I often think of life as a story. You are born ... you do a bunch of stuff and a bunch of stuff happens to you ... and then you die. All the “stuff” in the middle is your story. When looking at life this way a question arises -- What makes a good story? A thoughtful answer to this question can inform -- What makes for a good life? I’ve reflected on this a lot over the past couple of weeks since the tragic passing of two close friends and long time supporters of the Urban Ecology Center.

A good story, be it a novel, a movie, or a tale told around the camp fire, has some common elements. A good story usually involves some risk for the main characters -- a life path taken where the outcome is unknown but the person takes the path anyway. Another surprising element in a good story is chaos. Creating a good life amid chaos is a much more interesting read than that of making life work from a base of comfort and security. Doing things differently or “out of the norm” also tends to generate tales for the telling. “You won’t believe what he did then!” frequents this kind of narrative.

Paul Fleckenstein was 47, Pieter Godfrey was 53. I’ve known each of these men for over a decade. Both were trusted friends, Pieter was our neighbor at the Center. Both were with us when the Center was in its infancy back in the trailer and both have been instrumental in its successful growth. Pieter Godfrey and Paul Fleckenstein taught me a lot with the way they structured their life. They both took risks, did not always conform to the norm, could handle an element of chaos, worked hard, and were comfortable being “uncomfortable”. While it seems impossible that they are gone, I am proud of the way they took the “stuff” between birth and death and wove such amazing story lines ... they both led full and rich lives.

Paul kept a lower profile. He was a great believer in the Center’s work and made a big impact here. He was a teacher himself who believed in getting kids outdoors to learn...
River Reflections is a publication of the Urban Ecology Center, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Thanks to the generous annual contributions of 215 foundations, corporations and organizations, over 2700 member and many in-kind donors the Center serves over 80,000 people per year.

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

Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
(414) 964-8505 Fax: (414) 964-1084
uec@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:
Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.

Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th St.,
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(Mailing address: 4145 W. Lisbon Ave.,
Milwaukee, WI 53208)
(414) 344-5460 Fax: (414) 344-5462
wkaridis@urbanecologycenter.org

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

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

For Riverside Park
Contact: Judy Krause, 964-8505, x102.
- 3 umbrella stands
- 4x8 or larger utility trailer
- Alka-seltzer tablets
- Cornstarch
- Field & lannon stone
- Ice cream buckets with lids
- Ice trays
- iPad(s)
- Kernel popcorn
- Kids gardening gloves
- Large ceramic and terracotta pots for indoor plants
- Leaf rakes
- Potting soil & quality topsoil
- Rain ponchos/jackets- all sizes
- Seasoned firewood
- Sweatpants
- Two-stage snow thrower
- Video camera
- Weed-wackers and scythes
- Wire garden fencing/wire mesh
- Woodworking tools, hand or powered

For Washington Park
Contact: Willie Karidis, 344-5460.
- 2 large capacity dehumidifiers
- Alka-seltzer tablets
- Aprons
- Blenders
- Canning supplies and jars with lids
- Cheese graters
- Cordless drill
- Cornstarch
- Digital cameras
- Extension cords
- Glass measuring cups
- Mixing Bowls
- Mixing spoons
- Old fitted sheets
- Pitchforks
- Plastic cutting boards
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Plexiglas
- Potato peelers, mashers
- Power strips
- Straw bales
- Tyvek
- Video camera

Big changes in our Marketing and Development Department! Bridget Brave, our Development System Specialist and Event Coordinator, has accepted the position of Assistant State Public Defender for Racine County. Bridget earned her Juris Doctorate from Marquette Law school and has worked pro bono for a number of financially challenged individuals. We will miss her but are confident that she will be a huge asset to the judicial system.

We are delighted to announce that Cassie Mordini will be taking on Bridget’s role! Cassie began her career at the Center just last March as a part-time Development Assistant. She brings eight years of experience in marketing, communications, information systems and staff training. We welcome Cassie to her new role.

A perfect match! The Trinity Fellowship is a graduate fellowship program at Marquette University that matches students with nonprofit agencies for a 21-month study/work program. The Fellowship is designed to develop urban leaders committed to social and economic justice. We were excited to be matched in 2009 with Jeff McAvoy who became our Marketing Associate. Jeff has been a tremendous asset, enabling us to take giant steps in social media and graphic design. He graduated this past June with a Masters degree in communications. But this isn’t the end of the story, it’s just the beginning! We are thrilled to announce that Jeff has taken on a new role at the Center, Marketing Communications Manager. We are very grateful to the Trinity Fellowship Program for providing us with this fantastic staff member. Congratulations and welcome (again) Jeff!
This summer we are offering a Music of Nature program to kids ages 7 though 12 and 16 through 18. Thanks to our partnership with Present Music, there is no fee for the program. But space is limited - so please sign up early! See page 6 for details.

In addition, these musicians and their families will be invited to participate in the celebration of Present Music’s 30th Anniversary at Milwaukee’s Marcus Center for Performing Arts on Saturday, August 27th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend for FREE. See www.presentmusic.org for more info.
about the natural world. One of Paul’s passions was land stewardship which led him to personally restore 80 acres of land that he owned and lived on just west of Milwaukee. Here he created an amazing home, working long hours each day healing the land with his own hands and creating a natural paradise.

Paul took the reins of the R.A. Stevens Foundation over eleven years ago. He gave to the Urban Ecology Center both through the Foundation and personally, and his giving grew as we have grown. His largest contribution was to provide the private match needed to install what was then the largest solar installation in the state of Wisconsin on the roof of our building in 2005. This gift keeps on giving in the form of free energy for the Center.

Pieter ran a materials collection operation recycling historic Milwaukee brick and lumber for reuse. I estimate that about 70% of the recycled material in our Riverside Park facility came from Pieter and over 3000 projects around town used Pieter’s reclaimed goods. He built his business from scratch in the abandoned warehouses he occupied across from the Center and created a home within one that is truly unbelievable. Like Paul, he led the construction himself.

Pieter was a driving force towards protecting the 800 acres of land that we now call the Milwaukee River Greenway Corridor and was the visionary behind the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum which we still hope to open in 2013.

The philanthropy in the community by these two gentlemen was quiet, strategic, substantive and effective. For each, the Urban Ecology Center was one of their favorite causes, largely because we provide much needed opportunities for urban youth. They lived their passion using their unique set of skills and talents to their fullest. Every day they made their piece of the world a better place. They worked hard, played hard, and enjoyed life ... not in frivolous ways but in productive pursuits.

I think they only met once, but through the Center their unique stories joined together to create something lasting and strong. For this we can be grateful. They will be deeply missed.

NATURE IS WHERE YOU FIND IT

by Willie Karidis, Washington Park Branch Manager

I remember a long time ago lying on my stomach staring at several ant hills in between the cracks of the front sidewalk of my parents’ home. It was one of my favorite things to do, wondering where they were going, trying to keep track of individual ants as they moved about and watching them carry food on their backs. They all seemed to get along and they all worked together.

That was my nature, my connection to the natural world, and it brought me joy and filled me with wonderment every time I watched them.

Today I work at the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park and we are working as an organization to connect people to the natural world here in the heart of Milwaukee. We’re providing that connection through our after school Young Scientists Club.

The Young Scientists are aged 7 to 12 and meet Tuesday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Recent programs have included focusing on increasing the predator population, specifically little brown bats and the eastern screech owl. By building bat and owl houses for these species we are hoping to increase natural predators in Washington Park. This will bolster the food web which keeps prey species from overpopulating the area. Working with the good folks from the Senior Center here in Washington Park we are actively engaged in inter-generational land stewardship, reclaiming the land in the southwest corner of the park.

Another project we will be working on with our Young Scientists and with volunteer groups throughout the summer is the expansion of the prairie on the Northwest corner of the park. Over the past two years the Urban Ecology Center has worked with Milwaukee County Parks to approve prairie expansion in a large grassy area. This summer we hope to wood chip one of the two remaining grass areas so planting of the prairie can take place the following summer. Why do this? By increasing prairie areas we can increase the biodiversity of natural plants as well as native wildlife and bird species to the area. Once established, it is amazingly beautiful and relatively easy to maintain.

Living in the city it is especially important for both our mental and physical well being to spend time in nature. We have to work at it, make it a priority, to make it part of our life.

Having lived in Alaska for 25 years it was easy to be immersed and connected to nature. The lesson here

Continued on page 12
TEEN ADVENTURE CHALLENGE!

This year’s Teen Adventure Challenge was fantastic! Over 30 enthusiastic teens representing high schools and youth nonprofits rock climbed, biked, hiked and orienteered throughout 12 miles along the Milwaukee River Valley and lakefront. Carmen High School of Science and Technology (team 5) was our official winner. Congratulations!

Many of the teens have never participated in these types of sports before. Others proudly told everyone they had trained for weeks just to run this race. Each team had an adult chaperone who was excited as the teens themselves. At the end of the race, the tired but satisfied teams were cheered to the finish line and given lunch.

Many thanks to nearly 40 volunteers who worked hard to help give the teens a positive, memorable experience. Watch for updates of the action on our Facebook fan page!

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

This issue is going to press just before our annual Summer Solstice Soiree and Auction on June 18th. The Soiree is an evening of fun with a purpose, raising support that will enable us to fulfill our mission to connect our community to nature.

Below is a sneak peak of the generous Soiree sponsors. Check our next issue for the complete list of the supporters who helped us celebrate this year!

Heartland Funds

Johnson Controls

Rotary Club of Milwaukee

Milwaukee Capital, Inc.

WEYCO Group

PARK BANK

NEPAK PAPERBOARD MILLS

Shorewood Women’s Club

Heartland Funds

RW Baird

Badger Meter
Charter Wire
Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan
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Johnson Controls
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Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek

Diversey
Foley & Lardner
Godfrey & Kahn
Susie and Fred Kasten
Milwaukee Capital
River Run Computers, Inc
Rockwell Automation
Jim Schleif - Shorewest Realtors - Northshore
The Private Bank
Tom and Kathy Schrader
von Briesen & Roper

photos by volunteer photographers
Elizabeth Manley and Max Wollenstein
The Center offers public programs at both Riverside & Washington Parks. Use these icons to know at a glance the location of each program. Programs marked with an * are accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited to no accessibility. Please call 964-8505 at least two days before the program date if you have accessibility needs. Scholarships are available for all fee-based programs.

FOOD SECURITY FOR OUR WORLD, PEACE CORPS PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOP*
Meet returned Peace Corps volunteer and Peace Corps Chicago recruiter Kirk Longstein to learn about volunteer projects addressing food security issues. As a Peace Corps Environment volunteer serving in an undernourished community, he and his colleagues took part in initiatives along the entire food value chain, from better agricultural practices and sustainable agriforestry, to more efficient food processing and marketing. As part of the presentation, a hands-on workshop will demonstrate Peace Corps’ participatory Pre Service training style. Come ready to be inspired with a demonstration on how to educate, build and use locally available materials by focusing on a specific food security project.
Wednesday, July 13
5 - 7 p.m.
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

EXPLORE NATURE, CREATE ART*
The Urban Ecology Center and ART Milwaukee collaborate to expose kids to the art of the nature all around us. Bring the kids down to explore nature and later turn their discoveries into a work of art! Local nature experts and artists will work with the children throughout the afternoon. Come be inspired!
Sunday, July 31
1 - 4 p.m.
For everyone
Suggested donation $5

PERMACULTURE CERTIFICATION COURSE*
This course is taught by local permaculture expert Mark Shepherd and presented by Victory Garden Initiative. Permaculture is an approach to designing human and agricultural systems that mimic the relationships found in natural ecologies and enrich local ecosystems. Permaculture is a foundation for Victory Garden Initiative’s mission. This is a professional Permaculture certification.
Every day,
August 13-21
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For adults
$800 for VGI/UEC members (Nonmembers - $1000)
Contact gretchen.mead@victorygardeninitiative.org to register.

OUTDOOR LEADER PRESENTATION*
The Urban Ecology Center’s High School Outdoor Leadership Program is a great work opportunity for teens in Milwaukee. The Outdoor Leaders will share their experience training and working with our staff and going on a wilderness trip to Northern Wisconsin. This is the perfect chance to learn what these hard working students have been up to or to check out the program for yourself or someone you know.
Tuesday, August 23
6 - 8 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

EAT LOCAL RESOURCE FAIR*
Learn how you can eat more locally. Cooking demos, menu & recipe ideas, local vendors & producers, and lots of information about where to find and buy local food. Get ready for the Eat Local Challenge Sept. 1st -15th
Saturday, August 27
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

MUSIC OF NATURE
FOR KIDS AGES 7-12 & 16-18 YEARS OLD*
Team up with the creative geniuses at Present Music and explore Washington Park’s wild sounds in our urban environment. Then translate those sounds and themes into an original piece of music. Led by sound-inventor Mrs. Fun, your work will receive a world premiere at the Washington Park bandshell on August 10th!
7 - 12 year olds meet Wednesdays and Fridays, July 6 through July 20 (5 sessions), 4 - 6 p.m.
16-18 year olds meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 12 - August 11 (10 sessions), 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

FOR KIDS AGES 3-5 ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT*
Join the frog chorus, learn new songs and listen to the sounds and rhythms of nature!
Wednesday, July 20, 10 - 11:30 a.m.
$8 for one child, $4 for a second child (Nonmembers - $12 for one child, $7 for a second child)
$4 per child needing childcare during the program
Call to register, 964-8505

FOR KIDS AGES 7-12 ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN*
Team up with the creative geniuses at Present Music and explore Washington Park’s wild sounds in our urban environment. Then translate those sounds and themes into an original piece of music. Led by sound-inventor Mrs. Fun, your work will receive a world premiere at the Washington Park bandshell on August 10th!
7 - 12 year olds meet Wednesdays and Fridays, July 6 through July 20 (5 sessions), 4 - 6 p.m.
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

SPECIAL EVENTS
**FAMILY PROGRAMS**

**CHANGING SEASONS PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT**

The Changing Seasons Photography Project will show the beauty of our park while giving kids a creative edge and education of their ever-changing environment. First Tuesday of every month, the Young Scientists Club will focus on natural photography and the gradual change of season. Each month kids will observe, photograph and discuss how and why the seasons change from an aesthetic perspective.

Fridays, July 1 & August 5

4 - 6 p.m.

For kids ages 12 and under, ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult

Adults: $5

(Nonmembers - $8)

Children: $3

(Nonmembers - $6)

Call to register, 964-8509

E.B. GARNER FISHING CLUB*

Interested in learning how to fish? Join E.B. Garner, as he teaches you to cast, put on bait and take care of your fishing poles. Fun for all!

Wednesdays, July 6, 20, August 3, 17 & 31

4 - 7 p.m.

For kids 7 and up

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8523

**MILWAUKEE RIVER EXPLORATION**

Discover firsthand the bounty of life in the Milwaukee River. Gear up with hip boots, nets and buckets as we collect and study insects from the river bottom. Bring long socks.

Thursday, July 14

2 - 4 p.m.

Meet in the parking lot of Hubbard Park (3565 N. Morris Blvd.)

For everyone

Call to register, 964-8547

$7 per person or $21 for families of 4 or more

(Nonmembers - $10 per person or $25 for families of 4 or more)

**MENTORSHIP IN THE OUTDOORS**

Children need positive outdoor mentorship to be healthy, critical thinkers. Come and learn some of the tricks of the trade while your children spend some time in the Native Wisconsin Animal Room. Afterwards, we’ll all go on a evening hike together and see what nocturnal wonders we can discover.

Tuesday, August 16

7 - 9 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children

Ages 5 and up

Adults: $7

(Nonmembers - $10)

Children: $5

(Nonmembers - $7)

Call to register, 964-8577

**HOMESCHOOL SERIES: INTRODUCTION TO ECOLOGY**

“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe”. - John Muir. Ecology is the study of the interactions between living and non-living things. We’re going to find out what that means specifically in Riverside Park. Please dress for the weather.

Monday, August 22

2 - 3:30 p.m.

For kids 5 and up

$5 (Nonmembers - $7)

Call to register, 964-8578

**SCIENCE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS**

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

Theme for July and August: The Web of Life

Drop-in program

Every Saturday

9:30 - 4:30 p.m.

and

Every Sunday

12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated

**ART AT UEC**

**ART SHOW OPENING — THOMAS GAUDYNSKI, HEATHER EIDEN & ANGELA LAUGHINGHEART: PATTERNS, TILES AND SEA SCULPTURES**

Thomas Gaudynski’s drawings in this exhibition explore the wonder of natural beauty as discovered through chance and indeterminacy. Using plant material, Gaudynski draws colored ink marks in chance-derived arrays or bold patterns on sheets of rag paper. Heather Eiden hand carves stories from life experiences into clay tiles in her low-relief sculptures using carving techniques learned in Bali, Indonesia. Her art conveys the beauty of culture through symbolic images. Angela Laughingheart’s digitally photographed and enhanced depictions of soft sculpture sea creatures will be coupled with a performance piece “Swimming on Dry Land” at the opening.

Sunday, July 10

2 - 4 p.m.

Artists will speak at 3 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505

**SCIENCE SATURDAYS**

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

July: Predators

August: Lagoon Life

Every Saturday

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

**SCIENCE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS**

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

Theme for July and August: The Web of Life

Drop-in program

Every Saturday

9:30 - 4:30 p.m.

and

Every Sunday

12:30 - 4:30 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 Wisconsin.

Every Saturday

1 - 2 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

**NATURE’S PALETTE**

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

Tuesday,

August 23

10 - 11:30 a.m.

For kids ages 3-5

accompanied by an adult

$8 for one child, $4 for a second child

(Nonmembers - $12 for one child, $7 for a second child)

$4 per child needing childcare during the program

Call to register, 964-8503
Learn how to grow, preserve and prepare healthy food this summer! Take one class or a whole series.

**URBAN HOMESTEAD SERIES:**

**USING YOUR PRESERVES CREATIVELY DEMONSTRATION***
Want to learn how you will use your home-canned, dried, or frozen goods? Master Food Preserver Annie Wegner LeFort will share and demonstrate creative ways to use these homemade products in appetizers, entrees, and desserts. Think beyond spreading your jam onto toast and serving salsa with chips. Learn how to get more out of the flavors of the season. Samples will be provided.

Thursday, July 21
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
$20 (Nonmembers - $25)
Register by July 15, call 964-8505

**BASIC KNIFE SKILLS***
If the thought of slicing and dicing all those fresh local vegetables prevents you from cooking from scratch, come and learn how to “sharpen” your basic knife skills in this hands-on class. Trained chef Annie Wegner LeFort will teach basic cutting techniques as well as discuss selection and care of knives for food preparation. Sign up today to “hone” your skills.

Monday, July 25
7 - 8 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
$10 (Nonmembers - $12)
Register by July 21, call 964-8505

**MAKING HERBAL ICE CREAMS AND BAKING WITH HERBS***
You don’t have to have garden space to grow herbs at home. And these aromatic varieties can be prolific! Trained pastry chef Annie Wegner LeFort will teach you how to turn your favorite culinary perennials into a decadent frozen custard, cake, or tart as well as simple tips for drying and freezing herbs. Samples will be provided.

Monday, August 1
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
$20 (Nonmembers - $25)
Register by July 27, call 964-8505

**PRESEING JUICES, MAKING NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS WITH LOCAL JUICES***
100% fruit juice, especially organic varieties, can be expensive and often contain ingredients we don’t bargain for. In this hands-on class, learn how to prepare your own fruit juices without additives or sugar. Master Food Preserver Annie Wegner LeFort will guide you in hot water bath canning these juices and show you how to make fun, non-alcoholic beverages to quench your thirst or impress your guests. You will take home a canned item and beverage samples will be provided.

Thursday, August 25
6 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
$30 (Nonmembers - $35)
Register by August 21, call 964-8505

**SAVOR THE TASTE OF SUMMER SERIES:**

**INTRODUCTION TO FOOD PRESERVATION***
Learn the benefits and challenges of various food preservation techniques with emphasis on hot-water-bath canning. Handouts included. This class is the basis for all other canning classes this year.

Tuesday, July 12
7 - 9 p.m.
For adults
$10 in advance, $15 at the door (Nonmembers - $15 in advance, $20 at the door)
Call to register, 964-8505

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

Tuesday, August 9 or Tuesday, August 30
6 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
$30 in advance, $35 at the door (Nonmembers - $35 in advance, $40 at the door)
Call to register, 964-8505

**SUSTAINABLE GARDEN SERIES:**
A collaboration of the Victory Garden Initiative and the Urban Ecology Center

**SUCCESSION PLANTING AND GROWING GREENS***
Extend your harvest quantity and harvest time by strategically spacing out plantings, especially as it relates to greens. Learn about the wide array of greens that can be grown nearly all year round and how to enjoy homegrown broccoli at Thanksgiving!

Saturday, July 30
9 - 10:30 a.m.
For adults
$10 (Nonmembers - $12)
Call to register, 964-8505

**ECOLOGICAL GARDENING WITH CHILDREN***
Gardening with children teaches them about the cycle of life, engages them in caring for the earth and encourages them to eat nutritious foods. Parents, learn about ways to incorporate gardening in your children’s lives: mind, body and spirit.

Saturday, August 13
9 - 10:30 a.m.
For adults
$10 (Nonmembers - $12)
Call to register, 964-8505

Learn how to grow, preserve and prepare healthy food this summer! Take one class or a whole series.
## URBAN ECOSYSTEM CENTER PROGRAMS

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

### JULY 2011

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### Drop in 12:30-4:30p

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**ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOP**

Please join us for a slideshow delving into the wonders of the bird world, followed by a dusk bird walk. Binoculars provided.

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

**BEESENTSATION - ALL ABOUT THE BEES!**

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 people have 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, July 5, 19, August 2 & 16
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
$10 (Nonmembers - $15)
Call to register, 964-8505

**EVENING BIRD HIKE**

By early July, most of the birds in Washington Parks are busy raising their first or second brood. We’ll look for ways to tell the adults from their first or second brood. We’ll suit you up in protective gear and let you get as close to the bees as you feel comfortable. Please note: We do not inspect bees if it’s below 50°F or too windy or rainy. Call to confirm if the weather is questionable.

Saturdays, July 9, 23, August 6 & 20
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults
$10 (Nonmembers - $12)
Call to register, 964-8505

**MONARCH LARVAE MONITORING**

Discover the miraculous life of the monarch butterfly. After a brief introduction, you will comb the park for signs of the butterfly’s life - egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and adult. Participants collect data for the University of Minnesota’s national Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project.

Thursday, July 7
5:30 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
$5 (Nonmembers - $10)
Call to register, 964-8505

**NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY COUNT**

Every year the North American Butterfly Association coordinates volunteers to census butterfly populations. Join us in Riverside or Washington Park to count and identify our resident butterflies. No experience is necessary.

Saturday, July 9
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
$5 (Nonmembers - $10)
Call to register, 964-8505

**SUSTAINABLE BUILDING EXHIBIT**

Visit the Center’s Sustainable Building Exhibit for ideas on how to beautify your home while honoring the environment. This is a hands-on library of sample products for home construction and interior decorating.

Mondays, July 11 & August 15
4 - 7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

**RAIN BARRELS WORKSHOP**

It’s easy to conserve water and save money on your bills by adding a rain barrel to your home! Learn how to use this rain collection system to water your garden and lawn.

Saturday, August 6
10 - 11:30 a.m.
For adults
$15

**RAIN GARDENS WORKSHOP**

Save water, reduce runoff, and beautify your landscape! Learn how to design your own rain garden full of native plants that attract butterflies and birds while maximizing water efficiency.

Saturday, August 6
1 - 2:30 p.m.
For adults
$15

**THE BATS OF WASHINGTON PARK**

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

Wednesday, August 10
8 - 10 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

**MIDCOAST ECOLOGY**

In June, Center participants took an eco-travel sailing trip on a windjammer in midcoast Maine. Come hear about our adventure and the ecology of this unique area!

Monday, July 18
6 - 7 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505

**BOOK CLUB**

The Evolutionary World: How Adaptation Explains Everything from Seashells to Civilization by Geerat J. Vermeij.

Saturday, July 23
(no Book Club meeting in August)
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

**ADULT LEARNING CONTINUED**
Both Urban Ecology Center locations will be closed on July 4th. Our Washington Park branch will be closed Tuesday, August 23 through Thursday, August 25.

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

Every Thursday through August 18
6 - 6:30 p.m.
Visit online at www.urbanecologycenter.org or call 964-8505.

Every Saturday
11 - 11:30 a.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

CANOEING BASICS
Interested in learning how to canoe? Need some practice with your J stroke? Come hone your skills on the lagoon at Washington Park. To apply this trip toward canoe/kayak lending training, please inform the instructor when you arrive.

Every Saturday
11 - 11:30 a.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

KAYAKING 101
Come learn the basics of kayaking. We will start with a brief lesson on land and then continue the lesson on the Milwaukee River. Bring a snack or dinner with you and we can eat on the water! Come prepared to get wet and bring something to hydrate yourself!

Tuesdays, July 12
or July 26 or August 9
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce St.)
For adults and accompanied children ages 12 and older
Adults: $40
(Nonmembers - $45)
Children: $35
(Nonmembers - $40)
Call to register, 964-8505

KAYAKING 102
Ready to take your kayaking skills to the next level? Join Urban Adventures staff on a kayaking trip down the Milwaukee River. This trip will feature a few rapids so be prepared to get wet. Payment required at registration.

Friday, July 29
12:30 - 4 p.m.
For adults
Adults: $40
(Nonmembers - $45)
Children: $35
(Nonmembers - $40)
Call to register, 964-8505

MILWAUKEE RIVER CANOE TRIP -- ESTABROOK TO NORTH AVENUE
Join the Urban Adventures crew on a trip down the Milwaukee River. We will start at Estabrook Dam and make our way down through the North Avenue rapids. Be prepared to get wet!

Friday, July 15
1 - 4 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children ages 5 and older
Adults: $40
(Nonmembers - $45)
Children: $35
(Nonmembers - $40)
Call to register, 964-8505

TREETOP YOGA: A 3 CLASS SERIES
We bring yoga outdoors and take in all of what nature can offer with Vinyasa Style Yoga - smooth flowing poses in line with each breath. Classes will be taught in an intimate setting on the top of the tower. Space is limited.

Saturday, July 16
23 & 30 or Saturday, August 13 20 & 27
8 - 9 a.m.
For adults
$10 (Nonmembers - $15)
Registration is required, call 964-8505

MILWAUKEE RIVER CANOE TRIP -- BOATHOUSE TO ALE HOUSE
Join the Urban Adventures crew on a trip down the Milwaukee River. We will start at the rowing club boathouse and make our way downtown to the Milwaukee Ale House for lunch (bring money for lunch.) Need a minimum of 6 participants so bring some friends!

Saturday, July 23
10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce St.)
For adults and accompanied children ages 12 and older
Adults: $40
(Nonmembers - $45)
Children: $35
(Nonmembers - $40)
Call to register, 964-8505

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

By canoe
Saturday, July 30
1 - 4:30 p.m.

By kayak
Monday, August 8
1 - 4:30 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children ages 12 and older
Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce St.)
Adults: $40
(Nonmembers - $45)
Children: $35
(Nonmembers - $40)
Call to register, 964-8505

FITNESS BOOT CAMP
Get a jump start on your healthy lifestyle goals this Summer. Join certified fitness trainer & yoga instructor Porsche Carmon and PC Sport Fitness for a fun-filled indoor and outdoor fitness program. Each class is packed with fun and energizing strength & cardio drills, obstacle courses, games & activities, all designed to help you build a strong fit body, mind and spirit. Check online and learn how to try us for free at www.pcsporthfitness.com.

Every Monday - Friday
except July 4
6 - 7 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children $99 per month
Call to register, 964-8505

OPEN CLIMBS ON TOWER
Unwind after school or work by climbing on our three story rock wall! Harnesses and belayers provided. All climbers must have a completed and signed waiver before climbing, available at www.urbanecologycenter.org. Must have a minimum of 6 people registered, so gather some friends and sign up!

Every Thursday through August 16
4 - 5:30 p.m.

For everyone
Adults: $10
(Nonmembers - $15)
Children: $8
(Nonmembers - $12)
Please call ahead to register, 964-8505, no walk-ins.

RIVER RHYTHMS CANOE TRIPS
Paddle down the Milwaukee River from the Rowing Club Boathouse to Pere Marquette Park! Enjoy music and festivities at River Rhythms. Then paddle back to the Boathouse. Dress for the weather. Each week fills quickly. We need a minimum of 6 participants so bring some friends!

Performers:
July 6 — Sindoolaa
July 13 — Levi Airmaster w/ Junior Brandley
July 20 — Jayk & I’m Not a Pilot
July 27 — Milwaukee Battle of the Bands
August 3 — Element 13
August 10 — John Sieger & The Sub Continentals
August 17 — Red Hot Chili Pipers

Every Wednesday through August 17
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse, (1990 N. Commerce St.)
For adults and accompanied children
Adults: $30
(Nonmembers - $35)
Children: $20
(Nonmembers - $25)
Call to register, 964-8505

RIVER RHYTHMS BOAT TRIPS
Join the Urban Adventures crew on a paddle through downtown to explore some of Milwaukee’s interesting history from the river.

July 4 — Red Hot Chilli Pipers
August 10 — John Sieger & The Sub Continentals
August 17 — Red Hot Chili Pipers

For everyone
Adults: $40
(Nonmembers - $45)
Children: $35
(Nonmembers - $40)
Call to register, 964-8505

For adults
Adults: $40
(Nonmembers - $45)
Children: $35
(Nonmembers - $40)
Call to register, 964-8505
VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE: EAT AND MEET*
Join our monthly potluck to connect to our members, plan projects, and learn about better ways of growing our own food. Bring a dish and bring a friend.
Tuesdays, July 5 & August 2
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

UEC PHOTO CLUB*
MONTHLY MEETING
Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills. Check out our website at www.uecpc.org
Thursdays, July 7 & August 4
6:30 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

CLUB EVENT: TURNING SNAPSHTOS INTO WORKS OF ART
Jill Newton Moore, professor of communications and technology at Alverno College, will bring her experience in art galleries and digital photography through this special event. Learn how to turn your favorite photo into a visual gem.
Monday, July 11
7 - 9 p.m.
For adults and teens
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - $5)
Call to register, 964-8505

COMMUNITY LIVING OPTIONS GROUP-MILWAUKEE (COLOG)*
We welcome those interested in exploring all options of intentional community living and housing. We gather to learn, support and promote each others’ ideas and endeavors.
July: Introducing CoLOG Partner, Riverwest Investment Cooperative (RIC). The Riverwest Investment Cooperative is a member-owned neighborhood “development” organization. The goal is to build strong neighborhoods through good housing and home ownership. RIC seeks to educate the Milwaukee community in creating intentional community living groups.
August: What is the Status of Co-ops in Milwaukee? Milwaukee has a proud history of co-op experience. We will learn about the current structure of food, workers, housing and Bar/Community Place co-ops.
Tuesdays, July 12 & August 9
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD*
Share a potluck dinner and join the enthusiastic, informative discussion.
July: The Braise Circle: Reconnecting People with Their Food. Chef and owner Dave Swanson helps people connect with local seasonal food and support small, independent local farmers and artisan producers. At this get-together he will tell us about Braise — an innovative family of companies which includes a restaurant, culinary school, to-go cooking classes on farms, restaurant supported agriculture and home delivery.
August: Sustainable Seafood; Short videos and discussion. What are chefs to do when they and their customers want to eat seafood but are concerned about over fishing? Are fish farms a good alternative? We’ll hear from two thoughtful chefs and learn available resources to help us make better choices in the store and restaurant.
For adults
Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

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.
Thursday, July 14
(no meeting in August)
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

URBAN STARGAZERS*
Join us for fun, information and stargazing.
Thursday, July 14
(no meeting in August)
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

VEGETARIAN POTLUCK*
Bring a plate and fork along with your meatless dish to share at our picnic style meal.
Thursdays, July 21 & August 18
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations welcome
Call to register, 964-8505

TRANSITION MILWAUKEE: ALL CITY HUB MEETING*
Transition Milwaukee is part of an international movement to address the challenges of climate change and peak oil proactively by relocalizing. We are working to rebuild local resilience and self-reliance through creating and promoting community projects to grow our own food, generate our own power, develop our own economies and reskill. Whether you are new to or familiar with the Transition Initiative, we invite you to come to our monthly Hub meetings.
Monday, July 25 & August 22
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - $5)
Childcare available: $4 (Nonmembers - $6)
Call to register, 964-8505

RIVERSIDE PARK BUILDING TOURS*
Get an insider’s view of Riverside Park’s innovative building design and programming through these staff-led tours.
Wednesdays,
July 13, 27,
August 10 & 24
9 - 10:15 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call 964-8505 to register
Both Urban Ecology Center locations will be closed on July 4th. Our Washington Park branch will be closed Tuesday, August 23 through Thursday, August 25.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Want to spend more time outside, work alongside ecologically-minded people and share your gifts with the community? Find out how you can contribute your time and talents to the UEC.

Friday, July 8 3:30 - 5 p.m.
Tuesday, July 19 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Sunday, August 7 12:30 - 2 p.m.
Tuesday, August 30 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Saturdays, July 2, 16, 30, August 6 & 20 10 - 11 a.m.

For adults and accompanied children Call to register, 964-8505

DNR FROG & TOAD SURVEY

Come out for a late night of froggin’ by ear and help add to the Wisconsin DNR’s statewide database of frogs and toads. Dress for the weather and wear footwear that can get muddy.

Monday, July 11 8:15 p.m. - 12:15 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - $5) Call to register, 964-8505

VOLUNTEER DRIVER TRAINING

Help us provide transportation for our school field trips! We need volunteers to drive our 15-passenger buses and vans to transport classes. Drivers have the option of assisting with the field trips as well. Must have a clean driving record and be available on weekdays. Please bring a bag lunch.

Thursday, September 1 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
For adults Free - donations appreciated Call to register, 964-8505

RIVER CONNECTION VOLUNTEER TEACHER TRAINING

Want to help teach an exciting river connections program in partnership with Riveredge Nature Center? Join us for a fantastic afternoon of exploring the Milwaukee River at Riveredge and learning how this program flows. The intent is for volunteers to learn the ropes and hopefully be able to lead the trip in the future. Please bring lunch as we will eat on the way up.

Friday, September 2 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
For adults Free - donations appreciated Call to register, 964-8505

COMPOST CREW

Come and help keep the Center's compost systems working full steam! We’ll layer, turn-over, and amend organic matter to create rich healthy soil for the Center’s various gardens.

Every Tuesday 3:30 - 5 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children Free - donations appreciated Call to register, 964-8505

WORK OUTSIDE WEDNESDAYS (WOW)

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

Every Wednesday except August 24 9 - 11 a.m. & 3 - 5 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children Free - donations appreciated Call to register, 964-8505

PAPERMAKING*

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

Every Wednesday except August 24 4 - 6 p.m.
For teens, adults and accompanied children under the age of 12 Free - donations appreciated Call to register, 964-8505

FORESTRY FRIDAYS

Help us to work to improve the health of our forest in Riverside Park and the Rotary Centennial Arboretum! Join the Urban Ecology Center Forestry Specialist to meet friends, have fun and make a lasting positive impact on the earth while we remove invasives, plant trees, and control erosion in the park.

Every Friday 2 - 4 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children Free - donations appreciated Call to register, 964-8505

PARK RANGERS

Kick-off your weekend and help keep our parks clean, safe, and accessible. Dress for the weather.

Saturdays, July 9, 23, 30, August 13 & 27 9 - 10:30 a.m.

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 Senior Center
Every Thursday except August 25 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Every Tuesday 9 - 11 a.m.
Saturdays, July 2, 16, August 6 & 20 9 - 10:30 a.m.

NATURE IS WHERE YOU FIND IT

continued from page 4

is that we can’t all live in grand wilderness areas but we have to find our special place wherever it might be.

Nature is different for everyone; it is our own individual connection to the environment. Here in Washington Park we are providing opportunities for celebrating and nurturing this connection. Whether it’s your first thrilling ride in a canoe or the discovery of a family of ants in the crack of a sidewalk, nature is everywhere and we want to help you find it.
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

Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation, Inc.
Cambridge Woods Neighborhood Association
EMD Crop Bioscience
Fleck Foundation, Inc.
The Florsheim/Yeager Family Fund
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
Harley-Davidson Foundation, Inc.
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- Desiree & Michael Pointer Mace
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Toni McBride
William & Eva Rumpf
Willow Schidt
Anne Marie Schmidt
Sharon Stadler
Maria Terres-Sandgren & Craig Sandgren

Thank You From The Center
Highlighted programs for July/August

Food Security for our World, Peace Corps Presentation and Workshop
Wednesday, July 13

Permaculture Certification Course
August 13-21

Eat Local Resource Fair
Saturday, August 27