

HISTORIC VOTE BY MILWAUKEE'S COMMON COUNCIL THE SECRET IS OUT!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

1998 -- There were nine of us: Vince Bushell, Pieter Godfrey, Angie Tornes, Julilly Kohler, Kevin Haley, Will Wawrzyn, Else Ankel, Lillian Boese and myself. We were the original River Rats – a disparate group of individuals all gathered around a common cause. Each of us in our own way had made the same discovery. There was something unique and special in Milwaukee, a secret few others knew. What brought us together was that we also knew that if we did not stay alert, this special “secret” would soon disappear.

It was unbelievable, really. Right in the middle of the city, surrounded by hundreds



of thousands of people and less than a mile from downtown, there was a serene, largely unmanaged wilderness sanctuary. Hundreds of acres of unkempt wild lands frequented by fox, deer, wild turkey, great blue herons and great horned owls. To top it off, it also offered some fantastic whitewater canoeing! Yet hardly anyone knew about it. This “secret” is the urban Milwaukee River Valley!

People at the time knew this area for foul smells, sewerage overflows and dead fish. What they did not know was that the removal of the North Avenue dam in 1997 had changed all of this. The river was coming back and the wildlife was returning.

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MEASURING CHANGE

by Beth Fetterley, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Our volunteer web page highlights the famous quote from Gandhi, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” This is not just a nice idea but something we think about and try to live every day at the Urban Ecology Center. What change do we want to see in the world? Easy. We want everyone in the world to be “ecologically literate” stewards of our planet. Ok, so maybe not so easy. Along with our colleagues in the field of environmental education, we have a pretty long journey ahead to accomplish this vision of global ecological literacy. But our motivation is high. The more we learn about the plight of our environment, the more urgent and timely our work becomes. We do not have time to do this work poorly; we must make sure each step we take moves us toward our goal.

But how do we know if what we are doing is making a difference? How do we know if the work we do affects any change at all? There are some things we know conclusively. We know that crime has decreased in the neighborhoods we work in. We also know that biodiversity has improved in these same areas. But is there any change in those whom we touch? Are students we work with

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REALITY 2.0

by Joey Zocher, Washington Park Program Director

I had a great conversation the other morning with a parent of one of our Neighborhood Environmental Education Program students. She had volunteered on several of the trips and was excited to see the positive effect the Center was having on her child by getting him outside into nature. She described him as being more “grounded”. The trips were affecting her as well. In particular, she was transitioning her neatly groomed yard into a “wild” prairie. This transition not only changes the visual landscape but helps rebuild the soil with an amazingly diverse root system. It takes a little effort initially but, like a child, it grows up being able to take care of itself.

The conversation made me think about how we have changed the landscape of our culture. The faster our communication with one another becomes, the more it seems to remain at the surface level. The more our interaction with the natural world remains online or on television, the less we really understand our impact. During one of our learning garden projects, I heard an aunt tell her niece “See, this is what planting a ‘real’ plant is like”. The niece then gave the

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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: Carijean Buhk, Beth Fetterley, Dan Graves, Ken Leinbach, Jon Rogers, 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 or call call Nikiyia Harris at x104.

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

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 St.,
Milwaukee, WI 53208
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Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Friday: 4 - 7 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

DROPLETS

Urban Ecology Center and the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum awarded one million dollars from the EPA! Many thanks to the Rotary Club of Milwaukee for their on-going partnership with us to create the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. We are excited to move from a year's worth of planning to actual construction. Next time you visit, notice the large Chinkapin Oak tree near the parking lot in Riverside Park. This first tree was planted on June 29th at a ground breaking ceremony which coincided with the announcement that the Center has been awarded close to \$1,000,000 by the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This three year grant will go a long way towards the planting of close to 1,000 native trees and thousands of understory plants. The Arboretum will be an amazing natural asset for the city while contributing to the continued improvement of the Milwaukee River.

Ever wondered why a duck's foot standing on ice does not freeze solid? Ask a naturalist (.com). We are proud to announce a new resource for you from Tom Pelletier — askanaturalist.com, a place to get answers to any natural history question you have. Tom is an amazing volunteer who worked with us for many years and helped set up our first animal room in our Riverside Park facility. He has a Master's in biology and just launched this fantastic site that we hope you'll use!

Victory Garden Initiative Garden Blitz a huge success! The Center is proud to be part of the up and coming Victory Garden Initiative. On Memorial Day weekend, this spunky grassroots group held a Garden Blitz, during which over

WISH LIST

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

- 3 umbrella stands
- Bathroom stools
- Burlap/potato/coffee sacks
- Chain saw
- Clean sand
- Dandelion diggers & trowels
- Field & lannon stone
- Globe
- Gently used:
 - Apple corer and peeler
 - Cabbage shredder
 - Food dehydrator
 - Food mill (Foley Mill)
 - Food sieve
 - Hot water bath canner
 - Jar filler
 - Jar lifter
 - pH tester
- Kids' gardening gloves
- Leaf rakes
- Potting soil & quality topsoil
- Rain ponchos/jackets - all sizes
- Used, brightly colored bedsheets
- Video camera
- Weed-wackers and scythes
- Wire garden fencing
- Wire mesh (hardware cloth) and chickenwire
- Wooden or bamboo stakes
- Woodworking tools hand or powered

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

- Adult and youth plain tshirts and sweatshirts (for silkscreening)
- Arts and crafts materials
- Bicycles, helmets & locks
- Canoes/kayaks
- Digital cameras
- Electric golf cart
- Gardening tools
- Globe
- Hipwaders
- Outdoor paint (any color)
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Small portable soccer goals
- Softball equipment
- Stopwatches
- Trailer
- Trash grabbers
- Video camera
- Yoga mats

100 residential gardens were installed due to the efforts of close to 200 volunteers. Many thanks to the numerous supporters who assisted in this low budget but high yield effort. Want to get involved? Email Gretchen Mead at gretchen.mead@gmail.com.

MEASURING CHANGE

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getting smarter? Are adults engaged in our programs becoming better ecological stewards? How do we know?

Over the past three years we have defined and developed evaluative tools to help us begin to measure this change. We have focused on the change we want to see in the lives of students, teachers, families, adults, volunteers and paid interns. To date, much of the work toward determining if we are stepping in the right direction has happened behind the scenes, but it will become more evident as you are asked to fill out surveys, complete a short questionnaire or participate in a focus group.

Because we work so closely with partners in the community, we need to be aware of their goals too. Our key partners are the 42 schools we work with to provide science and environmental education. How does our vision align with the change they wish to see in the world? Schools have the vision of preparing their students to be successful and literate adults with a base of knowledge in core subjects. While working hard to improve academic performance as a whole, many of our schools are struggling to improve their students' performance in science. Are we helping?

Our early results from a year's worth of surveys, while preliminary, are exciting. For example, we know that 100% of teachers who bring their students to our programs say that they would recommend this program to colleagues and that 94% say that our environmental education program helps students perform on standardized tests. 89% of students indicate that they learned ecological concepts, 93% feel a stronger emotional connection to nature, 94% understand that they are part of a community and 92% either have changed or plan to change their behavior so as to better care for the environment. But we want to know more.

Our literature review has discovered a series of studies from across the United States that have examined the impact of using nature as an integrated setting for learning. This means that students are applying their hands-on, outdoor experiences to math, reading, writing, science and social studies concepts. In general terms, findings show that students immersed in this type of environment-based curriculum perform better on standardized tests, have improved grades, exhibit better classroom behavior and have enhanced comprehension. These are very affirming studies with results mirroring our own.

But more research is needed and the Urban Ecology Center is preparing to be included in future work. The next step on this path is to directly measure changes in academic achievement in our partnering schools. We are perfectly

positioned because we have ten years of experience refining our program to meet the goals of our schools. Using this expertise, we are poised to serve a completely new group of schools in Milwaukee's near south side starting in 2012 or 2013. There is a window of time to collect baseline data before these new schools enter into our program. We are already connecting with researchers leading these national studies and have recently discovered an impressive team of researchers right here in Milwaukee who have offered to help. Of course, as with everything, we need additional resources to do this work right ... but good ideas get funded and we think this is a very good idea.

So, Mr Gandhi, we hope you don't mind our taking license with your quote, but our new mantra is this: Be the change you wish to see in the world ... but don't forget to measure it!

AN EDUCATION IN ONIONS

by Dan Graves & Jon Rogers, Environmental Educators

Aahhhhhhh, springtime. A most glorious time in the beloved woods of southeastern Wisconsin. Birds migrating from the south, Mourning Cloak butterflies slurping sap from broken tree limbs. And onions. Lots of onions.

Many people look forward to shedding layers of clothing once spring has arrived. Others like to start their gardens. I look forward to eating onions with the students who come to the Center. What appears to be a vast field of grass in the forest is actually a delectable springtime treat filled with goodness not available from your local grocer.

Sometimes I think of myself as a magician rather than an educator. I ask the students if they'd like a

snack? As each kid's eyes brighten with hopes of a sugary treat, I step off the trail, grab a handful of onion stalks and out emerge perfect little onion bulbs. Ta-da!

Then I take a big bite. Dirt and onion pieces fly as the kids' hopeful gazes turn sour. As the pungent smell of wild onion fills the forest, I am always amazed at the comments I hear. "I ain't eating nothin' from the ground." or "You're eating a plant?" It always spurs a lively discussion about where our food actually comes from.

After the astonishment of eating a live plant wears off and the students see that I am still alive, the majority of the class will indulge in one and then many onions. Pure joy! No matter what the

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HISTORIC VOTE BY MILWAUKEE'S COMMON COUNCIL

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We nine were not the only ones who saw value in this land. A group of on-the-ball developers realized its potential too. The condominiums on Commerce Street were the first signs of this shift. Change was brewing for this largely forgotten land and we River Rats were determined to find a way to convince the city and the county that the greatest use for this land was to keep it in its natural state. We sought to protect the land as a means of protecting the river. We wanted to improve the land as a sanctuary for all life in the city – humans, plants and animals alike.

Who knew that it would take over a decade to realize this dream? Who knew that so many more people would need to become engaged? Who knew the challenges we would face from so many conflicting visions?

But here we are today. After an historic but largely unnoticed vote on May 25th by the Milwaukee Common Council, this land is now protected by the strongest enforcement our political system provides—a zoning overlay—an ordinance of rules that dictate what can and cannot be done on this land. The primary environmental corridor surrounding the Milwaukee River on all city land between the former North Avenue dam and Silver Spring Drive is

now protected. Rules dictate that any new construction of multi-family or commercial buildings must be set back from the top of the bluff, utilize best management practices for storm water and adhere to certain height restrictions and building guidelines. This means that if you canoe down this seven mile stretch, you can relax in the natural world around you and not be distracted by a canyon of high-rise structures, concrete walls abutting the river or bright signs advertising their wares.

Lest you think this is an anti-development piece of legislation, let me set the record straight. The property values abutting this protected land will only increase with the planned corridor improvements. This is about smart long-term growth for the city. Employees want to live near amazing natural amenities and employers want happy employees. This is a win, win, win scenario.

The amazing thing is that 12 years later eight of the nine are still in the game! However, none of us can take credit for this victory. This victory, this legacy moment, is one for all of us. There is a new cast of characters now ... each in their own way as influential, or more so, than the original eight: Ann Brummit who took the lead on this effort and heads the Milwaukee

River Work Group, Cheryl Nenn of Milwaukee Riverkeepers, Kimberly Gleffe at the helm of the River Revitalization Foundation, Alderman Nic Kovac who deftly navigated the city bureaucracy and on and on. The list now is composed of many hundreds of people and while everyone cannot be mentioned here, I thank you all! I am so proud to be associated with such a dedicated, hard working, pig-headed at times, but always exceptionally fun group of individuals.

Now that the hard work is done, it is time for the fun to begin! The Milwaukee River Work Group recently debuted a master plan for the entire river corridor that includes trails, bridges and amenities. Visit www.protectmilwaukee.com for details. After June 29th come see the plans for the 40-acre Rotary Centennial Arboretum which will become the new gateway to this land. You'll find the display near our parking lot. Also, ask the River Revitalization Foundation about what is brewing on land recently purchased near the former North Avenue dam.

I guess the secret is out ... and I sure hope I'm here in another 12 years to see the fruits of this historic vote. Bravo Milwaukee!

AN EDUCATION IN ONIONS

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topic of the class is, be it bird ecology, the water cycle or even astronomy, it's never hard to find an excuse to eat an onion. Next time you are in the park in spring, look for some wild onions and taste the magic yourself!

In the spirit of onions, I called my friend and poet Phil Cox to ask if I could steal a portion of a

poem he wrote a while ago entitled Ode to the Onion. Enjoy!

Ode to the Onion by Phillip Cox
Part I – at the cutting board

Secret bulb,
unseeing eye,
noggin sprouting with
green invention.

Royal orb,
now disrobed
of papery vestments,

holy onion,
tunic upon tunic,
opaquely raw.

Nest of moons,
slivered and separating,
popping in warm oil,
translucent on cast iron sky.

FSC... FRESH SANDY CLAMS?

by Carijean Buhk, Marketing Communications Coordinator

As one of the main paper buyers for the Urban Ecology Center, I am often asked questions about the paper choices we make as an organization. Recently we switched the paper we print our newsletter on to an FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified stock. Our newsletter paper is made up of 10% post-consumer recycled content and 90% content from FSC certified sources. Since the extent of my knowledge was post-consumer = good — FSC certification was a bit of a mystery to me. I soon realized I wasn't the only one who was confused about how this Council worked and how this certification relates to recycled paper.

The amount of recycled content is expressed as a percentage. This percentage is very important because some "recycled" paper also includes virgin or new (most often wood) content. If a paper claims to be made from 30% recycled content, this

means that 70% is something else, but what? It's this missing part of the equation that the Forest Stewardship Council was designed to address.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) began in 1993 as a non-profit, non-governmental organization to decrease forestry's negative environmental and social justice impacts. Like organic or LEED certifications, FSC certification indicates that the paper was created by companies who promise to adhere to a rigid set of standards. FSC standards regulate the use, management and harvesting of forests. Companies that adhere to these rules are certified and can place the FSC logo on their products.

Included in the rules are strong natural forest conservation requirements that take into account the entire ecosystem including water and soil health. FSC certified companies are also required to define what forest is being used

and show their legal claim to the site. The company must take into account the laws of the government where the land is found and the rights of the indigenous people to manage their own resources without fear of forced eviction or deforestation. Also included are provisions for workers' rights, acknowledging that logging has had a broad negative impact on the people as well as the forests involved.

FSC certification is an important part of the environmentally friendly paper equation. If you'd like to learn more about environmentally conscious paper choices, please visit www.urbanecologycenter.org/paper for a list of resources.

All things considered, the best option would be not to print a newsletter at all, but to email it. We are working toward offering an electronic newsletter option in the next six months. Watch for more information soon on how to sign up.

REALITY 2.0

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aunt an extensive explanation of Farmville - a ridiculously popular Facebook game - and what she was "planting" on her virtual farm. The niece came back the next day to find that the plant wasn't ready for harvest yet. I wondered if this aunt realized how important her lesson really was?



So, how do we make the transition back to our roots? How do we get grounded? I'm not suggesting we should completely resist technology;

we just need to find a balance. Just as our technology is advancing, so is the evidence of the health benefits of viewing nature, being in nature, contact with plants and contact with animals. Maybe we just need to rethink how we can use technology to connect us to nature. Did you know there's an app for your iPhone that can identify bird calls for you while they're singing? Don't tell Tim, the Center's Manager of Research who can identify birds by ear, that his skills may one day be obsolete! Speaking of Tim, have you seen his amazing bat detector? It can tell you what kind of bat is flying overhead by recording the echolocation signal and then map its direction! He'll be using it in Washington Park on August 4th at 8 p.m. if you'd like to see it in action.

Becoming an outdoor mentor is one of the best ways you can help make this transition for our children and summer is a great time to visit the park. Join us for fishing at the Center on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. (right before the Washington Park concerts) or borrow one of our canoes and explore the lagoon with your family. If water isn't your thing, help us feed our animals on Saturdays at 1 p.m., check out Washington Park's self-guided tree walk or just sit on the boardwalk in the wetland and be amazed by all the life coming back to the park. Need more ideas? Take our Exploring Mentorship in the Outdoors class at Riverside Park on July 27th. Then try some "real" nature experiences in your neighborhood.

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

CENTER CLOSINGS

Both Urban Ecology Center locations will be closed July 3 & 4. In addition, the Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park will be closed August 24-28.

SPECIAL EVENTS

AWAKENING THE DREAMER, CHANGING THE DREAM SYMPOSIUM*

Created by Pachamama Alliance, this workshop challenges you to consider a bold vision: people working together to create an environmentally sustainable, socially just and spiritually fulfilling human presence on earth. Cutting-edge video with Desmond Tutu, Vandana Shiva, Van Jones, Thich Naht Hanh, Paul Hawken, Thomas Berry and others, plus group activities and discussion help you explore what this vision means for you and your community. View trailer at: www.awakenthedreamer.org. Lunch is provided.

Saturday, July 10
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



For adults

\$25 (Nonmembers - \$40)

Register before July 3rd at www.awakenthedreamer.org

MEET THE AUTHOR: DAVID OATES BOOK SIGNING EVENT*

David Oates' widely published books, articles and poetry explore nature, urban life and the new urban environmentalism. David's 2003 book *Paradise Wild: Reimagining American Nature* challenges environmentalists to refocus on the joyous wildness that is never far away from us - if we know where to look. David will read from his recent book of essays about the creative spirit overcoming lies and political outrage, *What We Love Will Save Us*.

Saturday, July 17
5 - 6:30 p.m.



For adults

Free-donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505

HIGH SCHOOL OUTDOOR LEADER REFLECTIONS OF A SUMMER AT THE CENTER

Tuesday, August 17
6 - 8 p.m.



For everyone

Free-donations appreciated

Every year the Center hires a team of high school interns to act as role models for our summer campers. Get inspired as the High School Outdoor Leaders describe their experience as interns at the Center and their trip this summer! If you're interested in what our hard-working teenagers have been up to, or are interested in the program for yourself or someone in your family, come check this out!

EAT LOCAL CHALLENGE FAIR*

Eat Local Challenge takes place during the first two weeks in September! The Center, Outpost, Fondy Foods, Slow Foods and other organizations help you get geared up for this Challenge at this fun and informative event. Attend workshops and talks about how you can eat more locally and why it is important to you, our community and the environment. Also gather resources about buying and eating local food, exchange recipes and much more!

Saturday, August 21
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



NEW!

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

MUSIC OF NATURE*

Join the frog chorus, learn new songs and listen to the sounds and rhythms of nature!

Thursday, July 1
10 - 11:30 a.m.



For kids ages 3-5

accompanied by an adult \$8 for one child, \$4 for second child (Nonmembers - \$12 for one child, \$7 for second child)

Daycare available during

the program for younger

ones - \$4 per child

Call to register, 964-8505

TERRIFIC TURTLES*

Shells, claws and beaks, oh my! We'll take a look at the Center's turtles and search for more along the Milwaukee River.

Thursday, July 8
10 - 11:30 a.m.



For kids ages 3-5

accompanied by an adult \$8 for one child, \$4 for second child (Nonmembers - \$12 for one child, \$7 for second child)

Daycare available during

the program for younger

ones - \$4 per child

Call to register, 964-8505

FLORA FUN*

From seeds to big tall trees, come explore the world of plants.

Tuesday, July 13
10 - 11:30 a.m.



For kids ages 3-5

accompanied by an adult \$8 for one child, \$4 for second child (Nonmembers - \$12 for one child, \$7 for second child)

Daycare available during

the program for younger

ones - \$4 per child

Call to register, 964-8505

NATURE'S PALETTE*

What colors do you spy with your little eyes? Let's find a rainbow in Riverside Park.

Tuesday, July 27
10 - 11:30 a.m.



For kids ages 3-5

accompanied by an adult \$8 for one child, \$4 for second child (Nonmembers - \$12 for one child, \$7 for second child)

Daycare available during

the program for younger

ones - \$4 per child

Call to register, 964-8505

FAMILY PROGRAMS

GLUTEN-FREE COOKING!

Learn to cook Gluten-free with Laura Steele. Laura is an accomplished chef and chef instructor, currently working at Shully's Cuisine as a catering chef and at UW-Milwaukee teaching a variety of cooking classes.

GLUTEN-FREE DROP COOKIES

In this hands-on class, learn how to make an easy, basic cookie flour blend, chocolate chip cookies, jam filled cookies and snickerdoodles. All ingredients are included.

Saturday, July 17

10 a.m. - noon

For adults and kids ages 8 and older accompanied by an adult

Adults: \$30

(Nonmembers - \$35)

Accompanied children: \$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)

Registration is required by July 15th, call 964-8505



GLUTEN-FREE PIZZA

Learn to cook GLUTEN-FREE with Laura Steele. In this hands-on class we will create fantastic pizza crust from scratch, make homemade tomato sauce and enjoy good company while making and eating your pizza! All ingredients are included.

Saturday, August 14

10 a.m. - noon

For adults and kids ages 8 and older accompanied by an adult

Adults: \$30 (Nonmembers - \$35)

Accompanied children: \$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)

Registration is required by August 12th, call 964-8505



DISCOVERY HIKES

Discover the natural world of Riverside Park. Every month we'll explore something new!

July: The Prairie. Learn about the plants and animals that call the prairie their home and how prairies help people!

August: The Milwaukee River. Come and learn about the Milwaukee River. We'll be catching critters and hiking along the river, so wear comfortable hiking clothes and shoes.

Saturday, July 10 & Wednesday, August 11

10:30 a.m. - noon

For kids ages 4 & older accompanied by an adult \$4 or \$12 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers - \$7 or \$21 for families of 4 or more) Call to register, 964-8505



EXPLORING MENTORSHIP IN THE OUTDOORS

Are you interested in cultivating a love of nature within your child? Come learn ways to help foster the connection between children and the outdoors. While you learn about positive techniques and activities you can try, your kids learn about the animals in the Native Wisconsin Animal Room. Next we'll all go out and explore Riverside Park and see some of these activities in action. Take home packet included. Please dress for the weather.

Tuesday, July 27

4 - 6 p.m.

For adults & children

Adults: \$7

(Nonmembers - \$9)

Children: \$5

(Nonmembers - \$7)

Call to register, 964-8505



YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB*

Are you sitting in class just itching to get outside? Then come join our educators with fun science, research and stewardship projects in Riverside and Washington parks!

Every Monday except August 2
4 - 6 p.m.



Every Tuesday - Friday except July 3 & August 24-27
4 - 6 p.m.

and

Every Saturday except August 28
1 - 4 p.m.



For kids, parents welcome
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5 annual membership)

YOGAKIDS FUN, FITNESS AND FEELING GREAT!

Increase your child's strength, flexibility and ability to focus and concentrate through this fun and playful class. Kids will learn tools and techniques to relax and feel great. Games, ecology, music and learning about the body and mind are all part of YogaKids classes. Pre-registration appreciated.

Every Tuesday except August 24
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



FISHING WITH E.B.*

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

Every Wednesday through August 18
5 - 6:30 p.m.

For everyone

Free-donations appreciated



CLEAN UP YOUR PARK/ OUTDOOR PLAY

Do you enjoy clean parks? We do too, but they don't clean up after themselves. Help us beautify our park and feel good doing it. Follow up with some outdoor games in the park you just helped keep clean.

Every Friday except August 6 & 27
4 - 6 p.m.

Young Scientists Club program

Free - donations appreciated

(Nonmembers - \$5

annual membership)

Call 964-8505 to register



SCIENCE SATURDAYS*

Discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts. Topics:

July: Mammals

August: Energy

Every Saturday through August 21

except July 3

9:30 - 5 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated



SCIENCE SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS*

Discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts. Topics:

July: Sound

August: Birds

Drop-in program

Every Saturday

except July 3 & 4

9:30 - 5 p.m. &

Sunday

12:30 - 5 p.m.

For adults and

accompanied children

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.

Every Saturday

except July 3

1 - 2 p.m.



Every Saturday through August 21

except July 3

1 - 2 p.m.



For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

ADULT LEARNING

MONARCH LARVAE MONITORING*

After a brief introduction to the eggs, caterpillar, chrysalis and adult stages, we will comb the park for examples of all stages of the butterfly's life. Our findings will be used in the University of Minnesota's national Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project.

Thursday, July 1
5:30 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
\$4 (Nonmembers - \$7)
Call to register, 964-8505



ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOP*

Bird mating systems take on extremely varied and bizarre forms. Learn about these and other bird-related topics then take a dusk walk. All interest levels welcome and binoculars provided.

Thursday, July 1
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$10) Free for regular birding volunteers
Call to register, 964-8505



EVENING BIRD HIKE

By early July, most birds are busy raising their first or second brood. Learn ways to tell the adults from the young. Binoculars provided.

Wednesday, July 7
6 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY COUNT*

Every year the North American Butterfly Association coordinates volunteers across three countries (USA, Canada and Mexico) to count butterfly populations. Join us for a stroll through Riverside or Washington Park to count and identify our resident butterflies. No experience is necessary.

Saturday, July 10
11 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
\$3
Call to register, 964-8505



DNR FROG & TOAD SURVEY

Come out for a late night of froggin' by ear 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.

Monday, July 12
8:15 p.m. -
12:15 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



FROM FISH TO FROGS – BIOLOGICAL MONITORING IN GRENADA*

There is a strong connection between Wisconsin and the island nation of Grenada. The Milwaukee County Zoo, Milwaukee Public Museum, Racine Zoo and Wisconsin Lutheran College have been assisting the Grenada Forestry and Fisheries Departments to monitor Grenada's wildlife. Learn about their adventures climbing to the top of volcanoes and diving to Grenada's submerged reefs.

Speakers: Bob Anderson, Wisconsin Lutheran College and Craig Berg, Milwaukee County Zoo
Tuesday, July 13
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



CEDARBURG BOG BIOBLITZ

Part educational event, part scientific endeavor and part festival, our BioBlitz will bring together scientists, volunteers and the public to see how many species we can count in a day-long biological survey of Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area in Ozaukee County. Shuttles will leave Riverside Park at 8 a.m. and noon and will return at 12:45 and 4:45 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

Saturday, July 17
All day
For adults and accompanied children
Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



DAYLIGHTING THE INVISIBLE: REVEALING WHAT CONNECTS US: A WORKSHOP IN NATURE AND IMAGINATION FOR TEACHERS, WRITERS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS*

Daylighting the Invisible with writer and teacher David Oates explores connectedness - the secret force that animates creative work - in writing, in environmental and urban restoration and in virtually all creative pursuits. It's a spiritual and natural dynamic we can become partners with. Presented in cooperation with MRCSE and the Institute for Community Transformation at Marquette University.

Sunday, July 18
Noon - 5 p.m.
For adults
\$60 (Nonmembers - \$70)
Call to register, 964-8505



BOOK CLUB*

The Urban Ecology Center Bookclub meets once a month to discuss an environmentally themed book. Newcomers and ongoing participants are invited to come enjoy the conversation and refreshments. Note: Book club will not meet in August.

July: *Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt

Saturday, July 24
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults
Free-donations appreciated



SUSTAINABLE BUILDING EXHIBIT*

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.

Sundays, July 25 & August 22, Noon - 2 p.m.
Mondays, July 26 & August 16, 4 - 7 p.m.
For adults
Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



THE BATS OF WASHINGTON PARK

When the sun sets over Washington Park, conditions become ripe for an aerial battle for mastery of the nighttime skies. Insects emerge to feed, and so do insect-eating bats. Join us for a night-time bat hike with our bat detector that helps us hear bats in real time.

Wednesday, August 4
8 - 10 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



SAVOR THE TASTE OF SUMMER: TOMATO FEST*

At the end of summer tomatoes are delicious and plentiful, the perfect combination to put up jars of tomato sauce, tomato paste and whole tomatoes. This hands-on class includes canning materials, tomatoes and handouts with instructions, recipes and helpful tips.

Tuesday, August 24
or Tuesday, August 31
6 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$25, \$35 at the door
Call to register, 964-8505



ART AT UEC

ART SHOW OPENING: INTERLUDE

Sunday, July 11
2 - 4 p.m.
(Artist will give a talk at 3 pm.)
For everyone
Free-donations appreciated

Katherine Steichen Rosing's abstract paintings reveal the essence of rippling ponds, patterns of bark, and forests in rain as she explores cycles of transformation, growth, and decay. Textured surfaces and richly layered color invite discovery like a walk in the woods. For more information about Rosing and her paintings, visit www.studiokst.com.

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

(rp) = Riverside Park (wp) = Washington Park (wps) = WP Senior Center (bh) = Boathouse

JULY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p>4 Urban Ecology Center locations closed</p>	<p>4p 4-6p Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>5 9a 4-6p 4-6p 4-6p 4:30p 5:30p 6:30p Burdock Brigade (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (wp) YogaKids (wp) Evening Bike Ride (rp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp)</p>	<p>6 8a 9a 3p 4-6p 5-6:30p 5:30p 6p Birdwalk (wp) WOW! (rp) WOW! (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Fishing with E.B. (wp) River Rhythms (bh) Bird Hike (wp)</p>	<p>7 8a 9a 3p 4-6p 5-6:30p 5:30p 6p Birdwalk (rp) Terrific Turtles (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Water Safety (rp) Urban Echo Poets (rp) Urban Stargazers (rp)</p>	<p>8 8a 10a 10:30a 4-6p 4-6p 5:30p 5:30p 6:30p 6p 6:30p Birdwalk (rp) Terrific Turtles (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Water Safety (rp) Urban Echo Poets (rp) Urban Stargazers (rp)</p>	<p>9 4-6p 4-6p Young Scientists (wp) Clean up Your Park/ Outdoor Play (wp)</p>	<p>10 Science Saturdays - all month Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Topics: Mammals (wp), Sound (rp) Awakening the Dreamer Symposium 10a-4p (rp) 9a Rangers (wp & rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) Water Safety (rp) 10:30a Water Safety (wp) 10:30a Family Canoe (wp) 10:30a Discovery Hikes (rp) 11a Butterfly Cnt. (rp & wp) 1-4p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>11 Science Sundays - all month Drop in 12:30p-4:30p topic: Sound (rp) 12:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp) 2-4p Art Show Opening: Interlude 2:30-4:30p Open Climb (rp)</p>	<p>12 4p 4-6p 8:15p Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp) DNR Frog & Toad Survey (wp)</p>	<p>13 9a 10a 1p 4-6p 4-6p 4:30p 7p Burdock Brigade (rp) Flora Fun (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (wp) YogaKids (wp) From Fish to Frogs (rp)</p>	<p>14 8a 9a 9a 3p 4-6p 5-6:30p 5:30p 6p Birdwalk (wp) WOW! (rp) Chat with Ken (rp) WOW! (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Fishing with E.B. (wp) River Rhythms (bh) Friends/Real Food (rp)</p>	<p>15 8a 10:30a 4p 4-6p 5:30p 6p 6:30p Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Kayaking 101 (bh) Water Safety (rp) Vegetarian Potluck (rp)</p>	<p>16 4-6p 4-6p Young Scientists (wp) Clean up Your Park/ Outdoor Play (wp)</p>	<p>17 all day 9a 9a 10a 10a 10a 10:30a 10a 1-4p 1p Cedarburg Bog (rp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Park Rangers (wp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Water Safety (rp) Water Safety (wp) Gluten-Free Cookie Workshop (rp) Young Scientists (wp) An. Feed (rp & wp) David Oates 5p (rp)</p>	
<p>18 8a Noon 2:30-4:30p Teen Hike in Seminary Woods (rp) Daylighting the Invisible (rp) Open Climb (rp)</p>	<p>19 4p 4-6p Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>20 9a 4-6p 4-6p 4:30p 5:30p 6:30p Burdock Brigade (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (wp) YogaKids (wp) Evening Bike Ride (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p>	<p>21 8a 9a 3p 4-6p 5-6:30p 5:30p Birdwalk (wp) WOW! (rp) WOW! (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Fishing with E.B. (wp) River Rhythms (bh)</p>	<p>22 8a 10:30a 4p 4-6p 6p Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Water Safety (rp)</p>	<p>23 4-6p 4-6p Young Scientists (wp) Clean up Your Park/ Outdoor Play (wp)</p>	<p>24 9a 9a 10a 10a 10a 10:30a 1-4p 1p Kayaking 102 (rp) Rangers (wp & rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Book Club (rp) Water Safety (rp) Water Safety (wp) Young Scientists (wp) An. Feed (rp & wp)</p>	
<p>25 Noon-2p Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp) 2:30-4:30p Open Climb (rp) 3p Knitting Circle (rp)</p>	<p>26 4p 4-6p 4-7p 6:30p Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp) Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp) Transition Milwaukee (rp)</p>	<p>27 9a 10a 4p 4-6p 4-6p 4:30p Burdock Brigade (rp) Nature's Palette (rp) Mentorship (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (wp) YogaKids (wp)</p>	<p>28 8a 9a 3p 4-6p 5-6:30p 5:30p Birdwalk (wp) WOW! (rp) Chat with Ken (rp) WOW! (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Fishing with E.B. (wp) River Rhythms (bh)</p>	<p>29 8a 10:30a 4p 4-6p 6p Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Water Safety (rp)</p>	<p>30 1p 4-6p 4-6p Milwaukee History Kayak (bh) Young Scientists (wp) Clean up Your Park/ Outdoor Play (wp)</p>	<p>31 9a 10a 10a 10:30a 1-4p 1p Rangers (wp & rp) Water Safety (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Water Safety (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p>	

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

AUGUST 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Science Sundays - all month Drop in 12:30p-4:30p topic: Birds (rp) 2:30-4:30p Open Climb (rp)	2 4p Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp)	3 9a 4-6p 4-6p 4:30p 5:30p 6:30p Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Open Climb (rp) YogaKids (wp) Evening Bike Ride (rp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp)	4 8a 9a 9a 3p 4-6p 5-6:30p 5:30p 8p Birdwalk (wp) WOW! (rp) Chat with Ken (rp) WOW! (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Fishing with E.B. (wp) River Rhythms (bh) Bats of Washington Park (wp)	5 8a 10:30a 4-6p 4p 5:30p 6p 6:30p Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) Water Safety (rp) Photo Club (rp)	6 2p 4-6p Volunteer Orientation (rp) Young Scientists (wp)	7 Science Saturdays - all month Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Topics: Energy (wp), Birds (rp) 9a 9a 10a 10a 10:30a 1-4p 1p Park Rangers (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Water Safety (rp) Water Safety (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp)
8 2:30-4:30p Open Climb (rp)	9 4p 4-6p Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp)	10 9a 4-6p 4-6p 4:30p 5:30p Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Open Climb (rp) YogaKids (wp) Kayaking 101 (bh)	11 8a 9a 10:30a 3p 4-6p 5-6:30p 5:30p 6p Birdwalk (wp) WOW! (rp) Discovery Hikes (rp) WOW! (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Fishing with E.B. (wp) River Rhythms (bh) Friends/Real Food (rp)	12 8a 10:30a 4-6p 4p 6p 7p 7p Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Water Safety (rp) Urban Echo Poets (rp) Urban Stargazers (rp)	13 9a 4-6p 4-6p Milwaukee River Canoe Trip (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Clean up Your Park/ Outdoor Play (wp)	14 9a 10a 10a 10a 10:30a 10:30a 10:30a 1-4p 1p Park Rangers (wp & rp) Gluten-Free Pizza Workshop (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Water Safety (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) Family Canoe (wp) Water Safety (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp)
15 2:30-4:30p Open Climb (rp)	16 4p 4-6p 4-7p Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp) Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp)	17 9a 4-6p 4-6p 4:30p 5:30p Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Open Climb (rp) YogaKids (wp) Evening Bike Ride (rp) Outdoor Leader Presentation 6p (rp)	18 8a 9a 3p 4-6p 5-6:30p 5:30p Birdwalk (wp) WOW! (rp) WOW! (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Fishing with E.B. (wp) River Rhythms (bh)	19 8a 10:30a 4-6p 4p 6p 6:30p Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Water Safety (rp) Vegetarian Potluck (rp)	20 4-6p 4-6p Young Scientists (wp) Clean up Your Park/ Outdoor Play (wp)	21 Eat Local Challenge Fair 10a-1p (rp) 9a 9a 10a 10a 10:30a 1-4p 1p Park Rangers (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Water Safety (rp) Water Safety (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp)
22 Noon-2p Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp) 2:30-4:30p Open Climb (rp)	23 4p 4-6p 6:30p Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp) Transition Milwaukee (rp)	24 9a 6p Burdock Brigade (rp) Tomato Fest (rp)	25 Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park closed	26 Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park closed 8a Birdwalk (rp)	27 Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park closed	28 Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park closed 9a 1p Park Rangers (rp) Animal Feeding (rp)
29	30 4p 4-6p Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp)	31 9a 4-6p 4:30p 6p 6:30p Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (wp) YogaKids (wp) Tomato Fest (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp)				

(rp) = Riverside Park (wp) = Washington Park (wps) = WP Senior Center (bh) = Boathouse



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

URBAN ADVENTURES

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.

WATER SAFETY*

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

Saturdays through August 21, except July 3
10:30 - 11 a.m.



Every Thursday through August 19
6 - 6:30 p.m.
Every Saturday, through August 21 except July 3,
10 - 10:30 a.m.



For everyone
Free-donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5)
Registration required, call 964-8505

CANOEING FOR FAMILIES*

Want to have a relaxing day on the water with your kids? Well, Washington Park has you in mind. Bring your family for the water safety course followed by some fun paddling on the lagoon.

Saturdays, July 10 & August 14
10:30 a.m. - noon



For adults and accompanied children
Adults: \$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)
Call to register, 964-8505

CLOSINGS FOR JULY-AUGUST

Both Urban Ecology Center locations will be closed July 3 & 4. In addition, the Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park will be closed August 24-28.

KAYAKING 101

Come learn the basics of kayaking. We will start with a brief lesson on land and then continue the lesson on the Milwaukee River. Bring a snack or dinner with you and we can eat on the water! Come prepared to get wet and bring something to hydrate yourself!

Note: Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce St.)
Thursday, July 15 or
Tuesday, August 10
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults and kids ages 12 and older accompanied by an adult
Adult: \$20 (Nonmembers - \$30)
Children: \$15 (Nonmembers - \$25)
Call 964-8505 to register

KAYAKING 102

Ready to take your kayaking skills to the next level? Join Urban Adventures staff on a kayaking trip down the Milwaukee River. This trip will feature a few rapids so be prepared to get wet. Payment required at registration.

Saturday, July 24
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



For adults
\$30 (Nonmembers - \$35)
Call 964-8505 to register

MILWAUKEE HISTORY KAYAK

Want to learn about Milwaukee's history in a unique fashion? Join Urban Adventures Coordinator Chad Thomack on a paddle through downtown to explore some of Milwaukee's interesting history from the river.

Note: Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce St.)
Friday, July 30
1 - 4:30 p.m.

For adults and kids ages 12 and older accompanied by an adult
Adult: \$20 (Nonmembers - \$30)
Children: \$15 (Nonmembers - \$25)
Call 964-8505 to register

MILWAUKEE RIVER CANOE TRIP

Join the Urban Adventures crew on a trip down the Milwaukee River. We will start at Estabrook Dam and make our way down through the North Ave rapids. Be prepared to get wet, including your feet!

Friday, August 13

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
For adults and kids



ages 12 and older accompanied by an adult
Adult: \$20 (Nonmembers - \$30)
Children: \$15 (Nonmembers - \$25)
Call 964-8505 to register

OPEN CLIMBS*

Add adventure to your summer 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/pdf/waiver.pdf.

Every Tuesday through August 17
4 - 6 p.m.

Every Sunday through August 22

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.



For adults and kids ages 7 and older
Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers - \$15)
Children: \$8 (Nonmembers - \$12)
Registration required, call 964-8505

RIVER RHYTHMS

Paddle with us down to Pere Marquette Park where we'll enjoy music and festivities at River Rhythms. Afterward we'll paddle back to the boathouse. Dress for the weather. Each week fills quickly so sign-up early!

Performers:

July 7 - Leroy Airmaster w/ Junior Brantley - *Classic blues*

July 14 - Bill Miller - *Native American music*

July 21 - Jim Liban Blues Combo joined by special guests—Stokes, Milwaukee Slim, and Mary Davis - *Blues*

July 28 - Downtown Employee Appreciation Week's Battle of the Bands - *various*

August 4 - Altered Five - *danceable versions of popular rock songs*

August 11 - Perry Weber & The Devilles - *Blues*

August 18 - Scythian - *Celtic/Gypsy punk-rock*

Note: Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce St.)
Every Wednesday through August 18
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Adults: \$25 (Nonmembers - \$30)
Children: \$15 (Nonmembers - \$20)
Sign-up early! Call 964-8505 to register

HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORERS

TEEN HIKE IN SEMINARY WOODS

Join us for a fun day of hiking and exploring. You may want to bring along a camera, and don't forget a water bottle. Wear comfortable shoes and clothes. Lunch, transportation and entrance fees are included. Parental permission required (form available at www.urbanecologycenter.org).

Sunday, July 18
8 a.m. - Noon



For teens
\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)
Registration is required by July 13th, call 964-8505

INTEREST GROUPS

UEC PHOTO CLUB*

Join other photographers to explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills. People of all skill levels welcome.

Thursdays, July 1 & August 5
6:30 p.m.
For adults



Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

TUESDAY EVENING BIKE RIDE

Join us as we bike the Oak Leaf Trail and beyond on an evening ride! Route and distance will vary depending on riders' preferences (15 miles average). Bring your own bike, helmet and water bottle or borrow ours.

Tuesdays, July 6, 20, August 3 & 17
5:30 - 7 p.m.
For adults



Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$10)
Call to register, 964-8505

VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE: EAT AND MEET*

Join the Victory Garden Initiative at a monthly Eat and Meet. This meeting is for newcomers, as well as those who are active VGI volunteers. We start at 6:30 with a potluck and at 7:00 we break into workgroups to plan the do-it-yourself food system revolution.

Tuesdays, July 6 & August 3
6:30 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, July 8 & August 12
7 p.m.
For adults



Free - donations appreciated

URBAN STARGAZERS*

Join us for fun, information and stargazing.

Thursdays, July 8 & August 12
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated



FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD*

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

July: The Facts about Access to Good Food in Milwaukee. Speaker: Mark Caldwell, UWM Graduate Student. Ever wonder who has access to healthy, affordable food in the Milwaukee area and who doesn't? Mark mapped supermarkets, convenience stores, CSA distribution and fast food restaurants and correlated these with various socio-economic factors. Find out what's he's learned and discuss local efforts to build a more just food system.

August: Help Heal the Planet, One Meal at a Time. Speaker: Jamie Ferschinger, Community Program Coordinator, Urban Ecology Center. We will examine some of the ways our current food system impacts the environment and consider how we can make mindful, intentional buying and eating choices that are kinder to our planet.

Wednesdays, July 14 & August 11
6 - 8 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.

Thursdays, July 15 & August 19
6:30 - 8 p.m.



For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations welcome

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, July 25
3 - 4:30 p.m.



For everyone
Free-donations appreciated

TRANSITION MILWAUKEE*

Transition Milwaukee is part of an international movement to address the challenges of climate change and peak oil proactively by relocalizing. We are working to rebuild local resilience and self-reliance through creating and promoting community projects to grow our own food, generate our own power, develop our own economies and reskill.

Mondays, July 26 & August 23
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults



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

EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Washington Park is a fabulous oasis for urban birds and other critters. We will walk through the different habitats looking for birds, mammals, butterflies and other natural denizens. Binoculars available.

Every Wednesday except August 25
8 a.m.



For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

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
8 a.m.



For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER TOURS

BOOK YOUR OWN TOUR!

Can't make it to one of our free building tours or do you have a group of five or more who want to visit? Private garden, green building, branch and park tours are available for individuals or groups. Please contact Mike at 964-8505, x126 for fees and scheduling.

RIVERSIDE PARK BUILDING TOUR*

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

Thursdays July 1 & August 5
5:30 - 6:45 p.m.



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

CHAT WITH KEN*

Capture an hour of Executive Director Ken Leinbach's time on a walk outside or by relaxing in the beautiful Riverside Park building. Call ahead to confirm.

Wednesday, July 14, 28 & August 4
9 - 10 a.m.



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

WANT TO RECEIVE WEEKLY UPDATES OF UEC EVENTS?

Sign up for the Weekly Guide e-newsletter! Every Wednesday you'll receive an email with updated information about the programs coming up in the next week and timely content highlighting featured events, providing "green" living tips and more! To sign up, simply fill out the form on the home page of www.urbanecologycenter.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

by Susan Winans, Volunteer Coordinator

“We’ll get a month’s worth of

KOHL’S
expect great things™

work done in one day!” Kim Forbeck exclaimed when I told her the Kohl’s Corporation wanted to send us a large group of employees to volunteer as part of their National Volunteers Go Green Initiative. As Land Steward at the Center for the past ten years, Kim knows firsthand what a difference volunteers have made in Riverside Park. It is only with volunteer help that Kim and Assistant Land Steward Joel Springsteen are able to manage the natural areas of Riverside and Washington parks, increasing plant biodiversity, maintaining healthy habitat for wildlife and creating an inspiring learning environment for our students.

While we gladly accepted Kohl’s offer to send us volunteers, we had no idea



how many Kohl’s employees would be willing to give up a Saturday morning or afternoon of their own time to help. The response was overwhelming – over 200 volunteers representing Kohl’s came and pulled, planted, mulched, dug, painted, cleaned and worked with participants at our Earth Day Festival. While it would be impossible to list every project they completed in this article, suffice it to say that it would be hard to visit either branch and not see the results of their hard work.

Additionally, the Kohl’s Go Green Initiative provided funding for the Center to purchase some much needed

new equipment and matched their employees’ efforts with a \$42,000 grant to support children’s programming at the Center. This combination of volunteer and financial support will have a lasting impact on our mission for years to come. Thanks, Kohl’s!

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Want to spend more time outside? Looking to work alongside ecologically-minded people? Interested in sharing your gifts with the community? Come find out how you can contribute your time and talents to the Urban Ecology Center.

Riverside Park

- Sunday, July 11
12:30 - 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 13
1 - 2:30 p.m.
- Tuesdays, July 20 & August 31
6:30 - 8 p.m.
- Friday, August 6
2 - 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, August 14
10:30 a.m. - noon

Washington Park

- Every Saturday
10 a.m.

For everyone
Free-donations appreciated

BURDOCK BRIGADE

The Burdock Brigade engages in hands-on restoration activities: removing exotic invasive plant species and propagating and planting native species in order to preserve and restore native vegetation and animal habitats.

Riverside Park

- Every Tuesday
9 - 11 a.m.,
- Saturdays, July 17, August 7 & 21
9-10:30am

Washington Park

- Every Thursday except August 26

4 - 6 p.m.

Washington Park Senior Center

- Every Thursday except August 26
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

For everyone
Free-donations appreciated

COMPOST CREW

It’s time to get the Center’s compost systems working full steam! Come roll up your sleeves and let’s learn together as we chop, shred, layer, turn over and amend organic matter to create rich healthy soil for the Center’s various gardens.

Riverside Park

Every Monday
4 - 5 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

WOW! WORK OUTSIDE WEDNESDAYS

Come green your thumbs in our native nursery or while you keep the Center’s bioswales, rain-, butterfly-, rooftop-, and prairie-gardens looking great and welcoming to wildlife.

Riverside Park

Every Wednesday except August 25
9 - 11 a.m. and 3 - 5 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

PARK RANGERS

Dress for the weather and join other volunteers as we walk through the parks picking up trash and noting any maintenance needs.

Riverside Park

2nd, 4th (& 5th) Saturdays of the month
9 - 10:30 a.m.

Washington Park

Every Saturday except July 3 & August 28
9 - 10 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

A RECORD BREAKING TEEN ADVENTURE CHALLENGE!

This year's Teen Adventure Challenge made Urban Ecology Center history with a total of 16 teams participating in the race! Over 75 enthusiastic teens representing high schools and youth nonprofits rock climbed, biked, hiked and orienteered throughout the Milwaukee River Valley and lakefront.

Many of the participants have never participated in these types of sports before. Others proudly told everyone that while they had started without any adventure sports experience, they had trained for weeks just to

run this race. Each team had an adult chaperone who was excited as the teens themselves. At the end of the race, the tired but satisfied teams were cheered to the finish line and given lunch.

Many thanks to the over 38 volunteers who worked hard to help give the teens a positive, memorable experience.

Check out some videos of the action on our Facebook fan page. While you're there, be sure to "like" our page so you can keep up with our programs and announcements!



Special Thanks to our 2010 Teen Adventure Challenge Sponsors!



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER SOLSTICE SOIREE AND AUCTION SPONSORS

This issue is going to press just before our annual Summer Solstice Soiree and Auction on June 19th. The Soiree is an evening of fun with a purpose, raising support that will enable us to fulfill our mission to connect our community to nature. Below is a sneak peak of the generous Soiree sponsors. Check our next issue for the complete list of the supporters who helped us celebrate this year!



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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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- Eleanor & JC Stromberger

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- Duane & Barbara Stein
- Mark & Pamela Zanchetti

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TEEN ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

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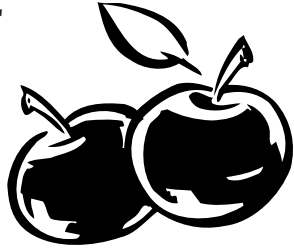


Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211

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Eat Local Challenge Fair

Eat Local Challenge takes place during the first two weeks in September! Gear up for the Challenge through workshops, resources, recipes and much more!



Saturday, August 21

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Free!



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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

My neighborhood park is
 Riverside Washington I love them all!

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.
 Charge my membership to: Master Card Visa

Card Number _____
 Expiration Date ____/____/____
 Signature _____ Date _____

MEMBERSHIP

Did you know you can give a donation, join or renew your membership securely online? Visit www.urbanecologycenter.org and click either "donations" or "membership"

Renew or begin your membership, choose one:
 Individual (\$25) includes guest Family (\$35) Student (\$12)
 Financial assistance is available. Please call Nikiya Harris, Development Assistant at x104 or nharris@urbanecologycenter.org for details.

Give a gift membership:
 Individual (\$25) includes guest Family (\$35) Student (\$12)
 Recipient Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Day Phone _____
 Email _____
 Send the announcement card to Me Gift recipient
 Occasion _____ Deliver by _____

DONATION (IN ADDITION TO MEMBERSHIP)

Please accept my gift to support:

- Provide a membership for a low income family (\$35)
- Provide an educational program for families (\$75)
- Provide a summer camp scholarship (\$195)
- Support a high school summer intern (\$600)
- Restore native plants to an acre of public land (\$1000)
- Sponsor a school for a year, 24 field trips for city kids! (\$5000)

Total Enclosed _____

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY!