NEW THINGS TO EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTER IN JANUARY!
by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

I’m really excited to tell you about three new exhibits you’ll find at the Center. When you visit this winter be sure to look for the giant puzzle, the Gathering in the Wild art show and the solar energy kiosk.

GIANT PUZZLE
1) “The cars are so small and people are barely visible, but … hey! There’s my house! And those big buildings must be UWM. Wait, I think I see the Urban Ecology Center, and look, there is my school and there is my favorite tree!

One would think that this conversation was taking place in a plane cruising slowly at 15,000 feet above Milwaukee, but instead it is a student visiting the Center who just put together the new giant floor puzzle of high resolution aerial photos. Each piece, or 26-inch tile, represents approximately one square mile. When all 50 tiles are placed together you can see 50 square miles of Milwaukee! The puzzle matches perfectly the scale of the watershed of Southeastern Wisconsin which is painted on the Center’s first floor, making the puzzle easier to put together. It is just like being in an airplane, but without the expense!

ECO-FRIENDLY SNOW REMOVAL
by Mike Larson, Executive Assistant

As nature enthusiasts we have a love-hate relationship with snow. We enjoy taking hikes in the freshly fallen snow, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, ice skating and sledding- and love the snow for the fun that it brings. When it comes to removing the stuff from our driveways and sidewalks, however, we hate it!

As nature enthusiasts we also want to do everything we can to save the environment, but it seems that all of the best methods for helping us clear away snow and ice can turn a winter wonderland into an ecological nightmare! Rock salt contaminates our water and rains vegetation and soil. Snow blowers are effective, but their two stroke engines spew carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide into our air and leech gasoline that will eventually trickle into our waterways. What’s an environmentally conscious Wisconsinite to do? The following is a list of eco-friendly solutions that will leave you snow and worry free this winter:

• Nothing beats a good strong back and a shovel! This winter, consider removing snow the old-fashioned way (or paying the neighbor kid to do it). Shovels produce no greenhouse gases, will not poison our lakes and rivers, and are completely

WALKING ON HISTORY
by Beth Fetterley, Director of Education

As the snow and ice of winter decorate Milwaukee’s landscape with geometric patterns, soft curves and a new spectrum of reflected light, my imagination visualizes how the Lake Michigan glacier might have appeared before it began to recede fourteen thousand years ago. Like a masterful artist, the glacier left behind the city’s gorgeous lakefront, neighboring swells of glacial till moraines, snaking eskers, kettle lakes, and erratic boulders randomly dropped on the landscape. Until a recent trip to Khumbu, the highest glacier on our planet, I struggled to draw a tight mental connection between a massive sheet of ice and Southeastern Wisconsin’s unique geological features.

Continued on page 5
Continued on page 10
DROPLETS

Congratulations to Jeff Anthony, our Urban Ecology Center Board Secretary, for receiving the 2007 “Outstanding Employee/Citizenship Award” from American Wind Energy Association.

We are excited to announce the addition of two new members to the Center’s Board of Directors. We welcome Marc Andraca and Tom Zak as great additions to the dynamic group. They both bring skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm from A(ndraca) to Z(ak)! We look forward to introducing them to you in the next newsletter. Thank you Marc and Tom for making the commitment to help govern and guide the Center over the next two years.

Do you have access to printer paper that has been used on one side that is not needed anymore? The Center prints its documents and materials on this kind of recycled paper. We could put more “one sided” paper like this to use. Note: the printing on the one side should not be sensitive or confidential information, of course. Ideally donations like this would have the paper stacked with the printed side facing the same direction in the stack so we can put it right in our copy machine and start printing on the clean side.

The Center has an open part time bookkeeper position starting in late January. Submit a resume and cover letter to Judy or contact her for additional information at jkrause@urbaneologycenter.org.

Show off Milwaukee and urban environmental education. Join Joey Zocher, Washington Park Program Manager, in planning the Wisconsin Association of Environmental Education 2008 Fall Conference held here October 29th - November 1st. Organize field trips, workshops, exhibits, entertainment, fundraising or publicity. Contact Joey at (414) 344-5460.

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WISH LIST

For Riverside Park

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

- Adult gloves and mittens
- Animal heat rocks and heat pads
- Apple cider press
- Basking light bulbs and infrared light bulbs
- Children’s & adult winter coats
- Compact, energy-efficient freezer
- Crayons, markers, pencils & pens
- Electric golf cart
- Garden hoe
- Gently used sweatpants
- Ice cream buckets with lids
- Kayaks
- Marbles
- Office chair with wheels
- Old towels for rags, any size
- Portable shade canopy
- Rain ponchos/jackets for little kids (kindergarten - 3rd grade)
- Reliable CD player w/“disc repeat”
- Sleds
- Small, foaming pump dispensers
- Step stools - one, two, three steps
- Sturdy 2-drawer file cabinets
- Triple-Beam balance scales

For Washington Park

If you have a donation for Washington Park, please call Joey Zocher, (414) 344-5460.

- Bird feeders
- Bird Seed
- Clipboard
- Crayons and markers
- Energy Star dehumidifier
- Field guides (esp. trees, birds, insects, flowers)
- Film canisters
- Fishing nets and poles
- Flatbed sheets
- GPS device
- Kites
- Kids boots
- Lined paper/notebooks
- Love seat
- Microscopes
- Musical instruments (acoustic - drums, guitars, mandolin, ukulele)
- Pens/pencils
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Puppets
- Scissors
- Sleds
- Snowshoes
- Stopwatches

- Energy Star dehumidifier
- Film canisters
- Fishing nets and poles
- Flatbed sheets
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HELP US MAKE 2008 THE YEAR OF PHENOLOGY
by Tim Vargo, Research Coordinator

“There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.”  
- Aldo Leopold

This is my favorite quote from one of the most influential Wisconsin conservationists. I will go out on a limb and say that most of you do not own a farm, yet are not in danger of falling victim to these suppositions. Why? Because most of you already have an environmental ethic and we at the Ecology Center are continually trying to nurture that ethic in our community.

So what does Aldo Leopold have to do with the title of this article? Dr. Leopold was one of the greatest phenologists of all-time. Phenology is the study of the timing of natural events, derived from the Greek Phainomai, which means to appear. Phenologists keep accurate records of when things appear on and disappear from a piece of land. They help us learn when Mourning Cloak butterflies “appear” from hibernation in the spring, when the call of the first Spring Peeper frog “appears” from the forest and when the bright yellow maple leaves “disappear” from their branches. Phenologists keep record of the occurrence of physical events like when the river freezes over, when the forest floor become blanketed with snow. They also keep track of behavioral events such as when paper wasps start building their nests and when snapping turtles emerge from the river to lay eggs.

Leopold’s Sand County Almanac reads like a calendar as he discusses the timing of appearances on his property along the Wisconsin River. Dr. Leopold knew his land well and that his breakfast and his heat were intricately tied to that land.

Today, it is frighteningly easy to become disconnected with land. For many, heat comes from a dial on the thermostat, safety, we invite you to support the teams the day of the event by offering your skills on the course. Contact Susan at swinans@urbaneologycenter.org or x110 if you are able to help.

Canoeing, hiking, welding? If you like to build three dimensional pieces out of wood or metal the Teen Adventure Challenge needs you! We need someone to create trophies out of recycled or salvaged materials for our teams. Contact Ginger at gduiven@urbaneologycenter.org or x106 for more information.

Sponsor a team. The Teen Adventure Challenge is a unique fundraiser. Sponsors get publicity and the opportunity to help teens spend an amazing day outdoors. If you, your community organization or place of work would be interested in sponsoring a team, contact Ginger at gduiven@urbaneologycenter.org or x106.

HELP TEENS HAVE AN ADVENTURE
by Carijean Buhk, Publicity Coordinator

Help give teens an unforgettable outdoor experience on June 7th during our Teen Adventure Challenge. The Challenge is an adventure along the river in which co-ed teams of four teens and one adult bike, hike, canoe, rock climb and solve puzzles. There are many ways you can get involved before, during and after the race. Take a look at the following list and join the fun.

We need your kids! Get together a group of four kids and one adult and join in. Contact Chad at cathomack@urbaneologycenter.org or x115 for more information. Teams who reserve their spot by March 15th get a discount on the reservation fee.

The Challenge runs smoothly each year thanks to a number of dedicated and skilled volunteers. If you are a trained EMT or certified in First Aid, Lifeguarding, or Small Craft Water
SUMMER CAMPS 2008
by Mike Larson, Executive Assistant

Do you love the outdoors and want to share that same passion with your children? The Urban Ecology Center’s Summer Camps may be just what you’re looking for!

Campers of all ages will enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, games and songs. In just one week they will get the chance to go hiking, rock climbing, canoeing, fishing and swimming at the beach! Older campers will also get the chance to kayak, bike and go on an overnight camping trip. Your children are bound to find something they’ll love!

Take Sam, for instance. On his first try at fishing, he hadn’t had a single bite all morning. When it was time to leave, he begged the counselors to let him cast just one more time. A future outdoorsman was born when he reeled in his first bluegill! The smile on his face was bigger than the fish!

Or consider Alisha, whose mom told counselors that she was scared to death of heights and would never try rock climbing. Imagine her mom’s surprise when she discovered that Alisha had made it to the top of the climbing wall three times that day!

Experiences like these will create memories for your children that they will never forget. This summer, let the Center help instill a love for nature and the great outdoors in your children!

The chart on the right is a preview of this year’s Summer Camp schedule. Brochures and registration information will be mailed to our members and partnering schools by mid-January. Registration will open at that time.

Scholarships are available to give every child the opportunity to participate in our summer camps. Call Sarah Rohe at x125 for details.

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER SUMMER CAMPS 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp Name</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>Session 2</th>
<th>Session 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Adventurers - 3 &amp; 4 years old by beginning of camp</td>
<td>August 4-8; 9:15-11:15 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EcoKids - 4 &amp; 5 years old by beginning of camp</td>
<td>July 14-18; 9:30 a.m.-noon</td>
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<td>Session 2: July 14-18; 1-3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Session 3: August 4-8; 9-11:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trailblazers - completed 5-year-old kindergarten</td>
<td>July 7-11 (full day, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Play With Your Food - completed grades 1-2</td>
<td>July 21-25; 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature Explorers - completed grades 1-2</td>
<td>Session 1: June 30-July 3; 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 2: July 14-18; 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Session 3: August 4-8; 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Urban Park Rangers - completed 3-4 grades</td>
<td>Session 1: July 28-August 1; 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Detectives - completed grades 3-4</td>
<td>Session 1: June 30-July 3; 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Session 2: July 7-11; 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Session 3: July 21-25; 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Naturalists Overnight Adventure - completed grades 5-6</td>
<td>July 21-23, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; July 24-25 Overnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Naturalists - completed grades 5-6</td>
<td>July 14-18, 9:30am-3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle School Overnight Expedition - completed grades 7-8</td>
<td>July 7-8, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; July 9-11, Overnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adventure Camp - completed grades 7-8</td>
<td>Session 1: July 28-August 1, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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SUMMER CAMPS AT WASHINGTON PARK!

Five week-long day camps will be held at Washington Park this summer. Contact Joey at (414) 344-5460 for more information.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WISCONSIN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp Name</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>Session 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruments &amp; Nature - entering grades 1-4</td>
<td>July 28-August 1, mornings at WCM, afternoons at UEC; 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 4-8, mornings at WCM, afternoons at UEC; 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m.</td>
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used in their unique art works, where the gathering can be as significant a part of the process as the creation,” said Debbie.

“These impressions become words in an art piece ... a piece of silk gauze dyed with goldenrod and quilted with cattail fluff, little plants of silverweed and horsetail pressed and held together with handmade paper,” stated Fran, “These pieces remind us of our own stories and bring us all to care for the wild world”.

Thanks to the members of the arts committee for their work in providing this show.

SOLAR ENERGY KIOSK

3) “Dad, look the Ecology Center is producing enough power for 10 houses right now, even on this cold winter day! Hey, what just happened to the power? Oh I get it, a cloud just passed by. This is so cool!”

This real time data for our solar panels are now on display thanks to this amazing gift to the Urban Ecology Center from our partner for solar power, We Energies. In addition to assisting us in installing the largest solar power station in the city, We Energies helped us create this new interactive exhibit. A large 42 inch flat screen monitor with touch screen capabilities introduces new visitors through pictures and words to our mission and teaches people about our solar power. The monitor sits on a beautifully crafted cart, allowing for flexible use of this engaging exhibit. It is another must see!

In addition to We Energies, we thank Drew Szabo, Kevin Little, and Gary Cox for making this exciting new resource available to our visitors.

STAFF CHANGES AT THE CENTER

by Judy Krause, Business Manager

NOT GOODBYE, JUST SEE YOU AROUND

Our volunteers are special people. They give their time, talents and energy to expand the reach of our programs. Sometimes situations present themselves that allow us to offer a paid staff position to a stellar volunteer. One such person was Kimberly Fein, our Rental and Facility Coordinator. In her role, Kimberly has been responsible for overseeing the building rental program, the front desk area and visitor experience, as well as the upkeep and custodial needs of our building. It has been no small role and one that was felt by the great majority of the 56,000+ child and adult visits to the Center last year. Though we know she won’t be gone for good, we will be saying goodbye to Kimberly as a staff member at the beginning of 2008.

Kimberly started volunteering with the Center in 2004, as we were making preparations to move from the trailer into our new building. She helped organize our first volunteer recognition event, a sneak peek into the new facility and became one of our first volunteer receptionists. Since that time, Kimberly proved herself as extremely reliable, hard working and a true advocate of the UEC mission and the kids we serve. She joined the staff in 2005. Her efforts led to the volunteer Park Ranger program, annual celebrations of International Migratory Bird Day, a partnership with the New Hope Project, a streamlined building rental process and a much more organized and well-kept facility. Kimberly’s eagerness to work with volunteers, “can-do” attitude and energy will be missed dearly. We thank her for sharing her skills, passion and friendship with us and hope she’ll be back as a volunteer soon!

NEW STAFF

We welcome Max Balan to the staff as our Custodian! Max has helped with our custodial needs for a few months and joined the staff in November. He is originally from Modova, Russia and moved here in 1994 with his family. He loves playing in the snow, being out in nature and playing chess. Everyone at the Center loves his positive, hard working and friendly personality. Max was instrumental in raising our tipi for the winter season and is always willing to lend a hand wherever needed. He is hoping to start an electrician apprenticeship soon with MATC. This winter, stop in and say hi to Max. Bring your book or newspaper and relax by the fire in our wood stove - Max lights it every morning for you.

We also welcome Mike Larson who has joined our staff in the new role of Executive Assistant. Mike has worked at the Wisconsin Humane Society for over four years, most recently as the Wildlife Clinic Administrator. Mike brings with him exceptional organizational skills, an enthusiasm for working with volunteers and a passion for environmental conservation and education. At the Center he will oversee building rentals, manage the front desk area and visitor experience, as well as serve as an assistant to Ken Leinbach, Executive Director, and Beth Fetterley, Director of Education, on a multitude of projects. Mike lives in Bay View with his family. His oldest son is excited about the slide into the building at Dad’s new job. We are excited to have him as part of the team and encourage you to stop in and meet Mike!

Lastly, we welcome Ben Van Orsdol as our new Urban Adventures Intern. Ben is a student at UW-Milwaukee, majoring in social work. Ben lives in the neighborhood and enjoys biking, fishing, music and exercise in general. He has worked as a wilderness therapist leading groups of at risk students through the deserts of Idaho, completed the National Outdoor Leadership School program and helped teens learn outdoor skills with Adventure Treks.

THREE NEW REASONS

continued from page 1

In additional to Adventure Treks.
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 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

WINTERFEST
Saturday, February 9

NEW!

ESPECIALLY FOR AFTERNOON NAPPERS
Special program for kids ages 5 and under accompanied by an adult 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

Little kids can enjoy winter activities including creating winter crafts, listening to stories, and going for a short winter nature hike.

WINTERFEST FESTIVAL
Noon - 4 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated

Join us for
Snowshoeing
Chili
Cross country skiing
Sledding
Hikes
Indoor crafts

REI PEAK Pack & Everest Base Camp presentations

Entertainment:
Bluegrass by Cream City
Juggling with Keith Armstrong

OPEN CLIMBS ON THE TOWER WALL
Sundays
No climb on December 22nd 2:30 - 4 p.m.
For everyone
Adults: $10 (Members - $7)
Kids: $8 (Members - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
Payment due at time of registration

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

INTRO TO CROSS COUNTRY SKIING
Saturday, January 19
1 - 3:30 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children ages 12 and older
Adults: $10 (Members - $6)
Kids: $8 (Members - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
Payment due at time of registration

Learn how to cross country ski! Bring an adventurous spirit; we'll provide the skis and hot chocolate. We will begin on the athletic fields and then head into the woods or down the bike trail.

SNOWSHOE AT KETTLE MORaine
Sunday, January 20
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children ages 12 and older
Adults: $20
(Members - $15)
Kids: $15 (Members - $10)
Call to register, 964-8505
Payment due at time of registration

Explore the hilly terrain of the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. Dress in layers, wear sturdy and warm shoes, bring water and a lunch. Meet at the Center, transportation provided. If there is no snow, we will hike.

SPONTANEOUS SNOW OUTINGS
Snow-play enthusiasts: this idea is for you! Sign up to join others interested in snowshoeing or skiing this winter. These spontaneous outings will be planned at short notice when the weather is right. Invitations will be sent by email. Email Chad at cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org to add your name to this list. Beginners welcome!

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.

WINTERFEST FESTIVAL
Noon - 4 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated

Join us for
Snowshoeing
Chili
Cross country skiing
Sledding
Hikes
Indoor crafts

REI PEAK Pack & Everest Base Camp presentations

Entertainment:
Bluegrass by Cream City
Juggling with Keith Armstrong

CROSS COUNTRY SKI AT KETTLE MORaine
Sunday, February 10
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children ages 12 and older
Adults: $20
(Members - $15)
Kids: $15 (Members - $10)
Call to register, 964-8505
Payment due at time of registration
State Park Trail Pass required for anyone 16 years or older. Annual Pass is $15; Day Pass is $4. These can be purchased the day of the program.

SnoWsHoE at KETTLE morainE
Sunday, January 20
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children ages 12 and older
Adults: $20
(Members - $15)
Kids: $15 (Members - $10)
Call to register, 964-8505
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**Family Programs**

**Warm Up in the Tipi**
Sundays
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Warm up around a fire in the tipi while you read a book, tell a story, or simply enjoy the fire.

**Animal Feeding Time**
Saturdays
1 - 2 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Do you know what a snake has for lunch? Help feed the Center's resident turtles and snakes as you learn about the animals that inhabit the river valley.

**Science Saturdays and Sundays**
Drop in program
Saturdays,
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sundays,
12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts.

**Owl Prowl**
Tuesday,
January 15
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Adults: $7 (Members - $5)
Kids: $6 (Members - $4)
Call to register, 964-8505
Learn about the characteristics and habits of local owls, then head onto the Oak Leaf bicycle path, Riverside Park and adjacent areas to listen and look for owls. Dress warmly! We will stop frequently along the path to listen. We will end with a hot drink in front of the fire.

**Friday Fires**
Fridays, January 18 & February 15
7 - 9 p.m.
For everyone
$5 per person or $10 per family (Members - free, donations appreciated)
Call to register, 964-8505
Join us for an exciting night with singer, songwriter Peter Mulvey! Space is limited.

**Winter Storytimes**
Saturdays, January 19 & February 16
10 - 10:45 a.m.
For kids ages 4 and younger accompanied by an adult
$5 (Members - $3)
Chaperones free
Call to register, 964-8505
Sit around the fire, listen to stories of the season and make a craft to take home.

**Creating Mobiles**
Saturday, January 26
2 - 3 p.m.
For kids ages 5 and older
$5 (Members - $3)
Call to register, 964-8505
Join us for a short hike to explore Riverside Park in the winter and then come inside and create a nature mobile.

**Nature Detectives**
Sundays, January 27 & February 24
2 - 3:30 p.m.
For everyone
$7 or $24 for families of 4 or more (Members - $4 or $12 for families of 4 or more)
Call to register, 964-8505
Discover the natural world as we explore Riverside Park using magnifying glasses and doing scavenger hunts.

**Tracking Mysteries**
Saturday, February 23
10 a.m. - noon
For adults & accompanied children
Adults: $7 (Members - $5)
Kids: $5 (Members - $3)
Call to register, 964-8505
Payment due at time of registration
Ever wonder what animals are around this time of year? Come learn how to identify animal tracks and signs through fun interactive games.

**Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park**
Sundays, March 2 & 16
3 - 5 p.m.
For everyone
Adults: $8 for both days, $5 for one (Members - $5 for both days, $3 for one)
Kids: $6 for both days, $4 for one (Members: $3 for both days, $2 for one)
Maximum of $15 per family
Call to register, 964-8505
Participate in the classic Wisconsin winter activity of collecting maple sap and boiling it down into syrup. On the 2nd we will tap trees and on the 16th we will boil our collected sap into delicious syrup.

**Sledding**
Saturday, January 12
3 - 4:30 p.m.
For teens
$3 (Members - $1)
Call to register, 964-8505
Come sledding in Riverside Park with other teens and then sit by the fire and drink hot cocoa in the UEC. Weather dependent.

**Afternoon Movie: Eight Below**
Sunday, January 27
3 - 5 p.m.
For teens
$4 (Members - $2)
Call to register, 964-8505
Enjoy watching the movie Eight Below while sipping hot cocoa and eating popcorn.

**Winter Hike/ Snowshoeing**
Monday, February 18
Noon - 3 p.m.
For teens
Call to register by February 17, 964-8505
Go snowshoeing or on a winter hike with other teens at Lapham Peak State Park. Meet at the Center and we will take you to the park. Dress for the weather. Space is limited.

**Art At UEC**

**Art Show Opening: Gathering in the Wild**
Sunday, January 6
2 - 4 p.m.
Show runs through late March
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
This art show is the work of four voices growing from the natural world - Debbie Jircik, Kirsten Christianson, Pat Hudson and Fran Cheney. They will work together to install a unique show that is a piece in itself - a collage of their images and written words.
ADULT LEARNING

ECO-HOMES SERIES:

ECO-FRIENDLY FLOOR OPTIONS FOR YOUR HOME
Thursday, January 17
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults
$20 (Members - $15)
Call to register, 964-8505

Bamboo, cork and linoleum flooring are earning a reputation as eco-flooring options. But what else is considered “green”? Learn about the many eco-friendly and healthful floor options available on the market today. What makes one floor green and another healthful? How do they compare to their non-green counterparts? What about installation and maintenance? What questions do you need to ask before you buy? Come and find out!

SAFE SNUGGLES - HOW HEALTHFUL IS YOUR BEDROOM?
Thursday, February 21
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults
$20 (Members - $15)
Call to register, 964-8505

Beating the winter blues by snuggling up in bed with a good book (or a good friend)? Sounds cozy, but is it a healthy place to be? We spend 1/3 of our lives sleeping so it’s important to make sure our bodies are resting in a healthy, nurturing environment. Lyn Falk will share information about creating a non-toxic and environmentally sound bedroom so that you can enjoy sweet dreams with peace of mind.

LINKING PLANT COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES IN THE MIDWEST
Speaker: Dr. Eric Thobaben, Assistant Professor, Biology, Carroll College
Tuesday, January 8
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
$5 (Members - free, donations appreciated)
Call to register, 964-8505

Wetland plant communities often vary as a function of their abiotic environments. Dr. Thobaben will present his dissertation research on a range of wetland plant communities in southwest Michigan with particular emphasis on linking water sources to different plant communities. The relative importance of water levels, acidity and nutrient availability in different wetland plant communities will also be discussed.

UEC BOOK CLUB
Saturdays, January 26 & February 23
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

Newcomers and ongoing participants are invited to come enjoy the conversation and refreshments.

January: Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv
February: In Defense of Food by Michael Pollan

ADULT BIRDING WORKSHOPS: BIRD PHYSIOLOGY
Part I: Saturday, January 26
3 - 4:30 p.m.
For adults
$10 (Members - $5)
Free for regular birding volunteers
Call to register, 964-8505

“Weight for weight, birds eat more food, consume more oxygen, move more rapidly, and generate more heat than any other vertebrates” (Joel Webley). We will look at the amazing adaptations birds have for dealing with these stresses before heading into Riverside Park for a twilight bird stroll. Binoculars provided.

CRYPTIC MATING BEHAVIOR IN BIRDS
Speaker: Dr. Linda Whittingham, Professor, Biology, UW-Milwaukee
Tuesday, February 12
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
$5 (Members - free, donations appreciated)
Call to register, 964-8505

Many species of birds form monogamous pair bonds but produce young sired by different males. This talk is about Dr. Whittingham’s research to understand why some males are more successful than others in siring young.

LIBRARY OF SUSTAINABILITY OPEN HOURS
Sundays, 12 - 2 p.m.
Mondays, 4-6 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

Remodeling, adding on, or building a new home? Visit our Library of Sustainability for ideas to beautify your home while honoring the environment. This is a hands-on library of sample products for home construction and interior decorating. Resource person available.

SATURDAY STEWARDS
Saturdays, January 12, 26, February 9 & 23
9 - 10:30 a.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

Kick off your weekend by volunteering at the Center! Enjoy small and large projects around the Center and in Riverside Park. Working together is a great way to connect with others. Individuals and small groups, young and old, everyone is welcome.

BURDOCK BRIGADE
Tuesdays and Saturdays, January 5, 19, February 2 & 16
9 - 10:30 a.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

Have a direct impact on our natural world by helping increase the biodiversity within the outdoor classroom of Riverside Park. The Burdock Brigade engages in hands on restoration activities such as removing exotic invasive plant species and planting native species.
**INTEREST GROUPS**

**EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS**
Thursdays
8 a.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

Interested bird watchers of all levels are invited to explore bird life with us. Binoculars available.

**FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD**
Wednesdays, January 9 & February 13
6 - 8 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

Share a potluck dinner and join the enthusiastic, informative discussion.

**URBAN STARGAZERS**
Thursdays, January 10 & February 14
6:30 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Join us for information and stargazing.

**KNITTING CIRCLE**
Sundays, January 13 & February 10
3 - 4:30 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
If you are new to knitting, or an experienced knitter, join us for coffee, good conversation and knitting.

**PATHS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**
Tuesday, January 15
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Tuesday, February 19
6 - 8 p.m.
For adults
Free - $5 suggested donation (Members: free, donations appreciated)
Child care provided at $6 (Members: $4 per child)
Call to register, 964-8505.

**THE YEAR OF PHENOLOGY**
continued from page 3

and food comes from the store. Some of us have the luxury of supplementing hear with fireplaces and wood stoves and food from a garden plot. Yet there is an easy way to become reconnected with land through phenology.

I am asking for your help to create a detailed phenology of Riverside Park and the Milwaukee River for 2008. As you walk through the park on your own or with a program and you see or hear or smell things, let us know. An easy way to do this is to write your observations on the white board at the Center's entrance. Or you can e-mail me at tvargo@urbanecologyscenter.org. In return, I will make these observations available to you on our website.

We can all learn from these observations. Whether it be using biological indicators to track global climate change or learning when the maples were right for tapping (for a hint see page 7).
NEW HORIZONS STUDENTS GO LONG
by Chad Thomack, Urban Adventures Coordinator

When people hear the word orienteering, many think of using a map and compass to find your way through an unknown environment, but one day last November it meant knowing which direction to run a football passing route.

It was a chilly day and I was working with a group of students from Shorewood’s New Horizons Charter School. This group of at-risk students come to the Center two days a week to learn about the environment, life, career possibilities and outdoor recreation skills. This day’s class was about orienteering.

Now getting high school students to be interested in learning how to use a map and compass can be like pulling buckthorn: a hard task that takes some patience and ingenuity. The class began with a short introduction on how to determine directions by using clues from nature, such as the sun, migrating birds or wind. Then students were introduced to basic compass skills.

Basic orienteering begins with the phrase “put red in the shed and follow Fred.” People wanting to orienteer should not find someone named Fred and follow him; rather “Fred” is the name given to the direction of travel arrow, “red” is the part of the needle that points to magnetic north and the “shed” is the inner arrow that is pointing at the 0 or 360 degrees on the compass dial.

This group of students just happened to be all boys and as we went out on that windy, cold day to use the compass I promised them we’d play football. It was icing on the cake for them. No matter what else I had planned, playing football got them to keep going. I was the quarterback and they would run routes based on degrees that I gave them. I’d shout “150° north” and they would have to figure out which way to run. If they didn’t run in the right direction, they didn’t get the ball. It was an instant hit and success. They had no idea that I had infused learning orienteering with football. They had so much fun they could have continued all afternoon.

As we walked to the van one student said, “now we are going to take Park Place east to Oakland Avenue north.” It was an infusion of science and sports. Who would have thought that playing football could be so educational.

ECO-FRIENDLY SNOW REMOVAL
continued from page 1

reusable. In addition, a vigorous morning shoveling will burn almost 500 calories an hour, making it healthy for you and our planet!

• Looking for a way to avoid slipping on icy surfaces? Consider using an environmentally friendly abrasive material such as sand or wood ash instead of chemical salts on your sidewalks. If you must melt the ice, try using Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) instead of rock salt. CMA is less harmful to vegetation, fish, aquatic life and soil. It is also advertised as being less corrosive than distilled water. If you’re having a hard time finding it, ask your local hardware or garden supply what they recommend for eco-friendly deicing.

• If you must use a snow blower, consider buying an electric and replace that old gas guzzler. They are great for patios, sidewalks and short driveways. Looking for something heavy duty? Honda makes a hybrid snow blower with emissions 30% lower than EPA Phase 2 standards. It has the best of both worlds: the power of a standard gasoline snow blower with a significantly lower environmental impact.

• Having trouble getting your car out of the alley? Leave it in the garage! Strap on a pair of cross country skis or grab your bus tickets and do yourself and the environment, a favor!

WALKING ON HISTORY
continued from page 1

Last November, I trekked to Everest’s Base Camp in Nepal. Contrary to what one might think, my eyes and ears were drawn down into the valley even more so than up toward the 29,035 foot peak. In an attempt to capture the power of stepping out of mountains onto the glacier, I wrote this in my journal:

“As we descended the lateral moraine to the Khumbu Glacier, you could hear a low rumbling sound like an avalanche or distant thunderstorm… only the sound was continuous, not intermittent. I searched [the slopes of a neighboring mountain called] Nuptse for evidence of a huge avalanche. Upon inquiry, Narendra, [our guide] responded, “Not an avalanche… the glacier is moving.” Incredible. As we neared the glacier, the low thunderous sound was drowned out by the rushing sound of a glacial river. The melting, trickling, rushing echoes of water accompanied us to base camp, occasionally interrupted by a sharp “pop” of ice splitting under pressure.”

The surface of the glacier was not snow and ice covered, as one might expect. Rather, most of the glacier’s surface was barely distinguishable from the rocky trails leading down to it. It was almost completely covered by rocks, ranging in size from sandy particles of soil to boulders as large as a car. All were being carried on this thunderous mass of ice. The glacial river ate blue, gray and white tunnels through the glacier. How many years will it take before the only evidence of this river will be a winding esker like the ones I’ve studied in Wisconsin? I thought. Then, we approached a massive boulder perched precariously upon a narrow pedestal of ice. I couldn’t help reflecting upon the glacial erratics commonly seen at home in fields, standing alone as if abandoned. Lovely.

This winter, as life with snow and ice begins to feel tedious, I hope to be able to share a perspective that appreciates the beauty created.
Frank Cumberbatch's Gift in Whole Foods Market
Wachovia Foundation
Urban Playground
David & Julia Uihlein Peck Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
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foundationS / Whole Foods Market
Sierra Club Building
REI
La Lune Collection
Beans & Barley
Community
Rosalie Bertocchi - Robert Bertocchi & Jeffrey Kasch
honor of…

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We’d like to thank those who have renewed their membership, began a new membership or purchased a gift membership. Your generosity is an important part of the Center’s support. Below are the people who gave above a membership.

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### Membership

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


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

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

### Donation (In addition to membership)

Please accept my gift to support:
- A community program ($50)
- One half day for a school class ($125)
- One full day for a school class ($250)
- A Citizen Science project ($500)
- Improved Riverside Park trails ($1,000)
- A school for one year ($5,000)
- Other $__________

Total Enclosed $____________

### Membership Form

Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City: ________________________________
State/Zip: _________________________
Phone: _____________________________
Email: ______________________________

My neighborhood park is
- Riverside
- Washington
- I love them all!

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](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org) and return it with this form to:

Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211


### Membership Benefits

- Discounts on programs
- Invitations to members only events
- Ability to borrow equipment
- One year newsletter subscription


### Donations

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- A Citizen Science project ($500)
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- A school for one year ($5,000)
- Other $__________

Total Enclosed $____________

### Join Our Community Today!

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

### WinterFest

Free for everyone
Noon - 4 p.m.
February 9
Saturday

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**Science Sundays**

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**Science Saturdays**

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**Friday Fires:**

Peter Mulvey

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**Art Show Opening:**

Gathering in the Wild

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

Open Hours:

| Monday - Thursday | 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. |
| Friday | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m. |

Hours:

| Monday - Thursday | 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. |
| Friday | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m. |

Visitors are invited to explore the Center's facilities and meet with staff and volunteers to learn about urban ecology and sustainability.
### URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

**February 2008**

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

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**Science Saturdays**
*Every Saturday*
- **Topic:** Learn About Snow
- **Schedule:**
  - 9a: Burdock Brigade
  - 10:30a: Volunteer Orientation
  - 1p: Animal Feeding Time

**Science Sundays**
*Every Sunday*
- **Topic:** Learn About Snow
- **Schedule:**
  - Noon: Library of Sustainability Open Hours
  - 12:30p: Warm Up in the Tipi
  - 2:30p: Open Climbs on the Tower Wall
  - 4p: Library of Sustainability Open Hours

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**Weekend Activities**
- **Every Saturday & Sunday**
  - Noon: Library of Sustainability Open Hours
  - 12:30p: Warm Up in the Tipi
  - 2:30p: Open Climbs on the Tower Wall

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**Adult Programs**
- **Every Saturday & Sunday**
  - Noon: Library of Sustainability Open Hours
  - 12:30p: Warm Up in the Tipi
  - 2:30p: Open Climbs on the Tower Wall

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**Winterfest:**
*Especially for Afternoon Nappers*
- **Schedule:**
  - 10a: Festival Noon
  - 1p: Animal Feeding Time
  - 3:30p: Adult Birding Workshops: Bird Physiology Part II

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**Cross Country Skiing at Kettle Moraine**
- **Every Saturday & Sunday**
  - Noon: Library of Sustainability Open Hours
  - 12:30p: Warm Up in the Tipi
  - 2:30p: Open Climbs on the Tower Wall
  - 3p: Knitting Circle

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**Saturday Stewards**
- **Every Saturday & Sunday**
  - Noon: Library of Sustainability Open Hours
  - 12:30p: Warm Up in the Tipi
  - 2:30p: Open Climbs on the Tower Wall
  - 3p: Knitting Circle

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**Friends of Real Food**
- **Every Saturday & Sunday**
  - Noon: Library of Sustainability Open Hours
  - 12:30p: Warm Up in the Tipi
  - 2:30p: Open Climbs on the Tower Wall
  - 3p: Knitting Circle

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**Intro to T’ai Chi**
- **Every Saturday & Sunday**
  - Noon: Library of Sustainability Open Hours
  - 12:30p: Warm Up in the Tipi
  - 2:30p: Open Climbs on the Tower Wall
  - 3p: Knitting Circle