



HEARTWARMING MOMENTS

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

My daughter was at a dance class not far from the Urban Ecology Center. It was Saturday morning and I'll confess to being a little down. Way behind at work due to some unfortunate family needs that took me away for a few weeks, I decided to use the "extra" hour to catch up at the Center. It did not take long for my mood to shift.

First, I turned on my computer and found this email with the subject line *Heartwarming Moment*.

*Hey everyone,
I had a fun experience yesterday that I wanted to share. I was driving my bus down Center St. heading to Emmaus Lutheran School when I heard someone beep their horn and pull up beside me. I opened my passenger door and he rolled down his window and said to me "I just wanted you to know that I love the Urban Ecology Center! It's great! I used to go there when I was a kid!"*

"Right on!" I said, or something along those lines. "Thanks for supporting us!" Then the light turned green and off we went. This man must have been in his early to mid 20s, so there's a good chance he was one of our first students. We sure have quite a reputation around this community, eh? Keep up the great work everyone! Erick

Erick Anderson is a five year veteran of our amazing education team.

Shortly after opening this email I walked past the reception desk and overheard a conversation between a couple of weekend staff members that went something like this:

Susan: *"I was riding the bus into work today when this lady got all excited as we approached Park Place. She asked the driver if he realized that this was the stop for the* *Continued on page 5*

WHAT IS CALS CAUSE?

by Beth Fetterley, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

A popular new acronym heard around the Urban Ecology Center these days is CALS, which stands for the "College of Agriculture and Life Sciences" at the University of Wisconsin Madison. Over a year ago the Center was invited into a dialogue with Milwaukee Public Schools and UW-Madison's CALS. Conversation revolved around two key issues faced by Wisconsin: closing the racial academic achievement gap and developing sustainable urban communities. Our discussions resulted in a strategy to create an educational bridge connecting professors and students at CALS and the Urban Ecology Center's racially rich community. Together we submitted a proposal to the Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Endowment Grant Committee and the Morgridge Family Foundation for a three-year project called CAUSE, the CALS-Milwaukee "Collaboration for Agriscience and Urban Sustainability Education." We were excited to receive news that the project received funding in June and piloted the first handful of programs this past fall.

The CAUSE project involves two distinct collaborative approaches: 1) capacity building and 2) direct educational programming.

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WINTER IS SO EXCITING

by Joey Zocher, Washington Park Program Director

It was a conundrum. We knew that Washington Park is a fantastic place to explore in winter. Out in the quiet oaks it's easy to imagine a time not so long ago when winter travel was limited to however far your feet could take you. But how could we get our members into this winter wonderland? The answer was right at our feet — skis!



As an exciting new benefit for our members, we have a small selection of cross country skis available through our equipment lending program at the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park and we are working hard to get a larger selection.* Drop by or give us a call to see if we have skis available. Members can also borrow ice skates and sleds at Washington Park, as well as skis, snowshoes and

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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: Erick Anderson, Beth Fetterley, Dan Graves, Sisko Hirvi, 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 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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Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.

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

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

DROPLETS

◆ **New Directors elected to the Urban Ecology Center Board.**
We are happy to announce that at the November 17th board meeting Andre Williams and Mary E. Staten were elected to our Board of Directors. We thank them both for making the commitment to serve on our board. Here is a little introduction:

André Williams is a Vice President, Human Resources for P&H Mining Equipment. He has been with P&H Mining Equipment since June 2004 and is responsible for their global human resources operations. André is the executive sponsor of P&H's community involvement initiatives and is on the Board of Directors of the Milwaukee Area Technical College Foundation. He began his career in South Africa where he worked primarily in the mining and manufacturing sectors.

Mary E. Staten is a K-12 Science Curriculum Specialist for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). She leads the development and implementation of curriculum, instruction, and assessment for science education. Beginning her career as a high school science teacher, Mary has been with MPS since 1994. Her volunteer efforts are extensive, having served as a mentor for teenage mothers, a tutor for young students, a role model for Alverno's Women in Science program and a Board member of Hansberry-Sands Theater Company, Alverno Alumnae Association, Compton Fellowship Teacher Certification Program, and the Milwaukee Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

WISH LIST

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

- 3 umbrella stands
- Alka-seltzer tablets
- Cornstarch
- Field & lannon stone
- Ice trays
- iPad(s) (not just for fun, for signing up new members and collecting email addresses for the Weekly Guide)
- Kernel popcorn
- Kids gardening gloves
- Large Ceramic and terracotta pots for indoor plants
- Leaf rakes
- Mittens and gloves- especially adult sizes
- Paper shredder
- Potting soil & quality topsoil
- Rain ponchos/jackets- all sizes
- Seasoned firewood
- Sweatpants
- Video camera
- Weed whackers and scythes
- Wire garden fencing/ wire mesh
- Woodworking tools hand or powered

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

- Alka-seltzer tablets
- Blenders
- Canning supplies and jars with lids
- Cordless drill
- Cornstarch
- Cross country ski trail grooming equipment
- Digital cameras
- Extension cords
- Fleece mittens
- Fleece to make mittens
- Old fitted sheets
- Old flannel shirts to make mittens
- Pitchforks
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Plexiglas
- Power strips
- Snowmobile
- Straw bales
- Tyve
- Video camera

GET KIDS OUTSIDE THIS SUMMER!

DO YOU HAVE KIDS IN YOUR LIFE?

Urban Ecology Center day camps are a fun and active way for your kids to learn about the outdoors this summer! Experienced environmental educators guide your kids on scientific and outdoor recreation explorations throughout Riverside and Washington Parks and other Milwaukee County green spaces. We have camps for kids in preschool - 8th grade.

Watch your mailbox for a special, members-only preview.

Summer Camp registration begins January 17th.

LIKE HELPING URBAN KIDS GET OUT IN NATURE?

On Saturday, February 26, families from across Milwaukee will come together to raise money for Urban Ecology Center summer camp scholarships. Sledding, owl hikes, campfires, crafts, face painting, and more! Tickets are

\$100 per family. In January, watch your mailbox for your invitation or check our website for details!

A Hoot in the Night: A Fundraiser for Urban Ecology Center Summer Camp Scholarships

Saturday, February 26

Need inspiration? Visit our Facebook page to see summer camp 2010 photos! 🌿

WHAT IS CALS CAUSE?

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To build the capacity of our two entities, experts from CALS offer workshops for Urban Ecology Center educators once a month and together we engage in strategies to help both entities better reach youth, families and adults from the Milwaukee area. So far staff and volunteer environmental educators participated in workshops on carbon sequestration, climate change, biofuels, food systems and sustainable agriculture. Because the education teams from both Urban Ecology Center branches participate in the workshops, our educational programs will reflect this professional advancement well after the grant-funded trainings are complete. In addition, ongoing assessment and planning will help refine the project so that CALS will know better how to reach the community the Center serves.

Direct educational public offerings include quarterly trips for middle and high school students to the CALS campus, evening workshops open to the public at the Urban Ecology Center and service learning opportunities for students and professionals from both institutions.

Heading the coordination of this

project at the Urban Ecology Center is Environmental Educator Tory Bahe. Tory has been teaching at the Center's Washington Park branch since it opened in 2007 and launched her career at the Riverside Park branch in 2004. In addition, Tory currently serves as a director on the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education board. Because of her passion for sustainability education and experience coordinating conferences and workshops, Tory is perfectly suited to coordinate CAUSE. According to Tory, "Sustainability has become such a buzz word in the past few years, but many of us are left with a fuzzy definition and without realistic solutions for our communities. I'm excited to help provide opportunities for learning and discussions among neighbors, and to be a resource for young adults as they establish their path."

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED? HERE'S HOW:

Come to our first public offering at our Riverside Park branch on January 20th at 7:00 p.m. This presentation, "Livestock's Long Shadow," will examine the potentially opposing

considerations that animal agriculture is included in most sustainable farming practices, yet is a significant contributor to climate change. Leave with an understanding of how to make sustainable food choices which reconcile these two understandings.

Contact Tory (tbahe@UrbanEcologyCenter.org) if you know a middle or high school student interested in visiting the UW-CALS campus. We plan to offer this opportunity in late winter/early spring.

Are you an aspiring volunteer environmental educator? This professional development opportunity, paired with the Center's teacher coaching approach to training volunteers, provides a strong training foundation for volunteer educators at the Urban Ecology Center. Attend one of our volunteer orientations, offered at both branches, to find out more. See program calendar for details.

Finally, invite friends and family to participate in CALS CAUSE so you can help create a sustainable urban community here in Milwaukee. 🌿



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DEGREES AT THE UEC

by Erick Anderson and Dan Graves, Environmental Educators

“Uh uh. We ain’t going. We wanna go to gym!”

What a way to start a class. We thought they’d be happy to see us. After all we were about to take them away from school to play and learn in the snow (and even slip in a little sledding). Who wouldn’t want to do that? This class, apparently. In fact, when we showed up at their room and asked if they were going on a field trip, they tried to convince us we were in the wrong room! Things did not start well, but we were confident that we could corral these seventh grade stallions.

“We want to have fun with you, but we need your respect and your listening ears,” we responded. “If you show us respect, good things will happen. We can promise you that.”

Despite their obstinacy, we marched down to the buses. After leaving

a couple of students behind due to continued bad behavior, we managed to make our way to the Urban Ecology Center. That’s when we revealed our “secret plan” to win them over... sledding!

After numerous trips down the hill, some serious “180°” air flips off the mogul and even a few races, their point of view on the field trip changed. With smiles plastered all over their faces, we made our way inside and worked with them to understand why winter happens. We explored the cause of the seasons and the animal adaptations that respond to winter.

They didn’t need any convincing to go back outside for the next part of the class. We were hot on the trail of any animal evidence we could find. Logs were flipped, bark was ripped and tracks were examined. Their minds

buzzing with their detective work, we eventually had to make our way to the bus. But now the Center was the place they didn’t want to leave!

Now fast forward to spring time — warm weather, flowers, buds on the trees, temperatures in the 50s — and our return to pick up the same group. It was the type of day we all dream of in the cold of mid-January, yet they asked if we were going sledding again! It was almost heartwarming enough to consider investing in a snow machine.

Somewhere during those 180° spin flips on the sleds, these kids’ hearts turned around too. Going outside can be scary, we understand. We are very proud to teach kids how to have fun and learn outside in any condition and appreciate the unique opportunities of all seasons and all weather. ❁



WINTER IS SO EXCITING!

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sleds at Riverside Park. All of this is a free benefit for our members.

Washington Park is the perfect landscape for beginner skiers. For the accomplished skier, it’s a great place to get in a quick workout. If you’re new to winter sports — or if it’s been a while since you tried — join our staff for **introductory cross country ski and snowshoeing lessons in Washington Park** on select Saturday mornings throughout the winter season. These classes are a convenient opportunity for you to bring your family out for some winter bonding and learn a new skill at the same time.

For those of you who want to take your winter skill building to a new level, consider enrolling in our **Winter Survival Course** designed for adults and teens. Our Community Program Coordinator and former Alaskan resident, Willie Karidis, will offer six separate classes on the basics of winter survival. After you’ve learned all about winter survival, come with us for a 2-night, 3-day winter camping trip in central Wisconsin. We will stay in heated, communal, log cabins (see page 8 for details).

As if this isn’t enough, join us for our annual **Winterfest celebration on January 29th!** This year you’ll be able to see a dog mushing

presentation, build a snow globe, take an ice fishing lesson, meet Icelandic ponies and so much more!

Winter is a golden opportunity to get outside and experience Washington Park. Along the way you may even learn some new skills which will increase your level of enjoyment for years to come. Winter has never been so exciting!

*We are looking for someone willing to donate \$5000 to make our ski equipment selection complete. Please contact Ginger Duiven, 964-8505, x106, if you’d like to help make this exciting opportunity for kids and members at Washington Park a reality. ❁

NEW FACES AT THE URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER

Last fall we had an explosion of new positions at the Urban Ecology Center. We're very excited and energized by our talented new staff and are thrilled to introduce them to you.

You may be familiar with our new Research Assistant **Jennifer Callaghan** as she has volunteered hundreds and hundreds of hours over the past six years in the Urban Ecology Center's Citizen Science Program. She even won a statewide award as Citizen-based Monitoring Volunteer of the Year. Jennifer will be in charge of the wildlife monitoring program for the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum and looks forward to working with our citizen science volunteers. She is also a

professional ballet instructor and enjoys playing Ultimate Frisbee and crafting.

We'd like to introduce Washington Park's new Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator Assistant, **Jodee Benavides**. Jodee grew up in the Washington Park neighborhood and is excited to be back after earning two degrees and taking some time away from the workforce while raising his young sons.

Megan Helt-Baldwin has joined us as our new Visitor Services Assistant at Washington Park. Megan comes to us with a passion for community, volunteerism and the environment (ask her about her enthusiasm for

permaculture!) We are excited to have Megan as part of our staff, in part because she's wonderful and in part because her position will allow us to keep our Center at Washington Park open in the evenings for folks to drop by. Haven't been to Washington Park yet? Take this opportunity and go visit Megan during our open hours to learn about the exciting things happening at this branch.

Bringing many years of volunteer and staff management experience, **Sisko Hirvi** is a welcome addition to our team. Sisko is the Center's new Executive and Human Resources Assistant. Sisko helps coordinate volunteer activities *Continued on page 13*

HEARTWARMING MOMENTS

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Urban Ecology Center. 'Did you know you can check out skis, snowshoes and sleds there? ... for free with your membership which is only \$25 for the year!.' After that level of enthusiasm it sure felt good to go to work."

Walter: "I had an interesting one as well. I was at a film class at UWM. A fellow student saw my Urban Ecology Center t-shirt and asked about it. His curiosity was piqued because he had been running along the river and thought how cool to see artwork of animals with the words Urban Ecology Center instead of the usual graffiti under the Locust Street Bridge. So when he saw my shirt he had to ask. He loved the concept of what we were about and now wants to join as a member ... pretty cool!"

Back in my office, I checked voice mail. The first message was ...

"Hello Mr. Leinbach, I'm on the board of a nature center in Evanston, Illinois where we are engaged in strategic

planning. One of my committee members heard from a friend that your Center in Milwaukee was the best model for urban environmental education in the country. The friend apparently insisted that if we were serious about improvement and growth, we had to visit you. This is the reason for my call."

Wow ... best model in the country!

The highlight of my heartwarming hour was an unsolicited reflection from a local school teacher.

Visiting the Urban Ecology Center was amazing. I will contribute to this organization. It makes so much sense to reach out to neighborhood students the way you do. I too have learned about the importance of the research regarding consistent contact with nature. The bottom line is there is great learning power in getting kids

outside. I agree with the Center's dictate that we must be part of the solution, not the problem. The Urban Ecology center is a shining example of what can and should be done. Thank you!

Yes, my mood improved ... heartwarming indeed! As the new year dawns, I reflect on the progress we have made at the Center over the past dozen years. When our grass roots founders started with the trailer in the run-down Riverside Park, who could have predicted the outcome? Who could have predicted the powerful impact this program would have on multiple generations of students? Who could have predicted such radical improvement of the parks in which we reside? And I'm sure no one had any thought about the national role model our Center has become. Thank you for your support and Happy New Year everyone! 🌱

CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

What's with all the frogs & fish?

Calendar Key:

The Center offers public programs at both Riverside & Washington Parks. Use these icons to know at a glance the location of each program.



Riverside Park



Washington Park

Programs marked with an * are accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited to no accessibility. Please call 964-8505 at least two days before the program date if you have accessibility needs.

Scholarships are available for all fee-based programs.



Family fun in the Winter!

Enjoy...

- * a sled dog demonstration
- * Icelandic ponies
- * sledding
- * ice skating
- * snowshoeing
- * cross country skiing
- * screen printing on your favorite t-shirt
- * activities for the entire family



Saturday, January 29
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 at our Washington Park Branch

For everyone
 Free - donations appreciated



A REGION BUILT ON WATER:*

Milwaukee's Use and Abuse of a Vital Resource

Speaker: John Gurda, Milwaukee Historian

Lake Michigan and the rivers that feed it have been Milwaukee's dominant natural resources since the days of the Potawatomi. Join historian John Gurda for a lively look at the lake and its adjacent watersheds: how they served the community as transportation routes, recreational resources, and industrial corridors, and how they have weathered a cycle of heavy use and flagrant abuse to emerge as focal points of both celebration and concern in the twenty-first century.

Tuesday, January 11

7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated
 (Nonmembers - \$5)

Space is limited! Call to register, 964-8505



LOCAL FARMER OPEN HOUSE*

Explore how you can eat more healthful, local and sustainably-produced food! Meet local farmers and learn about Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), how you can subscribe to a farm and how you can buy sustainably-produced meat, cheese, eggs and more, directly from the farmers. Workshops, kids activities and more!

Saturday, March 12

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(Extended hours!)

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated



ECO TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY:

SAIL MAINE WITH THE URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER

May 30 - June 5

For adults

Come join the Urban Ecology Center on a week long trip to the coast of Maine that will include a 4 day sail aboard the historic Lewis R. French Schooner. This trip is filling up fast, so please contact Mike Larson, mlarson@urbanecologycenter.org or Tim Vargo, tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org for more details as soon as possible if you are interested!

ART AT THE CENTER

ART OPENING: EARTH'S ELEMENTS*

Sunday, January 9

2 - 4 p.m. Artists will give a presentation at 3 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated
 Show runs through March 19



A joint exhibit by Dara Chappie and Terry A. Fischer. The earth we live in is explored in two unique ways. One utilizes the elements such as stones and wood and combines them in fascinating ways. Dara's assemblage art invites the viewer to look at the natural, earthy materials in a new light. The other views the climate/elements. Terry interprets them in soft & flowing watercolor landscapes, putting the viewer right out there in the lush summer or a sudden, harsh snowstorm. For more on these artists visit www.TerryAFischer.com or www.darachappie.com. Refreshments served.



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

New!

FAMILY PROGRAMS

YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB*

The Young Scientists Club is an excellent opportunity for kids to learn more about science and nature. Every day we'll jump right in and learn something new. From taking care of our animals in the animal room, to hiking around and learning about birds, we'll cover all sorts of stuff and every day will be different!

Every Monday - Wednesday
4 - 6 p.m.
For kids ages 5 and older



Every Tuesday - Friday
4 - 6 p.m.
Every Saturday except January 1
1 - 4 p.m.
For kids ages 7-12



\$5 annual fee
Call to register, 964-8505

LET'S MAKE CRACKERS*

Everybody loves crackers! Learn how to make crackers from scratch that are tasty and healthy. Join others for fun in the kitchen!

Saturday, January 15
1 - 3 p.m.

For everyone - children must be accompanied by an adult
Adults: \$8 (Nonmembers - \$12)
Children: Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$3)
Registration required by January 12, call 964-8505



FAMILY SNOWSHOE OLYMPICS

Last year's Snowshoe Olympics was such a success, we've decided to bring the event back again. This year we'll have all new challenges. Come along and compete in some wacky family sports and learn how to snowshoe at the same time! We'll come inside afterwards and warm up with some hot cocoa around the fireplace.

Sunday, February 20
1 - 3 p.m.

For kids ages 5 and older accompanied by an adult
\$6 or \$18 for a family of 4 or more (Nonmembers - \$8 or \$24 for a family of 4 or more)
Call to register, 964-8505



DISCOVERY HIKES

January: Winter Weather. What is it about our part of the planet that makes it so cold for a few months every year? We'll learn why winter exists and what really happens when it snows. Then we'll take a hike to enjoy winter. Dress for the weather.

February: Winter Animal Tracking. We're going to head out in search of evidence of critters who are active in these cold months. Dress for the weather. Warm up with some hot cocoa and a story afterwards.

Saturdays,
January 15 & February 26
10:30 a.m. - noon
For kids ages 4 and older accompanied by an adult
\$5 or \$15 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers - \$8 or \$24 for families of 4 or more)
Call to register, 964-8505



MENTORSHIP IN THE OUTDOORS

Have you always wanted to spend more time with your kids or family in the outdoors but you're not sure what to do? Learn a little bit about mentorship in the outdoors. Bring your children and they can learn in the Animal Room while the adults go over some mentorship activities and philosophies. After an hour, we'll reunite with the youngsters and take them outside to see some of our activities in action.

Sunday, February 27
2 - 4 p.m.
For adults with children ages 5 and older
Adults: \$8 (Nonmembers - \$10)
Children: \$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)
Call to register, 964-8505



YOGAKIDS FUN, FITNESS AND FEELING GREAT!

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

Every Tuesday starting January 11
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
For kids ages 6 - 10
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



HOMEWORK HELP*

Getting divided on a math problem? Science not sticking with you? Bring in your homework and together we'll get it done.

Every Tuesday - Thursday
6 - 7 p.m.
For youth
Free - donations appreciated



SCIENCE SATURDAYS*

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

Every Saturday except January 1
9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated



SCIENCE SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS*

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

Drop-in program
Every Saturday except January 1
9:30 - 5 p.m. & Every Sunday, 12:30 - 5 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated



ANIMAL FEEDING*

Come to either location to help feed our resident turtles, snakes and fish.

Every Saturday except January 1
1 - 2 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated



HOMESCHOOL WINTER ECOLOGY SERIES

Join us for one or all of the classes below designed especially for homeschoolers ages 10 and older!
\$5 per session (Nonmembers - \$7 per session)



WINTER ADAPTATIONS OF PLANTS

Know a little bit about what animals do in the winter? What about plants? Plants have many interesting survival strategies for the winter. Come learn about the winterization processes that plants go through and see some examples right here in Riverside Park!

Tuesday, January 4
1 - 2:30 p.m.
Registration is required by January 2, call 964-8505

WINTER ADAPTATIONS OF ANIMALS

Which animals actually hibernate? Ever hear of dormancy or torpor? Let's get down and dirty with animal strategies for survival through the winter. Expect to spend some time indoors, but dress for the weather as we'll be going outside to look for some of these winter critters.

Tuesday, January 18
1 - 2:30 p.m.
Registration is required by January 16, call 964-8505.

ANIMAL TRACKING

Join us as we strap on some snowshoes and explore Riverside Park to find out where all the animals are going.

Tuesday, February 1
1 - 2:30 p.m.
Registration is required by January 30, call 964-8505.

WINTER SURVIVAL

This class will piggy back off the previous classes as we learn about how we as humans can survive winter. We will be building shelters and enjoying hot beverages.

Tuesday, February 15
1 - 2:30 p.m.
Registration is required by February 13, call 964-8505.

URBAN ADVENTURES

WINTER CAMPING/ SURVIVAL PROGRAMS

For adults and teens

WINTER SURVIVAL

Learn the basics of winter survival from our Community Program Coordinator and former Alaskan resident, Willie Karidis. *Worried about a babysitter? Have your kids ages 7-12 join the Young Scientists Club! See page 7 for details.*

Topics:

- January 8 - Dress For Success
- January 15 - Don't Get Lost!
Orienteering for Beginners
- February 5 - Gearhead
- February 12 - Calories are Good Food
- February 19 - Staying Warm has never been so FUN!
Winter Shelters
- March 5 - Trip Planning, Topo Maps, Go Do It!!!

Saturdays, January 8, 15,
February 5, 12, 19
1 - 3 p.m. &
Saturday, March 5
1 - 4 p.m.



For adults and teens ages 16 and older
\$15 per session **Members only: bring a friend for only \$10!** per session
(Nonmembers - \$25 per session)
Call to register, 964-8505

WINTER CAMPING TRIP

Fun in the winter never stops! Get away for a 2-night, 3-day winter camping trip in central Wisconsin. Camping has never been so easy as we will stay in heated, communal, log cabins. Highlights include snowshoeing, cross country skiing and a presentation about living 61 days in the backcountry of Denali National Park. Lodging, transportation, skis, snowshoes and most food included in the price.

Friday, February 25 -
Sunday, February 27
For adults and teens ages 16 and older
\$125 **Members only: bring a friend for only \$105!**
(Nonmembers - \$150)
Call to register, 964-8505
For more information contact Willie, 344-5460 or wkardis@urbanecologycenter.org



SNOWSHOEING

For adults and kids

INTRO TO SNOWSHOEING

Ever thought about learning how to snowshoe but don't have the snowshoes or the know-how? Not a problem anymore! Come on by and learn how to snowshoe with the instructors here at the Urban Ecology Center. We provide the snowshoes and instruction as we adventure through Washington Park. Make sure to dress in layers and be prepared for a fantastic time.

Saturdays,
January 15 &
February 12



9:30 a.m. - noon
For adults and accompanied children ages 8 and older

Adults: \$6
(Nonmembers -\$10)
Children: \$5 (Nonmembers - \$8)
Call to register, 964-8505

SNOWSHOE AT THE SOUTHERN KETTLE MORAINE

Explore the hilly terrain of the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. Learn who lives there and how other animals survive the winter months. Dress in layers, wear sturdy and warm shoes, bring water and a lunch. Meet at the Center in Riverside Park, transportation provided. In the event of minimal or no snow we will hike. Payment due at the time of registration.

Saturday, January 15
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



For adults and accompanied children ages 12 and older
Adults: \$25 (Nonmembers -\$30)
Children: \$15 (Nonmembers -\$20)
Call to register, 964-8505

SNOWSHOE NIGHT HIKE

Find out what goes bump, hoot or screech in the night while floating on the snow! We will hike through the Riverside Park down to the Milwaukee River. Dress for the weather. Payment required at the time of registration.

Wednesday,
January 19
6 - 8 p.m.



For families
Adults: \$8
(Nonmembers -\$12)
Children: \$4 (Nonmembers - \$8)
Call to register, 964-8505

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

For adults and kids

INTRO TO CROSS COUNTRY 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.

Saturdays, January 8,
February 5 & 19
9:30 a.m. - noon



Thursdays, January 13 & 20,
Saturday, February 20
1 - 3:30 p.m.



For adults and accompanied children ages 8 and older
Adults: \$8 (Nonmembers -\$12)
Children: \$6 (Nonmembers - \$8)
Call to register, 964-8505

CROSS COUNTRY SKI AT RICHARD BONG STATE RECREATIONAL AREA

Explore Richard Bong State Recreational Area on skis. We will be using ungroomed trails so previous experience cross country skiing is highly recommended. Dress in layers, bring water and a lunch. Meet at the Center in Riverside Park, transportation provided. In the event of minimal or no snow we will hike.

Sunday, February 27
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



For adults and accompanied children ages 12 and older
Adults: \$25 (Nonmembers -\$30)
Children: \$15 (Nonmembers -\$20)
Call to register, 964-8505

TEEN PROGRAMS

ANIMAL TRACKING N' WINTER FUN

Join us for an adventure-filled journey through Riverside Park for animal tracking on snowshoes. Learn how to identify tracks of the animals that visit the park. Wrap up with a lively, hot cocoa-fueled discussion.

Saturday, January 22
1 - 2:30 p.m.

For teens
\$4 (Nonmembers - \$6)
Call to register, 964-8505




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

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

JANUARY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Drop in 12:30-5p Science Sundays (rp)	2 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp)	3 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 11a Winter Tree/Shrub Identification (rp) 1p Homeschool Winter Series: Plants (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 6:30p Victory Garden Initiative (rp) 7p Beesentations (rp)	4 8a Birdwalk (wp) 9a Riverside Building Tours (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	5 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 6:30p Photo Club (rp)	6 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp)	7 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp)
Drop in 12:30-5p Science Sundays (rp) 2-4p Art Opening: Earths Element (rp)	9 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp) 6:30p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)	10 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4:30p Yogakids (wp) 6p Forestry Sampling Methods (rp) Homework Help (wp) 6:30p Community Living Options Group (rp) 7p A Region Built on Water (rp)	11 8a Birdwalk (wp) 9a Riverside Building Tours (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 5:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp) 6p Friends of Red Food (rp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	12 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 1p Intro to X-C Skiing (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp) 4p Homework Help (wp) 7p Echo Poets (rp) 7p Stargazers (rp)	13 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 1p Intro to X-C Skiing (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp) 4p Homework Help (wp) 7p Echo Poets (rp) 7p Stargazers (rp)	14 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp)
Drop in 12:30-5p Science Sundays (rp) 3p Ornithology Workshops (rp)	16 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp) 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp) 6:30p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)	17 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 1p Homeschool Winter Series: Animals (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4:30p Yogakids (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 7p Beesentations (rp)	18 8a Birdwalk (wp) 9a Riverside Building Tours (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 6p Snowshoe Night Hike (rp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	19 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 1p Intro to X-C Skiing (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck (rp) 7p Livestock's Long Shadow (rp) 7p Photographic Design (rp)	20 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 1p Intro to X-C Skiing (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck (rp) 7p Livestock's Long Shadow (rp) 7p Photographic Design (rp)	21 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp)
Drop in 12:30-5p Science Sundays (rp)	23 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp) 6:30p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp) 6:30p Transition Milwaukee (rp)	24 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 3:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4:30p Yogakids (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	25 8a Birdwalk (wp) 9a Riverside Building Tours (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	26 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	27 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	28 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp)
Drop in 12:30-5p Science Sundays (rp)	29 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp) 6:30p Transition Milwaukee (rp)	30 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp) 6:30p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp) 6:30p Transition Milwaukee (rp)	31 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp)	32 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp)	33 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp)	34 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp)
Drop in 9:30a-5p Science Saturdays (rp & wp) 9a Park Ranger Crew 9:30a Intro to X-C Skiing (wp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10:30a Volunteer Orientation (rp) 1-4p Young Scientists Club (wp) 1p Winter Survival (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)	8 Drop in 9:30a-5p Science Saturdays (rp & wp) 9a Park Ranger Crew 9:30a Intro to X-C Skiing (wp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10:30a Volunteer Orientation (rp) 1-4p Young Scientists Club (wp) 1p Winter Survival (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)	15 Drop in 9:30a-5p Science Saturdays (rp & wp) 9a Park Ranger Crew 9:30a Intro to Snowshoeing (wp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10a Snowshoe at the Southern Kettle Moraine (rp) 10:30a Discovery Hike (rp) 11a Winter Tree/Shrub Identification (rp) 1-4p Young Scientists Club (wp) 1p Winter Survival (wp) 1p Let's Make Crackers (rp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp) 1:30p Forestry Sampling (rp)	22 Drop in 9:30a-5p Science Saturdays (rp & wp) 9a Park Ranger Crew 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10a Book Club (rp) 10:30a Understanding Energy (rp) 1-4p Young Scientists Club (wp) 1p Animal Tracking n' Winter Fun (rp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)	29 Drop in 9:30a-5p Science Saturdays (rp & wp) 9a Park Ranger Crew 1-4p Young Scientists Club (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)	Winterfest! 11a-5p (wp)	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	<p>WANT TO RECEIVE WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATES?</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>						
Drop in 12:30-5p Science Saturdays (rp)	6 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp) 6:30p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)	7 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4:30p YogaKids (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 6:30p Victory Garden Initiative (rp) 7p Beesentations (rp)	8 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4-6p YogaKids (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 6:30p Community Living Options Group (rp) 7p Florida Scrub Sketches (rp)	9 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4-6p Papermaking (rp) 5:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp) 6p Friends of Real Food (rp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	10 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4-6p Burdock Brigade (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 7p Echo Poets (rp) 7p Stargazers (rp)	11 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp)	12 Drop in 9:30a-5p Science Saturdays (rp & wp) 9a Park Ranger Crew 9:30a Intro to Snowshoeing (wp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 1-4p Young Scientists Club (wp) 1p Winter Survival (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)
Drop in 12:30-5p Science Saturdays (rp) 3p The Art and Science of Massage (rp)	13 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp) 6:30p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)	14 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 1p Homeschool Winter Series: Survival (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4:30p YogaKids (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 7p Beesentations (rp)	15 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Homeschool Winter Series: Survival (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 7p Beesentations (rp)	16 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4-6p Papermaking (rp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 7p The Life and Death of Glaciers (wp)	17 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Young Scientists Club (wp) 4-6p Burdock Brigade (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck (rp) 6:30p A Chemical Reaction (rp)	18 4-6p Young Scientists Club (wp)	19 Drop in 9:30a-5p Science Saturdays (rp & wp) 9a Park Ranger Crew 9:30a Intro to X-C Skiing (wp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 1-4p Young Scientists Club (wp) 1p Winter Survival (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp) 3p Ornithology Workshops (rp)
Drop in 12:30-5p Science Saturdays (rp) 1p Intro to X-C Skiing (rp) 1p Family Snowshoe Olympics (rp)	20 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp) 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp) 6:30p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)	21 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 3:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4:30p YogaKids (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	22 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Volunteer Orientation (rp) 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4:30p YogaKids (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	23 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4-6p Papermaking (rp) 6p Homework Help (wp) 7p Action Shots (rp)	24 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Young Scientists Club (wp) 4-6p Burdock Brigade (wp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	25 4-6p Winter Camping Trip departs (wp) Young Scientists Club (wp)	26 Drop in 9:30a-5p Science Saturdays (rp & wp) 9a Park Ranger Crew 10a Book Club (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10:30a Discovery Hike (rp) 1-4p Young Scientists Club (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)
10a X-C Ski at Richard Bong State Recreational Area (rp) Winter Camping Trip returns (wp) Drop in 12:30-5p Science Saturdays (rp) 2p Mentorship in the Outdoors (rp)	27 4-6p Young Scientists Club (rp) 6:30p Transition Milwaukee (rp)	28 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4-6p Papermaking (rp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	29 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4-6p Papermaking (rp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	30 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4-6p Papermaking (rp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	31 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Young Scientists Club (rp & wp) 4-6p Papermaking (rp) 6p Homework Help (wp)	<p>Did you know that the Center in Riverside Park is heated in part by a wood stove? The stove is also a nice place to get toasty warm after a day on the sledding hill!</p> 	



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

ADULT LEARNING

BEESSENTATIONS - 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.

Tuesdays, January 4, 18, February 1 & 15 (1st & 3rd Tuesdays at the month) 7 - 8:30 p.m.



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

BEEKEEPING BASICS: Three-Part Series and Test*

Three 2-hour courses will give you the foundation to start beekeeping in a Top Bar Hive. From setup to installing the queen, placement, inspections and harvesting. We cover swarming, stings and what you can expect and how to deepen your new relationship with bees. Course includes Phil Chandler's Barefoot Beekeeping book. You are required to take a test, attend a Beesentation and hands-on Class in spring to receive the Beepod Certificate for Beekeeping.

Mondays, January 10 - 24 Or Mondays, February 7-21 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



For adults \$85 (Nonmembers - \$100) 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.

January 17 & February 21 4 - 7 p.m.



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

LIVESTOCK'S LONG SHADOW*

Speaker: Diane Mayerfeld, UW Madison - Sustainable Agriculture Curriculum Coordinator

Animal agriculture is a major contributor to global climate change; on the other hand, most sustainable farming systems incorporate animal agriculture. This workshop will examine livestock's impact on the environment and how people can green their food choices.

Thursday, January 20 7 - 9 p.m.



Free - donations appreciated 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 enjoy the conversation and refreshments.

January: *Power Trip: The Story of America's Love Affair with Energy* by Amanda Little. We will discuss the book for the first half hour and then join the "Understanding Energy" program for the second half.

February: *Living Great Lakes* by Jerry Dennis

Saturdays, January 22 & February 26 10 - 11 a.m.



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

UNDERSTANDING ENERGY:

Basic Energy Literacy for a Responsible Citizenry*

One side tells us there is plenty of oil left, another group gives glowing images of the new green energy economy that will get us off of oil. Who, if either, is right? How can you know? The competing views, however different, are counting on one thing in common: that we, consumer or citizen, do not have the tools or knowledge necessary to assess their claims or make informed decisions. In this two-hour Basic Energy Literacy (and Numeracy) Class, we will discuss the concepts and numbers necessary for a more accurate and critical understanding.

Saturday, January 22 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



For adults \$6 (Nonmembers- \$8) 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 presentation will be followed by a dusk birdwalk. Binoculars provided.

Sunday, January 30 & Saturday, February 19 3 - 4:30 p.m.



For adults \$6 (Nonmembers - \$10) Free for birding volunteers Call to register, 964-8505

FLORIDA SCRUB SKETCHES:

Field notes from one of the oldest (and most endangered) ecosystems in North America*

Speaker: Owen Boyle, Regional Ecologist, Wisconsin DNR

One of the oldest and most unique ecosystems in North America, Florida scrub is home to dozens of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. On this cold Wisconsin evening we'll take a virtual field trip to the Florida sun and sand to examine the fascinating natural history of the plants and critters specially adapted to life on the edge in this ancient ecosystem that has evolved through millennia of shifting sands and catastrophic fires.

Tuesday, February 8 7 - 8:30 p.m.



For adults Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$6) Call to register, 964-8505

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MASSAGE*

Relax this Valentine's Day weekend with a massage. Learn the art and science behind giving a good massage. Partners are necessary.

Sunday, February 13 3 - 5 p.m.



For adults \$10 (Nonmembers - \$15) Registration required by February 12, call 964-8505

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 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



ADULT LEARNING CONTINUED

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF GLACIERS*

Join award-winning Director Chip Duncan for an evening of discovery into the Life and Death of Glaciers. Using Sony HDCAM high definition video to document glaciers, rivers and wildlife of the St. Elias range in Alaska, his goal is to help tell the story of human impact on this dramatic ecosystem. The completed film makes use of photographic comparisons in glaciers over more than two decades and includes discussion and graphic comparisons of glaciers in the region going back to the beginning of the so-called "Little Ice Age."

Wednesday,
February 16
7 - 8 p.m.

For adults and
accompanied children
ages 10 and older
Adults: \$5

(Nonmembers - \$10)
Children: Free -

donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - \$5)

Call to register, 964-8505



A CHEMICAL REACTION: Documentary Screening*

The Urban Ecology Center and the Healthy Communities Project will be hosting a screen of *A Chemical Reaction*. This 75-minute film explores how the elimination of lawn pesticides transformed one community in Canada and how their actions impacted the chemical lawn care industry in North America. *A Chemical Reaction* is a great example of how motivated individuals can create change to improve public health.

Thursday,
February 17
6:30 - 9 p.m.

For adults
\$5 suggested donation
(Nonmembers - \$10
suggested donation)

Call to register, 964-8505



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.

January: Bring a seed catalogue and we'll plan our gardens together.

February: Join us in planning our perennial food crops. You plant a cherry, I'll plant an apple!

Tuesdays,
January 4 &

February 1
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For everyone

Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



UEC PHOTO CLUB*

Spend the winter months honing your photographic skills. Join us for one or more of our free workshops!

January 6 & February 3:
Monthly meeting. Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills. Check out our website at www.uepc.org

January 20: **Photographic Design.** Instructor Daniel Seung Pugliese of Mind-Body-Spirit Photography introduces elements and principles of design as related to photography. Beginner and experienced adults welcome.

February 23: **Action Shots.** Guest speaker, Gerry Emmerich, will engage amateur and experienced photographers in sports photography. Learn how to capture images of anything moving fast: your family's ski trip, friends ice skating at Washington Park or winter birds in flight.

Thursdays,
January 6 &
February 3
6:30 p.m.



Thursday, January 20
7 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 23
7 - 9 p.m.

For adults
Free-donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505

INTEREST GROUPS

COMMUNITY LIVING OPTIONS GROUP- MILWAUKEE*

The current renewed interest in community or cohousing is directly related to the sustainability and practicality of shared living. We gather to learn, support and promote ideas and experiences.

January: **Cohousing Models in Seattle.** Carole Dede will lead us on a slide show tour of various cohousing communities; rural, suburban and urban infill sites.

February: **Co-ops/cohousing/condos, what's the difference?** Attorney Nola Cross, experienced in co-op "start-ups", will explain the legal and financial language of ownership structures.

Tuesdays, January 11 &
February 8

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

Free-donations appreciated.



FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD*

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

January: **Recipe and Story Exchange.** Bring a favorite recipe and share why you like to make it. Or bring a story about a memorable meal you've shared with family and friends. Or come just to listen. Storytelling is a powerful way to build community along with a new culture and food system.

February: **The Real Cost of Local Food - Chef Peter Sandroni, owner of La Merenda Restaurant.** When buying local food, how can you get the best value for your money? And how do you define value? Chef Peter Sandroni shares his thoughts and experiences of using local and seasonal ingredients in a restaurant.

Wednesday, January 12 &
February 9

6 - 8 p.m.

For adults

Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



URBAN ECHO POETS*

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

Thursdays, January 13 &
February 10

7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated



URBAN STARGAZERS*

Join us for fun, information and stargazing.

Thursdays, January 13 &
February 10
7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated



VEGETARIAN POTLUCK*

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

Thursdays, January 20 &
February 17
6:30 - 8 p.m.

For adults and
accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated



TRANSITION MILWAUKEE*

January: **All City Hub Meeting.** Transition Milwaukee is part of an international movement to address the challenges of climate change and peak oil proactively by relocating. All those interested or already working in Transition are invited to connect, share and collaborate.

February: **Psychology of Change.** A large part of transitioning is a paradigm shift. We'll discuss how this journey unfolds — individually and collectively, and share ideas for helping ourselves and each other evolve in a positive way.

Mondays,
January 24 &
February 28
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated
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
8 a.m.



Every Thursday
8 a.m.

For adults and
accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

by Susan Winans, Volunteer Coordinator, and Sisko Hirvi, Executive and Human Resources Assistant

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 at one of our Volunteer Orientations how you can contribute your time and talents to the Urban Ecology Center.

Washington Park

Every Saturday except January 29
10 - 11 a.m.

Riverside Park

Saturdays, January 8 & February 5
10:30 a.m. - noon

Wednesdays, January 12
& February 9
5:30 - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 25 & February 22
3:30 - 5 p.m.

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

BURDOCK BRIGADE

The Burdock Brigade engages in hands on restoration activities: removing exotic invasive plants and propagating and planting native species in order to preserve and restore native vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Washington Park

Every Thursday
4 - 5 p.m.

Washington Park Senior Center

Every Thursday
10:30-11:30 a.m.

Riverside Park

Every Tuesday
9 - 10:30 a.m.
1st and 3rd Saturday of the
month except January 1
9 - 11 a.m.

For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

PARK RANGER CREW

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

Washington Park

Every Saturday except January 1
9 - 10 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free-donations appreciated

PAPERMAKING

Learn the art of recycled papermaking to create beautiful gifts for our Center's supporters.

Riverside Park

Every Wednesday
4 - 6 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

MILWAUKEE ROTARY CENTENNIAL ARBORETUM WORKSHOPS:

FORESTRY SAMPLING METHODS

Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum

Trees tell stories! Join the Center Forestry Specialist and learn how to collect vital information for our extensive tree survey for the Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative habitat restoration project and creation of the Rotary Centennial Arboretum. Wear warm clothes. Open to everyone but required for volunteers who wish to help with forestry data collection and strongly encouraged for habitat restoration volunteers.

Riverside Park

Tuesday, January 11
6 - 7 p.m. or
Saturday, January 15
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Free for Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum volunteers who commit to 20 or more hours to the project (Non-volunteers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505

WINTER TREE AND SHRUB IDENTIFICATION

Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum

No two twigs look alike! Join the Urban Ecology Center Forestry/Land Stewardship team and learn the skills necessary to ID leafless woody plants. Bring a bag lunch and warm clothes. Open to everyone but required for volunteers who wish to help with forestry data collection for the Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and creation of the Rotary Centennial Arboretum and strongly encouraged for habitat restoration volunteers.

Riverside Park

Tuesday, January 4
11 a.m. or
Saturday, January 15
11 a.m.

Free for Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum volunteers who commit to 20 or more hours to the project (Non-volunteers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505

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.

FOUNDATIONS / CORPORATIONS

A.O. Smith
Foundation, Inc.
Helen Bader
Foundation, Inc.
Badger Meter
Foundation
Colton Charitable Fund
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NEW FACES

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and supports the work of the Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning. Drawing from her experience managing a kitchen at a Waldorf School in Stockholm, Sweden, Sisko launched her new position here by impressing 150 volunteers and staff with a beautifully executed volunteer appreciation dinner. Sisko began her involvement as a volunteer receptionist at our Riverside Park branch and continues to volunteer with the Victory Garden Initiative.

Anne Reis join us as our new GIS specialist. Anne has been volunteering at the Center for several years, and was recently hired to map the plant and animal communities for the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. Anne currently teaches at Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design and works at the Cartography and GIS Center on the UWM

campus. She hopes to finish a Master's degree in Biological Sciences at UWM in May.

Please also welcome part-time Environmental Educator **Anna Robillard** to Washington Park! Anna has over 12 years of experience in environmental education, has worked all over the country leading groups from preschoolers to adults, and has even spent six months studying sustainability in Bolivia!

For some time our Executive Director has been in need of an assistant and we are glad to announce that the position now is filled. **John Suhar** comes with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration from UWM and has a few years experience in business analysis and development as well as event management. John is an experienced traveler — most recently he completed a 2,200 mile journey along the Appalachian Trail. 🌿



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