

**Building Campaign**  
Goal: \$5 million



Thanks to you the Center has made great progress in our Building Campaign. Please remember the building in your charitable giving!



**Urban Ecology Center**

Riverside Park  
2808 N. Bartlett Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
Phone: (414) 964-8505  
Email: uec@execpc.com  
www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

**Hours of operation:**

Monday - Friday  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday  
Noon - 4 p.m.

The **Urban Ecology Center** is a neighborhood-based, nonprofit community center located in Milwaukee's historic Riverside Park. Using this living laboratory, the Urban Ecology Center:

- PROVIDES** environmental science programs to neighborhood schools,
- PROMOTES** environmental awareness in the community,
- PRESERVES** and enhances the natural resources of Riverside Park, and
- PROTECTS** the Milwaukee River



# URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER

## River Reflections

*BING! REFLECTIONS*

**T**

Every time that I look across Riverside Park at the building rising on the horizon I pinch myself to see if I'm really awake. It is only beginning to sink in that, while we still have a lot of work ahead to complete this project, complete it we will. Now a new question arises. How are we going to fill the 20,000 square foot environmental community center? Consider the fact that our current facility (a double wide 1,500 square foot trailer) can fit inside just one room of the new Center.

Needless to say we are going to require a lot of "stuff" in order to operate our expanded programs. For the past few months a group of staff and volunteers have been assigned the task of identifying our every need, from the mundane (waste baskets and window shades) to the exciting (exhibits, artwork and microscopes).

The process of filling the building has evolved into three basic story lines. First there are the

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

educational interactive exhibits planned for the space. This will be featured in our next newsletter. Second is the the donation list and finally there is "La Lune" furniture story.

### The donation list

In keeping with our mission of limiting our impact on the earth we thought we should attempt to acquire as much reused or recycled goods as possible. We have about five months before we can move in, or five months to collect our material needs. Thus, we are seeking donations from the community.

We are ready and poised with donated space for storing equipment until we open, as well as a cargo van for picking up larger items. We have already received two quality copy machines, a chest freezer, microwave, 15 office chairs and some beautiful wood shelving. Please read over

Continued on page 4

### Birds, Bees and Bernoulli's Principle?

by Tim Vargo, Environmental Educator

Stick your head in the Urban Ecology Center classroom on a typical weekday and more than likely we'll be teaching a class on biodiversity, the food chain or animal habitats. These subjects are, after all, part of our mission. But come back later that afternoon and you might find us teaching about music, physics, or simple machines.



*A student runs up a ramp showing the benefits of an inclined plane during our Simple Machines class.*

You may wonder why we teach such a variety

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### A Tomato Turning Point

by Darrell Smith, Community Program Coordinator

Last summer I had one of those food experiences you never forget. I bit into a vine-ripened tomato that was so indescribably delicious I had to stop, close my eyes and savor every moment of it. I'd heard talk about the incredible flavor of locally-grown produce, but with this one bite, I needed no more convincing.

Experiences like these would hopefully be common to all Milwaukeeans but it's regrettably rare with our typical supermarket produce that has traveled an average of 1,300 miles from the farm to our kitchen table. A group of local farmers and city residents are trying to change that. In what is currently termed the Milwaukee CSA Initiative, local food advocates including

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## Bits and Pieces of News From the Center

- **Local businesses donate their services.** Thank you to Dr. Frank at Lakeside Animal Hospital (211 W. Bender Rd.) for donating his veterinary services once again to the Ecology Center. Our ornate box turtle, Peanut, was feeling under the weather but is doing much better now, thanks to Dr. Frank. Also, a big thank you to Andrew Chevrolet (1500 W. Silver Spring Dr.) for giving a huge discount on body work repair for our "Fish" passenger van. We are grateful to both companies for their support.
- **Exciting Urban Stargazing during March and April.** The March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup> meetings of the Urban Stargazers have the potential for spectacular viewing. In March, all five of the planets visible to the naked eye will be present in the evening sky. In addition, Steve Marshall will lead a session on using telescopes for photography. The April meeting occurs at the peak of the Lyrid meteor shower. Meetings are free and open to the public. For details, call Tim at the Center. *Note that the March meeting has been moved up to 6:00 to take advantage of planetary viewing.*
- **Nature Lovers bitten by Love Bug.** Fifty-two nature-loving singles took part in a special Urban Ecology Center's fundraiser, Speed Dating for Nature Lovers, three days before Valentines Day. The event, held at the Twisted Fork restaurant (2238 N. Farwell Ave.), was a grand success! Outdoor-loving singles met each other in 5 minute "mini-dates" and afterwards marked down whom they would like to meet again. More than 80% of participants received at least one match! The cozy surroundings and light hearted atmosphere made it a fun evening for all. A special thanks to the Twisted Fork for hosting and for our participants who dated for a good cause!
- **Summer Camp 2004 features a new middle school overnight adventure trip!** You should have recently received a summer camp brochure from the Center. Be sure to check out our new middle school overnight trip to Buckhorn State Park. Don't have kids of your own? Then please share this information with relatives and friends. Or consider sponsoring a child (see below). Camps run during the month of July and offer great opportunities for kids to explore Milwaukee.
- **Summer Camp sponsors needed.** Every year we offer scholarships to our summer camps for kids who otherwise would not be able to participate. We always have a diverse mix of kids, which enriches the camp experience for all. Please consider sponsoring a summer camp participant. The full cost of camp is \$175. Partial scholarships are also given. Thank you for making this possible.
- **3 a.m. feeding, 7 a.m. wedding.** Congratulations to Kim Forbeck, UEC Land Steward, and her husband, Todd, on the birth of their third son, Leo, in early February!
- **Trading Spaces.** Welcome to Vince Bushell who is joining our team to help with the transition to our new facility. We're excited to have his expertise during this exciting phase of the Center's growth.
- **Catching Governor Doyle's eye.** Congratulations to our volunteer, Roger Coleman, an 11-year old who attends Holmes Elementary School. The Center received a special letter from Governor Jim Doyle. Roger's efforts had been brought to the attention of Governor Doyle, who wrote to commend him on his enthusiasm, which "is the sort of thing we can only hope spreads not only to your classmates, but also to your entire community."
- **Volunteer Position Available – Office and Committee Support Person.** Do you have 15 hours a week that you would like to dedicate to the Center? Assist with a variety of tasks which support the office staff and several Board committees. Although some work may be done at home, the position responsibilities will require coming in to the Center to work too. The position is under the direction of the Business Manager, Judy Krause and may develop into a permanent part-time paid position in the future based upon budget plans. We ask a minimum 6 month volunteer commitment at this time. Contact: Judy Krause at [jkrause@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jkrause@urbanecologycenter.org) or call with questions.
- **Sea turtle.com** We would like to share an interesting email we received after the holidays from a member, Mary Ross – "Among my favorites at the UEC are the turtles. As my family knows of my fondness for them I received as a Christmas gift the adoption of a satellite tagged sea turtle named Flora through the Caribbean Conservation Corporation. By visiting its website <http://www.cccturtle.org> I'm able to see the map and track Flora's journey. The CCC is dedicated to saving endangered sea turtles, a worthwhile endeavor for sure!"
- **Building tours.** Interested in walking through our new facility before it opens later this summer? Consider joining Ken on his weekly Wednesday Walk at 9:30. This spring, Ken will lead people both through the natural area of Riverside Park and the new building. Experience our new home as it comes to life!
- **Many thanks.** The Center would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions: Lux Foundation, Nasgovitz Family Foundation, Helen Bader Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Usinger Foundation.
- **Building on success.** The Center would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions to its capital campaign: Albert & Flora Ellinger Foundation, Koss Foundation, Halbert & Alice Kadish Foundation, Green Tree Garden Club, Martin Family Foundation, Teerlink Family Foundation and We Energies.

## Birds, Bees and Bernoulli's Principle?

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of subjects at an *ecology* center. Ecology is defined as the study of the relationships between living organisms and the environment. There's nothing in this definition about the relationships between work, force and distance. So is it appropriate for us to go off on such diverse tangents?

Without giving it a thought, I would say yes. It is easy (and fun) to tie other subjects into the broad scope of ecology. The behavior and morphology of a moth, for example, correlates with the physical properties of sound waves. You can get some moths to go into an evasive dive by shaking your keys which emit ultrasound of the same frequency as some moth-eating bats.

In the face of budget cuts in the schools, teaching a full range of science subjects makes even more sense. When budgets are determined, sciences often take a back seat. By becoming an extension of their science department, we help schools offset these cutbacks.

We can have an even greater impact now that federal school funding has become so closely tied with standardized test scores. For example, we teach a class in simple machines. Why? It's fun, it can be tied into ecology and it is

*always* found on the standardized tests for fourth graders.

But by far the most important reason for teaching "outside the box" is to empower the teachers we work with. Any class that visits the Urban Ecology Center has the option of having us create a new program for them on the topic of their choice. This allows teachers to take an active role in what we do. It also allows us to accommodate teachers in other subjects, such as English (nature journaling), music (music of nature) and social studies (ethnobotany).

Recently, we were asked to create a class on the human body. At first it seemed a stretch, but we focused on anatomical relationships between humans and wildlife and it ended up being one of the most enjoyable classes I've ever taught. I'll never forget looking out on the baseball field and seeing Susan standing like a drill sergeant in front of 20 second-graders from Clarke Street School doing sit-ups (demonstrating metabolism). Not a normal sight at an ecology center, but then aren't budget cuts also affecting physical education in our schools?

## Just for Fun

What has rings but no fingers?  
A tree.

The economy is inside an environment, the environment is not inside an economy. – Jerry Brown

Raising kids is part joy and part guerilla warfare. - Ed Ashet

How many economists does it take to screw in a light bulb?  
None. If the light bulb really needed changing, market forces would have already caused it to happen.

Have you ever noticed... anybody driving slower than you is an idiot. And anyone going faster is a maniac. - George Carlin

How many politicians does it take to change a lightbulb?  
Two. One to change it, and another one to change it back again.

I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.

I'm *not* a control freak; I just like to be in charge. - Helen Lord-Burr

When faced with a choice between two theories, choose the funnier one. - Pizza Man sign

## A Tomato Turning Point

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the Urban Ecology Center are joining together to promote Community Supported Agriculture or CSA's, where city dwellers purchase a "share" in a nearby farm and receive weekly deliveries of fresh produce throughout the summer and fall. Why promote CSA's?

- **Taste.** It's the freshest food around.
- **Health.** With growing health concerns about pesticide use and mad cow disease, it is comforting to know who grows your food and what growing practices are used.
- **Community.** Joining a CSA helps you to stay connected with the rhythms of the surrounding countryside. Farmers often include newsletters with their food baskets, keeping you informed about the harvest and inviting you to seasonal gatherings and festivals.
- **Local economy.** Supporting local growers strengthens local economies and is more efficient and eco-friendly than shipping foods cross-country and internationally.

- **Sustainability.** CSA farmers use growing practices that respect the long-term health of the earth.

If you are interested in learning more, I invite you to look at our online listing of Milwaukee-area CSA's at [www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org). If you are passionate about healthy, locally-grown food, consider joining the Milwaukee CSA Initiative to promote CSA's citywide. Contact Darrell Smith at the Ecology Center, 414-964-8505, to find out about our next meeting.

## Costa Rica Adult Adventure Travel Trip - Pura Vida!

compiled by Dana Kaleta and Tim Vargo, Environmental Educators

In December, 14 intrepid travelers embarked on a long-remembered journey. Their destination was Costa Rica, a land of majestic natural beauty, smiling faces and the occasional near hurricane-force winds. At the risk of sounding clichéd, words can't describe the incredible breadth of Costa Rica's biodiversity, the warmth of the Tico (local) people, or its striking topography. Our group truly embodied the motto of Costa Rica - *Pura Vida/Pure Life!* - and lived life to the hilt throughout the 10 day tour.

The following journal excerpt, culled from pages submitted by trip participant Pat Mueller, offers a glimpse of the more memorable experiences:

### Zippering Across the Sky

*We climbed countless steps to the first platform and a 600 foot cable. The process was to hook rope and harness onto a pulley, sit back with your seat as low as possible, cross feet, bend knees, and be pushed away down the sloping cable! "Are you ready?" About as ready as I will ever be...and was it exciting! Over the treetops, caught at the other end and unhooked, then a climb to the next platform, and so on. Each "run" better than the previous one. On one we seemed headed into a small hole in the foliage, but it was just big enough. The final zip was into a thick, wet cloud, the end of which was totally invisible in the mist. Xavier (our guide) and I, in tandem, were the first across...I'm told we really just disappeared...it was freaky to see people (after me) appear out of the mist...looking down at the treetops, the giants of the forest, was so exciting.*

### An Abundance of Experiences

There is so much more to tell. Sightings of caiman, iguanas, toucans, howler monkeys, poison dart frogs, bats, sloths, leaf cutter ants, parrots, dazzling hummingbirds and Blue Morpho butterflies. Marvelous vegetation,



*On the "Sky Trek," Pat Mueller, 81, traveled via zipline cables suspended between platforms high in the Monteverde Cloud Forest canopy.*

bromeliads, cacao pods and colorful plants abounded! And the experiences... exotic food, fresh fruit, rainforest hikes, waking to the sounds of howler monkeys and noisy toucans, lazy days on volcanic sand beaches, a soak in hot springs skirting Volcano Arenal.

Our journey took us from lowland and mid-elevation rainforest to tempestuous storms atop Monteverde and, finally, to mangrove estuaries and Pacific coastline. Through lectures and visits, we gained a perspective on local environmental challenges, the struggle to establish fair trade in agriculture, and the balancing act between development of property and sensitive ecotourism. At a personal level, tales will be told of new friends, rustic environs and lessons in patience in the face of tempestuous weather.

For more information about future adult travel opportunities, contact Dana Kaleta. For the *real* story, talk to trip participants Pat, George and Paul Mueller, Anne and Mark Channell, Joan and Ron Cook, Lou and Chris Davit, Al Liu, Robert Kaleta and Darrell Smith.

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the enclosed wish list (or check our website at [UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://UrbanEcologyCenter.org)). We made the list an insert so you can easily copy it and send it to friends. If you know of extra equipment in your school, lab, basement or business, call us. Contact Vince Bushell (265-7278 or [vbushell@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:vbushell@urbanecologycenter.org)).

### La Lune

The La Lune Collection is a classy international furniture line built here in Milwaukee, just blocks from the Center. Mario Constantini, president and founder, began the company 25 years ago after receiving a request from a client while working as an interior decorator. The client was looking for a natural, sturdy looking chair. Mario couldn't find what was needed so he built the chairs himself. The beautiful furniture caught the attention of others and in pretty short order Mario found himself making more.

Today Mario, from Argentina, operates a factory in Riverwest that employs 20 to 30 people. They sell product all over the world. Besides thousands of private households, customers include the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, the Aldo Leopold Center in Madison and numerous YMCA camps. The attractive part of his furniture, in addition to its durability and innate beauty, is that it all is created out of sustainably grown, locally harvested native poplar and willow. Much of the rapidly growing wood used is considered to be a "weed" by the DNR – wood that would be thinned out regularly anyway. This high quality hand-crafted furniture is far beyond the budget for the Center, but just as we love the work of La Lune, Mario has embraced the work of our Center. He is making a large order of furniture for us - conference and classroom tables and chairs, couches for volunteers, a swinging porch swing and more, just for the cost of labor - a cost that a local philanthropist has agreed to pay!

## Astronomy Notes

by Art Paque and Woody Hagge, Community Volunteers

### March

March is the month for planet watching; all five of the "naked eye" planets will be visible in the evening sky. Best of all, you won't have to stay up late! Venus, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter are already visible after sunset; look for Mercury low in the west at twilight after mid-month.

Look for the full moon (Crow/Sap/Death/Crust On Snow) on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Jupiter will be 3° above and to the right of the moon leading it across the sky through the night. Spring arrives on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the Vernal Equinox occurs at 12:50 a.m. accompanied by a new moon.

All five "naked eye" planets and the Moon will be visible for two weeks starting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Looking west, Mercury (-1.0) will be just below the moon after sunset (6:15 p.m.). Venus (a brilliant -4.3) and Mars (dim +1.2) will be about 45° up in the west southwest. Saturn (0.0) will be high, 65°, in the south, while Jupiter (bright -2.5) will be alone 25° up in the east. The moon and planets will be in a nearly straight line from Mercury in the west to Jupiter in the east. As the evening progresses, planets will set and the "line" will shift north of west and south of east as the Earth rotates.

On March 24<sup>th</sup> Venus will be 2° from the crescent moon in the west southwest. By the 25<sup>th</sup>, Mars will be less than 1° away from the crescent moon, also in the west southwest. Mercury and Venus at their greatest eastern elongations, they will reach their highest elevations in the sky, 18.9° and 46° respectively on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

### April

April begins with all five "naked eye" planets still visible in the night sky until Mercury is obscured by the sun

### Are there really six "naked eye" planets?

The planet Uranus, discovered in 1781 by German born astronomer William Herschel, is at the edge of "naked eye" visibility. It measures only +5.9 magnitude. Dark skies and sharp eyes will reward those seeking a glimpse of this distant icy planet, which has, at last count, 27 moons and 11 rings. Most of us live in the city and will have to rely on binoculars or a small telescope to find this planet. The two links which follow will help you find the times Uranus will be visible and where to look in the sky to find it. <http://www.spacegazer.com/science/solarsystem.htm#planets> and <http://www.fourmilab.ch/yoursky/catalogues/planets.html>

at the end of the first week. The Lyrid meteor shower will peak on the 21<sup>st</sup> unhindered by the moon.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> Jupiter (-2.5) and the moon will be close, 3°, after sunset in the southeast.

Daylight Savings Time begins on the 4<sup>th</sup> (spring forward). The full moon (Pink/Egg/Grass Appearing/Awakening) occurs on the 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:04 p.m. and the new moon arrives on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Lyrid Meteor Shower runs from the 16<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, peaking on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup>. Lyra will rise in the northeast near 9 p.m. Best viewing will be after 10:30. Dress for the weather and look to either the north or the south, 45° up in the sky. Ten to twenty per hour are expected.

## Signs of Spring

by Beth Fetterley, Education Director

While I've always loved the height of winter, when I was a child the transition to spring seemed to drag on forever. I called cool, icy, rainy days "dirty days." It was on these "dirty days" that the natural signs of approaching warmer, drier days had a way of lifting my spirits.

My first "sign of spring" experience at the Ecology Center happened while preparing for a class in 2001. I was walking toward the bike path planning to spend the next 20 minutes checking trails for ice and muck. The day before I had hoped that rain would turn to a light dusting of snow to make animal tracks more vivid. Since this hadn't happened, I was planning other ways for the class to learn about wildlife in the park. Lost in thought, I barely noticed the dark brownish black object



float in front of me. At second glance, I realized it was not a leaf: it was a Mourning Cloak butterfly!

The Mourning Cloak is a beautiful purplish, dark brown butterfly with wings outlined in blue spots and a light yellow border.

The coming of spring seems to bring an awareness of nature even in our urban community. Make note of what you see this spring and send an email to [bfetterley@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:bfetterley@urbanecologycenter.org) so we, too, can track your sightings.

## MARCH THROUGH APRIL CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise indicated, participants meet at the Urban Ecology Center, 2808 N. Bartlett Ave. Scholarships are available for all fee based programs. **All programs are free and for everyone unless otherwise indicated.**  
For general information call 964-8505, or visit [www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org)

### Special Events

Celebrate an urban Earth Day! Details below:

## Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 17

Noon - 5 p.m.

For Everyone!

Free

Join us in Riverside Park for music, food, crafts, hay sledding, carriage rides and exhibits on sustainable living in the city. **Plus**, join us on a morning hike or lend a hand in our park building project!



## Annual River to Lake Hike!

9 a.m. to noon

For adults and accompanied children, ages 7 & up

Join Ecology Center Executive Director Ken Leinbach on our traditional 4-mile hike from Riverside Park to the lakefront. Enjoy the beauty of two of Milwaukee's park gems and learn natural history along the way.

## Park Building Project: Outdoor Ampitheater

9:30 a.m. - noon

For adults and accompanied children, ages 7 & up

Join hands in our spring project of building a rustic amphitheater in the woods. Help us create a new venue for educational and social programs. No building experience necessary. Just bring good cheer!

**Is it Really Safe to Eat the Fish?: A Socio-economic View on Fish Consumption**

Speaker: Dr. Maria Powell,  
UW-Madison

Tuesday, March 16  
(Note: this has been rescheduled from March 9<sup>th</sup>!)

7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$3 (Members - free)

This program will discuss the toxins in fish and related health issues, the relationship between culture and fishing, and the issue of citizen access to public health information. Ms. Powell investigated this complex topic through comprehensive interviews of residents in Milwaukee and Cleveland and will share the stories and lessons learned from the project.

**A Fair Trade: Coffee From Around the World**

Tuesday, March 23  
7 p.m.

For adults

\$3 (Members - free)

What's the second most traded commodity in the world? Coffee! Al Liu of Alterra Coffee Roasters will take us on a guided tour and **free tasting** of coffee from around the world and take a closer look at how Milwaukeeans can support sustainably-grown, fair trade coffee.



**Management and Goals for Downer Woods**

Speaker: Jim Reinartz,  
Director,  
UW-Milwaukee  
Field Station

Tuesday, April 13  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$3 (Members - free)

In 1964, the state of Wisconsin purchased the 18.8 acre Downer Woods property for UWM as part of the acquisition of Downer College. The wooded area at the north end of the campus was used by Downer students and faculty for biological field trips, bird watching and other activities. Come learn the history, its present condition and the long term plans for plant diversity of this Eastside natural area.

**Globalization and Its Critics**

**New Discussion Course from the Great Lakes Earth Institute!**

Organizing Session:  
Wednesday, April 14  
7 p.m.

Course meets Wednesdays,  
April 21- June 9  
7 pm.

For adults

\$20 (GLEI Members - \$15)

This brand new 8-week study course looks at the institution, processes and effects of globalization and examines how personal choices affect globalization. Topics include: globalization overview, free trade, transnational corporations, food and the global marketplace, social equity, globalization and the environment and homogenization of cultures.

**Urban Adventures**

Call the Center at 964-8505 to register at least two days before the trip. Trips will run as scheduled, rain or shine.

**Hike the Milwaukee River**

Saturday, April 10

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

For adults & accompanied children age 12 & up

\$5 (Members - free)

Get up close and personal with the river and its banks in early spring. We will begin at the Center and hike up to Port Washington Road, cross the river and come down the west bank, crossing back at North Avenue. Approximate length is eight miles. Bring water, wear boots, expect mud, and plan on seeing something you've never noticed before.

**Birding by Canoe**

Saturday, May 8

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For adults

Limited to 8 canoes

\$25 (Members - \$20)

Call to register by Tuesday May 4, 964-8505  
Payment is due at time of registration

Get out on the water with Research Coordinator Tim Vargo and Urban Adventures Coordinator Dan Gray as we search for beautiful spring migrants like warblers, vireos and tanagers. Birders of all experience levels are encouraged to participate. Bird guidebooks and binoculars are available for use. Bring a lunch and water. Canoes, paddles and PFDs are provided.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Volunteer Orientation**

Saturdays, March 27 &

May 1

10 a.m. - noon

Free

Volunteers play a vital role in operating the Center. Come to this informational session and learn about the Ecology Center's programs and how to get involved. We'll take a tour of Riverside Park and ride in our bi-fueled vans to our Hubbard Park river facilities.

**Bird Banding Training**

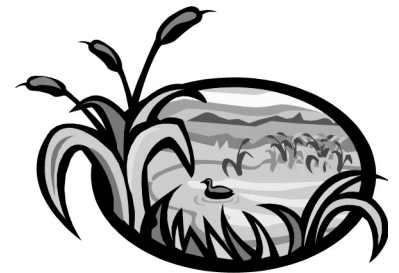
Tuesday, April 6

6 - 8 p.m.

For adults & accompanied teens

Free

We are looking for dedicated people to join our hardy corps of banding volunteers as the project enters its third season. Banding will occur Tuesday mornings starting in late April. See page 11 for more details.



**9<sup>th</sup> Annual River Clean-up**

Saturday, April 24

9 a.m. - noon

Free

Join Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers in the city-wide effort to clean up our riverways. Grab your boots and gloves and help pick up litter and debris in Riverside Park. To sign up, contact Robyn Calvey at Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers at 414-287-0207.



**Marked programs are not accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited accessibility.**

## Family Programs

### Science Saturdays

Every Saturday  
A drop-in program  
Free - Donations welcome

Drop in anytime to discover the world of science through interactive activities, experiments or games.

March: *Science of Light*  
April: *Planetary Pursuits*



### Animal Feeding Time

Every Saturday  
1 p.m.  
Free - Donations welcome

Help feed the Center's resident turtles and snakes as you learn about the animals that inhabit the Milwaukee River Valley.

### Storytime in the Park

Sundays, March 14 & April 4  
2 - 3 p.m.

For accompanied preschool & kindergartners  
\$5 (Members - \$3) per child

Listen to nature stories and meet animal friends in our classroom or look for new friends in the park!

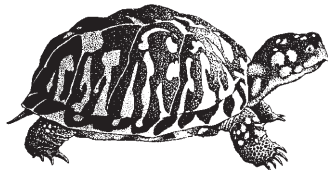
### Sunday Walk for Families\*

Sundays, March 21 & April 18

(weather permitting)  
2 - 3 p.m.

Adult: \$5 (Members - \$3)  
Child: \$4 (Members - \$2)  
A maximum of \$15 will be charged per family

Come explore Riverside Park as a family! Take a guided hike through the natural area of the park and look for animal life.



### Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park

Sundays, March 7 & 21  
Noon - 2 p.m.

Adult: \$8 (Members - \$5)  
Child: \$6 (Member - \$3)  
A maximum of \$15 will be charged per family

Take part in the maple syrup tradition. (Much better than store bought!) On the 7<sup>th</sup> we will tap trees in the park. On the 21<sup>st</sup> we will boil down the sap into syrup. (Quality assurance testing is required).

### Animal Tracking in Riverside Park

Saturday, March 13  
2:30 - 4 p.m.

\$5 (\$3 members)  
A maximum of \$15 will be charged per family

Learn how to identify different animals by their tracks and then search Riverside Park for clues of recent visitors including the rumored **Big Foot** of Riverside Park...

### Friday Fire

Friday, April 23  
New format!

7 p.m.: Music for younger audiences  
7:45: Popcorn and S'mores  
8:15: Music for all ages  
\$5 (Members-free)

Join us for the first Friday Fire of the season! Guest musician, Howard Hinterthuer, will lead us in participatory music around the campfire.

### Reptile Ramble

Saturday, April 24  
2:30 - 4 p.m.

\$5 (Members - \$3)  
A maximum of \$15 will be charged per family

Learn about the distinctive adaptations of local reptiles and explore the Milwaukee River banks, looking for reptile inhabitants!

## High School Outdoor Leader Programs

*Outdoor Leader Programs are open to all high school youth - no one is refused due to inability to pay. Recommended donations are used to cover programs costs.*

### Backpacking on the Ice Age Trail

Saturday, March 27 -  
Sunday, March 28

For high school youth  
\$25 (Members - \$20)  
Call the Center to register by March 19.

Join us for an overnight backpacking trip in the Kettle Moraine area. Hike, camp and see Southeastern Wisconsin's glacial heritage up close. We have some backpacks and other gear available to borrow.

### River Clean Up by Canoe Saturday, April 24

9 am. - noon  
For high school youth  
Free

Help us take part in Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers' on the river clean-up. We will be cleaning from canoes rather than from the banks. It will be very fun, as well as a service to the river and the community.

## Interest Groups

### Wednesday Walks With Ken\*

Every Wednesday  
9:30 - 11 a.m.

Free - donations welcome

Explore Riverside Park with our Executive Director, Ken Leinbach. Call ahead to confirm, 964-8505.

### Early Morning Birdwalks\*

Every Thursday  
8 a.m.

Free - donations welcome  
Interested bird watchers of all ability levels are invited to join us in exploring surrounding environs for bird life. Binoculars available.

### Burdock Brigade\*

Every Tuesday, 9 - 11 a.m.  
Saturdays, March 6 & 20

April 3 & 17  
9 - 10:30 a.m.

Free  
Improve biodiversity in the park by removing alien plant species like burdock, purple loostrife.

### Riverside Camera Club

Thursdays, March 4 & April 1

7 - 9 p.m.

Free - donations welcome

**March:** Ed Kolinski of the Wehr Nature Center Camera Club presents *Better Travel Photography*. **April:** Nancy Klemp of the Image Makers Camera Club presents her *Tabletop Macro and Flower Photography*.

### Little Wild Yards

Saturdays, March 13 & April 10

9:30 - 11 a.m.

Schlitz Audubon Nature Center  
For adults  
Free

**March:** Landscaping Indian Hill School. **April:** Native plant slide show. Organized by the Wild Ones. Call 332-7024 for information & car pooling.

### Vegetarian Potluck

Mondays, March 15 & April 19

6:30 - 8 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children.  
Free - donations welcome  
Call 964-8505 to register.

Bring a plate and fork along with your dish to share at our picnic style meal.

### Urban Stargazers

Thursday, March 25, 6 p.m.  
& Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m.

Free - donations welcome

The upcoming meetings have the potential for spectacular viewing. In **March**, all five of the planets visible to the naked eye will be present in the evening sky. In addition, Steve Marshall will lead a session on using telescopes for photography. The **April** meeting occurs at the peak of the Lyrid meteor shower.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9a Burdock Brigade	3 9:30a Walk with Ken	4 8a Birdwalk 7p Camera Club	5	6 <i>Science Saturdays: Science of Light</i> 9a Burdock Brigade 1p Animal Feeding
7 12p Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park	8	9 9a Burdock Brigade	10 9:30a Walk with Ken	11 8a Birdwalk	12	13 9:30a Little Wild Yards at SANC 1p Animal Feeding 2:30p Animal Tracking
14 2p Storytime in the Park	15 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck	16 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Is It Really Safe to Eat the Fish?	17 9:30a Walk with Ken	18 8a Birdwalk	19	20 9a Burdock Brigade 1p Animal Feeding
21 12p Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park 2p Sunday Walk for Families	22	23 9a Burdock Brigade 7p A Fair Trade: Coffee From Around the World	24 9:30a Walk with Ken	25 8a Birdwalk <b>Special Time</b> 6p Urban Stargazers	26	27 1p Animal Feeding <b>High School Overnight: Backpacking on the Ice Age Trail (start)</b>
28 <b>High School Overnight: Backpacking on the Ice Age Trail (end)</b>	29	30 9a Burdock Brigade	31 9:30a Walk with Ken			

# Urban Ecology Center Programs

April 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			9:30a Walk with Ken	8a Birdwalk 7p Camera Club		Science Saturdays: <i>Planetary Pursuits</i> 9a Burdock Brigade 1p Animal Feeding
2p Storytime in the Park	5	6 9a Burdock Brigade 6p Bird Banding Training	7 9:30a Walk with Ken	8 8a Birdwalk	9	10 9a Hike the Milwaukee River 9:30a Little Wild Yards at SANC 1p Animal Feeding
11	12	13 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Management & Goals for Downer Woods	14 9:30a Walk with Ken 7p Globalization & It's Critics: GLEI Discussion Course Organizing Session	15 8a Birdwalk	16	17 <b>Urban Earth Day!</b> 9a Burdock Brigade 9:30a Park Building Project: Fire Ring 12p Celebration!
18 2p Sunday Walk for Families	19 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck	20 9a Burdock Brigade	21 9:30a Walk with Ken 7p Globalization & It's Critics: GLEI Discussion Course	22 8a Birdwalk 7p Urban Stargazers	23 7p Friday Fire	24 9a High School: River Clean-up by Canoe 9a River Clean-up 1p Animal Feeding 2:30p Reptile Ramble
25	26	27 9a Burdock Brigade	28 9:30a Walk with Ken 7p Globalization & It's Critics: GLEI Discussion Course	29 8a Birdwalk	30	

Please Contact the Center for details

(414) 964-8505

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

## Thank You From the Center

**In-kind donations:**

Andrew Chevrolet – donated body work  
 Tim Hansen (Salvage Heaven) – Leaded glass windows  
 Jim McGinity – pickup truck  
 Milwaukee Community Service Corp. – transportation of donated items  
 David Zach – office supplies, photo scanner & computer accessories

**Gifts given in memory of:**

Robert & Lilli Strecker  
 Barbara & Susan Strecker

**Welcome New and Renewing Members:**

Susan Athorpb  
 Constance Arnosti  
 Barbara Barder  
 Clair & Mary Baum  
 Ben Benninghoff  
 Jeff Bentoff  
 Fred Berman  
 Nancy Berns  
 Bill & Kathe Biersach  
 Steve Books  
 Pat Bowne  
 Lynn Broaddus & Marc Gorelick  
 Mary Brooks  
 Arthur Brooks  
 Tony Brown  
 Robert & Kathy Brumder

Sylvia Buckman  
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 Tim Burch  
 Dick Burke  
 Jeff & Kathy Bussanich  
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Alterra Coffee Roasters, Inc.	United Water	Beans & Barley	REI, Inc.
Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers		St. Mark's Episcopal Church	

A special thanks goes to the following businesses for their continued donations.

Alterra Coffee Roasters	Five Star Fish
Bayside Garden Center	Hoffers Tropic Life Pets
Cousins Subs	

## A bird in the hand ... and it could be your hand!

by Tim Vargo, Environmental Educator

It's that time of year! In a few short weeks, birds from all around the Americas will be passing through Riverside Park on their way to their summer homes up north. If you have an interest in ornithology, would like to get involved in field research at the Urban Ecology Center, or simply would like to marvel at the up-close beauty of a spring warbler in hand, then the Migratory Bird Project could be an exciting opportunity for you.

We are looking for dedicated people to join our hardy corps of banding volunteers as the project enters its third season. This is a great opportunity to learn how to safely handle and identify birds, while making new friends and contributing to a national database that

monitors bird populations. As a citizen scientist, you can become involved in all aspects of a bird banding operation, from the logistics of using mist-nets to data collection and processing to gaining a broad understanding of the project's goals.

A training meeting will be held at the Urban Ecology Center on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and banding will start in late April.

If you would like to learn more about the project or how you can participate, please call Tim at the Center, 964-8505. We do get up early, but there are always smiling faces, coffee and goodies – the essentials of a quality bird-banding operation.

*River Reflections* is produced by Urban Ecology staff and the members of the publicity committee. If you have any comments please call or write:  
 Urban Ecology Center, Riverside Park, 2808 N. Bartlett Ave.  
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211  
 Phone: 414-964-8505 Email: uec@execpc.com  
 Website: www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

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**Urban Ecology Center Staff**

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 Beth Fetterley

**Business Manager**  
 Judy Krause

**Research Coordinator**  
 Tim Vargo

**Urban Adventures Coordinator**  
 Dan Gray

**Community Program Coordinator**  
 Darrell Smith

**Environmental Educators**  
 Tim Vargo Susan Winans

**Public Relations Coordinator**  
 Carjjean Buhk

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# MEMBERSHIP



The benefits of membership include discounts on programs and products, invitations to special events, opportunities for neighborhood stewardship and a one year newsletter subscription. To become a member of the **Urban Ecology Center**, or to make a donation, please complete the form below and return it to:

Urban Ecology Center  
Riverside Park, 2808 N. Bartlett Ave.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53211

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Individual (member + 1 guest)	\$25	\$ _____
Family	\$35	\$ _____
Student	\$12	\$ _____
One-year newsletter subscription, <i>no other member benefits.</i>	\$10	\$ _____

*Financial assistance is available. Please call for details.*



# DONATION



*in addition to membership*

The **Urban Ecology Center** has many new programs, a growing student body, expanding family involvement, ongoing research and necessary facility improvements. Your financial contribution will help ensure that the **Urban Ecology Center** continues to provide an unforgettable experience for all.

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Support a community program.	\$50	\$ _____
Support one half day at the Center by a school class.	\$100	\$ _____
Support one full day at the Center by a school class.	\$200	\$ _____
Support a neighborhood school for one year (26 field trips)	\$3000	\$ _____
Please accept this donation for terrific service to the community		\$ _____

I would like to volunteer at the Center. Please call me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Memberships may be paid by check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to Urban Ecology Center.*

Charge my membership to:  Master Card  Visa

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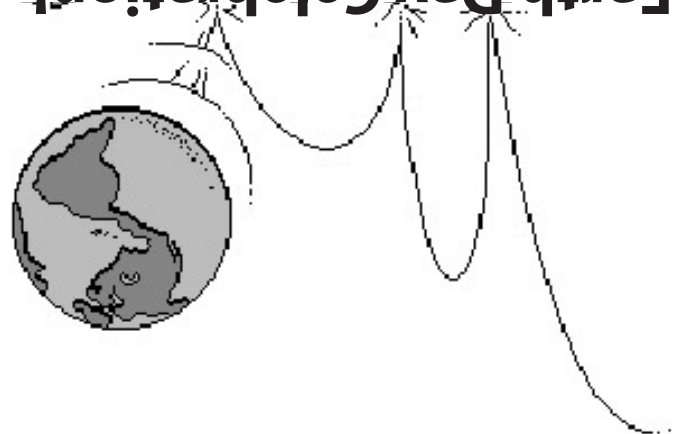


See details inside

Noon - 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 17

# Earth Day Celebration!



Urban Ecology Center  
Riverside Park  
2808 N. Bartlett Ave.  
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