



## **TAKING ROOT: Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum Receives EPA Grant**

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director and Jeff McAvoy, Marketing Communications Associate

We are very proud and excited to announce that the Urban Ecology Center will be receiving close to a million dollars from the Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)! This \$953,450 competitive grant will help us add acreage to Riverside Park such that a total of 40 acres of “urban wilderness” can be created and preserved along the Milwaukee River.

In partnership with the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, and many other partner organizations, we have developed a plan for the restoration of riparian habitat and the creation of an arboretum along the Milwaukee River. A huge amount of this work is to be completed in the next three years in order to be ready for the Rotary Centennial Celebration in 2013. This GLRI grant provides some of the funding necessary to turn this vision into a reality! We have a lot of work to do, including planting 1,000 trees, 500 shrubs and 100,000 herbaceous plants, removal of invasive species, restoring six acres currently dominated by invasive reed canary grass to

a more diverse native plant community, restoring five acres of barren industrial land, mitigating stormwater runoff and soil erosion and more. The GLRI grant includes funding that will allow us to hire additional help to achieve these goals!

This work will be taking place between Locust Street and North Avenue, between the river and the Oak leaf trail, and will contribute to the restoration and protection of the larger primary environmental corridor which extends all the way up to Silver Spring Drive. Preserving this bit of “wilderness” in the city provides habitats for wildlife, resting stops for migrating birds and improves the water quality in this stretch of the Milwaukee River which feeds into Lake Michigan.

Although this grant is a major step forward, we still need lots of community support. We are expecting to engage a minimum of 1000 volunteers every year in habitat restoration work. If you’d like to help, watch for opportunities to get involved in future newsletters! 🌱

## **NEW BEGINNINGS**

by Joey Zocher, Washington Park Program Director

For many, winter is a time to relax, slow down, hang out at the house, adjust to the shorter days and colder temperatures. Like bears we tend to hibernate.

Not so here at the Washington Park branch of the Urban Ecology Center. This winter we are looking forward to a vibrant schedule of activities, special events, winter skills programming and a revitalized lecture series. Leading the charge on these exciting programs are our new community program staff!



Our new Community Program Coordinator, Willie Karidis, has a contagious passion about the approaching colder months. I have always enjoyed winter, but

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## **LIFE’S LESSONS**

by Haven Davis, Environmental Educator

“Whoa,” one of my students said, his mouth open and eyes wide with surprise. He just realized the incredible number of ways his digestive, respiratory, cardiovascular, nervous and musculoskeletal systems interacted to allow him to hike with his class through Riverside Park. This was my very first teaching experience at the Urban Ecology Center -- a Body Systems class for the Neighborhood Environmental Education Program (NEEP) -- and I had one of those “light bulb” moments that reminds me why I am an environmental educator. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing students fully comprehend what you are trying to communicate to them.

Even though I am finished with my schooling (for the foreseeable future), I am having new-school-year anxiety. Instead of a new building to navigate, I have a new city to explore. Instead of new coursework and assignments, I have my first full-time job. My “homework” is to

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## DROPLETS

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

Contributing writers: John Clancy, Haven Davis, Beth Fetterley, 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 the Center at (414) 964-8505.

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

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211  
(414) 964-8505 Fax: (414) 964-1084  
[uec@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto: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. 40<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
(Mailing address: 4145 W. Lisbon Ave.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53208)  
(414) 344-5460 Fax: (414) 344-5462  
[jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org)

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

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

Many thanks to **John Clancy** who, after four years as Board President, is stepping down. It was during John's watch that we started programming in Washington Park, expanded to our full capacity serving over 40 neighborhood schools, launched the very exciting Menomonee Valley project and, through his role in the Milwaukee Rotary Club, he assisted us in garnering their support for the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum (see page 1). These are the more visible signs of his leadership. What is less visible, but perhaps even more important, is the organizational infrastructure that has been put in place during his time at the helm. John, and his wife Christi, established the winter Summer Camp Fundraiser party that has brought in many tens of thousands of dollars for scholarships over the years. Thankfully John is not leaving us. He will remain on the board as the chair of the Menomonee Valley project.

We welcome **Jeff Geygan** as our new President. Jeff has been a board member, Treasurer and Vice-President during his tenure and we are excited to move forward under his leadership. You will get to meet him in our next newsletter.

Wow! More new staff! **Bridget Brave** has joined our development team to fill the position of Development Systems Specialist and Events Coordinator. Bridget brings her experience in event planning, database management and the added bonus of her recent Juris Doctorate from Marquette Law School. Bridget relocated to Milwaukee in 2005 from Phoenix, Arizona. She and her husband live on the Eastside where they are creatively working on reducing their carbon footprint.

**Caitlin Humber** is a fantastic new addition to our land stewardship team. As our Forestry Specialist,

Caitlin will work to implement the land restoration and forestry goals of the GLRI grant (see page 1). She formerly worked at the Center as Bookkeeper and as a Summer Intern and is completing her degree in Forest Conservation and Forest Management this year through UW-Madison. Caitlin is excited to work with volunteers and partners to implement this community project!

**David Salmon**, our new Urban Adventures Assistant, was a Summer Intern at the Center this past summer. In addition to working with us, David has great experience working with youth outdoors at Manitowish Waters. We are excited to have him on our team and look forward to absorbing some of his youthful energy!

## WISH LIST

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

- Cornstarch
- Electric corded or cordless impact driver
- Ice auger
- Ice skates
- iPad(s)
- Miscellaneous hand tools, drill bits, etc.
- Miscellaneous hardware, nuts, bolts, screws, etc.
- Mittens and gloves- especially adult sizes
- Skate skis
- Sleds
- Sweatpants
- 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
- Bike locks
- Digital cameras
- Electric Golf Cart
- Globes (Earth models)
- Hipwaders
- Small portable soccer goals
- Stop Watches
- Trailer

See our full list at [www.urbanecologycenter.org/wishlist](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/wishlist)

## REFLECTIONS OF A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

by Beth Fetterley, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Sometimes you have to verify something that you already know. At the Urban Ecology Center, we already knew that our work was impacting people's lives and behaviors, but we wanted some data to back it up. This past year we asked program participants of all ages to share how well they think we are meeting our mission.

Here are some of the numbers we found --

### **97% felt that their emotional connection to the environment had deepened because of their experience with us**

"I liked pulling out the weeds because it made me feel like I was helping the earth be a better place." -- *3rd grade student from La Escuela Fratney*

### **91% felt that their ecological knowledge increased**

"New activities (including hands-on with plants in nature) reinforce what

we have learned in the classroom."  
-- *Ms. Marchewka, St. Catherine School*

### **94% of people indicated they value public parks more because of their experience**

"It's great for kids to see/experience something they don't realize exists in their community, and develop an appreciation for nature. It's something 90% would never consider doing, but they all enjoy it." -- *Mr. Hendricks, Washington High School*

"The students enjoyed being out in nature, exploring the park in a new, exciting way. If we had more time, it would have been great to explore the outdoors even more." -- *3rd grade teacher from the Milwaukee Academy of Science*

### **95% indicated that they plan on changing their behavior because of their experiences at the Center**

"I'm more aware of where my food comes from and I'm visiting farmers' markets. I didn't know how easy this local food thing could be!" -- *Anonymous*

### **With your help we reached nearly 80,000 people through our environmental education programs. Over 21,000 of these were students in our Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP).**

These results are exciting not only as we reflect on the past year, but also as we look forward to a new branch, new programs and as we talk to other communities about doing similar work.

I want to thank all of the volunteers, members, community participants and staff whose hard work and dedication made this a very successful year. 🌿



## CREATING A WHOLE COMMUNITY

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Try to imagine this unique scenario:

Hand select 20 community leaders who represent diverse fields, ages, ethnicities, geographies and economic status.

Throw them into a neutral environment where every need (food, safety, shelter, and comfort) is taken care of for a full week. Strongly discourage internet, cell phones, or outside interruption for the duration. Then ask this group, through a set of prescribed practices and communication techniques, to dialogue and envision ways to improve the world. It'd be an interesting experiment to try, don't you think?

I was asked to participate in the experiment described above via an "out-of-the-blue" letter this past spring. It said the offer to participate was fully funded and that only a select few from across the country were invited. They called themselves the Center for Whole Communities and the program was called a Whole Thinking Retreat. It sounded a bit questionable to me. However, their website looked solid and they had close ties to Bill McKibben, Wendell Barry, Gary Snyder and others whom I either knew or had heard of.

I was intrigued. It seemed that their experiment toward making a better world by bringing people together in this unique and intentional way was as valid as our own neighborhood based experiment called the Urban Ecology Center, so I decided to go.

That is how I found myself in Vermont this past September introducing myself to an incredibly eclectic group, all sitting in a circle on a beautiful mountain meadow overlooking the Mad River far below. There was Tammy, a representative from the Navajo Nation, who was focusing on wild horse management and rangeland protection in Arizona. Aresh, an Iranian from New York City leading the cause for urban community gardens. Ester, originally from Mexico but now in California as a

powerful voice against oppression ... and the list went on. By the time it got to me I felt both humbled and extremely fortunate to be in their company.

This Whole Thinking Retreat was held at Knoll Farm, a working organic blueberry and sheep farm which doubles as a very impressive retreat center.

***After a full night and morning of deep and prolonged silence as preparation, our voices wove together into an inspiring mosaic of poetry and truth. It was an amazing way to get to new ideas quickly in a group.***

Totally off the electric grid, it runs completely on solar and wood power. The bathrooms are full composting toilets (extremely comfortable and no smells ... lest you wonder). Those who had difficulty climbing the mountain to our sleeping quarters could use the sun buggy ... a surprisingly powerful solar electric cart. The meals were lovingly prepared by two dynamic culinary artists and everything we ate came from the gardens on the farm or from neighboring farms in the valley. Like us at the Urban Ecology Center, these people made every effort, and more, to "walk the walk."

One fun note: our milk was delivered from the Von Trapp farm which can be seen across the valley. For Sound of Music fans this would be the second generation from Maria!

Our days were designed for deep thinking and global visioning. It is a thing to experience more than describe (he says as he attempts description). In the beginning I was definitely out of my comfort zone but by the end I was energized.

Every night we'd sit around the fire under the stars and practice "story

telling", which is not of the Paul Bunyan variety, nor is it swapping stories of one-upmanship, but is instead your personal story told. Not your biography, but a story that shaped who you are, usually connected to a theme or topic provided by one of our three facilitators. So many stories are being told to us through TV, movies, video games, etc., but one's own story rarely gets told or heard.

From 10 p.m. until 10 a.m. we were encouraged to be silent (no conversations, no music, etc.) Unplugged and quietly in touch with oneself, we'd go to sleep, wake up and share breakfast without words. Coming out of silence together, we practiced dialogue ... something quite different from discussion. Given a question or statement we'd each respond with our truth on the topic ... not to each other but speaking to the center of the circle. Brevity was encouraged. You would not respond directly to another, but would instead be informed by what you heard. After a full night and morning of deep and prolonged silence as preparation, our voices wove together into an inspiring mosaic of poetry and truth. It was an amazing way to get to new ideas quickly in a group. We also practiced deep listening ... where one truly listens to others without encouraging and discouraging the direction of their ideas. It's a technique that encourages you to really listen rather than preparing what you are about to say. It is not easy.

After lunch we were each given part of a recently felled birch tree and were taught how to carve a wooden spoon. Sound crazy? Those who knit know the reason. Your mind discovers free thought when your hands are occupied. Creativity is a key to balance that often gets overlooked. It is a significant element in creating a whole community. "Thinking with your hands" is what they called this practice.

In total, we experienced seven distinct practices

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## FROM THE BOARD

by John Clancy, Urban Ecology Center Board of Directors

The Urban Ecology Center continues to be an active and vibrant community. Exciting projects like the GLRI grant (see page 1) allow us to take giant new steps toward the future. Our work depends, in part, on the dedication and hard work of our many volunteers. In celebration of our exciting new year and those who have helped us grow, I invite you to attend the Urban Ecology Center's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 17th.

Among those volunteers being recognized are members of the Urban Ecology Center Board of Directors who are renewing their terms. I thank Marc Andraca, Eric Crawford, Jeff Geygan, Dennis Grzezinski, Ed Krishok, Cora Lee-Palmer, Theresa Lins, Blake Moret, Will Nasgovitz and Carl Trimble for graciously agreeing to serve another

two-year term. I, too, have happily accepted to serve another term.

I would also like to recognize four new directors we will ask our membership to approve. You have been introduced to these members and they have already been hard at work for the Center. The Board welcomes Tim Bowers, Pete Campbell, Derek Deubel and Mary Gute Witte.

I am also pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has elected new officers for the upcoming year. The new officers are:

Jeff Geygan, President  
Marc Andraca, Vice-President  
Pete Campbell, Treasurer  
Deb Spanic, Secretary

I look forward to working with these excellent individuals in

their new roles and thank them for their willingness to serve.

Last, I'd like to thank Kevin Carr who is completing his term on the Board. During his four years Kevin served on the Executive Committee both as Treasurer and as Vice President and as a crucial member of the finance committee. We wish him the best as he steps down from his position as Inspector at Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office and assumes his new role as United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

In addition to your input on our Board members, you will also be asked to approve some important changes in our bylaws. Please visit our website at [www.urbanecologycenter.com/membership](http://www.urbanecologycenter.com/membership) to review these changes or contact the Center to have a copy sent to you. 🌿

## NEW BEGINNINGS

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haven't been so excited since I was a kid dreaming about forts, sledding and (fingers crossed) SNOW DAYS! I met Willie shortly after his move back to Milwaukee when I attended his lecture, "Wilderness of Denali 100". I was in awe as he shared his 61-day solo journey in the backcountry of Denali National Park in Alaska. I encourage you to come hear his amazing story at Washington Park on December 8th.

But his trip is only part of the story. On November 3rd Willie will share his experience of "Homesteading in Interior Alaska", his personal journey of building a cabin 40 miles north of Denali National Park. In addition to these fantastic presentations, there will be lots of activities this winter which draw on the 25

years of experience Willie gained living on the border of Denali.

Your new Community Program Coordinator? What happened to Scott? At the beginning of September we had to say goodbye to our Community Program Coordinator, Scott Stromberger. Scott's partner, Amber, was given a position as a traveling nurse. Her first assignment took them to Scott's home state of Texas! We wish them all the best on their new adventure.

Mike Zang, our new Community Program Educator, serves as a full time volunteer through the Franciscan Capuchin Volunteer Corps. Mike was born and raised just five miles from New York City and received a Bachelor's

degree in Sociology and Anthropology from Christopher Newport University. Since graduating in May of 2009, he has trekked across America by bicycle, worked at an independent coffeehouse and spent the summer farming in Appalachia. Mike leads our afterschool and weekend drop-in kids programs and our Young Scientist Club - with a special emphasis on Citizen Science, Land Stewardship and Arts in the Park.

Helping Mike mentor the Young Scientists are our high school Outdoor Leaders: Trinity Little, Iemoni Moses, George Olufosoye and Daniel Rawley.

Winter, the time to hibernate? We think not! Join us here at Washington Park for sledding, skating, fascinating lectures and all we have to offer. 🌿

**CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS****SPECIAL EVENTS****ANNUAL MEETING**

All members are invited to the Center's annual meeting from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Afterward, members are encouraged to stay for dessert, meet volunteers and learn about our vibrant volunteer program.

at our Riverside Park location  
Wednesday, November 17  
6:30 - 7 p.m.

For adults & accompanied  
children

Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505

**SAIL MAINE WITH THE URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER**

The Urban Ecology Center Adult Adventure program will be leading a trip to the coast of Maine for a 4-day sail aboard the Lewis R. French, the oldest schooner in the United States. The trip will run from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Join us for an information session and slideshow to see if this wind-powered adventure is right for you.

Monday, November 22  
7 p.m.

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

**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 and Nick Cregor.*

**Riverside Park**  
**Saturday, December 18**  
**7 - 9 p.m.**

*Walks leave every 15 minutes  
starting at 7 p.m.  
Music begins at 7:30 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated*

## Calendar Key:



Riverside Park



Washington Park

\*accessible for persons with physical disabilities.  
Scholarships are available for all programs

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

## YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB\*

Become a Young Scientist and do fun science, research and stewardship projects in our parks!!

November:

Every Monday -  
Wednesday except  
November 17  
4 - 6 p.m.



December:

until December 15  
Every Monday -  
Wednesday  
4 - 6 p.m.

December 20-29

Every Monday -  
Wednesday  
4 - 5 p.m.

November:

Every Tuesday - Friday  
except November 25 & 26  
4 - 6 p.m.  
and Every Saturday  
1 - 4 p.m.

December:

until December 18  
Every Tuesday - Friday  
4 - 6 p.m.  
and  
Every Saturday  
1 - 4 p.m.



December 21-31

Every Tuesday - Thursday  
1 - 4 p.m.

For kids ages 5-15 years  
old, parents welcome  
Free - donations appreciated  
(Nonmembers - \$5  
annual membership)

## 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 10  
6 - 8 p.m.

For everyone

Adults: \$4  
(Nonmembers - \$6)  
Children: \$3  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505



## DISCOVERY HIKES

November: **Nature Games.** This month's discovery hike will be a ton of fun. We're going to hit the trail and play nature games! Our games will help us to understand the natural world around us and in Riverside Park. Come dressed for the weather and ready to move.

December: **Winter in Wisconsin.** Wisconsin is a very different place in the winter. As we hike around, we'll learn about what wintertime means for Riverside Park's plants and animals. Please dress for the weather!

Saturdays,  
November 20 &  
December 11

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  
\$21 for families of 4 or more)  
Call to register, 964-8505



## PAPERMAKING\*

Join us as we learn the art of recycled papermaking.

Tuesday, December 7  
4 - 6 p.m.

For everyone

Adults: \$5  
(Nonmembers - \$10)  
Children: \$2  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505



## TIPI STORY TIME\*

Feeling the chill of winter? Come join us in the Tipi. We'll have a fire and keep ourselves warm while sharing stories of life in the past. Afterwards, we'll enjoy some hot cocoa.

Sunday, December 12  
1 - 2:30 p.m.

For kids ages 4

and 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



## RECYCLED HOLIDAY CARDS\*

Use recycled paper made by our Young Scientists to create unique holiday cards for your loved ones!

Tuesday, December 14  
4 - 6 p.m.

For everyone

Adults: \$5  
(Nonmembers - \$10)  
Children: \$2  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505



## 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.

Every Tuesday until  
December 14

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations  
appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505



## HOMEWORK HELP\*

Getting divided on a math problem? Science not sticking with you? We're here to help. Bring in your homework and together we'll get it done just in time for dinner.

Every Tuesday -  
Thursday until December 16  
except

November 25

6 - 7 p.m.

For youth

Free - donations appreciated



## SCIENCE SATURDAYS\*

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

November: Owls

December: Night Sky

Every Saturday except

December 25

9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations  
appreciated



## SCIENCE SATURDAYS &amp; SUNDAYS\*

Drop in and discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts. Topics:

November: Camouflage

December: Snow

Drop-in program

Every Saturday except

December 25

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

December 25

1 - 2 p.m.

For everyone

Free -

donations  
appreciated



## ART AT THE CENTER

## NOW SHOWING: SURREALISTS' AND VERTIGO IN FLATLAND

For everyone  
Free - donations  
appreciated



Show runs through late December

Surrealism, a concept of dissidence and surprising juxtapositions of things that don't normally go together, inspired Kate Loehrer and Philip Krejcarek in their *Surrealists'* series. Combining sculpture and photography, they created a series from discarded or used objects, recycling them as art. In *Vertigo In Flatland*, Jim Zwadlo paints the urban pedestrian from the aerial point of view. This choice of subject and point of view make it possible for him to present complex abstract ideas using only simple, realistic imagery in a familiar, recognizable context.


## VISIT US OVER THE HOLIDAYS!

Be sure to check our calendar for our special holiday hours during the last two weeks of December.

## ADULT LEARNING


**BEEKEEPING BASICS COURSE: 3-PART SERIES & TEST\***

Three, 2 hour courses will give you the foundation to start beekeeping. From determining the type of hive, to placement, rules, installation, inspections, treatment, harvesting and overwintering, you will learn what to expect and how to deepen your new relationship with bees. You are required to pass a test to receive a Beepod Certificate for Beekeeping. Prerequisite course: Beesentation (see page 9 for dates).

Mondays,  
November 1 - 15   
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
For adults  
\$140 (Nonmembers - \$150)  
Call to register, 964-8505


**HOMESTEADING IN INTERIOR ALASKA\***

Join Willie Karidis, our Community Program Coordinator and a Milwaukee native, as he takes you on a personal journey experiencing the joy and hardships of building a cabin 40 miles north of Denali National Park, Alaska.

Wednesday,  
November 3   
7 - 8 p.m.  
For adults & accompanied children ages 10 and older  
Adults: \$5  
(Nonmembers - \$10)  
Children: Free - donations appreciated  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505


**MEXICO'S MONARCH BUTTERFLIES\***

This past spring, we encountered millions of butterflies suspended on the limbs of oyamel pine trees deep in the mountains of Mexico. Hear about this trip and how you could experience the same thing. Escape Wisconsin's winter cold (March 5-12) on this year's trip. Find more details at [www.conocer3.com](http://www.conocer3.com).

Wednesday,  
November 10   
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505


**BEEKEEPING SYMPOSIUM: POLLINATION, IT'S EVERY THIRD BITE\***

One in three bites of food we consume was brought about by pollination. Learn more about the role of bees in our agricultural system and the crisis we face if their numbers continue to decline. Prerequisite: Beesentation (see page 9 for schedule)

Thursday,  
November 11   
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
For adults  
\$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)  
Call to register, 964-8505

**GREEN INVESTING**

Join local independent investment adviser John Bleidorn, CPA, owner of Bleidorn Tax & Investment Services, LLC to learn ways to align your investments with your green values. John will start out with basic investment research resources, and review green investment choices and considerations for analysis.

Monday,  
November 15   
7 p.m.  
For adults  
\$10 (nonmembers - \$15)  
Call to register, 964-8505

**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.

Mondays,  
November 15 &  
December 13   
4 - 7 p.m.  
and Sunday,  
November 21  
Noon - 2 p.m.  
For adults  
Free-donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505, walk-ins welcome

**VANISHING OF THE BEES\***


Bees are vanishing! In this fascinating film you will learn why. This excellent documentary follows the discovery and details surrounding Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and other factors killing the bees. Join us for the film and discussion to follow.

Thursday,  
November 18   
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
For adults and children accompanied by an adult  
Adults: \$5  
(Nonmembers - \$10)  
Children: \$3  
(Nonmembers - \$6)  
Call to register, 964-8505

**BOOK CLUB\***

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

November: *The Bucolic Plague: How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers: An Unconventional Memoir* by Josh Kilmer-Purcell

Saturday,  
November 20   
10 - 11 a.m.  
For adults  
Free-donations appreciated

**BEEHIVE INSPECTION OR SYMPOSIUM\***

Meet the Bees Hands-on Workshops. Open the Beepod and see our bees at work! Follow a weekly inspection by a beekeeper instructor. Learn about pollen, nectar, honey and brood. See Workers doing daily tasks—maybe even find the Queen! Call to check conditions. If the weather is too cold, we will offer a Nature Pollinators symposium instead. Wear white clothing and little perfume.

Every Saturday  
except December 25   
10 - 11:30 a.m.  
For adults  
\$10 (Nonmembers - \$15)  
Call to register, 964-8505


**ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOPS\***

These monthly workshops delve into the mysterious and wonderful world of birds looking at current research and well-established topics, including mating systems. A PowerPoint presentation will be followed by a dusk birdwalk. Binoculars provided.

Saturday,  
November 27 &  
December 11   
2 - 3:30 p.m.  
For adults  
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$10) Free for regular birding volunteers  
Call to register, 964-8505

**MICROBIAL COMMUNITIES AS INDICATORS OF POLLUTION IMPACTS: TALL TALES FROM SMALL THINGS\***

Learn about recent research using microbial community profiles and next generation DNA sequencing technologies as indicators of ecosystem health and pollution impacts. Natural microbial communities respond to environmental stimuli, causing shifts in community profiles, or can become contaminated with non-indigenous bacteria. Understanding the composition of microbial communities in nature, and those in pollution sources such as sewage can lead to new assessment tools that serve as indicators of environmental health and improve our ability to address pollution concerns.

Speaker: Sandra McClellan, Associate Scientist, Great Lakes Water Institute  
Tuesday,  
November 30   
7 p.m.  
For adults  
\$5 suggested donation  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505

**VISIT US OVER THE HOLIDAYS!**

Be sure to check our calendar for our special holiday hours during the last two weeks of December.

# URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

(rp) = Riverside Park (wp) = Washington Park (wps) = wp Senior Center


# NOVEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 4-6p 6:30p Young Scientists (rp) Beekeeping Basics (rp)	2 9a 4-6p 4:30p 6p 6:30p 7p Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) YogaKids (wp) Homework Help (wp) Victory Garden Initiative: Eat and Meet (rp) Beesentations (rp)	3 8a 9a 4-6p 4p 5p 6p 6p 7p Birdwalk (wp) Riverside Park Building Tours (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Papermaking (rp) Beginning Tai Chi (rp) Homework Help (wp) Friends/Real Food (rp) Homesteading in Interior Alaska (wp)	4 8a 10:30a 4-6p 4:30p 6p 6:30p Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Homework Help (wp) Photo Club (rp)	5 4-6p Young Scientists (wp)	6 Science Saturdays - all month Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Topics: Owls (wp), Camouflage (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) 10a Beehive Inspection or Symposium (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10:30a 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp) 1-4p Young Scientists (wp)
7 Art at Riverside Park: Surrealists' and Verigo in Flairland Science Sundays - all month Drop in 12:30p-4:30p. Topic: Camouflage (rp)	8 4-6p 6:30p Young Scientists (rp) Beekeeping Basics (rp)	9 9a 4-6p 4:30p 6p 6:30p Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) YogaKids (wp) Homework Help (wp) Community Living Options Group- Milwaukee (rp)	10 8a 9a 4-6p 4p 5p 6p 6p 6:30p Birdwalk (wp) Riverside Park Building Tours (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Papermaking (rp) Beginning Tai Chi (rp) Homework Help (wp) Night Time Exploration (rp) Mexico's Monarch Butterflies (rp)	11 8a 10:30a 4-6p 4:30p 6p 6:30p 7p 7p Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Homework Help (wp) Beekeeping Symposium: Pollination, Its Every Third Bite (rp) Urban Echo Poets (rp) Urban Stargazers (rp)	12 3p 4-6p Volunteer Orientation (rp) Young Scientists (wp)	13 Science Saturdays - all month Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Topics: Owls (wp), Camouflage (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp & rp) 10a Beehive Inspection or Symposium (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp) 1-4p Young Scientists (wp)
14 Science Sundays - all month Drop in 12:30p-4:30p. Topic: Camouflage (rp)	15 4-6p 6:30p 4-7p 7p Young Scientists (rp) Beekeeping Basics (rp) Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp) Green Investing (rp)	16 9a 4-6p 4:30p 6p 7p Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) YogaKids (wp) Homework Help (wp) Beesentations (rp)	17 8a 9a 4-6p 4p 5p 6p Birdwalk (wp) Riverside Park Building Tours (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Papermaking (rp) Beginning Tai Chi (rp) Homework Help (wp) <b>Volunteer Appreciation Dinner</b> <b>5p (at rp)</b> <b>Annual Meeting</b> <b>6:30p (at rp)</b>	18 8a 10:30a 4-6p 4:30p 6p 6:30p 6:30p Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Homework Help (wp) Vanishing Bees (rp) Vegetarian Polluck (rp)	19 4-6p Young Scientists (wp)	20 Science Saturdays - all month Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Topics: Owls (wp), Camouflage (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) 10a Beehive Inspection or Symposium (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10a Book Club (rp) 10:30a Discovery Hikes (rp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp) 1-4p Young Scientists (wp)
21 Science Sundays - all month Drop in 12:30p-4:30p. Topic: Camouflage (rp) Noon-2p Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp)	22 4-6p 6:30p Young Scientists (rp) Transition Milwaukee (rp) <b>Sail Maine with the Urban Ecology Center</b> <b>7p (at rp)</b>	23 9a 4-6p 4:30p 6p Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) YogaKids (wp) Homework Help (wp)	24 8a 9a 4-6p 4p 5p 6p Birdwalk (wp) Riverside Park Building Tours (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Papermaking (rp) Beginning Tai Chi (rp) Homework Help (wp)	<b>Both Urban Ecology Center locations closed</b>		27 Science Saturdays - all month Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Topics: Owls (wp), Camouflage (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp & rp) 10a Beehive Inspection or Symposium (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp) 1-4p Young Scientists (wp) 2p Ornithology (rp)
28 Science Sundays - all month Drop in 12:30p-4:30p. Topic: Camouflage (rp)	29 4-6p Young Scientists (rp)	30 9a 4-6p 4:30p 6p 7p Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) YogaKids (wp) Homework Help (wp) Microbial Communities (rp)				

# URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

(rp) = Riverside Park (wp) = Washington Park (wps) = wp Senior Center

# DECEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>WANT TO RECEIVE WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATES?</b></p> <p>Sign up for the Weekly Guide e-newsletter! Every Wednesday you'll receive an email with updated information about the programs and events coming up in the next week and timely content highlighting special programs, providing "green" living tips, and more! To sign up, click on the Weekly Guide link on our home page.</p>		<p>Look for our holiday hours so you can visit when we're open!</p> 				
<p>5 Art at Riverside Park: <i>Surrealists and Verigo In Flairland</i></p> <p>6 Science Sundays - all month Drop in 12:30p-4:30p. Topic: Snow (rp)</p> <p>7 Noon Pine Needle Coaster Making Workshop (rp)</p>	<p>6 Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>7 Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>9a Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp)</p> <p>4-6p Yoga/Kids (wp)</p> <p>4p Papermaking (wp)</p> <p>6p Homework Help (wp)</p> <p>6:30p Victory Garden Initiative: Eat and Meet (rp)</p> <p>7p Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (wp)</p> <p>9a Riverside Park Building Tours (rp)</p> <p>4-6p Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp)</p> <p>4p Papermaking (rp)</p> <p>5p Beginning T'ai Chi (rp)</p> <p>6p Homework Help (wp)</p> <p>7p Wilderness of Denali: 100 (wp)</p> <p>6p Friends/Real Food (rp)</p>	<p>9 Birdwalk (rp)</p> <p>10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps)</p> <p>4-6p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>4:30p Burdock Brigade (wp)</p> <p>6p Homework Help (wp)</p> <p>7p Urban Echo Poets (rp)</p> <p>7p Urban Stargazers (rp)</p>	<p>10 Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p> <p>Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>11 Science Saturdays - all month Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Topics: Night Sky (wp), Snow (rp)</p> <p>9a Park Rangers (wp)</p> <p>10a Beehive Inspection or Symposium (rp)</p> <p>10a Volunteer Orientation (wp)</p> <p>10:30a Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p> <p>1p Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p> <p>1-4p Young Scientists (wp)</p>
<p>12 Science Sundays - all month Drop in 12:30p-4:30p. Topic: Snow (rp)</p> <p>1p Tipi Story Time (rp)</p>	<p>13 Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp)</p>	<p>14 Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>9a Intro to X-C Skiing (rp)</p> <p>1p Recycled Holiday Cards (wp)</p> <p>4-6p Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp)</p> <p>4p Yoga/Kids (wp)</p> <p>6p Homework Help (wp)</p> <p>6:30p Community Living Options Group (rp)</p> <p>7p Student Projects (rp)</p>	<p>15 Birdwalk (wp)</p> <p>Riverside Park Building Tours (rp)</p> <p>4-6p Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp)</p> <p>4p Papermaking (rp)</p> <p>5p Beginning T'ai Chi (rp)</p> <p>6p Homework Help (wp)</p>	<p>16 Birdwalk (rp)</p> <p>10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps)</p> <p>4-6p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>4:30p Burdock Brigade (wp)</p> <p>6p Homework Help (wp)</p> <p>6:30p Vegetarian Potluck (rp)</p>	<p>17 Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>18 Science Saturdays - all month Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Topics: Night Sky (wp), Snow (rp)</p> <p>8a Christmas Bird Count (rp)</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>9a Park Rangers (wp)</p> <p>10a Volunteer Orientation (wp)</p> <p>10a Beehive Inspection or Symposium (rp)</p> <p>1p Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p> <p>1-4p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>2p Ornithology (rp)</p>
<p>19 Science Sundays - all month Drop in 12:30p-4:30p. Topic: Snow (rp)</p>	<p>20 Riverside Park location: holiday hours (9a-5p)</p> <p>4-5p Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>6:30p Transition Milwaukee (rp)</p>	<p>21 Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>9a Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>1-4p Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>22 Riverside Park Building Tours (rp)</p> <p>1p Intro/X-C Skiing (rp)</p> <p>1-4p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>4-5p Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>23 Birdwalk (rp)</p> <p>10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps)</p> <p>4-6p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>6p Homework Help (wp)</p> <p>6:30p Vegetarian Potluck (rp)</p>	<p>24 Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>25 Science Saturdays - all month Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Topics: Night Sky (wp), Snow (rp)</p> <p>8a Christmas Bird Count (rp)</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>9a Park Rangers (wp)</p> <p>10a Volunteer Orientation (wp)</p> <p>10a Beehive Inspection or Symposium (rp)</p> <p>1p Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p> <p>1-4p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p><b>Candlelight Walk 7p (rp)</b></p>
<p>26 Science Sundays - all month Drop in 12:30p-4:30p. Topic: Snow (rp)</p> <p>Riverside Park location: regular hours (Noon-5p)</p>	<p>27 Riverside Park location: holiday hours (9a-5p)</p> <p>4-5p Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>28 Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>9a Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>1-4p Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>29 Riverside Park Building Tours (rp)</p> <p>1p Intro/X-C Skiing (rp)</p> <p>1-4p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>4-5p Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>30 Birdwalk (rp)</p> <p>10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps)</p> <p>1-4p Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>31 Riverside Park location: normal hours (9a-5p)</p> <p>Washington Park location: closed</p>	<p><b>All Urban Ecology Center locations closed</b></p>



= Riverside Park




= Washington Park

## ADULT LEARNING CONTINUED

### BEEKEEPING SYMPOSIUM: NATURE'S POLLINATORS\*

Learn about the nectar flow and who helps pollinate crops. We'll discuss the cycle of hive activity throughout the season and which plants bees prefer as well as how to determine where the bees are busy at from observation and information. Prerequisite: Beesentation (see page 9 for schedule)

Saturday, December 4  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults   
\$20  
(Nonmembers - \$25)  
Call to register, 964-8505

### PINE NEEDLE COASTER MAKING WORKSHOP\*

Pine Needle Coasters make a wonderful holiday gift. This workshop is a great introduction to pine needle weaving and may encourage you to try additional baskets. Create two coasters with ceramic base and five rows of pine needle stitching using the wheat stitch and artificial sinew. A variety of ceramic bases, made by a local potter, and a variety of sinew colors will be available for your selection.

Sunday, December 5  
Noon - 4 p.m.

For adults and children 12 and older accompanied by an adult   
Adults: \$35  
(Nonmembers - \$45)  
Children: \$30  
(Nonmembers - \$40)  
Pre-registration required by December 3<sup>rd</sup>, call 964-8505

### WILDERNESS OF DENALI 100\*

Experience the winter solitude of 61 days in the backcountry of Denali National Park, Alaska with our Community Program Coordinator, Willie Karidis. Karidis retraces pioneering naturalist Charles Sheldon 100 years after he explored, hunted and lived off the land of Denali. Karidis learned all he could about Denali, the winter wilderness and ultimately, himself.


Wednesday, December 8  
7 - 8 p.m.

For adults & accompanied children ages 10 and older   
Adults: \$5  
(Nonmembers - \$10)  
Children: Free  
(Nonmembers - \$5)

### STUDENT INTERN RESEARCH PROJECTS\*

This program will highlight student and volunteer research projects conducted in Riverside Park throughout the year. Each student will present a short summary of his/her work, which includes studies of the State-threatened Butler's Gartersnake, GIS mapping of fruit and nut trees, turtle monitoring, transportation surveys and mapping trees in the new Rotary Centennial arboretum.


Tuesday,  
December 14  
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 contribute 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 18  
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For adults   
\$5 donation to National Audubon Society  
Call to register, 964-8505

### BEESENTATIONS - ALL ABOUT THE BEES!\*

Bees and Beekeeping Revealed! Bees play an important role in our food systems. This is an introduction to bees and beekeeping. Learn the difference between wasps and bees. Discover who's inside the hive and how Man has managed bees for pollination and honey. Whether you want to start a dance with bees through beekeeping, or just learn of the dance they do to find nectar, this course gets you buzzing.


1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults   
\$10  
(Nonmembers - \$15)  
Call to register, 964-8505

### BEGINNING T'AI CHI

Spend rush hour learning a new approach to physical fitness and mental/spiritual well being. Often called "meditation in motion", T'ai Chi promotes balance and strength with a flexible, relaxed and integrated body and mind. Come experience T'ai Chi to explore its benefits and see why it has been practiced by so many for hundreds of years. This class will be held weekly for 3 months.

Every Wednesday through December 15  
5 - 6 p.m.

For adults and teens   
\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12) per session  
Payments due monthly  
Call to register, 964-8505


## URBAN ADVENTURES

### INTRO TO X-C SKIING

Trying to find a way to enjoy cold winter days? Learn how to cross country ski! Bring an adventurous spirit; we'll provide the skis and hot chocolate. We will begin on the athletic fields and then head into the woods or down the bike trail. Make sure to dress in layers. (weather pending)



Tuesday,  
December 14 or Wednesday, December 22  
1 - 3:30 p.m.

For adults & accompanied children ages 12 and older   
Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers - \$13)  
Children: \$7  
(Nonmembers - \$10)  
Registration required, call 964-8505

### SPONTANEOUS SNOW OUTINGS

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


## 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, location and park tours are available for individuals or groups. Please contact Mike at 964-8505, x126, for fees and scheduling.

### RIVERSIDE PARK BUILDING TOURS\*

Get an insider's view of the Urban Ecology Center's Riverside Park's green facility through these staff-led tours. Explore and learn about our innovative building design and programming from the folks who are "in the know".

Every Wednesday, 9 - 10:15 a.m.  
For adults & accompanied children   
Free - donations appreciated  
Call 964-8505 to register

## INTEREST GROUPS

### VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE: EAT AND MEET\*

Join the Victory Garden Initiative at a monthly Eat and Meet. This is a meeting for newcomers as well as active VGI volunteers. We start at 6:30 with a potluck and at 7:00 we break into workgroups.

Tuesdays,  
November 2 &  
December 7  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



For everyone  
Free-donations appreciated

### FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD\*

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

**November: Coffee That's Grown Responsibly.** Speaker: Steve Hawthorne, Stone Creek Coffee. Do you begin your day with a cup of coffee? Do you want to know more about how to choose the best coffee? Steve Hawthorne, the Green Coffee Buyer from Stone Creek Coffee, will take us on a photo journey as he teaches us about the coffee industry, Stone Creek's Grown Responsibly buying philosophy, and the farms and farmers who grow their coffee beans.

**December: Movie Night - My Father's Garden.** This engrossing and moving film explores sustainable agriculture and the contrast between chemical and organic farming. The filmmaker interweaves her personal story of her father's conventional farming experience in the 1950's with the hopeful story of how organic pioneer Fred Kirschenmann helped transition his family's large farm in North Dakota from chemical to organic farming.

Wednesdays,  
November 3 &  
December 8  
6 - 8 p.m.



For everyone  
Free-donations appreciated

### UEC PHOTO CLUB\*

Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills. Check out our website at [www.uecpc.org](http://www.uecpc.org). Newcomers welcome!

Thursdays, November 4 &  
December 2  
6:30 p.m.



For adults  
Free - donations appreciated

### COMMUNITY LIVING OPTIONS GROUP-MILWAUKEE\*

We happily announce that Community Living Options Group-Milwaukee has a new home at The Urban Ecology Center and welcome those interested in exploring community living options to join us. This concept is enjoying renewed excitement across the country because of its sustainability and practicality. We meet to learn, support and promote ideas with each other.

**November:** Visit on November 6<sup>th</sup> to StoneSoup housing Co-op in Chicago.

**December:** Personal experience living in Milwaukee co-housing, past and present

Tuesdays,  
November 9 &  
December 14  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



For adults  
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 11 &  
December 9  
7 p.m.



For adults  
Free - donations appreciated

### URBAN STARGAZERS\*

Join us for fun, information and stargazing.

Thursdays, November 11 &  
December 9  
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.

Thursdays, November 18 &  
December 16  
6:30 - 8 p.m.



For adults &  
accompanied children  
Free - donations welcome

### TRANSITION MILWAUKEE\*

Transition Milwaukee is part of an international movement to address the challenges of climate change and peak oil proactively by relocating.

**November:** All City Hub Meeting. We invite all those interested in or already working in Transition to connect, share and collaborate. It's a chance for neighborhood groups to exchange ideas and to discuss goals and progress. Guest Alderperson TBD.

**December: Rekindling the Spirit.** Rob Hopkins, author of the Transition Handbook, calls the Transition Initiative "an evolving exploration into the Head, Heart and Hands of Energy Descent."

Much of our focus to date has been on the Head and the Hands, and this meeting will be on the Heart. We will explore the deeper reasons for why we strive to transition and how we can do so with strength, understanding and compassion.

Mondays, November 22 &  
December 20  
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

Interested bird watchers of all ability levels are invited to explore bird life with us. Binoculars available.

Every Wednesday except  
December 22 & 29  
8 a.m.



Every Thursday except  
November 25  
8 a.m.



For adults and  
accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE'S FIRST ANNUAL FRUITY NUTTY AFFAIR

Saturday, November 6  
6:30 10:30 p.m.  
Urban Ecology Center  
-- Riverside Park  
1500 E. Park Pl.  
For adults  
\$50

To buy tickets: go to: [www.victorygardeninitiative.org](http://www.victorygardeninitiative.org) or contact Gretchen Mead at [GretchenMead@gmail.com](mailto:GretchenMead@gmail.com) or 414-333-2537

The Urban Ecology Center provides support to special grassroots efforts that are working on good ideas that relate to the Center's mission. We think of it as incubating good ideas so they can take root and grow. The Victory Garden Initiative is one of those efforts. The group "promotes the use of our own backyards (and front yards and rooftops and patios) for the production of food." Since we are supporting VGI as their fiscal sponsor and we are interested in their success, we are happy to promote their first fundraising event.

Join the Victory Garden Initiative as they launch Milwaukee's Urban Food Forest. The evening will begin with foods containing locally grown hazelnuts, locally brewed hard cider, beers and wines, and guest appearances from some truly Fruity Nutty characters. At 8 p.m. there will be a panel discussion about the importance of perennial food crops, especially hazelnuts, in our urban food shed. Guests will hear from local decision-makers as they discuss urban agriculture in the Milwaukee area. Then everyone will head outside into Riverside Park and join us as we plant a ceremonial Hazelnut tree. All proceeds support the Victory Garden Initiative's Fruity Nutty Campaign. Cocktail attire.

## VISIT US OVER THE HOLIDAYS!

Be sure to check our calendar for our special holiday hours during the last two weeks of December.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

by Susan Winans, Volunteer Coordinator

*Save the date and watch your mail for an invitation!*

### Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

At our Riverside Park location

Wednesday,  
November 17  
5 - 8 p.m.

#### VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

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

Saturdays, November 6 & December 4  
10:30 a.m. - noon  
Friday, November 12  
3 - 4:30 p.m.  
Friday, December 10  
3 - 4:30 p.m.

##### Washington Park

Every Saturday except December 25  
10 - 11a.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

#### 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

Saturdays, November 13 & 27 (no Park Ranger dates in December)  
9 - 10:30 a.m.

##### Washington Park

Every Saturday except  
December 25 & 31  
9 - 10 a.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505

#### 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.
- 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month  
9-10:30am

##### Washington Park

- Every Thursday except November 25 & December 24  
4:30 - 6 p.m.

##### Washington Park Senior Center

- Every Thursday except November 25 & December 24  
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

#### PAPERMAKING

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

##### Riverside Park

Every Wednesday, except  
November 24 & December 29  
4 - 6 p.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505

#### LIFE'S LESSONS

*continued from page 1*

learn the geologic history, the native plants and animals of the Milwaukee area, the history of the Center and Riverside Park and the curriculum I will be teaching here. My "light bulb" moment was just a few weeks ago. Now, school has started and NEEP is in full swing. Students from nearby schools are coming with their teachers to spend some time learning outside of the classroom. And I am learning along with them.

Having lots of facts and statistics in our heads is a good thing, but the ability to learn and apply new information is even more important. Thankfully, I've had wonderful people in my life to teach me how to thrive in situations like the one I'm in now. I can't memorize a map of every city I might move to in advance, or learn the curriculum of every nature center I could hope to work at someday, but I still feel

prepared to take on the challenges that are right in front of me.

My goal as a NEEP educator is to teach my students to think critically, ask questions, see the whole picture and be adaptive and open-minded. The students from our Body Systems class probably won't remember what "peristalsis" means or exactly why or how owls form the pellets we pulled apart in class, but they will remember that they are alive right now because of the connections between their body systems and the world around them. They will be ready to look for connections when studying other academic disciplines and will be able to look for similarities and differences in other situations. We can't teach them all they will need to know for every challenge that will come their way, but hopefully, through environmental education, we can teach them the skills to find what they need on their own. 🍄

## 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 3000 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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*Thank  
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**CREATING A WHOLE COMMUNITY**

*continued from page 4*

that the organizers felt are necessary to sustain a whole and healthy community where the best thoughts come forward and all people are considered. We spent a lot of time exploring oppression, diversity, communication and personal voice. This was not a “kum-ba-ya” experience for personal growth, but a uniquely structured method to maximize global and community thought with the hope that we who were selected would bring back what we learned to our communities. It was the diversity of the group that made the process work. The different voices and sometimes radical perspectives pushed the dialogue in vital ways that are absent in totally like minded settings.

So, did we save the world? Of course not ... but I came back feeling affirmed that so much of what we are doing at the Urban Ecology Center is right and also aware that there is room for much improvement. Our leadership at the Center and in Milwaukee as a whole demands a more diverse voice. I see this much more clearly. I see a need to expand our imagination when it comes to organizational partnerships so we intentionally cross more economic and social boundaries. The value of listening was reinforced, as well as the value of concise communication. Talk less, listen more, say only what you need to say. I came away with 20 close friends and much pride in my new spoon. 🍴

# Candlelight Walk

Riverside Park  
Saturday,  
December 18  
7 - 9 p.m.



FSC logo



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