



# Rock River Reflections

A publication of the *Rock River COALITION* produced in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Extension Winter 2008 Volume 11, Number 1

## Introducing Water Star

Imagine your mayor, stepping up on stage to accept an award for all the work your town has done to improve its water quality. The crowd cheers as the mayor makes a long-winded thank you: "And none of these changes would have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our citizens, our businesses, our city council, and Water Star."

The Water Star Community Program is a new project to reward communities for making environmental improvements in five areas: surface water, groundwater, habitat, land use and human health. In January 2008, the Rock River Coalition started the pilot project stage of Water Star, working with four other Wisconsin non-profits and the Department of Natural Resources.

The pilot project will proceed in two phases. During the coming months, five working groups will meet to discuss and finalize the elements included in the program. A steering committee will meet monthly to work out the program structure and logistics. Later in the spring of 2008, three communities in the Rock River watershed will test

out the program and identify ways to improve it. Eventually the RRC intends to introduce the program statewide.

The Rock River Coalition has hired Michael Forster Rothbart to coordinate this initial phase of the Water Star Community Program. Forster Rothbart comes to the program with a background in urban planning and river activism. He served for three years on the Madison Plan Commission and is a founding member of Friends of Starkweather Creek in Madison.

"There are so many ways we hurt our lakes and rivers without even realizing it," says Forster Rothbart. "I'm excited to be working on this program. Water Star will encourage communities to actively protect their water resources. I hope to get input from a lot of different people across the state to help make Water Star a success."

Volunteers are welcome to get involved. Currently the best way to help is to join a



Michael Forster Rothbart stands on a pedestrian bridge overlooking Starkweather Creek. For six years, Friends of Starkweather Creek has worked with neighborhood groups and the City of Madison to improve water quality and protect land beside the creek, which drains 24 square miles on the east side of Madison.

photo by mfrphoto.com

Water Star working group. See [www.wiswaterstar.blogspot.com](http://www.wiswaterstar.blogspot.com) for more information, or contact Michael Forster Rothbart at 608-881-4313 or [waterstar@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:waterstar@rockrivercoalition.org).

### Spring newsletter to focus on wetlands

Do you have research to share, or does your group have a story to tell about your work with wetlands? Consider writing an article for the spring newsletter. Due date is April 7, 2008, email [suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu) if you wish to be included.

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# Spruce Up the River with a Spring Clean-up

**National River Clean-up Week May 31 - June 8, 2008**

Each year the Rock River Coalition gets a number of calls from citizens interested in helping with a river clean-up. Due to the size of the basin, the Rock River Coalition can't plan local clean-ups but we can provide advice and advertise community clean-ups. On our website is a booklet that describes ten actions groups can take to help the basin, including one on river or lake clean-ups. It can be found at [www.rockrivercoalition.org](http://www.rockrivercoalition.org), then click on 'projects' on the side bar. For more information contact Suzanne Wade, UW-Extension Basin Educator for Natural Resources, 920-674-8972.

## How a River Clean-up Action Helps:

One reason to do a clean-up is that people care more about something when it looks appealing. Therefore, your work to clean up a public area can be rewarded both by the immediate improvement of an area, and by longer term care and support for the area. The litter, while generally being an aesthetic problem rather than a water quality problem, can still be harmful to aquatic life. For example: Crayfish have been known to climb into a soda can when small and after molting and getting bigger become trapped and can't get out! Animals can get trapped in fishing line and plastic beverage circles too.

## What You Do:

Just as the name implies, this is a day to get out and pick up all the trash and human-made debris in the accessible areas of a stream or lake front. Some clean-ups go as far as even having scuba divers.

Basically, all trash is removed from the designated area, the amount and type recorded and the final result publicized. Volunteers work in teams, each team with a designated leader. Volunteers should wear heavy gloves, thick pants, and sturdy shoes. Safety glasses may be needed if working in thick brush or when removing woody debris.

## Local Stream Clean-ups

**Johnson Creek:** a stream clean-up is being planned by the Johnson Creek Green Committee for Saturday April 19, as part of their annual Earth Day celebration. Other activities planned include nature path wood-chip refresher in Chapel Hill; and educational seminars on topics such as rain gardens, composting and other Earth-friendly topics. They welcome all of the RRC members, partners and volunteers to come on out and celebrate. Contact Andrea Breen at [andreaabreen@charter.net](mailto:andreaabreen@charter.net).

Send in your event information. We will include it in the next newsletter (Deadline April 7).

## Other Resources

Water Action Volunteers: <http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/clean> has instructions and free garbage bags. (limited number: first come-first served)

The River Alliance also tracks and publicizes stream clean-ups. They too have a guide to river clean-ups in the Watershed Advocate Toolbox:

[www.wisconsinrivers.org/documents/River%20Cleanups.pdf](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org/documents/River%20Cleanups.pdf).

## River or Lake Clean-up Action Checklist:

1. Get a complete set of instructions from the state Water Action Volunteer or River Alliance.
2. Ask around to see if anyone else is already planning a project that you could join.
3. Work with your city (usually park and/or highway departments) to get permission for the clean up. The city often makes a great partner for these events. In some cities, the local employee union must approve your doing any work that normally would be done by a paid employee.
4. Do a preliminary stream walk of potential areas using the WAV worksheet. Identify potential hazards.
5. Choose your clean-up stretch; keeping in mind the age and abilities of your group.
6. Arrange for garbage bags and gloves for all volunteers.
7. Make arrangements for garbage removal, first aid, and media coverage.
8. Have liability release forms for all participants.
9. Pick a date for the clean-up and advertise it.
10. Have a registration area with refreshments and displays.
11. Plan a volunteer thank you.
12. Measure how much junk you picked up.
13. Celebrate your success and thank your volunteers!
14. Send pictures and a report to WAV and to the RRC: we will highlight efforts in the summer newsletter!

Looking for financial help, consider applying for a Wisconsin Environmental Education Board mini-grant. (< \$1,000) Deadline Feb. 15, 2008.



## Mission

*"To educate and bring together people of diverse interests to protect and improve the economic, environmental, cultural, and recreational resources of the Rock River Basin in Wisconsin"*

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## Monitoring Director:

Ed Grunden, 920-648-2673, [ed@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:ed@rockrivercoalition.org)

## Wetland Restoration Monitoring Coordinator:

[wetlands@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:wetlands@rockrivercoalition.org)

## GFLOW Coordinator:

Vierbicher Associates, 608-524-6468

## Water Star Coordinator:

Michael Forster Rothbart, 608-662-0923  
[waterstar@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:waterstar@rockrivercoalition.org)

## Deputy Treasurer:

Jennifer Hanneman, 920-674-9380  
[jennifer@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:jennifer@rockrivercoalition.org)

**RRC Address:** (note-the Watertown PO Box is now closed)  
864 Collins Road  
Jefferson, WI 53549-1976

[rriver@excel.net](mailto:rriver@excel.net)  
[www.rockrivercoalition.org](http://www.rockrivercoalition.org)

## Newsletter Editor:

Suzanne Wade: [suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu)  
920-674-8972

**Photos:** Michael Forster Rothbart, Mark Klawitter, Drew Pennington, DNR file photo

*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.*



## GFLOW Computer Model Funding Goal Achieved:

Current sponsorships, pledged or received:  
**\$100,475**

This takes us a third of the way to our goal of having an additional \$10,000 for model updates and maintenance.

### RRC GFLOW Project Update

The United States Geological Survey met with GFLOW supporters on December 14, updating everyone on the progress to date and explaining both the uses and the limitations of the model.

They have provided their presentation along with script as a pdf on their website. You can access it at: <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/projects/gw/index.html#gww>

Then click on "Ground-Water Flow in the Rock River Basin: an update on project status". We will also have a link to the presentation from our website.

We appreciate all of you who came to the meeting and the new municipalities who have joined us in sponsoring the model. It was good seeing you at the meeting; feel free to contact me directly should you have a question about our GFLOW modeling effort: Joe Dorava 800-261-6468 or [jdor@vierbicher.com](mailto:jdor@vierbicher.com).

### GFLOW Sponsors, January 2008

#### COUNTIES

Dodge County  
Green Lake County  
Jefferson County  
Rock County

#### CITIES

City of Fitchburg  
City of Janesville  
City of Lake Mills  
City of Watertown  
City of Whitewater

#### VILLAGES

Village of Brandon  
Village of Johnson Creek  
Village of Hustisford  
Village of Marshall  
Village of Theresa

#### LAKES DISTRICTS/ASSOC. & NON-PROFITS

Fox Lake Inland Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District  
Friends of Horicon Marsh  
Lake Sinissippi Association  
Lake Sinissippi Improvement District  
Rock Lake Improvement Association Inc.  
Town and Country R, C & D  
Wisconsin Water Well Association  
plus several individuals and earlier municipal donations

#### TOWNSHIPS

Town of Aztalan  
Town of Beaver Dam  
Town of Clyman  
Town of Concord  
Town of Emmet  
Town of Jefferson  
Town of Lake Mills  
Town of Oakland  
Town of Portland  
Town of Shields  
Town of Sumner  
Town of Williamstown

#### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

US Fish & Wildlife Service  
US Geological Survey

#### CONSULTING FIRMS

Vierbicher Associates  
Kunkel Engineering

**National Groundwater Week**  
**March 10 - 16, 2008**  
**Celebrate Your Aquifers!**

# RRC Continues to Support Restrictions on the Excessive Use of Phosphorus on Lawns

Members and Friends, the Rock River Coalition is committed to improving water quality throughout the basin and to work to eliminate pollutants from all sources, rural and urban, while still protecting our economic base and community vitality.

One source of pollution, although not the biggest source, is runoff from lawns. Over the past few years we have initiated a number of programs to educate citizens about storm water concerns, including our exemplary rain garden efforts.

Generally the Coalition does its work through education, helping people to understand ramifications of their behavior, and providing them with tools to make changes. However, for a number of reasons, we have taken a more proactive approach regarding the problem of excessive application of phosphorus to lawns across the basin. We believe the best way to address this source of phosphorus to the Rock River, its tributaries and lakes is through state-wide regulations.

Recently the Wisconsin Senate passed bill SB 197 which would do just that. It has now been referred to the State Assembly.

Below is the letter we sent to all in the Assembly from our basin. We hope they will see the value of this bill and send it on to the Governor for his signature.

Before the full assembly can vote on this it must go before the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. You can contact the chair, Rep Scott Gunderson, ([Rep.Gunderson@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Gunderson@legis.wisconsin.gov) or (888) 534-0083) and explain to him why it's an important bill and encourage him to schedule a public hearing on SB 197 before the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Once a hearing is scheduled, you may wish to educate your legislators about the importance of this issue with a letter. In the Rock River Basin the representatives are: Terese Berceau, Spencer Black, Jeff Fitzgerald, Joel Kleefisch, Gary Hebl, Eugene Hahn, Stephen Nass, Thomas Lothian, Sondy Pope-Roberts, Mark Pocan, Scott Newcomer, Andy Jorgensen, David Travis, Kim Hixon, Chuck Benedict and Mike Sheridan. You can contact them via email using: first name.last name@Wisconsin.gov or by mailing to them at PO Box 8953, Madison WI 53708.

Finally, the RRC has an excellent presentation on the web about this problem. We encourage you to use it to educate groups you're involved with. If you'd like a Coalition speaker to attend, and give the talk, email us at [rriver@excel.net](mailto:rriver@excel.net).

Thank you for your support:

Joe Dorava RRC President

#### RRC Letter to State Representatives

*RE: AB 396, SB 197: Phosphorus Fertilizer Restrictions*

*Dear Representative,*

*The Rock River Coalition is in full support of AB 396/SB 197 to restrict the statewide unnecessary use of phosphorus fertilizers for turf grass. The Rock River itself is impaired with excess phosphorus, and restricting the use of additional unneeded fertilizer on lawns in our basin is part of a larger strategy to improve the water quality in our basin's rivers and lakes.*

*Controlling phosphorus runoff from our watershed is one of the most important things we can do to control excess algae and to keep our area lakes and rivers healthy. Since local soils are naturally high in phosphorus, the application of additional unnecessary phosphorus in lawn fertilizers does not benefit our lawns, and can cause big problems for the lakes. When soils are saturated with phosphorus, it runs off into our lakes and streams where 1 lb. of phosphorus can generate 500 lbs of algae.*

*Because the storm sewers and roadside ditches in our local communities feed into our lakes and rivers, this ban is important throughout our communities, not just for waterfront property.*

*Dane County, the City and Town of Delafield, the City and Town of Oconomowoc, the Village of Lac La Belle, Village of Nashotah and Town of Delavan, have all passed phosphorus ordinances to protect the waters in their communities. As individual communities pass these ordinances, they create a patchwork of protection for local waters. Because people may buy their fertilizer outside of the community where it is spread; local ordinances cannot give the same level of protection that a statewide ordinance would provide.*

*Farmers and cities in Wisconsin are now required to do their part to reduce the phosphorus run-off to our lakes and streams. It only makes sense that lawn fertilizers not contribute to the problem we are trying to solve. We urge your support for AB 396/SB 197. This very low cost step will help meet water quality goals in our phosphorus challenged watershed.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Joe Dorava, President Rock River Coalition*



# Do Your Doody - Pet Waste and Water Quality

Suzanne Wade, UWEX Rock River Basin Educator for Natural Resources

Annually, I give dozens of talks about water quality and runoff pollution. During the talk I highlight sources of phosphorus and other pollutants such as bacteria.

In the Rock River Basin the largest source of phosphorus comes from agriculture, primarily from animal manure either directly washing into streams and rivers or washing off from farm fields.

Other sources include phosphorus being discharged from wastewater treatment plants or from industry, within their permit limits. But also from sewage overflows during large rain events that overwhelms the treatment plant's capacity.

In my talks I highlight other sources including urban wildlife, such as geese, and from our best friend, the dog. Instructing people to pick up after their dogs seemed like an easy thing for people to do, and it had a social up-side of removing the 'yuck' factor from the roadways.

Secretly, I always felt a bit silly, comparing dog waste to the amount of phosphorus and organics coming from animal agriculture. I decided I needed to do some research to help quantify the problem, and boy, was I surprised with what I found out! Never again will I feel funny about telling people to pick up after their dogs to help water quality.

Here's what I learned: 35% of households in Wisconsin have dogs, and the average number of dogs/household is 1.5\*. Using those state averages, Watertown, a typical mid-sized city with 8,022 households, would have 4,235 dogs.

The average size for dogs is 40 lbs and each average sized dog deposits 3/4 pound of feces/day. So if the

\*American Veterinary Medical Association US Pet Owners Demographic Source Book

estimate for dogs is correct, then in Watertown, a nice city, with the Rock River winding through it, 3,179 pounds of dog poo are being deposited each and every day. Now this happens 365 days a year which equals to an amazing 1,160,335 pounds per year or 580 tons!

Not all of that washes to the river of course, several studies along the East Coast found 40 - 50% of dog owners don't walk their dogs. While some of that waste may end up washing off their property, there aren't any studies I could find that quantified how much, so we'll eliminate these dogs from the total.

Of those who do walk their dog, these studies showed that about 35% never clean up after their dogs. Once the dog 'goes' in the street there is nothing to stop it from being washed down the street to the stormdrain and out to the river.

One spot of good news for the basin, in a 2003 Dane County survey of 500 residents, only 10% reported that they didn't currently pick up after their pets. Hopefully that's true throughout the basin.

If we use, however, the study's 35% figure, it would mean that in Watertown 741 dogs, that are walked, aren't picked up after. Which means that up to 180 tons of dog feces could be washing off of the streets, down the storm drain and into the Rock River. Even if just one percent of the dog waste washes off, that's still FIVE TONS of dog waste flowing into the river every year from just one city.

In the whole Rock River Basin we have about 316,000 households with 166,848 dogs, meaning 125,136 pounds of feces are produced every day, or 23,000 tons a year. Of this 8 million pounds of dog waste is not picked up and properly disposed of. - Amazing.

Additionally, dogs can be a major source of pathogens in urban watersheds. Many dogs carry salmonella and the parasite *Giardia* and all release coliform bacteria: 23 million bacteria/gram of waste.

The 40% of dog walkers who don't pick up after their dogs, tend to be very resistant to change, with almost half saying they wouldn't change even with fines, complaints from neighbors or if given convenient options for retrieving and disposing of the waste.



An article on "Understanding Watershed Behavior" from Watershed Protection Techniques suggests that an alternative message for these 'resistant to change' folks, is to encourage them to use rudimentary manure management techniques by training their pets to use non-mowed areas that are not hydraulically connected to a waterway, road, or ditch.



Here, and on the back page, are a few of the media campaign posters that have been developed around the United States to encourage pet waste clean-up. These, and materials on other topics, can be found online in the EPA Nonpoint Source Outreach Toolbox. Which do you find the most compelling?



## Reasons Dog Owners Give for Picking Up or Not Picking Up After Their Dog

(Home and Garden Information Center, 1996 unpublished survey by the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension)

### Reasons for not picking it up:

- Because it eventually goes away
- Just because
- Too much work
- On edge of my property
- Its in my yard (or in the woods)
- Not prepared
- No reason
- Small dog, small waste
- Sanitary reasons
- Use as fertilizer

### Reasons for picking it up:

- It's the law
- Environmental reasons
- Hygiene/health reasons
- Neighborhood courtesy
- It should be done
- Keep the yard clean

# Preserving Farmland in Jefferson County

Based on a report by the UW-Madison Department of Urban and Regional Planning Department Workshop Class, December, 2007

During the fall 2007 semester twenty three graduate students from the UW Department of Urban and Regional Planning worked with the Jefferson County Farmland Preservation Commission to determine ways that Jefferson County could best protect working farm lands while still allowing for reasonable growth.

The students studied the current conditions, held a number of focus groups, researched methods for preserving land, developed financing options and developed a report of their findings and presented it at a public meeting in December 2007.

Here are some of their findings: Jefferson County residents want to preserve a rural way of life, but with Dane and Waukesha counties on either side, there is potential pressure for increased development.

In particular, residents said they wanted to ensure the preservation of productive agricultural land. They wanted to create/preserve a sustainable rural economy and preserve open space and environmentally sensitive areas. Finally one vision of the participants was to promote compatible existence of urban and rural life.

In 1999 Jefferson County adopted an Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan with similar goals. They did this through agricultural zoning which allows a limited number of land divisions (splits) in agricultural areas and clusters resulting in lots near roads in order to preserve larger areas of working farmland. Depending on the size, whether the land is prime ag land, past history, and a few other restrictions, most farms could split off two-2 acre lots. Once the splits have been taken the parcel is



“frozen”, i.e. unable to be divided into smaller units.

As identified in the report, the 1999 County Land Use Plan and county zoning has resulted in over 26,000 acres of land being set aside for active farming which might otherwise have been included in larger residential lots.

During the focus group interviews there was a broad consensus about the need for farmland preservation, but differing ideas about how to do it, and what issues to prioritize.

Other key messages included the need for education and capacity building, the need for both healthy rural areas and livable cities, which provides many benefits including ecological services, healthy agricultural economy, rural culture and viable urban development.

## Recommendations

The students recommended that Jefferson County:

1. Start with a strong capacity building process.
2. Build a bundle of farmland preservation tools centered on PACE (Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements).
3. Create an assessment and prioritization system to identify the highest potential lands for preservation.
4. Develop a funding base.

To mobilize social resources and create a supportive environment will take education and communication, a continuation of the stakeholder input process, develop leadership and capacity through existing

networks and dialogue with political officials and finally to build partnerships bridging groups and helping with technical assistance.

Agricultural conservation easements are voluntary, permanent agreements between a local government (or non-profit land trust) and a willing landowner to “sell” or “extinguish” the development rights on land in exchange for payment. The landowner retains ownership of the property and the right to continue farming and to sell the land for agricultural purposes. Farmers and landowners can therefore receive some of the financial benefits of developing their land, while maintaining the land in farming. The easement stays with the land, thereby removing the development or subdivision rights permanently. Conservation easements can be targeted to lands at highest priority for preservation.

The students suggested that the county use the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) methodology developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) to prioritize areas for preservation.

LESA evaluates the soil quality and land capability, size of the property, on-farm investments, surrounding uses, and a few other factors such as development pressure and items of local value. Each of these factors have different weights depending on their importance.

Each farm owner who wishes to participate in PACE is rated using LESA, which allows the county to use limited funds on the highest ranking projects.

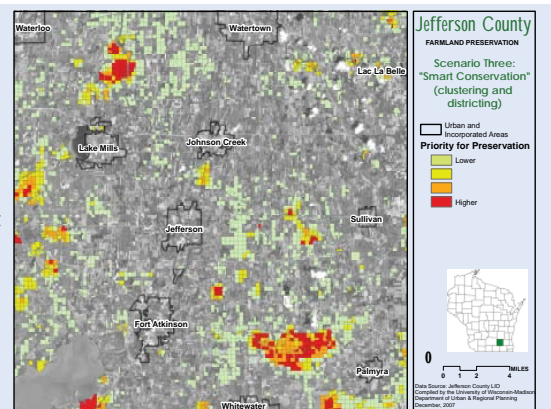
Finally the students utilized GIS (geographic information systems) data of Jefferson County and illustrated the LESA approach by identifying three preservation scenarios. (See box below for one.)

This was a tremendous effort by the students. Now it is up to Jefferson County to continue the discussion, identify the most important agricultural areas to focus on, explore funding mechanisms and determine the direction the county will go as it works to preserve working farms and protect environmental resources.

## Land Evaluation and Site Analysis Scenario Example

This scenario called “smart conservation” is based on an approach developed by the Natural Lands Trust. Every parcel in the county is assigned a score based on its “prime” agricultural soil capability, its proximity to existing protected lands (such as parks or DNR land), and its proximity to important natural features such as wetlands, water or forest. As well, scores are weighted to identify distinct districts or clusters of potential preservation lands. The county can use such an analysis to identify not only high priority parcels for preservation, but distinct districts or areas where preservation efforts can build on existing preservation efforts.

The student’s presentation can be found at: <http://www.wisc.edu/urpl/academics/workshop/index.html>



## Volunteers needed for Creek Day

Friends of Cam-Rock Park is sponsoring a "Koshkonong Creek Day" on Sat. June 14, 2008 (10:00-2:00 at Cam-Rock 1 near Cambridge). They are actively recruiting all nature-loving volunteers to help with water sampling, wetland, birds, trees, bugs, etc. This day is designed for "Kids of all ages". They are inviting scout troops, adults and others who want to learn more about nature. As many volunteers as possible are needed. All volunteers will receive a nice lunch and much gratitude.

Contact Janice Redford at 608-423-4438 or redford@bminet.com for details.



Many species of frogs, salamanders, fairy shrimp and a host of other interesting animals live in temporary spring ponds. Learn more about a new monitoring effort on these interesting but short-lived habitats below.

DNR file photo

## Here today and gone tomorrow!

### New Ephemeral Pond Monitoring Program

The Wisconsin Ephemeral Ponds Project is a new initiative partially funded through the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program to map and monitor SE Wisconsin ephemeral ponds in Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties.

Ephemeral ponds are isolated wetlands that have standing water in spring and dry up during the summer. These wetlands are critically important as breeding habitat for several frog and salamander species as well as certain insects, crustaceans, and snails.

Not much is known about ephemeral ponds. Traditionally, they have been valued less than other wetland types because they tend to be very small (smaller than two acres!) and harder to recognize when they dry up. Perhaps due to their small size, as many as 50% of them have been farmed-over, filled-in, or drained.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and University of Wisconsin-Extension will host trainings for citizen monitors beginning in February and monitoring will begin in early spring 2008.

If funding can be secured, the project will be looking for additional citizen participants in Fall 2008 for the 2009 monitoring season. Learn more about the project at: <http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/level3/WIephemeral.htm>.

# 2008 Citizen Monitoring Confluence: A Gathering of Monitors

The Citizen Monitoring Confluence is the one time each year we devote to you our monitors: those citizens who go out regularly to collect information on our lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. This is a time to receive advanced training or just learn about something new. It's also a great time to meet other monitors and voice your thoughts on how we can improve our monitoring program.

We also welcome those who are thinking about becoming a monitor. This can be a great way to decide whether becoming a stream, lake or wetland monitor is right for you.

**Saturday March 29, 2008**

**Lake Mills Community Center, 200 Water Street  
(one block east of Hwy 89/Main Street and one block south of the City Square)**

## Agenda

- 8:15 - 8:45 **Registration**
- 8:45 - 9:00 **Welcome Monitors!** RRC Monitoring Director Ed Grunden & President Joe Dorava
- 9:00 - 9:10 **Greeting** Secretary Frank, WI Department of Natural Resource
- 9:10 - 10:10 **Keynote:** Water Dynamics: Life Beneath the Surface: Kristopher Wright, Ph.D. Professor – University of Wisconsin Platteville
- 10:10 - 10:20 Helpful Information regarding the day followed with movement to breakout session #1
- 10:20 - 11:05 **Breakout Session # 1**
- Aquatic Plant Identification: Donna Sefton, WDNR South Central Region Water Resources Management Specialist (first session only)
- Macroinvertebrates: Going Beyond the Basics: Mike Miller, Stream Ecologist, WI DNR
- Return of the Birds of the Marsh: Nolan Kollath, Avid Birder and Zeloski Marsh Volunteer Monitor Team Leader. Experience the sights and sounds of the new residents and visitors of the wetlands: waterfowl, shorebirds, and upland birds.
- Mastering the New Data Entry System: Jennifer Filbert, Lakes and Watershed Data Coordinator, WI DNR. Learn how to enter data, retrieve reports/data and mapping for both streams and lakes.
- VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) a Threat to Wisconsin Fish: Andy Fayram, Fisheries Biologist, WI DNR
- 11:05 – 11:15 Break
- 11:15 – 12:00 **Breakout Session # 2**
- All repeated except for 'Aquatic Plant Identification' which will be replaced by
- Issues in the Basin – Focus on Groundwater: Suzanne Wade, UW-Extension, Rock River Basin Educator for Natural Resources
- Noon – 12:40 A catered lunch will be provided free with preregistration. Lasagna (non-vegetarian & vegetarian types), veggies, garlic bread, beverage and dessert
- 12:40 – 1:00 An opportunity to provide very valuable feedback on how to improve the RRC monitoring program, as well as a special announcement of several new pending monitoring projects and how to become a part of these advanced monitoring teams.
- 1:00 – 3:00 Three afternoon sessions that are designed to meet the needs of different monitors.
- New Stream Monitor Discussion
- Wetland Monitoring Program - Updates and Opportunities
- Veteran Stream Monitors Certification
- Lake Monitors Training and Certification

Register by calling Kim at 920-674-7297 or to [kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us](mailto:kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us)

# Benefits of RRC Membership

Your contribution makes it possible for the RRC to promote and protect the Rock River for generations to come. Members support the planning, program management and implementation work required for our volunteer monitoring, rain garden, land use and basin-wide community education efforts. Members also underwrite educational programs for children and the public at large. Furthermore, they allow us to lead crucial public awareness initiatives such as the importance of maintaining quality and adequate groundwater in our Rock River region.

## Rock River Coalition Member Benefits

- Advanced notice of events and activities such as the annual Send Your Legislator Down the River (SYLDR) educational event.
- Discounts on educational programs.
- Quarterly newsletters.
- Voting privileges at our annual meeting.
- The pride in helping improve our local environment, recreation and economy.
- Donations over \$100 will receive one free pass to Send Your Legislator Down the River.

## Business/Corporate Membership Benefits at \$100 and above

All membership or donation at the \$100 level or greater will be recognized on our RRC web page with an advertisement or logo (business card sized: 2" x 3.5"), a link to your webpage and one free pass to SYLDR.

Member/donors at the \$500 level will also receive a business card sized ad in the Rock River Reflections newsletter for four issues (annual). Plus four free passes to Send Your Legislator Down the River.

Member/donors at the \$1,000 level will receive the above website recognition and the advertisement in the Rock River Reflections newsletter, eight free passes to SYLDR and a personal briefing by the RRC President.

Member/donors at the \$5,000 level can elect to receive up to a quarter page ad in the Rock River Reflections newsletter for four issues (one year) and eight free passes to Send Your Legislator Down the River. They will also be invited to a luncheon meeting with the RRC President to discuss the RRC initiatives and future directions.

## Ten schools receive special training on Rock River Basin groundwater issues and flow

Since 2001, the state has offered teacher training workshops on groundwater. During these workshops the teachers learn how to use a groundwater teaching model (see picture) to instruct their students about groundwater flow, and groundwater quantity and quality concerns.

This year the Rock River Coalition Groundwater Issue Team asked to partner with this effort and host a workshop focused on Rock River groundwater issues. Special letters were sent out to schools in the basin and nine schools and the Urban Ecology Center (Milwaukee) were selected for the workshop. These schools each received a groundwater model to take back to their school. An additional three groups asked to attend to learn more about groundwater, but didn't receive the model.

This was the largest group of teachers that the state had ever had in a workshop, which posed some logistical problems, but in the end was a great experience.

The Rock River Coalition would like to thank David Lindorff, DNR; Dave Hart, WGNHS; and Kevin Masarik, UW-Extension for their work in organizing this program. Each gave great talks about Wisconsin's groundwater and how to effectively use the model.

We'd also like to thank the following for coming in and assisting the teachers as resource people: Ed Morse, Wisconsin Rural Water Association; Laura Chern, Stephen Ales, David Johnson, Jeff Helmuth and Bill Phelps DNR, and Nancy Zolidis, Montgomery Associates.

Links to the talks can be found at: [http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/watersheds/programs\\_outreach/gw\\_model\\_workshops.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/watersheds/programs_outreach/gw_model_workshops.htm)



Christy Charles from Deerfield High School learns how to use a groundwater flow model with assistance from Ed Morse of Wisconsin Rural Water Association.  
photo by Mark Klawiter, Deerfield HS

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

|                        |        |     |
|------------------------|--------|-----|
| 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 on our website:  
[www.rockrivercoalition.org](http://www.rockrivercoalition.org)

Donors of \$500 or greater will receive an ad in this newsletter. Check the website 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)

# A New Perspective

Ed Grunden, RRC Citizen Monitoring Director

I had the opportunity to travel to Asia over the New Year weekend. Besides having an incredible time with family and new friends that we made along the way, it gave me an opportunity to look at the surface waters of another part of the world. Flying at 38,000 feet with clear skies I had a 'perfect' view of the earth's surface below as we passed over Japan, Taiwan, Borneo, Thailand, and Malaysia.

I was dismayed at the giant plumes of sediment pouring into the ocean bays from the inland rivers. Later as I passed through the country side, and within the urban areas, I couldn't help but notice the erosion from construction sites everywhere flushing directly into the streams. In many of the smaller cities, visible open concrete sewage runs were a common part of the landscape. The stench of sewage was always with us as we passed through the alleys and pathways.

It should be noted that the larger cities had waste treatment plants similar to those in Wisconsin, but their river ways suffered from the same erosion pollution as seen in the countryside. It gave me a new perspective of just how great our Wisconsin



Ed Grunden, RRC Monitoring Director riding an elephant bareback in Malaysia.

(and Nation's) waterways truly are! I now realize that I often get caught up looking at the negative factors of pollution (sedimentation, chemicals, nutrients, etc) and miss just how clean our rivers and lakes are compared for instance to those of Asia.

Having recognized that, I enter a new season of monitoring and look forward to our upcoming Confluence on March 29<sup>th</sup> with a renewed passion to work to protect our environment of rivers and lakes that makes Wisconsin

a place of beauty. I urge each of you to share in the passion and commit to doing some small part to "maintain and improve" our greatest resource, clean water! Together we can leave a cleaner environment for the generations that follow.

ps. If you ever get the chance to ride an elephant bareback through a tropical rainforest ... just do it!

## Calendar of Events

### RRC Board Meeting:

Monday Feb. 25 4:30 - 6:30 UWEX Jefferson County

### Planning the Rock Issue Team Meeting

February 5, 2008 UWEX Jefferson County

### RRC Wetland Issue Team Meeting

Feb. 11, 2008 10:00 - Noon, DNR Southcentral Region Office, Fish Hatchery Rd. Fitchburg

### Citizen Monitoring Confluence

March 29, Lake Mills Community Center

### Newsletter Deadline for the spring newsletter is

April 7, 2008

### Send Your Legislator Down the River

June, exact date tbd. Horicon area contact Ken Wiesner if you'd like to help with planning 608-223-6423

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>

## Would you like to get this newsletter electronically?

Save paper, energy and postage. Just email us at [kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us](mailto:kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us) and let us know you want to receive it electronically. We will then send you a pdf (shrunken 30% to fit letter paper). You may also go on-line at [rockrivercoalition.org](http://rockrivercoalition.org) to download a copy.

## Look inside to find articles on:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Water Star Community Project                                  | Pg 1 |
| Stream Clean-ups  | Pg 2 |
| RRC Board and Contact Information                             | Pg 2 |
| GFLOW Project Update  | Pg 3 |
| Phosphorus Restriction for Lawns                              | Pg 3 |
| Do Your Doody: Pet Waste & Water Quality                      | Pg 4 |
| Jefferson County Land Preservation Report by UW URPL Students | Pg 5 |
| Creek Day Cambridge Area                                      | Pg 6 |
| Ephemeral Pond Monitoring                                     | Pg 6 |
| Citizen Monitoring Confluence                                 | Pg 6 |
| Benefits of RRC Membership                                    | Pg 7 |
| Groundwater Teachers Workshop                                 | Pg 7 |
| RRC Membership Form   | Pg 7 |



Until they can take care of their own business, it's your business.

Let's keep our beautiful parks clean and safe for all our citizens. From our communities, local parks and recreation to providing clean water systems in cities, we need your help to keep our parks clean and safe for all our citizens. For more information on how you can help, visit [www.depoopdepark.com](http://www.depoopdepark.com) or call 1-800-455-4545.

**WHEN YOUR PET GOES ON THE LAWN,**

**REMEMBER IT DOESN'T JUST**

**GO ON THE LAWN.**

**WATER QUALITY CONSERVATION**

When our pets leave those little surprises, rain washes all that pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains. And then pollutes our waterways. So what to do? Simple. Dispose of it properly (preferably in the toilet). Then that little surprise gets treated like it should.

A cooperative venture between the Puget Sound Action Team, Department of Ecology, King County and the Cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.

## Pet Waste and Water Quality

Ever wonder how much pollution can come from pets? Rock River Basin Educator, Suzanne Wade did. Check out page 4 to find out yourself. Enjoy the sample posters from across the country that educators have developed to convenience people to pick up after their dogs.

**IF YOU THINK PICKING UP DOG POOP IS UNPLEASANT, TRY SWIMMING IN IT.**

Pet Waste Pollutes Our Rivers, Lakes & Streams

**CLEAN WATER CAMPAIGN**

[WWW.CLEANWATERCAMPAIGN.COM](http://WWW.CLEANWATERCAMPAIGN.COM)