [ed@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:ed@rockrivercoalition.org) or 920-243-9673



*Veteran monitors helping new monitors is what the Snap Shot Day is all about. Here Friends of Cam-Rock Park help each other monitor the Koshkonong Creek near Rockdale, where they have been watching the creek restore itself since the dam was removed in 2000.*

*Rock River  
Coalition*

## Still Time to Nominate a River Protector!

The deadline for Award nominations has been extended to April 26. Categories: Individual, Educator, Organization, Legislator and Business.

Just send information on the nominee, including name, and other contact information plus a short, less than two page description of accomplishments to: RRC Awards Committee, 864 Collins Road, Jefferson WI 53549 or email [rriver@excel.net](mailto:rriver@excel.net).

## Lawn Phosphorus Fertilizer Bill Passes!

The bills prohibiting excess application of fertilizer on lawns passed unanimously in both houses of the legislature! These bills SB 5 and AB 3 are now waiting for the signature of the governor.

Recreation has been impacted and fisheries damaged in our Rock River Basin because of high phosphorus runoff. This law will help reduce the excessive use of phosphorus fertilizer in urban areas, and around lakes, that is degrading our lakes and streams by feeding nuisance algae blooms.

This law will keep more phosphorus from being spread where soils are already overloaded. The grass will still be green, and hopefully our waters will be bluer as the result of this legislation.

The Rock River Coalition has worked to see this legislation enacted. It is one more important step in bringing back good water quality throughout the basin.



## WANTED Photographer

The Rock River Coalition needs someone who will take digital photos at our events and projects including stream and wetland monitoring, monitoring snap shot day, Koshkonong Creek event, annual meeting, Send Your Legislator Down the River, rain gardens and shoreline projects. We could also use general pictures of the basin to use in newsletters and presentations. If interested contact Suzanne at 920-674-8972 or [suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu)

# 10 Easy Steps Towards a More Sustainable Yard and Cleaner Lakes and Rivers

One of the best things you can do for your own health, the health of children and pets, and for clean streams and lakes is to adopt a couple of these easy practices.

1. **Relax!** Learn to appreciate a little diversity in your lawn. Two or three dandelions doesn't mean you are destined for a golden carpet. Many landscapers encourage some diversity of ground cover, including clover and wood violets, because they add nitrogen, color and can provide better ground cover in areas where it's tough to grow grass.
2. **Fertilize after Memorial Day.** Most people apply more fertilizer than they need, and they tend to fertilize their lawns earlier than needed. Resolve this year to have a soil fertility test done to see what nutrients your lawn really needs. The test results will tell you the proper amounts of phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium to use. Every UW-Extension County Office has bags and instructions for testing your soil. Some will send in your samples, while others have you send it in yourself. The cost is typically \$15 per sample for lawns and gardens.  
  
Many people fertilize earlier than necessary in the spring. If you wait until around the end of May, beginning of June, your fertilizer will be more effective for your plants and less likely to runoff. It's too late for this year, but the very best time to fertilize to get good root growth and a stronger lawn is in late fall (after Halloween when the air temperature is below 50 degrees). If you feel your lawn needs another application, the third best time is in late August.
3. **Use a no-phosphorus fertilizer.** If you didn't do a soil test, then look for low or no-phosphorus fertilizer. Phosphorus in stormwater runoff is the cause of too much weed growth and algae in our rivers and lakes. Most of the soils in the Rock River Basin are naturally high in phosphorus. You only need 20 ppm phosphorus in your soil for lawn growth with anything over 50 ppm being excessively high. Many lawns test out at over 200ppm! (Will likely be state law soon!)
4. **Spot treat.** Stressed areas and bare patches invite weeds. If you have only a sprinkling of weeds, just spray the problem area with the appropriate herbicide. Then concentrate on aerating and reseeding them for an overall healthier lawn. There's a whole world of cool lawn tools to assist you in removing weeds by hand.
5. **Read the label.** Some products contain both chemical fertilizers and herbicides. Be sure you know what you are applying by reading the label. Don't apply pesticides unless absolutely necessary. Read grass seed labels – is it the right seed type for your soil and sun conditions?
6. **Mow high & water deep.** Set your mower to 3 inches. Long grass blades stay much stronger, prevent weeds from sprouting, shade the roots and prevent drying of soil, and encourage longer, healthier roots. Mow regularly and keep cutting blades sharp. To insure a sharp cut, prevent clumps and lessen the chance of disease, don't mow wet grass.
7. **Grass-cycle.** Leave clippings on the lawn as mulch. This reduces the need for nitrogen by 30 percent allowing you to reduce your fertilizer spreading by one application a year. In wet periods, or when grass is very long, compost the clippings or use as a mulch instead. If pesticides were used on the lawn during the growing season, do not use the clippings to mulch vegetable gardens.
8. **Ask your landscaper about IPM.** Many forward-looking lawn care companies are offering low-chemical alternatives, like IPM (Integrated Pest Management), which is a well-known approach for working with nature to reduce the impacts of insects and weeds. However IPM means you need to accept a few weeds and a few pests, only using poisons (herbicides and pesticides) when the pest becomes a problem. Talk to your landscaper and ask them what they do to reduce pesticide use.
9. **Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash.** When you wash your car on the driveway, all that soap, dirt, and automobile chemicals wash down into the street, into a storm drain and directly into a river or lake. By washing it on your yard the nutrients can be used by plants and the chemicals are bound up by the soil. If this isn't practical, support a local business that is connected to the city sanitary sewer system, then your dirty water will be treated properly. Do not wash your car on the lawn if you have very sandy soil where the pollutants could leach down into the groundwater.
10. **Move your down spout to the lawn.** One of the RRC goals is to work to infiltrate as much rain water as possible instead of letting it runoff into streams and rivers. For every square foot of roof about 15 gallons of water runs off each year. You can help reduce how quickly water flows to our lakes and rivers by routing your downspouts to your yard, if they don't already do so. Just think of it, a simple 2,000 square foot ranch could infiltrate up to 30,000 gallons each year. Of course some of it may still runoff, so consider installing a rain barrel to capture and use some of the water or build a rain garden for each downspout to capture it all.

If you'd like to know more about things you can do around your yard and home go  to the Rock River Stormwater Group page at <http://www.rockrivercoalition.org/RRB/RRSG.asp>

## Send Your Legislator Down the River - 2009 Registration Form

Please make checks payable to the Rock River Coalition.

Send signed forms and payment, along with membership form if desired to:  
 Rock River Coalition, ATTN SYLDR, 864 Collins Road, Jefferson WI 53549. Registration can also be done  
 on-line at <http://www.rockrivercoalition.org> with payment through PayPal.  
 For questions call Marie at 920-674-7297 or email [marier@co.jefferson.wi.us](mailto:marier@co.jefferson.wi.us)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

# adults attending RRC Member \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # adults attending not an RRC Member \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # attending age 6-18 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 9.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # attending age 5 or under \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # needing space in a canoe, Voyageur or boat \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (includes paddle and PFD, no canoe charge for youth not paddling or children 5 and under)  
 Late registration fee (after June 15) \$ 5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 RRC membership (category \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of T-shirts (many sizes and colors available) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I would like a vegetarian dinner  
 \_\_\_\_ I will only be at the Roundtable & dinner  
 \_\_\_\_ I/We have a canoe/kayak which we will use,  
 \_\_\_\_ I do not have a canoe, please provide space in one for me.  
 partner name (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ I would like a spot in the Voyager Canoe (if available)  
 \_\_\_\_ I would like a spot in the motor boat (if available)

I am an elected official representing \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of the "Sponsors" (as defined below) accepting this registration, I, the under-  
 signed entrant, intending to be legally bound, do hereby agree not to sue and hereby waive and  
 release all sponsors, governmental bodies, organizations, officials, elected officials and individ-  
 uals associated with the 'Send Your Legislator Down the River' canoe and motor boat event (the  
 "Event") and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, heirs, personal represen-  
 tatives, successors and assigns from any and all claims, actions, damages or injuries suffered or  
 incurred by me or which arise out of my participation in the Event, unless caused by the willful  
 misconduct of any of the Sponsors. I hereby agree to the use of my voice or picture or any  
 other record of the Event for any purpose whatsoever. This release applies to and binds the  
 undersigned entrant, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns and is for  
 the benefit of all of the Sponsors. This registration is invalid unless signed by the entrant. If  
 entrant is under 18 years of age, the parent or legal guardian of the entrant must also sign the  
 form.

Participant 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Signature (under 18): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Name/Guardian (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Participant 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Signature (under 18): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Name/Guardian (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

One hold harmless clause must be signed for each person attending.  
 Extra forms will be available at the event.

## Become a RRC Member

*In addition to supporting RRC work, members receive newsletters, notices of forums, conferences, and special events. To become a member, complete the following:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Any donation of \$100 or more will be recognized and linked to your website from our website:  
[www.rockrivercoalition.org](http://www.rockrivercoalition.org)

Donors of \$500 or greater will receive an ad in this newsletter. Check the website above for more information.

Tax deductible donation	
Amount	Purpose
	General Support
	Citizen Monitoring
	Rain Gardens
	Other:

Donations are greatly appreciated and can be targeted towards specific projects.

Please mail this completed form with check to:

**Rock River Coalition**  
 823 Lucas Lane  
 Jefferson, WI 53549 -1182

or register and pay online with PayPal at:  
[www.rockrivercoalition.org/membership.asp](http://www.rockrivercoalition.org/membership.asp)

# RRC Annual Meeting and Board Election

May 19 5:00 - 8:00pm

1855 Saloon and Grill, Cottage Grove

5:00 Complimentary Appetizers

5:30 Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members

6:00 Presentation of RRC Protector and Friend Awards

Special Recognition of our Citizen Monitors

Followed by dinner and camaraderie

All RRC members are encouraged to attend, enjoy and meet with others involved in RRC activities. The public is also welcome to attend! The event is free; however, meals are the responsibility of the participant.

Please send RSVP to Tim Reel by May 15 at [treel@ci.whitewater.wi.us](mailto:treel@ci.whitewater.wi.us) or 262-473-5920. Hope to see you there!

Deadline for nominations for Protector Awards has been extended to April 26. Nominate your favorite River Protector today! More information on page 6. Look for announcement of winners in early May.

## Board of Directors Openings

Tim Reel, Whitewater Waste Water Treatment Plant Supervisor and Tracy Novak, will be retiring from the board this year. Ken Wiesner will be taking a one year opening. So we will vote on three new board members at the May 19 Annual Meeting. If you are interested in being nominated contact RRC President Lisa Conley at 262-567-5947.

## Send Your Legislator Down the River June 22, 2009

### Paddle into the Horicon Marsh

Join us for our annual canoe outing and meet your local legislators! This year's outing will be in the Horicon Marsh, near the headwaters of the Rock River, in Dodge County. A picnic meal will be served at the Horicon International Education Center/ DNR Horicon Service Center, 2 miles North of Horicon on Hwy. 28, from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to talk with local legislators during a roundtable session from 4:45 - 5:30. Put this fun and interesting event on your calendar now, and register soon. Contact us if you have any questions or need additional information. More information on page 1, registration form on page 7.



Photo by Ed Grunden

## RRSG Construction Site Erosion BMP Workshops

Sponsored by the Rock River Stormwater Group



Wednesday April 22

Watertown Municipal Building  
Room 2032  
106 Jones Street, Watertown

Thursday April 23

Milton Municipal Building  
City Council Chambers  
430 E High Street, Milton

### AGENDA

- 7:30 - 8:00 Registration & Refreshments
- 8:00 - 9:00 Regulations & Local Ordinances: DNR and Rock River Stormwater Group
- 9:00 - 10:00 Standards and Techniques: Steve Wurster, Ruekert & Mielke Inc
- 10:15 - 11:00 Common Construction Problems and Solutions: Laura Bub, DNR
- 11:00 to 11:45 Questions and Answers: All Presenters in Panel Discussion

Preregistration requested as seating is limited, go to <http://www.rockrivercoalition.org/RRB/RRSG.asp> for brochure with full information and registration form. For questions call: 262-473-0540.

## Calendar of Events

### Knotweed Party on the Badfish!

April 18 (April 19 rindate) 10am to 2pm, Lynne Diebel  
[lsdiebel@gmail.com](mailto:lsdiebel@gmail.com) or 608.873.7910

### Koshkonong Creek: An Undiscovered

Treasure Sunday April 26 1:00 - 6:00pm (see page 4)

### RRC Board Meeting

April 27, 2009 4:00 - 6:30pm, UWEX Jefferson County,  
864 Collins Rd, Jefferson

### Groundwater Issue Team Meeting

Wednesday April 29, 9:00 - Noon, RM 411 DATCP

### Planning the Rock Issue Team Meeting

Thursday May 7, 2009, 9:00 - 11:00am, UWEX Jefferson  
County Office

### RRC Annual Meeting

Tuesday May 19, 2009  
1855 Saloon and Grill, Cottage Grove, 5:00 - 8:00pm

### Send Your Legislator Down the River

Monday June 22, 5:00 - 8:00pm (see article page 1)

### Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the summer newsletter is July 1, 2009.

To submit contact [suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu).

A letter-sized, full color version of this newsletter is available at [www.rockrivercoalition.org](http://www.rockrivercoalition.org).

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



### Look Inside to Find Articles on:

- Send Your Legislator Down the River Pg 1
- President's Message: Come Join us Pg 2
- Eat Those Invasives - Garlic Mustard Pesto Pg 2
- Looking for a Speaker or Service Project? Pg 3
- Federal Stimulus, What's in it for the Rock? Pg 3
- Koshkonong Creek: An Undiscovered Treasure Pg 4
- Rain Garden Workshops Pg 5
- Volunteer Monitoring Waukesha County Pg 5
- Volunteer Monitoring new "Snap Shot" Pg 5
- Lawn Phosphorus Fertilizer Bill Passes Pg 6
- Wetland Monitors & Photographer Needed Pg 6
- Awards Deadline Extended Pg 6
- 10 Easy Steps toward Sustainable Yard Care Pg 6
- Send Your Legislator Registration Form Pg 7
- RRC Membership Form Pg 7