



## SOUTH SIDE CENTER IS BECOMING A REALITY

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Ladies and Gentlemen ... I have a prediction to make (drum roll please). I predict that by 2012 — 2013 at the latest — there will be a full service Urban Ecology Center branch near the Menomonee River, serving for the first time, a neighborhood of south side schools. The funds have not been raised, no school contracts are in hand, nor is our outdoor classroom (the park where we intend to do this work) even built. But it is going to happen.

In 1962 when John F. Kennedy made his famous speech that we'd be putting a man on the moon before the decade was done, he did not know how it was going to happen. His statement however, while bold, was not a crazy one. He knew that our nation had the right pieces in place ... a solid vision, a skilled team, the technical wherewithal, and the proper motivation. While there is obviously a radical difference in scale between these two projects — a neighborhood environmental center is no moon landing — we too have the

right elements coming together. The momentum is building and it is pretty darn exciting. Interest from schools is high, the site for our outdoor classroom has been selected, the proper partnerships are forming and political support is there.

We are extremely motivated to make this happen as currently no south side schools are able to take advantage of our unique neighborhood-based program model. We are fully booked with 44 partner schools between our two Centers. This is a good thing, but it pains me every time a new school calls to get into our program and we have to turn it away. So, when the Layton Boulevard West Neighborhood Association and the Menomonee Valley Partners (MVP), a non profit redevelopment organization, solicited our participation in a south side project, we were all ears.

Our mission statement reads: The Urban Ecology Center educates and inspires people to *Continued on page 3*

## KICKING UP GREAT NEWS IN THE MILWAUKEE RIVER!

by Erick Anderson, Environmental Educator

You may know the story of the North Avenue dam as it is an integral part of Riverside Park's history. First built in 1835 as part of a short-lived canal scheme, its purpose was to control water levels in the river. It became a popular impoundment for boaters, swimmers and ice skaters. Since its removal in 1997, many improvements in the quality and biodiversity of the Milwaukee River have been observed.



*Students in our River Connections class looking for water penny larva*

In our River Connection program, fifth grade students explore these exciting changes. Dressed in stylish (though sometimes leaky) hip waders, they collect aquatic *Continued on page 11*

## KIDS NOTICE THINGS: CHANGES AT WASHINGTON PARK

by Joey Zocher, Washington Park Program Director

There have been so many "WOWS" around here lately it really makes me proud. It's not just me. All of the people who have helped make it happen are proud. The staff. The volunteers. The neighbors. The kids. We're so excited that we want to tell the world, which leaves us with a question — what can we do to quantify the number of positive changes happening in Washington Park? We track our participation in numbers, but how can we communicate to others that the park itself is better since we arrived?

Working with our kid volunteers, we started with a visible transformation of the park's biodiversity. Joel, our Assistant Land Steward, has a crew of kids that joins him every Thursday night from 5-7 p.m. to learn about invasive and native species. Okay, most of the kids are more interested in removing the invasive plants than learning about them, but that's what Burdock Brigade is all about! Getting dirty working hard to remove invasives and plant natives. These changes will be noticed by everyone *Continued on page 4*

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

Contributing writers: John Clancy, Beth Fetterley, Nikiya Harris, Ken Leinbach, Susan Winans and Joey Zocher.

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To make a contribution, please see page 14 for the easy to use form, visit our website at [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org) or call Nikiya Harris at x104.

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

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(414) 964-8505 Fax: (414) 964-1084  
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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**, 4145 W. Lisbon Ave.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208  
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Hours of operation:  
Tuesday - Friday: 4 - 7 p.m.  
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## DROPLETS

💧 **We are excited to bring back the Appliance and Electronic Recycling Day on November 7<sup>th</sup>!** This was a success in September because our members spread the word to their businesses, churches and other organizations. Please help us spread the word again! This program is led by Shawn Office, a former UEC high school intern.

💧 **Astronomy Notes on the web!** Remember that cool calendar of astronomical events we used to put in the newsletter? It was such a fantastic resource that we wanted to provide it to others as well as to our members. Art Paque, who compiled the print calendar, has graciously agreed to collect the information for our website. Find the new Astronomy Notes at [www.urbanecologycenter.org/research/astronomy](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/research/astronomy).

💧 **Update:** In our previous newsletter, we introduced Heidi Telste as the LVC intern. In a very quick turn of events, she pulled out of the program to attend Dentistry School and we were able to bring Jon Rogers on. We wish Heidi well and welcome Jon.

💧 **Thanks** to the following in-kind donors who've given since the last newsletter.

*Riverside Park In-kind Donors*  
Alterra Coffee Roasters, Jeff Anderson, Gene Braaksma, Mark Clausen, Dennis Grzezinski, Carol Holley, Ken Jenkins, Kim Kosmitis, Jim Mauer, Omanhene Cocoa Bean Company, Kristina Paris, Mary Jo Penn, Pick n Save – Oakland, Roberta Remstad, The Dream Tree, Inc., John V. Tolan, Beth Silver

*Washington Park In-kind Donors*  
Jeff Anderson, Pat Mueller, Christina Parris

## WISH LIST

Thank you to the many people who have given wish list items. Your contributions have helped us serve our programs, parks and community.

Below is a partial list of items we need. You can find our full list at [www.urbanecologycenter.org/donations/donations.html](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/donations/donations.html)

For Riverside Park

Contact: Judy Krause, 964-8505, x102.

- Blenders
- Burlap/ Potato/ Coffee Sacks
- Construction paper
- Corkscrews
- Dandelion diggers
- Ice auger
- Kernel popcorn
- Large attractive ceramic planters for indoor potted plants (12"-24")
- Rakes
- Miscellaneous hand tools, drill bits, etc.
- Miscellaneous hardware, nuts, bolts, screws, etc.
- Paper shredder
- Sleds
- Sweatpants
- Wheelbarrows
- Wire garden fencing
- Wood/wire snow fencing

For Washington Park

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

- Alka-seltzer tablets
- Art supplies
- Bench vise
- Canoes
- Chest freezer
- Cordless drill
- GPS device
- Hybrid car
- Ice cream buckets and lids
- Ice skates
- Insect field guides
- Kernel popcorn
- Yoga mats

## AN INVITATION

by John Clancy, President, UEC Board of Directors

Did you know that we have volunteers who help our educators teach our students? Or that it is a volunteer who answers the phone when you call? You can find volunteers cleaning up in our parks, removing invasive plants, banding birds, measuring snakes, designing posters... the list goes on and on. As President of the Center's Board of Directors, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with many of these fantastic people. Please join me in showing our thanks for these wonderful folks at our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and the Annual Meeting starts at 7 p.m.

We combine the volunteer appreciation evening with our Annual Meeting each year. If you are not a volunteer we welcome and encourage you to join us at 7 p.m. for the Annual Meeting. Enjoy a dessert and join in! Even if you are a volunteer but you can't make it to the dinner, please come to the meeting.

During the Annual Meeting portion of the evening we will recognize volunteers who serve on the Center's Board of Directors and elect a slate of directors for the next term. Eight current directors are on the slate to be elected to new two-year terms. Thank you Jeff Anthony, Jennifer Bolger Breceda, Monique Charlier, Mike Eitel, Danni Gendelman, Troy Hilliard, Bill Rumpf and Kathy Werlein for your past service

and for renewing your commitment by offering to serve another 2-year term as a board director. We are also pleased to have two new directors, Jim Schleif and Deborah Spanic, on our board slate. These two volunteers have quickly become valuable assets to the Center and we look forward to continuing to work with both of them in the future.

I'd like to share our special thanks with Tom Zak and Robert Graumann who are completing their terms on the Board. Tom, Vice President of Wells Fargo Business Credit, joined the board in 2008 and served on the Development Committee. Robert, Director of Strategy and Business Development at Charter

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## SOUTH SIDE CENTER

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understand and value nature as motivation for positive change, neighborhood by neighborhood. (See the end of John Clancy's article on page 5 for a complete mission statement including some new proposed changes) Growing to other neighborhoods, then, is implied within our mission. We won't, however, just go to any neighborhood that asks. We have a careful set of criteria we look for. First, we need to be invited in by the neighborhood itself. We have no interest in imposing our model in places that do not want it. Second, we look for areas where the green space needs active protection. In the case of Riverside and Washington parks, this is about replacing active criminal behavior with daily field trips of constructive learning. Third, we seek high density urban areas with lots of kids and schools. Fourth, we want to go to areas that need us, areas without already existing environmental education programs. Then finally, we need to be in a place

where the neighborhood appears to have the capacity to support such a venture.

This south side project near the Menomonee River fits all of these criteria and more. After being invited into the neighborhood, we did an extensive feasibility study. The area has the schools, it has the kids, it appears to have the local support base needed and there is nothing like us in the vicinity. The 24 acres we intend to use as an outdoor classroom is, in this case, a brown field redevelopment site which will become part of the Hank Aaron State Trail. This long, narrow park is being created by mounding the contaminated dirt from the Menomonee Valley revitalization process. In the coming years these mounds will be capped with four feet of clean top soil. Once this process is complete, the entire park will be planted with trees and other native vegetation. Our plan is to fill this land with safe, constructive, educational

programs before more negative, destructive behaviors can take root.

Interested in learning more? Come to the Annual Membership Meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Not only will we have maps to help you visualize this project, but you'll also get a first glimpse of possible designs for our new Center created by student-led teams from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (more on this remarkable collaboration in a future newsletter). Even better, come join me on the first Wednesday of each month for one of my branch tours. Along with a visit to our Washington Park branch, I'll show you first-hand the Menomonee Valley site. It may not be on the scale of a moon landing, but when you come to this unfinished park you will feel like you just landed on the moon right here in the city. I can't wait to show it to you and share the vision.



## WHO'S THAT? COME MEET NEW PEOPLE AT THE CENTER

by Beth Fetterley, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

It is my pleasure to introduce to you a number of new people around the Center. As an educational organization, we are excited to bring talented, passionate staff to the Center through a number of internships and fellowships. Of the twelve new positions launched this school year, eleven fall into these two categories.

The one exception, Walter Sams, is a veteran educator, active in the field since 2000. Walter participated in the Center's career pipeline by volunteering extensively at the Washington Park branch. In addition to volunteering, he secured a job through Our Next Generation this past summer, which brought students to the park several times a week. Walter's degree is in natural and historical interpretation. At the Riverside Park branch he is charged with oversight and redevelopment of the UEC Kids Club, live animal programs, High School Outdoor Leadership Program and weeknight and weekend community programs. Please drop in Saturdays through Wednesdays to meet him!

Many of our members may have met Jeanne Salmon over the years as both a volunteer and on staff. In 2002, Jeanne participated in the High School Outdoor Leadership Program. She continued working at the Center during the school year as an intern with New School for Community Service. This past summer Jeanne served as the Urban Adventures Assistant and she will continue through our own internship program to teach environmental education and outdoor recreation during the school year. Jeanne will graduate from Milwaukee Area Technical College with an Associate of Arts degree this December. She usually will be out in the field, but you can drop in on Thursday evenings to meet her!

Our Washington Park branch engaged in a new partnership this summer with Cap Corps, the Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps, a Catholic Network of Volunteer Service and Americorps Education Award program. Through this program we are able to bring Matt Bassett on to our education team to support the growing number of children

and families visiting after school and on Saturdays. Matt graduated this spring from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, with a Bachelor's degree in physics with minors in studio art and biophysics. He monitored lake safety in Kansas so he should be right at home next to the lagoon.

New to the Riverside Park Neighborhood Environmental Education Project and summer camp programs this year is Jon Rogers. Jon comes to us through Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC), another Americorps Education program. The Center has partnered with LVC for ten years, each year bringing a full-time year-long position to our education team. Jon participated in our summer internship program and graduated from Carroll University last spring with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with minors in biochemistry and business marketing. Look for him out in the park weekdays teaching groups of children.

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## KIDS NOTICE THINGS

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who visits not only because there will be a wider array of plants, but also because these plants will attract a wider array of insects and birds. That leads us to the measuring part.

Citizen Science encourages people to really study the park and document changes. Up to this point, our Citizen Science programs at Washington Park have engaged adults. Yet we wanted to engage the kids who notice things and ask lots of questions. Observation and curiosity — the perfect skills necessary for scientific research!

Based upon successful Citizen Science opportunities for kids at our Riverside

Park location, we decided that the time has come to let Washington Park's Young Scientist Club really live up to their potential and start their training as the next generation of citizen scientists. Starting in November, every Tuesday will feature Citizen Science activities in Washington Park from 5-7 p.m. Adults and kids will learn to think like a scientist, record, document and analyze cyclical events in the park. Although some of the topics will be weekly (temperature, snow depth, ice thickness), Tuesday's group will also help create the research question for each evening. The kids will then help create charts and graphs to display their

results so that visitors to the Center see how the park has changed and that it is a viable, valuable ecosystem.

We have found that kids in our Young Scientist Club and Burdock Brigade are interested in plants and science, but also in just being good. They want to feel smart and valued as a person. And they love positive attention from adults. When they hear the "wows" from the adults who walk by, they notice. They are proud to be a part of it all, just like the rest of us. If you would like to help out, contact Scott at [sstromberger@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:sstromberger@urbanecologycenter.org) or at 414-344-5460.

## COOL 'GREEN' GIFT?

by Nikiya Harris, Development Assistant

What are some of your favorite Urban Ecology Center memories? Let's take a moment and think about it...hmmm.

Remember the time you went for an evening paddle on the lagoon? What about the time your kids learned that a Barred Owl is nosy about your supper (its call is Who cooks for you)?

Seems like you have some very pleasurable memories.

Wouldn't you love to give the people you care most about an opportunity to have their very own experiences? You can by giving them a gift membership to the Urban Ecology Center this holiday season.

Just think. A gift membership to the Center will provide your family and friends with everything you enjoy:

- Access to resources and workshops about green living
- Discounts on programs
- Access to canoes, snowshoes, cross country skis and gardening tools from our equipment library
- Opportunities to reach out to your community by volunteering to remove garlic mustard, help

kids rock climb and more

- A 12-month subscription to our newsletter filled with programs and articles that inspire and inform
- Invitations to four great celebrations every year: Earth Day, Fall Festival, Winterfest and our Annual Member Meeting.

By giving a gift membership you also have the remarkable opportunity to help enrich many people's lives. Center members help urban children get outside and get in touch with butterflies, birds and frogs! Not only are your amazing experiences shared with the people you care about, but people of all age groups, all learning styles, new and experienced nature lovers from all walks of life.

So what do you say? Give a gift membership to your loved ones and friends today! Upon receipt of your request, a membership packet will be sent to the recipient announcing your gift. Purchase a gift membership by phone at 964-8505, online at [www.urbanecologycenter.org/membership/membership.html](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/membership/membership.html), or just complete the form to the right. Return this to: Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

## GIVE A UEC GIFT MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Recipient Name

\_\_\_\_\_

### Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_

### City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_

### Email

- Individual membership \$25
- Family Membership \$35

Their neighborhood center is:

- Riverside  Washington
- They love them all

### Total

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my gift to:  Master Card  Visa

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

## INVITATION

continued from page 3

Manufacturing, a member of our board since 2005 also served on the Development Committee. We thank both of these directors for their dedication to our mission and their many, varied and significant contributions to the Center.

Lastly, we will ask the membership to approve some changes in our mission statement.

The proposed mission reads (changes in italics):

The Urban Ecology Center fosters ecological understanding as inspiration for 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, *volunteerism*, stewardship, recreation, and camaraderie.
- *Practice and model environmentally responsible behaviors*

I hope to see you all on November 18th!



## NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 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.

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](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org)



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### ELECTRONIC AND APPLIANCE RECYCLING DAY\*

Safely dispose of your old appliances and electronics! Green Business Concepts Recycling, current employer of Shawn Office, an Outdoor Leader alum and friend of the Center, is hosting an electronics and appliance recycling drive at the Center. Materials are processed here in Wisconsin, supporting the local economy. A few items require a processing fee, see <http://www.greenbusinessconcepts.org/Home/recycling-fees> for details. Please also spread the word; we need enough material to fill the truck!

#### Drop off is at our Riverside Park location

Saturday, November 7

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For everyone

Free - \$10, depending on items

Please contact Shawn at 414-617-0632 to confirm your drop-off



### CANDLELIGHT WALK

Celebrate the Winter Solstice! Explore Riverside Park by candlelight with a guided walk accompanied by poetry and readings of the season. After the walk return to the Center to warm yourself by the fire and for apple cider, snacks and music by Regina Gallero.

Saturday, December 19

7 - 9 p.m.

Walks leave every 15 minutes starting at 7 p.m., music begins at 7:30

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5 or \$20 for families of 4 or more)



### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING\*

Join staff and volunteers for dessert after the volunteer appreciation dinner for the Center's annual membership meeting. Learn more about the Menomonee Valley branch (*see Ken's article on page 1*), meet and vote for new board members and more!

#### Meeting is at our Riverside Park location

Wednesday, November 18

7 - 8 p.m.

Free

Call to register, 964-8505



### WINTER WILDERNESS OF DENALI\*

100 years after Charles Sheldon's historic trek through what would become Denali National Park, Willie Karidis took a hiatus from his job as Executive Director of the Denali Education Center to retrace that trip in the middle of winter. He learned all he could about Denali, the winter wilderness and ultimately, himself. Come hear his tale!

Thursday, December 10

7 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children

\$5 (Nonmembers - \$10)

Call to register, 964-8505





= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

## FAMILY PROGRAMS



### NIGHT TIME EXPLORATION

Ever wonder which animals are active at night or how they are able to survive the darkness? If so, join us on an exploration of Riverside Park at night. Please make sure to dress for the weather.

Wednesday, November 4  
6 - 8 p.m.  
For everyone  
Adults: \$4  
(Nonmembers - \$6)  
Children: \$3  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505



### DISCOVERY HIKES

#### CHANGES OF FALL

Learn about the changes of the fall season and seek them out in Riverside Park. Dress for the weather.

Saturday, November 14  
10:30 a.m. - noon  
For kids ages 4 and older  
accompanied by an adult  
\$4 or \$12 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers --\$7 or \$24 for families of 4 or more)  
Call to register, 964-8505



#### SENSES

Explore Riverside Park using ALL of your senses.

Saturday, December 12  
10:30 a.m. - noon  
For kids 4 and older  
accompanied by an adult  
\$4 or \$12 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers - \$7 or \$24 for families of 4 or more)  
Call to register, 964-8505



### LET'S POONGMUL! CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING WITH KOREAN DRUMS!\*

Explore how Koreans play drums to celebrate the end of the farming season and Fall. Participants will learn traditional Korean rhythms, culture and language while drumming in this fun and interactive workshop.

Sunday, November 15  
1 - 2 p.m.  
For children ages 6 and up, with or without parents  
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)  
Registration is required, call 964-8505



### STORYTIME IN THE TIPI\*

Join us around a fire in the tipi for a storytelling adventure.

Saturday, November 21  
10 - 10:45 a.m.  
For kids 5 and under, accompanied by an adult  
\$2 or \$6 for family of 4 or more (Nonmembers - \$5 or \$15 for family of 4 or more)  
Call to register, 964-8505



### TIPI TALES\*

Join us in the tipi and in Riverside Park for stories, games, crafts, s'mores and more.

Sunday, November 22  
1 - 2:30 p.m.  
For families with children ages 6 and older  
\$4 or \$12 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers \$7 or \$24 for families of 4 or more)  
Call to register, 964-8505



### HIBERNATION INVESTIGATION

In the cold of winter, some animals settle down for a long winter's rest. Kids will learn about hibernation and explore Riverside Park and search for a place to hibernate that they will create!

Saturday, December 5  
2 - 3:30 p.m.  
For kids ages 5 and older  
\$4 or \$12 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers - \$7 or \$24 for families of 4 or more)  
Call to register, 964-8505



### LET'S POONGMUL! LEARN HOW TO PLAY KOREAN TRADITIONAL DRUMS!\*

Learn traditional Korean drumming in this fun and interactive workshop. Students will use special sticks to play the Jang-Gu, an hourglass-shaped wooden drum. The instructor will incorporate Korean culture and language while drumming and relate how Korean drums are connected to nature. Registration is required.

Saturday, December 12  
10 - 11 a.m.  
For children ages 6 and up, with or without parents  
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)  
Call to register, 964-8505



### SCIENCE AND MATH TUTORING\*

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

Every Tuesday and Thursday except November 26, December 24, 29 & 31  
4 - 5 p.m.  
For kids in K-12  
Free



### INTERGENERATIONAL CITIZEN SCIENCE\*

There is always something to learn in Washington Park! Join the UEC Young Scientists in collecting and recording data.

Every Tuesday except December 29  
5 - 7 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free



### 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.

Every Saturday (Washington Park is closed on December 26)  
1 - 2 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated



### NATURE-BASED ARTS AND CRAFTS\*

Does the natural world make the right side of your brain hum? Come over to Washington Park and be in good company with our artsy staff. Projects include: screen printing, papermaking, basic paintings and found art. Don't bring your Sunday's best, it might get messy.

Every Wednesday through December 16  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5)



### OUTDOOR PLAY

Join the UEC Young Scientists for some intergenerational fun: come play outside with us in Washington Park! We have sleds, snowshoes and hot cocoa!

Every Friday except November 27, December 25 & January 1  
4 - 7 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free  
Call to register, 964-8505



### SCIENCE SATURDAYS\*

Discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts. Topics are:  
November: Trees  
December: Animal Survival

Every Saturday except December 26  
Drop-in program  
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated



### SCIENCE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS\*

Explore science through self-led interactive activities. Topics are:  
November: Life of a Water Drop  
December: Super Senses

Every Saturday, Drop-in program  
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sundays, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated



## ADULT LEARNING

### URBAN HOMESTEADER: FOOD SERIES:



#### YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT! WILD FOOD AND FERMENTATION FOR HEALTH\*

Join us for this fun day as we learn to make fermented food that can be easily crafted in your own kitchen. We will bring wild plants into our fermentation process, adding dandelions to sauerkraut, rosehips to soda, wild berries to a fruit treat and more! Lunch treats include lacto-fermented food, as well as recipes, inspiration and a sour dough starter to take home.

Saturday, November 7  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For adults  
\$70, \$130 for both classes in series (Nonmembers - \$75) includes lunch and all materials.  
Call to register, 964-8505

#### HOME CHEESE MAKING: MOZZARELLA, FETA AND MORE!! \*

Making cheese at home is easy and fun! We will create and sample several simple cheeses that can be cultivated at home including: Paneer (an East Indian staple), basic farm cheese (a hard cheese historically created on the small family farm) and Chevre (a soft spreadable goat cheese). You'll also learn some cooking ideas for why and build on this introduction to create many varieties of cheese at home.

Sunday, November 8  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For adults  
\$70, \$130 for both classes in series (Nonmembers - \$75) includes lunch, instruction, samples, cheese to take home, recipes and a culture to get you started  
Call to register, 964-8505

### ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOPS\*

"Social vertebrates, and particularly birds, are excellent subjects for generating and testing Darwinian hypotheses about living with relatives" (Emlen). These monthly workshops delve into the mysterious and wonderful world of birds looking at current research and well-established topics, including social behavior. A PowerPoint presentation will be followed by a dusk birdwalk.

Sunday, November 1

2:30 - 4 p.m. &

Saturday,  
December 5

2 - 3:30 p.m.

For adults

\$5 (Nonmembers - \$10) Free for regular birding volunteers  
Call to register, 964-8505

### SUSTAINABLE BUILDING EXHIBIT OPEN HOURS\*

Remodeling, adding on, or building a new home? 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 for home construction and interior decorating. Consult with an expert the 3rd Monday of each month.

Sundays, November 1 &  
December 6

Noon - 2 p.m.

Mondays,

November 16 &

December 21

4 - 7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505

### WILD ANIMALS IN THE CITY\*

Speaker: Avi Lourie,  
Israeli wildlife specialist

What happens when civilization and agriculture take the land that wild animals also need for their own survival? Clashes? Confrontations? Adjustments? Adaptations? Avinoam Lourie will tell you about some of the problems and solutions in his country and apply it to similar cases in other places in the world.

Tuesday, November 3  
7 p.m.

For adults

\$5 suggested donation

(Nonmembers - \$5)

Call to register, 964-8505

### SLICING AND DICING: BASIC KNIFE SKILLS\*

Learn and practice basic knife skills. Participants will mince, dice, julienne, etc. as well as learn how to sharpen, care for and select knives. Please bring a knife to practice with.

Tuesday, November 10  
7 - 8 p.m.

For adults

\$7 (Nonmember \$10)

Call to register, 964-8505

### SANDHILL CRANES AT JASPER PULASKI

Each fall tens of thousands of sandhill cranes congregate in the shallow marshes of the Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Area in Indiana to reinforce pair bonds. Travel with Tim Vargo to witness one of this amazing wildlife spectacles. Bring a bag lunch for a picnic at the park and we will stop for dinner at a restaurant on the way back.

Saturday, November 14  
9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children

Adults: \$30

(Nonmembers - \$40)

Children: \$25

(Nonmembers - \$35)

Call to register, 964-8505

### BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club meets once a month to discuss an environmentally themed book.

November: *Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Health* by David Korten

Saturdays November 21  
(no December meeting)  
10 - 11 a.m.

For adults

Free - donations

appreciated

### TRAVEL TO MEXICO'S MONARCH BUTTERFLY BIOSPHERE RESERVE: INFORMATIONAL MEETING\*

Encounter millions of butterflies suspended on the limbs of oyamel pine trees. Deep in the mountains of Mexico experience the magnificent biodiversity unique to our hemisphere. Find more details at [www.conocer3.com](http://www.conocer3.com).

Monday,  
November 23

7 p.m.

Trip: February 20-27

Call to register, 964-8505

### STUDENT INTERN RESEARCH PROJECTS\*

Did you know that college interns use Riverside Park as an outdoor research center? This year students studied the State-threatened Butler's Gartersnake, monitored turtles and conducted mammal surveys using remote infrared cameras. Each student will present a short summary of his/her work.

Tuesday, December 8  
7 p.m.

For adults

\$5 suggested donation

(Nonmembers - \$5)

Call to register, 964-8505

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Join thousands of volunteers from around the world for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Data we collect contributes to an international database that looks at bird population trends. We will hike north to Capitol Drive along the east bank of the Milwaukee River, stop for a quick brunch and return along the west bank. Please follow us to Lake Park in the afternoon for refreshments and more birding. Dress for a long hike appropriate to the weather and bring money for brunch.

Saturday, December 19  
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For adults

\$5 donation to

National Audubon Society

Call to register, 964-8505

### ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP\*

Meet with neighbors to discuss what's happening in and around Washington Park. Discuss ways we can work together to improve the environment in the park and surrounding neighborhoods.

Every Wednesday  
except November 18

& December 16

7 - 8 p.m.

For adults

\$2 (Nonmembers - \$3)

Call to register, 964-8505



# URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

# NOVEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1  <b>Art show at Riverside Park</b>  <i>Earth...Unmasking our Eyes</i> - Leah M. Klapperich  <i>Systems in Transition</i> - Dara Larson                      Show runs through late December                      Science Sundays - all month Drop in, 12:30p-4:30p (rp) topic: Life of a Water Drop                      Drop in: Noon-2p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)                      2:30p Ornithology Workshops (rp)                      4p An Afternoon Run (rp)</p>	<p>2                      Burdock Brigade (rp) Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp)                      Intergenerational Citizen Science (wp)                      Wild Animals in the City (rp)</p>	<p>3                      Burdock Brigade (rp) Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp)                      Intergenerational Citizen Science (wp)                      Wild Animals in the City (rp)</p>	<p>4                      Branch Loop Tours (rp)                      Papermaking (rp)                      Nature Based Arts and Crafts (wp)                      Night Time Exploration (rp)                      Adult Discussion Group (rp)</p>	<p>5                      Birdwalk (rp)                      Intergenerational Habitat Restoration (wp)                      Burdock Brigade (wp)                      Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp)                      Burdock Brigade (rp)                      Washington Park Branch Tour (wp)                      Riverside Park Building Tour (rp)                      UEC Photo Club (rp)</p>	<p>6                      Outdoor Play (wp)                      4-7p</p>	<p>7                      Science Saturdays - all month Drop in 9:30a-4:30p (wp) topic: Trees (rp) topic: Life of a Water Drop                      Burdock Brigade (rp)                      Park Rangers (wp)                      Last Canoe Trip of the Season                      Food Series: Wild Food &amp; Fermentation (rp)                      Volunteer Orientation (rp)                      10:30a <b>Electronic and Appliance Recycling Day 11a - 4p (rp)</b>                      Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)                      1p Survival Saturday (rp)                      2p</p>
<p>8                      Food Series: Home Cheese Making (rp)</p>	<p>9                      Burdock Brigade (rp) Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp)                      Intergenerational Citizen Science (wp)                      Volunteer Orientation (rp)                      Slicing and Dicing: Basic Knife Skills (rp)</p>	<p>10                      Burdock Brigade (rp) Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp)                      Intergenerational Citizen Science (wp)                      Volunteer Orientation (rp)                      Slicing and Dicing: Basic Knife Skills (rp)</p>	<p>11                      Stand Together Milwaukee (wp)                      Chat with Ken (rp)                      Papermaking (rp)                      Nature Based Arts and Crafts (wp)                      Friends of Real Food (rp)                      Adult Discussion Group (rp)</p>	<p>12                      Birdwalk (rp)                      Burdock Brigade (wp)                      Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp)                      Washington Park Branch Tour (wp)                      Riverside Park Building Tour (rp)                      Urban Echo Poets (rp)                      Urban Stargazers (rp)</p>	<p>13                      Outdoor Play (wp)                      4-7p</p>	<p>14                      Sandhill Cranes at Jasper Pulaski (rp)                      Park Rangers (rp &amp; wp)                      10:30a Discovery Hikes: Changes of Fall (rp)                      10a Volunteer Orientation (wp)                      1p Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p>
<p>15                      Let's Poongmull (rp)                      An Afternoon Run (rp)</p>	<p>16                      Drop in: 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)</p>	<p>17                      Burdock Brigade (rp) Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp)                      Intergenerational Citizen Science (wp)</p>	<p>18                      Ken's Tour (rp)                      Nature Based Arts and Crafts (wp)  <b>Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 5:30 - 8p. (at rp)</b>  <b>Annual Membership Meeting 7p (at rp)</b></p>	<p>19                      Birdwalk (rp)                      Burdock Brigade (wp)                      Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp)                      Washington Park Branch Tour (wp)                      Riverside Park Building Tour (rp)                      Vegetarian Potluck (rp)</p>	<p>20                      Outdoor Play (wp)                      4-7p</p>	<p>21                      Park Rangers (wp)                      Burdock Brigade (rp)                      Storytime in the Tipi (rp)                      Book Club                      Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p>
<p>22                      Tipi Tales (rp)                      Knitting Circle (rp)</p>	<p>23                      Travel to Mexico Informational Meeting                      Paths to a Sustainable Future/Transition Milwaukee (rp)</p>	<p>24                      Burdock Brigade (rp) Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp)                      Intergenerational Citizen Science (wp)</p>	<p>25                      Chat with Ken (rp)                      Nature Based Arts and Crafts (wp)                      Adult Discussion Group (rp)</p>	<p>26  <b>UEC Closed</b></p>	<p>27  <b>UEC Closed</b></p>	<p>28                      Park Rangers (rp &amp; wp)                      Volunteer Orientation (wp)                      Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p>
<p>29                      An Afternoon Run (rp)</p>	<p>30</p>					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Art show at Riverside Park Earth... Unmasking our Eyes - Leah M. Klapperich Systems in Transition - Dara Larson Show runs through late December</p>		<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4p Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp) 5p Intergenerational Citizen Science (wp)</p>	<p>9a Branch Loop tours (rp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 4:30p Nature Based Arts and Crafts (wp) 7p Adult Discussion Group (wp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp) 3:30p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Washington Park Branch Tour (wp) 5:30p Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) 6:30p UEC Photo Club (rp)</p>		<p>5 Science Saturdays - all month Drop in 9:30a-4:30p (wp) topic: Animal Survival (rp) topic: Super Senses 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) 10:30a Volunteer Orientation (rp) Noon Ice safety 101 (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp) 2p Hibernation Investigation (rp) 2p Ornithology Workshops (rp) 6p Cooking and a Movie (rp)</p>
<p>6 Science Sundays - all month Drop in 12:30p-4:30p (rp) topic: Super Senses Drop in: Noon-2p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4p Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp) 5p Intergenerational Citizen Science (wp) 6:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp) 7p Student Intern Research Projects (rp)</p>	<p>9 8:45a Stand Together Milwaukee (wp) 9a Chat with Ken (rp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 4:30p Nature Based Arts and Crafts (wp) 7p Adult Discussion Group (wp) 6p Friends of Real Food (rp)</p>	<p>10 8a Birdwalk (rp) 3:30p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Washington Park Branch Tour (wp) 5:30 Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) 7p Winter Wilderness of Denali (rp) 7p Urban Echo Poets (rp) 7p Urban Stargazers (rp)</p>	<p>11 4-7p Outdoor Play (wp)</p>	<p>12 9a Park Rangers (rp &amp; wp) 10a Let's Poongmull (rp) 10:30a Discovery Hikes: Senses (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) Noon Ice safety 101 (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p>
<p>13 3p Knitting Circle (rp) 4p An Afternoon Run (rp)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4p Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp) 5p Intergenerational Citizen Science (wp)</p>	<p>16 9a Ken's Tour (rp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 4:30p Nature Based Arts and Crafts (wp) 7p Adult Discussion Group (wp)</p>	<p>17 8a Birdwalk (rp) 11a Intergenerational Habitat Restoration (wp) 3:30p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Washington Park Branch Tour (wp) 5:30 Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) 6:30 Vegetarian Potluck (rp)</p>	<p>18 4-7p Outdoor Play (wp)</p>	<p>19 8a Christmas Bird Count (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) Noon Ice safety 101 (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)  <b>Candlelight Walk 7p (rp)</b></p>
<p>20 Washington Park branch closed Riverside Park location regular hours (Noon-5p) 4p An Afternoon Run (rp)</p>	<p>21 Drop in: 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp) 7p Paths to a Sustainable Future/Transition Milwaukee (rp)</p>	<p>22 <b>Riverside Park location holiday hours 9a-5p</b> 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4p Science &amp; Math Tutoring (wp) 5p Intergenerational Citizen Science (wp)</p>	<p>23 <b>Riverside Park location holiday hours 9a-5p Washington Park branch closed</b> 9a Chat with Ken (rp)</p>	<p>24 <b>UEC Closed</b></p>	<p>25 <b>UEC Closed</b></p>	<p>26 <b>Riverside Park location regular hours (9a-5p) Washington Park branch closed</b> 1p Animal Feeding (rp only)</p>
<p>27 Washington Park branch closed Riverside Park location regular hours (Noon-5p) 4p An Afternoon Run (rp)</p>	<p>28 <b>Riverside Park location holiday hours 9a-5p Washington Park branch closed</b></p>	<p>29 <b>Riverside Park location holiday hours 9a-5p Washington Park branch closed</b> 9a Burdock Brigade (rp)</p>	<p>30 <b>Riverside Park location holiday hours 9a-5p Washington Park branch closed</b> 4p Papermaking (rp)</p>	<p>31 <b>Riverside Park location holiday hours 9a-5p Washington Park branch closed</b> 8a Birdwalk (rp)</p>		





= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

## URBAN ADVENTURES

### HALLOWEEN CANOE TRIP

Join us in your favorite Halloween costume for an evening paddle through the "haunted" bridges of the Milwaukee River! Bring your family and friends for an enchanting picnic dinner in Pere Marquette Park. Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse in your best costume! Special Halloween surprise!

Friday, October 30  
6 - 9:30 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children ages 12 and up  
Adults: \$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)  
Children: \$15 (Nonmembers - \$20)  
Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce. St.)  
Call to register, 964-8505



*Advanced registration is required for all Urban Ecology Center Urban Adventures. Payment is 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.*

### LAST CANOE TRIP OF THE SEASON

Join us as we say goodbye to the canoeing season by squeezing in one more late season trip. We will canoe downtown to a local eatery for a warm up and lunch. Be sure to dress for the weather!

Saturday, November 7  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children ages 12 and up  
Adults: \$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)  
Children: \$15 (Nonmembers - \$20)  
Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce. St.)  
Call to register, 964-8505



### ICE SAFETY 101

Stay safe out on the ice this winter by knowing the essentials of ice safety and winter survival skills. Interactive demonstration out on the lagoon so dress for the weather.

Saturdays,  
December 5 - 19  
Noon - 1 p.m.

For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505



### SPONTANEOUS SNOW OUTINGS

Snow-play enthusiasts, this is ideal for you! Sign up to join others in snowshoeing or skiing this winter. These spontaneous outings will be planned at short notice when the weather is right. Invitations will be sent by email. Email Chad at [cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org) (Riverside Park), Scott at [stromberger@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:stromberger@urbanecologycenter.org) (Washington Park) to add your name to this list. Beginners welcome!

## HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORERS

### SURVIVAL SATURDAY

Have you wanted to learn basic survival skills? Come and learn about outdoor survival with other teens with the same interest. Join us for a fun and adventurous afternoon. Dress for the weather.

Saturday, November 7  
2 - 4 p.m.

For teens  
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)  
Scholarships available  
Call to register, 964-8505



### COOKING AND A MOVIE\*

Come and join us for a night of cooking and a movie. We will be making chili and holiday cookies while watching *Wall-E*. Bring your friends and jump into this December fun! Fees cover the chili dinner and are for diners only.

Saturday, December 5  
6 - 9 p.m.

For teens  
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)  
Scholarships available  
Call to register, 964-8505



## ART AT UEC

*The Urban Ecology Center shows works of local artists in its Community Room Gallery. To enhance the UEC's educational mission, work must have as its theme nature-related subjects, the natural sciences, products of nature used as art or the relationship of the urban environment to nature.*

Currently in our Community Room Gallery

**EARTH...UMASKING OUR EYES - LEAH M. KLAPPERICH**  
**SYSTEMS IN TRANSITION - DARA LARSON\***  
Show runs through late December



Leah's masks reveal more than they hide. Simple grasses, twigs and mosses, generally ignored in the ordinariness of daily experience, are given voice through the form of mask to speak to a deeper, more intuitive part of ourselves. Dara's scratch boards use roots, bee hives, plant forms and water in contrast with cities, roads and human activities to explore relationships between man-made and natural systems. The surfaces of the clay coated wood are painted with ink, which is scratched away to reveal the drawing.

**POINT OF VIEW - JOHN FATICA**  
**ARTISTIC INTERPRETATIONS OF SPRING - STEVEN YEO\***

John explores the landscape from varying perspectives - from close up and intimate to the distant and silent - and the way these points of view influence his experiences of land and water. Utilizing digital photographs of biotic material from regional Wisconsin and urban parklands, Steve's exhibition presents artistic visions of natural process and forms that ask, "why not?" Refreshments served.

Opening: Sunday, January 10  
2 - 4 p.m.

Artists talk at 3pm.  
For adults  
Free - donations appreciated  
Show runs January-March



## URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER TOURS

### BRANCH LOOP TOURS

Join Executive Director, Ken Leinbach, on a driving and walking tour of the Urban Ecology Center's Washington Park and Menomonee Valley branches. Meet at Riverside Park headquarters.

Wednesdays, November 4 & December 2

9 a.m. - noon

For adults  
Free-donations appreciated



### CHAT WITH KEN\*

Explore Riverside Park with Executive Director, Ken Leinbach (tour leader substitution on occasion). Call ahead to confirm.

Wednesdays, November 11, 25, December 9, 23  
9 - 10 a.m.

For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated



### KEN'S BUILDING TOURS\*

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

Wednesdays, November 18 & December 16  
9 - 10 a.m.

For adults & accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505



### WASHINGTON PARK BRANCH TOUR\*

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

Every Thursday (except November 26, December 24 & 31)  
4 - 5 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated



### RIVERSIDE PARK BUILDING TOUR\*

Explore our green facility and learn about the Center's innovative building design and programming.

Every Thursday (except November 26, December 24 & 31)  
5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

For adults  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505



## INTEREST GROUPS

### AN AFTERNOON RUN

Running is a great way get outside, explore the community, stay in shape and meet other people. Join other UEC members, volunteers and people in the community for leisurely runs along the river, Oak Leaf Trail or beyond. It's a great way to end the weekend!

Every other Sunday starting November 1  
4 - 5 p.m.

For adults and teens  
Free-donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505



### UEC PHOTO CLUB\*

Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills.

Thursdays,  
November 5 &  
December 3  
6:30 p.m.

For adults  
Free - donations appreciated



### STAND TOGETHER MILWAUKEE\*

Collaborate with other organizations and individuals to stand together to confront gun violence in Milwaukee and restore a sense of healthy community through collaborative action.

Wednesdays,  
November 11 &  
December 9  
8:45 - 10:30 a.m.

For adults  
Free - donations appreciated



photo credit: f10n4  
(www.flickr.com/photos/f10n4/)

### FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD\*

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

November: Chocolate and Fair Trade: Making Informed Choices. Speaker: Lynn Handler, Southern WI Initiative for Fair Trade. We'll learn from a short film and our speaker about where and how chocolate is grown and why fair trade matters. You'll be able to purchase fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate.

December: Getting Real Food into our Schools. Speaker: Martha Davis Kipcak, leader of Slow Food WiSE. We'll get an update on the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act – the bill that governs the National School Lunch Program. We'll also hear about what's happening in our local schools to improve the food our children are eating.

Wednesdays,  
November 11 &  
December 9  
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,  
November 12 &  
December 10  
7 p.m.

For adults  
Free - donations appreciated



### URBAN STARGAZERS\*

Join us for fun, information and stargazing.

Thursdays,  
November 12 &  
December 10  
7 p.m.

For adults  
Free - donations appreciated



### VEGETARIAN POTLUCK\*

Bring a plate and fork along with your meatless dish to share at our picnic style meal every 3rd Thursday of the month.

Thursdays,  
November 19 &  
December 17  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated



### KNITTING CIRCLE\*

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

Sunday,  
November 22 &  
December 13  
3 - 5 p.m.

For everyone  
Free-donations appreciated



### PATHS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE/TRANSITION MILWAUKEE\*

Paths to a Sustainable Future has merged with Transition Milwaukee! Transition Milwaukee shares our mission of increasing self-reliance to address climate change and the decline of fossil fuels, but will utilize a formal framework known as the Transition Initiative to engage the community to develop a vision and an action plan. Whether you are well versed in the Transition Initiative or curious about who and what Transition Milwaukee is, we invite you to join in our monthly Hub meetings.

Mondays,  
November 23 &  
December 21  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults  
Free - donations appreciated  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Childcare available: \$4  
(Nonmembers - \$6)  
Call to register, 964-8505



### EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS

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.

Every Thursday  
except November 26  
& December 24  
8 a.m.

For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated



### WHO'S THAT?

*continued from page 4*

Another new partnership is with the Trinity Fellowship Program, bringing us the communications and design talents of Jeff McAvoy. The Trinity Fellows program is a graduate fellowship at Marquette University dedicated to developing urban leaders with a commitment to social and economic justice. Jeff is participating in a 21-month study/work program while earning his Master's degree in Communications. We are excited to welcome him to our marketing team.

We can keep our doors open and Centers safe on weekends and evenings because we have the regular support of high school interns. These interns are required to have successfully completed a 7-week summer program that introduced them to field research, environmental education, land stewardship, outdoor recreation, service learning and green building management. The seven students hired this year completed this program with grace, enthusiasm and purpose. Please help us welcome Matt Coyne (Saint Thomas Moore), Trinity Little (Bradley Tech), Shanice Dison (Riverside University), Jerry Adams (Bay View), Robby Friedlen (Nicolet), Colin O'Brien (Marquette High) and Elise Wirkus (Whitefish Bay). Elise, Matt, Colin and Robby are working at Riverside Park while Shanice, Jerry and Trinity are at Washington Park.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

by Susan Winans, Volunteer Coordinator

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER**

Wednesday, November 18  
5:30 - 8 p.m.  
At our Riverside Park location

#### **CHECK THE MAIL FOR YOUR INVITATION!**

### **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS**

Learn about the Center's programs and how to get involved.

#### **Riverside Park**

Saturday, November 7 & December 5  
10:30 a.m. - noon  
Tuesdays, November 10 & December 8  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

#### **Washington Park**

Saturdays, November 14,  
28 & December 12  
10 - 10:30 a.m.

For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated

### **BURDOCK BRIGADES**

Have a direct impact on our natural world by helping increase the biodiversity in our parks. The Burdock Brigade engages in hands on restoration activities: removing exotic invasive plant species and planting native species in order to help increase the habitat of many of our native animals. Come when you can; leave when you need to.

#### **Riverside Park**

Saturdays, November 7,  
21, December 5 & 19  
9 - 10:30 a.m.  
Every Tuesday  
9 - 11 a.m.

#### **Washington Park**

*Help mentor children while increasing the biodiversity of Washington Park.*

Every Thursday except  
November 26, December 24 & 31  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free-donations appreciated

### **PAPERMAKING**

Join other UEC volunteers as we learn the art of recycled papermaking to create beautiful gifts for our Center's supporters.

Riverside Park  
Wednesdays, November 4, 11,  
December 2, 9, 16 & 30  
4 - 6 p.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free-donations appreciated

### **INTERGENERATIONAL HABITAT RESTORATION**

Are you crazy about native plants, gardening, landscaping or just being outside? Get to know perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees indigenous to southeastern Wisconsin while helping us to maintain and establish native plantings around the Senior Center in Washington Park.

Thursdays, November 5 & December 17  
11 a.m. - noon

For adults

Free - donations appreciated  
Meet at the Washington Park Senior Center (4420 W. Vliet St.)

### **PARK RANGERS**

Kick off your weekend at either branch of the UEC and help keep our parks clean, safe and accessible. Dress for the weather and join other volunteers as we walk through the parks picking up trash and noting any maintenance needs.

#### **Riverside Park**

Saturdays, November 14,  
28 & December 12  
9 - 10:30 a.m.

#### **Washington Park**

Every Saturday except December 26  
9 - 10 a.m.

For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated

## **KICKING UP GREAT NEWS IN THE MILWAUKEE RIVER!**

*continued from page 1*

"bugs" (macroinvertebrates) from the Milwaukee River in a rural setting at Riveredge Nature Center in Newburg and an urban setting at Hubbard Park in Shorewood. Comparing these macroinvertebrate populations helps us compare water quality.

On the bus ride to Hubbard Park, I often ask students to name an aquatic species they found during their previous field trip to Riveredge that they don't expect to find in the city. Without fail, one of them remembers the water penny beetle. Its larva can be found clinging to the bottom of rocks in cold, fast-moving streams. As an indicator species, its presence in a stream suggests clean water with plenty of dissolved oxygen. Water pennies would not have survived in the old impoundment.

If you've been reading our newsletter for many years, this likely sounds familiar. We've highlighted the River Connection program and water pennies before, but in the past two years our students have observed encouraging and significant changes in our findings at Hubbard that are worth writing about.

When I began teaching here in August 2006, finding a water penny was an exciting but rare treat. However, since 2008 we've been finding at least one water penny every class! Often, we find them by the bushel. My students have topped out at roughly 100 in a single day! It's official — the water penny has established a significant population north of the old dam and we know this, thanks to observations by our fifth grade students.

On the flip side of the equation, leeches and worms can thrive in dirty water. We found loads of them in the days when we rarely found water pennies. However, the scales have tipped! Indicator species, which also include mayfly, damselfly and caddisfly larva, are outnumbering leeches and worms by far. More good news!

The compelling story of our river's renewal continues to be written and our fifth grade students are valuable co-authors. They've seen first hand that our water quality is much better than they expected and know that they can help keep it that way by making good decisions about water use and reducing pollution.

## 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 who 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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## UEC ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 18  
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