How many of us can recall hours of wandering through the outdoors as children? Most of my peers, my parents’ peers and my grandparents’ peers can point to time when they roamed free, without expectations and rules, through their neighborhoods and adjacent green spaces. Whether in a local park, forest or backyard garden, all that mattered was the exploration. We caught frogs, built forts and chased sticks down streams along street gutters. And think of what we learned! I learned that the little chorus frog I stuck in my pocket could propel itself in one giant leap away from me as soon as it had the chance — much to my grandmother’s chagrin, as the direction of its flight landed the tiny anuran on her head as she was playing her hand of hearts. Not only can I recall images of vibrant red, blue and green leafhoppers, the smell of...
**URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER**

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

Contributing writers: John Clancy, Jamie Ferschinger, Beth Fetterley, Suajatha Govindarajan, Ken Leinbach, Emily Michi, Scott Stromberger and Susan Winans.

River Reflections is a publication of the Urban Ecology Center. The Urban Ecology Center is a 501(c)3 tax exempt nonprofit organization. Its facility and programming are made possible through the generous annual contributions of 82 foundations and corporations, over 2200 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, visit our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org or call Ginger Duiven at x106.

The Urban Ecology Center educates and inspires people to understand and value nature as motivation for positive change, neighborhood by neighborhood.

Our environmental community centers:

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

**Urban Ecology Center**

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

Hours of operation:
- Monday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Tuesday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.
- Sunday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.

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

Hours of operation:
- Tuesday - Friday: 4 - 7 p.m.
- Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

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**DROPLETS**

- Bring your family down to the Urban Ecology Center for some winter fun!

  **Want to go sledding?** Borrow our sleds and race down the hill.

  **Want to take a quiet hike through the woods?** Members can borrow snowshoes and cross country skis for free from 3 - 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday or for up to three days over the weekend.

  **Are you at home mom or dad getting cabin fever?** Make a play date with another parent at the Urban Ecology Center. Pack a snack or come with your brown bag lunch and enjoy the comfy couch in front of the fireplace while your little ones enjoy some of the Center’s toys or explore. Or check out one of our activity backpacks from the reception desk and learn about the plants and animals that live in the park.

  Remember, hot chocolate, coffee and tea are on hand all day!

- **Congratulations to Jennifer Callaghan,** Citizen Science volunteer and Research Intern for the Urban Ecology Center, for winning a statewide award for Outstanding Achievements in Citizen-Based Monitoring, presented annually by the Citizen-Based Monitoring Network of Wisconsin. Jennifer has taken a leading role in our small-mammal, turtle and migratory bird monitoring projects, logging over 500 hours this year and more than 1200 hours over the past three years.

- **Congratulations to Beth Fetterley,** our Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning, for winning the Roger Tory Peterson Institute’s top tier Blanche Hornbeck citation for outstanding work in nature education. Beth’s work in place-based, nature-based education was described as innovative and current, something that other educators could use to improve their own programs. We are extremely proud to have an award winning leader at our Center.

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**WISH LIST**

**For Riverside Park**

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

- 3 umbrella stands
- 30 pairs of lightweight welding goggles
- 8x10 picture frames in good condition
- Adult gloves and mittens
- Air compressor
- Alka-seltzer
- Animal heat rocks and heat pads
- Bocce Ball set
- Cornstarch
- Dandelion diggers
- Electric or Diesel Grounds “Utility” Vehicle (not a car or truck)
- Gardening/work gloves
- Hand clippers
- Hand towels
- Ice auger
- Ice cream buckets
- Ice skates
- Kayaks
- Kernel popcorn
- Large attractive ceramic planters for indoor potted plants (12” - 24”)
- Lockable 2-drawer file cabinets
- Nylon pants
- Open trailer for hauling
- Projector screen
- Rain ponchos/jackets for little kids (kindergarten - 3rd grade)
- Reptile basking light bulbs and infrared light bulbs
- Scooter (moped)
- Skate skis
- Sleds
- Small all occasion gift bags
- Used cell phones, print cartridges, video games and digital cameras
- Waterproof pants for kids

**For Washington Park**

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

- Hybrid car
- Buckets
- Field guides
- Film canisters
- Fishing nets
- Fishing poles
- Flat bed sheets
- Garden hoses
- GPS device
- Hip waders
- Hip wader drying racks
- Kites
- Kids boots
- Locking storage units
- Musical instruments - acoustic
- Old towels and rags
- Old snow pants / sweatpants
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Sleds
- Sprinklers
- Sweatshirts
- Winter adult boots
SUPPORT LOCAL AT THE LOCAL FARMER OPEN HOUSE
by Jamie Ferschinger, Community Program Coordinator

Without realizing it, the importance of supporting the local economy was instilled in me at a young age. Throughout the years I would watch my father read labels, turn over items to see where they were made and ask questions about the wheres and hows of the products and services he was considering. I noticed that, given the choice, my father would choose a local company or product over a nationally or globally produced one. As a child, I did not think much about these choices, but now I do the same thing! And as an adult I understand the wisdom and importance of supporting local. As we navigate through the uncertainty of the current economic climate, supporting local seems to come to the front in more and more of my recent conversations. Investing in your own community makes sense!

Eating locally produced foods is an important way of supporting the local economy and eating well. A great number of people within our community realize this; over 700 people visited our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Open House last year at which they were able to sign up to become a member and receive food weekly from a local CSA farm.

Feedback from Open House visitors within the last couple years has revealed that, in addition to information on CSAs, there is an overwhelming demand for information on other local food producers who provide products such as meat, dairy, honey, fruit and eggs. In response to the feedback and the increasing interest in local foods, we are expanding the next Open House. In addition to CSA farmers, the March 7th 2009 CSA and Local Food Open House will include farmers who offer meats, dairy, honey, fruit and eggs.

We are excited to include these other local food producers in the event. Come and meet the farmers, ask them questions, and learn how you can get locally produced foods. Mark you calendars and I hope to see you March 7th. Buy local!

A PROBLEM AND AN OPPORTUNITY
by Scott Stromberger, Community Program Coordinator & Emily Michi, Environmental Educator

“POOP”, “NAY NAY”, “DOOKIE”, and my favorite “BOO BOO” and always “ewww gross” — this is the way most of our field trips begin in Washington Park. As they are saying their feet begin what I like to call the “scat dance”, hopping this way and that to avoid stepping in scat. Students spend more time being concerned about not stepping in scat than actually learning about nature!

As our unofficial mascot, the Canada goose has literally left its mark on Washington Park. Geese enjoy the luxury of freshly cut grass clippings, large areas of open space and access to our 11-acre lagoon. In return our feathered friends leave behind large amounts of goose scat — over 200 pounds a day! What seemed like a no-win situation has turned into a really cool learning opportunity for our kids. In fact, managing the goose population has become a learning experience for us adults as well.

In an attempt to focus the kids’ attention, I give a little scat talk at the beginning of each field trip. I start by mentioning that we are scientists and we call it “scat”. Then we talk about how scientists study scat to learn more about the animals that left it behind. I point out that I walk through the park everyday and never worry about stepping on it, even though I am sure that I have lots of times. Given the goose’s vegetarian diet, their scat doesn’t play host to infectious pathogens commonly associated with other water fowl. And as a bonus, it doesn’t stick to your shoes.

In return our feathered friends leave space and access to our 11-acre lagoon. Geese enjoy the luxury of freshly cut grass clippings, large areas of open space and access to our 11-acre lagoon. In return our feathered friends leave behind large amounts of goose scat — over 200 pounds a day! What seemed like a no-win situation has turned into a really cool learning opportunity for our kids. In fact, managing the goose population has become a learning experience for us adults as well.

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Volunteer for Winterfest 2009 on Saturday, February 7th! Help our community celebrate the winter season. Volunteers working outside will assist with winter sports. Those who prefer to be indoors will greet visitors, serve food and warm beverages, or lead children’s activities. Contact Susan at x110 to sign up for a shift.

Show your love for winter at the Washington Park branch Winter Wonderland Festival on Saturday, February 14th. Help with indoor or outdoor activities during this new festival. Contact Scott at 244-5460 to sign up for a shift between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Can you come out and play at our Washington Park Branch with our neighborhood kids? Lead outdoor activities like skiing, snowshoeing and sledding the second Friday of each month between 4 and 7 p.m. If interested, contact Scott, at 244-5460.

Snow shovellers. Join the staff in the morning before programs start to shovel the walkways surrounding our building and help us get ready for the public. Please contact Chris at x150 for more information.

Excited about what the Center is doing? Join a group of volunteers who represent the Center at events in the Milwaukee community and spread the word about all the cool things we’ve got going. Contact Nikiya at x104 for more information.

Save these dates! We will be looking for volunteers to help us with the following events: Community Supported Agriculture Open House on March 7th, Earth Day on April 18th, and the Teen Adventure Challenge on June 6th. Contact Susan at x110 for more information.

Continued on page 4
A PROBLEM AND AN OPPORTUNITY

At this point I offer them a chance to join my scar club. It is simple; all they have to do is step on a piece of goose scar. For joining my club they get a high five. Of course we always talk about how goose scar is not like dog scar, which is very sticky and something we don’t want to step in. I always step in scar first to prove that it doesn’t stick to my shoes. They love it. At first some students are a little apprehensive but by the end of class most students have joined the club. The ones who joined once continue to give me high fives for the many more pieces of scar they have stepped on. Because of the scar’s characteristics, no one leaves the field trip with disgusting shoes and they spend more time exploring the park instead of side-stepping scar.

LEARNING FROM BIRD BEHAVIOR

Although goose scar doesn’t stick to your shoes, it does contain concentrated amounts of soluble nitrogen and phosphorus which find their way to the lagoon, leading to algal blooms and oxygen depletion. This diminished water quality has a direct effect on biodiversity by favoring organisms adapted to survive in this poor environment. So, even though they have helped us teach about scar, the geese are hurting the environment they love. In addition, the scar’s appearance dissuades area residents from using this large area of urban green space.

This is where the adult learning experiences come in. Overall, geese are a bit lazy and, like many birds, easily spooked by new things in their environment. A simple yet effective deterrent was installed on the boat launch this past October by a group of environmental engineers from the Parks Department. Behind our building is a set of concrete steps that lead into the water. By attaching foam noodles to these steps the geese, which were too lazy to climb over the noodles and a bit spooked by their sudden appearance, moved to other areas of the park. Another management technique we are trying is to create a 10-20 foot wide buffer zone of native vegetation around the lagoon which would capture nutrient runoff and deter geese who prefer not to enter grasses over 18 inches.

Now that the lagoon is frozen and migration is well underway, it is time to regroup and look ahead to the spring. We will continue to work with others to try even more ingenious plans to create a healthy environment for plants and birds alike and hopefully reduce membership in Emily’s ever-growing scar club.

Do you know of any unique goose management techniques? Visit us at Washington Park and tell us your ideas and maybe we’ll try them out next year!

A DIFFICULT QUESTION

I don’t ask this question easily or lightly, but I see it as a necessity. I came into this work as a teacher knowing very little about the business of running a successful non-profit. The learning curve has been steep. One thing I’ve learned is that every lasting non-profit that I’ve researched has an endowment … every single one! We don’t. I am committed to keeping this organization vibrant long after I am gone and it seems that growing an endowment is required.

When I research how endowments come to be I find that in almost every case they start with, and grow from, gifts in people’s wills. Empowered with this knowledge, we put a percentage of Tula’s unrestricted gift into an “acorn fund” with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. This is a financial mechanism from which we can now grow our future into a strong and stable oak tree as all bequests will be placed in this endowment fund.

If there is even the slightest thought that you might consider this request, call Ginger or me at 964-8505. We’d like to invite you to become a “Partner for the Future” and join a select group of like-minded people who share the passion for the work that we do and the future we envision.

Also, if you already have us in your will we’d love to know that too. Please call Ginger and thank you so much for already being our “Partner”.

To learn more about Tula, come visit the Tula Erskine Memorial Library at our Riverside Park facility.
The year 2009 has been declared by the International Astronomical Union as the International Year of Astronomy to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first use of an astronomical telescope by Galileo Galilei.

Although, in antiquity, it was known to glassblowers while making stained glass that spherical blobs of glass could magnify images, it took centuries for anyone to make the inventive leap of assembling two lenses into a telescope. Most reliable accounts place the invention of the telescope in 1608 by Hans Lipperhey, a Dutch eye-glass maker. But it was the refinement of the telescope in 1609 by Galileo that triggered one of the greatest scientific revolutions of all time. Four hundred years after its invention, the telescope has become an essential scientific instrument, an icon of science.

Telescope design has advanced a long way since then. Lens-using refracting telescopes have been replaced by mirror-based reflecting telescopes, resulting in much bigger telescopes—Mount Wilson Observatory’s 1.5m & the 2.5m Hooker telescopes for example. Segmented mirror construction design in recent years aims to build even larger telescopes.

With these telescopes, the aim is two-fold: First, to study Earth-sized planets and the likelihood of life existing elsewhere in the galaxy. Second, by gathering more light than ever before, astronomers will be able to detect fainter objects that are further back in our universe’s history. They hope that the new telescopes will see “first light,” when the first stars formed out of the primordial universe’s post-Big Bang mass.

I hope this provides an inspiration to all of us to get our telescopes out and look at the universe to see the grandeur and splendor it has to offer. Visit our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org to find a calendar of star gazing events and for a schedule of the Urban Stargazers meetings.

Galileo hosted the world’s first stargazing parties in Venice and for the first time, people were witnessing the true splendor of the universe as never before, with their own eyes. Instead of seeing the perfect disks of celestial objects, they saw that the moon was pockmarked with craters, that Saturn had strange “ears,” that Jupiter had moons of its own, and that even the sun, the centerpiece in cosmology at that time, had spots.

Unstructured play promotes curiosity and wonder – bringing out the child’s inner scientist - and creates a dynamic learning environment for the child. Based on this understanding, the Urban Ecology Center is offering new programs this summer. Using the success of our inquiry-based camps as a springboard, we are offering two new programs called “Go Outside and Play” that are just what the title describes. Campers will choose what and where they want to explore. Educators will be there to ensure that the children are safe, serve as role models of environmental stewardship, share ideas, answer questions as they arise and encourage exploration. While there will be some structured activities to provide a foundation and build interest each day, the majority of each day will be camper-directed exploration.

What better way to spend a week?

For more on this research, you can read Last Child in the Woods, by Richard Louv.
What’s with the frogs and fish?
The Center offers public programs at both Riverside and Washington Parks. Use these icons to know at a glance the location of each program.

RP = Riverside Park
WP = Washington Park

Also, programs marked with an * are accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited to no accessibility. Please call 964-8505 at least two days ahead of the program date if you have accessibility needs.

Scholarships are available for all fee-based programs. For general information call (414) 964-8505 or visit www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org
OUTDOOR PLAY
Fridays, January 9 & February 13
4 - 7 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Come play outside with us in Riverside Park! We have sleds, snowshoes and hot cocoa!

LET’S MAKE CRACKERS*
Saturday, January 10
2 - 4 p.m.
For everyone - children must be accompanied by an adult
$7 (Nonmembers - $10)
Registration required by January 8th, call 964-8505
Everybody loves crackers! Learn how to make crackers that are tasty and healthy. Join others for fun in the kitchen!

FUN WITH FRICTION
Sunday, January 11
2 - 3:30 p.m.
For kids ages 7 & 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
Winter is a great time to play with friction. Let’s build hovercrafts and go sledding.

OWL PROWl
Wednesday
January 14
5:30 - 7 p.m.
For everyone
$5 (Nonmembers - $8)
Call to register, 964-8505
Learn about 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 and end with a hot drink in front of the wood burning stove.

STORYTIME WITH EVA*
Saturdays
January 17, 31
February 14 & 28
10 - 11 a.m.
For kids, ages 5 & younger, accompanied by an adult
$2 or $6 for families of 4 or more
(Nonmembers - $3 or $9 for families of 4 or more)
Call to register, 964-8505
Warm up by the fire with some cocoa and listen to stories.

LET’S POONGMUL!
CELEBRATE LUNAR NEW YEAR WITH KOREAN DRUMS!*
Saturday, January 17
11 a.m. - noon
For kids, ages 5 & older, accompanying adults welcome
$4 or $12 for families of 4 or more
(Nonmembers - $7 or $24 for families of 4 or more)
Registration required by January 16th, call 964-8505
Learn how to play Korean drums! Students will learn traditional rhythms of Korea through drumming in this fun and interactive workshop. Students will use special sticks to play the Jang-Go, an hourglass-shaped, wooden drum. The instructor will incorporate Korean culture and language while drumming and relate how Korean drums are connected to nature. Students will also explore how Koreans play drums to celebrate the Lunar New Year and learn about the different customs during the New Year.

BEHOLD HIBERNATION
AS THE HIBERNATOR
Saturday, January 24
10:30 a.m. - noon
For kids, ages 5 & older
$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 winter survival and experience as wildlife does. We will build nests, snow dens and tunnels to simulate how animals live in the winter. Weather and snow dependent.

NATURE DETECTIVES
Sundays, January 25 & February 22
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.

READING COMES
ALIVE WITH YOGA!
Saturdays, January 31 & February 28
10 - 10:45 a.m.
For kids, ages 4 - 5
$7 (Nonmembers - $8)
Registration required, call 964-8505
This fun, playful class for four and five year olds follows a story sequence with yoga poses to match. Sign up for one or both classes. Each class centers around a different book.

YOGAKIDS!
FITNESS, FUN AND FEELING GREAT!
Sundays, January 25
1:45 - 2:45 p.m.
For kids, ages 6 - 9
$7 (Nonmembers - $8)
Registration required, call 964-8505
Learn how to play Korean drums! Students will learn traditional rhythms of Korea through drumming in this fun and interactive workshop. Students will use special sticks to play the Jang-Go, an hourglass-shaped, wooden drum. The instructor will incorporate Korean culture and language while drumming and relate how Korean drums are connected to nature. Students will also explore how Koreans play drums to celebrate the Lunar New Year and learn about the different customs during the New Year.

COOL ICE AGES
Sunday, February 15
2 - 3:30 p.m.
For kids, ages 6 & older
$4 or $12 for families of 4 or more
(Nonmembers - $7 or $24 for families of 4 or more)
Call to register, 964-8505
Play in the snow with us building “glaciers” while learning how ice ages have affected the planet. Weather and snow dependent.

SCIENCE SATURDAYS*
Drop in program
Saturdays
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts. Some of the activities will occur outside, dress for the weather and then join us for hot cocoa!

ANIMAL FEEDING*
Saturdays
1 - 2 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Come to either location to help feed the Center’s resident turtles, snakes and fish as you learn about the animals that inhabit Riverside and Washington Parks.

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.

YOGAKIDS GROW UP!
Sundays, February 1 - March 8 (no class February 22nd)
1:45 - 2:45 p.m.
For kids, ages 10 - 12
Registration required, call 964-8505
This fun, dynamic class will have kids moving, stretching, strengthening, and starting their week off centered, focused and relaxed.

ONE BIG LOVE!
PLAYFUL FAMILY YOGA
Saturday, February 14
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults & accompanied children
$7 (at least one kid per adult)
Free - donations appreciated
Registration required, call 964-8505
Spend time with someone in your family moving, stretching and having fun! Prior yoga experience not required. This is a karma yoga class. Heartfelt donations to the Center are welcomed!
**ECO-HOMES SERIES**

**HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR BEDROOM?**
**Presenters:**
Lyn Falk and Ann Russo

**Keeping Your Home Clean and Healthy During the Winter Months**
**Presenters:**
Lyn Falk and Kurt Bauer

**Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours**
**Presenters:**
Visit the Center’s Sustainable Building Exhibit for green ways to beautify your home. This is a hands-on exhibit of sample products for home construction and interior decorating. Resource person available.

**Wednesday Lecture Series**
**Presenters:**
Speakers: Bill Mueller, Conservation Chair, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology; Vicki Piaskowski, Borders - Birds Without Borders - Aves Sin Fronteras

**Creating with Corks**
**Presenters:**
Lyn Falk and Kurt Bauer will share information about creating a non-toxic and environmentally sound bedroom so that you can enjoy sweet dreams with peace of mind.

**Changing Distribution and Abundance of Wisconsin Bird Species**
**Presenters:**
Bill Mueller, Conservation Chair, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

**Using X-rays to Take a Picture of Me?**
**Presenters:**
Sergio Lemaitre, Ph.D., Technology Architect, GE Healthcare

**Urban Ecology Center Book Club**
**Presenters:**
Speakers: Peter Annin, Photographer; Robert Smith, Photographer

**The Art and Science of Massage**
**Presenters:**
Winifred Gallagher

**Let’s Poongmul! Korean Traditional Drumming for Adults and Teens**
**Presenters:**
Drumming for adults and teenagers. Learn how to play Korean drums! This is a special drum workshop for teenagers and adults. Students will learn to play an hourglass-shaped, wooden drum called the Jang-Go and learn basic rhythms of Korean drumming. The instructor will incorporate Korean culture and language to expose the student to drumming in Korean culture. Come to have fun and explore the rhythms of Korea! Drums will be provided for each student.

**How to Help Birds in Your Backyard and On Your Land**
**Presenters:**
Vicki Piaskowski, International Coordinator, Birds Without Borders - Aves Sin Fronteras

**Art at UEC**

**Returning to Earth: Robert Smith; Human Nature: Hal Koenig**
**Presenters:**
Photographing the beauty of regeneration, but will that always be the case?
URBAN ADVENTURES

OPEN CLIMBS ON TOWER
Sundays, January 4, 18, February 1 & 15
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
For everyone
Adults: $10
(Nonmembers - $15)
Children: $8
(Nonmembers - $12)
Call to register, 964-8505
Build strength, balance and confidence by climbing on our tower’s rock wall! All climbers must have a completed and signed waiver before climbing, available at www.urbanecologycenter.org. Please call ahead to register, no walk-ins.

INTRO TO X-C SKIING
Saturdays, January 17 & February 21
1 - 3:30 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children, ages 12 & older
Adults: $6
(Nonmembers - $10)
Children: $5
(Nonmembers - $8)
Call to register, 964-8505
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.

IGLOO AND SNOW SHELTER BUILDING
Sunday, January 25
Noon - 4 pm.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
Join us as we learn the art of igloos and snow shelters.

SNOWSHOE AT THE SOUTHERN KETTLE MORAINES
Saturday, January 31
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children, ages 12 & older
Adults: $15
(Nonmembers - $20)
Children: $10
(Nonmembers - $15)
Call to register, 964-8505
Explore the hilly terrain of the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. Dress in layers, wear sturdy and warm shoes, bring water and a lunch. Transportation provided. In the event of minimal or no snow, we will hike.

X-C SKI AT NORTHERN KETTLE MORAINES
Friday, February 13 & Sunday, March 1
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
For adults & accompanied children, ages 12 & older
Adults: $15
(Nonmembers - $20)
Children: $10
(Nonmembers - $15)
State Park trail pass required for anyone 16 years or older. If you do not have an annual pass, please come prepared to purchase a $4 day pass.

Call to register, 964-8505
Explore Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest on skis. Previous experience x-skiing highly recommended. Dress in layers, bring water and a lunch. Transportation provided. In the event of minimal or no snow, we will hike (trail pass not required for hiking).

TRACKING MYSTERIES
Saturday, February 21
10 - 11:30 a.m.
For adults & accompanied children
Adults: $5
(Nonmembers - $7)
Children: $3
(Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
Ever wonder what animals are around this time of year? Come learn how to identify animal tracks and signs by playing interactive games. We will warm up at the end with hot chocolate by the wood stove.

SPONTANEOUS SNOW OUTINGS
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. Beginners welcome!
Want to meet on the east side? Contact Chad at ctromack@urbanecologycenter.org.
Want to meet on the west side? Contact Scott at stallenberger@urbanecologycenter.org.
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

Kick start your day with fresh air and bird song. Interested bird watchers of all ability levels are invited to explore nature at its core. Free - donations appreciated

For adults
Free - donations appreciated

Collaborate with other organizations and individuals to stand together to confront gun violence and restore a sense of healthy community.

Join me and my family as we dedicate ourselves in the new year to making time to recycle more, change those light bulbs using the next is to replace our incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents, which use 75% less electricity. When the time comes to replace your appliances, look for the Energy Star label, which means they’re energy efficient. Also, think about joining We Energies’ Energy for Tomorrow program, which lets you wipe out your electricity carbon footprint. The Center is a part of this program and the solar panels on our roof are a source of clean energy utilized by those in the program.

Finally, think about recycling more. In addition to all the other environmental reasons for recycling, it also helps lower our CO2 footprint. In fact, recycling a pound of paper avoids our CO2 footprint. In fact, recycling a pound of paper avoids in fact if cans avoids almost 14 times their weight in emissions. In fact if cans avoids almost 14 times their weight in emissions. In fact if cans avoids almost 14 times their weight in emissions.

To figure out how to reduce our footprints, we first need to know where those emissions come from. About 85% comes from the burning of fossil fuels, like the gasoline we use in our cars, the coal that is used to make our electricity and the natural gas and oil we use to heat our homes. So if we can use less gasoline, electricity and heat, we can have a real impact.

Every gallon of gasoline our cars burn produces almost 20 pounds of CO2; think of a 20 pound bag of potatoes at the grocery store as you pump each gallon into your car. So, if we can find ways to drive less, we can have a real effect on our potato, oops I mean, carbon footprints. If you can car pool, walk or ride your bike for short trips, take the bus, or just in general drive less, you can substantially lower your carbon footprint. The Center’s staff is doing this with their Eco-buck program, which encourages them to find ways other than driving to get to work. So far in 2008, they have avoided driving 6260.25 miles (or about 5634.25 pounds of CO2). Also, if you are looking for a new car, remember even with gas below $2 per gallon, miles per gallon is still very important.

In Wisconsin, most of our electricity comes from burning coal, which is about the biggest emitter of CO2 on the planet. So, if we can lower our electricity use, we can have a real big impact. The easiest first step is turning off lights and appliances we aren’t using. The next is to replace our incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents, which use 75% less electricity. When the time comes to replace your appliances, look for the Energy Star label, which means they’re energy efficient. Also, think about joining We Energies’ Energy for Tomorrow program, which lets you wipe out your electricity carbon footprint. The Center is a part of this program and the solar panels on our roof are a source of clean energy utilized by those in the program.

Anything we can do to reduce heating bills also lowers our carbon emissions. So think about turning down your heat (especially when you are not at home) and adding insulation and weather-stripping. Also, when you’re ready to replace your furnace, boiler, windows or hot water heater, make sure that the new ones are as efficient as possible.

Finally, think about recycling more. In addition to all the other environmental reasons for recycling, it also helps lower our CO2 footprint. In fact, recycling a pound of paper avoids almost four pounds of emissions. Likewise, recycling aluminum cans avoids almost 14 times their weight in emissions. In fact if Wisconsin could increase recycling by just 1%, we would avoid an additional 170,000 tons of carbon emissions every year.

Join me and my family as we dedicate ourselves in the new year to making time to recycle more, change those light bulbs (even the ones that I need to get out the big ladder to change) and dial back our set back thermostat another degree during the night. I feel empowered by the ironic fact that because we produce the most carbon we can reduce the most too!
THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER

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.

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Alterra Coffee Roasters
Beans & Barley
beansandbarley.com
Cambridge Woods Association
First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee
Fox Point Federated Garden Club
Harry W Schwartz Bookshops
schwartzbooks.com
Lake Park Lutheran Church
lakeparklutheran.com
Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
Neighbors United for Washington Park
Outpost Natural Foods
outpostnaturalfoods.coop
Plymouth Church
plymouth-church.org
REI
rei.com
Slow Food Wisconsin Southeast
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
stmarksmilwaukee.org
Sierra Club Building
Environmental Community Program
wisconsin.sierramclub.org/gw
Trek Bicycle Corp.
trekbikes.com
Water Tower Landmark
Trust, Inc.
Wheel & Sprocket
wheelandsprocket.com
Wisconsin Paperboard
newpapergroup.com

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GIFTS IN HONOR OF…

Else Ankel
 - Shirin Cabral
Arni & Luke’s wedding

- Jim Schleif
  Benji & Corey
- Don & Helen Bleser
- Elaine Miller & Andrew Schwartz
- McCabe’s 25th wedding anniversary
- Jim Schleif
  Susan Wisnans & Judy Krause
- Robert & Lois Wisnans

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF…

A dearly departed friend,
  David A. Johnson
- Sarah Olson
- Kyle Schmid
- Jessica R. Wirth

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Victor & Carolyn Vargo
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Andrew Warner &
Jay Edmundson
Pat Weisberg
Sandy Weisto
Robert & Lois Wisnans
John Winze
Jessica Wirth
Joseph & Margene Woida
Mary Ann Zapala

Thank You
**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 ___________________________________________________

Send the announcement card to
- Me
- Gift recipient
- Card picked up

Occasion _____________________ Deliver by ________________

**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 ______________________

**JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY!**

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:

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

**EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

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<thead>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Riverside Park</td>
<td>Tour of Washington Exhibit</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<td>I Love Them All</td>
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<td>12 p.m.</td>
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<td>Winterfest for Afternoon Nappers</td>
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<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<td>topic: The Four Seasons</td>
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<td>Guns, Grief and Grace in America: Part 1, “Dear Rita” (WP)</td>
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<td>4p Papermaking (RP)</td>
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<td>6:30p Paths to a Sustainable Future (RP)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>7p Eco-Homes Series: Keeping your Home Clean and Healthy During the Winter Months (RP)</td>
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<td>8a Birdwalk</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>4p Papermaking (RP)</td>
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<td>7p How to Help Birds in Your Backyard and on Your Land (RP)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>1p Animal Feeding (All branches)</td>
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<td>7p Using X-rays To Take a Picture of Me? (RP)</td>
<td>7p Using X-rays To Take a Picture of Me? (RP)</td>
<td>7p Using X-rays To Take a Picture of Me? (RP)</td>
<td>7p Using X-rays To Take a Picture of Me? (RP)</td>
<td>6:30p Volunteer Orientation (RP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>8a Birdwalk</td>
<td>8a Birdwalk</td>
<td>8a Birdwalk</td>
<td>8a Birdwalk</td>
<td>4p Ornithology Workshops (RP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>9a Burdock Brigade (RP)</td>
<td>9a Burdock Brigade (RP)</td>
<td>9a Burdock Brigade (RP)</td>
<td>9a Burdock Brigade (RP)</td>
<td>4p Papermaking (RP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>10a Saturday Stewards (WP)</td>
<td>10a Saturday Stewards (WP)</td>
<td>10a Saturday Stewards (WP)</td>
<td>10a Saturday Stewards (WP)</td>
<td>5:30p Beth’s Building Tour (RP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>1p Animal Feeding (All branches)</td>
<td>1p Animal Feeding (All branches)</td>
<td>1p Animal Feeding (All branches)</td>
<td>1p Animal Feeding (All branches)</td>
<td>6:30p Volunteer Orientation (RP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>2p Nature Detectives (RP)</td>
<td>2p Nature Detectives (RP)</td>
<td>2p Nature Detectives (RP)</td>
<td>2p Nature Detectives (RP)</td>
<td>6:30p Volunteer Orientation (RP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>3p Knitting Circle (RP)</td>
<td>3p Knitting Circle (RP)</td>
<td>3p Knitting Circle (RP)</td>
<td>3p Knitting Circle (RP)</td>
<td>6:30p Volunteer Orientation (RP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>4p Ornithology Workshops (RP)</td>
<td>4p Ornithology Workshops (RP)</td>
<td>4p Ornithology Workshops (RP)</td>
<td>4p Ornithology Workshops (RP)</td>
<td>6:30p Volunteer Orientation (RP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (WP)</td>
<td>5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (WP)</td>
<td>5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (WP)</td>
<td>5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (WP)</td>
<td>6:30p Volunteer Orientation (RP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- RP = Riverside Park
- WP = Washington Park
- (RP) = Riverside Park
- (WP) = Washington Park
- Contact the Center for details (414) 964-8505 or visit www.UrbanecologyCenter.org for hours. Monday - Thursday 9a-7p, Friday - Saturday 9a-5p.