“Oh yeah?” argues an inquisitive student, “Well, what about mosquitoes?” It’s a recurring question we are asked when teaching the importance of all species. Surely no human would think a mosquito’s role is more important than it is irritating!

But let’s step back to look at the big picture. David Quammen takes this answer beyond the typical “they are part of the food chain” scope. In his article “Sympathy for the Devil”, Quammen argues that we need to look beyond how mosquitoes impact humans. He claims the chief point of blame with mosquitoes, happens also to be the chief point of merit: They make tropical...
DROPLETS

✦ Annual fund drive update. We launched our Annual Fund Drive in November 2007. We have raised $234,000 so far through this essential effort to support the Center’s operations. With our fiscal year ending in August the Annual Fund campaign is entering the final push to the finish line. Please consider a gift today. These donations, above your basic membership dues, make it possible for many children and families who would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience nature in the city that. Use our new convenient online giving option or the form at the back of this newsletter.

✦ We are excited to announce the addition of two new Board members. We welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors in March. Carl Trimble and Will Nasgovitz have been serving as members of our stellar Finance Committee for over a year. Carl and Will have already made meaningful contributions of their time and resources through their committee service. We look forward to introducing them to you in the next newsletter and working with them in their new roles. Thank you to both for making the commitment to help govern the Center.

✦ Sad to see you go. Sara Vondrachek is the type of person who can brighten your day. A bit mischievous, she always has a joke or a play on words. Sara, a long-time Environmental Educator, is leaving us in June to return to school and train in the Montessori method. She joined the Center in 2004 as we opened our new building and expanded our program. Sara was a tremendous asset in that beginning year and the students loved her. As we grew, Sara took on more responsibilities; early mornings found her banding birds with our research program. We will miss her quick wit, great rapport with our students and her encouragement.

✦ Happy birthday to your child! Did you know that the Urban Ecology Center offers B’Earthyday Parties? We offer four themed parties for children age five and older on the weekends. At these parties kids will create, learn, play and explore indoors and outdoors. For more information, contact Jamie at 964-8505, x114.

✦ Welcome Lemetra Griffin, Facility Coordinator, and Lindy Meer, Bookkeeper! Lemetra worked at the Northside YMCA and previously supervised crews with the Milwaukee Community Service Corps. He brings needed maintenance, automotive and carpentry skills to the Center. Lindy joined our staff after working at Catholic Urban Academies. She has a strong accounting background and also volunteers as the Treasurer of the Pregnancy Help Center.

WISH LIST

For Riverside Park
If you have a donation for the Center in Riverside Park, please call Judy Krause, x102.
- Air compressor
- Animal heat rocks and heat pads
- Apple cider press
- Crayons, markers, pencils
- Electric golf cart
- Garden hoe
- Gently used sweatpants
- Irons (for clothing)
- Kayaks
- Paper that has printing on one side to be reused in our printers
- Rain ponchos/jackets for little kids
- Reptile basking light bulbs and infrared light bulbs
- Step stools - one, two, three steps
- Triple-Beam balance scales
- Used cell phones, print cartridges, video games, and digital cameras
- Waterproof or nylon pants (adult sizes M - XXL)

For Washington Park
If you have a donation for Washington Park, please call Joey Zocher, (414) 344-5460.
- Adult boots
- Bird Seed
- Clipboards
- Energy Star dehumidifier
- Field guides
- Film canisters
- Fishing nets
- Flat bed sheets
- GPS device
- Kites
- Kids boots
- Love seat
- Musical instruments - acoustic
- Old snow pants / sweatpants
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Puppets
- Stopwatches
- Sweatshirts
- Waterproof or nylon pants (adult sizes M - XXL)

Wish List

Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
(414) 964-8505
Fax: (414) 964-1084
uec@urbanecologycenter.org

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

Urban Ecology Center

Riverside Park 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 2100 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.

Our Mission
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.

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Fax: (414) 964-1084
uec@urbanecologycenter.org

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

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EVERY KID BELONGS IN SUMMER CAMP
by Beth Fetterley, Director of Education

Eight year old Sammy has just found a soft-shelled turtle along the Milwaukee River. It is visible only because it was startled when the group of summer campers came just close enough to this very well-camouflaged Riverside Park resident for it to make a run for the more protective waters. Sammy calls to his new friend, John, saying “Look at this turtle. What a weird nose!” The two excitedly watch as the turtle looks back for a moment then dives into the river. They giggle a little as the carapace disappears under the surface of the water.

Every week summer campers share memorable experiences like these, experiences that will likely bring them back to the park and will be a connection between the campers that they may not otherwise have. Why not? Because they come from different backgrounds and two sides of the Milwaukee River. As a community Center, serving diverse neighborhoods, we are blessed to be able to bring community members together from varied cultural, economic and social backgrounds. For kids exploring public green spaces, the amount of money their family makes absolutely does not matter, nor does the color of their skin or the lifestyle choices of their family. The joy of discovery and sharing in awe of nature’s quirks and beauty are what it’s all about.

Because building more connections between diverse communities in Milwaukee is so critical, and getting urban kids outdoors is at the core of our mission, the Urban Ecology Center offers scholarships to low-income families. As I write this article, we have many scholarships for our summer day camps still available. Spaces are available in Riverside Park camps and also in our newly launched summer camps in Washington Park. Thanks to the 4th annual summer camp scholarship fundraiser, led by Christi and John Clancy and Mary Allegre and David McMullen, and an amazing auction organized by Kate Muth, we have funds available again to offer these scholarships.

Please help us fill these spots! If you are a low income parent or know of low income families with kids through your neighborhood, work, church or through volunteering who would benefit from a scholarship to summer camp, contact us today. Please call Beth or Sarah at the Center for more information, share this article with them or have the family contact us directly. With your help we can fill our camps to capacity with a diverse group of kids to enjoy the wonders of summer outside in nature right here in the city!

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the “Get Snappy, Go Green” party hosted by Christi and John Clancy and Mary Allegre and David McMullen to benefit Urban Ecology Center summer camp scholarships. You helped raise over $14,000 so every child can explore the woods.

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VOLUNTEER CORNER
by Susan Winans, Volunteer Coordinator
Unless otherwise noted, please contact Susan at x110 or swinans@urbanecologycenter.org to sign up for the following opportunities

Garden with Joel. Dig in our butterfly, rooftop and rain gardens while learning about native vegetation and landscaping. Join our gardener, Joel Springsteen, weekday mornings from 9 a.m. - noon. Contact Susan, x110 for more information.

Rock Climbing Volunteer Training. Help others reach new heights! Join our team of trained rock climbing volunteers to help with various climbing programs. Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. See page 9 for details.

Do you find yourself telling others about the Center? Become a Community Ambassador and introduce the Center to participants at community events and festivals around Milwaukee. Interested volunteers can join us for a Community Ambassador training. See page 9 for details.

Bike to Work Week! Give bike commuters an extra boost of energy and encouragement during Bike to Work Week. Serve breakfast on the bike path and chat with cyclists on their way to work, weekday mornings, May 12-16th from 7 - 9 a.m. Please contact Chad, x115 if you are able to help.

Teen Adventure Challenge. On Saturday, June 7th, help teens race around the Milwaukee River watershed by foot, bike and canoe! Volunteers help with team registration, checkpoints along the course, equipment and serve lunch. Volunteers with the necessary training and/or certification may belay, lifeguard, kayak and offer first aid. Contact Susan, x110 to sign up.

Summer Camp Volunteers. Be a part of the summer camp excitement! Volunteers help with registration, share their unique skills and talents with groups of campers during the week or assist with scheduled activities such as canoeing and fishing. For more information or to volunteer contact Sarah, x125.
I’M IN THE WOODS - I’M S’POSED TO EXPLORE!

by Sarah Rohe, School Program Coordinator

It was a muddy day in the woods. The snow that had piled up all winter was melting, making it a perfect day to study the tracks that animals had left behind in the mud. One particularly excited 2nd grader, Kayana, was anxious to find any track she could. As she ran off the trail in search of more signs that animals had made, I asked her to come back to the group. Clearly disappointed that I had stopped her investigation, she yelled back “But I’m in the woods- I’m s’posed to explore!” I couldn’t help but smile.

Kayana put into words what we see all the time when taking a group of kids outside. A student finds a centipede by rolling over a dead log and curiosity takes over, compelling her to look under every log to discover what else she can find. Or a child notices the brilliant yellow and orange stripe on the head of a brave Golden-crowned Kinglet perched in the bushes just a couple feet away and suddenly each bird is a new treasure. New worlds are discovered just by taking kids outside and giving them the opportunity to explore.

Research has shown that children spending time exploring nature benefits them in many ways. In his book “Last Child in the Woods”, Richard Louv suggests that consistently spending time outdoors is beneficial to children’s spiritual, emotional and physical health. It can be as simple as turning off the TV and spending time in your own backyard or taking a walk to your neighborhood park.

So if you have a child or know a child (or even if you don’t!), go outside and do some exploring of your own. Spring is the perfect time to look for wildflowers or migrating birds, plant a garden or search for animal tracks in the mud.

DON’T HAVE A BOAT?...

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO OUR CANOE AND KAYAK LENDING POLICIES FOR 2008

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consumption and thank you for your support of the Center and our mission!

Due to the increased popularity of this program and safety concerns which have arisen in the past couple of years, we are making a few changes to our lending policy for canoes and kayaks. Don’t panic! Change can be a good thing! Read on for more details:

• In order to meet the increasing demand for our canoes and kayaks, we have added two new boats to our fleet! We will now be offering you a choice of one of three canoes or three kayaks for your convenience. In addition, we are replacing some of the older boats with newer and nicer ones for you to use. This means more opportunities and increased availability for our members!

• Secondly, Center staff will be monitoring water levels in the Milwaukee River to help warn you about potentially dangerous

conditions on the river. In times of intense flooding, we may ask you to take the boat to a different location where the water is less rough.

• Finally, beginning this year, we are requiring all members who wish to borrow a boat through our equipment lending program to attend a Center led boating program or participate in a 30-minute Water Safety Course and pass a written water safety test before using a boat. This is a one-time requirement; once you pass the test you will be certified to borrow any of our canoes and kayaks for the rest of your life. This policy is for your safety! We want to make sure you know how to deal with potential problems, including a capsized boat, before you get in the water. Center boating events are held weekly and water safety classes will be offered twice a week (on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings) throughout the summer to make it as easy as possible for you to attend a course. Please refer to page 6 for more details.

As always, the staff at the Urban Ecology Center is open to your comments and suggestions for improvement of our equipment lending program. Please contact Mike Larson at 964-8505, x126.
THE POWER OF PESTS

continued from page 1

rainforests, for humans, virtually uninhabitable. As rainforests were being cleared at an exponential rate for profit, this allowed for the preservation of at least a few. Interesting concept.

I was reminded of this piece the other day when I was discussing the activities in Washington Park with a friend over coffee. Specifically, I was talking about how excited I am regarding our lagoon restoration project starting this summer. In an effort to stop erosion, reduce the geese population, increase biodiversity and beautify the park, Milwaukee County has given $150,000 to help restore the Washington Park lagoon shoreline. In addition, the Student Conservation Association (SCA) has partnered with the Center and the Parks again this summer, bringing in eleven urban high school youth to work on this project. “Wow, how did you manage to pull that off,” questioned my naturally skeptical friend.

HOW DID WE PULL THESE RESOURCES TOGETHER?

We and others simply asked. The Center was only one of the organizations to ask Milwaukee County to spend the money they had in Washington Park. We reminded, maybe weekly, SCA how much fun we had last summer and asked if they wanted to return. Milwaukee County Parks also reminded the SCA how much they gained from working here last summer. We and the County Parks reminded the County how important Washington Park is as an ecosystem and a place for the community. As I listened to all of the different organizations and community members fight for the revitalization of Washington Park, I could hear the buzz in my ear.

The Center and mosquitoes have a lot in common: persistence, a solid reputation and a critical mass to swarm with. Indeed, sometimes being a pest is good for the environment! If you are interested in more information or would like to swarm with, I mean volunteer to help make the lagoon restoration project a success, please contact Joey at jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org, or 344-5460.

THANKS, IT’S BEEN A GREAT RIDE!

continued from page 1

numbers which bode well for his future in business. In the 60’s he worked for Roth Distributing, an appliance company where he eventually became treasurer and later Chairman. In 1976 he had a brainstorm, and with a small amount of seed money from Roth, he started a new manufacturing company in a barn in Waterloo. With five employees, he started making a steel touring bicycle frame to fill a gap he intuited between the popular Schwinn bikes and the imported Japanese bikes. He named the company Trek.

Under Dick’s leadership Trek grew into one of the largest bicycle companies in the world! Needless to say he acquired significant personal wealth. This is where Dick stands apart. As he put it, “If you are fortunate enough to gain resources in this world, you have a responsibility to give back to society”. Dick did this through his Trinity Foundation from which he realized his vision of supporting a triangle of urban education, youth and leadership development.

I knew none of this when we first talked. I just knew that I was talking to a very genuine man; a man who listened; a man who was exceptional; a man with whom I had immediate rapport.

A few months after those early meetings, Dick called and asked that I join him in the Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s offices where he housed the Trinity Foundation. I knew something was brewing, but had no idea exactly what.

Dick developed a very close relationship with many of us at the Center. For me he served as a friend and a mentor. He chaired our building design committee and, man, did we have fun. Slides into the building, hidden rooms, a tower, room for a tipi on the roof, unusual recycled materials - it was crazy! And he supported it all. He helped us buy our buses, helped us build our playground, helped us start Washington Park and helped us build our bridge. He helped us in so many, many ways. I will, we all will, really miss him.

Richard A. Burke, Founder and Chairman of Trek Bicycle Corporation, died peacefully March 10, 2008 at the age of 73 from complications following heart surgery. One of his final statements in the hospital when he knew he was going to die was, “Be sure to thank everyone, It’s been a great ride”.

Thanks to Dick Burke’s generosity, Urban Ecology Center students, and our members, can go out for a ride on one of our fleet of Trek bicycles.

(For a full recap of this amazing day in the life of the Center please visit www.urbanecologycenter.org/dickburke.) In short, our little ecology center in the city fit the Trinity triangle like a glove. Dick - totally unsolicited - offered to support our dream for a new building with two million dollars! All he asked in return was to join our board. “I’m an activist with my money, Ken”, he said, “You need not worry, I don’t need to control. I just like to be involved.”
MAY - JUNE CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise indicated, participants meet at the Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place. For general information call (414) 964-8505 or visit www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org. Scholarships are available for all fee-based programs, please contact Beth at 964-8505, 103, for details. Programs marked with an * require physical movement through an unpaved, wooded area. We are happy to work with you regarding accommodation. Please call Beth at 964-8505, 103, before signing up for a program if you have accessibility concerns.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### BICYCLER BREAKFAST
Weekday mornings
May 12 - 16
7 - 9 a.m.
For bicycle commuters
Free - donations appreciated

Thank you to bicycle commuters for reducing consumption of fossil fuels! We’ll treat you to breakfast at the Urban Ecology Center. Join fellow bike commuters for free breakfast on the Oak Leaf Recreational Trail.

### BICYCLER BREAKFAST CELEBRATION
Saturday, May 17
9 - 10:30 a.m.
For bicycle commuters
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

Bike-to-work-week culminates at the Center with a Saturday morning celebration. Socialize with other bicycle commuters and share your bicycling goals for the rest of the season! Breakfast is provided.

### AN EVENING WITH MARILYN CLEMENS
Tuesday, June 3
6 - 8 p.m.
For adults
$5 for Urban Ecology Center or Alliances Françaises members
(Nonmembers - $10)
Call to register, 964-8505

Meet Marilyn Clemens, an urban designer, landscape architect and writer. Marilyn is an international leader in urban design and landscape architecture. Her presentation will focus on new Parisian gardens built on abandoned industrial lands as part of large urban design projects (Citroen, Bercy, La Villette, Belleville, the Promenade Plantee and the Atlantic Garden). Brought to you by the Federation of Alliances Françaises USA, Alliance Française de Milwaukee and the Urban Ecology Center.

### TEEN ADVENTURE CHALLENGE*
Saturday, June 7
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
For teams of 4 teens with an adult accompaniament
$60 per team
Registration required by May 23rd, call 964-8505

Defy everyone’s expectations! Try this adventure race for co-ed teams of 4 teens and an adult. Bike, hike, rock climb, canoe the Milwaukee River and take part in mystery events! T-shirt and lunch included. Contact Chad at cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org. Come to volunteer, contact Susan at swinans@urbanecologycenter.org. Or just come to cheer the teams on along the route!

### SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION ON THE HILL
Thursday, June 21
6:30 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated

Celebrate the solstice by drumming, sharing poetry and witnessing the sunset with local artist Harvey Taylor. Meet on the top of the “sledding hill”. Bring a drum (or use one of ours), a favorite song or poem to share and a blanket to sit on.

## URBAN ADVENTURES

### OPEN CLIMBS ON THE TOWER WALL
Tuesdays, May 13 - June 3
4 - 6 p.m.
Sundays, June 15 - 29
3 - 5 p.m.
For everyone
Adults: $10
(Nonmembers - $15)
Children: $8
(Nonmembers - $12)
Registration required, call 964-8505

Unwind after school or work by climbing on our three story rock wall! Harnesses and belayers provided. All climbers must have a completed and signed waiver provided. All climbers must have a completed and signed waiver before climbing, available at www.urbanecologycenter.org. Please call ahead to register, no walk-ins.

### RIVER RHYTHMS CANOE TRIP*
Wednesdays, June 11 - August 27
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Adults: $25
(Nonmembers - $30)
Children: $15
(Nonmembers - $20)
Call to register, 964-8505

Paddle down the Milwaukee River to Pere Marquette Park. Enjoy music and festivities at River Rhythms, then paddle back. Dress for the weather. Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boat House (1990 N. Commerce St.) Each week fills quickly so sign-up early!

June’s performers are:
June 4 - Daryl Stuermer
Fusion guitarist.
June 11 - Steve Cohen
Blues.
June 18 - Swing Nouveau
Big band and swing tunes of the 30’s, 40’s, 50’s & 90’s.
June 25 - 5 Card Stud
Lounge music.

For more information about River Rhythms visit www.westown.org

### WATER SAFETY COURSE FOR CANOE LENDING PROGRAM
Wednesdays, May 14 & 28, 6 - 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays, June 12, 19 & 26, 6 - 6:30 p.m.

For those members who wish to borrow our canoes, but open to everyone
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - $5)
Registration required, call 964-8505

Interested in borrowing our canoes? Come take a 30 minute water safety course to make sure that you are ready to get out on the water. This is a requirement of the canoe/kayak lending program.

### 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, at the discretion of the trip leader.
WASHINGTON PARK:

NEST QUEST WORKSHOP: WASHINGTON PARK
Saturday, May 3
7:45 a.m. - noon
For families with children ages 8 and older
Free - donations appreciated
Washington Park
Cornell University and the Center are looking for individuals and families to participate in a national pilot program to monitor birds nesting in your neighborhood. Participants become “citizen scientists,” learning how to collect data that will be used by the world’s most renowned bird scientists.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

PLEASE NOTE: THE URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON MEMORIAL DAY, MONDAY, MAY 26, AND WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON SATURDAY, JUNE 21.

CHICAGO’S GREEN FESTIVAL
Saturday, May 17
9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
For everyone
$50 per person
Meet us at:
East end of the Home Depot Parking lot on Port Washington Road (9:10 a.m.) or Brown Deer Road Park and Ride (9 a.m.)
Register by May 14th, call 964-8505
Celebrate with us at Chicago’s Green Festival! Travel by deluxe motor bus with folks from the Center, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center and Riveredge Nature Center. Get inspired, have fun and learn about greening your life. Events include how-to workshops, green films, a green career session, green businesses, organic food and live music. Go to www.greenfestivals.org for more information. Fee includes travel, entry to the festival and dinner at the Parthenon. For more information contact Barbara Gilmore at (262) 284-4286 or BDGIL2210@aol.com.

NATURE DETECTIVES*
Sundays, May 25 & June 29
2 - 3:30 p.m.
For everyone
$4 or $12 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers - $7 or $24 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.

WONDERFUL WATER*
Sunday, June 22
1 - 2:30 p.m.
For kids ages 5 & older accompanied by an adult
$4 or $12 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers - $7 or $24 for families of 4 or more)
Call to register, 964-8505
Learn about water, do some fun experiments and take a hike to the Milwaukee River.

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 & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts.
May: Learn about amphibians and what makes them so interesting.
June: Summer is a time when butterflies flutter through the air. Learn about butterflies and try to catch some in Riverside Park.

FAMILY SERIES:

A WORLD OF CLIMBING*
Sunday, May 18
2 - 4 p.m.
For families
$5 or $15 for families of 4 or more
(Nonmembers - $8 or $30 for families of 4 or more)
Registration required by May 16th, call 964-8505
Come with your family and climb the spider web or the Center’s climbing wall and learn about some things that climb in nature.

FINDING YOUR WAY
Sunday, June 15
For families with children ages 7 and older
$5 or $15 for families of 4 or more
(Nonmembers - $8 or $30 for families of 4 or more)
Registration required by June 13th, call 964-8505
Kids and parents will work together to learn how to use a compass and navigate to a hidden treasure in the park.

HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORERS

MILWAUKEE RIVER TEEN HIKE*
Saturday, May 17
3 - 5 p.m.
For teens
$5
Call to register, 964-8505
Join other teens for an afternoon hike along the Milwaukee River.

ART AT UEC

THE TOOLS THREE ARTISTS USE TO EXPRESS THEIR VISION
Opening: Sunday, May 4
2 - 4 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
Show runs through late June
Carolyn Snow uses vivid acrylic paints layered with materials found in nature, sometimes expressionistic, often primitive. Leanne de Muijnck’s “Icescapes” is an amazing series of black and white abstract nature photography. Nancy Aten has realigned her work with her ecological passions and crafts small monotypes, using materials from nature and watercolor field sketches.

URBAN WILDERNESS PROJECT
Opening: Sunday, July 6
2 - 4 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
Show runs through late September
Eddie Daniel’s Urban Wilderness Project uses photography to promote the interrelationship of urban and natural environments. The project celebrates the joy of experiencing nature in an urban setting, documents conditions within the Milwaukee River watershed and proposes a vision for the preservation and restoration of natural areas. More about the project and his work can be seen at www.eddeedaniel.com.
ECO-HOMES SERIES:

SAFE SLEEPING
Monday, May 12
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults
$20 (Members - $15)
Call to register, 964-8505
Snuggling up in bed with a good book 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. Our experts will share information about creating a non-toxic and environmentally sound bedroom.

NATURAL LAWSNS
Tuesday, June 9
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
$20 (Members - $15)
Call to register, 964-8505
Join Amy Joyce, Co-Director of Healthy Communities Project, for a workshop on how to create a beautiful, sustainable lawn that is safe for your family, pets and the environment.

LIBRARY OF SUSTAINABILITY OPEN HOURS
Sundays, Noon - 2 p.m.
Mondays 4-7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
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 home construction and interior decorating. Resource person available.

BIRD BANDING*
Tuesdays, May 6, 13 & 20
Early mornings
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call Tim Vargo x116 for information or to register
Join us for coffee and an up-close look at migratory birds.

SNAKE SURVEYS*
Wednesdays, May 7, 21 & June 4
6 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
(Call Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
Riverside Park is one of the few remaining areas where the Butler’s Garter Snake thrives. Put on your scientist hat and join us for a survey of the park’s snake community. Dress for the weather and wear clothes that can get pooped on!

BIG BIRD DAY IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY*
Thursday, May 8
8 a.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
No, not the yellow bird from Sesame Street. Help us count as many birds as we can find in Milwaukee County in one day in this fun research challenge. We’ll visit birding hot spots until we drop. Bring a lunch.

BUTLER’S GARTER SNAKE LECTURE
Sunday, May 11
3 - 4:30 p.m.
For adults
$5 (Nonmembers - $8)
Call to register, 964-8505
Learn about our research on the threatened Butler’s Garter Snake in Riverside Park and the overall condition of these snakes here.

OUT OF SIGHT BUT ON OUR MINDS:
Milwaukee County Zoo Acting Locally and Globally
Speaker: Craig Berg, Curator - Reptile & Aquarium, Milwaukee County Zoo
Tuesday, May 13
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
When people think of the Zoo they usually imagine displays of exotic animals, but did you know that the majority of Zoo conservation projects have been devoted to Wisconsin’s wildlife? Learn about their conservation programs.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY BANDING*
Saturday, May 17
5 - 11 a.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
Join people all over the world in celebrating the birds that transcend political boundaries and help make the world a smaller place. You may even be able to thank a bird as you release it from your hand. Please call Tim Vargo x116 for details.

BRAZIL: VICARIOUSLY
Thursday, May 22
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
Join Cheri and Tom Briscoe, UEC volunteers, to hear about an eco-tour of three very different regions of Brazil - Iguacu Falls in the south, the Pantanal in the central west region and the Amazon. They will give an overview of the ecology, beauty and challenges of this fragile diverse, land.

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER BOOK CLUB
Saturdays, May 24 & June 28
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
The Bookclub meets once a month to discuss an environmentally themed book. Come enjoy the conversation and refreshments.
May: Blessed Unrest by Paul Hawken.
June: Three Cups of Tea by G. Mortenson & D.O. Relin.

BIRD WORKSHOPS:
BIRD SONG
Part I:
Thursday, May 29, 6:30 p.m.
Part 2:
Thursday, June 26, 7 p.m.
For adults
$5 (Nonmembers - $10)
Free for birding volunteers
Call to register, 964-8505
This lecture will explore the mechanisms behind bird vocalizations and will be followed by a twilight bird-watching stroll.

BIRDING BY CANOE
Saturday, May 31
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
For adults
$25 (Nonmembers - $30)
Call to register, 964-8505
Join us as we paddle the upper stretches of the Milwaukee River on the lookout for spring migrants. Bring a lunch and water. Canoes, paddles and PFDs provided.

THE BADGER #2 FISH-STOCKING CAR
Speaker: Don Meyer, Manager, Mid-Continent Railway Museum
Tuesday, June 10
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
(Call Nonmembers - $5)
Before proper road systems, fish were transported for stocking in the luxury of custom designed rail cars. This presentation features the design and use of Badger #2, a rail car operated from 1891-1935 by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, as well as recent plans for restoration and exhibition by the Mid-Continent Railway Museum.

DNR FROG & TOAD SURVEY
Tuesday, May 27
8 p.m. - midnight
For adults & accompanied children
Call to register, 964-8505
Help add to the DNR’s statewide database of frogs and toads, run by citizen scientists. Dress for the weather and wear footwear that can get muddy. We will cover western and southern Milwaukee County.
Early Morning Birdwalks*
Thursdays
8 a.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Interested bird watchers are invited to explore with us.

Urban Echo Poets
Thursdays, May 8 & June 12
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills.

Urban Stargazers
Thursdays, May 8 & June 12
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Join us for information and stargazing.

Friends of Real Food
Wednesdays, May 14 & June 11
6 - 8 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Share our potluck dinner and enthusiastic discussion.

Urban Stargazers
Thursdays, May 8 & June 12
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Join us for information and stargazing.

Vegetarian Potluck
Thursdays, May 15 & June 19
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Bring a plate and fork along with your meatless dish to pass.

Paths to a Sustainable Future
Tuesdays, May 20 & June 17
6 - 8 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
(Call to register, 964-8505)
May: Potluck & Discussion: Visions of Post-Carbon Milwaukee. Please bring a dish to pass (dinnerware provided) and your vision of life in Milwaukee after a transition away from fossil fuels.
June: Film Screening - Escape from Suburbia. The sequel to the award-winning film, The End of Suburbia, about the future of the American dream after the oil age. This film focuses on viable alternatives for communities working at the local level.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Orientation
Saturdays, May 3, June 14 & Friday, June 20
10:30 a.m. - noon
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
(Call to register, 964-8505)
Learn about our programs and how to get involved.

Burdock Brigade
Tuesdays and Saturdays, May 3, 17, June 5 & 19
9 - 10:30 a.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
(Call to register, 964-8505)
Have a hands on impact on our natural world by helping increase the biodiversity Riverside Park.

Saturday Stewards
Saturdays, May 10, 24, 31, June 14 & 28
9 - 10:30 a.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
(Call to register, 964-8505)
Start your weekend by volunteering! Please sign up.

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10:30 a.m. - noon
For adults & accompanied children
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For adults & accompanied children
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Start your weekend by volunteering! Please sign up.
Often we come across astounding, breathtaking photos of astronomical objects (galaxies, nebulae, star clusters, etc.) in astronomy magazines. However, the views we typically get from most amateur telescopes do not resemble these photos. We are frequently asked about this difference at our public viewing sessions, so I am going to briefly address this question here.

Astronomical objects emit light in a wide range of colors, each corresponding to a particular energy of electromagnetic radiation. With our naked eyes, we see only a tiny part of their light, often called the “visible-region” of the electromagnetic spectrum. Our eye is the detector of this light and has a limited range which it can see (the visible-region). To get information from the rest of the light emitted by the universe, we need detectors that are able to capture this light. This is accomplished in advanced telescopes by attaching special instruments capable of detecting light in various energies.

Hubble Space telescope (HST) is one such telescope, producing brilliant color images of the universe. The final color images from the HST are produced by a complex process. Hubble doesn’t use a film. Rather, its cameras record light from the universe with special electronic detectors. These detectors produce images of the cosmos not in color, but in shades of black and white. Finished color images are actually combinations of two or more black-and-white exposures to which color has been added during image processing. These final images contain information from the light in the “visible-region” plus those that are invisible to human eye, such as ultraviolet and infrared light.

Cosmic Colors
by Sujatha Govindarajan, Community Volunteer, Urban Stargazers

Color in Hubble images is used to highlight interesting features of the celestial object. Combinations of red, green and blue are added to the original black and white images. When mixed together, these three colors can simulate almost any color of light that is visible to human eyes. That’s how televisions, computer monitors and video cameras recreate colors.

The colors in Hubble images, assigned for various reasons, aren’t always what we’d see if we were able to visit the imaged objects in a spacecraft. We often use color as a tool, either to enhance an object’s detail or to visualize what ordinarily could never be seen by the human eye.

Want to know what you’re seeing in the night sky? Visit our website at www.urbanecologcenter.org to find a calendar of star gazing events.

Planning your summer fun? Don’t forget...

Canoeing the River
Playing on the Spiderweb
Hiking the Trails
Climbing the Tower Wall
The Urban Ecology Center receives a majority of its support from local foundations, corporations and individuals. This page of our newsletter is reserved each issue to thank you and the many supporters of the Center. **The names listed are those that made a contribution to the Urban Ecology Center in the two months since our last newsletter.**

We thank those of you who have begun a new membership, renewed your membership or given a gift membership. Since our membership has grown to 2200 households we no longer can list all of our new and renewing members here. When space is available we will print the list of in kind donations. Rest assured we appreciate every donation and membership and are working hard to make your investment in the Center produce results 7 days a week, 357 days of the year! Call Ginger at the Center if your name has not appeared as you expected.

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**
Beans & Barley 
beansandbarley.com 
Clark Graphics 
clark-graphics.com/ 
The Jasen Group 
jasengroup.com 
Harry W Schwartz 
bookshops.schwartzbooks.com 
Lake Park Lutheran Church 
lakeparklutheran.org 
Murray Hill 
Neighborhood Association 
Outpost Natural Foods 
outpostnaturalfoods.coop 
Plymouth Church 
plymouth-church.org 
REI res.com 
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church 
strmarksmilwaukee.org 
Sierra Club Building 
Environmental Community Program 
wisconsin.sierraclub.org/ 
Trek Bicycle Corp. 
trekbikes.com 
Water Tower Landmark 
Trust, Inc. 
We Energies 
we-energies.com 
Whole Foods Market 
wholefoodsmarket.com/ 
Wheel & Sprocket 
wheelandsprocket.com

**FOUNDATIONS / CORPORATIONS**
Alterra Coffee Roasters 
growing systems/ 
Greater Milwaukee Foundation – Trinity 
Foundation Fund 
Godfrey & Kahn 
Leaf Ltd. 
McKey Perforating Co. 
onemanhecoconutbean.com 
Starbucks Coffee Company

**GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...**
Dick Burke 
- Doug Amenson 
- Lester Bineger 
- Peter & Katharine Copps 
- Dana P. Corbett 
- Laura Cornell 
- Kenneth & Dianne Dietz-Artmann 
- Bruce & Gail Harms 
- Chris Geigel 
- Keith Laughlin 
- Jane Moore 
- W.T. & J.E. Moorman 
- Brian A. Nygren 
- Dawn F. Palford 
- Joseph & Donna Sieftes 
- Mike Sinyard 
- Joseph E. Tierney III 
Richard Stermbeger 
- Kenneth & Sharon Sedmak 
- Beth Hilderbrand 
- Lucy Morgan 
- Jack & Margaret Bartness 
- DJ & Meg Lee

**CLANCY PARTY**
Mary Allegre & David McMullen 
Alterra Coffee Roasters 
Debra Anguil & Jamie A. Andriace 
Melanie Ariens & Joel Peregrine 
Margaret A. & Andrew P. Baniukiewicz 
Stephen R. & Pamela S. Bednarczyk 
The Bengta Family 
Jeffrey Berry 
Patrick Bivins 
Breadsmith 
Sandy Bruss 
Cafe 1505 
Liam & Susan Callanan 
John & Mary Chandler 
George & Ricki Clark 
Andrew & Ellen Cook 
Jim & Katrina Cox 
John DePoy & Marian J. Singer 
Trevor D'Souza & Maureen Devine D'Souza 
Julie Dunn 
Timothy & Margie Edwards 
Mike Eitel & 
Bela Roongra Eitel 
Stacey Fleming 
Tom & Ann Gaeta 
Patricia Geiger 
Karen Geiger 
Shel & Danni Gendelman 
Tim Gerend & Sandy Hellman 
Robert & Liz Graumann 
Jeanie & Paul Grunau 
Susan Han Paul & 
William Paul 
Dave & Shelly Heller 
Peter & Amy Hellmann 
Helen & Bruce Hanson 
Lorraine Jacobs 
Amy Joyce 
Kevin P. & Andrea C. Kenealey 
Jane Kim 
David & Karen Kornreich 
David & Laura Koziol 
Larry's Market 
Josh & Teresa Levy 
Lance & Langsy & Cathy Perkins 
Robert Lyon 
Kirk & Nancy McFarlin 
Cheryl and Blake Moret & 
Tracy Oels Moret 
Katherine & Martin Murray 
Kate, Ken & Michael Muth 
Eileen Nyholt 
Kelly & Brian O'Neill 
William Orange & 
Maria Champagne 
Katie Panell 
David & Ann Pasterski 
Barb Paulini 
James Lynda Peterson 
Mark Pfalzgraf & 
Tracy Wilkins 
Pizza Shuttle 
The Primack Family 
Paul T. & Julie A. Raell, Jr. 
Karen & Peter Sands 
Stephanie Sandy & 
Allan Montezon 
Sendik's Meguon 
Sendik's Downer 
Scott & Jennifer Sevenich 
Steve Smith 
Soup Market 
Heidi Sperti 
St. Paul Co. 
Alexander Starrett 
John Strassman 
Martha Davis Kipka & Family 
Lois Ellen Debink 
Rachel Dickman 
David & Roberta Drews & 
Family 
Laurence J. Dupuis 
Sally Edgert 
David Felland & 
Diana DelRosso 
Geralyn Flick 
John Honsheim 
Virginia Franke 
Tom & Amy Fritz 
David & Margarita Harvey 
Jill & Mal Herburn 
Scott Humble 
Paul Hunter & Sophie Kramer 
Pat Jorin 
Judy Junin & Ed Szopinski 
Maureen Kane 
Karen Katz & Niles Roberts 
Demaris & Gonzan Kenwood 
Deborah Kern 
Judy Knight & Al Rank 
James Koneczny 
Jerry & Kathy Krause 
Lindsay Krchma 
Harvey Kurtz & 
Yvonne Lamee 
Mary Jo Layden 
Jean McKay 
Walter & Mary Ann Neevel 
Karen Siegel 
SHARE Mitten Plus Club 
Robin Squier 
Mary Lou Stebbins 
Mary Steerton 
Jody Steren 
West Allis Women's Club 
Maria Zanoni

**WASHINGTON PARK INKIND DONORS**
Clark Consulting, 
Lynn Allen 
Maria Donatini/ 
La Lune Collection 
Keith & Ann Hacker
JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP

Renew or begin your membership, 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.

Give a membership:

☑ Individual ($25) includes guest ☐ Family ($35) ☐ Student ($12)

Recipient 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 and return it with this form to:

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

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 ________________

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

EVERY KID BELONGS IN SUMMER CAMP.

see page 3 for details.

YOU CAN HELP?

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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**Science Sundays**
- **(every Sunday, 12:30-4:30p)**
  - **topic:** Butterflies

**Science Saturdays**
- **(every Saturday, 9:30a-4:30p)**
  - **topic:** Butterflies

**Open Hours**
- **Library of Sustainability**
  - **4-7p**

**Events**
- **12-2p Library of Sustainability Open Hours**
  - **10:30a Volunteer Orientation**
  - **12p Burdock Brigade**
  - **2p Nature Detectives**

**Additional Details**
- **Contact the Center for details:** (414) 964-8505 or visit www.urbanecologycenter.org.
- **Open Hours:** Monday - Thursday 9a-7p, Friday - Saturday 9a-5p, Sunday 12 noon-5p.
- **UeC closes at noon on the summer solstice.**

**Other Important Notes**
- **Teen Adventure Challenge**
- **Animal Feeding Time**
- **Birdwalk**
- **River Rhythms Canoe Trip**
- **Volunteer Orientation**
- **Book Club**
- **Eco-Homes Series:**
  - **Natural Lawns**
  - **Paths to a Sustainable Future**
- **Community Meetings**
  - **Riverside Neighborhood Association**
  - **Murray Hill Neighborhood Association**

**Theme Days**
- **Science Sundays**
- **Science Saturdays**

**Additional Information**
- **March Ivanhoe**
- **Bird Workshops**
- **Birding Tour**
- **River Rhythms Canoe Trip**
- **Volunteer Orientation**
- **Library of Sustainability Open Hours**

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**Contact Information**
- **Urban Ecology Center Programs June 2008**
- **4-7p Library of Sustainability**
- **12-2p Library of Sustainability**

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**Urban Ecology Center Programs June 2008**
- **Contact the Center for details:** (414) 964-8505 or visit www.urbanecologycenter.org.
- **Open Hours:** Monday - Thursday 9a-7p, Friday - Saturday 9a-5p, Sunday 12 noon-5p.