

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER

River Reflections

RIVER REFLECTIONS



Urban Ecology Center

Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 964-8505
uec@urbanecologycenter.org
UrbanEcologyCenter.org

Hours of operation:

Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday & Saturday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday
Noon - 5 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



Volume 14, Number 2
March & April 2005

Summer in the City

I have never been more excited about a summer program than I am this year and I've been in the business of running kid-oriented outdoor programs for over 20 years! We have a state-of-the-art Ecology Center to utilize, four natural gas vans in which to explore the community and an incredible array of equipment (nets, microscopes, canoes/kayaks, waders, rock climbing gear, etc.) to use. But more than that, we have absolutely the most fun, most qualified and most dedicated staff that I have ever worked with. Granted, I'm biased ... but it's true! If you don't believe me, come observe a school group in action at the Center. I can guarantee you'll be smitten with the team. There is energy here, a contagious enthusiasm that will captivate any child who participates.



by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Here are five reasons why you should convince all children between the ages of 4 and 18 to consider our program.

Location, location, location

This is the first Summer Camp season in our new building! Whenever something is done for the first time, extra energy and time is put into preparation. There is a unique excitement among the staff that comes from being the first to do something that kids this year will be a part of.

Community

This is not sending your kid away to camp. Ecology Center participants join a learning community within their neighborhood that can stay with them as they grow, a group that they can contribute to throughout the year.

Continued on page 3

New Publishing Method Saves Paper, Costs Less

by Eva Augustin Rumpf, UEC Member

It is said that we all have books inside of us, just waiting to be written. But unless an aspiring author has the reputation of a Stephen King or the popularity of a Bill Clinton, getting that book published may be next to impossible.

In the past, the writer's options were few: stash away the manuscript in your bottom desk drawer and live with regret for what might have been. Run off a few copies at Kinko's and pass them out to your family and friends. Find a "vanity publisher" who will overcharge you to print 1,000 copies, which you try to sell from the trunk of your car until you give up and leave the rest to mildew in the basement.

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Who's Been in Your Back Yard?

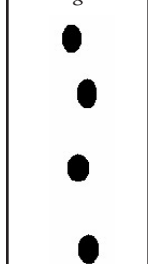
by Chad Thomack, Environmental Educator

Have you ever wondered what critter made those tracks in your yard? P.S.S.T.! Let me share this secret with you.

Honestly, reading tracks is not a daunting task. Let me fill you in. Look at the **Pattern, Shape, Size, and Toes**, to determine what critter made the tracks. Examine these four properties of the track and you will be well on your way.

Patterns can separate the tracks into four general categories. First the walkers, they move hind and opposite-side

Walking track



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Bits and Pieces of News From the Center

- **Darrell Smith, our Community Program Coordinator**, will be leaving us in April to work with his landscaping business and pursue a Master's Degree in Counseling. He's made his own distinctive mark on the Center, beginning both the Candlelight Walk and Speed Dating for Nature Lovers and expanding our Lifelong Learning lecture series among other things. In his words, "I've enjoyed connecting to the community and participating in the creative work of the Center. I'd like to thank the volunteers who have helped in so many ways: weekly Burdock Brigaders, gung-ho Special Event helpers, and all of the individuals who have contributed something unique to the Center." We wish Darrell the best in his future endeavors.
- **Please consider supporting a camper with a summer camp scholarship.** Thanks to the generosity of our membership we are able to sponsor students each year. Send your check attn: Judy Krause and write summer scholarship in the memo line, or call 964-8505 with your credit card handy.
- **A special thanks to Larry Moon, Mary Jo Vasarella and the employees of Lakeside Manufacturing in West Milwaukee** for the recent donation of stainless steel carts and custom made plant stands. The carts are a wonderful, and much needed, addition to the Center's program needs.
- **Bowling in the library?** Many thanks to Dan Vogel of Heartwoods Furniture Restoration for donating his services to refinish the table in our library. The table is made from an old bowling alley and makes a great conference table!
- **Cory the Bike Fixer's grand re-opening.** Celebrate Cory's 9th anniversary and grand re-opening. Cory the Bike Fixer has been a long-time supporter of the Urban Ecology Center, offering discounts to our staff, teaching bicycle repair classes and supporting the community and staff's goals to commute by bicycle. His store at 2410 North Murray Avenue has recently had a face lift. Please visit Cory the Bike Fixer on March 15th to celebrate the

grand re-opening. A percentage of the proceeds from sales made on that day will be donated to the Center.

- **Giving opportunities found in our community.** Please take advantage of these ways to give to the Center.

Shop at Outpost Natural Foods (on Capitol Drive or the Wauwatosa Store) on Wednesdays in the month of April and 1% of the day's sales will be donated to the Urban Ecology Center. Thanks to all of you that nominated the Center for the Community Wednesday program at Outpost. If you would like to volunteer to greet shoppers as a representative of the Center on one or more of those Wednesdays, give Ginger a call at 964-8505, x. 106.

The Center is a member of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee. If your employer does not offer workplace giving, call Judy at 964-8505, x. 102, to help start a Community Shares campaign at your office.

Through a partnership with Ranch Community Services, you can donate your car or other older vehicle to support both nonprofits. The Center will receive 50% of the sale for any vehicle donated through our contacts.

Be sure to designate the Center, #879200, as your Pick'n Save We Care choice. Each time you use your Advantage Plus Savers Card, the Center will receive a cash rebate.

New! Recycle your cell phone. Recycle your old ink-jet cartridges and cell phones at the Urban Ecology Center. For each shipment of recyclable materials, a donation is made toward the betterment of our urban environment.

- **Part Time Job Announcement:** If interested in one of the following opportunities, please call Ken at 964-8505, x. 101.

Janitorial help needed at the Center. Twenty hours per week.

Additional Playground Attendant is needed from 3 to 5 each afternoon starting in April.

- **Check out the tower view from the comfort of your home!** The Urban Ecology Center is now part

of the Weatherbug network (and a smart weather station for Fox6 News) to measure temperature, dew point and other weather related data, as well as offering a bird's eye view of the park. Check out www.aws.com/wx.asp?id=MLWKC or www.weatherbug.com.

- **Many thanks.** The Center would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions: Leaf Ltd., Gretchen & Andrew Dawes Charitable Trust, Payne & Dolan, Robert G. Zach Family Foundation, Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Nasgovitz Family Foundation, Bank One Foundation, Pollybill Foundation, Stevens Family Foundation and Fleck Foundation.
- **Building on success.** The Center would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions to its capital campaign: Kresge Foundation, Krause Family Foundation, Richard G. Jacobus Family Foundation, We Energies and Dorothy Inbusch Foundation.

Wish List

We are extremely grateful for the generous support of our members and friends. If you have an inkind donation for the Center, please call Ken at 964-8505, x. 101. The Center is in need of the following items:

VCR
 Computer speakers
 Locking 2 or 4 drawer file cabinet
 Portable fabric covered display board
 Portable Tradeshow exhibit
 Lateral 2 drawer file cabinet (36")
 Firewood
 Poster-size frames
 Parachute/earth ball/juggling stuff
 Two 8 foot step ladder
 Stepstools
 Desk/floor lamps
 Mandolin
 Good electric keyboard
 Chest freezer
 Large cast iron bell
 House for internship housing
 Electric dryer
 Bath towels
 Dish towels
 \$40,000 for tower climbing wall
 Prius to serve as a community car

Summer in the City

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Diversity

We reside in an economically and racially diverse neighborhood and are committed to serving the entire neighborhood.

Our camps reflect this. You might disagree with me, but I believe that the program is stronger, the community is richer, and the experience the students take away from them more profound, thanks to this commitment to diversity.



Kids can be kids

This is a program where the kids decide what to learn and to some

extent how to structure their days. It is inquiry education at its best. Not a prescribed formula, but an empowering freedom of choice. It is so easy for kids these days to get plugged in ... be it TV, video games, lesson timetables or hectic soccer schedules. The Ecology Center programs allow kids a chance to be kids ... to catch crayfish, skip stones on Lake Michigan, or silently watch a majestic great blue heron from a canoe, all conveniently close to home.

Did I mention our staff?

It is people that make all the difference and we have good people!

Note: At the Ecology Center we have never turned away campers because they can't afford to come. In the past this sometimes has meant not making our summer budget. If you are able, please consider contributing to our summer scholarship fund.

National Youth Service Day at the Ecology Center

by Diane Burnham, Business Intern

Are you between the ages of 10-17 years old? Do you like to have fun with your friends as you help the community? If you answered "yes" to these questions, then National Youth Service Day is for you!

National Youth Service Day (NYSD) is a chance for youth 10-17 years old to volunteer their time as part of a national work day. Volunteers will sign-up in advance to help on Saturday, April 16th, at the UEC's Earth Day Event!

All volunteers receive a very cool t-shirt and an invitation to attend a special kick-off event on Thursday, April 14th. NYSD is a great chance to meet other youth who are working for change in their communities.

Volunteering is a great way to help others, and learn more about your community! To sign up, contact Diane Burnham at 964-8505, x. 104.

New Publishing Method Saves Paper

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Even traditional publishers can't turn every book they publish into a bestseller. They typically print a few thousand and warehouse the books until they're ordered by bookstores. But thanks to the phenomenal growth of the internet and the services it makes available, less costly and more environmentally friendly publishing methods are now available through e-publishing.

E-publishing is the electronic delivery of content. This rapidly developing industry includes e-mail newsletters, e-books and print-on-demand (POD) books, all of which save paper and storage space. E-books, which must be read on a computer or hand-held electronic reading device, have been slow to be embraced by readers who like the familiar feel of a book. However, production by POD is growing in use and popularity.

POD technology allows publishers to print a single book as it's ordered,

avoiding costly print runs, the need for warehousing inventory, and the waste of unsold books. It is also faster, delivering the book just days after it's ordered.

Scores of e-publishers can be found on the web. Writers who are interested in e-publishing should devote some time to researching the companies on the internet and comparing services, costs and track records. Reputable publishers are upfront and clear about what they offer. One web site, www.booksandtales.com, evaluates and compares numerous e-publishers.

After unsuccessfully trying for months to find an agent and publisher for my first novel, Prot U, I researched e-publishers and decided to go with Booklocker.com. I formatted the manuscript according to their instructions and provided a cover designed by my daughter, who is a photographer.

In a couple of weeks, I received the first printed copy, a 5.5" by 8.5" trade paperback with a shiny, full-color cover. As soon as I approved it, Booklocker posted my book page on their Web site, <http://www.booklocker.com/books/1646.html>.

The benefits of e-publishing to both the author and the environment are obvious. However, one drawback is that the responsibility for publicizing and marketing the book falls almost entirely on the author, who may just want to write, not sell.

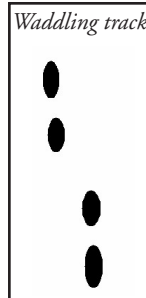
E-publishing is beginning to compete with traditional publishers, and while the newer method of getting books out may never replace the older one, it is saving money, space and natural resources. Equally important, it's offering aspiring authors a sensible way to see their work in print.

Who's Been in Your Back Yard?

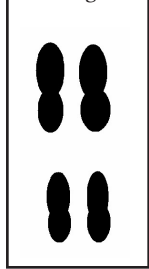
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front limbs forward at the same time. They have long limbs and narrow bodies. Humans, deer, and dogs are considered to have walk-patterns.

Next are the waddlers; they move hind and same side front limbs forward at the same time and have short to medium length limbs with wide bodies. Bears, raccoons and opossums waddle.



Bounding track



Third are the bounders that move both front limbs forward and then both hind limbs and have short limbs and long, narrow, tube-like bodies. Mink, otters and other weasels have a bounding pattern.

Lastly are the hoppers that move both front and hind limbs forward, having powerful hind limbs and less-powerful front limbs. Hind footprints land ahead of front footprints. Rabbits, squirrels and other rodents typically have



this pattern. I encourage you all to make your own interpretations of these track patterns outside in the snow.

Shape of the track helps determine the group of animals to which it belongs. For instance, round tracks tend to be made by felines and more oval tracks are made by canines (canines show claw marks while felines tend to have claws retracted.). There are many other generalities to look for and they can be found in many tracking books.

Size of the track helps determine which specific animal from a group of animals was there. For example, a mouse track will be smaller than a squirrel's.

Counting the number of **toes** can help separate tracks into groups. Some general rules are as follows: Canines and felines have four toes. Bears, opossums, raccoons and weasels have five. Rodents tend to have four front toes and five hind toes, except for the beaver which has five on each. Hoofed animals like a deer tend to have two

Now remember, becoming good at tracking takes some practice. Just getting out there with a tracking book is a great start. If you don't have one, come down to the Center. We would love to help you.

From the Board

by Lorraine Jacobs, President, UEC Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors has grown in the past month as four new members were nominated and accepted at the January meeting. Each of the new people brings his individual mix of talent and commitment to the Center. Welcome to: Jeff Anthony, Troy Hilliard, Bill Rumpf and Ben Caslbeek. Future articles will introduce these gentlemen.

At this time I'd like to tell you a bit about myself and introduce you to two long standing Board Members who have been connected to the Center, Dennis Grzezinski, Membership Chair and Theresa Lins, Publicity Chair.

I currently serve as President of the Board. I have been connected with the Center since 1992, volunteering where needed. Retired from the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, I recently began a part-time position with Interfaith, serving older adults who wish to remain in their homes but need support. A long time



Community Connections

If you or your group have a program to share with others, give us a call and we'll consider listing it in this section.

Film-Verde Bike Ride

Saturday, March 5

11 a.m.

Milwaukee Environmental Consortium, 1845 N. Farwell Ave. Bring your bike and a bag lunch

Come celebrate three of your favorite things: movies, bikes and the environment! We'll take a bicycle tour of Milwaukee's environmental hot-spots with a bag lunch stop at Urban Ecology Center. We'll end the ride at the Milwaukee Environmental Consortium, where we will watch an environmentally-themed film and eat popcorn.

UWM Honors Program Colloquium: Searching for Common Grounds: Social and

Environmental Considerations in the Specialty Coffee Industry

Wednesday, March 9

4 - 5:30 p.m.

UWM Union, Room 191

For more information, contact Kate Coffaro at: kcoffaro@uwm.edu or 414/229-4021

Al Liu, Alterra Coffee Roasters Director of Culture and Communities, discusses socio-economic and ecological concerns and how the specialty coffee industry is responding to these issues.

Egg Hunt in Riverside Park

Sunday March 20

10:30 a.m.

Sponsored by

Murray Hill Neighborhood Association

For more information contact GERALYN at Murray Hill Pottery 332-8828

Colored eggs, art eggs, green eggs? Come celebrate spring and hunt for the elusive egg. Volunteer dyers, artists, hidiers needed.

Spring Art Reception

Friday, April 8

6 - 9 p.m.

Sponsored by

Ranch Community Services

Location: Urban Ecology Center

Ranch Community Services is pleased to announce a special Spring Art Reception showcasing original art by participant artists. All art available for sale.

Anthropology Practice and Neighborhood Resourcing Course Series

Marquette University's College of Professional Studies

Spring 2005 and beyond, call for

current course list, (414) 288-3153

For a complete list of courses visit http://www.urban-anthropology.org/cert_prog.htm

Anthropology Practice And Neighborhood Resourcing are continuing education courses developed by Urban Anthropology Inc. Courses can be taken alone or combined to earn a certificate in Neighborhood Resourcing and/or Applied Anthropology.

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Astronomy Notes

March will give us the year's best evening views of Mercury. Close to the sun and normally difficult to see, it will be farthest away from the Sun on the 12th, when it will rise 11° above the horizon. See the sidebar for more on this small sun-drenched planet. April night skies will display Jupiter as it grows to nearly one half-degree in size and reaches magnitude -2.5. It will be brighter than all nearby objects.

March

There will be a Lunar occultation of Antares (the 15th brightest star in the sky) beginning at 4:43 a.m. and ending at 6 a.m. on March 3rd. On the 6th, look for Mars 5° north of the Moon at 5:30 a.m. Look very low in southeast. Find Mercury 3° west of the Moon low in west after sunset on the 11th. By the 14th the Waxing Crescent Moon will be 5° from the Pleiades star cluster. Look for Jupiter 3° from Moon very low in east southeast in the evening of the 26th. Jupiter will move from below the Moon to its upper left as the duo traverses the sky.

March 20th brings the vernal equinox and the beginning of spring. Did you know that the sun doesn't always rise in the east? The tilt of the Earth's axis and

the rotation of the Earth around the sun causes the sun's path in the sky to be northeast to northwest in the summer and southeast to southwest in winter (northern hemisphere). Equinoxes are the moment when the sun appears to cross the celestial equator and will rise due east and set due west.

The New Moon is on 10th and the Full Moon (Crow/Sap/Death/Crust On Snow) is on the 25th.

April

Daylight Savings Time begins on April 3rd. Look for Mercury 3° north of the Moon about twenty minutes before sunrise on the 7th. On the 11th the Moon will be just south of the Pleiades star cluster. Find it in the west at 7:00 p.m. Look for Saturn 4° south of the Moon on the 15th. Look in the west after dark.

The Lyrid meteor shower occurs from the 16th – 25th with a peak on the 22nd at 5 a.m. Watch directly overhead (zenith) for 10-20 per hour.

The New Moon is on the 8th and the Full Moon (Grass Appearing/Awakening) is on the 24th.

by Art Paque and Woody Hagge, community volunteers

First lunar eclipse of 2005 is a penumbral eclipse on April 24th. Lunar eclipses occur when the Earth screens the sun relative to the Moon. The Earth projects behind it an "umbra" ("umbra" is Latin for "shadow") and a "penumbra". The penumbra is a zone of lighter shadow where the sunlight is only partially blocked. Look for a slight darkening of the northeast portion of the Moon at 4:55 a.m.

Mercury

Mercury is the second smallest planet, about one-third the diameter of Earth. It is also the closest to the Sun, averaging about 36 million miles away. The proximity to our star heats the lighted side to 800° F, yet temperatures on the unlit side can plunge to a chilly -297° F. Mercury has no more than a trace of an atmosphere, primarily potassium and sodium.

When viewed from Earth, Mercury is almost always in twilight; its orbit is never more than 27° away from the Sun. We must view it, low in the east, before the Sun rises or, low in the west, after the Sun sets. This year's best evening viewing will be after sunset from now until March 23rd. The best morning views will be before sunrise from November 30th through December 31st.

From the Board

resident of Riverwest, I currently serve on the Riverwest Neighborhood Association Board.

During my year as President, I'd like to build Board and Committee Membership to expand representation of the cultures and neighborhoods we serve. Also, I would like to encourage the Board as it supports the Director and staff in achieving our common goals.

Dennis Grzezinski is an Environmental attorney in solo private practice, primarily representing environmental organizations, citizen groups, and municipalities. He is also a commissioner of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and currently serves as Vice-Chair. Dennis has participated in numerous wilderness service trips with Sierra Club and Wilderness Volunteers.

Dennis has been a member and advi-

sor for the UEC since its founding. He has been a Board Member since 1998, serving as the immediate past President, during which time he negotiated the acquisition of the land upon which our new building sits. Currently he serves as chair of the Membership Committee. When asked about his goals, he stated, "I'd like to see our supporting membership double or triple in the near future. I'd also like to see an increase in evening and weekend programs/activities to the point where the Center becomes a major community meeting place."



Theresa Lins is currently the Public Relations committee chairperson for

the Center. Upon moving to Milwaukee, Theresa lived a block away, on Oakland Ave. Being curious about her new neighborhood, she explored the Center and gradually found a niche within the organization. Theresa considers herself lucky to have had the opportunity to promote Urban Ecology Center people, activities and programs, "far and wide to Milwaukee, statewide, and hopefully soon, national media."



When she's not spreading the word about the UEC, Theresa works in the non-profit sector in Milwaukee on community development projects.

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MARCH THROUGH APRIL CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise indicated, participants meet at the Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place.

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

Special Events

Peggy Seeger Songwriting Workshop and Benefit Concert

Saturday, March 5

Songwriting Workshop:

1:30 p.m.

Urban Ecology Center

\$12 in advance

\$15 at the door (Members - \$12)

Concert:

8 p.m.

Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland Ave.

\$12 in advance

\$15 at the door (Members - \$12)

Earth Day at UEC!

Saturday, April 16

River to Lake Hike:

9 a.m. - 12 noon

Celebration:

12 noon - 4 p.m.

Free, all ages welcome



See insert for details!



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

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*

Wednesday, April 13
5 - 8 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children 12 & older
\$7 (Members - \$5)

Get in touch with the early spring river and its banks! We will begin at the Center, hike to Port Washington Road, cross and come down the west bank, crossing back at the new pedestrian bridge. Total length about 8 miles. Bring water, wear boots and expect mud!

Birding By Canoe*

Saturday, May 7
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For adults
Limited to 8 canoes
\$25 (Members - \$20)
Call 964-8505 by May 4 to register, payment due at time of registration

Paddle with Research Coordinator Tim Vargo and Urban Adventures Coordinator Dan Gray as we search for beautiful spring migrants. Birders of all experience levels are welcome. Bird books and binoculars are available for use. Bring a lunch and water. Canoes, paddles and PFDs provided.

Plan Ahead: Upcoming Adventures

River Rhythms Canoe Trips*

Every Wednesday
June 8 - September 7
5 - 9:30 p.m.

Introduction to Sea Kayaking*

Tuesday, June 14
5:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults and accompanied youth, age 12 & older
\$30 (Members - \$25)

Kayaking Lake Michigan*

Thursday, June 16
5:30 - 8 p.m.

Intro to Sea Kayaking class or other previous kayaking experience required
For adults and accompanied youth, age 12 & older
\$30 (Members - \$25)

Fundamentals of Canoeing*

June 20 - June 22
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
with a break for lunch.
For adults and youth, age 12 & older
\$60 (Members - \$50)

Milwaukee River Canoe Trip*

Thursday June 23,
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
For adults and youth, age 12 years & older
\$30 (Members - \$25)

Adult Rock Climbing Clinic*

Thursday, July 7,
Tuesday, July 12 and
Thursday, July 14
5:30-7:30 p.m.
For adults age 18 and older.
\$60 (Members - \$45)

Devil's Lake Climbing Trip*

July 15 - July 17
For adults age 18 and older who attended at least two of the Climbing Clinic classes. Tents, transportation and food will be provided.
\$175 (Members - \$160)
Price includes introductory classes

Introduction to Sea Kayaking*

Tuesday, July 19
5:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults and accompanied youth, age 12 & older
\$30 (Members - \$25)

Kayaking Lake Michigan*

Thursday, July 21
5:30 - 8 p.m.

Intro to Sea Kayaking class or other previous kayaking experience required
For adults and accompanied youth, age 12 & older
\$30 (Members - \$25)



Team Safari*

Saturday March 5
10 a.m. - 12 noon
For adults and accompanied children ages 8 & up \$5 (Members - \$3)
Call 964-8505 by March 3 to register.

Flex your problem-solving muscles while teaming up with fellow participants to conquer various challenges. You will learn to think outside the box as you tackle the obstacles set before you. If you enjoy fun and games, you won't want to miss the Team Safari!

Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park

Sundays, March 6 & 20
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
For everyone!
Adult: \$8 (Members - \$5) for both days
Child: \$6 (Member - \$3) for both days
A maximum of \$15 will be charged per family for both days

Take part in the ancient practice of collecting and boiling down maple sap into maple syrup. On the 6th we will tap trees in the park. On the 20th we will boil down the sap into syrup. Yummmmm!

Milwaukee Community Supported Agriculture Open House

Saturday, March 19
12 noon - 4 pm.
For everyone!
Free

Meet local farmers and learn about Community Supported Agriculture which brings fresh, sustainably-grown produce from local farms to your neighborhood. Enjoy free food samples from Slow Food, workshops on preparing healthy snacks and music.

Eco-Party for Kids

Saturday, March 26
10 a.m. - 12 noon
For children ages 4-8
\$6 (Members - \$4)
Adult chaperones are free
Call 964-8505 by March 24 to register.

Celebrate spring with the Center's education director. Kids dance to nature inspired music, play wildlife games and explore the urban wilderness. If weather allows, we will be outside for up to one hour, so come dressed for the temperature and mud/snow.

Kite Building Workshop

Saturday, April 16
2 - 3 pm
For everyone! *Children under six should be accompanied by an adult or teenage sibling*
\$5 a kite (member and nonmembers)
Call 964-8505 by April 4 to register.

Build attractive flying sled kites of beautiful color for family fun and enjoyment. Verdell and Jim De Yarman, founders of the Kite Society of Wisconsin, will teach kids of all ages how to build a kite. Participants will be able to personalize their decorations, creating great gift idea for friends and family. Great for families interested in celebrating Earth Day at the Center.

2005 Great American Clean-up*

Saturday, April 23
9 a.m. - 12 noon
For everyone!
Free
Sign up at: www.kgmb.org or call 272-5462. Drop-ins are welcome, but registering helps us plan for gloves, trash bags and snacks.

Join us for the 22nd anniversary of the Kiwanis Club's River Clean-up. Over 37,000 volunteers cleared over 5 million pounds of trash during Milwaukee's 2004 clean-up. This is a collaboration of UEC, the Kiwanis, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (KGMB), Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers, the City of Milwaukee and other community groups.

Friday Fire

Fridays, March 11 & April 22
7 p.m.

Music/stories/poems for younger audiences
7:45 p.m. Popcorn and S'mores
8:15 p.m. Music/stories/poems for all ages

\$5 per person or \$10 a family (Members - free)

March: Milwaukee storyteller Jean-Andrew of Storylore comes to share animal stories.

April: Earth Poets (Harvey Taylor, Jeff Poniewaz, and friends) join us in this annual celebration of the earth through poetry and song. Come prepared to participate!

Storytime in the Park

Sundays, March 13 & April 17
2 - 3 p.m.
For accompanied pre-school & 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!



Science Saturdays

Every Saturday
A drop-in program
Free - Donations welcome

Drop in anytime to discover the world of science through interactive activities.

Topics-

March: Maple Magic

April: Signs of Spring

Animal Feeding Time

Every Saturday
1 p.m.
For everyone
Free - Donations welcome

Help feed the Center's resident turtles and snakes as you learn about the animals that inhabit the river valley.

High School Outdoor Leader Programs

Outdoor Leadership Information Session

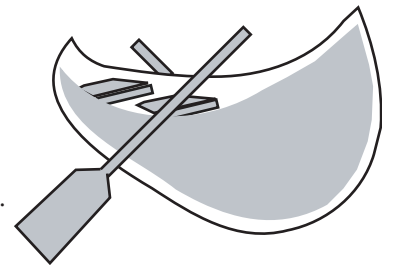
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6 - 7 p.m.
Free
For high school students and their families

High school students and families are invited to an information session about the 2005 summer High School Outdoor Leadership Program. Students interested in community leadership, outdoor recreation and/or environmental issues can apply to participate in a summer training program, including a trip to the Teton Science School in Wyoming. The Ecology Center provides significant scholarships, so students of all financial means are encouraged to get involved. High school students interested in paid positions at the Center during the school year must successfully complete this program.

River Clean Up By Canoe*

Saturday, April 23
9 a.m. - 12 noon
For high school youth
Free

Take part in Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers annual Spring River Clean Up. We will use canoes to get to sections of the river and river bank that are hard to clean up from shore. It is a fun way to serve the community and the river.



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Orientation

Saturdays, March 12 & April 9
10 a.m. - 12 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.

National Youth Service Day

Saturday, April 16
For youth and teens 10-17 years old
Free

Please register by April 11, call 964-8505.

National Youth Service Day (NYSD) is coming to the Urban Ecology Center! See article on page 3 for details.

Ecological Change in Southeastern Wisconsin

Speaker: Gary Casper, Collections Manager for Herpetology, Milwaukee Public Museum
Tuesday, March 8
7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults
\$5 (Members – free)

Focusing mainly on amphibians and reptiles, Gary will discuss pre-settlement flora and fauna communities in Milwaukee County, and how they have changed over the past two centuries. Biodiversity losses are well underway and this talk will address how these trends might play out in the future throughout the region.

Afternoon Birding Workshop:

Owls, Doves & Friends

Saturday, March 12
4 - 5:30 p.m.

For adults
\$5 (Members - free)

Night owls & birders, seemingly incompatible, can now mingle in our afternoon birding workshop series. This month, night owls can also learn about their own kind, as we review identification and interesting facts about owls, doves and various birds that call the park home. The afternoon begins with a slideshow and ends with a walk through the park. Binoculars provided.

Adult Discussion Course: Choices for Sustainable Living

Organizing session:
Tuesday, April 5,
7 p.m.

Class meets
Tuesdays,
April 12 – June 7
7 p.m.

\$20 (\$15 for GLEI members)

Call 964-8505 by April 3 to register.

Discover steps that can be taken to move toward ecologically sustainable lifestyles and communities. This 8 week discussion course offers the chance to discuss short readings, develop friendships and reflect thoughtfully about choices we make each day.

Take me to the Water: Angler Education Workshop

Taught by Department of Natural Resources staff
Saturday, April 9
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For adults
For registration materials go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/fish/kidsparents/anglereducation/workshopschedule.shtml>
Contact Beth at 964-8505, x. 103 for more information.

Angler Education workshops provide training for adult volunteers to offer fishing programs in their schools and communities. The program introduces children to basic fishing skills and connects them to Wisconsin's lakes and streams. Adults who attend the workshops receive free materials that they can use to teach their own angler education courses and help guide adventures in local water resources investigations. Fishing equipment and other supplies are available for loan to instructors at the Center.

From a Daydream to Reality:

The Quad 30 Campaign

Speaker: Noel Cutright, Past President, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology
Tuesday, April 12
7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults
\$5 (Members – free)

Some have called it a birding marathon, others a birding odyssey. However one views it, during the 2004 bird breeding season, local birder Noel Cutright accomplished what many birders said was impossible. Noel successfully completed one breeding bird survey every day in June. Noel describes how his "Quad 30" project evolved and highlights some of his findings.



Urban Wildlife Trunk Workshop for Teachers

Wednesday, April 13
12 noon - 3 p.m.

For adults
\$15 (includes lunch)
Call 964-8505 by March 31 to register.

This workshop is designed for teachers in urban environments to introduce students to urban wildlife issues. Through hands-on lessons that can be carried out in the classroom or on the playground, participants will explore ecological relationships in urban settings, the scientific process, and issues related to urban wildlife. Participants will receive a curriculum and have access to our newly-created wildlife trunk containing materials for all activities (skulls, skins, tracks and scat samples of wildlife common to urban Milwaukee). Fee includes lunch and a bound curriculum. Supported by the Bureau of Land Management.

Celebrate Urban Ecosystems

Saturday, April 16
9 a.m. - 12 noon

For adults
Free, lunch included

This workshop is designed for teachers and community members interested in exploring the diverse interactions of native plants and wildlife found in the city. Discover materials available on loan from the Center to aid in teaching youth about wildlife. Curricular materials are provided. Topics include native plant identification, schoolyard science activities and more. This program is being offered in collaboration with UW Madison's Arboretum and is supported by the ESEA Title II Higher Education Professional Development Program.

Afternoon Birding Workshop: Woodpeckers

Saturday, April 23
6 - 7:30 p.m.

For adults
\$5 (Members – free)

Some of us may occasionally bang our heads on wooden objects, but woodpeckers do it all the time and are no worse for the wear. Join us for a slideshow and presentation on woodpecker identification tips and adaptations. We will finish with an early evening stroll through the park to look for our resident woodpeckers.

Urban Ecology Center Photo Club

Thursdays, March 3 & April 7

7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations welcome

Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new photographic skills.

Urban Stargazers

Thursdays, March 10 & April 14

7 p.m.

Free - donations welcome

Join us for information and stargazing if weather permits.

Vegetarian Potluck

Thursdays, March 17 & April 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 meatless dish to share at our picnic style meal.

Burdock Brigade*

Every Tuesday, 9 - 11 a.m.

and Saturdays,
March, 5 & 19 and
April 2 & 16

9 - 10:30 a.m.

Free

Improve biodiversity in the park by removing alien plant species like burdock.

Wednesday Walks

With Ken*

Every Wednesday

Urban Ecology Center hours:
 Monday - Thursday 9a-7p, Friday - Saturday 9a-5p, Sunday 12 non-5p

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Voluntary Simplicity	2 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken	3 8a Birdwalk 7p Ecology Center Photo Club	4	5 Science Saturdays (every Saturday) <i>topic: Maple Magic</i> 9a Burdock Brigade 10a Team Safari 1p Animal Feeding Peggy Seeger Songwriting Workshop 1:30p Peggy Seeger Concert 8p
6 12:30p Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park	7	8 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Ecological Change in Southeastern Wisconsin 7p Voluntary Simplicity	9 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken	10 8a Birdwalk 7p Urban Stargazers	11 7p Friday Fire: Jean-Andrew of Storylore	12 10a Volunteer Orientation 1p Animal Feeding 4p Afternoon Birding Workshop: Owls, Doves & Friends
13 2p Storytime in the Park	14	15 9a Burdock Brigade	16 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 6p High School Outdoor Leadership Informational Session	17 8a Birdwalk 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck	18	19 9a Burdock Brigade 11p Animal Feeding 12p Milwaukee CSA Open House
20 12:30p Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park	21	22 9a Burdock Brigade	23 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken	24 8a Birdwalk	25	26 10a Eco-Party 1p Animal Feeding
27	28	29	30 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken	31		

Urban Ecology Center hours:
 Monday - Thursday 9a-7p, Friday - Saturday 9a-5p, Sunday 12 noon-5p

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Science Saturdays (every Saturday) <i>topic: Signs of Spring</i> 9a Burdock Brigade 1p Animal Feeding
3	4	5 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Organizing Session: Choices for Sustainable Living	6 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken	7 8a Birdwalk 7p Ecology Center Photo Club	8 6p Ranch Community Services Spring Art Reception	9 9a Take Me to the Water Angler Workshop 10a Volunteer Orientation 1p Animal Feeding
10	11	12 9a Burdock Brigade 7p The Quad 30 Campaign 7p Choices for Sustainable Living	13 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 12p Urban Wildlife Trunk Workshop 5p Hike the Milwaukee River	14 8a Birdwalk 7p Urban Stargazers	15	16 Earth Day at UEC! 9a National Youth Service Day 9a Celebrate Ecosystems Workshop 9a River to Lake Hike 12p Celebration 2p Kite Building Workshop 9a Burdock Brigade 1p Animal Feeding
17 2p Storytime in the Park	18	19 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Choices for Sustainable Living	20 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken	21 8a Birdwalk 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck	22 7p Friday Fire: Earth Poets	23 9a 2005 Great American Clean-up 9a River Clean-up by Canoe 1p Animal Feeding 4p Afternoon Birding Workshop: Woodpeckers
24	25	26 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Choices for Sustainable Living	27 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken	28 8a Birdwalk	29	30 1p Animal Feeding

Thank You From the Center

In-kind donations:

Roberta Bass - bread machine, shop-vac, tools, weed cutters, bowls, table cloth, garden sculpture, towel set, trailer hitch, tools, kitchen tools, sewing machine, framed poster
 Dzidra Benish - aloe plant
 Jean Casper - gloves
 Monique Charlier - firepit & fireplace tools
 CMA of Milwaukee - ladder
 Rose Daitsman - polished concave mirror
 Downer Hardware - seeds
 Patricia Frost - telescope, table saw
 Lauren Gingold - desk lamp
 Al Heldermon - plant
 Nancy Hindin - camera tripod, books
 Elinor Ihlenfeldt - clock
 Robert Ivens - tools
 Mark A. Koeppl - buffalo hides
 Lakeside Animal Hospital - reptile exam
 Theresa Mattke - gloves & hats
 Pat Mueller - gavel
 Peggy McGuire - telescope
 Milwaukee Catholic Home - magnifier, floor lamps
 Jayne Pelton - cart
 Anne Marie Rhodes - framed prints

Gifts in honor:

In honor of Pat & Margee Evans marriage
 - Ashia Gripenrog
 In honor of Susie Kasten
 - Lissa & Clayton Eggie
 In honor of Sally Tolan
 - Fred Berman

Welcome New and Renewing Members:

Dirk Anderson
 Andrew M. & Donna H. Barnes

David Baum
 Mary Denise Benoit
 Jeff Bentoff
 Fred Berman
 Steve Books
 Christy & William Breihan
 Arthur Brooks
 William T. & Sandra O. Brown
 Tim Burch
 Nancy L. Burns
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 Mary Kay C. Flynn
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Kerry & Karla Malison
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 Scott R. Winkler
 John Winkowski
 John Worda
 Christine Zapf
 LaVern Zimmermann

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

Alterra Coffee Roasters	Bayside Garden Center	Hoffers Tropic Life Pets	CyberLynk Network, Inc.
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Volunteers' Corner

by Susan Winans, School Program Coordinator

Many thanks! Many thanks to our friends and members who volunteered for recent Center events. The Candlelight Walk, Winterfest and Speeddating for Nature Lovers could not have happened without your help. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Susan Winans at 414-964-8505, x. 110.

More opportunities!

Lend a hand at the Center. Choose an area that matches your own interests and you're sure to have a fun and meaningful experience!

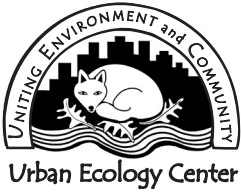
Community Supported Agriculture Open House, March 19: Come tend the fire in the tipi, assist children with a craft or keep the sledding hill full of hay as you find out more about local subscription farmers and how you can support them.

Earth Day, April 16th: Volunteer Earth Day organizers needed. If interested, call Dianne at 964-8505, x. 104. Volunteers are also needed at the event to set up an exhibit on sustainable living, help children put on rock climbing harnesses or lead a hike through our park as we celebrate our planet!

Receptionists: Be an integral part of the Center team. If you are a "people person" who wants to get to know the Center in a relaxed environment we still have weekday shifts open for receptionists and substitute receptionists.

Community ambassadors: Do you love the energy of Milwaukee's lively festivals? We are looking for volunteers to share the excitement of the Urban Ecology Center with the general public at upcoming events.

Woodworkers: Looking for woodworkers to assist in setting up our shop as well as helping with some fun wood-working projects for the Center.



Urban Ecology Center

Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI.
Permit
No. 5190

Join us in March & April!

Songwriting Workshop and Benefit Concert with Peggy Seeger

Saturday, March 5

Earth Day at UEC!

Saturday, April 16

MEMBERSHIP

Membership benefits include discounts on programs and products, invitations to special events, opportunities for neighborhood stewardship and a one year newsletter subscription. For more information, please visit our website at urbanecologycenter.org.

- Individual - \$25 (includes 1 guest)
- Family - \$35
- Students - \$12
- Newsletter subscription (no membership) - \$10

Financial assistance is available. Please call Ginger Duiven, Membership Coordinator at 964-8505, x. 106, or email to gduiven@urbanecologycenter.org for details.

DONATION

In addition to membership

You're doing a terrific job. Please accept this donation for the support of programs and services.

- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1000
- \$2500
- Other \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Charge my membership to: Master Card Visa

Card Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date ____/____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please make your check payable to: **Urban Ecology Center** and return it with this form to:
 Urban Ecology Center
 Riverside Park
 1500 E. Park Pl.
 Milwaukee, WI 53211
 or use your credit card and call (414) 964-8505.

