**Vignette # 1**

"Urban Ecology Center, this is Dan" came a voice over the radio on Beth’s desk.

"Dan, this is Beth. Ken and I are meeting right now, how can I help you?"

"Sorry to bother you, but I’m in the bus awaiting the kids from Golda Meir. I’m teaching about the water cycle and I can’t remember exactly how many pennies I need for the third grade Water, Water Everywhere bus ride activity? Can you look it up for me?"

"No worries, hold on a second."

Sitting at her computer, Beth immediately got on their server, looked in the school program folder and quickly found the activity.

"Dan, here it is. First you need a dollar in change. Tell them that if the world was a dollar, three quarters represents what is covered by water. Then ask how much fresh water is in the dollar. Pull out three pennies. Then ask how much is usable fresh water. Let them know..."

**Continued on page 3**

**Two Vignettes**

**by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director**

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**Continued on page 4**
Teen Adventure Challenge prizes needed. Our Teen Adventure Challenge is an outdoor team race through the Milwaukee River corridor. Each team has five members. We need your help giving prizes to these enthusiastic teams! If you or someone you know can help by giving a group of five items (baseball caps, water bottles, backpacks, hats, gloves, wool socks, flashlights, multi-tools, etc), please call Nikiya at 964-8505.

Planning your legacy. When you include charitable gifts in your will, make sure that your attorney uses the correct legal name of the intended recipients in order to avoid confusion and unnecessary delays. Our legal name is Urban Ecology Center, Inc. If you need help in finding an estate planning attorney, feel free to contact Ginger Duiven at (414) 964-8505, x106. She would be happy to assist in finding you a referral to several capable attorneys.


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

Contributing writers: John Clancy, Beth Fetterley, Dan Graves, Ken Leinbach, Steve Marshall, Tim Vargo, Daven Villoth, Susan Winans and Joey Zocher.

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 2600 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 - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.

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

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

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

The Urban Ecology Center is excited to announce the Summer Solstice Soiree and Auction Event scheduled for June 20th, 2009. Plan to join us for a special evening of food, music and fun. This event will raise funds to support the Center’s mission. Please watch our website or call for more information.

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
- Adult gloves and mittens
- Air compressor
- Alka-seltzer
- Animal heat rocks and heat pads
- Blenders
- Cornstarch
- Dandelion diggers
- Electric or Diesel Grounds “Utility” Vehicle (not a car or truck)
- Gardening/work gloves
- Hand clippers
- Hand trowels
- Heavy duty wheelbarrows
- Ice auger
- Ice cream buckets
- Ice skates
- Kayaks
- Kernel popcorn
- Large attractive ceramic planters for indoor potted plants (12”-24”)
- Long handled loppers
- 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
- Sturdy 2-drawer file cabinets
- Used cell phones, print cartridges, video games and digital cameras
- Video camera
- Waterproof pants for kids

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

- Fishing nets
- Fishing poles
- GPS device
- Guitar strings
- Hip wader drying rack
- Hybrid car
- Kids boots
- Kites
- Musical instruments - acoustic
- Old snow pants / sweatpants
- Old towels and rags
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Sleds
- Sprinklers
- Sweatshirts
- Winter adult boots
that it is less than one penny!”

“Got it. Thanks, and just in time too because here come the kids with Eric.”

The whole incident took all of three minutes but it put a big smile on my face. “Wow, Beth, do you realize just how far we have come? Does this place rock or what? We’re humming like a well-oiled machine!” I said with pride. “Think about it. Remember all the research that went into acquiring the right radio system and how when we moved to the new building we were able to expand our range so we could reach every school we served. And think of the time it took to figure out the shared drive on the computer and the work that went into creating the file system so that every staff member has instant access to the curriculum. Every program now has a name, a file of possible activities, a bus ride activity, pre and post class materials to share with the school. It’s amazing!”

**VIGNETTE # 2**

I was looking out the window of the camouflage room with my Wednesday morning tour group. It was a clear, crisp winter day outside and from this high vantage I was showing the natural area of Riverside Park, the climbing wall on the tower and the community gardens. Way below us aside the bicycle path, a group of middle school students were being instructed on the way to put on snowshoes.

“Ken, what’s that?” one of the visitors asked pointing out the window.

“Cool, it’s a Cooper’s hawk! Good eyes! It doesn’t look like the teacher has spotted it yet. Hold on a second; I have an idea.”

I quickly dialed the Center’s number on my cell phone.

“Maria? This is Ken” (Maria, answering at the front desk, is our Wednesday morning volunteer receptionist).

“Can you radio the group on the bike path and tell the teacher to look up?”

Laughing, she did as instructed. In less than 20 seconds from when we first noticed the hawk, we could see Dan (who happened to be teaching again) grab the radio from his belt, listen, look up and excitedly start pointing. Soon all eyes were on the exquisite accipiter perched a mere 30 feet above their heads, eyeing them all with great curiosity. They watched for a good two minutes before the hawk swooped down and up again, off into the forest.

Cell phone, trained volunteer at the ready, radio, well prepared staff and poof – a spontaneous teachable moment. I love this place!

If you ever wonder what it means when we ask for operational support at the Urban Ecology Center, this is what it means—building the infrastructure needed to facilitate amazing experiences for kids, families, youth and adults. Any contribution, above and beyond your basic membership, is what keeps this Center vibrant and relevant.

You may not know, but your membership fee barely covers the cost of itself. We keep the fee low (significantly lower than many membership organizations) so all in our community have the opportunity to participate. We then have faith that those who have more will contribute to our annual campaign. Without your extra gift each year, we would not have the radios, the trained volunteer at the front desk, the computer systems which provide efficiency, the equipment needed to run programs or the bus to pick up the kids. In the end it is your gift that brings students out to see a Cooper’s hawk and learn the value of water. We’re “humming like a well oiled machine”, thanks to you!

P.S. If you have not given to the annual campaign yet this year, please, please do so now. We still really need your support this year. It’s as easy as clicking the “donate” button on our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org.

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**DAVEN’S LETTER**

by Daven Villoth, 5th grader

During a “Going Green” unit at Golda Meir School, 5th graders learned about living a “Green” life. Students were required to write a persuasive letter to someone in the community about the benefits of living a green life. Fifth grader Daven Villoth wrote a very inspiring letter suggesting that as a global community, we need to work together to save our environment and reduce our carbon footprint.

Dear Fellow Consumer,

I have realized that you and I are both a part of the reason why we humans are not reducing our carbon footprint as much as we could. Take a moment to think about what you do in an everyday day. Think about all of the conveniences you believe you can’t live without. Think about accessories such as Ipods, cell phones, video games and other energy consuming items. Do you think there is any way that we could have modern day conveniences and still save energy? Yes there is. We could use solar panels to generate environmentally friendly electricity. And not only that, but if we all just walked instead of driving cars, the government could put more money toward improving or building bicycle trails, sidewalks, public parks and things like bike racks on buses. We can also buy products we can reuse and recycle.

People believe they cannot live without Ipods, cell phones, video games and computers. A way people can still use these appliances and still save energy is for people to find an alternative energy source. That source is the sun. If people use solar energy, the time they spend on energy consuming products will not harm the environment. We are already smart enough to make solar powered calculators. So why can’t we make those modern “need to have” conveniences solar powered?

All that sure would be nice, but companies will not make these items if we consumers are not willing to pay more if we have to. If we are willing to pay extra money, companies will put money into researching ways to build all sorts of environmentally friendly appliances. And people like
“¡SÍ,BAJEMOS LA COLINA!”
by Dan Graves, Environmental Educator

“So, what causes winter?” I asked the energetic middle school students from Milwaukee Education Center (MEC). The answers that I received were as varied as the snowflakes falling from a winter sky. “The earth turns from the sun,” one student declared. Another shouted, “The earth is farther away from the sun in winter, so it gets colder.” Eventually, from the dusty archives of their brains we located the fact that the earth rotates on roughly a 23° axis. This axis causes a decrease in the amount of incoming solar radiation in the winter creating cold and an increase in incoming solar radiation in the summer creating warmth. We discussed some adaptations that Wisconsin animals have developed to be able to deal with the extremes that we experience during winter. Lots of mammals grow extra fat and fur. Other animals burrow under ground where the temperature is more constant. Still others deal with winter by going to their “second home” in warmer climates. “How do we as homo sapiens deal with winter?” After an array of answers, I proclaimed, “We ski!” None of the students had been cross-country skiing before, so it was a task preparing them how to use the poles, skis and, most importantly, how to stand up after falling. After a half-mile ski north on the Oak Leaf trail and an all class race across the Riverside University High School football field, we decided in the spirit of the Olympic games to have some downhill ski trials on the sledging hill east of the Center’s building. The idea stemmed from their adventure-loving teacher Thor Stolen who loves to stretch the minds and muscles of his students. One student who overheard our downhill discussion said “¡Sí, bajemos la colina!” or “Let’s go down the hill!” After a few trials on the “bunny” side of the hill, I watched the teachers fearlessly lead their students down the “black diamond” side of the hill. Covered in snow but smiling from ear to ear, the students returned the skis and loaded onto the bus to return to school. On the bus it occurred to me after such a fun afternoon how thankful I am for the changing seasons of Wisconsin and that 23° axis on which our earth rotates.

LOOKING EAST - READY TO SPRING FORWARD?
by Steve Marshall, Urban Stargazers

Or just ready for spring? Well, both happen in March (8th and 20th). Between them is a full moon (10th). And of course we need to be ready for April first. Ha ha! Later we have the Passover full moon (9th). But how do we start?

First, get up at 6 a.m. on March 1st and look east. Stretch your arms and arch your back to a comfortable 40° gaze and spot the constellation Hercules, for once not upside down as in summer and fall, above the dazzling blue-white star Vega. The “key” is the “Keystone” – a relatively bright trapezoid about the width of a binocular view tapered to the right. A fuzzball therein is the famous globular cluster M13.

Depending on visibility you can see four appendages to this trapezoidal (and heroic) body, either kneeling with arm raised (his club is actually the dangerous head of Draco, a dragon looking over his shoulder), or arched back more than you, coiled to spring up and to the right as in a tennis serve. Either way he doesn’t have a head, though a crown Corona Borealis is close by to the right. Higher and to the southeast, the bright orange star Arcturus reminds us that our own warming sun is just lighting the sky and bringing the warmth of spring.

Now that you’re getting up early, the same sight will greet you after March 9th at 7 a.m. But you’ll need to be more limber as March and April pass us by. They will all be higher in the sky.

HIGH SCHOOL
continued from page 1

Outdoor Leadership program. He was accepted into the program and successfully completed it in 2007.

Upon returning from the Wyoming trip, Shawn was hired for a full year paid internship at the Center. He took pride in taking care of the animals and helping with the field biological research. He also pushed and challenged the staff. While challenging our adult assumptions, he learned negotiation skills and we learned how to improve our program.

Toward the end of his internship, Shawn organized a group of students to run the Teen Adventure Challenge. The team navigated the high waters of the Milwaukee River, ran through the foliage of the Milwaukee River wildlife corridor, climbed our 40’ tower, breezed through the aquatic ecology challenge, mastered the map and compass, and pushed themselves to not only succeed, but to have fun. Shawn returned for a second summer Outdoor Leadership experience, this time as a mentor to other students. But his leadership is not limited to the Urban Ecology Center.

Building on his entrepreneurial spirit, Shawn, a high school senior, now works for “Green Business Concepts” an electronics recycling enterprise. It is not uncommon for him to approach me with a new idea for a product or service that he’d like to launch. We have conversations now about internet-based marketing, inventory management, supply and demand, and - of course - protecting the planet. Did I mention he’s still in high school?

Shawn is one of many amazing high school students at the Urban Ecology Center. And there is room for plenty more! This is an exciting time of year, because this is when we start to see new high school students connecting to the Center.

Do you know any high school students? Please send them our way. We can’t wait to meet them! To sign up for the Teen Adventure Challenge on June 6th and to apply for the Outdoor Leadership Program, please visit www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org.
ANDRE’S REQUEST
by Joey Zocher, Washington Park Program Director

Thump, thump, thump! It wasn’t odd that someone was at the door; there was a room full of people and we were open to more. What was odd was that the door was not locked. I left my chair in the discussion circle to open the door and the mystery was solved. Outside was a frozen youngster too small to open the heavy door on his own!

It was one of those sub-zero days in January when Stand Together Milwaukee and Public Allies aired their documentary “America’s Promise”, the second film in their Guns, Grief and Grace in America series, here in Washington Park. I received many phone calls that day, wondering if we should cancel due to the cold (schools had already been cancelled for the following day). My response was always the same, “If you want to, but we’ll be open and there will be kids here expecting it.” And so the show went on! Over 20 people, ranging from this young seven year old to, well, older, watched the documentary on gun violence and had a great discussion about ways we can prevent violence in the neighborhoods. So simple. So true.

In honor of Andre’s request, we will kick off our Earth Day Celebration on April 25 with a neighborhood clean-up! The Center, The Great American Clean-up, Public Allies, Stand Together Milwaukee, Neighbors United for Washington Park and 88nine invite you to join us at a site at 11 a.m. (see list below for locations). Afterwards, go the Washington Park bandshell to kick off our Earth Day Celebration!

As an extra incentive, the Harley-Davidson Foundation has donated silver garbage cans as thank you gifts for clean up volunteers! We thank the Harley-Davidson Foundation for its generosity and continued support of our Center.

Contact Joey at (414) 344-5460 or jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org for more information on Earth Day or if you’re interested in volunteering to help mentor kids like Josh.

WASHINGTON PARK EARTH DAY CLEAN UP LOCATIONS—MEET US AT 11 A.M.!

Highland Community School—meet at the playground at 3030 W. Highland (partnering with Cold Spring Park Neighborhood Association and Historic Concordia Neighbors, Inc.)

Hmong American Friendship Association—meet at the community gardens on 38th and Vliet (partnering with Martin Drive Neighborhood Association)

St. Sebastian & St. Coletta—meet at the playground on 1747 N. 54th St. (partnering with Washington Heights Neighborhood Association)

Washington High School—meet at the front steps at 2525 N. Sherman Blvd. (partnering with Sherman Park Community Association)

Westside Academy II—meet at the playground on 75th and Brown (partnering with Lisbon Area Neighborhood Development)

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

On behalf of the Board of Directors please accept our thanks to all of you that made a contribution to our year end campaign. In this economic climate your gifts matter now, more than ever.

I’d like to welcome and introduce our newest board member, Deb Spanic. Deb brings a number of talents to the Center. She is an attorney at Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, where she concentrates her practice in commercial and information technology transactions and intellectual property. She has significant experience in negotiating and drafting technology transfer, software, patent, and trademark license agreements, which should be helpful as the Center continues to upgrade its technology. In addition, before joining WHD, Deb worked in the business sector and was responsible for directing internet development for Northwestern Mutual Life in the marketing department, and served as in-house IP counsel to Briggs & Stratton Corporation. Deb has also served as president of Downtown Montessori Academy PTO and is on the board of directors of the Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra. Deb’s marketing experience should be very helpful as she has joined our marketing committee, which is under the new leadership of Deb and Marc Andracca.

Finally, I wanted to highlight the new planning process that the board is undergoing. We recently had a board retreat and decided that, despite the present economic situation, it is crucial the Center continue to look forward to see what it would like to be five and ten years from now. We discussed a number of great opportunities for the Center to expand its service to the Milwaukee community. To help make sure that we pursue the best options for both the Center and the community, we are undergoing a long-term planning process, visioning what the Center could be in 5, 10, or even 20 years from now. As our work progresses we will update you.
**March - April Calendar of Programs**

**What’s with the frogs and fish?**

The Center offers programs at both our Riverside and Washington Park locations. Use the icons above to know at a glance the location of each program. 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 information call 964-8505.

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### Special Events

**CSA and Local Food Open House**
- **Saturday, March 7**
- Noon - 4 p.m.

**Earth Day For Afternoon Nappers**
- **Saturday, April 18**
- 10:30 a.m. - noon

**Earth Day Festival at Riverside Park**
- **Saturday, April 18**
- Noon - 4 p.m.

**22nd Annual Earth Poets & Musicians Festival**
- **Friday, April 24**
- 7 p.m.

**House Concert**
- **Thursday, April 2**
- 7 p.m.

### Urban Ecology Center Tours

**Wednesday Walks with Ken**
- **Wednesdays, 9 - 11 a.m.**
- For adults and accompanied children
- Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

**Tour of Washington Park Branch**
- **Wednesdays**
- 5 - 6 p.m.

**Beth’s Building Tour**
- **Thursdays**
- 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

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### High School Explorers

**Maple Festival Trip for Teens**
- **Saturday, March 21**
- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**River Clean Up by Canoe**
- **Saturday, April 25**
- 2 - 4 p.m.

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**Rock Your April**
- **Saturday, April 25**
- 2 - 4 p.m.

We dare you to scale our 40’ climbing wall! Rock your April by rock climbing with other teens.

**Teens must have a permission form signed by a parent or guardian to participate. Download a permission form at [www.urbaneologycenter.org](http://www.urbaneologycenter.org) or ask for a form from our receptionist.**
LETS POONGMUL KOREAN DRUMMING FOR KIDS*
Sunday, March 15
2 - 3 p.m.
For ages 4 and older, parents welcome
$4 or $12 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers - $7 or $24 for families of 4 or more)
Registration required, call 964-8505
Learn traditional rhythms of Korea through drumming in this fun and interactive workshop. Use special sticks to play the Jang-Go, an hourglass-shaped wooden drum. As you drum you’ll learn Korean culture, language and how Korean drums are connected to nature.

FAMILY GARDENING*
Saturday, March 21
3 - 4 p.m.
For adults and children accompanied by adults
Adults: $5 (Nonmembers - $7)
Children: $3 (Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
Make gardening fun for the whole family! Explore how to plan, prepare and plant a garden while involving the entire family. Learn about theme gardens, activities and more!

ALL ABOUT PLANTS: JUST FOR KIDS*
Saturday, March 21
3 - 4:30 p.m.
For ages 4-10 with or without an accompanying adult
$3 (Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
Have you ever eaten a root or tasted a stem? Well, here’s your chance to do just that! Enjoy an afternoon of plant crafts, stories and games. Parents participating in “Family Gardening” may choose this hands-on alternative for their children.

LET’S MAKE GRANOLA*
Sunday, March 29
1 - 3 p.m.
For adults and children accompanied by adults
Adults: $5 (Nonmembers - $7)
Call to register, 964-8505
We will learn how to make granola and granola bars. Members requested program. Delicious!

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
Explore science through self-led interactive activities. Topics:
March: Owls April: Flight
**ADULT LEARNING**

**MENU FOR THE FUTURE**
**DISCUSSION COURSE**
Kick-off Meeting: Sunday, March 1
3 - 4 p.m.
Group meets on Sundays, March 8 - April 19 (no meeting on April 12)
For adults $20 (Nonmembers - $25)
Call to register, 964-8505
Throughout this six-week course we will talk about food systems and their impacts on our world, gain insight into agricultural and personal practices that promote ecological and personal well being, and consider ways to support local food systems. Space is limited.

**LETS POONGMUL!**
**KOREAN TRADITIONAL DRUMMING FOR ADULTS AND TEENS**
Mondays, March 9 - 30
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
For adults and teens $8 (Nonmembers - $10) per session
Registration required, call 964-8505
Learn to play Korean drums! This 4-week series for teenagers and adults incorporates Korean drumming, culture and language. Learn to play an hourglass shaped wooden drum called the Janggo and basic rhythms of Korean drumming. Drums provided.

**ECOLOGY OF VIBRATIONAL COMMUNICATION:**
**The Hidden World in Your Backyard**
Speaker: Rafael L. Rodriguez, Assistant Professor, UWM
Tuesday, March 10
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
Humans miss out on much of the variety of life that surrounds us, in part because our senses cannot detect the vibrational signals and sounds that travel through the substrates. Learn how this form of communication changes our understanding of the lives of many species right in our backyards!

**SEED SWAP**
Saturday, March 14
1 - 2 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
Do you have an overabundance of seeds or want to try something new? Bring your seeds and swap them with others.

**GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES**
Part 1: Sprouting Your Garden
Riverside Park
Saturday, March 14
2 - 4 p.m.
Part 2: The Harvest
Washington Park
Saturday, March 28
2 - 4 p.m.
For adults $20 payable to Milwaukee Urban Gardens
Register at www.milwaukeeurbangardens.org
This series provides a detailed overview of organic gardening. Part 1 focuses on how to create and maintain a garden to suit your gardening goals. Part 2 details garden maintenance, pest control and how to have an explosive harvest. We’ll also demonstrate ways to preserve all the extra produce and explore preparing ground for winter.

**AN AMERICAN EDUCATOR IN CHINA**
Wednesday, March 18
7 - 8 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
Come hear Environmental Educator Tory Bah’s stories about her experiences at environmental summer camps in Northern China and the work the International Crane Foundation is doing in this vast and changing country.

**COMPOSTING WORKSHOP**
Saturday, March 21
10 - 11:30 a.m.
For adults $15, payable to Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful
Registration required through KGMB at http://kgmb.org/adult_programs.html
Learn how to turn kitchen scraps and yard waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment through composting. Composting is beneficial for your garden and reduces household waste.

**VERMICOMPOSTING WORKSHOP**
Saturday, March 21
1 - 2:30 p.m.
For adults $15 Payable to Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful
Registration required through KGMB at http://kgmb.org/adult_programs.html
Explore how worms can turn your kitchen scraps into rich compost to fertilizer your garden. Learn about vermicomposting and how you can start and maintain your own system.

**RAPTOR SURVEY**
Saturday, March 28
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Adults: $6
(Nonmembers - $10)
Children: $4
(Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
Listen and search for raptors as we survey parts of Milwaukee County. Transportation provided. Weather dependent. Space is limited, so please register early!

**BOOK CLUB**
**Saturday, March 28 & April 25**
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505
March: Crossing Open Ground by Barry Lopez
April: The Force of Spirit by Scott Russell Sanders

**ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOPS**
Tuesday, March 31 & Thursday, April 30
5:30 - 7 p.m.
For adults
$5 (Nonmembers - $10)
Free for regular birding volunteers
Call to register, 964-8505
These monthly workshops delve into the mysterious and wonderful world of birds looking at current research and well-established topics. Birdwalk follows. Binoculars provided.

**TWILIGHT BIRD HIKE**
**Wednesday, April 1**
6 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
Thirty-six bird species have been recorded in Washington Park, including woodcock, bluebirds, phoebes, sapsuckers, kingfishers, coots and grebes. We’ll try to add to this list. All skill levels welcome and binoculars are provided. After the walk stay for hot chocolate and a talk on birds (see below for details).

**FROG TALK (LITERALLY)**
**Wednesday, April 1**
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
How do frogs communicate? What are they saying to each other? Get answers to these exciting questions and experience the sights and sounds of frogs from across the globe.

**T’AI CHI AND BEYOND: ADVENTURES IN EXERCISE!**
**Saturdays, March 7 & April 4**
9:30 - 11 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Adults: $12 (Nonmembers - $15) Children: $8
(Nonmembers - $10) per session
Come play at an intergenerational exploration of movement and exercise! Parents, children and grandparents will discover fun ways to move, stretch, balance, relax and groove! Enjoy one or both sessions.

**BRRRRRRDS IN WINTER**
**Wednesday, April 1**
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505
Most birds go south for the winter, but a lot stick it out with the rest of us. We’ll look at behavioral and physiological adaptations that allow birds to go through the deep freezes of winter while maintaining a 104° body temperature.
ADULT LEARNING

PRAIRIE CHICKEN VIEWING - BUENA VISTA MARSH
Wednesday, April 15 - Thursday, April 16
For adults
$45 plus lodging (Nonmembers - $55 plus lodging)
Includes $10 contribution to UW-Stevens Point Prairie Chicken conservation efforts
Registration required, call Tim at 964-8505, x116

Join us for an overnight and early morning viewing of greater prairie chicken mating ritual. They jump and square off against each other all while drumming their feet. It’s a truly unforgettable experience.

BIRD BANDING
Tuesdays, April 21 - May 26
Early mornings
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

Few experiences compare with feeling the rapid heartbeat of a bird in your hand. Join us for an up-close look at birds during spring migration.

URBAN ADVENTURES

OPEN CLIMBS ON TOWER
Sundays, March 1 & 15, April 5 & 19, May 16
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.

RETURNING TO EARTH: ROBERT SMITH; HUMAN NATURE: HAL KOENIG*
Show runs through late March

ART AT UEC

TREESCAPES, SEASCAPES, LAGOONS, LAKE: ADOLPH AND SUZANNE ROSENBLATT*
Sunday, April 5
2 - 4 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Show runs through late June

Both Adolph and Suzanne Rosenblatt are inspired by real life. Adolph settles down near a cluster of trees with his Cray-Pas and cardboard and plays with forms, space and light. Suzanne stations herself on the shoreline of river, lake or lagoon and draws or paints using images and words. Talk by artists at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

INTEREST GROUPS

DNR FROG & TOAD SURVEY
Friday, April 24
7:30 - 11:30 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505

Come out for a late night of froggin’ and help add to the Wisconsin DNR’s statewide database of frogs and toads. Dress for the weather and wear footwear that can get muddy.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING EXHIBIT OPEN HOURS
Mondays, April 6 - 7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

Remodeling, adding on, or building new? Visit the Center’s Sustainable Building Exhibit for ideas to beautify your home while honoring the environment. This is a hands-on library of sample products. Resource person available during open hours.

KNITTING CIRCLE*
Sundays, March 15 & April 26
3 - 4:30 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
If you are new to knitting or an experienced knitter, please join us for a cup of coffee, good conversation and knitting.

VEGETARIAN POTLUCK*
Thursdays, March 19 & April 16
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Bring a plate and fork along with your meatless dish to share at our picnic style meal.

PATHS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE*
Tuesdays, March 31 & April 21
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - $5)
Childcare available: $4
(Nonmembers - $6)
Call to register, 964-8505

March: Creating Community Wealth. Alternative currencies have a long history and may become important in a more localized economy. Rob McClure will share insights from the 13-year-old currency known as Madison Hours.

April: Victory Gardens for a New Era. Learn about a new initiative that aims to build community and increase local sustainability and food security by replacing lawns with gardens.

URBAN STARGAZERS*
Thursday, April 9
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Join us for fun, information and stargazing.

EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS*
Thursdays
8 a.m.
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 bird life with us. Binoculars available.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
by Susan Winans, Volunteer Coordinator

“We want to get out of the office and be outside.” “We’d like to have a hands-on learning experience.” “We’re looking for an opportunity to get to know each other better and build our team.” “We hope to give back to the community.”

These are some of the reasons group leaders call the Center to schedule a service project, and we are happy to help them meet their goals and put them to work!

It is the Center’s mission to protect and preserve the natural lands that make up Riverside and Washington Parks. Youth groups, scouts, synagogues, churches, colleges, universities and businesses provide hundreds of volunteers annually to help us further this mission. We couldn’t do it without them! As an organization that avoids using chemicals and machinery to manage the land, we need human power to bring about vibrant parks and healthier ecosystems.

It would be hard to walk through either park without seeing evidence of the work of our service groups during the past year. In Riverside Park the community garden beds are filled with soil and surrounded by a fence thanks to volunteers. A section of the riverbank once covered with invasive canary grass now has native plants growing there. Nursery beds along the bike path are ready to nurture young plants this spring.

In Washington Park, volunteers planted over 12,000 native plants last summer alone! Also, they helped with a wetland restoration project that included removal of invasive cattails and installation of a boardwalk.

Connect your group to the Center! Group service projects are scheduled April through October. Contact Susan at 964-8505, x110, if you’re interested in finding out what your group can do for the Urban Ecology Center this year.

Not affiliated with a group? Come and join other volunteers on projects at the Center. See the volunteer opportunities listed on the right for more details.

WHITE-NOSED SYNDROME
continued from page 1

bats have a low reproductive rate of 1 young per female per year, which means recovery would take a very long time.

So what can you do? There is certainly a need for research and monitoring, so you could support organizations looking into the problem. Or you could help scientists by monitoring bats in your own backyard, and you don’t need to have a Ph.D.

Through generous support from the Citizen-Based Monitoring Network of Wisconsin, the Center will receive a portable bat detector for use in our Citizen Science programming. With minimal training you will be able to walk through your neighborhood or a nearby park and the device will record the bats you come across. A frequency-lowering mechanism will allow you to “hear” bats in real-time and a GPS unit will allow you to easily produce a map of your journey, along with the location of bat sightings.

The more we learn about the current distribution, densities, habits and behavior of Wisconsin bats, the better we will be able to combat white-nosed syndrome if it does make it our way. Bats are an important part of any ecosystem, controlling insects and pests, pollinating, and dispersing the seeds of many plants, including peaches, avocados and cashews.

If you are interested in monitoring bats in your neighborhood, please contact Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science, (414) 964-8505, x116 or tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Unless otherwise noted, please contact Susan at x110 or swinans@urbanecologycenter.org to sign up for the following opportunities

Volunteer Orientations
Riverside Park, Saturdays, March 14 & April 4, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Washington Park, Saturdays, March 14 & April 4, 10 - 11 a.m.

Volunteer video professional.
We need someone to help us capture interviews and stories. Contact: Ginger, x106.

Burdock Brigade.
Help remove exotic invasive plant species and plant native species.
Riverside Park, Tuesdays, 9 - 11 a.m. & Saturdays, March 7, 21, April 4 & 18, 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Washington Park, Saturdays, Noon - 2 p.m.

Park Rangers.
Help with indoor and outdoor projects.
Riverside Park, Saturday, March 14, 28, April 11 & 25, 9 - 10:30 a.m.
Washington Park, Saturdays, 9 - 10 a.m.

Bird banding training.
Learn how you can help us monitor migratory birds. Contact: Tim, x116.
Riverside Park, Tuesday, April 14, 9 a.m.

Weed-Out.
Bring your gardening gloves and help remove invasive plants.
Riverside Park, Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. - noon

Belayer training.
Become one of our trained rock climbing volunteers! Contact: Chad, x115.
Riverside Park, Saturday, May 2, 1 - 4 p.m., Registration required, call 964-8505

Papermaking.
Learn the art of recycled papermaking and create beautiful gifts for our supporters.
Riverside Park, Thursdays, 4 - 6 p.m.
THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER

The Center receives a majority of its support from local foundations, corporations and individuals. This page 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 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 2600 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! Call Ginger x106 if your name has not appeared as you expected.

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We would like to thank the wonderful donors who attended the Summer Camp fundraising event on January 31. Look for your name in our next issue!

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SEE PAGE 2 FOR OUR INKIND DONORS!
**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 Nikiya Harris, Development Assistant at x105 or nharris@urbanecologycenter.org for details.

**Give a gift membership:**
- Individual ($25) includes guest
- Family ($35)
- Student ($12)

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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  _________

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 _________________

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

**EARTH DAY!**

Saturday, April 18
at Riverside Park
at Washington Park
Saturday, April 25
at Riverside Park
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**URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS**

APRIL 2009

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