



# ROCK TRAIL COALITION

Rock Trail Coalition Newsletter

April 2017

## Rock Trail Coalition Speaker Meeting



### Gene Van Galder from Kilimanjaro to Antarctica

6:00 pm Thursday, April 13, 2017

Gene Van Galder is a natural born traveler, who along with his wife Connie, founded GVG Tours, LLC and began offering quality tours throughout the United States and across the globe. Join us for Gene's talk about his trips from the high point of Africa to the frozen continent of Antarctica. Gene is always a knowledgeable and fascinating speaker. Don't miss it.



**Beloit Public Library, 605 Eclipse Blvd, Beloit – Admission is free!**

Help us save more money for trails. Opt for an emailed newsletter - send your email address to [info@rocktrailcoalition.org](mailto:info@rocktrailcoalition.org) .

## More than Trails

### Bicycle Transportation Alternatives

For twenty-five years Rock Trail Coalition has advocated for off-road trails for recreation and transportation. Trails are safe and more comfortable for children going to school, for young families on a Sunday afternoon, for senior citizens who took up biking later in life.

But trails are not the only option for cycling facilities. It is often difficult or impossible to acquire the right-of-way to build a trail. The creation of, what amounts to a road, right next to the road, is sometimes costly. And in some situations, “costly” unfortunately means “impossible.” However where pavement already exists, there may be opportunity!

Some basic vocabulary:



**Cycle Tracks:** A cycle track is physically separated from motor traffic and distinct from the sidewalk. Cycle tracks have different forms but all share common elements—they provide space that is intended to be exclusively or primarily used for bicycles, and are separated from motor vehicle travel lanes, parking lanes, and sidewalks.

**Bike Lane:** Bike lanes designate an exclusive space for bicyclists using pavement markings and signage. The bike lane is located adjacent to motor vehicle travel lanes and flows in the same direction as motor vehicle traffic.



**Buffered Bike Lanes:** Buffered bike lanes are conventional bicycle lanes paired with a designated buffer space separating the bicycle lane from the adjacent motor vehicle travel lane and/or parking lane.

**Sidewalks:** WisDOT discourages sidewalk riding as unsafe because of speed differences between walkers and bikes, numerous obstacles like utility or sign poles, visibility issues at driveways, etc. Most municipalities require adults to ride in the street in the same direction as traffic.

“Don’t let *perfect* be the enemy of the *good*.” When a full-blown bike trail project just cannot be done, don’t ignore the value of ingenuity and paint!

For much more information about bike/pedestrian facilities, planning, and design check out the Wisconsin Bike Fed website: <http://wisconsinbikefed.org/for-your-community/advocate-for-better-bicycling/bike-walk-civics/> or google bike-walk-civics. <http://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/> <http://wisconsin.gov/Documents/projects/multimodal/bike/facility.pdf>

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## Upcoming Events

**April 13** , Thursday 6pm - Speaker Meeting, Gene VanGalder – Kilimanjaro to Antarctica

**May 8**, Monday, 4 to 8 pm – Scoopie Night at Milton Ave, Culvers , Janesville.

**June 3** - Rock River Trail Grand Opening – 10 am Rotary River Center, Beloit. Hike immediately after the ceremony led by Rock Trail Coalition members Barb and Jerry Stankus.

**June 15** – RTC picnic at Big Hill Park .

**October 19** – 6pm Rock Trail Speaker Meeting – Beloit.

**December 7** – 6pm Rock Trail Coalition Speaker Meeting – Job Center, Janesville.

## Make a Difference Day

Friday April 21<sup>st</sup>, Janesville is partnering with UW-Whitewater for Make a Difference Day, a service-oriented event harnessing the power of students, staff, and community volunteers to accomplish the following projects:

- Oak Hill Cemetery (String trimming, landscaping, headstone cleaning)
- Rockport Aquatic Center (Bath house cleaning, planting, mulching, fence-capping, landscaping)
- Rockport Trails (Trail Clean-up, Brush clearing) (RTC group).

Following the workday is a celebration picnic at the Peace Park Pavilion. **To volunteer for MADD 2017, please take two minutes to complete this form** <https://orgsync.com/115810/forms/237969> . Registered volunteers will receive a T-shirt.

Rock Trail Coalition will be working in the farmstead area on the green loop, cleaning up the historic site and opening views of the creek.

## Rock County Comprehensive Bike Trail Map

RTC member Richard Ott works at the visitor center in Palmer Park. He gets many requests for a complete map of bike trails and long rides, not just in Janesville, but in the area. His initial donation for a new map prompted the RTC to work Rock County Health Department, Rock County Planning and Development, Janesville Convention and Visitors Bureau, Rock County, Janesville and Beloit parks departments and others to create a comprehensive map that will show trails and include links to parks, established bike rides used by Janesville Velo or Stateline Spinners and many other resources. The map will have QR codes that link to detailed bike routes, community parks, park trail maps, and many other resources. Look for the new maps to be available in May.



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**Membership – is yours due?**

**Check your mailing label. ✓**

**Memberships are January to December.**

Rock Trail Coalition, P.O. Box 8101

Janesville, WI 53547-8101

[volunteerRTC@charter.net](mailto:volunteerRTC@charter.net) • 608-289-5672

**2017 YEARLY MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25/no shirt <i>OR</i> <b>\$30 with</b> /t-shirt (M, L, XL, XXL)
Builder	\$50
Blazer	\$75
Trekker	\$100
Sustainer	\$250
Lifetime	\$500
Organization or Business	\$60

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

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**PO Box 8101**

**Janesville, WI 53547-8101**