Birding and the Movies

In the field of environmental science, species counts are an important tool. To gauge the health of a species or an ecosystem, scientists count the number of each species they observe. For example, in a bird count the birders may see a robin, a chickadee and a cardinal, a count of three species. They would also note how many of each species were sighted: e.g. five robins, three chickadees and one cardinal. By tracking this information, the data can be compared with previous counts to monitor what is happening to a species. Is the population growing or declining? Similarly, a membership count is one way to gauge the health of an organization.

Continuing with the birding analogy, there are five species of “Member” that are known to inhabit the Urban Ecology Center. The Family, the Individual and Student “birds” are the most commonly sighted (1400 at the latest count!).

We need your help

Recently we have reintroduced two new species to our ecosystem, the Business Member and Community Group Member. These types are currently rarely or uncommonly sighted but we hope to change that over the next year.

Community Group Members are non-profit organizations, neighborhood groups, places of worship or associations. Business Members are companies that take pride in supporting the community. The benefits of membership include recognition for your organization in our newsletter and website, $75 discount on an Urban Adventure or building rental, tax deductions and much more. See all the details on the back page of this newsletter. Join the Center today to receive all the benefits and rewards.

So what does this have to do with movies?

Current Ecology Center members who sign up new Community Group or Business members earn four free movie tickets to the Marcus Theatres! Contact your organization and sign it up using the quick and easy blue form inside this newsletter. Help us meet our goal of 50 Community and Business Members by the end of the summer!

Meet Neil Beckman

by Beth Fetterley, Director of Education

Thanks to funding support from the Department of Natural Resources and a collaborative effort with UW-Milwaukee, the Ecology Center now has a Fishing Coach, Neil Beckman. Neil will be spending the summer teaching fishing skills to urban youth. In addition to working with youth organizations throughout the city, he is offering two coaching sessions for families (see calendar). Also, the Center is now a DNR tackle lending site. Neil will help us organize this program so that our neighbors can borrow fishing equipment free of charge.

Pedaling a Different Path

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Don’t get me wrong. I love modern conveniences as much as the next guy. A neighbor gave me a ride in a new Buick Terraza CXL (suv) with the GPS map control, individualized heated seats … I loved it! But, just like eating a big juicy steak (or a Godiva dark chocolate bar), these are “special treats” not a part of my daily diet. Paradoxically, luxuries are more luxurious when experienced less often. I have completely bought into the bumper sticker that says “live simply so others can simply live”. Now, though, I don’t even have a bumper to display the slogan on! Where many of my
Bits and Pieces of News From the Center

- **New facility staff.** Welcome to Lloyd Seawright, who has been hired as the Center’s part time Facility Manager. Lloyd, a UEC member who lives in the neighborhood, comes to us with much contracting and maintenance experience. Lloyd will coordinate maintenance of the building and grounds, as well as supervise Leon Morris, our custodian, who has been with us since mid-April. We are excited to have both of them on staff and keeping our new building looking great!

- **Member benefit: borrowing equipment from the Center.** One of the many membership benefits at the Center is access to all of our recreation equipment and landscaping tools. If you would like to borrow a canoe or kayak, paddles, and PFDs, a four-person tent, or backpack, contact Dan Gray at least two days in advance to make the arrangements. Please note: you will need to be safety and skill qualified by Dan to borrow our boats. If you want to borrow our tandem bike, ladder, wheelbarrow, hand tools or rototiller any of our staff members or reception volunteers can help you. It always helps if you call in advance to determine availability. Please remember the equipment is available only if it is not being used at the Center for a program or by another member. Make the most of your membership and enjoy the summer!

- **Good-bye and thank you to Richard Thomas.** Richard has completed his ten-month experience as a Public Ally. He has been a wonderful addition to the staff, teaching River Ecology to fifth graders, working with farmers in the Community Supported Agriculture initiative and supporting the Citizen Science projects. He will be an intern for Artists Working in Education this summer and will attend Columbia University in Chicago next fall. While we are sad to see him go, we wish Richard good luck and best wishes.

- **Sarah Rohe is returning!** Nearly four years ago Sarah came to the Center as an Environmental Educator through the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. When her placement ended, she moved back to Iowa to work as a counselor in a youth shelter, followed by teaching environmental education at a camp. We are thrilled to welcome her back to the Center as our new Weekend Coordinator. She will be scheduling B’earthday parties, offering family programs and providing consistent high quality experiences for weekend visitors.

- **Many thanks.** The Center would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions: Brico Fund, Inc., Rockwell Automation, and Greater Milwaukee Foundation – Harold & Dorothy Singer Fund.

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

  **The Center is a member of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee.** If your employer does not offer workplace giving, call Judy at 964-8505, x102, to help start a Community Shares campaign.

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

  **Recycle old ink-jet cartridges and cell phones at the Center.** A donation is made for each shipment of recyclable materials.

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**Wish List**

We are grateful for the generous support of our members and friends. If you have a donation for the Center, please call 964-8505. The Center is in need of the following items:

- Plain paper fax machine
- Large fans
- Large copy machine
- Hair dryers
- Ironing board & iron
- 18-inch reflecting telescope with Dobsonian mount
- Wall-mounted hand-cranked pencil sharpeners
- Portable fabric covered display board
- Lateral 2 drawer file cabinet (36”)
- Firewood
- Poster-size frames
- Juggling stuff
- Large screen tent
- Ping-pong table (in good condition)
- Step stools
- Desk/floor lamps
- Mandolin
- Good electric keyboard
- Large cast iron bell
- Folding room divider screens
- $40,000 for tower climbing wall
- Prius to serve as a community car

Please take advantage of these ways to give to the Center.

To prevent our email from being blocked by your spam blocker, please follow these steps:

1. Check the “ unsubscribe” in the subject line. Also, add uec@urbanecologycenter.org to your address book.
Beat the Heat - Save Water

It is very tempting on those hot, humid days, to turn on the hose and leave it on throughout the heat of the day. It is not only tempting, but it is also important to take measures to prevent heat exhaustion and heat stroke, especially when the humidity is so high that perspiration does not evaporate fast enough to provide your body with its essential cooling effect. However, leaving the hose on is not the best way to accomplish the cooling effect. A full running hose uses 10 gallons of water per minute. Think about it: a ten minute experience running through the sprinkler can use as much as 100 gallons of water! And parents know that it is not easy to turn that hose off after only 10 minutes when hot kids are delighted, giggling and being refreshed. So what alternatives are there for parents of overheated children?

Cool from within

We say it, our parents said it, but it is simply good advice worth repeating. Drink water - lots of water, at least eight glasses a day. Our bodies are designed to help us deal with heat, but in order to do so we need to avoid dehydration. Try making homemade popsicles with your kids. Take an ice cube tray, toothpicks, plastic wrap and juice (my favorite flavor is orange). Fill the ice cube tray with juice. Tightly wrap the tray in plastic wrap or tape down wax paper. Carefully poke the toothpicks through the wrap or paper into the middle of each cube. Gently place in the freezer overnight. If your children help make the popsicles, they will be more likely to want to cool off with them the next day.

Produce less heat

Every time we use a muscle, we produce a little bit of heat. To minimize the impact of producing more heat on an already hot day, plan your activities so that your family is resting in the afternoon. Plan outdoor play as the first thing the children do in the morning, then find a shady spot to rest, read books, listen to music or take a nap when the heat is at its worst.

Use less water

Give each of your family members their own spray bottle filled with cold water. They can mist their faces, necks and bodies throughout the day and easily use less than one gallon of water. Jazz it up a little by adding lavender blossoms to the water. Do the kids want more action? Fill up some water balloons and have a balloon toss. This still uses much less water than a hose: depending on the number of balloons you fill, you might use 1-3 gallons. Please be sure to pick up any pieces of broken balloons! Fill up a wading pool. While this might use 30 or 50 gallons of water, depending on the size of the pool, it provides the same kind of fun and refreshment as the sprinkler or hose. Using a 40 gallon pool uses the same amount of water as only 4 minutes of running the hose!

Duplicate efforts

Do two projects at once. Wash the car and cool off. With sponges and a few buckets of cool water (still avoid running the hose) the kids can help wash the car and cool off at the same time. Save this activity for the early afternoon. In late afternoon when the sun is lower in the sky, if you must water the garden or lawn, let the kids play in the sprinkler while you provide a drink to the plants. It is best not to do this in the middle of the day because the sunlight will cause evaporation, reducing the amount of water that actually makes it to your plants.

Share water

Find a public watering hole, such as the Gordon Park’s water play area, your local swimming pool, or a beach along Lake Michigan. While you should check with the beaches to find out if it is safe to swim in Lake Michigan, keep in mind the wonderful cooling effect of the lake on neighboring parks and beaches.

If you are looking for long-term solutions to heat, add more shade to your yard. A tree planted near your house acts like a natural air conditioner. Not only does a tree provide shade, but the natural processes of transpiration and evaporation cool the temperature of the air.

Finally, use this article as a conversation starter. By involving your neighbors, you are bound to find even more creative, environmentally responsible ways to keep cool and multiply the positive effects of conserving water.

Enjoy the summer, have fun, stay cool and protect our shared water resources!

Meet Neil Beckman

Neil recently completed a degree in Conservation and Environmental Sciences from UW-Milwaukee. Last spring he worked with the Center and Schlitz Audubon Nature Center to develop a new frog and toad survey on the east side of Milwaukee and neighboring suburbs. This auditory survey is part of a statewide effort coordinated by the DNR to monitor anuran (frog and toad) population changes.

Starting at the early age of seven years old using a cane pole, Neil began a life-long hobby of fishing. Neil grew up in Bayview but spent many summers with both sides of his extended family at Phantom Lake. Every weekend the family would gather at the lake; sometimes up to 20 aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and great grandparents would be there at one time!

His great grandmother taught him how to fish. His great grandfather, a butcher, would prepare some of the fish for eating or to sell in the local store. He is excited to share his passion and fishing skills with the Ecology Center’s members, the public and youth groups this summer. Please sign up for one of his programs!
I asked my first grade daughter how we could be good to the environment and she rattled off: “Don’t litter. Don’t drive your car a lot. Don’t build big buildings.” While impressed with her quick response, I was bothered that each directive began with a “don’t”. So I created a list of some positive earth-friendly things we can DO with our kids, as opposed to all of the DONT’S?

- **Visit a Nature Center.** The best way to get kids to be kind to the earth is to let them experience and enjoy it. Visit the Ecology Center, a state or national park or other nature center and enjoy a day of hiking, canoeing and exploring. No need to worry that you don’t have the names of birds and plants at the ready; most centers will have all the information and resources you need. Look in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel’s Week-end Cue calendar for a list of natural areas and activities.

- **Volunteer Together.** The other day, I took my five year old, Jack, to the Ecology Center to help pull garlic mustard. Not only did he love digging in the dirt, but he learned about invasive and native plants. We also happened upon Center staff doing bird banding where Jack got to hold a Swainson’s Thrush and let it fly away. The Ecology Center weeds and plants every Tuesday and every first and third Saturday of the month at 9 a.m.

- **Walk Everywhere.** With child obesity rates and air pollution on the rise, a great solution is to walk or bike to as many places as possible. Or, try the city bus - kids think it’s great! Once you get your children walking and biking, there is no stopping them. My kids often scold me when I want to take the car.

- **Learn During Chores.** Kids love old stuff and doing small jobs. This makes a trip out to the compost bin with a load of apple peels right up their alley.

- **Plant and Garden.** Get help with your yard work and teach your kids about caring for the earth by having them help in the garden. Also, building a bird feeder or bird bath with your kids will teach them the importance of providing a habitat for wildlife and reward them with frequent bird sightings.

- **Tour a Grocery Store.** Teach your children how to find organic produce and products with minimal or recycled packaging by making it a treasure hunt! Shop at farmers markets or visit an organic farm to see real food being grown and harvested.

These types of activities will help your children make direct connections with the natural world - a positive relationship that will last a lifetime.

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**Pedaling a Different Path**

peers seem to be striving to get the next model of Mercedes or Lexus … I’m headed in the opposite direction by getting rid of my car altogether.

A good friend who shares my suburban family lifestyle of soccer tournaments and music lessons reacted to this reduction bluntly with “Ken, you have really gone over the deep end with this one.” Taken out of context, she is right. In the US, it is a rare family that can survive with only one car. Two income families are common and gas is relatively cheap (as compared to our European counterparts). Homes are clustered great distances from work (thanks to the ubiquitous urban expressway) so that even kids’ activities are spreading farther a field. However, through conscious decision making (choosing a house in a walk-able community, near a bus route and bike path) it not only becomes possible, but preferable! We did the math. By biking to work most days, bussing when there is snow and renting a car for the occasional weekend when two cars are needed, we can save thousands of dollars in car insurance, repair bills and fuel. Plus, I’m much healthier when I bike, enjoy the relaxed community experience provided on the bus and can get my “fancy car” fix with rentals.

Now don’t get me wrong, shifting from dependence on my car to daily biking did not happen overnight. In fact it took five years from the time we purposely purchased a home within cycling distance to work, to where it actually became a habit. It took four of those years to fight off basic inertia and acquire the necessary equipment (bicycle lights, reflective vests, rain gear, pants, etc). Even then, though, I biked only occasionally, still driving most days for “presumed” convenience and ease. Meeting my friend Jim Schacht, a neighbor who bikes to work regularly, pushed me over the “deep end”. His modeling made me realize how easy and fun it was.

It should be noted that since I often bike to meetings in the city I ride an old 12 speed touring bike to minimize the worry of theft. However, my friends seeking that M-Class Mercedes can eat their hearts out when they see me with my newest form of commuters, K2 Mod 6000 Series inline skates - purchased from our savings on car insurance.

This vignette exemplifies the challenge of changing one’s behavior. It takes time, intention, encouragement and role models. For this reason you find “mentoring” and “modeling” as key words in our educational philosophy at the Center.

I share this with you, to encourage you to make a habit change for the environment. Pick just one … be it biking, composting, using biodegradable soaps, planting a rain garden, or eliminating paper towels with a drawer full of clean rags. Take one step at a time. Think it through with intention. Be patient. Find someone who is modeling the behavior (feel free to call us at the Center for this … odds are someone in your community is doing it) and see if you, too, can change a habit for the environment.

Remember Mahatma Gandhi’s wise words: “We must be the change that we wish to see in the world.”
Astronomy Notes

It’s a conjunction function! Summer skies will be filled with couples and trios of the Moon, planets and stars. Three first magnitude stars will join with the Moon or Venus; an uncommonly delightful set of events. The Moon will visit the Pleiades, the most beautiful binocular object in the sky, in both months. Get a pair of binoculars if you don’t already have them. Dark skies for the Perseid meteor shower too; the Moon sets early. Enjoy the show!

July

July mornings will shine with Mars (-0.2) in the east southeast. The evenings will show Mercury (0.6) very low in the west northwest until midmonth, Jupiter (-2.0) in the west southwest and Venus (-3.8) low in the west northwest setting about an hour after sunset.

On July 1st look for Venus and Mercury sitting 1˚ apart, low in the west northwest. This will be easier to see after sunset. You’ll find the Crescent Moon 5˚ from Pleiades after moonrise (2:04 a.m.) on the 2nd. Be sure to use binoculars. The Moon, Venus and Mercury will be in a 4˚ vertical formation at sunset on the 8th. Look low to the west. On the 13th, Jupiter will be 4˚ from the Moon after 8 p.m. Antares will be found less than 1˚ from the Moon at 11 p.m. on the 17th. Look for Venus 1˚ north of Regulus at 8:30 p.m. on the 22nd. You’ll find them low in the west. Get your binoculars on the 23rd to find Moon 2˚ below Uranus at 10:30 p.m. The Southern Delta

Aquarid meteor shower peaks on the 27th. Watch in the southeast after 11:30 p.m. and expect 15-20 per hour. While you’re watching the shower, look for Mars 5˚ below the Moon. Waning Crescent Moon will be 2˚ below Pleiades after 1 a.m. on the 30th. This is a dazzling sight to see with binoculars.

The New Moon is on the 6th. The largest Full Moon of 2005 will be on the 21st, at 6 a.m. (Buck/Thunder).

August

August’s morning planets are Mars (high in the south at dawn) Mercury (0.4) and Saturn (0.2) (both low in east northeast twilight after the 15th). Evening skies will display Venus (-3.8) and Jupiter (-1.8) low in the west southwest at sunset. Mars rises in the east northeast around 11 p.m.

Look for the slender Crescent Moon 1˚ from Venus at 8 p.m. on August 7th then flanked by Jupiter (left) and Venus (right) on the 8th. Find Jupiter and the Moon 3˚ apart in the west southwest on the 9th. On the 10th, Spica (0.96) will be seen nearly touching the bottom of the Moon at 8:30 p.m. Perseid meteor shower peaks on the 12th. Be sure to look northeast at predawn on the 12th and night of the 13th. Expect about 60 meteors per hour. Look for Mars 6˚ south of the Moon at 2 a.m. on the 25th. Use those binoculars again on the 26th, for a spellbinding view of the Moon just 0.4˚ south of Pleiades. On the 31st look for Saturn 5˚ below the Waning Crescent Moon (after 3:45 a.m.). Also, find Venus and Jupiter 1.5˚ apart very low in the west southwest at sunset and Uranus at opposition 10 p.m.

New Moon is on the 4th and the Full Moon (Corn/Woodcutter’s/Fruit Moon) is on the 19th at 12:53 p.m.

Uranus

Discovered by William Herschel in 1781, the planet is named for the ancient Greek sky god Uranus or Ouranos (the “Overhanging Heavens”). Uranus is a gas giant planet about four times the size of Earth with a diameter of 31,700 miles. It is unusual in several respects; it is one of three planets that rotate “backwards” and its axis of rotation is so tilted that it lies almost on its side in the plane of orbit. (Earth’s axis is nearly perpendicular to its orbit.)

Uranus is 1,780,000 miles from the Sun with a day of 17.9 hours and year which takes 84 earth years to complete. The planet has five large moons, eleven smaller inner ones, and numerous newly discovered distant outer ones. Like Saturn, Uranus has rings, eleven of them, which were first seen by astronomers in 1977.

Uranus can be seen “naked-eye” under ideal conditions and will reach magnitude 5.7 at the end of August. It can be seen rather easily with binoculars, more on this in September’s Astronomy Notes.

Outdoor Adventure Tip: Tying Up Loose Ends

Cord and rope are among the most useful items when out adventuring. However, most ropes will fray on the ends when they are cut. There are several ways to prevent this.

Melt the ends of nylon or plastic ropes with a flame. Wait for the melted nylon to cool before using or touching. The hot, gooey nylon will stick to whatever it touches and will burn skin. With thicker diameter nylon ropes, wrap a piece of electrician’s tape around the rope before you cut it. Cut the rope in the middle of the ring of tape. Then melt the rope ends with the tape. This makes for a very neat rope end. You can also cut nylon ropes with a hot soldering iron; it cuts the rope and melts the ends in one step.

Manila, or other ropes that won’t melt, can be kept from fraying by whipping the ends with thread. More modern techniques include dipping the end of the rope in paint or rubberizing compound and letting it dry. Wrapping the end of the rope with tape will work temporarily. However, the tape comes off rather quickly and can make the rope sticky.

Keep ropes clean by keeping them out of the dirt and avoiding stepping on them. Dirt that gets ground into a rope can make it weaker. Store ropes out of direct sunlight; the UV rays will cause rope to fade, age faster, and weaken. Climbing ropes should be used only for climbing and should be checked carefully before each use.

Wet ropes are weaker than dry ropes. Wet rope will stretch a little bit more, and will shrink when it dries.

River Reflections

by Art Paque and Woody Hagge, community volunteers

by Dan Gray, Urban Adventures Coordinator
JULY THROUGH AUGUST 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

Nature’s Spa
Saturday, July 2
10 a.m.
For adults & accompanied children $10 (Members - $5)
Please call (414) 964-8505 by June 30th to register.
Looking for a little rejuvenation? Come join us for natural facials and soothing music that is sure to set you on the path to relaxation. Learn some basic recipes that can get your skin looking and feeling healthy.

Riverside Park Butterfly Count
Saturday, July 9
11 a.m.
$3 donation
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Every year the North American Butterfly Association coordinates volunteers across three countries (USA, Canada & Mexico) to census butterfly populations. Join us for a stroll through Riverside Park to count & identify our resident butterflies. No experience is necessary.

Picture Perfect Pooch: Urban Ecology Center Photo Club Pet Photo Session
Thursday, August 4
7 p.m.
Free (Photos available for purchase after September 1st)
Please email Lynn Allen at Pndorabx@yahoo.com or call (414) 477-0240 to reserve a space for your pet.
The UEC Photo Club is holding a free pet sitting photo session at its August meeting. All pets are welcome but must be current on their vaccinations and well mannered. Please have your dogs leashed and any other animal crated or contained until the photos are taken. Photos will be available for review at the September 1st meeting. Photos will be available for purchase with 100% of the proceeds benefiting the Center. Space is limited so register soon!

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.

River Rhythms Canoe Trips*
Every Wednesday from June 8 to September 7
5 - 9:30 p.m.
Adult: $25
(Members - $20)
Child 12 - 17 years old: $20
(Members - $15)
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Skip the parking hassles and canoe to your favorite River Rhythms concerts! Meet at the Center and then paddle from Riverside to Pere Marquette Park. Enjoy the music and festivities at River Rhythms and then paddle part way back. Shuttle back to the Center in our bi-fueled vans.

Introduction to Sea Kayaking*
Tuesday, July 19
5:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children age 12 & older.
$30 (Members - $25)
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Learn basic kayak maneuvers and safety during this one day course. Class will be conducted at Lincoln Park.

Kayaking Lake Michigan*
Thursday, July 21
5:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children age 12 & older.
$30 (Members - $25)
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Explore Milwaukee’s coastline. Intro to Sea Kayaking class and then paddle part way back. Shuttle back to the Center in our bi-fueled vans.

Adult Rock Climbing Clinic*
Thursday, July 21, Tuesday, July 26 & Thursday, July 28
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
For adults age 18 & up
$60 (Members - $45)
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Although designed for beginning climbers, adults of all experience levels are welcome. Introductory sessions will take place at the Center. Classes will include instruction on knots, equipment, safety and climbing techniques. Wear comfortable, active clothing and tennis shoes. Those who attend at least two of the local sessions are eligible to go on the culminating trip to Devil’s Lake State Park.

Devil’s Lake Weekend Climbing Trip*
Friday, July 15, 5 p.m. to Sunday, July 17, 4 p.m.
For those who attend at least two Adult Rock Climbing Clinic classes (see above) Trip price includes Climbing Clinic class fees
$175 (Members - $160)
Experience the beauty and challenge of the Midwest’s premier outdoor climbing location. Meet at the Center. We will camp in the Ice Age Campground. Tents, transportation and food will be provided.

Join us in Costa Rica, January 16-26, 2006!
Care to escape the Wisconsin winter for 10 days and bask in tropical splendor while learning about tropical ecosystems and conservation issues? We will soon be accepting deposits to secure a space on our third annual trip to Costa Rica. Please contact Tim Vargo (964-8505, x115) for details. Don’t delay! Our first two trips filled within a matter of hours.

Marked programs are not accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited accessibility.
**Urban Ecology Center Photo Club**

Thursday, July 7
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations welcome
Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills.

**Urban Stargazers**

Thursdays, July 14 & August 11
8 p.m.
Free - donations welcome
Join us for information and stargazing. Beginners welcome, bring your telescope or use one of ours. Constellation for the month of July is Scorpius and constellation for the month of August is Sagittarius.

**Vegetarian Potluck**

Thursdays, July 21 & August 18
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations welcome
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, July 2 & 16 and August 6 & 20
9 - 10:30 a.m.
Free
Improve biodiversity in the park by removing alien plant species like burdock.

**Wednesday Walks With Ken**

Every Wednesday
9 a.m. - Urban Ecology Center building
10 a.m. - Riverside Park
Free - donations welcome
Explore Riverside Park and/or our new “green” facility 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 for bird life. Binoculars available.

### Family Programs

**Family Fishing Days**

Saturday July 9
*meet at Estabrook Park Lagoon*
Saturday July 23
*meet at Hubbard Park*
Instruction starts - 8 a.m.
Stay as long as the fish are biting
For families
(children age 8 & older)
Free
Adults (16 & older) must get a fishing license.
(Ages 16 & 817 - 57
Ages 18 & up - 517)
Please call to register one week before each session at (414) 964-8505 as equipment is limited.
Join Neil, our Fishing Coach, for a morning of fun. Bring a bag lunch, suntan lotion, sunglasses, and a freshly dug cup of worms (we will have some, but can always use more). Also bring poles and tackle if you have them. If you do not have equipment, we are a DNR loan site and have a limited number of fishing poles to provide. Neil will provide training for first time fishermen: how to cast, knot tying, baiting a hook, and fish identification.

**Green Building Tour**

Saturday, July 16
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
$10 (Members - $5)
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Join Executive Director, Ken Leinbach, for a behind-the-scenes tour of the new green building. Learn about the decision making process and discover how it can be applied to your home. Bring a picnic lunch and eat at the Center.

**Storytime in the Park**

Sunday, July 17
2 - 3 p.m.
For accompanied preschool & kindergartners
$5 (Members - $3) per child
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Listen to nature stories and meet animal friends in our classroom or look for new friends in the park!

### Instrument and Nature Camp

**Instrument and Nature Camp**

With the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music (WCM)
July 25 - 29
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
For children entering grades 1 - 4
$225 (WCM members - $200)
For information contact:
Aspiring musicians meet at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music (1584 N. Prospect), for small group instruction on guitar, piano and violin. They then travel to the Center to discover music inspired by nature, hand drumming and recorder lessons. At the end of the day students are picked up at the Urban Ecology Center.

**Connect Your Kids to Nature**

Saturday, July 30
1 - 2:30 p.m.
For parents
$8 (Members - $5)
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Discover fun ways to instill respect for the environment in your kids. Bring them to an Animal Feeding while you learn “tricks of the trade” for hands-on nature exploration.

**Family River Fun**

Saturday, August 6
1 - 3 p.m.
Meet in the Hubbard Park parking lot
For adults & accompanied children ages 8 & older.
Adult: $10 (Members - $7)
Ages 8-16: $4
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Damsel ﬂies, leeches, and clams, oh my! Come with your family and search for these and other animals that inhabit the Milwaukee River. From the banks of the river at Hubbard Park, we will strap on hip waders and use sampling equipment and techniques to discover tiny creatures normally hidden from sight. Look under a magnifying lens where tiny insect larvae resemble miniature dragons!

**Friday Fire**

Fridays, July 15 & August 19
7 p.m. For younger audiences
7:45 p.m. Popcorn and S'mores
8:15 p.m. For all ages
$5 per person or $10 a family (Members - free)
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Join us for an old fashioned, campfire singalong with music, snacks and more!

**Ecology Center Tours**

Every Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
Free - donations welcome
Explore our new “green” facility with our Director of Education Beth Fetterley. Call ahead to confirm, 964-8505.

**Science Saturdays**

Every Saturday
Drop-in any time between 9:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.
Free - Donations welcome
Drop in anytime to discover the world of science through interactive activities.

**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.

**Center Closings**

The Urban Ecology Center will be closed Saturday, August 20 through Tuesday, August 23 for a staff retreat.
Adult Birding Workshops: the Small, the Fast & the Really, Really Smart!
Tuesday, July 5
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
$5 (Members - free)
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.

The Mathematics of Nature: The Fibonacci Sequence and the Golden Ratio
Speaker:
Gil Walter,
Retired Mathematician, UW-Milwaukee
Tuesday, July 12
7 - 8:30 p.m.
$5 (Members – free)
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.

Crayfish Monitoring Training Program
Tuesday, July 26
5 - 8 p.m.
For adults
Free
Please call
Tim Vargo
(414) 964-8505,
x 116 or Cheryl Nenn
(414) 287-0207 to register.
Become a Citizen Scientist!
As part of a statewide effort to monitor our native crayfish population, UEC & Friends of Milwaukee Rivers are hosting a crayfish monitoring training at Hubbard Park in Shorewood.
Once trained, you will be expected to monitor a stream site (or sites) of your choice at least once per year. Space is limited to 15 participants.

Volunteer Opportunities
Volunteer Orientations
Saturday, July 9
9 - 11 a.m.
Saturday, August 6
10 a.m. - 12 noon
Free
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Volunteers play a vital role in operating the Center. Come to this session and learn about the Center's programs and how to get involved.

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.

Hank Aaron State Trail 5k Run/Walk
Saturday, August 13
Location: Miller Park
$15 advance, $18 day of event
Calling all runners and walkers! Participate as an individual, or join as a team. Awards given for the fastest finishers and prize drawings for airline tickets, dinner certificates and many others! T-shirts, goodie bags and beverages available as supplies last. Please contact Melissa Cook (263-8539) with any questions.

High School & Middle School Programs
Youth Adventure Camps
Middle School Students
August 1-5
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
$190 ($180 - Members)
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.

High School Students
August 8-12
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
$190 ($180 - Members)
Please call (414) 964-8505 in advance to register.
Explore the worlds of rock climbing and sea kayaking! Learn the basics of these adventure sports including how to be safe and smart. Bring a lunch, water and comfortable clothing.

The answer to the puzzle on page 11 is 14.
### Urban Ecology Center Programs

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

**July 2005**

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Contact the Center for details (414) 964-8505 or visit www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org. Get updates and learn about spontaneous programs via email. Send an email to cbuhk@urbanecologycenter.org to sign-up.
### Urban Ecology Center Programs

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

**August 2005**

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- Center closed for staff retreat

**Contact the Center for details** (414) 964-8505 or visit www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org.
Get updates and learn about spontaneous programs via email. Send an email to cbuhk@urbanecologycenter.org to sign-up.
Thank You From the Center

In-kind donations:
Paul Adolph - evergreen plants
Paul Andre - vcr
Karen Beaumont - vcr
Dana Cable - manual pencil sharpener
Linda Farkas - binoculars
Don Haack - rock & mineral books
Nancy Hindin - portable screen & stand, books, slide projector & carousels
Carol Johnson - posters & book
Beth Kaplan - winter clothes, boots
Ryoko Kawanishi - clothes
Elizabeth Mann - bird clock, apple clock
Art Paque - file cabinet, basketball hoop
Fran Parker - tent, sleeping bag, paddles, water bottles
Janet Santacroce - binoculars & bird book
Lydia Soplin/Beans & Barley - monkeytail pine tree
Al Sherkon - tandem bicycle
Cynthia & Warren Sommer - cross country skis & poles, patio bricks
Joan Spector - bird nests
Mary Lou Stebbins - tablecloths
Catherine Tietz - manual pencil sharpener
Gordon Zan - chest freezer
Gifts in honor of:
Richard C. Born
- Judith L. Born
- Joel Krueger
- Andrea Taxman
Carson Pinney - Barbara Pinney

Welcome New and Renewing Members:
Anne & Mark Anderson
Dr. H. Amkel
Beth Ayers & Joe Rodriguez & kids

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.

Teen Adventure Challenge a Big Success

What is the number that is 10 more than one-fourth of one-half of one-tenth of one-tenth of 3,200? This question is one of the puzzlers that nine teams of high school students grappled with as they took part in the third annual Teen Adventure Challenge on Saturday, June 4. Teams also rock climbed, hiked, canoed, and found their way with a compass. This year’s event had longer hiking and canoeing sections, heightening the challenge for the teams involved. The race concluded at Pere Marquette Park, where students could enjoy the music of RiverSplash! while they ate lunch and awaited the awards ceremony.

For the third year in a row, Riverside High School finished in first place. Other teams were from Washington, El Puente, South Division and Cedarburg high schools, Clara Mohammed School, and a combination team from the North Shore.

We would like to extend a huge thanks to our corporate sponsors:

The following organizations contributed in-kind donations: REI, Stone Creek Coffee, Laacke & Joys, Clif Bar, Riveredge Nature Center and the Riverwalk District. And we would not have been able to run this event without the 30 volunteers who contributed their time to staff check points, move canoes, make lunches, and be judges.

If you or someone you know would like to participate in Teen Adventure Challenge 2006, e-mail Dan at dgray@urbanecologycenter.org. Did you figure out the puzzler? See page 8 for the answer.
Center Closings

The Urban Ecology Center will be closed Saturday, August 20 through Tuesday, August 23 for a staff retreat.

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
- 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 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 __________________________
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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.

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