



Rock Trail Coalition Newsletter

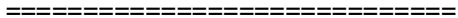
Spring 2008

April Work Party

We are back to work on the Janesville-Beloit Peace Trail. Saturday, April 12 we plan to work with city parks personnel on clearing and smoothing the segment of trail between Cemetery Road and Eau Claire Road along the Rock River.

Meet at the corner of Afton Road and Cemetery Road at 9:00 a.m.

Bring work gloves and work boots for potentially muddy conditions. Loppers and saws will be useful if you have them.



April Speaker Meeting – Thursday, April 17, 6:30 p.m. (note: all meetings start at 6:30 this year) Rock County JOB Service Center, 1900 Center Avenue, Janesville.

Tom Skinner will present a program on antique bicycles. Some of you may recall Tom's program on the Rock River which has been rebroadcast on JATV. Tom is always a very informative speaker.

Also at this meeting Dave Gilbert from Beloit will discuss his plans for a 12,000 mile bike ride around the United States to raise money for the Livestrong Lance Armstrong Foundation. Dave lost his brother, father, uncle and cousin to cancer. He rides to raise funds for a cure.



Rock 50/50 Bike Tour

Rock Trail Coalition is partnering with the Janesville Velo Club on the May 17 bike tour. Rock Trail is taking care of the registration, publicity and food for the tour. The Velo Club is taking care of volunteers, SAG and modifications to the routes. Aid stations have been approved at the Afton Pub & Park, Big Hill Park and Beckman Mill. The routes (22, 37 and 60 miles) are the same as last year with some improvements to avoid backtracking.

Rock Trail Coalition will take care of registration and provide the lunch at Palmer Park.

The Velo club will take over the ride in 2009. Why? We need to concentrate on land acquisition and grant writing for the Janesville – Beloit Peace Trail project.

Rock 50/50 Bike Tour - You can help – we need baked goods for Aid Stations at Afton, Big Hill and Beckman Mill. Please deliver to Palmer Park before 8 a.m. on May 17 or call Dean 756-1832 to make other drop-off arrangements. If you would like to work an Aid Station, call or email Dean and he will put you in touch with the Velo coordinator.

Janesville – Beloit Peace Trail Project -



The Rock Trail Coalition, is facilitating the project to connect the cities of Beloit and Janesville with an off-road transportation corridor for bicycle and pedestrian uses.

The project links Beloit and Janesville who each have trail systems which in turn will link to other statewide trail systems in Wisconsin and Illinois.

The railroad abandoned this corridor in 1973. Rails, bridges and most ties were removed. Most of the abandoned corridor reverted to

private ownership. Rock Trail Coalition has worked with Beloit, Janesville and Rock County Parks Directors, and local landowners to put together the project plan.

Rock County is the overall project sponsoring organization and will be responsible for sections outside of Janesville and Beloit. Rock Trail Coalition is the project facilitator and is writing grants as needed. To date we have received easement donations on

Officers and Board

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four important parcels of land. The value of donated easements can be used as grant-matches across the entire project.

The Plan: The project has three phases.

Phase 1 is planning and acquisition of property:

- from the end of the City of Janesville trail system, currently at Tripp Road, to Eau Claire Road.
- property acquisition in the Afton area to Bass Creek
- from Big Hill Park, Beloit, north through Beloit Township to Townline Road.
- Property is acquired as landowners are willing to sell or donate to the project.

Phase 2 is completion of a cleared, smoothed but unpaved trail utilizing the railroad bed as a grass trail. Add signage. Will happen as land is acquired.

Phase 3 is closing gaps with planning and acquisition of additional properties where possible.

- reconstruction of the railroad bridge across Bass Creek in Afton.
- Acquisition of additional rail bed properties if they become available.

The Beloit Township Parks Commission, Beloit Township Planning Commission, City of Janesville, and the Rock County Public Works Committee have each indicated support for the project concept.

Your Rock Trail membership helps build this trail.

Bob Schlegel, Director

Rockoutdoorevents website now hosts the Rock County Environmental Group calendar of events. Groups include Green- Rock Audubon, UW-Extension, UW-Rock Green Phoenix, Rotary Gardens and many more. Click on "Rock Enviro Coalition Calendar."
<http://rockoutdoorevents.com>

Your address label shows a membership level in our records. Expired? Please rejoin.

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

Mail to: Rock Trail Coalition P.O. Box 8101 Janesville, WI 53547-8101

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

