“HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM” - MISSION CONTROL AT THE URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER
by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

A little over a year ago our leadership team came to the realization that we had a fundamental problem on our hands. We were discussing the progress of our new venture to create a satellite Ecology Center in Washington Park. Everyone supported it, our board, our staff, community members from Washington Park, local politicians … everyone! No one questioned if we should do it or not and, buoyed by this support, the project moved forward with great speed.

The problem was this: reaching out to Washington Park, while admirable and exciting, did not fit into the stated mission of the Urban Ecology Center, which, for obvious reasons, was site specific to Riverside Park.

Our mission stated that we preserve, enhance and use the natural resources of Riverside Park, the Milwaukee River and adjacent green spaces. Using this living laboratory, the Urban Ecology Center:

• Provides environmental science programs to neighborhood schools
• Promotes environmental awareness in the community
• Preserves and enhances the natural resources of Riverside Park
• Protects the Milwaukee River

In a healthy organization every activity should reflect back to that organization’s underlying mission. If it doesn’t, you either should give up the activity, know that a small exception is being made for a clear defensible reason, or the mission should change. Expanding to Washington Park is no small exception. To pass up the opportunity to serve so many more kids in the city would be crazy and it certainly fits our primary mission, even if the makeup of the words didn’t match.

Solution: change the mission statement.

THREE YEARS LATER
by Sara Vondrachek, Environmental Educator

As I finish my third year as an environmental educator at the Urban Ecology Center, I find myself reflecting upon how meaningful this job has been to me over the past few years. When I first moved to Milwaukee and settled in Riverwest, I had always had this vision of walking around the neighborhood and running into kids that I taught at the Center. It didn’t take long for this to start happening and as exciting as it may have

A SENSE OF PLACE
by Joey Zocher, Washington Park Program Manager

It has become apparent to me that Washington Park is one of the best hidden treasures in Milwaukee. As summer approaches, I have been lucky to witness some amazing things here at the park. First, the birds. This spring we saw Sandhill Cranes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and American Coots in our 124-acre oasis for migratory birds. What is equally spectacular are the birds that reside here all summer long. June 11th was the first day the Wood Ducks came out of hiding, followed by their seven babies! Bluebirds, Cooper’s Hawks and herons also call Washington Park home. For those of you who are less interested in our feathered friends, fear not! The lagoon is full of life, sporting painted turtles, bullfrogs and, of course, fish. The trees are filling out, providing an incredible assortment of diversity, as well as a cool place to rest. The cattails are gaining height in the wetland areas of the lagoon and the Red-winged Blackbirds are frantically trying to claim ownership. Oops - I went back to birds!
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 82 foundations and corporations, over 1800 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 educates and inspires people to understand and value nature as motivation for positive change, neighborhood by neighborhood.

Our environmental community centers:
- Provide outdoor science education for urban youth.
- Protect and use public natural areas, making them safe, accessible and vibrant.
- Preserve and enhance these natural areas and their surrounding waters.
- Promote community by offering resources that support learning, recreation, stewardship and camaraderie.

Urban Ecology Center
Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Pl ace
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
(414) 964-8505
Fax: (414) 964-1084
uce@urbanecologycenter.org

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.

Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208
(414) 344-5460
Fax: (414) 344-5462
jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org
www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

DROPLETS

- **Hot spot.** The Center is now a Wi-Fi hot spot! Feel free to drop in, use your computer and connect to our wireless system.

- **Cool spot.** During last summer’s heat wave, we realized the need to provide cooler temperatures for our visitors and summer camp kids. On the very hot days, we are now able to have cool spots in our building.

- **Eagle Scout projects spruce up the park.** Many thanks to Mark Kettler, who constructed a new amphitheater in the park natural area, and Justin Schleicher, who designed and installed a new fence around the community gardens along the bike trail. Check out their hard work the next time you are in the park. Thank you to Mario Costantini of La Lune Collection and Pieter Godfrey for donating the materials for these projects.

- **Many thanks to Jennifer Harvey of Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center** for assisting us with a required archaeological review of Riverside Park in anticipation of the rehabilitation of park trails. Guess what we learned? Apparently, according to Charles E Brown, in 1925 before the Olmsted design of this land, there were “several conical mounds formerly located...on the east bank of the Milwaukee River”. Extensive surveys show no remnants of these mounds.

- **New items added to the UEC gift shop.** Looking for a perfect gift? Buy your loved one a UEC gift membership or one of the items found in our gift shop. A portion of the sale of these items goes to UEC. **Healthy Styles DVD:** An informative look at healthy, eco-friendly building options & materials, partially filmed at UEC. $24 ($19 for members). **Cardinal Alerts:** These ultraviolet decals are designed to prevent cardinals and woodpeckers from pecking on windows until their beaks bleed. $9. “Pesticide Free Lawn” signs: $5

WISH LIST

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

- A house
- Apple cider press
- Basking light bulbs and infrared light bulbs
- Beach toys
- Board games, in good shape with all the pieces
- Claw hammers
- Crayons and markers
- Digital camera
- Electric golf cart
- Garden hoe
- Gently used sweatpants
- Animal heat rocks and heat pads
- Ice cream buckets with lids
- Kayaks
- Old towels for rags, any size
- Overhead projector
- Pelts for our Wildlife Trunk: Red Fox, Coyote, Rabbit (one grey, one white), Squirrel, Chipmunk
- Portable CD Player (Boombox)
- Portable outdoor sound system
- Portable shade canopy
- Rain ponchos/jackets for little kids (kindergarten - 3rd grade)
- Sleds
- Small, foaming pump dispensers
- Step stools - one, two, three steps
- Sunscreen

For Washington Park

If you have a donation for Washington Park, please call Joey Zocher, x126.

- Basic tools - screwdrivers, hammers
- Binoculars
- Butterfly nets
- Canoes & paddles
- Clipboards
- Coat rack or hooks
- Crayons and markers
- Extension cords & power strips
- Field guides (esp. trees, birds, insects, flowers)
- GPS device
- Hand lenses/magnifying glasses
- Hats, mittens and scarves
- Kites
- Large coffee percolator
- Medium size plastic storage bins with lids
- Microscopes
- Musical instruments (acoustic - drums, guitars, mandolin, ukulele)
- Native Wisconsin animals: mounted, pelts, bones
- New children’s lifejackets
- Pens/pencils
- Sleds
- Snowshoes
- Stopwatches
been for them to see “Ms. Sara” walking through their neighborhood, I can bet 10 to 1 that my excitement exceeded theirs. The ability to make such a significant connection between my job and my community is something I have sought for a long time. It’s not just the kids I run into; it’s the parents who come along on the field trips or send their kids to summer camp; it’s the teachers and many others who are frequent visitors to the Center. With each encounter I am reminded how important it is to me to feel like a part of the community.

Having held several different types of environmental educator jobs before working at the Center, I know how rare it is to see the same kids over and over again. That is why this job is so unique. Because I have now worked with the same students for three years, I have watched the same students change over these years and on occasion, even surpass me in height!

Recently, I was asked to be a judge at a science fair at Urban Day School and as I walked through the gymnasium visiting with all of the students, I was struck by how familiar each and every face was to me and how proud they were as they talked to me about these projects they had spent so much time on. At least two-thirds of the students asked me when they would be coming to the Center next. There are many aspects of this job that make it easy to come to work every day, but it is the enthusiasm displayed by the students that has played the most important role in keeping me truly excited about what I am doing.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE CENTER

by Judy Krause, Business Manager

I continue to marvel at the magic that surrounds this organization. Maybe the best way to capture what has been accomplished here is to tell you what is happening today, a Thursday in May, just one day of many here at the Center.

• Three schools are here today through the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP): fifth graders wading into the Milwaukee River in hip boots to discover and study aquatic life, first graders learning about the seasons and how to use their senses in nature, and third graders learning about ecosystems in the park and at the river.

• The class from New Horizons, a charter school for at-risk high school students which visits the Center twice a week, is learning to rappel from the 40 foot climbing wall. This year the group of students has been learning outdoor skills and helping lead younger students.

• A group of 40 students (not part of NEEP) is here for a tour of our building, a hike in the park and an experience at the Habitat Playground.

• A regular after school group from OW Holmes School Community Learning Center will be learning to fish along the Juneau Park Lagoon later this afternoon.

• 15 community members are participating in “Big Bird Day” to count as many birds as possible in Milwaukee County in one day. This 12-hour long Citizen Science program connects people to migratory bird research and is part of a larger project that includes banding migratory birds twice a week in the fall and spring, as well as lectures and workshops that correlate the diversity of bird population to the health of the environment.

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TEEN ADVENTURE CHALLENGE A SUCCESS

by Carijean Buhk, Publicity Coordinator

Through the sun and the rain, teams of excited high schoolers hiked, climbed, canoed and biked during UEC’s Teen Adventure Challenge. Fifteen teams ran the course this year. They were supported by a strong team of 30 volunteers in bright orange t-shirts. A special thanks to all of our wonderful sponsors.

Teams represented the following schools or organizations: Rufus King High School, El Puente High School, First Unitarian Society YRUU (2 teams), Heritage Christian High School, The Alliance School of Milwaukee, Strive Media (2 teams), Running Rebels (2 teams), Stevens Point Area YMCA, Riverside High School, Neighborhood House and South Division High School (2 teams).

Top: The winning team from Rufus King High School. Above: Teams hiked on both sides of the river searched for orienteering points. Left: Teen working her way up UEC’s 40-foot climbing wall as teammates cheer her on.
HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM  
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Critically analyzing the mission led to a few more reasons to make a change. One of the unique attributes of our program is the fact that we are using environmental education in a park as a tool for making the park safer. This “safety feature” was missing in our mission statement.

Additionally, as we grow, we are getting more and more calls and visits from urban neighborhoods in other parts of the world. Shouldn’t we be consulting or serving as inspiration for these neighborhoods as well? If so, this type of activity should be embraced by our mission statement.

Well, here it is a year later and we have it. A hardworking committee of volunteers from our board worked with staff, and… drum roll please … here is the official new, improved and approved mission statement for the Urban Ecology Center.

The Urban Ecology Center fosters ecological understanding as inspiration for positive change, neighborhood by neighborhood.

Our Environmental Community Centers:

• Provide outdoor science education for urban youth.

• Protect and use public natural areas, making them safe, accessible and vibrant.

• Preserve and enhance these natural areas and their surrounding waters.

• Promote community by offering resources that support learning, recreation, stewardship and camaraderie.

Thank you to the individuals who helped us create this new mission and thanks to all who have worked to create our new satellite Ecology Center in Washington Park. We look forward to working with students there this fall.

A SENSE OF PLACE  
continued from page 1

Using nature as our role model, there have also been many changes here at the Urban Ecology Center satellite at Washington Park. Excitingly, we have filled our eight schools for the Neighborhood Environmental Education Program (NEEP)! We are happy to be working with Hawley Road Elementary School, Mount Olive Lutheran School, Neeskara Elementary School, Saint Sebastian School, St. Coletta Day School, Story Elementary School, Urban Day School and Washington High School of Law, Education and Public Service.

In addition, we would like welcome our environmental educator Tory Bahe! Long time supporters of the Urban Ecology Center may remember Tory, as she spent two years at the Riverside Park location as a Lutheran Volunteer Corps intern. Tory’s experience and passion for urban environmental education is a perfect match for us and we are grateful to have her back!

SO THEN, IS THE UEC SATELITE CENTER AT WASHINGTON PARK OPEN NOW?

I have fielded this question many times and it never gets easier to explain. Yes, we have begun working there. No, there are not “open hours,” yet. Yes, you are more than welcome to come visit. Just contact me first so that I know you are coming. No, there are not scheduled workshops, yet. Yes, there are interest groups forming (at 8 a.m. on Thursdays a group gathers for a bird walk. Everyone is welcome). Yes, you can volunteer. Currently, we are looking for volunteer teachers to help with the NEEP programs as well as Park Rangers to help patrol and keep Washington Park clean and safe. Please contact me at jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org or (414) 344-5460 if you would like to volunteer or have any questions regarding our new satellite location at Washington Park.

Cooper’s Hawk nestling in Riverside Park. Thanks to Bill Stout for his work in banding this set of nestlings. This is the second time a set of Cooper’s Hawk nestlings has been banded in the park.
JULY - AUGUST CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise indicated, participants meet at the Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place. Scholarships are available for all fee-based programs. 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

FOX AND BRANCH CONCERT AND CD RELEASE PARTY!
Sunday, July 8
3 - 4 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505.

Join us for this special concert and CD release party for "Did You Hear That?" winner of Parents’ Choice Foundation’s Recommended Award. If you’re a fan of Woody Guthrie you’ll remember his “Bling Bling” song found in this collection. Guthrie seems to be the guiding spirit throughout as Dave Fox and Will Branch introduce listeners to the pleasures of traditional and original folk tunes with notable musicianship, homespun warmth and heart. Your kids will help sing songs and try some instruments in this interactive family show. Check out these artists at www.foxandbranch.com.

ART SHOW OPENING:
KASIA DRAKE AND EDUARDO VEGA
Sunday, July 1, exhibit open through September
2 - 4 p.m.
For everyone
Free-donations appreciated
Most work available for sale.
Call to register, 964-8505.

Kasia Drake’s art covers paintings, prints and drawings and has been shown extensively. Layers of abstract expression fill her canvases. Eduardo Vega is a mixed media and found materials artist. He works with oil paint, charcoal and wood, creating multi-dimensional wall art, projecting the continual process of environmental change while preserving the natural essence of organic forms.

TALES FROM THE TETONS
Thursday, August 23
6:30 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505.

Be inspired. Come meet UEC’s High School Outdoor Leaders and learn about their exploration of the Greater Teton ecosystem. These adventurous high school students will share their experiences as researchers in Wyoming. Reception and refreshments to follow.

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER TOURS

WEDNESDAY WALK WITH KEN
Wednesdays (no tour July 4)
9 a.m. - UEC Building
10 a.m. - Riverside Park
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call ahead to confirm (414) 964-8505.

You’re invited to a special tour as you explore Riverside Park and/or our green facility with Executive Director Ken Leinbach (staff substitution on occasion).

BETH’S BUILDING TOUR
Wednesdays (no tour July 4)
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505.

Explore our green facility and learn about its secrets and stories with Director of Education Beth Fetterley. This is a great opportunity for you to learn about the Center’s innovative educational programming (staff substitution on occasion).
**URBAN ADVENTURES**

Advanced registration required for all Urban Adventures. Payment due at time of registration. Cancellation Policy: When payment is required in advance for a program, you may cancel up to 48 hours in advance without penalty. If the Center cancels a program for any reason, the payment will be refunded or can be used toward a future program. Call the Center at (414) 964-8505 to register at least two days before the trip. Trips run as scheduled, rain or shine.

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**RIVER RHYTHMS**

**CANOE TRIPS**

Wednesdays (no trip July 4)

- 5 - 9:30 p.m.
- For adults and accompanied children ages 12 - 18
- Adults: $30 (Members - $25)
- Children: $20 (Members - $15)
- Call to register, 964-8505.

You’ll paddle through the urban wilderness from Riverside Park to Pere Marquette Park. Enjoy music and festivities at River Rhythms. Then paddle part way back to the rowing club boathouse and shuttle back to the Center. Dress for the weather. Meet at the Center. Each week fills quickly. Sign-up early!

**OPEN CLIMBS ON THE TOWER WALL**

- Tuesdays, July 3 - August 21
- 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Saturdays, July 7 - August 25
- 3 - 5 p.m.
- For everyone
- Adults: $15 (Members - $10)
- Children: $12 Members - $8
- Registration recommended, walk-ins welcome.
- Call to register, 964-8505.

- Extend your skills on the Center’s Tower climbing wall. Harnesses and belays provided. All climbers must have a completed and signed waiver before climbing, available at the Center’s reception desk and at www.urbanecologycenter.org.

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**SEA KAYAKING**

**INTRODUCTION CLASS**

- Class will be conducted at Lincoln Park
- Monday, July 16
- 5:30 - 8 p.m.
- For adults and youth, ages 14 and older
- $35 (Members - $25)
- Call to register, 964-8505.

Learn how to get out on the water in a sea kayak. Emphasis will be on safety and learning basic maneuvers.

**MEET THE WILDLIFE**

- Meet the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse, 1990 N. Commerce
- Thursdays, July 19 & August 9
- 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- For adults and accompanied children ages 12 and older
- Adults: $35 (Members - $25)
- Children: $20 (Members - $15)
- Call to register, 964-8505.

What a night you’ll have! You’ll paddle recreational/touring style kayaks through downtown, past the mouth of the Menomonee River and into the harbor (wind and waves permitting) then paddle back up to the Rowing Club Boathouse, pausing at Milwaukee Ale House for refreshments. Participants with minimal previous experience are encouraged to sign-up.

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**DEVIL’S LAKE CLIMBING TRIP**

- Friday, July 6 - Sunday, July 8
- For adults
- $140 (Members - $125)
- Call to register, 964-8505.

Climb the renowned bluffs at Devil’s Lake. All skill levels welcome. We will tent in the group camp area. Food included.

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**LIBRARY OF SUSTAINABILITY**

**OPEN HOURS**

- Sundays, noon - 2 p.m.
- Mondays, 4 - 6 p.m.
- For everyone
- Free - donations appreciated
- Call to register, 964-8505.

Remodeling, adding on, or building a new home? Visit the Center’s Library of Sustainability for ideas to beautify your home while honoring the environment. This is a hands-on library of sample products for construction and interior decorating. During open hours there will be a resource person available.

**MONARCH LARVAE MONITORING**

- Thursday, July 5
- 5:30 p.m.
- For adults and accompanied children
- $7 (Members - $4)
- Call to register, 964-8505.

Discover the miraculous life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Your introduction to the egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and adult stages, you will comb the park for examples of all stages of the butterfly’s life. You’ll also join the ranks of Citizen Scientists by collecting data for the University of Minnesota’s national Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project.

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**MONARCH LARVAE MONITORING**

- Thursday, July 5
- 7 - 9 p.m.
- For adults
- Free - donations appreciated
- (Donations will support the Isle Royale Wolf-Moose study and the Urban Ecology Center)
- Call to register, 964-8505.

On Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior, wolves and moose essentially represent a unique single-prey-single-predator system. Researcher John A. Vucetich Ph.D will discuss this relationship explored during the 49 year predator/prey study on Isle Royale.

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**RIVERSIDE PARK**

**BUTTERFLY COUNT**

- Saturday, July 7
- 11 a.m.
- For adults and accompanied children
- $3
- Call to register, 964-8505.

Every year the North American Butterfly Association coordinates volunteers across three countries (USA, Canada & Mexico) to do a census butterfly populations. Join us for a stroll through Riverside Park to count & identify our resident butterflies. No experience necessary.

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**KIRTLAND’S WARBLER IN WINTER**

- Speaker: Chuck Hagner, Editor, Birder’s World Magazine
- Tuesday, July 10
- 7 - 8:30 p.m.
- For adults
- $3 (Members - Free - donations appreciated)
- Call to register, 964-8505.

Until recently, ornithologists knew little about the Kirtland’s Warbler, our most endangered wood-warbler. But recently, more warblers were found on one Bahamian island than had been documented in the Bahamas over the previous half century. Chuck will present photos and describe what we have learned since the discovery.

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**WINDPOWER 101**

- Sunday, July 15
- 3 - 5 p.m.
- For adults
- $10 (Members - $5)
- Call to register, 964-8505.

You’ll learn the basics of wind energy in this non-technical seminar. This program provides a comprehensive introduction to the fundamentals of wind energy.

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**ADULT LEARNING**

**MOTIONHUNTER WORKSHOP: SYSTEMATICS PART I**

- Tuesday, July 17
- 6:30 p.m.
- For adults
- $10 (Members - $5)
- Free for regular birding volunteers
- Call to register, 964-8505.

You’ll explore the avian family tree and look at how unrelated birds can look so different while related birds can look so different. This will be followed by a twilight stroll through Riverside Park. Binoculars provided.
UEC PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
Thursdays, July 5 & August 2
6:30 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills. Meet in 2nd floor Camouflage Room on July 5th and the downstairs Community Room on August 2nd.

KNITTING CIRCLE
Sundays, July 8 & 22
August 12
3 - 5 p.m.
Free - donations appreciated
If you are new to knitting, or an experienced knitter, please join us for a cup of coffee, good conversation and knitting.

FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD
Wednesdays, July 11 & August 8
6 - 8 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Share a potluck dinner and join the enthusiastic, informative discussion.
July: King Corn. Come watch and discuss a documentary about two friends who move to the heartland to grow the reigning crop in the U.S. and then follow their corn into the food system. Their experience raises troubling questions about how we eat and how we farm.
August: Preparing for the Eat Local Challenge. Let’s get ready for our Eat Local Challenge – the 2nd week in September. We’ll talk about what it means to participate in this challenge, where to find local foods and how we’ll spread the word.

URBAN ECHO POETS
Thursday, July 12
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
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. No August program.

URBAN STARGAZERS
Thursday, July 12
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Join us for information and stargazing. No August program.

PATHS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FILM SCREENING: THE END OF SUBURBIA
Wednesday, July 18
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
The End of Suburbia explores the suburban way of life and its prospects as demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply.

SAVOR THE TASTE OF SUMMER
Thursday, July 19 & Tuesday, August 7
6 - 9 p.m.
For adults
$30 (UEC and CSA members - $25)
Call to register, 964-8505.
July: I Scream, You Scream. Impress friends and family with homemade ice cream using fresh fruits, herbs and even vegetables. Learn about dairy products plus how to make yogurt and kefir at home though this hands-on course.
August: Fruit and Vegetable Canning 101. Learn how to transform fresh tomatoes into a year-round pleasure by drying and freezing or making sauces and salads.

VEGETARIAN POTLUCK
Thursdays, July 19 & August 16
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Free - donations welcome
Bring a plate and fork along with your meatless dish to share at our picnic style meal.

PATHS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Tuesdays, July 24
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
August 21
6 - 8 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Childcare available: $4
Call to register, 964-8505.
Our focus is exploring local solutions to the global crises of climate change and the decline of fossil fuel energy.

UEC BOOK CLUB
Saturday, July 28 & August 18
10 - 11 a.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
The Urban Ecology Center Book Club meets once a month to discuss an environmentally themed book. Newcomers and ongoing participants are invited to come enjoy the conversation and refreshments.
July: Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life, by Barbara Kingsolver.
August: Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder.

EARLY MORNING BIRDWATCHES
Thursdays
8 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Interested bird watchers of all ability levels are invited to explore bird life with us. Binoculars available.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
RIVER CONNECTION VOLUNTEER TEACHER TRAINING
Tuesday, August 21
1 - 5 p.m.
For adults
$15 (Free for current UEC volunteers)
Call to register, 964-8505.
Interested in learning about the Milwaukee River ecosystem? Available on weekdays in fall and spring? Excited to mentor 5th graders? If so, this program is for you! It is free if you commit to teaching at least 12 days during the upcoming school year. If you are interested, but unable to volunteer, feel free to join us for the fee listed above. All volunteer teachers must fill out a volunteer application and agree to a background check.

VOLUNTEER TEACHER ORIENTATION
Thursday, August 30
9 a.m. - noon
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505.
Canoe, study birds, hike the Oak Leaf Trail and look for bugs with students this school year! Discover how our volunteer teachers do this and more on field trips for neighborhood school children. Interested volunteers need to be available on weekdays, fill out an application and agree to a background check.

RIVER REFLECTIONS
A DAY IN THE LIFE...
continued from page 1

• A group of preschool students and their parents visited this morning to learn all about bugs, visiting both the park and our Native Wisconsin Animal Lab.

• Any moment I expect Roger and Shawn to poke their heads into the office for a high five. Roger and Shawn are both students at Riverside High School and hang out after school here, helping set up for programs, feeding the animals, maintaining the park, or just doing their homework. They have both recently been accepted to our Outdoor Leadership Program for 2007. I’ve never seen them so animated as when they found this out!

• Tonight three interest groups are meeting at the Center, groups initiated by community members around a unifying interest. The need for community space was one reason to build the new facility. Tonight the groups are meeting around the themes of poetry inspired by nature, astronomy and sustainable living.

• Early this morning, at the invitation of We Energies, Executive Director Ken Leinbach spoke to over 100 business people in West Bend over breakfast about the benefit of incorporating renewable energy into a building and specifics about our recent solar energy installation.

• And throughout the day, volunteers are greeting visitors and answering questions, gardeners are borrowing equipment and working in their community garden plots, preparations are being made for the International Migratory Bird Day Festival this Saturday, and volunteer rangers are hiking the trails.

It is amazing!

You could be a part of a day like this. Volunteering is a great way to get in on the action! See page 3 for a list of volunteer opportunities or contact our Volunteer Coordinator Susan Winans at swinans@urbanecologycenter.org.

CHANGING PERSPECTIVE
by Judy Krause, Business Manager

Crunching numbers to make sure budgets are on track vs. cramming food, clothes and gear into a backpack. Strategizing and planning for the future growth of the Urban Ecology Center vs. mapping out hiking routes and discussing meal options. Driving a canoe trailer to the Milwaukee River vs. driving a van filled with luggage up winding mountain roads. Keeping the building systems running properly vs. ensuring participants a positive and safe backpacking experience.

As Business Manager at the Urban Ecology Center, my days are typically filled with the first responsibilities. Recently I had the privilege to change my normal routine and co-lead a UEC women’s backpacking trip to Yosemite National Park that filled my days with the latter activities.

Nine daring women joined Dana Kaleta, trip leader, and me on this adventure. Five of the women had never backpacked before, while the others had not had a pack on in years. Individually we came to the trip with different daily experiences. Our group, whose members ranged in age from 31 to 59, included people who work at non-profit, medical, governmental and corporate jobs, while others are retired; women who are single and married, some with children. This diversity of backgrounds created a rich community of people for our incredible trip.

Together we experienced the beauty of snow-capped mountains and spring wildflowers, as well as the power of snow melt rushing down waterfalls. We stood atop Glacier Point at sunset and peered down upon Yosemite Valley, the most visited area of the park, and tried to envision the twinkling lights of lodging and cars as nothing but an enormous lake, as it was thousands of years ago. We paused next to sequoia trees that have known many generations of people before us and will know many more yet to come.

These eleven individuals shared a common day-to-day experience of the back country. Instead of meetings, phones, email and other responsibilities, our days were filled with miles of uphill backpacking along an aptly named “Mist Trail”, long day hikes along the Merced River and to the top of Half Dome, group yoga before dinner, campfires at night with other hikers, shared laughter and desserts, countless pictures, bear sightings, encounters with snakes and birds galore.

Since I’ve returned to Milwaukee, my daily responsibilities have slipped quickly back to the pre-trip pace, but I know that my world is a bit different than it was before. Enveloping myself in the natural world always gives me a sense of perspective which I try to remember as I go about my life. Stresses at home and work are small compared to the millions of years it took to create the wonders of places like Yosemite. I’ve seen a number of the trip participants around the Urban Ecology Center these past few weeks and we share a warm smile and conversation. I hope that their daily routines have also been enhanced by this incredible Yosemite experience.
ASTRONOMY NOTES
by Art Paque, Community Volunteer

Warm nights and wondrous sights await us! Watch for Venus and Saturn in the west after sunset the first week of July. Don’t miss the western quartet of Saturn, Venus, Regulus and the Crescent Moon on July 16th after sunset. The Perseid meteor shower promises to make August 13th extraordinary. Set your alarm clock for the total lunar eclipse on the morning of August 28th.

JULY
Morning planets, Mars (0.6) will rise in the east northeast and be joined by Mercury (0.1) shortly before sunrise after the 20th. Evening skies will show Venus (-4.3) and Saturn (0.6) low in the west and Jupiter (-2.5) low in the south.

On July 1st find Venus (-4.4) 1˚ left of Saturn (0.6) after sunset. The pair will remain close together until the 8th. On the 9th look for the Moon 4˚ above Mars (0.7) after rising in east at 1:22 a.m. You can find the Moon 1˚ left of Saturn (0.6), Venus (-4.5) 5˚ left of the Moon, and Regulus (1.3) 2˚ from Venus after sunset on the 16th. Look for the Moon 5˚ left of Venus (-4.5) after sunset on the 17th. The Delta Aquarid meteor shower peaks on the 28th. View after moonset and watch in the southern sky. Expect about 20 per hour.

New Moon is on the 14th and the Full Moon (known as the, Full Buck Moon) is on the 30th.

AUGUST
Morning planets Mercury (-1.0) and Mars (0.6) will both be in the east with Mars higher in the sky, having risen after midnight. Venus (-4.0) joins them low in the east after the 20th. Evenings will display Jupiter (-2.3) low in the south; while Venus and Saturn (0.6) will be low in the west early in the month.

On August 1st look for Mercury (-1.0) 6˚ to the right of Pollux (1.2) after Mercury rises in the north northeast at 4:25 a.m. until sunrise. On the 7th you’ll find the Moon, Mars (0.5) and Pleiades (1.4) clustered very low in east northeast after Mars rises (12:23 a.m.) until sunrise. Look in the northeast to find Castor (1.6) and Pollux (1.2) 6˚ to left of the Moon after Pollux rises (3:20 a.m.) until dawn on the 10th. Perseid meteor shower peaks on the 13th: watch well up in the eastern sky during the predawn hours. With good conditions you can expect to see 60 - 100 per hour! Look for Spica (1.0) 2˚ above the Moon after sunset on the 18th. On the 21st, find Antares (1.0) less than 1˚ above the Moon and Jupiter (-2.2) 6˚ above the Moon. Mars (0.3) can be found 5˚ above Aldebaran (0.8) after Aldeberan rises in the East at 12:18 a.m. on the 24th.

New Moon is on the 12th. Full Moon (known as Full Sturgeon Moon) will be on the 28th. This will be the night of a spectacular total lunar eclipse. The Moon enters the penumbra at 2:52 a.m. and then enters the umbra at 3:51 a.m. with totality starting at 4:52 a.m. Totality ends after moonset. The next total lunar eclipse will be February 20, 2008.

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

I am writing to welcome Frank Cumberbatch to the Urban Ecology Center Board of Directors. Frank is a very important addition to our Board and its Development Committee as he brings valuable local government and business experience and community connections.

Frank currently leads his own consulting firm, Trinidad Group, which provides advice regarding economic conditions and networking with local business entities. In 2006, he served as the senior assistant to Mayor Barrett, in charge of business, economic development, real estate and job-related issues.

Prior to that, Frank was a candidate for Mayor of Milwaukee in 2004. He serves on the board of the Menomonee Valley Partners and serves as a board member and one-time secretary for the Community Brainstorming Committee, which brings together African Americans in Milwaukee to monthly forums and open discussions regarding issues related to the city.

Frank’s skills are very important to the future of the Center, especially in light of our recent growth. That growth includes not only the tripling of the schools served by the Center in Riverside Park but the opening this fall of the new satellite facility in Washington Park. It also includes the Center’s leadership role in protecting the Milwaukee River basin through efforts such as the development of Milwaukee Central Park along the river.

I would like to thank Frank for joining the board and for his commitment to work on our important Development Committee to help make sure that the Center can continue to grow and serve the Milwaukee area.

PENUMBRA AND UMBRA

These terms describe the shadow of a large celestial body and on August 28th refer to the Earth’s shadow as Earth blocks the Sun’s light from shining on the Moon.

PENUMBRA - The part of a shadow in which the light (or other rays such as the solar wind) is only partially masked in contrast to the umbra in which light is completely masked, by the intervening object.

UMBRA - The dark central portion of the shadow of a large body such as the Earth or the Moon.

Definitions from NASA.
JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP

Name ________________________________________
Address ________________________________________
City ________________________________________
State/Zip _________________________
Phone ________________________________________
Email ________________________________________

My neighborhood park is  ❑ Riverside  ❑ Washington
❑ I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.

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

Financial assistance is available. Please call Ginger Duiven, Development Manager at x106 or duiven@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 $ ___________________

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

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.

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# Urban Ecology Center Programs

**JULY 2007**

Contact the Center for details (414) 964-8505 or visit [www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org). Hours: Monday - Thursday 9a-7p, Friday - Saturday 9a-5p, Sunday 12 noon-5p

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| Science Sundays  
(topic: Trees)  
Noon Library of Sustainability  
Open Hours  
Art Show Opening: Kasia Drake and Eduardo Vega  
3p  
2p | 9a Burdock Brigade  
5:30p Open Climbs on the Tower Wall  
3p | UEC CLOSED  
8a Birdwalk  
5:30p Monarch Larvae Monitoring  
6:30p Photography Club  
7p Ecology of Wolves and Moose of Isle Royale National Park  
8p DNR Frog & Toad Survey  
1p | Devil's Lake Trip leave  
Science Saturdays  
(topic: Trees)  
9a Burdock Brigade  
10:30a Volunteer Orientation  
11a Riverside Park Butterfly Count  
1p  
3p |
| 8      | 9      | 10      | 11        | 12       | 13     | 14       |
| Devil's Lake Trip return  
Noon Library of Sustainability  
Open Hours  
Fox and Branch Concert  
and CD Release Party!  
3p  
3p | 9a Burdock Brigade  
5:30p Open Climbs on the Tower Wall  
7p Kirtland's Warbler in Winter  
3p | 9a Building Tour with Ken  
10a Walk with Ken  
5p River Rhythms Canoe Trips  
5:30p Paths to a Sustainable Future  
6p | 8a Birdwalk  
9a Saturday Stewards  
1p Animal Feeding  
2p Wings of Flight  
3p Open Climbs on the Tower Wall  
1p  
3p |
| 15     | 16     | 17      | 18        | 19       | 20     | 21       |
| Noon Library of Sustainability  
Open Hours  
3p Windpower 101  
3p | 9a Burdock Brigade  
5:30p Open Climbs on the Tower Wall  
6:30p Adult Birding Workshop: Systematics Part I  
3p | 9a Building Tour with Ken  
10a Walk with Ken  
5p River Rhythms Canoe Trips  
5:30p Paths to a Sustainable Future  
6p | 8a Birdwalk  
9a Burdock Brigade  
1p Animal Feeding  
2p Wings of Flight  
3p Open Climbs on the Tower Wall  
1p  
3p |
| 22     | 23     | 24      | 25        | 26       | 27     | 28       |
| Noon Library of Sustainability  
Open Hours  
2p Nature Detectives  
3p Knitting Circle  
3p | 9a Burdock Brigade  
5:30p Open Climbs on the Tower Wall  
6:30p Paths to a Sustainable Future  
3p | 9a Building Tour with Ken  
10a Walk with Ken  
5p River Rhythms Canoe Trips  
5:30p Paths to a Sustainable Future  
6p | 8a Birdwalk  
9a Saturday Stewards  
10a Book Club - Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life by Barbara Kingsolver  
1p Animal Feeding  
3p Open Climbs on the Tower Wall  
1p  
3p |
| 29     | 30     | 31      |           |          |        |          |
| Noon Library of Sustainability  
Open Hours  
2p Storytime in the Park  
3p | 9a Burdock Brigade  
5:30p Open Climbs on the Tower Wall  
3p | | | | | |
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