



TIME FOR A VISIT!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

If you haven't visited the Urban Ecology Center in a while, perhaps you should plan a visit in October. Here are ten brand-new reasons why!

1. NEW TRAILS

Have you heard about the newly constructed East Bank Trail? For the first time, one can now walk south from the Center on a well graded stone path along the river to the new bridge at Caesar's Park and connect to the River Walk on Commerce Street without ever crossing a city street!

Alternatively, one can hike north through the upper park and take the rerouted path under the Locust Street bridge. Here you will find a new connection trail created by a group of intrepid city high school students from the Student Conservation Association. Pick up one of our new park maps to find your way to these and other trails in the park. You'll be amazed by the transformation along the river!



Beginning of the new wheelchair accessible trail to the Milwaukee River

2. NEW KID POWERED FOUNTAIN

When is the last time that you walked by our pond? Constructed as a memorial to June Woodland, this pond has a new pedal powered fountain that circulates and aerates the water. Our unique pump is built in Kenya as an affordable means for a subsistence farmer to irrigate more land. With one family member stepping on pedals connected to the pump (that looks like a stair master), a farmer can irrigate five times the usual area. This extra acreage provides a cash crop never available to the family before.

Come and try this unique, efficient fountain; no electricity needed, only the energy from passing kids!

3. NEW SOLAR PANELS

Come October, we should be the largest solar power generating plant in the state! With the addition of 213 new panels we

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JUMPING THE WAVES OF GROWTH

by Beth Fetterley, Director of Education

Do you remember the wonderful feeling of jumping through waves as a child on a hot, windy day? I remember waves, as high as I was tall, cresting while I stood knee deep in water, shivering with excitement. Crashing with such power, the water felt like it was rushing around my waist and legs from every angle. Watching my four-year-old niece splash along Lake Michigan this summer, I was reminded of those days I spent in the waves and the excitement I felt. This is the same excitement I now feel as I stand waist deep in the waves of growth at the Center.

With anticipation and excitement, we designed a building that would be able to serve almost every school in our neighborhood. We envisioned an inviting, inspiring space that would not only model an environmental ethic, but would contain exhibits encouraging people to explore the urban wilderness. As we opened our new doors for the first time, it felt like standing in the surf. Within months, people

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CLIMBING IN A NEW CLASSROOM

by Patty Sibbersen, Intern

If you have ever taken your kids to one of the Center's festivals then you're probably familiar with the stone block retaining walls we currently use for climbing along the Oak Leaf Recreational Trail. These walls work well for beginning and intermediate training, but are a bit boring for advanced climbers. Thanks to a generous donation from the Reiman Foundation, our 75-foot observation tower will gain a new 40-foot rock climbing wall this fall. Construction begins in mid-September.

The new climbing wall will enable the Center to expand the existing climbing program to incorporate advanced learning, ideal for young people and adults who have mastered the challenges the retaining walls offer.

The wall will extend from the tower base near the water fountain to the railing on the second platform. Placing this highly visible wall

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URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER

River Reflections is created and distributed through a team effort by the following people: McDill Design, Carijean Buhk, Ginger Duiven, Judy Krause, Pat Mueller, Shirley Spelt and a volunteer mailing crew.

Contributing writers: Brenden Crain, Beth Fetterley, Ken Leinbach, Lorraine Jacobs, Art Paque, Patty Sibbersen and Susan Winans.

River Reflections is a publication of the **Urban Ecology Center**. The **Urban Ecology Center** is a 501(c)3 tax exempt nonprofit organization. Its facility and programming are made possible through the generous annual contributions of 50 foundations and corporations, over 1700 member and donor families and many in-kind donors. **No tax dollars are used to operate the Urban Ecology Center.**

To make a contribution, please see page 12 for the easy to use form or call Ginger Duiven at x106.

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 education programs to neighborhood schools, Promotes environmental awareness in the community, Preserves and enhances the natural resources of Riverside Park, and Protects the Milwaukee River.

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Hours of operation:

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.

DROPLETS

☹ The Urban Ecology Center has been named the recipient of a \$99,000 grant from the Toyota USA Foundation to expand its Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP). The award, one of seven announced by the foundation in June, will enable us to increase the reach of NEEP from 21 to 33 neighborhood schools. "We are pleased to be associated with the Urban Ecology Center and support this important environmental science program for underserved schools in Milwaukee," said Yukitoshi Funo, president of the Toyota USA Foundation in announcing the grant. The Toyota USA Foundation is a charitable endowment created to support education programs serving kindergarten through 12th grade students and their teachers in the United States. The foundation's funding emphasis is on programs supporting mathematics, science and environmental learning.

☹ The Center has added to its fleet of bikes and helmets thanks to the generosity of Trek Bicycle Corp. and Wheel and Sprocket. Not only are these bikes an asset to our expanding education program, but they're also available for use by our members.

☹ Many thanks to REI, the recreation equipment retailer located in Brookfield on Capitol Drive near 125th street, who awarded the Center a \$5,000 grant in support of our park stewardship projects.

☹ Meet Jamie Ferschinger. Please welcome Jamie Ferschinger, our new Weekend Coordinator. She has recently completed her Master's of Science degree in Conservation Biology. Most of Jamie's teaching experience has been at the college level, serving as a teaching assistant, leading the outdoor tripping club and green campus initiatives. In addition she was the youth adventure instructor at Camp Lohikan in Pennsylvania.

☹ What happened to Sarah Rohe? Sarah has been promoted from Weekend Coordinator to School Program Coordinator and will be working weekdays with local schools supporting the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project. Congratulations, Sarah!

☹ Meet Caitlin Reinartz. Caitlin Reinartz joins the staff in September as a part-time bookkeeper. She is pursuing her undergraduate degree at UW-Milwaukee. Caitlin has most recently worked at the

WISH LIST

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

- Minivan (7 passenger minimum) for next school year
- Ballpoint pens
- Chain saw
- Coffee maker
- Desk & table lamps
- File cabinets (sturdy, 2-drawer)
- Firewood
- Garden hoses
- Gently used sweatpants
- Hoe
- Iron
- Kayak
- Portable outdoor sound system with microphones for musical groups to use during events
- Professional weed whacker
- Skewers for roasting marshmallows
- Sledge hammer
- Step stools
- Unwanted CDs for art project
- Vacuum cleaner
- Wood chipper

Garden Room in Shorewood. We welcome her to the team!

☹ Sad to say goodbye. Three of our staff will be leaving us at the end of August. Tory Bahe, an Environmental Educator in our Neighborhood Environmental Education Project, will be leaving the Center. After extending her one year Lutheran Volunteer Corps commitment to two, Tory will be continuing on her teaching career path. The staff and students will miss her humor and creativity.

Some of you may know Carrie Koss Vallejo from seeing her at the reception desk. A self starter, she also helped the staff on numerous projects. Due to her ingenuity and determination, the Center now sells eco-friendly t-shirts. Carrie will be continuing her education this fall at UW-Milwaukee.

Ginger Lee has completed her year-long internship with us through Public Allies. Ginger did a fabulous job working with our River Connection program and the New Horizons students. Her passion, energy and hard work helped the Community Supported Agriculture project grow significantly during the past year. Ginger recently received her PhD in Philosophy and will be teaching at Marquette University this fall. We wish all three best wishes in their future endeavors!

JUMPING THE WAVES OF GROWTH

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seemed to rush in from all angles, twice as many school students, three times as many members, more volunteers, weekend programs full and some overflowing, a constant rush of energy.

This school year we have *tripled* the reach of the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project, our award winning school program. Each field trip day 150 school students will explore Riverside Park. This number was at 50 students a day three years ago and 100 last year. The classrooms and offices will be filled to capacity and the dream of five years ago will be realized.

New educators, Matt Flower and Jess Mathewson, join the existing teaching team of both paid and volunteer educators who work as mentors, or as tugboats if you will, guiding the students. Matt has had three years of experience as a teacher and land steward for the Neighborhood House Nature Center. He also spent two years as a professional mentor for five adolescent boys at Lad Lake in Dousman, Wisconsin, and a year in Madison as a teen and family crisis counselor.

Jess has been teaching environmental education since receiving her biology/zoology Bachelor's degree from UW-Stevens Point

in 2003. Immediately upon graduation she took a teaching position at the Milwaukee County Zoo. She then traveled to Costa Rica to build her Spanish speaking skills and teach environmental education at the Cloud Forest School in Monteverde for three months. Returning to the states, she taught in a residential camp serving students primarily from Los Angeles. Wishing to move back to the Great Lakes, Jess has been teaching Chicago school students at Lorado Taft Campus in Illinois for the past year.

With great gratitude, we thank the Toyota USA Foundation, which is sponsoring 11 new schools for the next three years. Their support is exciting, not only because it brings with it national recognition, but also because it allows us time to grow more school sponsorships and scholarships. Our membership and donor base supports our school program and environmental education as a whole so that we eventually can reach the goal of an environmentally literate Milwaukee.

You are invited to come experience the waves of energy for yourself as a volunteer or visitor. It is the best way to truly understand the value of your support. Please sail by for a visit soon!

YOU MET THE CHALLENGE!

by Ginger Duiven, Development Manager

Back in July Ken told you all a story about a cooper's hawk, some chimney swifts, some anniversaries and a challenge grant. As only Ken can do, he perfectly explained how in his eight years with the Center he has witnessed some thrilling natural happenings and some thrilling donations from a quarter sized snapping turtle to \$1 million to kick off our building campaign to a surprise challenge grant arriving just when we needed help to meet the needs our growth has created. Shortly thereafter we sent out a letter to you describing this challenge grant in more detail and asking for you to help.

It has been thrilling to get the mail each day as those envelopes with the little green forms came back to us with your special donations to help us meet this challenge. We know you get asked a lot to support the

work of so many organizations. It is moving, encouraging and inspiring to us when you support the Center's work. We know that you are out there believing in the importance of showing a child the wonder and science of nature, believing in the importance of protecting urban green places, and believing that by doing these things we are making the world a better place.

With hundreds of those forms came your kind donations. We are delighted to report we have met the challenge to raise \$35,000. Thanks to the responses from families, individuals and foundations, the Center will receive the matching \$35,000 from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation – Alice Uhrig Boese Fund right on schedule. It is truly thrilling.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

by Susan Winans, Volunteer Coordinator

Urgent Need for Afternoon, Evening and Weekend Receptionists. Are you outgoing and excited about sharing information about the UEC? Do you like a busy, fast-paced environment? Come play a crucial role at the UEC, greeting visitors and directing phone calls. Please contact Kimberly Fein, x150, to sign up for a three or four hour slot.

Volunteers needed for UEC's Ice Cream Social, Saturday, October 7th, 2006. It's time for another big festival at the Center! Come and face paint, cook food, lead children's activities and crafts. Ice cream, great music and a warm fuzzy feeling will be your reward! Call Susan, x110, to sign up.

Professional Painters and Electricians Needed. Skilled professionals needed for occasional jobs around the Center. Can be a great tax write-off for your business! Please contact Judy Krause, x102, or Kimberly Fein, x150, for more information or to volunteer.

Alterra Pick-up. Are you a morning person? Every day Alterra Coffee Roasters on Prospect Avenue provides us with bakery to serve to our students. You must be able to lift heavy loads. If you would be willing to make an 8:30 a.m. run to Alterra to pick up the bakery one or more days a week, please contact Susan Winans at x110.

Park Rangers. Did you know Park Rangers are walking through Riverside Park and the Habitat Playground each day helping to keep it clean and safe for wildlife and humans? Join our team of volunteers by picking one day a week to walk the trails and make minor repairs in our outdoor area.

TIME FOR A VISIT!

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will not only create all of the energy needed to run our building, but should have some left over to sell for our neighbors. Climb the tower to see for yourself! Many thanks to volunteer Ric Birch for pulling this complicated project together.



4. NEW PUBLIC SCULPTURES

If all goes well, three new sculptures created by Peter Flanary should be installed in time for the October 7th Ice Cream Social. Peter was selected through a competitive process by neighborhood residents to enhance the park with his stone and metal art. He has created a beautiful set of sculptures entitled "Walk like a River". The first piece, a seven foot circle of glacial field stone wrapped in a bronze cage, is called "Drop" and will be located in the playground at the end of Newberry Boulevard. The next, called "Gather", is similar but represents a series of circular "drops" gathering together. Kids will be able to climb and interact with this piece just north of the sledding hill. The final sculpture is entitled "Flow". The drops have coalesced into the provocative shape of a walking river: thirty feet of stone and bronze in soft curves that beg you to climb up and sit. This will reside in the back of the building above the football field. The three pieces are in a direct line across the park, leading people from the playground to the Center. Many thanks to the Mary Nohl Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and Murph Burke for the financial support to make this happen.

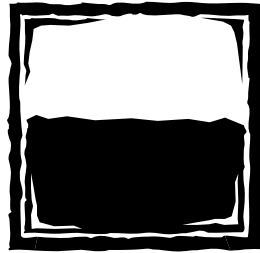
4. NEW GAMES

A volunteer and friend of the Center, Erv Russell, has chosen to spend his retirement crafting unique, handmade, wooden games for our visitors to enjoy. They are beautiful, fun and captivating. Come play marble football, skittles, five in a row and others.



5. NEW BRIDGE

I'm scared to predict this one, as the stars will need to be aligned just right. But if we are fortunate with our bids, the new arched concrete vehicular bridge extending Park Place across the bicycle path will be under construction in October. A huge project led by the volunteer efforts of Al Heldermon, this bridge will connect the Center to a desperately needed parking lot and allow for easy wheelchair access to the park, river, bike path and Center.



6. FALL GARDENS

If you haven't biked on the Oak Leaf Trail recently you must do so by October. The first year of the Community Garden Project along the bike path has been a success. The eighteen gardens are spectacular with rows of corn, squash, tomatoes, beans, flowers, etc. Thanks to the efforts of our gardeners, we can use the gardens to teach kids where food comes from and beautify the bicycle path at the same time!

Speaking of gardens, the rain gardens and native landscaping around the building are looking great thanks to the scores of volunteers who come every Tuesday and Saturday morning and interns who worked throughout the week. Be sure to visit the sensory garden on the green roof under the Tipi poles. All five senses are represented by native Wisconsin plants. Shake the seed pods of Rattlesnake Master for sound, taste the onion, feel the cacti or soft leaves of the mullein, smell the bergamot and see the beauty of it all.



7. NEW CLIMBING WALL

Need a challenging adventure? Then join us at our Fall Ice Cream Social on Saturday, October 7, when we officially open our new

40-foot climbing wall. A surprise local celebrity will be on hand to be the first climber! See the article on page 1 for more details about this exciting donation from the Reiman Foundation.

8. WILLOW ARCH

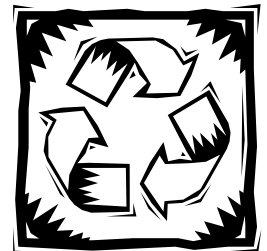
While it has been there for a while, the volunteer efforts of Jane Porath have enhanced our living willow archway. Look for it at the northwest corner of the building.

9. NEW COMPOST SYSTEM

Come see the work of Eagle Scout Michael Hahn. During the last week in August, he designed and constructed a unique and much needed terraced compost system into the bluff next to the community gardens. This is a tremendous asset to the Center, our gardens and the education of our youth.

10. ENHANCED EXHIBITS

All visits to the Center must include a trip to the basement to see the enhancements to the community room. By the end of October, the hands-on library of sustainable materials should be very close to completion and ready for active use. It is shaping up to be a valuable means of "greening" home remodeling and building in the area.



In addition, our volunteer Arts Committee is creating an exciting array of quality artwork to be continually displayed in our lower level gallery. The current exhibit, "Inside the Fence", is a remarkable set of photographs depicting the transformation that has taken place at the decommissioned Badger Ammunition Plant. Every three months a new exhibit will be displayed in this space.

Of course the best reasons to visit are to feel the energy of a dynamic community, talk with neighbors and friends, meet our new staff, help a kid grow with nature, learn from each other and make this world a better place. Hope to see you soon!

ASTRONOMY NOTES

by Art Paque, community volunteer

The pleasant weather of early fall will help us enjoy the subtle beauty of September and October's celestial displays. Don't miss Venus' coupling with a slender Crescent Moon on the morning of September 21st; or the other conjunctions with a crescent lunar form. The Moon will be ablaze, when it returns, again, to occult the Pleiades October 9th. Please keep in mind, several of the other upcoming events taking place near the Sun at sunrise and sunset. Use good judgment and caution.

SEPTEMBER 2006

Venus and Saturn will decorate our late Summer's eastern sky, though by month's end Venus will have risen only 15 minutes before the Sun. Evening skies will show only Jupiter. Experienced planet hunters may find Mercury and Mars in the twilight just above the horizon.

On September 19th, Saturn will be 2° south of the Moon after moonrise until sunrise. Find Venus less than 1° from the Crescent Moon on the 21st. Look after 5:47 a.m. Autumn begins on the 22nd! Autumnal Equinox is at 11:04 p.m.

Look for Mercury 1° above and Mars 6.5° to the right of the Moon after sunset on the 23rd. Find Spica 3° to right of the waxing Crescent Moon and Mercury 4.5° to the right of Spica on the 24th. Look for this after sunset until 7:20 p.m. On the 27th, Antares will be to the upper left of the Crescent Moon after 7:30 p.m.

September's Full Moon (Corn/Nut/Leaves Changing Color) is on the 7th and New Moon is on the 22nd.

OCTOBER 2006

Saturn will greet early predawn risers in the east southeast. Evening planet watchers must be alert to catch Mercury and Jupiter (-1.7) very low in the southwestern sky.

On October 4th, find Uranus 1.5° to the upper right of the Moon. Use binoculars to look from after full darkness until Uranus sets. Look for the lunar occultation of Pleiades on the 9th. At moonrise they will be 2° apart, by 10:30 p.m. they will be almost touching and at midnight the Moon will be in their midst. Saturn will be 2° to lower left of the Moon on the 16th.

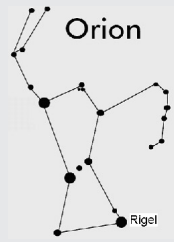
The Orionid meteor shower peaks on the 21st! This shower is best viewed in the very early morning. Face south and look directly overhead. Expect to see 15 per hour with no interference from the Moon. Be sure to watch on 20th and 22nd as well.

Mercury will be 4° south of Jupiter on the 25th. Look extremely low in the southwest after sunset until 6:36 p.m. Watch after sunset through the end of the month.

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on the 29th. Set your clocks back one hour. October's Full Moon (Harvest/Hunter's/Falling Leaves) is on the 7th and the New Moon is on the 22nd.

RIGEL

Rigel (pronounced "ri'jul") is in the constellation of Orion. Rigel, a bluish-white color, is the left foot of Orion, "The Hunter". The name Rigel derives from the Arabic word meaning "foot". The name is approximately 1000 years old and one of the oldest Arabic star names used today.



Rigel is a blue supergiant star as well as an irregular variable star, changing from 0.08 to 0.20 magnitude and is now 0.12. It is also part of a multi-star system; though its companion stars are difficult to see due to the main star's brightness. This huge star has a diameter 70 times that of our Sun and shines 40,000 times as bright. Rigel is estimated to be 775 light years away.

Orion and Rigel rise about 10:30 p.m. in October and move west and higher in the sky as the night progresses. At 4 a.m. it will be 45° above the horizon in the Southern sky. Look for Orion and Rigel when you are out viewing the Orionid meteor shower on the 21st.

CONNECTING TEENS TO ARTS AND NATURE

by Brendan Crain, Intern

English essayist Francis Bacon once wrote that "[Nature] is the foundation of all. We are not to imagine or suppose, but to discover, what nature does or may be made to do." It is true that the exploration and discovery of the natural world has served as a source of inspiration for countless artists. Now, through the Center's new **Teens Connected to Arts and Nature** program, your kids can sharpen their own artistic skills and learn to express themselves in the arts by

connecting with nature, right in the middle of Milwaukee.

This fall, TeensCAN will meet Saturday mornings, using the rhythms, patterns and details of nature to inspire middle school-aged teens in three programs: drawing/visual arts, dancing, and writing. There will be no tests or grades, just excited instructors who are there to help. Activities will include hiking through Riverside Park, observing plants and wildlife, and creating

art. If your teen isn't sure which program they'd like to join, all three can be sampled. The Center will invite family and friends to the last class so that you can see the things that your child has created.

TeensCAN will run from September 16 through October 21, from 10 a.m. to noon. The admission fee is \$30, but scholarships are available based on need. See page 6 for registration information. Special thanks to Danni Gendelman for providing vision and planning for this program.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 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. For general information call (414) 964-8505 or visit www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org. Programs marked with an * are not accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited accessibility. Call if you have accessibility concerns.

SPECIAL EVENTS













FALL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Saturday, October 7

Noon - 4 p.m.

For everyone

Free -
donations
welcome

-  Free Ice Cream!
-  Grand Opening of the new UEC Climbing Wall
-  YogaKids demonstrations
-  Introduction to the Sustainable Building Resource Center
-  Community Resource Booths
-  Fall Harvest Celebration with Friends of Real Food
-  Arts & Crafts
-  Carriage Rides
-  Hike and Play at the Riverside Park Habitat Playgarden
-  Hay Sledding
-  Animal Feeding
-  Music and Entertainment

Noon - 1 p.m.	Running Rebels
1 - 1:30 p.m.	Juggling performance
1:30-2:45 p.m.	Running Rebels
3 - 4 p.m.	Holly Haebig and Harvey Taylor

ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK

Tuesday, September 12
5:45 - 7:30 p.m.

For everyone
Free - donations welcome
Call to register.

Celebrate and learn about the Center's accomplishments over the past year. Bring your favorite dish to share. Meet new and returning board members. *See page 10 for details.*

TeensCAN

(TEENS CONNECTED TO ARTS AND NATURE)

Saturdays,
September 16 - October 21
10 a.m. - noon
For middle school students
\$30 for 6 weeks
scholarships available
Call to register.

Imagine exploring, writing, dancing and sketching in the woods. Inspired by nature, students participating in this exciting new six week program express themselves through visual art, movement, stories and poems. Celebrate your creations on the last day with friends and family. Call the Center to sign up and for more information.



Teens CAN

YogaKids

WITH INSTRUCTOR, STEPHANIE SANDY,
CERTIFIED YOGAKIDS™ FACILITATOR (CYKF)

Saturdays,
October 14 - November 18
10 - 11 a.m.

For ages 6 - 7
\$68, (Members: \$60)
scholarships available
Register by October 11.
Bring a mat and wear loose clothing.

YogaKids™ is coming to the Center! YogaKids™ combines fitness, fun and feeling great! Your child will experience the traditional benefits of yoga (strength, stamina, flexibility, concentration and relaxation) in fun and playful ways. Games, ecology, visual arts, music and learning about body and mind are all part of YogaKids™ classes.

ADULT LEARNING

MONARCH TAGGING

Saturday, September 2
11 a.m. - noon
For adults and
accompanied children
\$5 (Members: \$3)
Call to register.

Join Monarch Watch, a national research project. Learn how to carefully catch, tag and release monarch butterflies while supplying valuable data to scientists at the University of Kansas.

**ADULT BIRDING WORKSHOP: SPARROWS II**

Wednesday, September 6
5:30 p.m.
For adults
\$5 (Members: Free - donations welcome)
Call to register.

We will continue to work on sparrow identification, learn about sparrow natural history and interesting facts. The program will be followed by a twilight walk through Riverside Park. Binoculars provided.

RESTORING THE LANDSCAPE AT FAVILLE GROVE

Speaker: David Musolf
Tuesday, September 12
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$5 (Members: Free - donations welcome)
Call to register.

This photographic presentation will take you through a seasonal progression of landscapes, native plants and restoration activities that have taken place at historic Faville Grove, where Aldo Leopold conducted research and restoration.

BIRD BANDING

Twice weekly
September 12 - October 17
call for schedule
For adults and
accompanied children
Free - donations welcome
Call to register.

Few experiences compare with feeling the rapid heartbeat of a bird in your hand while releasing it back to the wild. Join us for coffee and an up-close look at birds.

EXPLORING DEEP ECOLOGY

Wednesdays, September 20
- November 22
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults
\$20
Call to register.

Through this nine-week discussion course, discover how personal values, spirituality and current scientific knowledge affect the way we view and treat the earth. Explore what it means to take personal responsibility for the earth. Fee includes workbook.

GREENING YOUR HOUSE: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN EXISTING HOMES

Speakers: Nathan Engstrom,
Wisconsin GreenBuilt Home;
Nikolai Usack and Stephen
Servais, Pragmatic Construction
Thursday, September 21
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$25 (Members: \$20),
Students - \$10
Call to register.

Green building need not be limited to new construction. From a full green remodel to merely adding weather stripping, homeowners (and renters!) can employ a number of strategies to improve home efficiency, air quality, durability and more.

INTRODUCTION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

Brought to you by We Energies,
Midwest Renewable Energy
Association and Focus on Energy
Thursday, September 28
6 - 9 p.m.
For adults
\$15
Call to register.

Attention home and property owners! Understand renewable energy options for residential settings, including solar electric (PV), solar hot water / solar thermal and small wind turbines. This program provides an overview of energy systems and describes the "10 steps toward installing a renewable energy system." Plus, discover what financial incentives are available for your new energy systems.

**SOLAR PV SYSTEMS FOR HOME OWNERS**

Brought to you by We Energies,
Midwest Renewable Energy
Association and Focus on Energy
Tuesday, October 3
6 - 9 p.m.
For adults
\$25
Call to register.

Discover the basics of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology and how to make solar PV work in Wisconsin. Learn about site assessments and how to install a renewable energy system. Financial incentives are available, through programs like: Focus on Energy incentives, We Energies "Solar Buy-Back Rate" and federal tax credits

THE ECOLOGY OF BULLSNAKES IN UPPER MIDWESTERN PRAIRIE

Speaker: Joshua M. Kapfer,
Department of Biological
Sciences, University of
Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Tuesday, October 10
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$5 (Members: Free - donations welcome)
Call to register.

Bullsnakes are a protected species in Wisconsin, yet little is known about their ecology throughout the upper Midwest. They are historically described as preferring dry, open canopy habitats with sandy soils, which are declining throughout much of the bullsnake's range. This project used radio telemetry equipment to track bullsnakes and record data to aid current and future management officials in properly conserving this species.

AN AMERICAN ICON: THE ZION / MOJAVE WILDERNESS

Speaker:
Clayton Daughenbaugh, Field
Organizer for the Southern
Utah Wilderness Alliance
Wednesday, October 11
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$5 (Members: Free - donations welcome)
Call to register.

Greater Zion contains Redrock temples, profound gorges, Pondera-studded plateaus and is home to the endangered desert tortoise. A group of citizens has proposed to inventory and document the land in order to help preserve it. This photo-presentation will address threats to this world-class wilderness and discuss steps we can take to help protect it.

**HAWKWATCH**

Saturday, October 14
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (weather dependent)
For adults and
accompanied children
Adult: \$12 (Members: \$8)
Child: \$8 (Members: \$5)
Call to register.

Come look for migrating hawks at the premier local hawk-watching site, Concordia College. Local hawk expert Seth Cutright will explain hawk migration and help with hawk identification basics.

EARTH FRIENDLY INTERIOR FINISHES

Speakers: Andy Pace, Safe
Building Solutions; Lyn Falk,
Solterra Studios
Thursday, October 19
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
Adult: \$25 (Members: \$20)
Students - \$10
Call to register.

These days our own homes are the source of most of the air pollution we experience, including toxic paints and formaldehyde based adhesives. Find out how to make your home finishes (flooring, paints, countertops, carpet, etc.) more sustainable, all without sacrificing aesthetics.

ADULT BIRDING WORKSHOP: BUNTINGS & BLACKBIRDS

Saturday, October 21
4:30 p.m.
For adults
\$5 (Members: Free - donations welcome)
Call to register.

Blackbirds often get a bad rap but they include some of our most brilliantly-colored birds and elegant songsters. A short Powerpoint presentation will be followed by a twilight hike through Riverside Park. Binoculars provided.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

FRIDAY FIRE

Fridays, September 15 & October 20
7 - 9 p.m.
7 p.m. - Younger audiences
7:45 - popcorn and s'mores
8:15 - for all ages
For everyone
\$5 per person or \$10 per family (Members: Free - donations welcome)
Call to register.

September: Sweet Diversity is a trio of three women adept in three part harmony of the joy of life and living with nature. They perform original, contemporary and traditional folk music.

October: The Grumpystiltskyn Jug Band is a one of a kind group playing jug band style. With traditional and improvised instruments, they perform thoughtful and funny songs, including some of the worst puns known to mankind!

DISCOVERY HIKE FOR FAMILIES

Sundays, September 24 & October 22
1 - 2:30 p.m.
For children ages 3 and up accompanied by an adult
\$7, families of 4 or more: \$24 (Members: \$4, families of 4 or more: \$12)
Call to register.

Discover nature in a guided walk through the park with activities, games and stories. In case of extreme inclement weather, we will move our hike inside.

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER HIKE AND PLAYDATE

Saturday, September 9
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Suggested donation \$10
For everyone
Register at <http://www.urbanplayground.info/familywalk.html>

Join other families for a guided 45-minute walk along the new East Bank Trail to the Urban Ecology Center and its Habitat Playground! Stop at the UEC for water and a restroom break. Then spend some time playing new games on the playground elements like the Spider Web and the Frog Pond. Bus back to Brady Street. Bus tickets will be provided.



FAMILY NIGHT HIKE

Friday, September 29
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For children ages 4 and up accompanied by an adult
\$7, families of 4 or more: \$24 (Members: \$4, families of 4 or more: \$12)
Call to register.



We will hike through Riverside Park after sunset as we explore our senses, view the night sky and listen for nocturnal creatures. Your perception of the dark will never be the same!

FALL COLOR BIKE RIDE

Sunday, October 8
2 - 4 p.m.
For everyone
\$8, families of 4 or more: \$30 (Members: \$5, families of 4 or more: \$15)
Call to register.

All ages are welcome to join our fall color bike ride along the Oak Leaf Recreational Trail. Along the way, learn basic tree identification and why leaves turn brilliant colors in the fall. We will start from the Center and go as far as time allows. Come and use one of the Center's bikes (ages 10 and up) or bring your own. Also bring a helmet and water bottle.

SCIENCE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS

Saturdays and Sundays
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 welcome

Discover the world of science through interactive activities.

September: Seed Stories. Discover how plants produce seeds and how they are dispersed. Then make an art project using a variety of seeds.

October: Predator and Prey. Hunter or hunted? Learn how animals are adapted to be excellent predators and prey.

ANIMAL FEEDING TIME

Saturdays
1 - 2 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

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.

BIRDING BY CANOE-NEWBURG TO WAUBECA

Sunday, September 24
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
For adults
\$30 (Members: \$25)
Call to register.

Join Dan Gray, Urban Adventures Coordinator and Tim Vargo, Research Coordinator, as they explore the Upper Milwaukee River looking for migrating birds. Please bring a bag lunch and dress for the weather.

FULL MOON CANOE TRIP

Friday, October 6
5:15 - 9:30 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Adult: \$30 (Members: \$22)
Child: \$15 (Members: \$10)
Call to register.

Join us for an evening paddle to downtown under the Harvest Moon. We will stroll through Riverside Park, launch the canoes and float downstream where we will eat dinner at a restaurant on the river (not included in price). After dinner we will paddle upstream to the Rowing Club Boathouse.

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN COSTUME CANOE TRIP

Saturday, October 28
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children

Adult: \$30 (Members: \$22)

Child: \$15 (Members: \$10)

Lunch is extra.

Call to register.

Spook the tourists on the Riverwalk at our yearly on-the-water Halloween party! Meet at the Center for a walk through Riverside Park to the Milwaukee River, then canoe downtown for lunch (costs extra). After eating we will paddle upriver to the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse. Cool prizes for the best costumes!



INTEREST GROUPS

EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS*

Every Thursday
8 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations welcome

Interested bird watchers of all ability levels are invited to join us in exploring for bird life. Binoculars available.

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PHOTO CLUB

Thursdays, September 7 & October 5
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations welcome

Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills.

FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD

Wednesdays, September 13 & October 11
6 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations welcome
Call to register.

Join us in sharing a potluck dinner and enthusiastic, informative discussion.

September: GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms).

Exactly what kind of genetic engineering is going on in our food? What are the health and environmental implications? How can we find food that is safe to eat?

October: Eating Locally. Watch a lively video "What will we eat?" and learn why and how to eat locally -- getting better food, improving food security and protecting our environment.



URBAN STARGAZERS

Thursdays, September 14 & October 12
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations welcome
For adults

September: Join us for information and stargazing.

October: Astrophotography 101. Speaker: Rick Kazmierski. Come learn the basic tools and concepts needed to photograph the heavens.

URBAN ECHO POETS

Thursdays, September 14 & October 12
7 p.m.
Free - donations welcome

Our purpose is to observe and experience nature, then to express these observations in poetry and essay. We will read and write and appreciate poetry with images from nature at its core.

VEGETARIAN POTLUCK

Thursdays, September 21 & October 19
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.

UEC BOOKCLUB

Saturdays, September 23 & October 28
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults
Free - donations welcome
Call to register.

The Urban Ecology Center Bookclub meets once a month to discuss an environmentally themed book. Join us for conversation and refreshments.

September: *Tales of a Female Nomad* by Rita Gelman

October: *Nafanua: Saving the Samoan Rain Forest* by Paul Alan Cox.

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 indoor and outdoor projects.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Saturday, September 16
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 21
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Saturday, October 14
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.

NATURALIST WALKS*

Mondays, September 25,
October 9 & 23
11 a.m. - noon
For UEC volunteers only
Free - donations welcome
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, September 2,
16 & October 7, 21
9 - 10:30 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free

Improve biodiversity in the park by removing alien plant species.



URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER TOURS

WEDNESDAY WALK WITH KEN

Wednesdays
9 a.m. - UEC Building
10 a.m. - Riverside Park
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations welcome
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 welcome
Call to register.

Explore our green facility with Director of Education, Beth Fetterley, and learn about the Center's innovative educational programming.

FROM THE BOARD

by Lorraine Jacobs, President, UEC Board of Directors

How did it happen? The Board has attended another full year of meetings, planning sessions and events at the Center! It's time for the Annual Meeting, when we share the activity and business of the past year. I hope that you can join the Urban Ecology Center Staff, Board and Members at this fun event.

Business for the meeting will include presentation of the following.

Executive Committee:

President	John Clancy
Vice-President	TBA
Treasurer	Jeff Geygan
Secretary	Jeff Anthony

Board Members continuing through the next year are:

Jeff Anthony	Jennifer Bolger
Dick Burke	Ben Calsbeek
Kevin Carr	Monique Charlier
John Clancy	Danni Gendelman
Robert Graumann	Dennis Grzezinski
Troy Hilliard	Lorraine Jacobs
Theresa Lins	Charla Reetz
Bill Rumpf	Mark Sandy
Kathy Werlein	

We will also present our new Board committee structure and present the slightly revised mission statement which will guide us into the future. This restructuring is a result of the strategic planning process embarked upon by the Board Executive Committee and the staff Leadership Team with guidance from Miriam Reading.

Finally, we welcome Jeff Geygan, our newest Board Member. Jeff will be joining the Board as a Financial Committee member and will serve as Treasurer on the Executive Committee. Jeff was recommended to us by board member Dennis Grzezinski and is highly qualified to continue in the fine tradition of sound financial management as established by our prior Treasurer, Mark Sandy. A graduate of UW-Madison, Jeff has over 20 years experience in business and financial planning. He has served on the Board of Artists Working in Education. Jeff has thoughtfully considered his decision to join our board in this capacity and looks forward to working with the Center. I'm very happy to welcome Jeff to our Board.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Celebrate and learn about the Center's accomplishments of the past year. Bring your favorite dish to share. Meet new and returning board members.

Urban Ecology Center
Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2006
UEC Community Room

Agenda

4:30 p.m.	Regular Board meeting- all are invited to attend
5:45	Potluck dinner with staff, board and members
6:30	Presentation by Executive Committee, Executive Director Ken Leinbach and Director of Education Beth Fetterley
7:30	Close

CLIMBING IN A NEW CLASSROOM

continued from page 1

on the tower along the trail (an average of 800 people use this trail everyday during the non-winter months) may also provide an added benefit to the Center by attracting new visitors and members.

The rock wall will have numerous bumps and a crack for climbers to push and pull themselves to the top. It will also feature adjustable holds in numerous sizes and shapes. Plus, the wall can be set for a variety of climbing levels. Novice climbers can gain comfort on the wall using large holds that



are positioned close together, and advance climbers can work their way up the wall with small, distant holds.

In addition to the top-rope climbing currently taught on the stone walls, the new wall will allow for workshops in sport-lead climbing during which climbers add bolt clips to the wall to create their own path up.

A popular Center program, rock climbing is a non-traditional sport that benefits participants by:

- Teaching the value of teamwork
- Developing trust and cooperation among peers
- Instilling increased self-reliance and confidence

- Applying and improving problem solving skills
- Developing skills to overcome physical challenges
- Encouraging physical activity
- Modeling respect for nature

Climbing workshops of various levels will be available to people of all ages, including scouts, youth groups and after school programs. The wall will expand climbing programs to include corporate team building and youth development programs with leadership development curriculum. If you are interested in learning more about the Center's rock climbing programs, call Dan, our Urban Adventures Coordinator, at x115.

THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER

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www.beansandbarley.com

Brewcity Bruisers, LLC.
www.brewcitybruisers.com

Cambridge Woods
Neighborhood Association
www.cambridgewoods.org

David Hobbs Honda
www.davidhobbs.com

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www.kgbag.com

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www.lalunecollection.com

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www.lakeparkfriends.org

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www.mcdilldesign.com

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www.noodles.com

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www.plymouth-church.org

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www.ppaw.org

Someone's in the Kitchen
lynnrhyann@wi.rr.com

Trek Bicycle Corp.
www.trekbikes.com

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www.we-energies.com

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Laura Anderson - chainsaw

Steve & Pam Bednarczyk-
microwave

Nicole Bickham &
Lance Weinhardt - microwave,
bike rack

Gail M. Boxrud - kayak

Tony Clements - kayak, paddles,
pfd's, kayaking supplies,
portable grill, ladder

Ginger Duiven - computer,
keyboard

Elm Creative Arts School-
snowpants

Meredith Frediani - tent

Dennis Grzezinski - cordless drill
& toboggan

Carol Johnstone - turtle shells
& cds

David Kahn-Pettigrew- cordless
drill

Joan Krueger - firewood

Susan Mroczynski - styrofoam

Jayne Pelton - books

Karolynn Pohl - microwave

Ann Powell - clothing,
tomato plants

Rightie Pappenheim- snowshoes

Al Sherkow &
Deb Hartmann - book & cds

Mary Louise Stebbins - binders,
children's clothes

Gary & Anne Summers-
aquarium & accessories

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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.

For information, visit our website at www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org.

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 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 \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.

Charge my membership to: Master Card Visa

Card Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date ____/____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please make your check payable to:

Urban Ecology Center and return it with this form to:

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



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YOGAKIDS
Saturdays,
October 14 -
November 18

TEENSCAN
(TEENS CONNECTED TO
ARTS AND NATURE)
Saturdays,
September 16 -
October 21



FALL ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Saturday, October 7



Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211





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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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Science Sundays (every Sunday) topic: Seed Stories	4 9a Burdock Brigade	5 9a Burdock Brigade	6 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 5:30p Beth's Building Tour 5:30p Birding Workshop: <i>Sparrows II</i>	7 8a Birdwalk 7p Urban Ecology Center Photo Club	8	9 9a Saturday Stewards 11a Urban Ecology Center Hike & Playdate 1p Animal Feeding
10	11 Bird Banding starts - call Tim, x116 for details 9a Burdock Brigade 4:30p UEC Board of Directors Meeting Annual Meeting & Potluck 5:45 - 7p 7p Restoring the Landscape at Faville Grove	12 9a Burdock Brigade	13 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 5:30p Beth's Building Tour 6p Friends of Real Food: GMOs	14 8a Birdwalk 7p Urban Echo Poets 7p Urban Stargazers	15	16 9a Saturday Stewards 9a Burdock Brigade 10:30a Volunteer Orientation TeensCAN - Teens Connected to Arts & Nature 10a - noon 1p Animal Feeding
17	18	19 9a Burdock Brigade	20 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 5:30p Beth's Building Tour 6:30p Exploring Deep Ecology	21 8a Birdwalk 6:30a Volunteer Orientation 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck 7p Greening Your House	22	23 9a Saturday Stewards 10a TeensCAN 10a UEC Bookclub: <i>Tales of a Female Nomad</i> by Rita Gelman 1p Animal Feeding
24 8a Birding by Canoe - Newburg to Waubesa 1p Discovery Hike for Families	25 11a Naturalist Walks	26 9a Burdock Brigade	27 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 5:30p Beth's Building Tour	28 8a Birdwalk 6p Introduction to Renewable Energy Systems	29 7p Family Night Hike	30 9a Saturday Stewards 10a TeensCAN 1p Animal Feeding

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Science Sundays (every Sunday) topic: Predator and Prey	2 9a Burdock Brigade	3 9a Burdock Brigade	4 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 5:30p Beth's Building Tour	5 8a Birdwalk 7p Urban Ecology Center Photo Club	6	7 Science Saturdays (every Saturday) topic: Predator and Prey 9a Burdock Brigade 9a Saturday Stewards 10a TeensCAN  Fall Ice Cream Social Noon - 4 p.m. 1p Animal Feeding
8 2p Fall Color Bike Ride	9 11a Naturalist Walks	10 9a Burdock Brigade 7p The Ecology of Bullsnakes in Upper Midwestern Prairie	11 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 5:30p Beth's Building Tour 6p Friends of Real Food: Eating Locally 7p The Zion / Mojave Wilderness	12 8a Birdwalk 7p Urban Echo Poets 7p Urban Stargazers: Astrophotography 101	13	14 9a Saturday Stewards 10a TeensCAN  10 - 11a 10a Hawkwatch 10:30a Volunteer Orientation 1p Animal Feeding
15	16 9a Burdock Brigade 4:30p UEC Board of Directors Meeting	17 9a Burdock Brigade	18 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 5:30p Beth's Building Tour	19 8a Birdwalk 6:30p Vegetarian Polluck 7p Earth Friendly Interior Finishes	20	21 Bird Banding Ends 9a Saturday Stewards 9a Burdock Brigade 10a TeensCAN 10a YogaKids 1p Animal Feeding 4:30p Birding Workshop: Bunnings & Blackbirds
22 1p Discovery Hike for Families	23 11a Naturalist Walks	24 9a Burdock Brigade	25 9a Building Tour with Ken 10a Walk with Ken 5:30p Beth's Building Tour	26 8a Birdwalk	27	28 9a Saturday Stewards Annual Halloween Costume Canoe Trip 10a - 3p 10a YogaKids 10a UEC Bookclub: <i>Nafanua: Saving the Samoan Rain Forest</i> by Paul Alan Cox 1p Animal Feeding
29	30 9a Burdock Brigade	31 9a Burdock Brigade				