



Dedicated to the Trails & Parks of Rock County Wisconsin - www.rocktrailcoalition.org

Newsletter OVER 20 YEARS OF ROCK TRAIL ADVOCACY August 2014

Please join us for our next meeting!

**BICYCLING WITH KIDS:
LONG DISTANCE RIDES FROM BELOIT TO SUPERIOR**

by Troy Knudson

Thursday

October 26th

6:00-8:00pm

Rock County Job Center

1900 Center Avenue

Janesville



December Meeting: Thursday, December 4th

THE OTHER RIVER CITY: 4 MONTHS IN FLORENCE, ITALY WITH A BICYCLE

by Beloit Professor Chuck Lewis

6:00-8:00pm - Pearson Hall, Beloit College

Rock Trail Coalition's Contribution to Water Trails

The Green-Rock Audubon Society now owns a small piece of property on Bass Creek in Afton. Rock Trail Coalition is partnering with GRAS to put in a canoe launch. The launch will be a cleared and mowed path down the shore. The rules say it can only be 6 feet wide and we cannot bring in gravel or chips so it will remain a mowed path. Look for this new feature in Afton soon.



Take a *SIP of the Peace Trail [*Slow Incremental Progress]

By Dean Paynter, Rock Trail Coalition President

We took another SIP of the Peace Trail on July 24 as Lori Williams, Rock County Parks Director, and Dean Paynter met with the Rock County Planning & Development Committee. Because of wetland issues adjacent to the proposed trail, we needed a conditional use permit. The committee approve the CUP unanimously.

Next Steps:

- get easements signed with the two major landowners between Afton and Big Hill Park
- raise funds for trail construction
- begin clearing the trail route to create a rough walkable trail

This is truly **Slow Incremental Progress** as we are dealing with multiple public and private entities to pull this trail together. But every step we take gets us one step closer to our goal.

The bridge at Big Hill Park (thank you to all the donors who made this possible) has been ordered by the City of Beloit and will be installed this fall.

Public Open House for feedback on Transportation Plan

A Public Open House for the Bicycle Pedestrian Section of the 2016-2045 Janesville Area Long Range Transportation Plan was held on August 20th. Attendees viewed maps of existing plans, shared thoughts regarding how to make the Janesville/Milton area a better place for biking and walking, and participated in a brief fiscal prioritization exercise to provide feedback on what types of improvements should be a priority for funding. This public outreach session was held to gather information and concerns from residents. The Transportation Plan evaluates existing transportation conditions in the Janesville area and recommends improvements for all transportation modes.



The Bicycle/Pedestrian section will include goals & objectives of the plan, identify issues and needs, and recommend projects and programs to improve bicycling and walking in the Janesville/Milton area. The 2016-2045 Plan is expected to be adopted in May, 2016.



MANY MANY THANKS TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!

The Peace Trail is enjoyed by hundreds of walkers and riders each day. Many take ownership without fanfare or recognition to help maintain the beautiful trail.



Jerry Stankus mowing the Peace Trail in Beloit Township.



Jayne Paynter started planting a few wildflowers along the 'S' curve near the wastewater plant. Her garden is rapidly expanding with a variety of beautiful wild and domestic plants.



Bernie Johnson placed mileage signs all along the trail to Afton. Bernie also trims the trails and has created a few shortcut trails between the pavement and the river.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? Rock Trail Coalition is always looking for help with the many tasks that need to get completed along the trail system! If you are interested in volunteering, please let Carolyn know at volunteerRTC@charter.net.



Jim Leute installed nest boxes for wood ducks along the trail. Here Jim checks his nest boxes for broken eggs which indicate that the ducks have successfully fledged.



Mike Sather lives near the Rock Trail Coalition rest area at Cemetery Road. Mike keeps the park mowed and meticulously clean. He enjoys visiting with folks who stop at the RTC picnic table.



Guy Parkhurst maintains the “river trail,” a 0.8-mile loop along the Rock River off the Peace Trail. In addition to clearing and mowing, Guy has planted dozens of trees and opened up scenic vistas along the river.



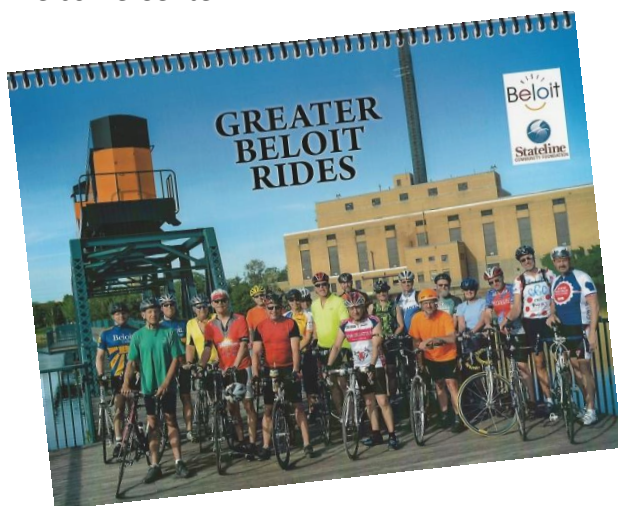
Larry and Marlene Nolte walk their dogs from Afton to Tripp Road every day. They like to walk the “river trail” so much that they purchased a park bench with a great view of the river. Larry loves the river trail both for a pleasant walk and peace of mind.

DID YOU KNOW? The river trail is a one mile loop off the crushed limestone trail. The trail is suitable for walking or mountain bikes.

PLEASE BE SURE TO VISIT OUR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS!

Michaels Cycles, Mocha Moment, Bass Creek Espresso, Afton Pub, Skip’s Friendly Village, Afton Family Market, and Bjoin Limestone.

Shown below is the picture on the front cover of the coil bound bicycle path book that is now available for \$10 at Vision Beloit, 500 Public Ave. Beloit & at The Beloit Bicycle Company, 110 W. Grand Ave. Beloit. There are 33 routes in the book and there are also free maps (10 routes) available at the above locations and at the local Welcome Center.



The cue sheets, narratives, maps & pictures were put together by 9 local bicyclists over a 6 month timeframe. A grant to print the books & maps and also retain the services of a cartographer was obtained from Visit Beloit & The Stateline Community Foundation. The Rock Trail Coalition actually requested the grant which was prepared by the Voluntary Action Center.

This project is an excellent example of how volunteers and local agencies can work together to enhance the quality of life in the Stateline Area.

Thank you to the Janesville Velo club for their continuing contributions; particularly the recent sign project at Mile 0 of the city bike trail where it branches in three directions.

"The club chose this particular location for signs because, as riders, we often found visitors confused on routing at this corner. So the first goal was to direct riders. A secondary objective was to list locations that are far away, to make riders realize that "Hey, I can ride to Afton, or Fort Atkinson". We wanted riders to see the Janesville Trail as part of the bigger system of routes. We would be open to suggestions as to sign design, content and other possible locations."

– Paul Braun, Janesville Velo Club



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

SEPTEMBER 27th – Ice Age Trail Wine & Cheese Fundraiser at North Leaf Winery - tickets required in advance.

OCTOBER 4th – Afton Harvest Fest. Many fun events in Afton - especially the Rock Trail Coalition Raffle! The event also features car shows, tractor pulls, rummage sales, lots of food and a fun party atmosphere. Join the other cyclists who ride their bikes down for coffee and treats at the Bass Creek Cafe. Visit the Rock Trail Coalition sponsors including Bass Creek Cafe, Afton Pub, and Skips Friendly Village. Or bring a kayak and float Bass Creek to the Rock River. We may also have a silent auction. Have anything to contribute?!

OCTOBER 17th – Rock Trail Coalition Fall Meeting 6:00-8:00pm at the Rock County Job Center. "Long Distance Biking With Kids". Troy Knudson has done several long distance cycling trips with his 10 and 12 year old kids. Learn about their family adventures at our October meeting.

DECEMBER 4th – Rock Trail Coalition Fall Meeting 6:00-8:00pm at Pearson Hall, Beloit College (Moore Lounge, 2nd floor). "The Other River City". Beloit College professor Chuck Lewis will recount his adventures cycling in Italy.

Renew for this year - use the convenient membership form below to renew today.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Mail to: Rock Trail Coalition, P.O. Box 8101 Janesville, WI

Dues for 2014:

_____ Basic individual \$15	_____ Trail Builder \$50
_____ Family \$25/no t-shirt or	_____ \$30 w/t-shirt
_____ Trail Blazer \$75	_____ Golden Trekker \$100
_____ Sustainer \$250	_____ Lifetime \$500



Are you a current member of Rock Trail Coalition? Your mailing label shows our record of dues status. It will show if it is time to renew. Let us know any corrections. If you are getting this newsletter by email (*thank you!*) we will email a reminder – membership is January to December. Ready to receive newsletters by email? Let Carolyn know at volunteerRTC@charter.net

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