



The Rock County Parks - 2016 Calendar of Events

This is a compilation of Rock County Park and Friends Group events. **Pre-registration is sometimes required and fees may apply, please check with the event contact for specific program details.** This calendar is updated year round. Please send event notices, questions, or comments to Rock Co. Community Coordinator- David Hoffman at: david.hoffman@co.rock.wi.us

Date	Day	Time	Sponsor	Event	Contact
ONGOING	5/7 - 10/30	1:00 - 4:00 PM	Friends of Beckman Mill 	Beckman Mill Tours: Friends of Beckman Mill welcome everyone for their opening day on May 7th, 2016. They will continue running tours from 1:00 - 4:00 through October, every Saturday and Sunday. A recommended \$3 donation is very much appreciated to support their efforts. Corn grinding/milling is on the first saturday of every month. Beckman Mill County Park- 11600 Highway H Beloit, WI.	FBM Coordinator- (608) 751-1551 info@beckmanmill.org www.beckmanmill.org
ONGOING	2nd and 4th Sunday every month (Spring - Fall)	10:00 - Noon	The Prairie Enthusiasts- Prairie Bluff Chapter	Volunteer Restoration Workdays at Magnolia Bluff County Park: Chris Roberts is one of Rock County's most dedicated volunteers in the field of plant community restoration. Magnolia Bluff is one of the best county parks to visit for wildflowers and wildlife viewing. Feel free to join him Sundays for an experience to help enhance and maintain the Magnolia Bluff State Natural Area.	Community Coordinator- David Hoffman david.hoffman@co.rock.wi.us (608) 757-5473
ONGOING	Every Wed. 5/18 - 8/31	6:00 - 7:30 PM	Ice Age Trail Alliance- Rock Co. Chapter	Ice Age Trail- Walk Across Rock County: The Rock Co. chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance hosts this event every Wednesday throughout the Spring and Summer. This opportunity allows you to enjoy the trail with a great group of people and explore the natural landscape of Rock County.	Website and more info at: www.iceagetrail.org/volunteer/chapters/rock-county/
<u>WINTER EVENTS</u>					
12-Feb	Friday	5:30 - 9:00 PM	Rock Co. Parks Advisory Committee	Carver Roehl Candlelight Hike/Ski: hosted by the Rock County Parks Advisory Committee is a fundraiser benefiting the Rock County Parks Green Fund. Hundreds of candles will illuminate the trails for a beautiful night hike through the woods! Rock County Parks will offer free snowshoe rentals for those interested in trying them for the first time. Food and refreshments will be available, and donations are greatly appreciated!	Community Coordinator- David Hoffman david.hoffman@co.rock.wi.us (608) 757-5473
20-Feb	Saturday	2:00 - 3:30 PM	Rock County Conservationists	Winter Wildlife Hike: Enjoy a free guided hike with the Rock County Conservationist's naturalists, Dave Bendlin. Meet at the Storrs Lake Wildlife Area Parking Lot to begin the hike to learn about winter ecology and wildlife viewing. For more guide details and meeting locations call Dave Bendlin.	RCC, Naturalist Dave Bendlin- (608) 868-3824

19-Mar	Saturday	9:00 - 12:00 PM	Welty Env. Center	Maple Sugar Fest: includes tours of the sugar bush, horse drawn wagon rides, watching the trees being tapped, sap cooked into maple syrup, and fun games for kids of all ages.	Lena Verkuilen, Director www.weltycenter.org info@weltycenter.org 608-361-1377
<u>SPRING EVENTS</u>					
20-Mar	Sunday	1:00 SHARP - 4:00 PM	Friends of Carver Roehl	Easter Egg Hunt at Carver-Roehl Park: Join the Friends of Carver-Roehl Park for an Easter Egg hunt starting at 1 PM sharp. There will be prizes and treats for all ages. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Clinton Food Pantry. Also, make sure to bring your own basket to collect the eggs! Located at- 4907 S. Carver Rock Rd. Clinton, WI	Nancy Pope, President 608-728-0338 www.co.rock.wi.us/
20-Mar	Sunday	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Rock County Conservationists	RCC Annual Meeting: Join members of the Rock Co. Conservationists for their annual meeting at Basics Co-Op in Janesville. The educational program offered is a talk from Scott Weberpal on his nature and wildlife photography.	Community Coordinator- David Hoffman david.hoffman@co.rock.wi.us (608) 757-5473
3-Apr	Sunday	Start- 1:00 PM	Ice Age Trail Alliance- Rock Co. Chapter	Hiking at Gibbs Lake County Park: Join chapter members and others on a scenic hike through Gibbs Lake Co. Park (9103 W. Gibbs Lake Rd. Janesville, WI). The hike features the newly designated Ice Age Trail route through the park and Gibbs Lake trail system.	Chapter President: Dennis James 608-302-1885 djames84@outlook.com
16-Apr	Saturday	Start- 2:00 PM	Ice Age Trail Alliance- Rock Co. Chapter	Hiking at Carver Roehl County Park: Similar to the Gibbs Lake hike, chapter members and others invite anyone to hike at Carver Roehl Co. Park. Carver Roehl is known for its steep limestone cliffs cut by Spring Brook and an abundant amount of spring ephemeral flowers in the State Natural Area. Carver Roehl- 4907 S. Carver Rock Rd. Clinton, WI	Chapter President: Dennis James 608-302-1885 djames84@outlook.com
27-April - 1-May	Wednesday - Sunday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Ice Age Trail Alliance- Rock Co. Chapter	Crew Leadership & Skills Training at Storrs Lake Segment: A not so secret part of the success of the Mobile Skills Crew program is Crew Leadership. Are you ready to take your “trailbuilding is people building” skills to a new level, on and off the Trail? Space is limited so call now. You will leave this experience with knowledge to build sustainable hiking trails.	Chapter President: Dennis James 608-302-1885 djames84@outlook.com
30-Apr	Saturday	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Rock County Conservationists	Guided Canoe/Kayak Trip on Yahara River: Enjoy a morning on the Yahara River with Rock Co. Naturalist, Dave Bendlin. The Yahara River canoe trip is great for bird watching, especially waterfowl, and wildlife viewing alike. This unique experience is during spring bird migration. The Yahara is fairly shallow and gently flowing river that meanders its way from Deforest to it's confluence of the Rock River in rural Janesville.	RCC, Naturalist Dave Bendlin- (608) 868-3824

30-Apr	Saturday	Start- 1:00 PM	Ice Age Trail Alliance- Rock Co. Chapter	Hiking at Magnolia Bluff County Park: This will be the last Rock Co. Park hike offered by the Rock Co. Chapter of the IAT. Magnolia Bluff is host to the highest point in Rock Co. It offers great landscape views from the top bluff as well as great wildlife viewing. This is home to 1 of 2 State Natural Areas in the Rock Co. Park system.	Chapter President: Dennis James 608-302-1885 djames84@outlook.com
7-May	Saturday	10:00 - 12:00 PM	Friends of Beckman Mill and Rock County Parks	Volunteer Restoration Workday at Beckman Mill County Park: For about 2 hours we will eradicate the highly invasive plant garlic mustard from the oak savanna and surrounding natural area. Throughout the 2 hours learn about different plant communities and their ecological processes. Two trained staff in ecological restoration will be there to lead the group.	Community Coordinator- David Hoffman (608) 757-5473 & Scott Steuer- (815) 289-8377
7-May	Saturday	12:00 - 4:00 PM	Friends of Beckman Mill	Opening Day at Beckman Mill County Park: The mill tour season opens today! Tours run every Saturday and Sunday from May - Oct. Enjoy delicious food provided by the Friends of Beckman Mill. Come to learn about the mill, cooperage, museum, oak savanna and the visitor center/gift shop.	FBM Coordinator- (608) 751-1551 info@beckmanmill.org www.beckmanmill.org
14-May	Saturday	8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Rock County Conservationists	RCC's Native Plant Sale: The Rock County Conservationists annual native plant sale held at Riverside Park in Beloit. The sale features 27 different plant species that are ready for planting. If you're a member of the Rock Co. Conservationists you receive a discount on all plants and receive a coupon good for one free plant.	RCC, Naturalist Dave Bendlin- (608) 868-3824
15-May	Sunday	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Rock County Conservationists	Woodland Wildflower Hike at Carver Roehl Co. Park: Guided hike with naturalist, Dave Bendlin through scenic Carver Roehl. Carver Roehl is host to several endangered plants and many other beautiful flowers that can be viewed right from the trail. You'll learn much about the native flora and Carver Roehl's natural beauty.	RCC, Naturalist Dave Bendlin- (608) 868-3824
15-May through 25-May	15-May through 25-May	8:00 AM - 7:00 PM Everday	-Rock River Coalition -Rock R. Trail Initiative -WI DNR -UW-Whitewater	Testing the Waters- A Paddle and Probe Adventure: Several paddlers will float down the Rock River for ten days from it's headwaters at the Horicon Marsh to the Stateline in Beloit. Roughly 115 miles total. They will paddle with water quality detecting probes to analyze the health of the Rock River. This data will be uploaded in real time on to the website (www.testingwaters.org). After each day of paddling there will be community events held at different river communities along the way.	Rock River Coalition, Administrative Assistnat- Ingrid West: (608) 334-4517
21-May	Saturday	9:30 AM - 2:30 PM	Rock River Coalition	Citizen Stream Monitoring Training Workshop: RRC is providing their annual FREE training workshop to learn how to test water quality of local waterways for scientific research in the Rock River watershed. This provides you the skills and tools needed to become a full time Citizen Stream Monitor. Location- Turtle Creek Parkway Co. Park- 6528 Smith Rd. Clinton, WI	Citizen Stream Monitor Coord. Nancy Sheehan nancy@rockrivercoalition.org

4-Jun	Saturday	All Day	American Hiking Society	Take A Hike! Across Wisconsin and the country there are hundreds of programs for people to attend that will get you active on a any type of trail. Whether hiking, biking, canoeing or anything else make sure to visit one of your local trails and support your local trail coalitions.	N/A
<u>SUMMER EVENTS</u>					
June 24 - June 26	Friday - Sunday	All Day	Turtle Community Organization	July 4th Celebration at Sweet Allyn County Park: Softball Tournament, fireworks, tractor pulls, amusement ride, and more. There's a lot going on for this July 4th celebration in the town of Shopierre. Sweet Allyn Park address is 7149 County J Beloit, WI.	Turtle Town Clerk Deb Bennett (608) 362-0655
17-Jul	Sunday	12:00 - 4:00 PM	Friends of Beckman Mill	Ice Cream Social at Beckman Mill County Park: Enjoy delicious ice cream, cake and beverages in the picnic shelter while being serenaded by the Mill Road Band. The mill, cooperage, visitor center/gift shop will be open as well. And, be sure to take a leisurely stroll through the nearby oak savanna to enjoy its native plants and wild flowers.	FBM Coordinator- (608) 751-1551 info@beckmanmill.org www.beckmanmill.org
July 26 - July 31	Tuesday - Sunday	8:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Rock County 4H- Fair	Rock County 4H Fair- "Growing Great Memories:" As the oldest 4-H fair in the United States, the Rock County 4-H Fair has plenty to offer for each and every visitor. From the numerous animals to the carnival and every unique exhibit in between, the 4-H Fair allows visitors one special week a year to experience the many projects and learn from the county's youth. The 4-H Fair showcases amazing entertainment on its main stage and a variety of activities for the whole family to enjoy year after year.	Phone: 608-755-1470 Fax: 608-755-0227 Email: rcfair@tds.net
9-Sep	Friday	7:00 - 10:00 PM	Rock Co. Parks Advisory Committee	Summertime Candlelight Hike at Gibbs Lake Co. Park: to make up for the cancelled winter hikes Rock Co. Parks staff and friends groups will host another summertime candlelight hike. Hundreds of candles will illuminate the scenic trails at Carver Roehl for an enchanting hike through the woods and Spring Brook. (Back up date the following Friday- 7/22)	Community Coordinator- David Hoffman david.hoffman@co.rock.wi.us (608) 757-5473
10-Sep	Saturday	ALL DAY	Rock River Sweep & Rock R. Trail Initiative	Rock River Sweep: is a one day river sweep event including all 284 miles of the Rock River in Wisconsin and Illinois by partnering all river communities along the Rock to a unified river clean-up. The group is dedicated to preserving the health and ecosystem of the Rock River and its tributaries in Wisconsin and Illinois by partnering the communities along its banks into a unified, volunteer effort of river revitalization and annual clean-ups	For more info on events and river clean-ups near you visit: www.rockriversweep.org/

11-Sep	Sunday	11:00 - 4:00 PM	Friends of Beckman Mill	Beckman Mill Heritage Sunday and 9/11 Tribute: Visit the past during Beloit's Heritage Weekend. There will be guided tours of the mill and the cooperage museum as well as many demonstrations of vintage crafts. Other attractions include antique cars, tractors, machinery, carriage rides, old time music, great food and more. There will be a special tribute to 9/11 around 1:00- more details TBD. Please see contact info for more event details.	FBM Coordinator- (608) 751-1551 info@beckmanmill.org www.beckmanmill.org
<u>FALL EVENTS</u>					
1-Oct	Saturday	9:00 AM	Ice Age Trail Alliance- Rock Co. Chapter	Hiking at Beckman Mill County Park: Hike the Beckman Mill trails through a variety of natural communities and water features. Great opportunity to see migrating birds up close, so make sure to bring your camera and binoculars.	Chapter President: Dennis James 608-302-1885 djames84@outlook.com
1-Oct	Saturday	ALL DAY	Rock Co. Multi-Use Trail Group	Rock Co. Multi-Use Trail Group Fall Fundraiser: Enjoy camping, fishing, horseback riding, and hiking at Gibbs Lake Co. Park for the weekend. There will be a Poker Run and Scavenger Hunt for all campers. Gibbs Lake: 9103 W. Gibbs Lake Rd. Janesville, WI	Multi-Use Trail Group, President: Cricket Jewitt krickej@gmail.com
2-Oct	Sunday	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Friends of Carver Roehl Co. Park	Fall Fest at Carver Roehl: This great event sponsored by the Friends of Carver Roehl features live music, free food, a bake sale, arts and crafts vendors, wagon rides, and more... This is an event you will not want to miss!	Nancy Pope, President 608-728-0338 www.co.rock.wi.us/
18-Oct - 23-Oct	Tuesday - Sunday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Ice Age Trail Alliance- Rock Co. Chapter	Ice Age Trail- Mobile Skills Crew Event: This project will build 1.5 miles of new Ice Age Trail by tight-roping the transition zone between "Maggies Marsh" and private land. The sights and sounds of resident waterfowl and migrating birds promise great reward for hikers and great fun at the ever-intriguing MSC season finale.	Chapter President: Dennis James 608-302-1885 djames84@outlook.com
16-Dec	Friday	5:30 - 9:00 PM	Rock County Parks Advisory Committee & Friends of Carver Roehl	Candlelight Snowshoe/Ski/Hike: hosted by the Rock County Parks Advisory Committee this fund-raiser benefs the Rock County Parks Green Fund. Hundreds of candles will illuminate the trails for a beautiful night hike through the woods! Rock County Parks will offer free snowshoe rentals for those interested in trying them for the first time. Food and refreshments will be available, and donations are greatly appreciated!	Community Coordinator- David Hoffman david.hoffman@co.rock.wi.us (608) 757-5473