THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF A GOOD IDEA
by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

In the beginning our question was “How do we reclaim a crime ridden park in the middle of the city?” The answer? Clean up the park and use it — a lot. It worked. In the years before we incorporated (1991), crime in Riverside Park was much higher than the city average; today it hardly even shows up in city crime records, (see chart on right). This change did not happen overnight. The metamorphosis was gradual and needed the help of many dedicated community members.

So now that we’ve achieved a certain level of success, urban communities are looking at their parks and asking, so how did this all happen in Milwaukee? Some questions include:

How do you get schools to participate? Answer: Involve them in the program design and make it teacher friendly.

How do you get students to the park? Answer: Secure alternative fueled vans from the local utility.

How does the program get funded? Answer: Get written into school budgets, find business sponsors to cover the rest and develop a strong community membership program.

These questions and many, many more were not just answered intellectually, but over a period of years have been implemented and tested. As each problem has been solved, our program has become stronger and, without our being fully aware of it, a unique model for urban environmental education evolved. Suddenly we find ourselves at a very exciting moment in time.

EXTENDING OUR REACH
by Beth Fetterley, Director of Education

If we could create the best possible scenario for urban environmental education, every city in the world would have an ecology center in its community. City dwellers walking from their homes could explore a healthy green space. Within these communities, hordes of environmentally responsible adults would serve as mentors to thousands of children, encouraging free play and nature exploration.

We are taking a small step toward this vision. In fall of 2007, students from the...
DROPLETS

- Amazing visit. The Center welcomed Mayor Michael Coleman from Columbus, Ohio, and a team of 30 elected officials, parks personnel, business leaders, board members, supporters and staff from the Ohio Audubon Society. The presentation featured Mayor Tom Barrett, Alderman Michael D’Amato, Milwaukee County Parks Director Sue Black, Milwaukee Public Schools Administrator and former Science Curriculum Specialist Mary Staten, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center Executive Director Buffy Cheek, Riverside High School student Roger Coleman, O.W. Holmes Elementary School teacher Janet Mayes, UEC Executive Director Ken Leinbach, Lynde Uhlein, and Susie Kasten from the UEC Advisory Council. During the presentation, Mayor Coleman and Mayor Barrett received garden stones made and presented by students from Maryland Avenue Montessori School. The stones will be placed at the Urban Ecology Center and the new Columbus center.

- We are pleased to announce that the Center has been added to the Schwartz Gives Back program. The Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops has donated over $382,000 to Milwaukee area organizations through Schwartz Gives Back. Choose the Center as your organization and 1% of your purchase is donated to support our programs. This is a perfect way to make your gifts extend beyond the holidays. Contact any one of their area stores for more information or sign up online at http://www.schwartzbooks.com.

- Give a stylish green gift! Give a UEC t-shirt. The comfortable, durable shirts are made from organic cotton and dyed and printed using a unique water-based technique that doesn’t contain PVC or phthalates. Available sizes are: Toddlers 2-6T in Natural - $10 each, Youth S, M, L in Flat White - $10 each, Adult S-XXL in Flat White or Brown - $15 each. Purchase one at the Center’s store and printed using a unique water-based technique. Purchase one at the Center’s store and printed using a unique water-based technique. Thank you to Tim Risch Landscaping for all the help in preparing the sites near our new climbing wall and art sculptures. We couldn’t have completed these projects without your assistance! Call Tim at 530-4050 if you have landscaping needs.

- UEC Jam Session! For your listening pleasure the Center will be experimenting with live acoustic music on the second Sundays in November and December from 3-5 p.m. Stop in to listen to talented musicians play in an acoustic jam session.

- Green thumb. Our beautiful indoor plants make our building greener and full of life. Thanks to all of you for donating these treasures. Can’t tell a weeping fig from a hibiscus? Want to learn how to care for a Dragon Plant? Thanks to the detailed research of volunteer Katherine Needham, each of our plants have identification signs that include its country of origin and care instructions.

- Many thanks. The next time you visit the Center, check out the sturdy set of stairs built on the west side of our building to access the starting level of the 40-foot climbing wall. Thanks to Jason Baughman of Troop 194 and his crew of volunteers for the design and construction. Congratulations, Jason, on achieving your Eagle Scout rank!

- If you have a donation for the Center, please call Judy Krause, x102.

- Minivan (7 passenger minimum)
- Ballpoint pens
- Coffee maker
- File cabinets (sturdy, 2-drawer)
- Firewood
- Garden hoses
- Gently used sweatpants
- Hoe
- Kayak
- Paper shredder
- Portable outdoor sound system with microphones
- Professional weed whacker
- Step stools
- Unwanted CDs for art project
- Vacuum cleaner
- Wood chipper

WISH LIST

UCEC HOLIDAY HOURS

The Center will be closed:
November 23 and 24
December 24 and 25 and
January 1

Winter break hours:
December 26-30: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
December 31: Noon - 5 p.m.
January 2-6: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
January 7: Noon - 5 p.m.
THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF A GOOD IDEA
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October 4th 2006: The morning was cold with rain coming in sheets. The driver of the bus was given permission to drive out to the tarmac to meet the jet from Columbus, Ohio. It was on the bus that we met the Mayor of Columbus, the Executive Director of the Columbus Audubon Center, the CEO of Grange Insurance, the head of the Columbus Park System, Bob Milbourne of the Columbus Partnership (remember him? He used to head our city’s Greater Milwaukee Committee) and 25 other movers and shakers from Ohio. They were visiting our fair city of Milwaukee not to go to the casino, not to visit our world famous art museum, nor even to see the exquisite new Discovery World Museum. No, this high powered group flew in specifically to visit the Urban Ecology Center, to see first hand the unique manner in which we connect tens of thousands of urban students to nature each year.

They also visited our colleagues to the north at Schlitz Audubon Nature Center. Why? Because they would like to create a program in the heart of their city replicating the best aspects of our projects here in Milwaukee. Who would have thought that the dream derived from the neighborhood 15 years ago to solve a crime problem in Riverside Park would lead to the model program that we have become?

It was a proud moment for the Urban Ecology Center and one that you as a supporter should take pride in as well. This, however, appears to be just the beginning. There are many cities out there with a lot of underused parks and a tremendous number of students who are hungry to get outside.

We learned recently that folks in Baltimore hope to create a program from our model and another center may be blossoming in Granville, Ohio. We have had talks and visits from New York City, Phoenix, and Seattle to name a few. We’ve even had inquisitive visits from as far away as Bucharest and Panama City. Closer to home we’ve helped advise people who are planning centers in La Crosse, Beloit and Menasha.

I close with this thought.

Imagine if …

Every child in the world had the opportunity to explore the natural world every day of every season of every year of their life.

This same child had an interested friend or mentor in their life to explore with them, modeling respect for the land.

Every school in the world – preschool, grade school, high school, and college – had an outdoor laboratory that was used as much as their gymnasium or computer lab.

Every neighborhood in the world had a nature based community center – an ecology center - as part of the fabric of the community.

Imagine what the world would be like …

This is the world we envision. While it may seem naïve, there seems to be no harm in trying to realize this vision. To learn about how more urban students will be reached right here in our own city, read Beth’s article, starting on page one, about what is planned for Washington Park!

Volunteer Corner

Gift wrappers needed! Schwartz Bookshop on Downer Avenue has given us the opportunity to wrap gifts for their customers during November and December, with all tips supporting the Center. We need volunteers to fill shifts at the store Saturday afternoons in November and December, as well as evenings the week of December 18th. Please contact Ginger at x106 or Susan at x110 to sign up.

Come light up Riverside Park! Our annual Candlelight Walk is Saturday, December 16th. We need volunteers to fill and light luminaries in the park, guide participants through the lit forest, greet visitors, maintain the fire at the Center and clean up at the end of the event. Please contact Jamie at x114.

Run an errand for the Center! Mondays and Wednesdays we are still in need of volunteers to pick up donated bakery from the Alterra on Prospect around 8:30 a.m. Also, once a week we need a volunteer to run to Hoffers Tropical Life Pets on 76th and Good Hope to pick up donated food for our animals. If you find yourself out in these areas regularly, please consider volunteering and call Susan at x110.

Are you an experienced tiler? Call Kimberly Fein at x150, and find out how you can volunteer for a small project.

Do you have experience working on bikes? We need help with minor repairs and ongoing maintenance of our fleet of bikes. Call Judy Krause at x102 to help.

Another successful Fall Festival thanks to over 70 volunteers who came out on a beautiful fall day! We couldn’t have scooped the ice cream, belayed the climbers, painted the children’s faces, or offered any of the other activities without you! An estimated 1200 attendees enjoyed the festivities. Thanks!

Columbus’ Mayor Michael Coleman shares his excitement over the Urban Ecology Center and the future Audubon Center with Mayor Tom Barrett.
EXTENDING OUR REACH
continued from page 1

Washington Park neighborhood will be able to participate in the Urban Ecology Center’s Neighborhood Environmental Education Project. These students will explore Washington Park, another of Milwaukee’s Frederick Law Olmsted parks. Washington Park is a nearly 135 acre home to a wide diversity of birds, wildlife, vegetation and a community of people looking to revitalize their neighborhood. For those of you who know the Center’s history, this should sound very familiar. Just as our neighborhood rallied to revitalize Riverside Park, preserving it from crime and neglect, the community at Washington Park has invited us to join their team working to revitalize Washington Park.

WHY WASHINGTON PARK?
In 2004, a team of students from UW-Milwaukee’s Geography Department (Peter Strand, Wen Lin and Jayoung Cho) assessed green spaces in Milwaukee, using criteria we identified as keys to our success in Riverside Park. In their final assessment of the best green spaces for urban environmental education, Washington Park topped this list. Then, in trying to figure out what to do with the trailer that housed the Center before our building, an idea surfaced to move it to start a new program. While the condition of the trailer was more conducive to recycling by pieces rather than the whole, the seed was planted with Sue Black, Director of Milwaukee County Parks. We were invited to meetings with County Parks, Lisbon Avenue Neighborhood Development, Local Initiative Service Corporation, Neighbors United for Washington Park, Washington Park Partners, and the Washington Park Beat. Within six months, $600,000 of start-up funds donated by Harley Davidson, Miller Brewing, Windhover Foundation and Trinity Foundation jumped the concept from an idea to a reality.

WHOM WILL WE SERVE FROM WASHINGTON PARK?
Currently, the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project serves schools within two miles of Riverside Park. By focusing our education efforts on the neighborhood, area kids build on their field trip experiences by dropping in after school and on weekends. This way we develop relationships with our students in order to help them deepen their connection to their park and the natural world. Since this format has worked so well, we will do the same for students attending schools within two miles of Washington Park. Since Washington park is four miles from Riverside Park, we will have seamless coverage from Lake Michigan all the way to Wauwatosa. Very exciting!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR RIVERSIDE PARK?
Logistically, the Urban Ecology Center will continue to operate as it has been in Riverside Park. The satellite program in Washington Park provides a small stream of revenue to help cover the start-up and oversight costs to the “mother ship” in Riverside Park. In terms of our vision, this project is our first “field test” for a model we think can be replicated throughout the county and around the world. We hope that the wonderful support garnered from you, our community of members, volunteers and donors in Riverside Park, will be replicated by our new neighbors in Washington Park.

We are still looking for a dynamic, community-minded educator for this new site. If you are interested or have any questions or comments about the project, please feel free to contact me at x103 or bfetterley@urbanecologycenter.org.

CLEANING SOLUTIONS
continued from page 1

currently locally administered by Milwaukee Jobs for Progress, Inc. An individual must be at least 55 years old and meet income qualifications to become a Senior AIDE trainee. Their mission is to assist seniors with training and temporary employment. Both our Senior AIDES have one year assignments at the Center.

Our second partnership is with the New Hope Project. The Center became a transitional job site to give participants work experience while they continue their search for permanent employment. The New Hope Project subsidizes for up to four months the wages of individuals who may not have a proven work record. Over the past year we have worked with five New Hope individuals, two who are working with us now.

Next time you are in the Center, look around and just imagine keeping this building and its grounds clean, orderly and safe. With nearly 50,000 visits every year, we couldn’t do it without this group – thanks to them, our building shines!

Meet our maintenance and custodial team:

• Esther Santoyo got us well on our way to a clean and shining facility. Esther helps our bilingual education staff practice Spanish as she practices her English. She has three wonderful girls who are frequent visitors to the Center.

• Toni Colla, our first Senior Aide, started in January as our kitchen aide. Prior to coming to the Center, she was an assistant at the Washington Park Senior Center.

• Anthony Hampton, our second Senior Aide, started in August. He has extensive janitorial experience so is a great addition to the cleaning staff.

• Daviene Smittie does a wide variety of handyman and maintenance tasks for the Center. He also sets up rooms for classes and events. Often the same room is reset three times in the same day! Smittie’s talent for doing this work efficiently has made him invaluable. He is currently studying to become an alcohol and drug counselor.

• Clifton Rice makes sure the Habitat Playground and the grounds around our building are clean and safe. Clifton is studying through COA to get a welding certification in order to obtain a permanent position.
ASTRONOMY NOTES
by Art Paque, community volunteer

There will be fun in the skies, so go out and enjoy the cooler evenings. Make some hot chocolate and stargaze! The Leonid and Geminid meteor showers are coming in November and December respectively. The gorgeous Pleiades have two engagements with the Moon in December, an occultation (during which Pleiades will be hidden behind the Moon) on the 3rd and a conjunction (when they are really close to each other) on the 31st to close out the year.

November 2006
All month Saturn rises near midnight in the east-northeast and by 6 a.m. will be about 60° up in the south-southeast. Mercury will be very low in the east-southeast during the last half of the month, rising about 6:25 a.m. There will be no naked eye planets in the evening sky.

Mercury is in inferior conjunction and begins transit of the Sun at 1:13 p.m. on November 8th. Telescope and eye protection needed. On the 13th; Saturn is 1° above the Moon and the bright star Regulus (1.3) 1° below Moon at 1 a.m. The Leonid meteor shower will be active from the 14th - 21st; Watch in the east after midnight, higher and to the south later. On the 18th-19th the shower peaks at 20 per hour with a possible burst (100/hour) before dawn. On the 25th Mercury is at its greatest elongation at 20° west of the Sun. Elongation is the greatest angle between the planet and the Sun as viewed from Earth. Good time to view Mercury is after it rises at 5:09 a.m.

Full Moon (known as the Full Beaver Moon) is on the 5th and the New Moon is on the 20th.

December 2006
For you early risers, Mercury will be very low in the southeast until midmonth. Mars and Jupiter will be extremely low in the southeast. Saturn will be about 55° up in the southwest at 6 a.m.

Venus will be very low in the southwest shortly after sunset and Saturn will rise about 9:30 p.m. in the east-northeast.

On December 3rd the Moon occults the Pleiades star cluster (M45) in east after sunset. Occultation starts at 7:05 p.m. and reappearance at 9:07 p.m. Do not miss the rare and exceptional conjunction of Mercury, Mars and Jupiter, visible before sunrise December 7th – 12th, peaking on the 10th. On the 10th find Saturn 1° to lower right of Moon, bright star Regulus 5° to left, very high in southwest before sunrise. Geminid meteor shower peaks on the 13th. Look in northeast after 9 p.m. and higher and more to the south later. Expect 60-70 per hour. You'll be able to watch until the Moon interferes around midnight. Bright star Spica is 0.5° north of the Moon on 15th. Look low in east-southeast after 3 a.m. Find Jupiter and Mars 6° to the left of the Moon on the 18th. Look low in the southeast before sunrise. Winter Solstice is on the 21st. The Moon will be within 1° of the Pleiades before they set in west-northwest about 4:45 a.m. on the 31st.

Full Moon (known as the Full Long Nights Moon) is on 4th. The Moon will pass nearly overhead, 74° above the horizon. The New Moon is on the 20th.

FROM THE BOARD
by John Clancy, President, UEC Board of Directors

I am honored to follow Lorraine Jacobs’ footsteps as president of the Urban Ecology Center Board. I first want to thank Lorraine for her fantastic and tireless service as Board president. Lorraine served as president during a time of tremendous and positive growth for the Center.

I would also like to thank the other outgoing members of the Executive Committee - Anne Steinberg as secretary and Mark Sandy as treasurer. In particular, because Anne is stepping off the Board, I want to note Anne’s long-time service and dedicated work on numerous projects for the Center. She has retired from the Board to focus her efforts on leading the Friends of Real Food group that operates out of the Center.

I also want to welcome the new members of the Executive Committee. Jennifer Bolger will serve as Vice President, a role that she held previously. Our new secretary is Jeff Anthony and our new treasurer is Jeff Geygan.

As president, I hope to continue Lorraine’s great work and leadership of the Board and the Executive Committee. In particular, the Executive Committee, in combination with the Center’s leadership staff, worked intensely this past spring and summer to develop a long-term strategic plan for the Center.

This plan focuses on efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Center and to strengthen the committees that perform the critical work of the Board. While we have all been thrilled with the tremendous and positive growth of the Center over the last few years, we think that it is equally important to make sure that the Center can maintain that new growth with a long-term plan for fiscal sustainability. I will update you as we continue to work on these goals.
OPEN CLIMBS ON OUR NEW 40-FOOT CLIMBING WALL!
Saturday, November 4
10 a.m. - noon
Saturday, November 11
2 - 4 p.m.
Saturday, November 18
2 - 4 p.m.
For everyone ages 6 & up.
Participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
Adult: $15 (Member: $12)
Child: $12 (Member: $9)
Space is limited. Reservations required.
Try out the Center's awesome new climbing wall. We provide basic instruction and belayers. Dress for the weather and wear close-toed shoes.

SE2 AWARD SHOW
November 8 - December 29
In the Community Room
Exhibit and Sustainability Library open Sundays, noon - 2 p.m.
The SE2 awards honor leadership in sustainably designed and energy efficient construction projects in Wisconsin. View past honoree's architectural designs and explore the Center's Sustainability Library, a resource for healthy, eco-friendly building materials, interior finishes and furnishings. Be inspired by these green buildings as you plan new ways to build or remodel.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION
Wednesday, November 15
6 p.m.
For all volunteers
Free
Please RSVP by November 3rd to Kimberly Fein, (414) 963-0166.
Come and enjoy a homemade meal prepared and served by those who appreciate all of your service - the Urban Ecology Center staff! Meet other volunteers and celebrate your accomplishments from the past year.

CANDLELIGHT WALK
Saturday, December 16
7 - 9 p.m.
Walks leave every 15 minutes starting at 7 p.m., music begins at 8 p.m.
For all ages
Free-donations encouraged
Celebrating the Winter Solstice! Explore Riverside Park by candlelight with a guided walk accompanied by poetry and readings of the season. After the walk return to the Center to warm yourself by the fire. Enjoy apple cider, snacks and music with Harvey Taylor and Don Pardee.
SEARCH FOR SWANS
Saturday, November 11
5:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
For adults
$30 (Members: $25)
Call to register
On this trip we will search for migrating Tundra Swans. The location will be determined by the location of the swans at the time of the trip but we will likely head toward the Green Bay area. We will stop for food along the way or you can bring a bag lunch. Register early and call Tim at x116 for details.

ADULT BIRDING WORKSHOPS
Sunday, November 12
3 p.m. &
Saturday, December 9
2:30 p.m.
For adults
$5 (Member: Free - donations encouraged)
Call to register
B-r-r-r-ding in the winter can be extremely rewarding. We will start with a slideshow presentation of identification tips and natural history followed by a twilight walk.
November: Blackbirds
December: Finches

SANDHILL CRANES AT JASPER PULASKI
Monday, November 13
9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
For adults
$30 (Member: $20)
Call to register
Each fall tens of thousands of sandhill cranes congregate in the shallow marshes of the Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Area in Indiana to reinforce pair bonds. Travel with Center staff to witness one of the Midwest’s most amazing wildlife spectacles. Bring a bag lunch for a picnic at Indiana Dunes State Park. On our return we will stop for dinner at a restaurant along the way.

WILD MUSHROOMS OF WISCONSIN
Speaker: Alan Parker, Professor of Mycology and Botany, UW - Waukesha.
Monday, November 13
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations encouraged
Call to register.
Join us for a slide lecture covering a wide variety of fungi found in various habitats throughout the state. Popular mushroom field guides will be discussed, and the most easily identified wild edible species (with tips on how to find them) will be covered.

WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?
The Emergence of Ecosystems Dominated by Exotic Plants
Speakers:
Joe Mascaro, Ph.D. Candidate and Stefan Schnitzer, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, UW-M
Tuesday, November 14
7 p.m.
For adults
$5 (Member: Free - donations encouraged)
Call to register
We’ve all heard horror stories of garlic mustard drowning our beloved wildflowers and zebra mussels devouring boat motors. Recently, however, two surprising revelations have shaken the field of invasive ecology to its core. Join us for a tour of world ecosystems that are a bizarre product of furious human meddling and cold ecological laws.

ECOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY
Facilitator:
Dr. John Strassburger, Program Director, Religion and Ecology Initiative, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee
Thursday, November 16
7 -9 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations encouraged
Call to register
Have ecology and spirituality anything to say to one another? We will explore this potential and possible ongoing dialogue. Participants will be guided into personal reflections. All religions welcome.

GREEN ARCHITECTURE: DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS
Discussion led by:
James Wasley, Associate Professor of the UWM School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Charles Simonds, Architect, The Kubala Washatko Architects
Thursday, November 30
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
$10 (Member: $5)
Students - $10
Call to register
Green building design can reduce a structure’s operating cost and environmental impact while increasing public and occupant health. This panel discussion will explore the patterns and principles of Green design, present challenges and opportunities within the design process, define standards and ratings for Green-built structures and examine local case studies.

STUDENT INTERN RESEARCH PROJECTS
Speakers: Local students who have completed research through UEC
Tuesday, December 12
7 p.m.
For adults
$5 (Member: Free - donations encouraged)
Call to register
This program will highlight student research projects conducted in Riverside Park throughout the year. Each student will present a short summary of their work.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Saturday, December 16
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
$5 donation to National Audubon Society
Call to register
Join thousands of volunteers around the world for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Data we collect is used for an international database to look at bird population trends. We will hike from UEC north to Capitol Drive along the east bank of the Milwaukee River, stopping for a quick brunch and returning along the west bank to North Avenue and back. Follow us to Lake Park in the afternoon for refreshments and more birding. Please dress for a long hike.

LATE NIGHT STARGAZING
Friday, November 17
7:30 p.m. - midnight
For high school students
$10, scholarships available
Parental permission required
Call to register
Join other High School Explorers for a fun evening at Kohler Andrae State Park. Snacks and hot chocolate keep us warm as we relax, tell stories and watch shooting stars over Lake Michigan. Participants ride in the Center's 15 passenger van and can be dropped off at home around midnight.
RIVERSIDE ANIMALS IN WINTER
Sunday, December 10
1 - 2:30 p.m.
For all ages
$7, families of 4 or more: $24
(Member: $4, families of 4 or more: $12)
Call to register.
Learn about the animals of Riverside Park and how they prepare for winter while you meet some of the animals in our native animal room.

HOLIDAY WEEK AT THE CENTER
December 27 - 29
9 am - 5 pm
For all ages
Free - donations encouraged
Looking for something to do with your family over the holidays? All ages can relax by the wood burning stove, explore the building, borrow sleds (weather permitting) and learn about how our local animals survive the winter. Each day at 1 p.m. we will lead a snowshoe hike (weather permitting, registration required).

SCIENCE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS
Saturdays and Sundays except December 24
Saturdays drop-in between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Sundays drop-in between 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations encouraged
Discover the world of science through interactive activities.

November: Exploring your Senses. Use your senses to explore the world around you. Make art projects and try a variety of activities using your five senses.

December: Wonderful Water. Learn about the wonders of water. Try some experiments and make art projects!

ANIMAL FEEDING TIME
Saturday
1 - 2 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations encouraged
Help feed the Center’s resident turtles and snakes as you learn about the animals that inhabit the river valley.

URBAN STARGAZERS
Thursdays, November 9 & December 14
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations encouraged
November: Buying a Telescope. Thinking of buying a telescope for the holidays? The Urban Stargazers will give a short presentation with buying tips followed by an opportunity to stargaze with our telescopes to help you make a decision.

December: Pizza Party! Celebrate the holidays with the Urban Stargazers. Clear winter nights provide ideal viewing conditions with the added benefit of being able to warm up by the fireplace.

VEGETARIAN POTLUCK
Thursdays, November 16 & December 21
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations encouraged
Bring a plate and fork along with your meatless dish to share at our picnic style meal.

UC-BOOKCLUB
Saturdays, November 25 & December 9
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults
Free - donations encouraged
Call to register.
The Urban Ecology Center Bookclub meets once a month to discuss an environmentally themed book. Join us for conversation and refreshments.

November: Into the Forest by Jean Hegland
December: A Natural History of the Senses by Diane Ackerman
URBAN ADVENTURES

Advanced registration required for all Urban Adventures.
Payment due at time of registration.
Call the Center at (414) 964-8505 to register at least two days before the trip.
Trips run as scheduled, rain or shine.

MILWAUKEE RIVER HISTORY HIKE*
Saturday, November 18
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children ages 12 & up
Adult: $10 (Member: $8)
Child: $7 (Member: $5)
Call to register.
Revisit the rich history of the Milwaukee river corridor: industry, development, the North Avenue Dam and restorative ecology. Walk through the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted’s parks. We stop for a break and hot beverage at the Flushing Station (Alterra on the Lake). Approximately 4 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.

MILWAUKEE RIVER FULL MOON HIKE*
Monday, December 4
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children ages 12 & up
Adult: $8 (Member: $5)
Child: $5 (Member: $3)
Call to register.
Hike paths along the Milwaukee River under the Full Cold Moon. We’ll walk a 5 mile loop from the Center up to Capitol Drive and down to Caesar’s Park. Dress warmly, wear sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

COSTA RICA ADULT ADVENTURE TRIP
Trip Dates: February 28 - March 12, 2007
Information Session and Slide Show: Thursday, November 16
6:30 pm
For adults
Free - donations encouraged
Register by calling Dana at (414) 961-1622

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.

FORESTY EDUCATION IN THE WISCONSIN K-8 CLASSROOM WORKSHOP
Instructor: Sarah Gilbert
Urban Ecology Center
Friday, Dec.
4:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec.
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
$25
To register visit http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/Courses/740/index.html#overview
Provided in cooperation with UWSP’s College of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, and the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry.
This workshop highlights principles, activities, and techniques for teaching about the importance of Wisconsin’s forests.
Participants receive a unit of the LEAF Wisconsin K-8 Forestry Lesson Guide and additional forestry-related education materials. NR 740 – graduate credit available.

OUTPOST EXCHANGE ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR
Urban Ecology Center
Sunday, Dec.
1 - 4 p.m.
Look for more information in the November and December issues of the Exchange, at any Outpost Natural Foods store location and local publications. Or call (414) 431-3377, x114.
For those looking for an alternative to the holiday hype, The Exchange and Outpost Natural Foods offers a feel-good way to fill that stocking through tiered giving to non-profit organizations. Local, national and international non-profits will offer gifts in various amounts, memberships to their organizations and the opportunity for you to give in honor of a loved one. For as little as $5 or as much as $100 you will get a gift card and the satisfaction of knowing that your hard-earned money is going to support someone in need.

URBAN ECOTOLOGY CENTER TOURS

WEDNESDAY WALK WITH KEN
Wednesdays
9 a.m. - UEC Building
10 a.m. - Riverside Park
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations encouraged
Call ahead to confirm.
Explore Riverside Park and/or our green facility with Executive Director Ken Leinbach (staff substitution on occasion).

BETH’S BUILDING TOUR
Wednesdays
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations encouraged
Call to register.
Explore our green facility with Director of Education, Beth Fetterley, and learn about the Center’s innovative educational programming.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY STEWARDS*
Saturdays
9 - 10:30 a.m.
For all ages, children 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult
Individuals and small groups welcome.
Please call the Center to register so we know how many volunteers to expect.
Kick-off your weekend by contributing your skills and energy to the UEC and Riverside Park. On the 1st and 3rd Saturdays you will work with the Burdock Brigade to steward the natural area. On the 2nd, 4th and 5th Saturdays, you’ll help with a variety of projects.

NATURALIST WALKS*
Mondays, November 13, 27 & December 11
11 a.m. - noon
For UEC volunteers only
Free - donations encouraged
Call to register.
Explore Milwaukee’s urban wilderness and get to know other volunteers and Urban Ecology Center educators on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Build naturalist skills as educators share their experience and skills on these fun and informal walks.

BURDOCK BRIGADE*
Every Tuesday and Saturdays, November 4, 18 & December 2, 16
9 - 10:30 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free
Improve biodiversity in the park by removing alien plant species.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
Tuesday, November 28
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Saturdays, November 4 & December 2
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free
Call to register.
Learn about the Center’s programs and how to get involved.
It’s hard to believe two years have passed since we moved from our leaky classroom trailer into our new building. With our second fiscal year at an end we are delighted by the continued growth in our membership, program attendance and interest from people all over Milwaukee and even other parts of the country.

Since I am not a teacher I don’t get to spend my work day outside with our school kids. I spend most days working inside the Center. You wouldn’t believe the variety and volume of activity inside!

When I arrive in the morning it’s common to find Roger, a freshman at Riverside High School, hanging out with us before school starts. I will probably see Roger and his friend Shawn again after school. Roger sits on the couch doing his math homework while Shawn offers his abilities a volunteer.

Later in the day I am likely to find a group of patients from Columbia St. Mary’s hospital. This group comes to the Center to relearn and gain confidence in walking on a variety of floor surfaces, opening doors and sitting in many chair heights.

It is also common to meet grandparents pushing strollers through our front doors. When I visit with them I learn that they are babysitting and looking for places to visit and things to do. A couple times a week we see Frank with his 3-year-old granddaughter Allia. Frank suffered a stroke a few years ago and doesn’t work but he does help his daughter by caring for Allia. They walk over from Frank’s house nearby. Allia likes to look for fish in the pond and explore the first floor with her grandpa. With no admission fee we encourage people to use our building used in these unexpected but welcomed ways. This is what it means to me to be a community center.

This fall we are completing our growth plan for our Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP) to serve up to 33 schools, the maximum number of schools our facility can accommodate. Some schools have doubled their commitment by contracting for 48 instead of the usual 24 field trips. Here are a few other specifics about our second year in our new building that really show our continued growth. The Center had 46,472 visits from children and adults during the last year. This is 35% more visitors than last year. Over 5,600 of these visits were from drop in visitors like Frank and Allia. We had 60% increase in the number of kids in our summer camp program. The Center’s membership stands at over 1,800 contributing member households a 20% increase from last year!

All of this growth and these planned and unexpected uses make supporting the Center a great investment. Essentially every dollar you give makes it possible to deliver more services to kids, families, members, neighbors and the community. As the end of the year and the season of giving approaches, please remember that making a year-end charitable gift to the Urban Ecology Center is a great investment and can be beneficial to you in many ways.

Share your support by giving gift memberships to friends and family. Find a form to use for gifts to the right. As a way of thanking you for supporting our gift membership program, when you give multiple gifts, the first membership is regular price but you will get $5 off the price of each additional membership.

Your gifts of cash are always appreciated and put to use right away. Your gift may be deductible on your personal income taxes. Use the form on the back of the newsletter or watch your mailbox for our Annual Fund Drive letter.

Gifts of stock may receive a double tax benefit: you can deduct the full fair market value of appreciated stock, if owned for more than one year, and you can save again by avoiding all capital gains taxes on the “paper profit”. For assistance in transferring stock, please contact Judy at x102.

A planned gift – whether a bequest in your will, a beneficiary designation on your insurance policy or retirement plan, or the establishment of a charitable trust – will help the Center far into the future. To discuss planned giving options, contact Judy at x102 or Ginger at x106.

The Center needs your support. During this season of giving we hope you will give generously. With your help we can do even more to give children a chance to experience and love nature. You can count on us to keep our doors open seven days a week to welcome neighborhood kids from our partnering schools as well as Frank and Allia looking for a free and fun outing. Thank you for supporting our efforts to unite our environment and community.

GIVE THE GIFT OF AN URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER MEMBERSHIP!

Your name __________________________
Address __________________________
City ______________________________
State _________ Zip _____________
Email ____________________________
Phone ___________________________
Recipient name _____________________
Address __________________________
City ______________________________
State _________ Zip _____________
Email ____________________________
Occasion __________________________
Requested date to deliver ______________
Choose one:

- Individual membership ($25)
- Family Membership ($55)
- Send the announcement card to:  
  - me  (+ my gift recipient)
- Recipient name _____________________
- Address __________________________
- City ______________________________
- State _________ Zip _____________
- Email ____________________________
- Occasion __________________________
- Requested date to deliver ______________
- Choose one:
  - Individual membership ($25-$20)
  - Family Membership ($55-$30)
- Send the announcement card to:  
  - me  (+ my gift recipient)
- Total Enclosed $___________________
- Checks should be made payable to Urban Ecology Center.
- Charge my membership to:
  - Master Card  Visa
- Card # ___________________________
- Expiration Date ___________
- Signature __________________________

Please print and return this form to: Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53211. If you did not wish to cut out this form, visit our website at www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org.
THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
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www.beansandbarley.com
Brew City Browsers, LLC.
www.brewcitybrowsers.com
Cambridge Woods
Neighborhood Association
www.cambridgewoods.org
Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops
www.schwartzbooks.com
David Hobbs Honda
www.davidhobbs.com
The Jansen Group
www.jansengroup.com
KG Marketing & Bag Co, Inc.
www.kgbag.com
La Lune Collection
www.lulanecollection.com
Lake Park Friends
www.lakeparkfriends.org
McDill Design
www.mcddesign.com
Murray Hill
Neighborhood Association
Noodles and Company
www.noodles.com
Outpost Natural Foods
www.outpostnaturalfoods.coop
Plymouth Church
www.plymouth-church.org
Promotional
Products Association
www.ppaow.com
Someone’s in the Kitchen
lynn@hymn.com
Trek Bicycle Corp.
www.trekbikes.com
We Energies
www.we-energies.com
Wheel & Sprocket
www.wheelsprocket.com

SCHOOL PARTNERS
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Aurora West School
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Downtown Montessori
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Franklin Pierce Elementary School
Golda Meir
Harlandale Community School
Hartford Avenue School
Holmes School
Hope Christian Schools
Lake Bluff Elementary School
Lincoln Middle School
Lloyd St. School
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Urban Day School
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-Gina McRoberts
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Jeff Anderson – Newcomb’s grade
Eva Barz – garden hose
Alan Balkema – office supplies
Pam & Steve Bednarz
– mouse
Michael Bozman – magazines
Lyn Falk – fabric samples
Gloria Foster – gift subscription
Cindy Graham – rubber tree
Dennis Greinizi – ride-along bike, pens
Nate Kowalski – books
James Maurer – books
Alex Montezon – sledgehammer
Steve Mone – air mattresses
Kathryn Needham – cd, pens
Joel Otenstein – cd’s
Vicki Oliva – magazines
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Anne E. & Gary M. Summers
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Gil & Edie Walter
George & Sally Wells
John Winze

Fourth graders from Milwaukee’s Urban Day School have never had a lunch break like this. Jim Fowler, co-host of the original Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom, and some of his animal friends paid them a visit at the Center on September 14.

The Burmese python the students are holding was one of many animals that helped Fowler deliver his educational message on wildlife appreciation.

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### MEMBERSHIP

Membership benefits include discounts on programs, invitations to members only events, the ability to borrow our equipment, a one year newsletter subscription and more.


Choose one:
- Individual ($25) includes guest
- Family ($35)
- Student ($12)

Financial assistance is available. Please call Ginger Duiven, Development Manager at x106 or [gduiven@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:gduiven@urbanecologycenter.org) for details.

### DONATION (IN ADDITION TO MEMBERSHIP)

Please accept my gift to support:
- A community program ($50)
- One half day for a school class ($125)
- One full day for a school class ($250)
- A Citizen Science project ($500)
- Improved Riverside Park trails ($1,000)
- A school for one year ($3,000)
- Other $________

Total Enclosed $________

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**JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY!**

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I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.

Charge my membership to:  
- [ ] Master Card  
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Card Number _______ - _______ - _______ - _______
Expiration Date _______/_______

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Please make your check payable to: Urban Ecology Center and return it with this form to:

Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

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**COME IN FROM THE COLD**

The Center will have different hours during the holidays; see page 2 for details. Stop in for a cup of hot chocolate or coffee and relax around our fire. We have games, musical instruments and a group of friendly folks. Financial assistance is available. Please call Ginger Duiven, Development Manager at x106 or [gduiven@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:gduiven@urbanecologycenter.org) for details.

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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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Permit No. 5190
Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org
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<td>Urban Stargazers: Pizza Party!</td>
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**Holiday Hours: December 26-30 & January 2-6 9a-5p; December 31 & January 7 noon-5p**

**Contact the Center for details (414) 964-8505 or visit www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org.**

**Hours:**
- Monday - Thursday: 9a-7p
- Friday - Saturday: 9a-5p
- Sunday: 12 noon-5p

**December 2006**