

**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

### Join the Keystone Club and Help Us Finish Our Campaign! by Alice Kamps

Joining the Urban Ecology Center's Keystone Club is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The Keystone Club is a group of individuals and organizations that contribute (or have already contributed) \$1,000 or more to the capital campaign for the new Urban Ecology Center. It has been created to help raise the final \$500,000 needed for the campaign. If we raise \$250,000 we are promised the remaining \$250,000 from a Kresge Foundation challenge grant. Like a keystone, this last piece is crucial for completion of the new building and the future strength of the organization.

Keystone Club campaign co-chairs Alice Kamps and Mark Sandy will be sending letters in the coming weeks to encourage all members and friends to join the Keystone Club. They will be working with volunteers to identify new individuals and organizations that share our passion for environmental education and protection. As part of the Keystone Campaign,

we hope to introduce many new members to the Urban Ecology Center, its mission, and programs. If you know someone that we should contact, please provide us with the address!

Keystone Club membership is open to those who contribute, pledge, or add to an existing pledge a total of \$1,000 or more by June 30th, 2004. Pledges may be provided over a three-year period (which means only \$333 per year!).

Keystone Club members are entitled to the following benefits:

- Lifetime Urban Ecology Center Membership
- Permanent acknowledgment on our Donor Recognition Wall
- An invitation to be among the first to see the new center and its exhibits at our Opening Celebration this fall

To join the Keystone Club or help introduce new members to the Urban Ecology Center, please contact Judy Krause at (414) 964-8505.

### Scenes From Our Classroom

by Susan Winans, Environmental Educator

At the end of the school year it is common for us to report the number of student visitors we serve in a given year, but we feel it is more rewarding to pass along the experiences that we encounter on a daily basis.



On a Tuesday afternoon in February, fifteen excited first-graders from O.W. Holmes School were on the edge of their seats in the Urban Ecology Center classroom. The students were studying the differences between insects, reptiles

### Building Update: The Exhibit Plan

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director and Beth Fetterley, Director of Education

In the back of the new Urban Ecology Center there is a curious oddity - a square door with steps that clearly identify it as a way in ... but for whom - it's only 2 1/2 feet on each side? Crawl through the entrance and an amazing transformation occurs. The sound of a running stream, images of tadpoles in a pool and a seven foot drop await. As you swoosh down the imaginary waterfall the wall mural depicts an underwater scene. You hear a splash and are now in Lake Michigan with gulls crying overhead and a sail boat on the horizon. Stooping through a low doorway you walk out into the sunlight. Welcome to the Ecology Center's main exhibit hall!

## Bits and Pieces of News From the Center

- **Beth Fetterley named Conservation Educator of the Year!** Congratulations to our Director of Education, Beth Fetterley, for being selected the 2004 Conservation Educator of the Year by the Conservation Congress. Beth will be recognized at the annual state-wide meeting.
- **Our summer camps still have space!** The Center's Summer Camps offer great opportunities for kids to explore Milwaukee's green spaces by foot and by canoe. Scholarships available. Sign up today!
- **The Second Annual Teen Adventure Challenge (TAC) will take place Saturday, June 5.** TAC is an adventure race for teams of high schoolers accompanied by an adult that hike/run, rock climb, orienteer and canoe along and on the river. TAC will conclude with an awards ceremony at Pere Marquette Park. To get involved you can: 1. Compete - we need teams from 15 different high schools, 2. Volunteer - we need about 50 volunteers along the course, 3. Sponsor - we need corporate sponsors to help underwrite and/or enter an employee team to compete against other companies. Call 964-8505 for more information.
- **Thank you to Don Dobert and Barb Hulz at Ad Tape and Label** for their generous and quick donation of our Membership Mug label. Our new free gift package for new members looks great! The debut of our new membership initiative was launched with success at our Earth Day Festival on April 17<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful for your support.
- **Art exhibition features Ecology Center.** Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee, in collaboration with Hartford University School and the Haggerty Museum of Art, is pleased to present "Social Justice-Get it in Your Head! 2004," an exhibition created by students from Hartford. Students from Hartford were paired with Community Shares organizations earlier in the year. After learning about the organizations, the students cast and painted concrete heads to represent the organizations' missions and their importance to the community. Each head is accompanied by a short poem. After April, our head and poem will be displayed at the Center.
- **Thank you to the community for maple sugaring success!** We had many who helped us change sap to syrup! Students helped tap sugar maples and collected 70 gallons of sap. A MIAD volunteer assembled and bricked our brand new evaporator. Milwaukee County House of Corrections provided firewood. Mike Brenner of Hotcakes Gallery brought the batter and flipped cakes at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spontaneous Pancake Breakfast and a volunteer produced labels for the syrup bottles. If you'd like to be contacted for our next spontaneous event, just add your name to our email announcement list, by contacting [cbuhk@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:cbuhk@urbanecologycenter.org)
- **Partners for clean air.** The Center has partnered with Hartford University School in the "School + Business = Clean Air" program. This program, sponsored by the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air with support from the DNR, brings schools and businesses together to promote ways to improve air quality. Sixth grade students at Hartford will create posters that encourage alternative transportation and other clean air activities. Their posters will be displayed at the Center during May.
- **Many thanks.** The Center would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions: Fox Point Federated Garden Club and Koss Foundation.
- **Building on success.** The Center would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions to its capital campaign: Kohler Company and Badger Meter Foundation.
- **Center added to Pick 'n Save We Care program.** Be sure to designate the Ecology Center, #879200, as your We Care organization. Each time you shop and use your Advantage Plus Savers Card, the Center will receive a cash rebate.
- **Explore the rich diversity of Costa Rica with the Center.** Due to high demand, the Center will offer a second Adult Adventure/Citizen Science trip to Costa Rica in January of 2005. The trip will focus on the amazing biodiversity of the country, as well as current social and conservation issues. Please contact Tim Vargo at the Center (964-8505) for more information.

## Community Connections

*If you or your group have a desire to connect with others through a particular activity or topic, give us a call and we'll consider putting it in our Community Connections.*

### Earth Day Action!

Organized by the Wisconsin Earth Day Coalition 2004

Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 p.m.

Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay St, Bay View

Teams of volunteers canvas Milwaukee neighborhoods, handing out literature on threats to Wisconsin's core environmental protections. Celebration to follow. For more information, please visit [www.wisconsinearthday.org](http://www.wisconsinearthday.org) or contact

Anne at [wisconsinearthday@yahoo.com](mailto:wisconsinearthday@yahoo.com), or by phone at (608) 850-4585

### Milwaukee's Urban Environment: Cultivating the Ecological City

Organized by UW-Milwaukee's Center for Urban Initiatives

Wednesday, May 26, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To register: call 229-5916 or log on to [www.uwm.edu/Dept/CUIR](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CUIR)

Lively discussion on efforts to preserve our natural resources while moving forward in urban development. Hear from city officials, developers and environmental and justice advocates on the challenges and benefits of becoming an ecological ally. Urban environmental education session moderated by our Director of Education, Beth Fetterley.

### Computer Recycling Collection

Organized by Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful

Saturday May 8, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Computers, monitors, printers, laptops, keyboards and mice will be collected for reuse and recycling at State Fair Park. This equipment contains hazardous materials. Cascade Asset Management will be processing the old equipment and destroying any personal information left on computer hard drives.

### The Quad 30 Campaign

This June, Center member and Wisconsin Society of Ornithology President Noel Cutright will attempt to conduct 30 North American Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) to celebrate his 30 years of running BBSs and to raise \$30,000 for bird conservation. All funds raised in Wisconsin will be donated to Wisconsin's Important Bird Areas. For more information or to obtain a pledge form, please contact Noel at [noel.cutright@we-energies.com](mailto:noel.cutright@we-energies.com).

## Building Update: The Exhibit Plan

*continued from page 1*

In addition to a few quirky displays, like the above mentioned slide room, our exhibits deepen the visitor's exploration of urban ecology. The study of urban ecology involves complex layers that define and characterize our city home. To this end, the exhibits of the new center focus on five basic questions:

- Which living things make up our neighborhood? – the natural community of Riverside Park
- What is the history of this land? – the history of Riverside Park
- Where are we in this place? – our physical, spatial and geographical address
- How do we know what we know? – the tools of an ecologist
- How might we live in this place better? – an exploration of “green” design

### Which living things make up our neighborhood?

Off of the main exhibit hall is a classroom dedicated to our Native Wisconsin Animal Lab. Fish, reptiles, and amphibians that can be found in the park will be highlighted. Three large (six foot) fish tanks will cover the back of the room. These, donated by Hoffers Tropical Life Pets, will represent a cross section of the Milwaukee River. Upstairs the camouflage classroom will house four 6' by 6' murals. Each panel depicts the same spot in Riverside Park during a different season. Another 18' mural shows a summer scene along the Milwaukee River progressing from dawn to dusk. Over 70 species, animals and plants, will be camouflaged within these paintings. Between the animal lab and the murals one gets a comprehensive perspective of who shares our urban neighborhood.



### What is the history of this land?

Downstairs, surrounded by work of local artists, a visitor finds the warmth

of the a fireplace in a room dedicated to the people connected to Riverside Park. The topography, vegetation and richness of this area have been hugely influenced by cultural, social and political decisions made by people throughout time. From some of the first people believed to have set foot in Riverside Park to the recent efforts to revitalize the area, an overview of neighbors throughout time will be highlighted. Further down the hall, the project room shows a cross section of the urban underground: both geological and human remnants of a below-ground ecosystem.

### Where are we in this place?

Entering the main doors, you step onto the concrete floor of the main hall, stained blue like Lake Michigan. The floor on the west side of the room is brown. The boundary between the two colors represents the shoreline, and blue veins painted within the brown show a map of the South Eastern Wisconsin waterways. A large puzzle with two foot puzzle pieces will be available. These puzzle pieces coincide with the stained floor and can be connected to create a huge aerial photograph of the region. You will be able to see the roof of your house if you live within four miles of the Center. In addition to the map, near each post in the room will be other perspectives on our location. One will illustrate the layers of atmosphere over our head, another will show the layers of material if you were to journey to the center of the earth. There will be six of these in total: a soil profile to bedrock, temperature gradients of Lake Michigan, etc. As you climb the 60 foot observation tower outside you'll experience our cosmological address moving from aerial photos of the Center to satellite photos of Wisconsin and the world, to the solar system and ultimately to the universe.



### How do we know what we know?

On the second floor, where we have our Citizen Science Lab, the exhibit theme shows how ecologists do their research. You'll be able to walk a 50' transect mimicking the urban bird study research we are conducting with Cornell University. Twelve programmable speakers scattered throughout the room will challenge your listening and wildlife identification skills along this transect. In another area a video microscope will allow you to see living protozoa. Other tools for ecological research will be on display. In one case you will have to find a radio tagged specimen hidden somewhere in the Center. The Tula Erskine Memorial Library is also on this floor. This library will mimic a naturalist studio from the 1930s, using Tula's artwork, spore prints, writings and tools to decorate the room.

### How can we live in this place better?

Everyday we are faced with choices. Whether we know it or not each decision goes through a series of filters in our thoughts. If buying something, we consider the item's cost, how it looks and its function. Some of us also consider the environmental impact of the item: is it made from recycled material, did it take a lot of energy to create, etc. This is called “green” thought. Every decision that has been made in the design and construction of our new facility (and there are well over a million of them) went through an environmental thought filter. Thus our building is called a “green” or sustainable building. Our “green” decisions, of course, are balanced against other filters – economy, politics, aesthetics and time. Scattered throughout the building will be our “Shades of Green” icon with information explaining why we did what we did.

There are many other surprises waiting for you with the new Center. We have had a lot of fun putting it all together and can't wait until we can share it with you in the fall!

# MAY THROUGH JUNE 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. For general information call 964-8505, or visit [www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org)

## Special Events

### Teen Adventure Challenge\*

Saturday, June 5

8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Registration Deadline: May 14

Limited to 15 teams, one team per high school

Call the Center to request a registration packet

See "Bits n Pieces" on page 2 for more details.

### Summer Solstice Evening Celebration

Monday, June 21

7:30 p.m.

Riverside Park

Celebrate the longest day of the year with an evening of music, drumming and poetry led by local musician and poet Harvey Taylor. Bring a favorite song or poem to share and join us on the hilltop overlooking Riverside Park. Refreshments provided.



## Life Long Learning & Citizen Science

Back by popular demand!

### Urban Composting

Tuesday, May 4

7 p.m.

For adults

\$5

UW-Extension Master Gardeners present this down-to-earth introduction to composting in the city. Get all your questions answered about turning your vegetable and yard waste into "black gold." The workshop satisfies the Milwaukee City ordinance requiring training for urban composting.

### How Small Wetland Restorations Function as Components of the Wisconsin Landscape

Speaker: Jill Hewitt,

UW-Milwaukee

Tuesday, May 11

7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$3 (Members - free)

Hundreds of small wetlands have been restored on private lands with the intention of providing native plant and animal habitat, decreasing soil erosion and increasing storm water storage and water quality. Using a combination of fieldwork and remote sensing techniques, Jill is investigating the functional status of these wetlands. The resulting data will be analyzed for patterns of functionality related to restoration design and placement in the landscape.

### Urban Stargazers

Tuesday, June 8

Atwater Beach

Drop in anytime between

5 - 6:30 a.m.

Free - donations welcome

Join the Urban Stargazers for the astronomy event of 2004! Venus will make a rare crossing of the sun. Although it is never safe to look directly at the sun, the Stargazers will provide safe viewing for this event. If you would like to join us, meet at Atwater Beach between 5 and 6:30 a.m. (or 4:30 for a glimpse of Mercury). For details, see article on page 6 or contact Tim at the Center, 964-8505.

### Gypsy Moths: What You Can Do to Slow the Spread

Speaker: John Domino,  
Wisconsin DNR

Tuesday, June 8

7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$3 (Members - free)

Learn the basics of gypsy moth natural history, regulations, identification and what homeowners should know to protect their trees from this alien invader. John will also give us an idea of the future of gypsy moths in Wisconsin.

### Hiking & Sketching

Saturday, July 17

(rain or shine!)

9 a.m. - noon

For adults

\$45

Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) & UEC members - \$40  
To register call  
MAM at 224-3834

Inspired by the environmental paintings and photography in the MAM's Tom Uttech Retrospective exhibition, artist Sarah Andrews will be teaching a sketching class at the Center. Basic sketching and drawing techniques will be explored while taking a guided hike along the wooded banks of the Milwaukee River basin. Beginning and experienced artists are welcome.

## 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.

### 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. Birders of all levels are encouraged to participate. Guidebooks and binoculars available for use. Bring a lunch and water. Canoes, paddles and PFDs provided.

Back by popular demand!

### River Rhythms\*

Every Wednesday in June

5:15 - 9:30 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children ages

10 & up

\$20

(Members -\$15)

Payment is due at time of registration

Canoe down the Milwaukee River from Riverside Park, enjoy the tunes at River Rhythms in Pere Marquette Park and then paddle back to the Milwaukee Rowing Club on Commerce Street. Register early, these trips fill up fast. Limited to 14.



### Solstice Canoe Trips\*

Saturday, June 19

Canoe trips depart from the North Avenue Summer Solstice Festival  
11 a.m., 1:30 p.m.  
& 4 p.m.

Adult: \$10

Child: \$5

Limited to 14 per trip  
Call 964-8505 to register

Take a ride in our natural gas vans up to Riverside Park, board canoes and paddle down the Milwaukee River. Run the North Avenue rapids and enter the urban river corridor before pulling out at the Milwaukee Rowing Club. A wonderful primer on urban canoeing and an ideal family outing! Look for our van near the corner of North and Oakland.



**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.

Topics-  
**May:** *The Air We Breathe*  
**June:** *Music of Nature*

### 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 river valley.

### Storytime in the Park

Sundays, May 16 & June 13  
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!

### Spring Wildflower Walk\*

Sunday, May 23  
2 - 3:30 p.m.  
Adult: \$5 (Members- \$3)  
Child: \$4 (Members- \$2)  
Join natural landscaper Paul Ryan for an exploration of wildflowers in the Park. Delve into the beauty, history and lore of wildflowers in our urban area. This program is the first of a three part series spanning the full season of the region's wildflowers.

### Friday Fire

Fridays, May 21 &  
June 25  
7 p.m.: Music for younger audiences  
7:45: Popcorn and S'mores  
8:15: Music for all ages  
\$5 per person or \$10 for a family (Members-free)

**May:** Nationally touring singer/songwriter Celia Farran leads us in stories and song. Learn more about Celia at [www.celiaonline.com](http://www.celiaonline.com).

**June:** Darrell Smith, a community drummer, leads a drum circle that shakes, rattles and rolls. Cap off the evening with stargazing.

### Sounds of Nature

Saturday, June 26  
2 - 4 p.m.  
Adult: \$5  
Child: \$3 (Members - free)  
Learn about the sounds of nature right in the city and create your own natural instrument to take home.

### Sunday Walk for Families\*

Sundays, June 27  
(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.

## 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, May 1 & 15,  
June 5 & 19  
9 - 10:30 a.m.  
Free  
Improve biodiversity in the park by removing alien plant species like burdock.

### Riverside Camera Club

Thursdays, May 6 &  
June 3  
7 - 9 p.m.  
Free - donations welcome  
**May:** Edith Hoefer presents her "Seasons of Door County." Few areas of Wisconsin hold the mystique of Door County, so join with us to view this special place through the seasons.  
**June:** View fine photography and hear our works critiqued by an expert judge at our semi-annual club competition.

### Little Wild Yards

Tuesday, May 25,  
5:30 - 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 8, 6 - 7 p.m.  
For adults  
Free

May marks the return of the Little Wild Yards group to the Center. **May:** Carol Chew will present her experiences of creating a rain garden. This will be a great program for anyone who wants to disconnect downspouts and clean the rainwater locally. **June:** We'll visit a Wild No Water No Mow Font Yard at 1570 E. Blackthorn. Carpool from the Center or meet at the site.



### Vegetarian Potluck

Mondays, May 17 &  
June 21  
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

Thursdays, May 27 &  
June 24  
7 p.m.  
Free - donations welcome  
Please join us for information and sky-watching.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Volunteer Orientation

Saturdays, May 1 & June 26  
10 a.m. - noon  
Free  
Volunteers play a vital role in operating the Center. Come to this informational session and learn about the Center's programs and how to get involved.

### Snake Cover Board Survey

Wednesdays, May 12 & 26  
5:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays, June 9 & 23  
6 p.m.  
Surveying at pre-dusk increases our chance of finding salamanders and snakes under boards placed in the park. Bring a hole-free pillow case and sturdy walking shoes.

## High School Outdoor Leader Programs

### Night Singers: Frog Survey\*

Wednesdays, May 19 & July 14  
6 - 11 p.m.  
For High School Students  
Free  
Space is limited; please sign up by the preceding Monday.  
Spend a "romantic" evening listening to frog mating songs. Participants learn to identify frog species by their call and collect data for the DNR's annual auditory survey. We will travel just west of Milwaukee to the 10 survey sites.



## Astronomy Notes

by Art Paque and Woody Hagge, Community Volunteers

It's May and planet watching continues! Mercury in the morning and Venus, Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter in the evening. Two comets may be visible to the naked eye! Comet C/2002 T7 (Linear) might reach 4<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> magnitude by mid-May and Comet C/2001 Q4 (Neat) could reach 3<sup>rd</sup> magnitude in mid to late month. Keep in mind, the visibility of comets is difficult to predict and their locations change with some rapidity. Go to the following site for more information. [http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/comets/article\\_1229\\_1asp](http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/comets/article_1229_1asp)

### May

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> Venus will be brilliant with a -4.5 magnitude! Be sure to look for the Flower/Planting/Milk full moon on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Predawn on the 5<sup>th</sup> watch the Eta Aquarid meteor shower at its peak; look south to southeast after 2 a.m. There promises to be about 15-20 meteors/hour, but the nearly full moon will interfere with viewing. Look for the moon just north of Mercury before dawn in the east on the 16<sup>th</sup>. New moon will be on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Venus will be only 0.3° from the moon, just above the northeast horizon on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 a.m. Mars and Saturn will cluster below the Moon in the west May 22<sup>nd</sup>. By the 24<sup>th</sup>, Mars will be less than 2° from Saturn in the west northwest. Jupiter and the Moon

will be 4° apart in the southwest by the 27<sup>th</sup>. All of these occur just after dark.

### June

June 8<sup>th</sup> presents the highlight of the year. A seldom seen transit of Venus across the face of the Sun, last occurring in 1882. The transit begins at 12:14 a.m. and will not be visible until sunrise at 5:13 a.m. Venus will be visible for about 45 minutes on the interior of the Sun and about 20 minutes as it exits from contact. This is a "naked eye" event and **eye protection is imperative! Never look directly at the Sun!** See the sidebar for information about safe viewing. Join the Urban Stargazers as they provide a safe viewing of this event, details on page 4.

June's morning planets are Venus and Mercury until the 11<sup>th</sup>. The evenings will reveal Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and also Mercury after the 26<sup>th</sup>. From the 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> look for Saturn and Mars near the Moon just after dark, low in the W. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Moon 3° N of Jupiter in W after sunset.

June features the year's earliest sunrises and latest sunsets as we head towards the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year at 15 hrs. 23 min.

The largest and closest full moon of the year (221,994 miles from Earth) will be at 8 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. New moon is on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the full moon (Buck) is on July 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Transit of Venus

The 2004 transit of Venus will be an exciting event and fun to watch. **Safe viewing and eye protection are critical.** Visit the following sites for information on safe viewing techniques and tools.

<http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/sun/>

[http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/sunearthday/2004/vt\\_viewing\\_techniques\\_2004.htm](http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/sunearthday/2004/vt_viewing_techniques_2004.htm)

<http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/SEhelp/safety2.html>

<http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/SEhelp/safety2.html>

A transit is the passage of a planet across the face of the Sun. The entire 2004 transit will be visible from Europe, the Middle East and most of Africa and Asia. It will not be visible anywhere in western North America.

Transits of Venus take place in pairs; the second of this pair occurs in 2012. The next pair will not take place until 2117 and 2125; the last pair was in 1874 and 1882.

One of the great problems of astronomy was determining the distance from the Earth to the Sun. The transit of Venus provided 19<sup>th</sup> century scientists a means to find this distance by measuring the relative parallaxes of Venus and the Sun during the 1874 event.

## Hiking the Ice Age Trail

by Dan Gray, Urban Adventures Coordinator

In March six high school students and I went on an overnight backpacking trip on the Ice Age Trail in the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest. We hiked in through an eerie fog on Saturday, spurred on by the calls of Canada geese and black capped chickadees. The damp and chilly night was kept at bay by a roaring campfire and pan fried brownies.

After a leisurely breakfast and the barking hoots of a barred owl, we



walked through the moraines, eskers and drumlins left by the most recent glaciers. The cool and cloudy morning

gave way to warm temperatures and a bright sun. This was followed by more clouds and a 30 minute downpour right before we got back to the van.

This was one of our monthly programs for high school students. Some of our other trips have included cave exploration and river clean-up by canoe! Be sure to keep an eye out for future high school adventure programs.

## Thank You From the Center

### In-kind donations:

Don Dobert & Barb  
Hulz at Ad Tape and  
Label - Membership  
Mug label  
Ann Epstein – three  
framed pictures  
Kohler Company  
– sinks & fixtures

### Continuing in-kind donations:

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

### In Honorarium:

Tom Schrader  
Marsha Huff &  
James Fretty

### Welcome New and Renewing Members:

Rachel Ackeret  
Michael Antholine  
Robert & Shirley  
Anthony  
Jeff Arp  
John Bach & Pat  
Gorence  
Dick & Kay Baldwin  
Jill Baum  
Kathy Behm  
Helen Caldwell  
Emma Carollo  
Dennis & Jean Casper  
Christi & John Clancy  
Sharon DeYoung &  
Chuck Sams  
Jane Dicus

Don Dobert & Barb  
Hults  
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## Scenes From Our Classroom

*continued from page 1*

and amphibians by seeing and touching the animals in our Native Wisconsin Animal Lab. This group of children was particularly vocal and after hearing an unusual number of “eww!”’s from the group, Mr. Tim gave them a challenge he heard naturalist David Stokes once give. “There’s one word that doesn’t belong in science, and that word is ‘eww.’ Next time you feel

like you’re about to say ‘eww,’ replace it with ‘wow!’” “So,” Tim continued, “if we were out in the park and we saw coyote scat, what would you say?” Knowing ‘eww’ was not what Mr. Tim wanted to hear, a chorus of fourteen students obediently said, “Wow!” I smiled as the girl sitting next to me registered what scat is, then loudly exclaimed “Yuck!”

*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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Membership includes discounts on programs and products, invitations to special events, opportunities for stewardship and a one year newsletter subscription.

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Individual (member + 1 guest)	\$25	\$ _____
Family	\$35	\$ _____
Student	\$12	\$ _____

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

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(IN ADDITION TO MEMBERSHIP)

Many of the youth served would never have the opportunity to walk in the woods or canoe down the river if not for our programs. Your financial contribution helps ensure that the Urban Ecology Center continues to provide unforgettable experiences for all.

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Support a community program	\$50	\$ _____
Support one half day for a school class	\$125	\$ _____
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I would like to volunteer at the Center. Please call me.

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

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**We do too.**



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July 6, at the Center, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 (parent orientation July 6, 5-6 p.m.)  
 and July 7 - July 9, overnight  
 at Buckhorn State Park  
 For kids who've completed grades 7 & 8

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