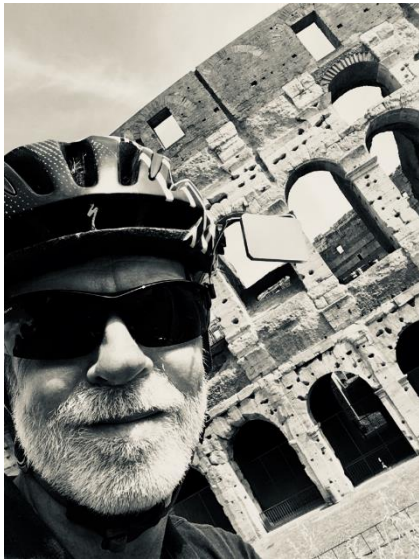


Rock Trail Coalition newsletter for Autumn 2018

- Speaker Meeting: Chuck Lewis' bicycle pilgrimage from Paris to Rome
 - Scout Eagle project: mapping and marking the trails in Rockport Park
 - Ribbon cutting: a new section of trails opens in Big Hill Park
 - Renew your membership for 2019
 - Bridge repair and trail maintenance: November 3 (if the river goes down)
 - Save the date: December 6 annual meeting
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**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 6:30 PM
BELOIT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

CYCLING ITALY WITH CHUCK LEWIS

Cycling the Via Francigena Pilgrimage

Pilgrims have been walking the route from Paris to Rome for a thousand years, but the Italians have recently configured the last 1000 kilometers from the Alps to the Vatican steps for bicyclists. Chuck Lewis spent ten days riding the route from Milan to Rome in May 2017, and in this talk he'll share photos, talk about the route, and reflect on the experience of undertaking a pilgrimage walk on two wheels.

Mapping and Marking Rockport Park – October 27

Eagle scout Landon Sherman writes: "I am having a work day for my Eagle project at Rockport Park and I am looking for some help. It will be from **8:30 to 4:00** on Saturday (10/27/18). Come for as long as you can. We will be installing the carsonite posts throughout the trails. This will be a lot of fun. Lunch will be provided.

meet at the Rockport pool parking lot at 8:30 am. Address: 2801 Rockport Rd, Janesville, WI 53548

What to bring: - Water bottle- Work gloves - Closed toed shoes or boots - Bug Spray

Please reply to this email so Dean can give the scouts a headcount for lunch.

This is a very important project for Rockport Park. I hope many people can participate. Dean.

Big Hill dedicates a new short section of trail. However short the new pavement is, it makes up for in importance. The new trail connects the major trail Peace Trail segment within the park to the north entrance section of the Peace Trail. We anticipate the Peace Trail north entrance being paved before winter. Keep your fingers crossed.



RENEW your membership. Membership runs from January through December. **RENEW NOW.**

Why might you want to renew for 2019?

- RTC is leading the campaign for a Bike Friendly Community in Janesville.
 - Important for recreation, tourism and quality of life.
- RTC is working with the Beloit and northern Illinois communities to extend the Peace Trail through Beloit, South Beloit and connect to the Illinois trail system.
 - Important to fill the gaps and create a comprehensive and connected bike route.
- RTC is working with Rock County to maintain and upgrade the Peace Trail.
 - Important to provide a safe, off-road, biking and walking route between Janesville and Beloit.
- RTC is working with other organizations to prevent expiration of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and to have it reauthorized for another 10 years.
 - Important to provide funds for future parks, trails and nature-based recreational opportunities.

To **renew your membership** through 2019, click here <http://rocktrailcoalition.org/membership/>

Bridge repair and maintenance. Flood waters have raised havoc with our ability to repair our 'hiker's' bridge at Markham Creek adjacent to the Peace Trail. We are tentatively scheduling a work party for Saturday, November 3 at 8 am.

Save the Date – RTC Annual meeting – Thursday, December 6 location to be decided. Dean and Jayne Paynter will present a talk about their recent hikes in the Mont Blanc region of Switzerland, Italy and France.