



THE ESTABROOK DAM CONUNDRUM

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Wow! Here I am, an ecologist, living for almost 14 years within an easy bike ride of the Milwaukee River impoundment above the Estabrook Park dam and I never even thought about it! I've caught frogs with my kids in these waters, I led my first Urban Ecology Center canoe trip (1998) in borrowed canoes, dodging golf balls from nearby Lincoln Park, I watched with great fascination as the flood of 1998 swallowed up the dam almost entirely and I laughed with my son as we got totally drenched as we succeeded in catching, by hand, a 20-inch red horse sucker — one of hundreds migrating up the rapids just below the dam. Yet somehow I missed the ecological havoc that we people have been wrecking on this fragile ecosystem. You just cannot have a healthy ecosystem where you annually turn a river into a lake and then into a river again — and we've been doing this for over 75 years!

The Estabrook dam was built in the 1930s, in part for flood control and in part to create a summertime stillwater recreation

area. When it was built, river ecology was not even a concept. At the time, it made perfect sense to fill the impoundment in spring and release the water every fall to avoid the pressures created by winter ice. This has been the management plan ever since, however during this time we have learned a lot. First off, dams stop sediments or dirt from the land. Prior to human settlement, soil systems were quite stable ... heavy spring rains flowed over deep rooted prairies and strong healthy forests and picked up very little soil along the way. The plowing of fields with short-rooted crops coupled with significant "soil stirring" development projects means that today's floods carry much more sediment than a century ago. An impoundment created today, compared to the past, fills up at an extremely rapid rate. Dams also stop waterborne pollutants that mix with the sediments. Today some of the most toxic soils in Milwaukee (I mean really bad stuff) lie beneath the Estabrook impoundment. Finally, many plants, fish, frogs, crayfish, macroinvertebrates (bugs that live in the water) and

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HONEY, I PLUGGED IN THE PRIUS

by Francis X. Vogel, Community Volunteer

The unexpected snowfall on the last Sunday in March prompted me to take my two daughters, Paloma and Ava, for a memorable afternoon of sledding and hot chocolate at the Urban Ecology Center. Before leaving home, though, I unplugged a cord from the standard 110-volt wall socket in my garage and did likewise from the portal on the back of my 2007 Toyota Prius. I rolled up the cord, placed it in my trunk and smoothly drove off. In the spare tire well nested a 200-pound lithium-ion battery pack that allows me to go up to 30 miles on electric power before recharging.

Yes, I'm fortunate to be one of the few private owners of a plug-in hybrid-electric (PHEV) in the nation, and maybe the only one with a toddler seat and a booster seat in the back. PHEVs, of course, are highly-touted by policymakers across the political spectrum as a near-term solution for kicking our oil jones. The high cost of advanced-technology batteries, however, has kept automakers from mass-producing PHEVs so far. A few entrepreneurial "conversion" companies take stock vehicles and add an aftermarket

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CHEERING, PADDLING, LISTENING

by Beth Fetterley, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

It was a lovely early June day. After a series of late Spring rains, the river was rushing, slapping the deck of my kayak. My job was simple: position my boat so that I could easily see two sets of rapids; one slightly upstream and the other directly adjacent to me. If any serious safety concerns arose from potential capsizes, I was to activate a team of volunteers and staff who were ready to respond with cell phone and radio within reach in their dry bags; I found one semi-calm spot along the bank with sturdy, exposed tree roots begging to be grabbed as an anchor. Then the adventure began.



Photo credit: Barbara J. Miner

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

Contributing writers: Beth Fetterley, Ken Leinbach, Sarah Rohe, Francis X. Vogel, Susan Winans and Joey Zocher.

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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

DROPLETS

Looking for something fun to do in Riverside Park? We are expanding our Equipment Lending Program to include several activities for you to enjoy while you're visiting the park. Come play tennis, bocce ball and croquet. Fly a kite or explore the park with our activities backpacks. Ask at the reception desk about the items that we have available for you to borrow.

Summer is nearly here, and our Summer Equipment Lending Program is in full swing. At Riverside Park members can borrow bikes, camping equipment and garden tools without a fee for up to three days! Canoes and kayaks are also available starting on May 1st for those who have passed our Water Safety Course. If you passed this course last year you do not have to retake it this year. Passing this course is required in order to borrow a boat, see page 8 for this summer's class schedule. **New in 2009:** borrow a canoe at Washington Park for a quick trip on our lagoon! If you have questions about Equipment Lending, please contact Mike at (414) 964-8505 x126 or mlarson@urbanecologycenter.org.

Congratulations, Ken! We are pleased to announce that this year MIAD will offer an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts to our Executive Director Ken Leinbach at it's May 9th commencement ceremony. Ken is being honored for his creative and visionary leadership in the realm of environmental education and ground breaking efforts in bringing practical solutions to the challenges of our environment. We are proud of his accomplishments and feel this honor is well deserved.

WISH LIST

For Riverside Park
Contact: Judy Krause, 964-8505, x102.

- 2 - 4 bar stools or high bar chairs
- 3-shelf cabinet for board games
- 3 umbrella stands
- 30 pairs of lightweight welding goggles
- Air compressor (at least 26 gallon?)
- Animal heat rocks and heat pads
- Area rug (send photos) approx. 6'x8'
- Blenders
- Cork screw
- Cornstarch
- Dandelion diggers
- Electric or Diesel Grounds "Utility" Vehicle (not a car or truck)
- Floor jack for auto repair (at least 4 ton hydraulic)
- Gardening/work gloves
- Good quality sound system for visiting musicians
- Hand clippers
- Hand trowels
- Heavy duty wheelbarrows
- Ice cream buckets
- Kayaks
- Large attractive ceramic planters for indoor potted plants (12"-24")
- Long handled loppers
- Nylon pants
- Open trailer for hauling
- Portable stage lighting
- Projector screen
- Rain ponchos/jackets for (K - 3rd grade)
- Reptile basking light bulbs
- Scooter (moped)
- Small all occasion gift bags
- Sturdy 2-drawer file cabinets
- Toaster oven
- Used cell phones, print cartridges, video games and digital cameras (for recycling)
- Video camera
- Waterproof pants for kids

For Washington Park
Contact: Joey Zocher, (414) 344-5460.

- Alka seltzer tablets
- Bicycles
- Blenders
- Bookshelves
- Clothespins
- Cornstarch
- Extension cords
- Fishing tackle
- Fish tank-sized fish nets
- Flat-head screwdrivers
- Gardening equipment
- Ice cream buckets and lids
- Native plant seeds (display garden)
- Old towels and rags
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Popcorn kernels
- Power strips
- Sprinklers
- Sweatshirts/pants
- Video camera
- Yoga mats

HONEY, I PLUGGED IN THE PRIUS

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battery pack, paving the way for when PHEVs will be on showroom floors. One of those companies, A123 Systems Hymotion, converted my Prius on site at last summer's Hybridfest event in Madison. That's when my wife Brenda and I joined the limited number of PHEV owners nationwide, who are otherwise almost exclusively utilities or fleets participating in research projects.

Not long ago, hybrid-electric vehicles (HEVs) were akin to the original Sundance Film Festival: quirky, low-key and no competition for the established order. Just as Sundance has come into its own, hybrids have swiftly evolved into a juggernaut gaining force with each new oil price shock.

HEVs marry a conventional internal combustion engine with an electric motor. This happy union produces low emissions, greater fuel economy and the range and easy fueling of traditional vehicles. PHEVs take it to the next level, amping up the battery power and conferring additional benefits to consumers and the nation. Since electricity costs less than gasoline, for example, PHEV owners enjoy fuel savings by tapping into the electric grid. And since PHEVs use less gas, that translates to greater energy security and less reliance on imported oil.

PHEVs can also significantly reduce carbon emissions if the electricity's source is efficient power plants, resulting in improved public health

and cleaner air. Even better, PHEV owners taking part in a renewable energy program such as We Energies' Energy for Tomorrow (EFT) can take the road with electricity drawn from wind, biomass and solar power. I joined EFT before my Prius was converted into a PHEV last July, so 100% of the electricity recharging my additional battery pack is from renewable sources.

Providence enabled me to be one of the nation's first PHEV owners. I am at the helm of Wisconsin Clean Cities, a nonprofit organization housed at We Energies. The utility offered to cover the \$11,000 cost to convert my Prius last year, enlisting me as a one-unit demonstration project on how PHEVs might enhance our area's electrical generation and distribution system. Charging at night, for instance, takes place when demand is low and when wind power tends to be strongest.

Wisconsin Clean Cities promotes cleaner air and energy security through alternative fuel development and related strategies. While it's great to truly "drive the talk" as a PHEV owner, I still must eco-drive to maximize my fuel savings and air quality benefits. And while it's very cool to glide in "stealth mode" when I'm all-electric for much of the 30-mile PHEV's range, I still love to take my other hybrid for the 3.3 mile commute from Riverwest. That hybrid is from Bikesmiths. You just can't beat zero emissions, better health and big fun.

CHEERING...

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An almost continual flow of news came from the radio. "Running Rebels completed checkpoint 2." "First two canoes have been launched." "Washington High is now on bikes." Sixty teenagers in coed teams were racing against the clock to complete the Urban Ecology Center's Teen Adventure Challenge. A few would capsize their canoes. All would slog through the mud, bike the Oak Leaf Trail, complete team challenges and don hip waders. Teams arrived at the finish line wet, muddy, scraped and sore, but wearing ear-to-ear smiles. For any high schooler who has actually completed the Teen Adventure Challenge, they know that it is just that — an intense outdoor adventure along the Milwaukee River exclusively for teen. It's a physical, mental and ecological challenge that requires teamwork and persistence.

For me, the day involved waiting and listening, intense moments of paddling across rapids to coach nervous teens (or their adult chaperones), then cheering, followed by the firm purposeful battle to position myself back upstream. Then cheering, listening, paddling and cheering again. Finally, I paddled downstream to the take out, wearing my very own ear-to-ear smile. Such fun and satisfaction! It is one of my favorite days.

Why share all this? Because on June 6th, you are invited to join in the fun. Our route is spread over seven miles so volunteers are critical to making this a fun, smooth, safe event. Volunteers can coach teens, support the communication hub, transport equipment and supplies throughout the course and much more. Interested? Contact Susan at swinans@urbanecologycenter.org.

We are also looking for prizes, in sets of five (one for each member of the team), so if you have workplace baseball caps, water bottles, jackets, MP3 players, book bags, etc, please contact Chad at cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org.

Plan to join us for the Urban Ecology Center Summer Solstice Soiree and Auction on June 20th, 2009

The Soiree is 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.



THE ESTABROOK DAM CONUNDRUM

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micro-organisms at the bottom of the food chain, cannot adequately adapt to a summer lake and a winter river. Some do exist, but not as they should. Habitats are scoured, frozen or desiccated as a result of these seasonal draw-downs. It is tragic! And I never thought about it until a recent dam inspection alerted us all to the fact that the dam was deteriorating and either needs millions of dollars of repair work or millions of dollars to take it down.

Whew, glad I'm not the one having to make that decision ... but wait a minute! If not me, then who? Currently it is in the hands of our duly elected county supervisors for whom I have nothing but respect, but will they consider the ecology of this important waterway? I sure hope so. If there is anything I hope we have learned over the past century it is that everything is connected to everything else. A healthy life-sustaining waterway means clean water, a productive fishery, vibrant riparian land, healthy parks, positive recreation, which in turn connects to lifestyle satisfaction and area job retention, etc. Thus, we must keep a

long-term healthy ecosystem at the forefront of whatever decision is made. This is a new way of thinking, but it is exactly this kind of new way of thinking that must prevail if we intend to keep this planet vibrant and life sustaining. Our current management of the Estabrook impoundment does not cut it. So what to do?

Should we repair the dam and manage the impoundment so it stays as a permanent ecologically sound "lake" year round? Or should we remove the dam entirely, letting the river run free?

As the Executive Director of the Urban Ecology Center, I have received an exceptionally high number of calls asking our opinion about what to do. As a result of this community outpouring, because of the thousands of students we bring to the river each year and because of close friendships I have with home owners who live on the impoundment I have looked very closely at this issue. Over 100 people spoke at the March 24th public listening session. Most had strong opinions often

opposing — some were well-informed, many were based solely on emotion. All were valid. I listened. At that point, I was not prepared to take a position and said as much at the meeting. However, since then I have talked with research scientists, homeowners, engineers, hydrologists, fish experts, etc. I've looked into fish ladders and hydro-electric options. I now feel that I have an informed opinion to share; however there is not room here to properly share it. So, now that I have gotten your attention, please check our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org and click the Estabrook Dam icon. Here you will find my letter to the county supervisors along with some other informative material.

It's an exciting time to be alive. The decisions we make today, perhaps more than any era before us, will have a dramatic impact on future generations. The Estabrook impoundment decision is just one small example of this. Let's make sure we get it right.

MAPLE SYRUPING- SWEET SUCCESS!

by Sarah Rohe, School Program Coordinator

The bitter winter chill leaves the air, ducks find their way to the Center's pond and the sap starts to flow! Each year maple syrup season gives us a reason to believe that spring really is on its way.

This spring in Riverside and Washington Parks, we collected 240 gallons of sap from 10 maple trees to make five gallons of syrup. Staff, volunteers and more than 250 students participating in field trips helped

with all stages of the process. Some tapped the trees by drilling a small hole in the tree (as seen in photo) and put a spile for the sap to drip into collection bags. Other students helped by collecting gallons of sap that was later boiled down to make delicious maple syrup and nearly every student that attended a field trip in March tasted a drop of the sap straight from the tree, leaving most of them saying, "Ooh, I want some more of that!"



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

by Susan Winans, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Orientations

Riverside Park, Saturday, May 2,
10:30 a.m. - noon

Thursday, May 21, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 7, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Washington Park, Saturdays, May
9, 23, June 13 & 27, 10 - 11 a.m.

Teen Adventure Challenge!

See article on page 1. Volunteers needed to staff checkpoints, handle equipment like canoes and bikes, serve lunch, belay, lifeguard, kayak, offer first aid and photograph teams in action! Contact: Susan, x110.

Bike to Work Week. Serve breakfast on the bike path and chat with cyclists on their way to work during Bike to Work Week June 8-12 from 7-9 a.m. Contact: Beth, x103 or bfetterley@urbanecologycenter.org.

Summer Camp Volunteers.

Volunteers help with registration, share their unique skills and talents with groups of campers or assist with scheduled activities such as canoeing and fishing. Contact: Sarah, x125.

Special Projects. The Center is currently looking for volunteers with the following skills:

- Bike Maintenance
- Carpentry
- Graphic Design
- Photography
- Puppet Theater Design/Art
- Videography

Contact: Susan, x110.

Burdock Brigade. Help remove exotic invasive plant species and plant native species.

Riverside Park, Tuesdays,
9 - 11 a.m. & Saturdays, May 2,
16, June 6 & 20, 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Washington Park, Saturdays,
12:30 - 2 p.m.



Photo credit: Barbara J. Miner

Belay training. Join our team of enthusiastic rock climbing volunteers! Learn our policies and procedures for belaying climbers and facilitating programs. Registration is required, call 964-8505. Contact: Chad, x115.
Riverside Park, Saturday,
May 2, 1 - 4 p.m.

Park Rangers. We will walk through the park, helping to make it clean and kid-friendly by picking up trash and removing graffiti.
Riverside Park, Saturdays, May 9, 23,
30, June 13 & 27, 9 - 10:30 a.m.
Washington Park,
Saturdays, 9 - 10 a.m.

Community Ambassadors needed! Represent the Center in the community. Once trained, you can volunteer for events and festivals to which we have been invited.
Riverside Park, Monday, May
18, 5:30-7 p.m. To register,
please call (414) 964-8505.

Water Quality Monitoring. Help track the health of the Washington Park lagoon. Data collected will give us a better understanding of this unique aquatic habitat.
Washington Park, Wednesdays,
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

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

JOEY'S TOP PICKS

by Joey Zocher, Washington
Park Program Director

When I made the decision to stop teaching at MPS I knew I'd found my perfect match: kids and the outdoors. After two years as the Washington Park Program Director, I know I made the right decision. It has been amazing watching the Center grow, meeting the volunteers who help make it happen and getting to know the neighborhood kids.

Someone recently asked me if there were anything I didn't like about my job and I realized there is one thing: sometimes I spend my time at work indoors *all day*. It drives me crazy! Since my time is often limited, I sat and thought about my favorite activities outside in the park that can happen in under an hour. Here are my top picks:

Hang out on the boardwalk in the wetland. Recently labeled a Potential Ephemeral Pond, we're starting to monitor and care for the species that live there. We've planted hundreds of native plants and removed the invasive species. As a result, the look and feel of the area is more natural and quite inspiring.

Fish with E.B. Garner. One of our top volunteers, E.B. has an incredible ability to make everyone around him smile. Coupled with kids learning how to fish, often for the first time, it's impossible not to relax.

Canoe in the lagoon. Since the Center is just a few feet from the shoreline, it's easy to launch a canoe into the lagoon. A quick trip around is a great way to clear your head.

Check out new growth. With two rain gardens, a wetland and hundreds of natives, the first season of our plantings should be exciting to watch. Our hope is that butterflies, dragonflies and birds will also visit!

Spend an hour in Washington Park and create your own list or spend a little longer and join us for a program.



MAY - JUNE CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

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.



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

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 before the program date if you have accessibility needs.

Scholarships are available for all fee-based programs. For information call (414) 964-8505 or visit www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY BANDING & BIG SIT

Join people all over the world in celebrating the migratory 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 out of your hand or join us for a "Big Sit" on the tower as we count birds all day long.

Saturday, May 9

Early morning until evening

For adults & accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated

Call Tim Vargo, x116 for details.



MEET THE AUTHOR: DAN GRAY, "KNACK CANOEING FOR EVERYONE" BOOK RELEASE PARTY *

Celebrate the release of "Knack Canoeing for Everyone" with the author, Dan Gray, former Urban Adventures Coordinator at the Center. Join Dan for a talk on this full-length, full-color, instructional guide to the sport of canoeing geared for the beginning to intermediate paddler. Dan's wit and wisdom is something you won't want to miss! Copies will be available for purchase. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, May 28

7 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



TEEN ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

An adventure race for co-ed teams of four high schoolers and an adult. Bike, hike, rock climb, canoe the Milwaukee River and take part in mystery events! T-shirt and lunch included. Contact cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org.

Saturday, June 6

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For teens accompanied by an adult

\$60 per team



SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION ON THE HILL*

Celebrate the longest day of the year 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.

Sunday, June 21

7:30 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated



FAMILY PROGRAMS

WISCONSIN INVASION*

Did you know that our state is under attack? Invasive plant and animal species are doing their worst to our native habitats. Learn how to identify, remove and prevent these unwelcome visitors from making a permanent home.

Wednesday, May 6
7 - 8 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated

**JUSTICE AND OUR ENVIRONMENT***

Many environmental problems are unevenly distributed within an urban community. Explore this discrepancy and learn how to help keep our natural areas places where everyone can live, work, learn and play.

Wednesday, May 20
7 - 8 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

**NATURE DETECTIVES**

Discover the natural world as we explore Riverside Park using magnifying glasses and doing scavenger hunts.

Sundays, May 24
& June 28
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

**STORYTIME IN THE PARK***

Meet a turtle in our live animal room and then hike out to Riverside Park and listen to the story *Scout!* by Cathryn Falwell. After the story you can search for turtles and other animals in Riverside Park.

Saturday, May 30
10 - 11 a.m.
For kids 3-5
accompanied by an adult
\$3 (Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



Summer Camps
spots still
available! Call
964-8505

ISLAND FIRE & A STORY

Canoe to the big island for an evening camp fire and a story. Bring your sweet tooth for a smores treat during the reading.

Fridays, June 5 & 19
5 - 6 p.m.
For everyone
Adults: \$5
(Nonmembers - \$7)
Children: \$3
(Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505

**FLOWERS OF WASHINGTON PARK***

Come on a nature hike and learn to identify flowers and plants found here in the park. Finish the evening with a lesson about how to create your own butterfly flower garden.

Thursdays,
June 11 & 25
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
For everyone
Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

**FUN WITH POND ECOLOGY**

Do you like bugs? How about looking at them under a microscope? We've got you covered! Come observe and identify the cool critters that live here in the lagoon at Washington Park.

Fridays,
June 12 & 26
4:30 - 6 p.m.
For everyone
Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

**COMMUNITY GARDEN POTLUCK***

Come celebrate longer days and enjoy good food with some of the Center's community gardeners and other members of our community. Potluck style dinner; please bring a dish to pass and your appetite!

Saturday, June 13
5 - 6:30 p.m.
For adults & families
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

**PLAYING WITH WORMS**

They are wiggly and slimy and wonderful! Learn about worms and go digging to find them in Riverside Park.

Sunday, June 14
1 - 2 p.m.
For kids 5 and older
\$5 or \$15 for families
of 4 or more
\$7 or \$21 for families
of 4 or more
Call to register, 964-8505

**INTRO TO BIOFUELS***

What is ethanol and how do race cars use it? Can a car run efficiently on cooking oil? How clean-burning is natural gas? If you have ever asked yourself these questions, come to Washington Park for some answers. After some background with these alternatives to gasoline, we'll go outside to pop the hood on cars and trucks that run on each of these substitutes.

Wednesday, June 17
7 - 8 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

**VEGETABLE GARDENING 101***

Want to grow your own vegetables this year? Turn your backyard into your own personal supermarket this spring with tips from our knowledgeable staff.

Tuesdays in May
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
For everyone
Adults: \$3
(Nonmembers - \$5)
Children: \$2
(Nonmembers - \$3)
Call to register, 964-8505

**FISHING WITH E.B. GARNER***

Enjoy a fun evening fishing in Washington Park. Learn fishing techniques and play fishing games. Dependent on the weather. Poles provided.

Wednesdays
5 - 6:30 p.m.
For everyone
Free-donations appreciated

**SCIENCE AND MATH TUTORING***

Getting stuck on your science and math homework? Then stop by the Center at Washington Park and get over the hump with help from our knowledgeable staff.

Thursdays
4 - 7 p.m.
For kids, K-12
Free - donations appreciated

**OUTDOOR PLAY**

Come play outside with us in Washington Park!

Fridays
5 - 7 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated

**ANIMAL FEEDING***

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.

Saturdays
1 - 2 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated

**SCIENCE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS***

Explore science through self-led interactive activities. Topics:
May: The Magnificent Sun!
June: Wonderful Worms

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



URBAN ADVENTURES

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

OPEN ROCK CLIMBING ON TOWER ROCK WALL

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 before climbing, available at www.urbanecologycenter.org. Please call ahead to register; no walk-ins.

Tuesdays, May 12 - June 2
4 - 6 p.m.

Sundays, June 14 - 28

2:30-4:30 pm

For everyone

Adults: \$10

(Nonmembers - \$15)

Children: \$8 (Nonmembers

- \$12) Registration

required, call 964-8505



CANOEOING BASICS

Interested in learning how to canoe? Come hone your skills on the lagoon at Washington Park.

Tuesdays, June 9 & 23

6 - 7 p.m.

For everyone

Adults: \$3

(Nonmembers - \$5)

Children: \$2

(Nonmembers - \$3)

Call to register, 964-8505



RIVER RHYTHMS CANOE TRIPS

Paddle down the Milwaukee River to Pere Marquette Park and River Rhythms. Dress for the weather. Each week fills quickly. Sign-up early!

Wednesdays starting June 10
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

For adults &

accompanied children

Adults: \$25

(Nonmembers - \$30)

Children: \$15

(Nonmembers - \$20)

Meet at Rowing Club

Boathouse (1990 N.

Commerce St. 53211)

Call to register, 964-8505



WATER SAFETY COURSE FOR CANOE LENDING PROGRAM*

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. If you passed this course last year you do not have to retake it this year. This is a requirement of the canoe/kayak lending program.

Riverside Park

Saturdays starting June 13

10 - 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays, May 7 -

June 25

6 - 6:30 p.m.

Washington Park

Saturdays

Noon - 12:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

For everyone

Free donations appreciated

Registration required,

call 964-8505



URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER TOURS

RIVERSIDE GARDENS TOURS*

Come join the Center's stewardship and native gardening experts to enjoy and learn about the gardens within Riverside Park. Learn how native plants are more hardy, require less water and provide habitat for our native birds, insects and mammals. Tour our rain gardens, sensory green roof garden, butterfly garden and more! Please dress for the weather.

Fridays May 1, 15

June 5 & 19

9 a.m.

For adults &

accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register,

964-8505



BRANCH LOOP TOURS

Tour the Urban Ecology Center's Washington Park branch and future Menomonee Valley site.

Wednesday,

May 6 & June 3

9 a.m. -

noon

For adults

Free - donations

appreciated

Meet at Riverside Park location



TOUR OF WASHINGTON PARK BRANCH

Join Washington Park Program Director Joey Zocher on a tour of our branch and Washington Park. Dress for the weather. Call ahead to confirm.

Wednesdays

5 - 6 p.m.

For adults &

accompanied children

Free - donations welcome

Call to register, 964-8505



KEN'S BUILDING TOURS*

Explore our green facility with Executive Director, Ken Leinbach (staff substitution on occasion).

Wednesdays,

May 20 & June 17

9 - 10 a.m.

For adults &

accompanied children

Free - donations

appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



CHAT WITH KEN*

Join our Executive Director, Ken Leinbach for coffee, tea and good conversation about anything environmental. Possible outdoor walk in the park. Call ahead to confirm.

Wednesdays,

May 13, 27,

June 10 & 24

9 - 10 a.m.

For adults &

accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



BETH'S BUILDING TOUR*

Explore our green facility with Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning, Beth Fetterley, and learn about the Center's innovative building design and programming (tour leader substitution on occasion).

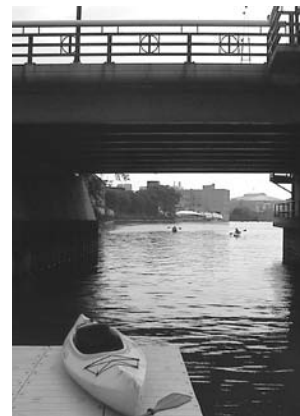
Thursdays

5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations welcome

Call to register, 964-8505



KAYAKING 101

Come learn the basics of kayaking. We'll start on land and then get out on the river. Bring a water bottle and a snack or dinner. Come prepared to get wet!

Tuesday, June 30

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults &

accompanied children

Adults: \$20

Nonmembers - \$25)

Children: \$15

(Nonmembers - \$20

Meet at Rowing Club

Boathouse (1990 N.

Commerce St.)

Call to register, 964-8505



URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

(rp) = Riverside Park (wp) = Washington Park

MAY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Telescopes, Lagoons, Lake: Adolph & Suzanne Rosenblatt Show runs through late June (rp)					9a Riverside Gardens Tour (rp)	Science Saturdays Drop in: 9:30a-4:30p (rp) topic: The Magnificent Suni
3 Science Sundays Drop in 12:30-4:30p (rp) topic: The Magnificent Suni	4 Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)	5 9a 4:30p Burdock Brigade (rp) Vegetable Gardening 101 (wp)	6 9a 4p Branch Tours (rp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Water Safety (wp) Water Quality (wp) 4:30p Fishing (wp) Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) Wisconsin Invasion (wp) 7p	7 8a 4p Birdwalk (rp) Science & Math Tutoring (wp) Papermaking (rp) Beth's Tour (rp) Water Safety (rp) 6p 6:30p UEC Photo Club (rp)	8 5p Outdoor Play (wp)	9 6:45a Leopard Tour (rp) 9a Park Rangers (all branches) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) Neon Water Safety (wp) 12:30p Burdock Brig. (wp) 1p Belayer Training (rp) Animal Feeding (all branches)
Drop in, Noon-2p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)	11 Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)	12 9a 4-6p Burdock Brigade (rp) Rock Climbing (rp) Vegetable Gardening 101 (wp) 7p Sprouting Theology (rp)	13 8:45a 9a 4p Stand Together, Milwaukee (wp) Chat with Ken (rp) Burdock Brigade (wp) 4:30p Water Safety (wp) Water Quality (wp) 4:30p Fishing (wp) Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) 5p Friends of Real Food (rp) 6p	14 8a 4p Big Bird Day (rp) Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science & Math Tutoring (wp) Papermaking (rp) Beth's Tour (rp) Water Safety (rp) 6p 7p Container Gardens: Preparing Pot (rp) Urban Stargazers (rp) Urban Echo Poets (rp) 7p	15 9a 5p Riverside Gardens Tour (rp) Outdoor Play (wp)	16 9a 9a 10a Neon 12:30p 1p 1p 2p 5p Burdock Brigade (rp) Park Rangers (wp) Solar Water Heating (rp) Water Safety (wp) Burdock Brig. (wp) FV (Solar Electric) Systems (rp) Animal Feeding (all branches) Spring Cleaning (rp) Snake Surveys (rp)
Drop in, Noon-2p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp) 1:30p The Creative Process with Suzanne & Adolph Rosenblatt (rp)	18 Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp) 5:30p Community Ambassador Training (rp)	19 9a 6:30p Burdock Brigade (rp) Paths to a Sustainable Future (rp) 4-6p Rock Climbing (rp) 4:30p Vegetable Gardening 101 (wp)	20 9a 4p Ken's Tour (rp) Burdock Brigade (wp) 4:30p Water Safety (wp) 4:30p Fishing (wp) Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) 5p Justice and Our Environment (wp) 7p	21 8a 4p Birdwalk (rp) Science & Math Tutoring (wp) Papermaking (rp) Beth's Tour (rp) Water Safety (rp) 6p 6:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp) Vegetarian Pollack (rp) 6:30p	22 5p Outdoor Play (wp)	23 9a 10a 10a Neon 12:30p 1p 2p Park Rangers (all branches) Book Club (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Water Safety (wp) Burdock Brig. (wp) Animal Feeding (all branches) Bike to Beach (rp)
4p Spring Running(rp)	25 Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)	26 9a 4-6p Burdock Brigade (rp) Rock Climbing (rp) 4:30p Vegetable Gardening 101 (wp)	27 9a 4p Chat with Ken (rp) Burdock Brigade (wp) 4:30p Water Safety (wp) 4:30p Water Quality (wp) 5p Fishing (wp) Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) 6p Ornithology Workshop (rp)	28 8a 4p Birdwalk (rp) Science & Math Tutoring (wp) Papermaking (rp) Beth's Tour (rp) Water Safety (rp) 6p 5:30p Savor the Taste (rp) Container Gardens: Hands-on (rp) 7p Meet the Author - 7p (rp)	29 5p Outdoor Play (wp)	30 9a 9a 10a Neon 12:30p 1p 5p Eco Homes (rp) Park Rangers (all branches) Storytime (rp) Water Safety (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Animal Feeding (all branches) Snake Surveys (rp)
2p Nature Detectives (rp) 3p Knitting Circle (rp)	24 25	26	27	28	29	30
4p Spring Running(rp)	31					

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

(rp) = Riverside Park (wp) = Washington Park

JUNE 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Teescapes, Lagoons, Lake: Adolph & Suzanne Rosenblatt Show runs through late June (rp)</p>	<p>Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4-6p Open Rock Climbing (rp) 8p DNR Frog & Toad Survey (rp)</p>	<p>9a Branch Tours (rp) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4:30p Water Safety (wp) 4:30p Water Quality (wp) 5p Fishing (wp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science & Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 5:30p Beth's Tour (rp) 6p Water Safety (rp) 6:30p UEC Photo Club (rp)</p>	<p>9a Riverside Gardens Tour (rp) 5p Island Fire & a Story (wp) 5p Outdoor Play (wp)</p>	<p>Science Saturdays Drop in 9:30a-4:30p (rp) topic: Wonderful Worms Teen Adventure Challenge - 8:30a (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) Noon Water Safety (wp) 12:30p Burdock Brig. (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches)</p>
<p>Science Sundays Drop in 12:30-4:30p (rp) topic: Wonderful Worms 10:30a Volunteer Orientation (rp) Drop in, Noon-2p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)</p>	<p>7-9a Bicycler Breakfast (rp & wp) Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)</p>	<p>7-9a Bicycler Breakfast (rp & wp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 6p Canoeing Basics (wp) 7p North Atlantic Right Whales of the Crossroads (rp)</p>	<p>7-9a Bicycler Breakfast (rp & wp) 8:45a Stand Together Milwaukee (wp) 9a Chat with Ken (rp) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4:30p Water Safety (wp) 5:30p River Rhythms Canoe Trip (rp) 5p Fishing (wp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) 6p Friends of Real Food (rp)</p>	<p>7-9a Bicycler Breakfast (rp & wp) 8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science & Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 4:30p Flowers/Washington Park (wp) 5p Beth's Tour (rp) 5:30p Water Safety (rp) 6p Container Gardens: It's Never too Late to be Fresh (rp) 7p Urban Stargazers (rp) 7p Urban Echo Poets (rp)</p>	<p>9a Bicycler Breakfast (rp & wp) 9a Park Rangers (all branches) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10a Water Safety (rp) Noon Water Safety (wp) 12:30p Burdock Brig. (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches)</p>	<p>9a Bicycler Breakfast Celebration (rp & wp) 9a Park Rangers (all branches) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10a Water Safety (rp) Noon Water Safety (wp) 12:30p Burdock Brig. (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches)</p>
<p>8a Birding by Canoe (rp) 1p Playing with Worms (rp) 2:30p Rock Climbing (rp) 4p Spring Running (rp)</p>	<p>Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 6:30p Paths to a Sustainable Future (rp)</p>	<p>9a Ken's Tour (rp) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4:30p Water Safety (wp) 4:30p Water Quality (wp) 5:30p River Rhythms Canoe Trip (rp) 5p Fishing (wp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) 6:30p Ornithology Workshop (rp) 7p Intro to Biofuels (wp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science & Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 5:30p Beth's Tour (rp) 6p Water Safety (rp) 6p Savor the Taste: First Fruits (rp) 6:30p Vegetarian Polluck (rp)</p>	<p>9a Riverside Gardens Tour (rp) 5p Island Fire & a Story (wp) 5p Outdoor Play (wp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) 10a Water Safety (rp) 10a Book Club (rp) Noon Water Safety (wp) 12:30p Burdock Brig. (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches)</p>
<p>2:30p Rock Climbing (rp) 3p Knitting Circle (rp) Summer Solstice Celebration on the Hill 7:30p</p>	<p>Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 6p Canoeing Basics (wp) 6:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p>	<p>9a Chat with Ken (rp) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4:30p Water Safety (wp) 4:30p Water Quality (wp) 5:30p River Rhythms Canoe Trip (rp) 5p Fishing (wp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science & Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 4:30p Flowers/Washington Park (wp) 5p Beth's Tour (rp) 5:30p Water Safety (rp) 6p Container Gardens: Harvest Colors (rp) 7p</p>	<p>9a Fun with Pond Ecology (wp) 4:30p Outdoor Play (wp) 5p Teen Bonfire (rp)</p>	<p>9a Park Rangers (all branches) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10a Water Safety (rp) Noon Water Safety (wp) 12:30p Burdock Brig. (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches)</p>
<p>2p Nature Detectives (rp) 2:30p Rock Climbing (rp) 4p Spring Running(rp)</p>	<p>Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 5:30p Kayaking 101</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4:30p Water Safety (wp) 4:30p Water Quality (wp) 5:30p River Rhythms Canoe Trip (rp) 5p Fishing (wp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science & Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 4:30p Flowers/Washington Park (wp) 5p Beth's Tour (rp) 5:30p Water Safety (rp) 6p Container Gardens: Harvest Colors (rp) 7p</p>	<p>9a Fun with Pond Ecology (wp) 4:30p Outdoor Play (wp) 5p Teen Bonfire (rp)</p>	<p>9a Park Rangers (all branches) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10a Water Safety (rp) Noon Water Safety (wp) 12:30p Burdock Brig. (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches)</p>

ADULT LEARNING

CONTAINER GARDENING: POTS ON THE SPOT SERIES*

After welcoming you to her store for twenty years, private gardener Victoria Vonier is coming to us! Victoria will present a series of workshops about container gardening - perfect for your urban homes and businesses.

May 14: Preparing your Pot. Learn how to choose your container, create custom soil mixes and what to grow

May 28: Hands-on. Explore seasonal plants, how to combine them and how to nurture them

June 11: It's Never too Late to be Fresh. Mid-summer succulents

June 25: Harvest Colors. Beautiful and bountiful plants

Thursdays, May 14, 28, June 11 & 25
7 p.m.

For adults

\$15 (Nonmembers- \$20) per session

Call to register, 964-8505



SAVOR THE TASTE OF SUMMER: FOOD PRESERVATION SERIES*

Materials, hand outs and recipes are included for all classes except September 24, Canner's Choice.

May 28: Introduction to Food Preservation. Learn about food preservation techniques with emphasis on hot-water-bath canning. This class is the basis for all other canning classes this year.

June 18: First Fruits. Learn how to preserve the first fruits of the season. During this hands-on class, participants will experience canning berry fruits into jams and preserves.

August 20: Tomato Fest. Right about the end of summer tomatoes are delicious and plentiful. Learn how to jar tomato sauce, tomato paste and whole tomatoes for storage.

September 17: Pickling Summer's Fare. Preserve the summer harvest by pickling. Learn pickling techniques and preserve beans and pickles.

September 24: A Canner's Choice Evening. Canners with some experience will have an opportunity to do their own canning with an instructor available to help. Participants must bring their own supplies. Other essential equipment will be available.

Intro class:

Thursday, May 28

6 - 8 p.m.

\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

(Nonmembers - \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door)

Call to register, 964-8505



Series:

Thursdays, June 18, August 20, September 17 & 24

6 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$25 in advance, \$35 at the door per session

(Nonmembers - \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door per session)

Call to register, 964-8505

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING EXHIBIT OPEN HOURS*

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.

Sundays, May 3, 10 & June 7
12-2 pm

Mondays

4 - 7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



ALDO LEOPOLD & INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION TOURS

We know it's early in the morning, but there is a lot to do in a little amount of time! Join us as we tour the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center, the famous Leopold "shack" and the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo. Transportation provided. Please bring a lunch.

Saturday, May 9

6:45 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

For adults &

college students

\$35

(Nonmembers - \$45)

Registration required by

May 1st, call 964-8505



SPROUTING THEOLOGY: THE GROWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOOD AND RELIGION*

Speaker: Jordan Wesley Stone, Program Assistant and Urban Farmer, Growing Power, Inc. As Jordan finished his degree in religious studies and went to work on an urban farm, he couldn't help asking himself how his two fascinations, religion and food, were related. As it turns out, farms and churches have a lot to lend each other. Good, healthy theology can help foster a healthier relationship with our food, and the act of growing good, healthy food can help us better understand and develop our personal theologies.

Tuesday, May 12

7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

(Nonmembers - \$5)

Call to register, 964-8505



BIG BIRD DAY IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

No, not the yellow bird from Sesame Street. Help us count as many birds as we can find in Milwaukee County in a single day during this fun research challenge. We'll visit birding hot spots until we drop. Bring a lunch.

Thursday, May 14
8 a.m.

For adults &

accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



SOLAR WATER HEATING FOR YOUR HOME*

Learn about the components that make up a solar water heating system, the steps to get started with an installation, what solar water heating systems cost and the financial incentives available. Sponsored by We Energies and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association.

Saturday, May 16

10 a.m. - noon

For adults

\$15 or \$5 for We

Energies' Energy For

Tomorrow customers

Register at [www.the-](http://www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1229121084)

[mrea.org/workshops.](http://www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1229121084)

[php?id=1229121084](http://www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1229121084)



PV (SOLAR ELECTRIC) SYSTEMS FOR YOUR HOME*

This seminar will teach you how to determine what size system will meet your needs, what PV systems cost and the financial incentives that are available. Sponsored by We Energies and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association.

Saturday, May 16

1 - 3 p.m.

For adults

\$15 or \$5 for We

Energies' Energy For

Tomorrow customers

Register at [www.the-](http://www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1229121084)

[mrea.org/workshops.](http://www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1229121084)

[php?id=1229121084](http://www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1229121084)



ADULT LEARNING CONTINUED

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING*

It is time for spring cleaning! Learn how to make household cleaners without chemicals and make some to take home with you. Materials provided.

Saturday, May 16
2 - 3 p.m.
For adults
\$10 (Nonmembers - \$13)
Registration required by Wednesday, May 13th, call 964-8505



SNAKE SURVEYS

Join us as we survey snake species around Riverside Park including the threatened Butler's Garter snake. Program is weather dependent.

Saturdays, May 16, 30 & June 13
5 - 7 p.m.
For adults & children, 7 and older, accompanied by an adult
Members: Adults - \$7,
Children: \$3 (or \$15 for families of 4 or more)
Nonmembers: Adults - \$10
Children: \$4 or \$20 for families of 4 or more
Call to register, 964-8505



BOOK CLUB*

Our Book Club meets once a month to discuss an environmentally themed book. Newcomers and ongoing participants are invited to come enjoy the conversation and refreshments.

May: *Biophilia* by E.O. Wilson

June: *Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age* by Bill McKibben

Saturdays, May 23 & June 20
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults
Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOPS

These monthly workshops delve into the mysterious and wonderful world of birds looking at current research and well-established topics, including social behavior. Presentation followed by a dusk birdwalk. Binoculars provided.

Wednesday, May 27
6 - 7:30 p.m.
& Wednesday, June 17
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults
\$5
(Nonmembers - \$10)
Free for regular birding volunteers
Call to register, 964-8505



ECO HOMES WORKSHOP: HOW GREEN IS YOUR HOME - REALLY??

Discover how to create the healthy, eco-friendly home you've always wanted. Environmental Geologist Larry Boyer and Eco-Designer Lyn Falk guide you through an audit your home and property. Define your own "green goals," and use a simple checklist, to determine what areas are healthy and sustainable, and what needs improvement.

Saturday, May 30
9 - 11:30 a.m.
For adults
\$15 (Nonmembers - \$20)
Call to register, 964-8505



DNR FROG & TOAD SURVEY

Come out for a late night of froggin' and help add to the Wisconsin 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. Call Tim Vargo x116 for details.

Tuesday, June 2
8 p.m. - midnight
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



BICYCLER BREAKFAST

Thank you to all 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 Rec Trail and at the Washington Park Lagoon!

Weekday mornings,
June 8-12
7 - 9 a.m.
For bicycle commuters
Free - donations appreciated



THE URBAN WHALE: NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES AT THE CROSSROADS

Speaker: Marilyn Marx, New England Aquarium Researcher. The North Atlantic right whale is one of the most endangered large whales. With a population of only 400, they struggle to survive in the industrialized coastal waters of the U.S. and Canada. Marilyn has spent more than 20 years studying right whales and will share their history and the problems they face today in the urban ocean.

Tuesday, June 9
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



BICYCLER CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

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 at both Riverside Park and Washington Park branches!

Saturday, June 13
9 - 10:30 a.m.
For bicycle commuters
Free - donations appreciated

BIRDING BY CANOE

Join UEC staff and local guides as we paddle the upper stretches of the Milwaukee River on the lookout for spring migrants. Birders of all experience levels are welcome. Bring a lunch and water. Canoes, paddles and PFDs provided.

Sunday, June 14
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
For adults
\$25 (Nonmembers - \$30)
Call to register, 964-8505



ART AT UEC

THE CREATIVE PROCESS WITH SUZANNE & ADOLPH ROSENBLATT

According to Adolph and Suzanne Rosenblatt, artists should be playful and willing to go with the flow for that's the key to creativity in the arts and in everyday life. Adolph, painter and sculptor, and Suzanne, artist, writer and performer, will discuss the process of getting into the creative side of the brain.

Sunday, May 10
1:30 - 3 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



TREESCAPES, SEASCAPES, LAGOONS, LAKE: ADOLPH AND SUZANNE ROSENBLATT

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.

Show runs through late June



HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORERS

BIKE TO BRADFORD BEACH

Join our outdoor leaders for a bike ride and fun down at Bradford Beach. We'll let loose, play games and enjoy the lakeshore! Bikes and helmets available. Parental permission required.

Saturday, May 23
2 - 4 p.m.
For teens
\$2 (Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



TEEN BONFIRE*

What do you get when you cross a fun group of teens, marshmallows, fire and summer? You get a teen bonfire! Hang out with your friends around a bonfire pit while roasting marshmallows and sharing many laughs.

Friday, June 26
7 - 9 p.m.
For teens
\$2 (Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



INTEREST GROUPS

UEC PHOTO CLUB*

Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills.

Thursdays, May 7
& June 4
6:30 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated

**STAND TOGETHER MILWAUKEE***

Collaborate with others to confront gun violence in and restore a sense of healthy community through collaborative action.

Wednesdays,
May 13 & June 10
8:45 a.m.
For adults
Free -
donations appreciated

**FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD***

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

May: Mark Bittman's Guide to Conscious Eating: video and discussion. Should environmentalists be paying attention to what they eat? Bittman contends that if we make simple choices, like eating less animal products and junk food, we can make a difference - improving the health of our planet and ourselves.

June: Baking Real Bread with speaker Dean Malloy. Have you ever tried to make bread or use a sourdough starter? Dean Malloy, artisan baker and founder of both Real Bread and the Enlightened Schoolyard, will join us for our potluck to talk about the idiosyncrasies of baking bread and more.

Wednesdays,
May 13 & June 10
6 - 8:30 p.m.
For everyone
Free-donations appreciated

**URBAN ECHO POETS***

Our purpose is to observe and experience nature, then to express these observations in poetry and essay. We will read and write and appreciate poetry with images from nature at its core.

Thursdays, May 14
& June 11
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated

**URBAN STARGAZERS***

Join us for fun, information and stargazing.

Thursdays, May 14
& June 11
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated

**SPRING RUNNING**

Running is a great way get outside and meet other people. Join us for leisurely runs along the Milwaukee River, Oak Leaf Trail or beyond!

Sundays, May 17 &
31, June 14 & 28
4 - 5 p.m.
For teens & adults
Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

**PATHS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE***

May: Electric Vehicles (EV) Panel and Demonstration. EVs are quickly becoming an underground answer for local commuting. Mike Mangan, Ben Nelson and Sweet Sim will share their resources and know-how for DIY EVs. Includes outdoor show-n-tell.

June: Backyard Chickens?: They do it all. Feed you breakfast, fertilize your soil and eat the bugs off of your broccoli. Discuss the benefits, resources and current laws pertaining to backyard hens.

Tuesdays, May 19 & June 16
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults
Free -
donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - \$5)
Childcare available: \$4
(Nonmembers - \$6)
Call to register, 964-8505

**VEGETARIAN POTLUCK***

Bring a plate and fork along with your meatless dish to share at our picnic style meal.

Thursdays, May 21
& June 18
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults &
accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

**KNITTING CIRCLE***

If you are new to knitting or an experienced knitter, please join us for coffee, good conversation, and knitting.

Sundays, May 24 & June 21
3 - 5 p.m.
For everyone
Free-
donations appreciated

**EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS**

Kick start your day with bird song. Everyone is invited to explore bird life with us. Binoculars available.

Thursdays
8 a.m.
For adults &
accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

**NEW BOARD MEMBER - JIM SCHLEIF**

by Ginger Duiven, Director of Development and Marketing

We are excited to announce an addition to our Board of Directors. At the March meeting our board grew to 25 members when our directors voted to add Jim Schleif to their ranks. Jim is a current resident of Milwaukee's North Point Historic District. His professional experience includes 26 years of sales, marketing, communications, new business development and progressive for-profit and non-profit leadership experience. Jim is currently a sales agent for Shorewest Realtors - Milwaukee's Northshore Office. Jim holds the #3 sales agent ranking of 1,100 company agents. We welcome Jim and thank him for his interest in and commitment to the Urban Ecology Center.

SUMMER CAMP FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

by Ginger Duiven, Director of Development and Marketing

We extend our very special appreciation to Christi and John Clancy, Mary Allegre and David McMullen and Marc and Deb Andraca. This dedicated and creative team hosted a magical event in January to raise funds for summer camp scholarships. This family event is the 5th annual winter fun night featuring sledding, crafts, owl hikes, great music and, of course, food, drink and the perennial favorite: s'mores!

The \$13,471 raised through this event makes it possible for the Center to offer the memorable experiences of summer camp to all children. The amount of money a child's family makes absolutely does not matter. Bringing the joy of discovery and sharing nature's quirks and beauty to a child is what it's all about.

Scholarship spaces are still available for campers at most age levels and at both the Riverside and Washington Park locations. Please help us fill all the spots! Spread the word and make a child's summer filled with wonder and learning! Contact Sarah Rohe at 964-8505, x125, if you want more info.

THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER

The Urban Ecology Center receives a majority of its support from local foundations, corporations and individuals. This section of our newsletter is reserved 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 previous 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 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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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 gift membership:

- Individual (\$25) includes guest Family (\$35) Student (\$12)

Recipient Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Eve. _____

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 _____

Name _____

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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

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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



Thursday, May 28
7 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



**MEET THE AUTHOR:
DAN GRAY
BOOK RELEASE
TALK AND PARTY**

Remember our old
Urban Adventures
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Riverside Park
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