

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER

River Reflections

BING! B! 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 3
May & June 2005

Riverside Park: Hotel, Fire Escape or Convenience Store?

by Tim Vargo, Research Coordinator

Picture yourself alone on a cross-country road trip. It's late. You've been driving for 20 hours. Coffee and music postponed sleep temporarily, but now you must rest. You eagerly seek a hotel, comforted by visions of a hot meal and a comfy bed. But you keep driving and driving with nothing in sight. Finally, you succumb and pull off to the side of the road where you spend a restless night trying to sleep in your car. You can't get comfortable. Cars are whizzing by... Oh yeah, and you're hungry, in a bad part of town and all you have to eat are Twinkies.

Now picture you're an indigo bunting, a stunning blue bird that migrates under the cover of darkness to avoid predators. You started your journey weeks earlier in Mexico and now as the sun rises you find yourself exhausted and over Lake Michigan. You must find shelter along the coast to avoid the hungry hawks and gulls that prowl by day. You eagerly seek a forest, comforted by visions of juicy berries

and dense foliage. But you keep flying and flying with nothing in sight. Finally, you succumb and land in a tree in someone's backyard. You can't get comfortable. The neighborhood cats are on the prowl... Oh yeah, and you're hungry and all you can find to eat are buckthorn and honeysuckle (the bird equivalent of Twinkies).

Anthropomorphizing aside, millions of birds face this situation during every migration. Dave Ewert, of the Nature Conservancy, stresses the importance of stopover sites along migration routes where birds can rest and replenish fat reserves. They are especially important along shores of the Great Lakes, because birds migrating over water must find land for rest and thus concentrate along coasts. He grouped stopover sites into **4-star hotels** (large forests with ample food, water, & shelter), **convenience stores** (smaller forests where resources

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Metamorphosis by Sara Vondrachek,

Environmental Educator

It was one of the very first classes I taught at the Urban Ecology Center. I had a group of fifth graders and we were exploring the wonders of geology. While we were outside something happened, something more meaningful than I could have ever taught. At the beginning of class, the teacher pointed out a particular boy in the group that had behavioral challenges. He seemed detached and defiant sitting with his arms folded across his chest, his eyes all scrunched up. As we ventured outside and headed for the park to study glacial erratics, eskers, and moraines, the boy was doing everything he could think of to let me, as well as his classmates, know that he



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Come Join Us for a Picnic!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

I love to eat. I also thoroughly enjoy learning about people – their thoughts, ideas, interests and passions. For these two reasons, my favorite time of day at the Urban Ecology Center is lunch time. A free lunch hour doesn't happen often enough in my crazy schedule, but when it does, I grab my sandwich, head upstairs and see which staff members or volunteers are there for conversation. It's the one time of day that I can relax a bit and really get to know the people that I work with. I heard the Center recently described as a "good people magnet" and these lunch time conversations verify this fact.

Well, a few weeks ago I grabbed my sandwich and went upstairs. Instead of the usual familiar faces, I came upon a group of adults

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Bits and Pieces of News From the Center

- **Urban Ecology Center building wins MANDI!** The Center building won the State Farm Insurance "Building Blocks Award" Small Project award at the 2005 MANDI awards. Building Blocks Awards are given to projects that contribute to the rebuilding of Milwaukee's neighborhoods and promote the social and cultural life of the community.
- **And "Top Project"!** The Center's new facility recently was named a "Top Project" by *Wisconsin Builder*, published by *The Daily Reporter*, which honors construction projects that stay true to their original visions.
- **New Summer Camp added: Early Adventures!** Is your child (age 3 or 4) not quite ready for summer camp alone? Then have her bring a parent, grandparent or other adult for some marvelous mornings at the Center. The Early Adventures session is from July 25 to July 29, 9:30 - 11 a.m. Please, no more than two children per adult.
- **A special thank you to our Speed Dating for Nature Lover's Event sponsors & volunteers!** We would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their support in making our 2nd Annual Speed Dating for Nature Lover's event a HUGE success!

Sponsors

New World Wine Company
Lakefront Brewery
Sentry Foods on Oakland Avenue
Sprecher Brewery
Beans and Barley
The Breadsmith
Latin American Serenade Group-
Domingo Leguizamon,
Richard Pinney, and Gary Hoftad

Volunteers

Kimberly Fein Debbie Dakich
Susan Stewart

- **Expanding our reach.** The Center recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Sierra Club Great Waters Group to conduct a feasibility study on the creation of a satellite environmental education center in the Menomonee Valley. The funds resulted from the Sierra Club's settlement with Emmepak Foods, which had illegally dumped excess oil and grease into Milwaukee sewers.

- **Join the Ecology Center email list.** Keep up on the latest news from the Center and find out about cool nature happenings by joining the Center's email list. In addition to reminders about upcoming programs, people on our email list have learned where the chimney swifts were in Shorewood, when Mars would be larger than life and when our maple syrup was ready for our Annual Pancake Breakfast. From astronomy to biology to spontaneous lunches, members find out first on our email list. Our list is not given to anyone and is only used for Center business. Sign up today! If you are a member of the UEC, send an email to cbuhk@urbanecologycenter.org and type "subscribe" in the subject line.
- **Many thanks.** The Center would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions: Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. and the Halbert & Alice B. Kadish Foundation.

- **Building on success.** The Center would like to thank the following organization for their generous contribution to its capital campaign: Halbert & Alice B. Kadish Foundation.

- **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, x. 102, 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 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 Center. For each shipment of recyclable materials, a donation is made toward our urban environment.

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.

Bird Walks at Lake Park: Spring 2005
Saturdays, May 14 & May 28
7:30 - 9 a.m.
All bird walks start at the Warming House.
For information, visit:
<http://home.wi.rr.com/phunter1/lakeparkbirds.html>

The Milwaukee Bicycle Collective Open House
Celebrating Bike to Work Week
Saturday, May 14
7:30 pm
2910 W. Clybourn St., (414) 431-0825
www.bikecollective.org
Join in the fun as we kick off Bike to Work Week with: a silent bike art auction, free beer and root beer, snacks and live music.

We Energies Offers Wind Turbine Tours
Saturday, May 21
5656 County Road F, Byron, WI
Guided tours begin every half hour between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
These two wind turbines feature 75-foot blades mounted on 215-foot steel towers. Visitors will have an opportunity to enter the tower base and watch the wind turbines shut down and restart.

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:

Large metal container with lid
18-inch reflecting telescope with Dobsonian mount
Folding outdoor table & chairs
Wall-mounted hand-cranked pencil sharpeners
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
Juggling stuff
Two 8 foot step ladders
Portable basketball hoop
Ping-pong table (in good condition)
Stepstools
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

Metamorphosis

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was not at all interested in the subject matter. Then, from out of nowhere, a toddler appeared with the bluest, most honest eyes I have ever seen. He and his father were at the park enjoying the last displays of fall's magnificence. The toddler started to climb the large boulder the students and I were surrounding. I caught a glimpse of the previously mentioned student and sensed something shift within him. His face softened, and a huge smile started to make its way across his face as he declared, "Aw, he's so cute!"

I had just witnessed a metamorphosis, except it didn't involve a rock. As we started back to the building, the

toddler followed on the heels of this young boy. The boy would run ahead for a bit while the toddler chased, then he would feign a dramatic fall to allow the toddler to catch him. I glanced over at the father who was clearly entertained by the student's antics and noticed even the students were enjoying the show. The teacher walked over to me, her eyes welled up with tears. She told me that she hadn't seen this student laugh or smile as much the entire year. It was at this moment that it was reaffirmed to me that some of the most valuable lessons cannot be found within the confines of a classroom or between the covers of a textbook.

Center Featured In National Children's Book Series:

Author to Visit

by Tim Vargo, Research Coordinator

Jane Kirkland, author of *Take A Walk® Books*, an award-winning series of nature discovery books for kids, will visit the Urban Ecology Center on Saturday, June 18th to promote her new book, *Take a City Nature Walk*. This new addition to the series features our own Urban Ecology Center, along with poems and drawings from our partnering schools.

Jane's column *Eye on Nature* about how families can enjoy nature, earned her the National Arbor Day Foundation's Education award for 2005 and she is a regular guest on Philadelphia's award-winning children's radio program, *Kids Corner*. All of her

books maintain a 5 star review rating at Amazon.com, and have garnered recommendations from Jeff Corwin, host of Animal Planet's *The Jeff Corwin Experience*, the Emmy-winning National Science Teachers Association (NSTA Recommends), The National Gardening Association, The National Parenting Center's Seal of Approval, *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine and *Homeschooling Today* magazine.

Jane, who speaks at schools and events all over the country, will present her family program "I Saw a Bald Eagle Soaring over My Grocery Store" on Saturday, June 18 (see calendar), followed by a book sale and signing.

Riverside Park: Hotel...

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are available but patchy) and **fire escapes** (small, isolated forest patches with scarce resources that serve as an emergency backup if no other habitat is available).

So where does Riverside Park fit? We're too small to be a Ritz-Carlton. Emergency fire escape? Not really. We're situated along a migration corridor (the Milwaukee River) and have nourishing food thanks to our Burdock Brigade. 7-11 convenience store? Sure! This is a role we can embrace by providing service with a smile to the 155 bird species that have been found here. And remember, not all conve-

nience stores are created equal. To attract customers, we should strive for cleanliness, convenience, safety & value – attributes that make the park attractive to wary birds.

How can you help? Next time you're in the park, pick up some trash, or join the ranks of volunteers who perform weekly patrols. Or join the Burdock Brigade, and remove Twinkies (buckthorn, non-native honeysuckle) from the shelves in favor of healthy fruit (native dogwoods and cherries). Your customer service will be rewarded when you see a beautiful songbird who decided to pull off the road for a rest.

Volunteers' Corner

by Susan Winans, Volunteer Coordinator

Wow! Earth Day was a huge success thanks to over 80 youth and adult volunteers who lent a hand with our activities. Thanks so much! Over 1000 people attended!

Looking for another way to get involved at the Center? Call Susan Winans at (414) 964-8505, x110 or check out these upcoming opportunities:

Weed Out! Saturdays in May, 9-10:30 a.m.: Join the Center's Burdock Brigade and get your hands dirty! Be a part of the effort to remove invasive species such as Garlic Mustard from the natural area of Riverside Park. Come dressed for the weather wearing clothes that can get dirty. The Center will provide bags and gloves. Call to sign up or just come that day. This is a great project for the entire family!



Teen Adventure Challenge, June 4, shifts all day: Witness this team adventure race firsthand as a volunteer! We need people to help register teams as they arrive, staff checkpoints as the teams make their way through the course, unload and load canoes and hand out sandwiches when participants finish the race. Experienced belayers and certified first aid providers also needed. For more information or to volunteer, please call Dan Gray, at (414) 964-8505, x115.

UEC "zookeeper" wanted. We have a unique volunteering opportunity for one or two people who have experience in maintaining terrariums and aquariums and caring for animals and plants - management of our Wisconsin Live Animal Room and our collection of native reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. It will require approximately 5-10 hours a week, preferably an hour or two a day. Duties include monitoring the health of all animals, making changes to exhibits, keeping records, training new staff and volunteers, tank maintenance, and planning and creation of future exhibits. Contact Sara Vondrachek at 964-8505, x111, if interested.

From the Board

by Lorraine Jacobs, President, UEC Board of Directors

Prior to introducing Board members, I'd like to share some Board activity. At our March meeting, we agreed to establish an ex-officio group, the "Advisory Council". This council will be an important asset to the Board, the Executive Director and the Center as a whole. Membership in the council is by invitation only. Advisory Council members will not be responsible for direct policy, but will be vital in facilitating our growth through networking with the community and advice regarding grants, fundraising and publicity initiatives. We are eager to soon welcome charter members to the Advisory Council.

Also, the Board has established another tier of support through the "Sustainability Team". This group has agreed to be available, primarily through email, to provide support to the Executive Director and Board. They may be called together annually, but will be consulted throughout the year for volunteer, fundraising initiatives and committee needs.

Now for the introductions...

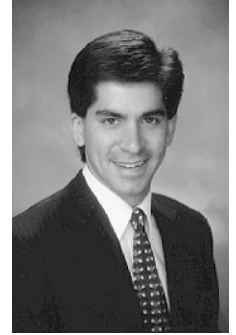
Bill Rumpf has joined the Board this year but he is not a newcomer to

the Center. In 2002 Bill began attending the Thursday Morning Bird Walks, then joined the Citizen Science bird banding project. His entire family participates in Ecology Center programs, including his grandchildren who attend UEC summer day camps. Bill's interest in the natural world began as a child visiting a relative's Missouri farm. Bill and his wife Eva, a writer and journalist, lived and worked in the Sequoia National Park for a year. They also participated in an Elderhostel trip to Costa Rica, where they observed over 500 species of birds and "got hooked on birding". Bill will be coordinating volunteer activities with the Center's Volunteer Coordinator, Susan Winans.



Troy Hilliard has also recently joined the Board of Directors. Troy is an attorney and shareholder in the firm, Reinhart, Boerner, Van Deuren, S.C. Most of his practice is in the corporate transaction area, with emphasis in corporate law. He attributes his interest in the environment in part to his

experiences growing up in rural Wisconsin. After hearing about the Center's programs he toured the facilities. "I was extremely impressed with the Center's programs and the dedication of its staff," he said. "The Urban Ecology Center is a tremendous asset to the Milwaukee area."



Jeff Anthony is Manager of Renewable Energy Strategy for We Energies. This business area of We Energies provides alternative energy options for customers. Although Jeff recently joined the Board, he is not new to the Center. Jeff has been directly involved in facilitating our energy/alternative fuel vans. In addition, he has coordinated the eye catching Urban Ecology Center name and animals painted on all of the vans. Jeff is currently a member of the American Wind Energy Association, Midwest Renewable Energy Association and the American Solar Energy Association. He and his family live on Milwaukee's Eastside and he enjoys downhill skiing and biking.

Greener Days Ahead

by Lisa Lyons, community volunteer

I want to be good to the earth but often don't know how. So, my new goal is to research and try out everyday ways to be environmentally friendly. I am not an ecologist, scientist or educator. I am simply like you, trying to figure out how to walk a little more gently on our earth in hopes of "greener days ahead".



harming the environment and our health. Here are some things I am trying.

Ditch the gas mower. EPA studies show that one hour of gas mowing can produce as much carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxide as 350 miles of driving a car! This contributes to air pollution and smog and can aggravate respiratory problems, especially for people with asthma. Also, gas mowers are terribly noisy and guzzle gas, about 800 million gallons each year in the U.S. alone.

Cut down on pollution, fuel consumption and noise by using an electric or reel mower. Prices start at about \$90 for a new reel mower, and

about \$170 for an electric. Electricity will run you less than \$5 a year. If you must use a gas mower, limit your mowing time, avoid mowing on "ozone alert" days, be careful to avoid gas spills and consider sharing a mower with neighbors. Finally, to eliminate mowing altogether, replace part or all of your lawn with native perennial beds or ground cover.

Natural lawn care. Last year I started using corn gluten meal (CGM) for pre-emergent weed control and lawn fertilization. CGM is all-natural protein and nitrogen resulting from corn processing and has traditionally

With spring here, I am looking for ways to have a beautiful yard without

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Astronomy Notes

by Art Paque and Woody Hagge, community volunteers

We have finally traded our winter coats for later sunsets and warmer weather! It will be well worth the wait for nightfall to watch Spring's planets visit with the Moon and cluster together to celebrate the arrival of Summer.

Mars will grace May's morning skies low in the east southeast about 2.5 hours before sunrise. Evening skies will be decorated with Venus and Saturn low in the west northwest while Jupiter shines 40° high in the south.

May

On May 2nd, look for Mars 4° from Moon at 4:30 a.m. You can use your binoculars to find Uranus 2° above Moon and Mars near Moon on the 3rd. The Eta Aquarid meteor shower peaks on the 4th. Look in east about 4 a.m. and expect 10-20 per hour.

You'll find Mercury 2° south of the crescent Moon at 5 a.m. on May 6th. Saturn will be 5° below the waxing crescent Moon on the 13th. Look at 9 p.m.

Look for Mars very low in east southeast, 1.2° below Uranus, after 3:30 a.m. on the 14th. Use your binoculars again on the 19th to find Jupiter just 0.4° north of Moon at 5 p.m. or 1.5° after dark.

By the 31st Mars will be found 1° north of the Moon at 2:30 a.m.

The New Moon is on the 8th and the Full Moon (Flower/Planting) is on the 23rd.

June

Again in June, Mars is alone in the morning sky having risen 3.5 hours before the Sun. At midmonth Mercury will join the other evening planets, Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn. All will appear in the west northwest, with the exception of Jupiter, still 25° up in the west southwest.

Find Venus 5° south of 2 day old Moon at dark on the 8th. Look for the crescent Moon at 9 p.m. on the 9th to find Saturn (4° south) and Pollux (1° north). The 16th finds Jupiter 2° north of the waxing gibbous Moon. Look just after dark.

The 21st of June is the Summer Solstice and the longest day of year (15hrs. 22 min). The period from 9th-20th has the earliest sunrises of year. The 21st-1st has the latest sunsets of year.

A delightful sight on the 24th will be when Venus, Saturn and Mercury cluster at darkness very low in west northwest. On the 27th, Venus and

Mercury will be just 0.1° apart. Look very low in west northwest at 9 p.m. Find Mars 2.5° south of the Moon very low in east at 1:30 a.m. on the 29th.

June's New Moon is on the 6th and the Full Moon (Flower/Planting) is on the 21st.

Jupiter

Jupiter is the king of the planets in our solar system. Its diameter of 88,850 miles dwarfs that of Earth by a multiple of 11.2 times. It is 5.2 times further from the Sun as well, at a distance of 484 million miles. This gigantic planet rotates rapidly compared to Earth. A Jovian day is only 9.8 hours long. Unlike Earth, Jupiter does not have solid land. Its atmosphere is primarily hydrogen with about 10% helium.

A recent count of Jupiter's moons tallied 39 of them. Jupiter has the largest moon in the solar system, Ganymede, 3,270 miles in diameter. Under ideal conditions it can be seen with the unaided eye. Jupiter's three other largest moons are Callisto, Io, and Europa. All four can be seen easily with a small telescope. May and June will offer many opportunities to watch the moons as they "dance" around their proud parent.

Come Join Us for a Picnic!

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and teens that I hadn't seen before. Assuming they were new volunteers I confidently sat down and struck up a conversation. It turns out they were from Madison exploring Milwaukee for the day. They had spent the morning at the public museum, picked up lunch to-go at a crowded Beans and Barley and had somehow found their way to the Urban Ecology Center. In essence they were tourists using us as an indoor picnic site. What a great idea!

Think about it. What other public building would you consider bringing your own food into for a picnic? The public library? A church? City hall? The art museum? The train station? A hotel lobby? I really can't think of any.

These places either have their own food for you to buy or would never allow you in for the purpose. The Center, on the other hand, is open, safe and friendly.

Perhaps you work close enough to the Center to bike up the Oak Leaf Trail for your lunch break (only ten minutes from downtown!). Or your family might come to enjoy the new playground, then climb the tower for a sky high lunch! You might even bring a tennis racket or a fishing rod along.* Borrow a kite or use our 12-speed tandem bike (members only) for an active afternoon. If it is cold we are likely to have a fire and if it's raining you can check out our rain water collection sys-

tem, do a jigsaw puzzle or play Chinese checkers! Our quiet evenings are also an inviting times to study, read or do homework.

Quite selfishly, I'm just hoping to have the chance to get to know you the next time I find myself with time to grab my sandwich and head upstairs.

Note: I'd love to see a few more picnic tables built to place on the Oak Leaf Trail. We can supply the materials if there is someone out there willing to build them for us.

*Did you know that we are now a DNR angler site? This means that we have 20 rods to teach fishing with or to lend out. All you need is a license.

MAY THROUGH JUNE 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

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day Saturday, May 14

Bird Banding 6 - 11 a.m. Free

For an up-close birding experience, join us as we mist-net and band birds in the park. Please register in advance if you plan to come before 9 a.m.

Night Birding on the Tower* 8 - 10 p.m. Free

Perch atop the observation tower with Paul Hunter of Lake Park Friends and UEC Research Coordinator Tim Vargo as we look (and listen) for nighttime migrating birds. It could get chilly, so bring warm clothes.

Benefit Concert by Dan Pelletier Friday, May 20 7 p.m.

For adults
\$10 (Members - \$7)

Instead of our Friday Fire, join us for this exciting performance. A favorite of folk festivals from New York to Florida and west to Texas, Dan Pelletier is making his first Milwaukee appearance a benefit concert for the Center.

Teen Adventure Challenge* Saturday, June 4 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Register by: May 14
Limited to 15 teams, one team per high school
Call the Center to request a registration packet

The Ecology Center's Teen Adventure Challenge is an adventure race from Riverside Park to RiverSplash! in Pere Marquette Park. Teams of four high school students and one adult navigate an exciting course that includes: orienteering, hike/run, climbing and canoeing. They are judged on speed and their ability to complete mental challenges.

"I Saw a Bald Eagle Soaring Over My Grocery Store" Saturday, June 18 3 p.m. Free

Jane Kirkland, author of the award-winning Take-a-Walk book series (see article on page 3) will give an interactive program that chronicles her life-changing surprise discovery of nature in her own backyard that led her to write books. The multi-media program describes her incredible encounters with nature in some of the most unlikely spots and leaves participants with the tools they need to have similar experiences themselves.

Summer Solstice Evening Celebration Tuesday, June 21 7:30 p.m.

For everyone, children and elders especially welcome
Free

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. Meet at the Center then join us on the hilltop overlooking the park. Refreshments provided.

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:
WCM, (414) 276-5760,
www.wcmusic.org.

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.

Family Programs

Wild Foods for Survival, Fun and Dinner! Thursday, May 12 5 - 8 p.m. For adults and accompanied children \$15 (Members - \$10) Children under 15: \$8 (Members - \$5)

Join us for an evening of culinary delights. First, enjoy an informative tour through Riverside Park pointing out edible plants. Afterwards, return for a dinner featuring native plants and animals that have been eaten in this area for the last thousand years.



Flight and Fun Saturday, June 11 9:30 - 11 a.m.

For adults and accompanied children age 7 or older
Family of 4 or more: \$20 (Members - \$15)
Adult: \$7 (Members - \$5)
Child: \$5 (Members - \$3)

Through fun, interactive experiments discover how airplanes and birds are able to fly. Following the indoor introduction to flight, families search Riverside Park for birds, insects, helicopter seeds and other flying objects.

Birding for Kids Saturday, June 18 3 - 4 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children age 5 and up
\$5 (Members - \$3)

Armed with our ears and a pair of binoculars, we will explore Riverside Park on a hunt to identify some local songbirds.

Storytime in the Park Sundays, May 22 & June 19 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 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.

May: Native Birds. Learn how to use binoculars and a basic bird guide, then head outside to search for birds. See how many of the 155 species noted in Riverside Park you can find! Binoculars can be loaned to children accompanied by an adult.

June: Insects. Learn about our planet's most abundant biological order. Visitors will learn how to use a basic insect key. Children accompanied by adults will then use insect nets for an up-close study of our six legged friends.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Orientation Saturdays, May 14 & June 11 10 a.m. - 12 noon Free

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.

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)

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

Learn basic kayak maneuvers and safety during this one day course. Class will be conducted at Lincoln Park.

Kayaking Lake Michigan*

Thursday, June 16
5:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children age 12 & older.
\$30 (Members - \$25)

We will launch at Bradford Beach and explore Milwaukee's coast. Intro to Sea Kayaking class or other previous kayaking experience required. If waves are too big we will paddle the Milwaukee River around Lincoln Park.



3-Day Fundamentals of Canoeing Class*

Monday, June 20, through Wednesday, June 22
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with a break for lunch.
For adults and youth, 12 years and older. Limit 12 participants.
\$60 (Members - \$50)

Learn the skills necessary for a safe recreational canoe outing. Emphasis will be upon safety, paddling on calm water, and responding to hazards. The course will be taught at Lincoln Park and the Center. Participants who complete the course will receive Fundamentals of Canoeing Red Cross Certification.

Milwaukee River Canoe Trip*

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

A fun way to use skills learned in the Canoeing class, but open to anyone interested. We'll put in at Brown Deer and take out at Riverside Park. Bring lunch and water.

Register now for future programs:

Adult Rock Climbing Clinic*

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

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.

Introduction to Sea Kayaking

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

See June 14 description for details.

Kayaking Lake Michigan*

Thursday, July 21
5:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children age 12 & older.
\$30 (Members - \$25)

See June 16 description.

Interest Groups

Urban Ecology Center Photo Club

Thursdays, May 5 & June 2
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations welcome

Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills.

Urban Stargazers

Thursdays, May 12 & June 9
8 p.m.
Free - donations welcome

May: How Big is the Universe? Michael Bakich, Associate Editor of Astronomy Magazine, will take you on a tour that starts on Earth and ends up at the edge of the cosmos. Afterwards, join us as we look for these objects with telescopes (weather permitting). Constellation of the Month: Cancer.

June: Join us for information and stargazing. Beginners welcome, bring your telescope or use one of ours. Constellation of the Month: Leo.

Vegetarian Potluck

Thursdays, May 19 & June 16
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 Every Saturday in May, and Saturdays, June 4 & 18
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.



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

Introduction to Bird Banding

Wednesday, May 4
7 p.m.

For adults
\$5 (Members - free)

Very few experiences grab you like the feel of a bird in your hand. Learn how we monitor the bird population in the park using mist-nets and bands. This session is your first step towards joining the team that will meet regularly throughout the year before sunrise with coffee, donuts and a smile.

Whooping Cranes in Wisconsin

Speaker:

George Archibald,
Co-Founder,
International Crane
Foundation

Tuesday, May 10
7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults
\$5 (Members - free)

More than a century ago, Whooping Cranes lived in Wisconsin. They were destroyed by the European settlers. At the turn of the 20th century, a project began to bring back these birds. Now there are about 50 birds in the new flock. George will share this remarkable story as well as an account of a parallel project for Siberian Cranes in Asia.

Urban Bird Studies Training

Friday, May 13
12 noon - 3 p.m.

For teachers or
youth leaders
Free

The Citizen Science Program at Cornell University has created a series of on-line projects that help us learn more about birds in cities. Your students can collect data that will help scientists at Cornell answer questions about urban birds. (See <http://birds.cornell.edu/programs/urbanbirds/> for more information). As a pilot site for this program, we have received funding to offer a free workshop to learn how to get the most out of the Urban Bird Studies projects. We will show you how to prepare for and conduct the projects, incorporate your own programs and add other new ideas. Everyone is welcome, including educators, youth leaders, parents and more.

Snake Surveys of Riverside Park

Wednesdays, May 11,
May 25 and June 8
6:30 - 8 p.m.

For adults
\$5 (Members - free)
Please register in advance.

Riverside Park is one of the few remaining areas where the threatened Butler's Garter



Snake thrives. Join local scientists as we survey the snake community in the park. Dress for the weather, wear clothes that can get pooped on & bring an old pillowcase.

Adult Evening Birding Workshop: Spring Warblers

Tuesday, May 24
6 - 7:30 p.m.

For adults
\$5 (Members - free)

Finally, as a follow-up to the confusing fall warblers workshop, the bright, easy-to-identify spring warblers are here! Join us for a quick slideshow on how to identify some of the more common warblers in the area followed by a walk through the park to try to find them. Not an early riser? That's not an excuse as we start at the crack of dinner time. Binoculars provided.

Big Bird Day in Milwaukee County

Thursday, May 26
8 a.m. - until we get tired

For adults
Free

No, not the yellow bird from Sesame Street! More than 250 bird species have been documented in Milwaukee and more than 150 in Riverside Park alone! Help us find out how many birds we can find in one day. We'll start with our weekly bird walk and then visit other birding hot spots in the area until late afternoon. We will stop for lunch, but feel free to bring your own.

Innovations in the Application of GIS Technology to Urban Environments

Speaker:

Bill Huxhold,
Department Chair/
Professor, Department
of Urban Planning,
UW-Milwaukee

Tuesday, June 14
7 - 8:30 pm

For adults
\$5 (UEC Members - free)

In 1975, Bill Huxhold led an effort to implement the nation's first urban geographic information system (GIS) while he was employed at the City of Milwaukee. Now GIS technology has been embraced by virtually all major urban governments. Bill, now professor of Urban Planning, will present an overview of the technology and how it is changing the way we are dealing with urban issues.

The Water-Inspired Art & Invention of Carl Hedman

Artist: Carl Hedman
Exhibition: June 17-19
Opening Reception:
Friday, June 17
7 - 9 p.m.

Free

Carl Hedman, a long-time member of UEC will show his work at the Center June 17-19. This exhibition will feature his 3-d ceramic representations of area watersheds and the prototype of the Ecoflush, an invention that conserves water by flushing a toilet with bathwater (greywater) from an adjoining tub.

Habitat Gardening Institute for Schools

June 20-July 1
(weekends off)

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For teachers and schools wanting for develop native gardens on their property.

Free: supported by the Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment

The Ecology Center and UW Madison Arboretum are currently seeking k-12 teacher teams to apply for this summer's graduate level habitat gardening program.

Teachers gain content-based knowledge, curricular material, 3 graduate credits and \$500 for the school's garden. Participants experience hands-on interdisciplinary activities related to ecological restoration and gardening. Call Beth at x103 for more information. Act quickly! We're filling fast.



Adult Evening Bird Workshop: Flycatchers

Tuesday, June 21
7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults
\$5 (Members - free)

What a better way to celebrate the solstice, then to look for birds at twilight? We will start with a slideshow presentation on the hard-to-identify flycatchers of Riverside Park and cap off the evening with a stroll through the park. Binoculars provided.

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)

High School Students

August 8-12
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
\$190 (\$180 - Members)

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.

Outdoor Leadership Program

Training: June 27 - July 1,
Trip: July 28- August 6
Applications accepted through May 15
For high school students
Sliding scale fee,
significant need-based
scholarships available

This exciting program includes: a nine-day outdoor skills training, a 40 hour volunteer practicum and a seven day trip to the Teton Science School in Wyoming. This is a competitive process that includes an in-person interview. Please contact Beth x103.

Urban Ecology Center Programs

Urban Ecology Center hours:

Monday - Thursday 9a-7p, Friday - Saturday 9a-5p, Sunday 12 non-5p

May 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Choices for Sustainable Living	4 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 7p Introduction to Bird Banding	5 8a Birdwalk 7p Ecology Center Photo Club	6	7 Science Saturdays (every Saturday) topic: Native Birds 8a Birding by Canoe 9a Weed Out! / Burdock Brigade 1p Animal Feeding
8	9	10 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Whooping Cranes in Wisconsin 7p Choices for Sustainable Living	11 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 6:30p Snake Surveys of Riverside Park	12 8a Birdwalk 5p Wild Foods for Survival, Fun and Dinner! 8p Urban Stargazers- How Big is the Universe?	13 12p Urban Bird Studies Training	14 International Migratory Bird Day 6a Bird Banding 8p Night Birding on the Tower ----- 9a Weed Out! / Burdock Brigade 10a Volunteer Orientation 1p Animal Feeding
15	16	17 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Choices for Sustainable Living	18 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken	19 8a Birdwalk 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck	20 Benefit Concert with Dan Pelletier 7p	21 9a Weed Out! / Burdock Brigade 1p Animal Feeding
22 2p Storytime in the Park	23	24 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Choices for Sustainable Living 6p Adult Evening Birding Workshop: Spring Warblers	25 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 6:30p Snake Surveys of Riverside Park	26 8a Birdwalk 8a Big Bird Day in Milwaukee County	27	28 9a Weed Out! / Burdock Brigade 1p Animal Feeding
29	30	31 9a Burdock Brigade 7p Choices for Sustainable Living				

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 hours:

Monday - Thursday 9a-7p, Friday - Saturday 9a-5p, Sunday 12 noon-5p

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1</p> <p>9a Building Tour with Ken</p> <p>10a Walk with Ken</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8a Birdwalk Ecology Center Photo Club</p> <p>7p</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Science Saturdays (every Saturday) <i>topic: Insects</i></p> <p>Teen Adventure Challenge 8:45a</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade</p> <p>1p Animal Feeding</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade</p> <p>7p Choices for Sustainable Living</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9a Building Tour with Ken</p> <p>10a Walk with Ken</p> <p>5p River Rhythms Canoe Trips</p> <p>6:30p Snake Surveys of Riverside Park</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8a Birdwalk</p> <p>8p Urban Stargazers</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30a Flight and Fun</p> <p>10a Volunteer Orientation</p> <p>1p Animal Feeding</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade</p> <p>5:30p Introduction to Sea Kayaking</p> <p>7p Innovations in the Application of GIS Technology to Urban Environments</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9a Building Tour with Ken</p> <p>10a Walk with Ken</p> <p>5p River Rhythms Canoe Trips</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8a Birdwalk</p> <p>5:30p Kayaking Lake Michigan</p> <p>6:30p Vegetarian Potluck</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7p The Water Inspired Art & Invention of Carl Hedman</p>	<p>18</p> <p>I Saw a Bald Eagle Soaring Over My Grocery Store! 3p</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade</p> <p>1p Animal Feeding</p> <p>3p Birding for Kids</p>
<p>19</p> <p>2p Storytime in the Park</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9a Fundamentals of Canoeing Class</p> <p>8:30a Habitat Gardening Institute for Schools</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30a Habitat Gardening Institute for Schools</p> <p>9a Fundamentals of Canoeing Class</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade</p> <p>7p Adult Evening Bird Workshop: Flycatchers</p> <p>Summer Solstice Evening Celebration 7:30p</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30a Habitat Gardening Institute for Schools</p> <p>9a Fundamentals of Canoeing Class</p> <p>9a Building Tour with Ken</p> <p>10a Walk with Ken</p> <p>5p River Rhythms Canoe Trips</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30a Habitat Gardening Institute for Schools</p> <p>8a Birdwalk</p> <p>9a Milwaukee River Canoe Trip</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30a Habitat Gardening Institute for Schools</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1p Animal Feeding</p> <p>4p Afternoon Birding Workshop:</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30a Habitat Gardening Institute for Schools</p> <p>9a High School Outdoor Leadership: Milwaukee</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30a Habitat Gardening Institute for Schools</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade</p> <p>9a High School Outdoor Leadership: Milwaukee</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:30a Habitat Gardening Institute for Schools</p> <p>9a High School Outdoor Leadership: Milwaukee</p> <p>9a Building Tour with Ken</p> <p>10a Walk with Ken</p> <p>5p River Rhythms Canoe Trips</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8a Birdwalk</p> <p>8:30a Habitat Gardening Institute for Schools</p> <p>9a High School Outdoor Leadership: Milwaukee</p>		

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:

Sean Berry - framed photo
 Jay Blankenship - computer speakers
 Shelley Boehm - towels
 Wanda Davies - cross country skis, poles and boots
 Kimberly Fein - computer speakers, mouse
 Pieter Godfrey & Family - Birds of Wisconsin book
 Dennis Grzezinski - computer speakers
 Nancy Hindin - poster frames
 Jean Hutchinson Estate - paintings, card stock and picture frames
 Judy Klofta - mittens
 Patricia Monroe - towels
 Luciano Moretti - stunt kites
 Helen Nett - vcr
 Mary Ellen Shea - rock climbing gear, desk lamp, cleaning supplies
 Cynthia & Warren Sommer - skis & poles
 Mary Lou Stebbins - poster frame
 Marie Squire - turtle, frog food and equipment

Gifts in memory of:

In memory of
 Charlotte Lee Gilliom - Kristine Schmidt
 In memory of
 Doris Slottum - Karen & John DeHartog
 In memory of George Watts - Dorothy Nowicki

Welcome New and Renewing Members:

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 Susan Anthonp
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 Molly Zillig & Keith Broadnar
 Mary Jo Zimmer
 Gordon H. Zion
 Joella Zocher

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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Greener Days Ahead

been used as cattle feed. CGM is applied to the lawn as pellets or powder in late April and again in September and takes several years to work best. Go to www.gluten.iastate.edu for more information on CGM, including retailers. Other things to try: Milorganite as a natural fertilizer, aerating and mulch mowing ("grasscycling") for better lawn health, seeding with native grasses and mowing high at 3 inches to crowd out weeds and avoid stressing your grass.

Eliminate pesticides. Homeowners use 3 times more pesticides per acre than farmers. This poisons our air and water and has been linked to cancer, birth defects and other diseases. The best defense against pests and diseases without using chemicals is a healthy garden – this means having a balanced variety of plants (natives are best) that are appropriate for your soil, light and water conditions. It is also important to keep your soil nourished

with organic compost and mulched to retain water and keep out weeds. When problems do arise, you can hand remove pests and diseased leaves and use nontoxic products. Check out www.for-wild.org for a primer on native plants, and noahsnotes.com/naturalpest.html for natural remedies. Join the Center's Little Wild Yards group for more help in eliminating pests naturally.

continued from page 4

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 _____

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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.



Saturday, June 18, 3 p.m.

**Take a Walk Books author
 Jane Kirland presents: "I
 Saw a Bald Eagle Soaring
 Over My Grocery Store"**



Saturday, June 4, 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Teen Adventure Challenge

Friday, May 20, 7 p.m.

**Benefit Concert
 by Dan Pelletier**



Join us in May & June!

Milwaukee, WI 53211
 1500 E. Park Place
 Riverside Park



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