



WOW! IT REALLY WORKS!!!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

"I am so thankful for the Urban Ecology Center and what they have done for this neighborhood and Washington Park. This couldn't have happened without Joey (see Beth's article below). I remember walking through the Park 5 years ago and nobody was here, nobody. I remember parents saying there is nothing for kids to do in this neighborhood. But look at it now. I'm about to cry and...I'm not a crier! I'm just overwhelmed with how good it feels." Pat Mueller - Long time neighbor and Leader of Neighborhoods United for Washington Park



Joey Zocher and Pat Mueller enjoying Winterfest

This experiment we are engaged in, called the Urban Ecology Center, is really working! This was self evident at this year's Washington Park Winterfest. If you were fortunate enough to attend it was obvious that something very special is happening there. You did not need to know about the history, planning, hard work, or the educational research on which our program is based, to see this.

It was a perfect winter weekend. Over the course of the day I'm guessing over 500 people showed up representing the full breadth of this often racially divided neighborhood. Everyone came and played -- yes, played! -- together all afternoon. Laughter, cooperation, mixing, new connections, smiles and squeals of "This is my first time skating ever ... look at me!" was the tenor of the day. Families were ice fishing, teenagers cross country skiing, adults and kids played a pick-up game of what I guess you could call hockey but it seemed mostly comprised of falling and laughing. The sledding hill was full of whooping and hollering and there was even dog sledding in the park, possibly for the first time in its long 100 plus year history!

This isn't Door County, folks, this is smack dab in the middle of a tough neighborhood in Milwaukee. *Continued on page 5*

GREEN BIRDING FEVER ... CATCH IT YET?

by Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science

On the first Monday in January I began the day by bringing my bike up from the basement. I was met with a confused look and a question from my wife, "What are you doing?"

The answer was obvious to me, "Biking to work". "Why?" she asked.

"For three reasons: to save the planet, for my health, and to start my 2011 Big Green Birding Year (BGBY) list." As she shook her head in disbelief I headed out into the cold and snow.

A little over a year ago I wrote an article challenging anyone to a Big Green Birding Year competition. Basically this means trying to build the biggest species list of birds seen from your house without using fossil fuels (in other words walking, biking, or paddling). The first person to take me up on the offer was Jim McGinity, a former Urban Ecology Center staff member who lives in Florida – immediately *Continued on page 4*

WASHINGTON PARK'S BITTERSWEET NEWS

by Beth Fetterley, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Turn back time to nearly ten years ago, when a group of urban high school students – many of whom face crises at home and in their neighborhoods – arrived at the Urban Ecology Center's door. Luckily this group was led by a science teacher who not only successfully engaged them in learning in her classroom, but helped them develop skills that promote healthy habits and environmental literacy. Students arrived at their destination eager to learn and ready to challenge themselves. Barely noticing the leaky roof or that their classroom was actually a trailer, they learned about being stewards of the land as they built their outdoor skills.

Months later, a team evolved out of this group of students who return to the trailer to compete in the Center's Teen Adventure Challenge. Once again they are led by their tenacious, talented teacher, who trudges through the mud, navigates the rapids along the Milwaukee River by canoe and guides them in their compass skills. They successfully *Continued on page 3*

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: Beth Fetterley, Mike Larson, Ken Leinbach, Regina Miller and Tim Vargo.

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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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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 and 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
wkardis@urbanecologycenter.org

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

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

DROPLETS

Many thanks. On Saturday, February 26th the Urban Ecology Center will host A Hoot in the Night our annual summer camp fundraising party. Our deep appreciation goes to Deb and Marc Andraca, Christi and John Clancy, Rachel and Sam Dickman, Laura and Mustafa Emir, Shannon and Todd Muderlak, Kate and Ken Muth and Suzanne and Anoop Singh for their hard work and support. A special thanks goes to Godfrey and Kahn for its sponsorship of this event. Watch the next issue of the newsletter for pictures and the full story.

The Urban Ecology Center has exactly what your teen needs to stay active and make an impact on the environment. A summer to remember — **High School Outdoor Leadership Program**. Is your teen looking for a summer job where they can work outside, have fun, and go on an awesome trip? We are hiring 14 high school students for paid summer internships. Email Jamie at jferschinger@urbanecologycenter.org for an application. Deadline to apply is April 4th, so do it today! A day they won't forget — **Teen Adventure Challenge**. This challenge is for teams consisting of four teens and one adult. Teams will climb Riverside Park's climbing wall, canoe, hike, bike and complete team building activities. If interested, email Chad, cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org to get on our mailing list, but hurry — registration is limited to 18 teams!

In January, St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church held their 29th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. The theme for this year was "Dreaming with the Courage to Act" and the Urban Ecology Center was honored and humbled to accept a "Programs for Children" award for its outstanding service.

WISH LIST

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

- 3 umbrella stands
- Alka-seltzer tablets
- Cornstarch
- Field and lannon stone
- Ice cream buckets with lids
- Ice trays
- iPad
- 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 and quality topsoil
- Rain ponchos/jackets- all sizes
- Seasoned firewood
- Sweatpants
- Video camera
- Weed-wackers and scythes
- Wire garden fencing/
Wire mesh
- Woodworking tools
hand or powered

For Washington Park
Contact: Willie Karidis, (414) 344-5460.

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

OUT LIKE A LION...

by Mike Larson, Visitor Services Coordinator

Ahh, March 21st, The first day of spring! Remember that old adage: “March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb”? That’s a lie...at least in Wisconsin. A brief look in the Farmer’s Almanac shows that March went out at an average temperature of 37 degrees over the last 10 years. That’s one brisk lamb.

Don’t let the weather get you down! There is plenty to do at the Urban Ecology Center this Sprinter (Spring/Winter):

In early March there is usually still plenty of snow. True, temperatures seldom peak above 40 degrees – but they’re usually not below zero either. Perhaps you’ve been intending to enjoy some sledding, snowshoeing or skiing, but the frigid temperatures of January and February have been intimidating.

Come to the Center this March for some outdoor adventures! It feels great to be out enjoying the snow without having to wear two pairs of long underwear and three layers of sweaters. After you’re through, come in and enjoy some hot cocoa provided by the Omanhene Cocoa Company and take the chill off!

As March transitions into April, your enthusiasm for snow may have waned a bit, and the muddy slush outside is hardly inviting to your kids, but keeping them cooped up in the house is making them (and you) stir crazy. What to do? Bring them to the Urban Ecology Center! We are free and open to the public seven days a week. Kids love checking out the animal room, sliding down the slide, and playing games in the first floor lobby. Set up a date with your play group to

get the kids out of the house. Sit by the windows and watch the migrating birds stop by our feeders as you sip delicious organic tea courtesy of Rishi Tea!

“April showers bring May flowers.” Well, while you’re waiting for those flowers, what should you do on a rainy day? You guessed it...come visit us! The Center has dozens of nooks and crannies waiting for you to sit down with a book, work on your taxes or study for your next exam, all while enjoying a nice cup of coffee and a pastry generously donated by Alterra Coffee Roasters of Milwaukee. ☘

The Omanhene Cocoa Company, Rishi Tea, and Alterra Coffee Roasters all specialize in fair trade, organic, and/or ecologically grown crops for their products. They also all generously support the Urban Ecology Center with their donations.

WASHINGTON PARK’S BITTERSWEET NEWS

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complete the challenge, faces beaming with a sense of accomplishment; something these students will remember for years to come.

Fast forward to January of 2007. That same teacher, Joey Zocher, joins the Urban Ecology Center staff to face a new challenge of launching the Center’s second branch at Washington Park. Her obstacles were many — transform an aging Milwaukee County Parks building into a vibrant learning hub for local schools, cultivate a safe environment in a park adjacent to a neighborhood struggling to overcome crime and partner with the community in improving the ecological health of the park.

Sure enough, Joey rose to the challenge. By fall of 2010, 18 schools have partnered with the Urban Ecology Center to engage their students in outdoor science education. Over 5000

native plants have been planted, improving water quality and overall habitat. Ice skating has been re-introduced to the lagoon, bringing hundreds of children and adults back into the park in the heart of winter. Over 150 children signed up to participate in the Young Scientist Club, held after school and on Saturdays. Last year, over 20,000 people participated in programs and events, bringing positive energy, ecological literacy and a sense of safety to the community.

Fast forward again to January 2011. Joey has embarked on a new adventure. She left the Urban Ecology Center to pursue her PhD in urban education and has returned to the classroom at Loyola Academy High School, not too far from the future new branch of the Urban Ecology Center. This is bittersweet news as we are happy for Joey but will miss her energy and passion.

Joey is handing the reins to the capable hands of Willie Karidis, the interim Branch Manager. A few months ago we introduced Willie as the new Community Program Coordinator at Washington Park. Originally from Wisconsin, Willie has spent the majority of the past 30 years in Alaska. While there he served for 15 years as the Executive Director of Denali Education Center, he braved the backcountry of Denali on a 61-day expedition, taught at an elementary school and researched climate change as part of a study at the University of Alaska. Willie felt right at home heading our Winterfest Celebration — even adding a dog-mushing activity to the mix. Look for the fish symbol on our program listing to find programs at Washington Park so you can join him and his team for outdoor fun, learning and exploration. See you there! ☘

GREEN BIRDING FEVER ... CATCH IT YET?

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turning the competition into an interstate rivalry. He bet a Florida Key Lime Pie against a case of Wisconsin Sprecher Root Beer that he could build a bigger green birding list in 2010.

Word spread and the number of participants grew. Demand soon resulted in a blog and shared spreadsheet to track progress (thanks to Owen Boyle). People continued to join, from Madison to Sheboygan to Green Bay. The year officially ended with 15 participants and a few closet Green Birders who kept their lists secret – not quite an epidemic, but at least an outbreak.

Scott Baughman of Sheboygan ended up with the most bird species – an amazing 234, followed by Andy Paulios (Madison:182) and Sam Corbo (177) who holds the biggest Milwaukee list even though a move to Ohio shortened his season. Jim McGinity counted 161 different birds from his Florida home and I finished in 8th place with a

respectable 131. As a group we were all winners, collectively seeing 252 different species of birds, biking over 3,000 miles and walking over 500 miles. I think it's safe to say we were doing our part to better our health and save the planet, considering that not a drop of fossil fuel was burned for the competition.

BGBY had mishaps and adventure. One participant scrambled up a riverbank when yours truly misidentified



a Great Horned Owl. I later had to explain her wild goshawk chase to her chiropractor. And there was the epic camping trip to the Kettle Moraine, travelling by bike, of course.

And there were birds. A Lark Sparrow in Washington Park, a Woodcock

that morphed into a Wilson's Snipe, a loon flying over Riverside Park, a Snow Bunting, a Carolina Wren, a Piping Plover ... are you feeling the symptoms coming on?

If a Big Green Birding Year sounds like it's too much, then try your hand at our Big Green Birding Day Challenge coming in May – details to follow soon.

Symptoms of Green Birding Fever include ditching car keys, turning down rides from friends, re-routing your daily commute to include a local park and a desire to bike in the middle of January. There is no known cure for the fever when it hits, but I've found the best way to deal with it is lots of bed rest between adventures.

For details or to join the 2011 BGBY competition, please contact Tim Vargo, tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org 🌿

RISE AND SHINE: NEW LIFE AND YOUNG MINDS!

by Regina Miller, Environmental Educator

"I loved exploring the woods and loved hopping on the logs. There's nothing (about this trip) I didn't like."

— 5th grader, Golda Meir School

Spring! It is a time of new growth and renewal. It is a time of awakening and regeneration. It is a time of greening and the springing forth of new life. But mostly it's a time of energy.

Although at the Urban Ecology Center our students have been outside all winter, there's something about warmer temperatures, birds in the trees and getting back into the river that gives them a renewed excitement. As one student from Downtown Montessori

Academy put it, "My favorite part of this field trips was being able to run around, but still learn." It's hard not to get carried away with all this enthusiasm.

Springtime and children have many similar qualities and needs. Both show a passionate springing forth of newness and a fresh awareness of the world around them. Our students are full of passion for learning and for life. They possess open minds that are awake and ready for growth. As an Environmental Educator, I am directly involved in getting children outside and engaging their minds and bodies in the newness of spring. Countless times during teaching I have seen children blossom with the help of these experiences. I

too become caught up in their sheer excitement about being outside ("Ooooo, this was the BEST field trip EVER!"), their positive comments about nature ("Wow, look at the worm I found!") and their endless questions and amazement at the wonders of nature ("Why is the snake sticking its tongue out?").

The blossoming of both springtime and children can be found at the Urban Ecology Center! This spring, be sure to look for wildflowers such as trout lilies, bloodroot, and violets that are rising up with new life, giving their beauty to the world. Also look for the children who are learning and growing, and whose minds are waking up to shine their equally beautiful new life upon the world. 🌿

WOW! IT REALLY WORKS!!!

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black, white, Hmong, Latino, old, young, rich and poor. No exaggeration, all were present, all getting along, all learning, all smiling. It really works! If you engage enough people, offer enough activity, set up a consistent culture of curiosity and acceptance and are a constant presence ... a once uncomfortable park becomes a safe haven for positive “whole community” interaction and learning.

Hard to believe that this is the same park where a decade ago I had my first visit in the back of a police squad car. It's true. It was Father's Day weekend. We, the responding police officer and I, were looking all over the city for a stolen Urban Ecology Center van. He had a tip that it might be in Washington Park, taken by some drugged-out youth. We ultimately discovered it totaled in a smashed garage not far from where our Winterfest took place. I remember musing when I saw the run down lagoon on that first illustrious visit, “It would be interesting to see if what we are doing in Riverside Park could ever work here?” Little did I expect to experience this inkling of a thought coming to full fruition. I couldn't be more proud of our team running the show at Washington Park.

The Riverside Park experiment took well over a dozen years of hard work by many people to grow into the successful model it has become. Washington Park, in its fifth year, is on a much faster growth curve thanks to a lot of support and all that we learned the first go-round. Once again academic achievement appears to be going up, land is being healed, crime is going down and community engagement is blossoming as witnessed by Winterfest 2011.

Yes, it is working ... but it gets better. As with any good experiment we learn from each step along the process, tweaking here, improving there, advancing the experiment with new tests and trials. So while the Riverside

and Washington park branches both evolve, we are now putting everything we have learned into building our third branch in the Menomonee Valley. This project is so darn exciting it is hard to stay in my shoes! (“what a complete geek!” thinks my 16 year old daughter)

For this branch we have formed a unique partnership with the Menomonee Valley Partners, another strong nonprofit whose mission is to revitalize the Menomonee Valley. Together we have created a joint project — Menomonee Valley - From The Ground Up. It is way cool. When completed it will result in the doubling of the Hank Aaron State Trail, the conversion of 24 acres of wasteland into a freshly planted outdoor learning area, vastly improved pedestrian/ bike access into the valley and a new Menomonee Valley Urban Ecology Center branch. The last will involve the rehab of a 70 year old tavern into a “green” environmental community center eventually serving 22 south side schools who are clamoring for our services. To make this happen, our two organizations are working closely with the state, city, county, surrounding neighborhood associations, a number of the Valley industries, the Potawatomi tribe, Friends of Hank Aaron State Trail, and more. As I said, it is way cool!

So, would you like to see the full scope of this growing experiment called the Urban Ecology Center? We'd love to show it to you! Interested? Email Mike Larson at mlarson@urbanecologycenter.org for more information about group branch tours.

But you don't need a tour to visit our parks — you can visit or volunteer! The Center at Washington Park is open Tuesday-Friday, 3 - 7 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Riverside Park is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday Noon - 5 p.m.

MENOMONEE VALLEY EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

We invite you to join us and hundreds of volunteers working to clean up the Menomonee River Valley and Hank Aaron State Trail in celebration of Earth Day. Trash bags will be provided. If you want to help in the river, feel free to bring waders or tall boots; we'll have a limited selection available to borrow as well.

Saturday, April 16
9 a.m.

Meet us in the volunteer tent just off Canal Street under the 35th Street Viaduct. Please contact Tim Brown at Menomonee Valley Partners to register: 414-274-4661 or Tim@RenewTheValley.org

COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY

We invite you to join us in the annual Menomonee Valley Community Planting Day. Come help build Milwaukee's newest park along the Hank Aaron State Trail. We'll be planting a variety of native aquatic and prairie plants and some trees. Come prepared to get dirty and wear sturdy shoes! If you have gloves, trowels or small spades for planting, or boots or waders for planting in wet areas, please bring them along. We'll have supplies to borrow as well. Space is limited for this fun event.

Saturday, May 14
9 a.m.

Meet us in the volunteer tent just off Canal Street under the 35th Street Viaduct. Please contact Tim Brown at Menomonee Valley Partners to register: 414-274-4661 or Tim@RenewTheValley.org

On April 16th both Washington Park and the Menomonee Valley will be hosting Earth Day service projects. On May 14th the Menomonee Valley is having a community planting day (*see above*). Come, you are sure to be inspired by what you see!

Thanks to everyone who has helped make this amazing community experiment such a huge success. I can't wait to see what the future holds, I hope with YOU as part of it! 🌱

CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

What's with all the frogs and fish?**Calendar Key:**

The Center offers public programs at both Riverside and 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.

LOCAL FARMER OPEN HOUSE*

Explore how you can eat more healthy, local and sustainably produced food! Come and meet local farmers, learn about Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and how you can subscribe to a farm, and about how you can buy sustainably produced meat, dairy, cheese, eggs directly from the farmers.



Saturday, March 12

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For adults

Free-donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505

**AUTHOR EVENT: LISA AND BELDEN PAULSON***

Join us for a lively conversation with authors and cofounders of the "intentional" community High Wind. Lisa Paulson will talk about her recent book, *An Unconventional Journey: The Story of High Wind, From Vision to Community to Eco-Neighborhood*, which traces the history of this experiment in sustainable living that began 35 years ago. In addition, Futurist Belden Paulson will talk about his memoir, *Odyssey of a Practical Visionary* which describes a lifetime of pioneering initiatives. Boswell Books will be on hand to sell Lisa and Belden's books. This is a night not to be missed!

Friday, March 25

7 - 9 p.m.

For adults

\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)

Call to register, 964-8505

**24TH ANNUAL EARTH POETS AND MUSICIANS CELEBRATION***

Join Jahmes Finlayson, Jeff Poniewaz, Suzanne Rosenblatt, Harvey Taylor, and Holly Haebig Wake for an evening of wisdom, passion and humor. Humans have placed our home, Planet Earth, at risk of foreclosure. Now you can celebrate that home and contemplate ways to protect it.

Friday, April 22

7 - 10 p.m.

Free-donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505

**EARTH DAY FESTIVALS***

Saturday, April 30 | Noon - 4 p.m.

For everyone | Free-donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505

RIVERSIDE PARK

- » River to Lake Hike (meet at 9:30)
- » Korean Drum Performance
- » Live Animals from Moondance Ranch
- » Yoga demonstrations
- » Crafts
- » Discovery Hikes
- » Rock climbing, and more!



WASHINGTON PARK

- » Canoeing, bird walks, and hands on science experiments
- » Screen printing (bring your own shirt)
- » Arts and craft projects using recycled materials
- » Food, s'mores and stories by the fire
- » Special performance by kids who participated in our Music of Nature program presented in partnership with our friends from Present Music!

**Earth Day for Afternoon Nappers***

Hike, craft, stories, fun!

Saturday, April 30 | 10:30 a.m. - Noon

For children ages 5 and younger

accompanied by an adult

Free-donations appreciated

Registration required by April 29, call 964-8505

**Other Earth Day Programs -**

- » **Earth Service Day** (See page 11)

Saturday, April 16 | Noon - 3 p.m.



- » **Weed Out!** (See page 11)

Saturdays, April 16 & 30 | 9 a.m. - noon



Saturday, April 30 | 9 a.m. - noon



- » **Earth Poets & Musicians*** (See left)

Friday, April 22 | 7 - 10 p.m.



- » **River Clean Up By Canoe** (See page 8)

Saturday, April 30 | 9 a.m. - noon



FAMILY PROGRAMS

MAPLE SUGARING*

Learn how to identify maple trees, then participate in the classic Wisconsin winter activity of collecting maple sap and boiling it down into syrup. Samples of the finished product are also included! Dress to be outside.

Tuesdays,
March 1, 8,
15 and 22
4 - 6 p.m.

Adults: \$7
(Nonmembers - \$10)
Children: \$5
(Nonmembers - \$7)



Saturday, March 5
9:30 - 11 a.m.
or Saturday, March 26
2:30 - 4 p.m. for everyone
\$6 or \$16 for families of 4 or
more (Nonmembers - \$9 or
\$25 for families of 4 or more)



For everyone
Call to register, 964-8505

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
through April 13
4 - 6 p.m.



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



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

CHANGING SEASONS PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT*

The Changing Seasons Photography Project will show the beauty of our park while giving kids a creative edge and education about their ever-changing environment. On the first Friday 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, with a manner of aesthetic, how and why the seasons change.

Fridays, March 4 and
April 1
4 - 6 p.m.

For kids ages
12 and younger,
under 7 must be
accompanied by an adult
Children: \$5
(Nonmembers - \$7)
Accompanying adults: \$7
(Nonmembers - \$10)
Call to register, 964-8505



MUSIC OF NATURE*

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 our Earth Day Festival, April 30th!

Tuesdays and
Thursdays,
March 15 - April 28
3:15 - 4:45 p.m.

For kids ages 8-13
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



DISCOVERY HIKE - MAPLE SUGARING

On our last few discovery hikes we've learned about winter and how plants and animals deal with it. Spring is on its way, and we'll learn all about how the maple trees get ready for their growth in the spring, and the wonderful treat (SYRUP!) that we can make from their sap.

Saturday, March 19
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 - \$7 or
\$21 for families of 4 or more)
Call to register, 964-8505



MENTORSHIP IN THE OUTDOORS

We pride ourselves in providing positive outdoor mentorship to our students and visitors. 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 Night Hike together and see what nocturnal wonders we can discover.

Monday, March 21
7 - 9 p.m.

For adults with
children ages 5 and older
Adults: \$7
(Nonmembers - \$10)
Children: \$5
(Nonmembers - \$7)
Call to register, 964-8505



PANCAKE BREAKFAST*

Come join us for a pancake breakfast to celebrate the coming of spring. Pancakes will be served with 100% maple syrup made from trees in Riverside Park. Fruit, coffee and juice will also be provided.

Saturday, March 26
10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For everyone
Adults: \$6
(Nonmembers - \$8)
Children: \$4
(Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



PANCAKES FOR LUNCH!*

Pancakes are delicious any time of day when they're covered with 100% maple syrup made from trees in Washington Park! Come join us for a special lunch to celebrate the coming of spring. Coffee and juice will also be provided.

Saturday, March 26
Noon - 1:30 p.m.

For everyone
Adults: \$6
(Nonmembers - \$8)
Children: \$4
(Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



FELTED SNAKES*

Do you know how to make felt? You will learn how to use your hands to "magically" change colored wool into a colorful felted snake.

Saturday, March 26
1 - 2 p.m.

For kids ages
7 - 12 year old kids
Children: \$3
(Nonmembers - \$6)
Call to register, 964-8505



BAT HOUSE FUN*

First week we will learn all about Wisconsin bats. Second week we build the bat houses. Third week we wood burn designs on them. And fourth week we hang them throughout Washington Park!

Tuesdays, April 5 -
April 26
4 - 6 p.m.

For kids ages
12 and younger,
under 7 must be
accompanied by an adult
Children: \$5
(Nonmembers - \$7)
Accompanying adults: \$7
(Nonmembers - \$10)
Call to register, 964-8505



HABITAT ARTWORK*

It's time for a Native Wisconsin Animal Room make-over. Come help us color and create backgrounds for our Center's animal tanks. This is a great way to put your family's mark on the Center and a fun chance to learn about the animals and see them up close.

Saturday, April 9
10:30 a.m. - noon

For families
with children
ages 4 and up
\$6 or \$18 for families of 4 or
more (Nonmembers - \$8 or
\$24 for families of 4 or more)
Call to register, 964-8505



RAIN BARRELS ARE WHERE IT'S AT!*

Learn the whys and hows of water harvesting and all the benefits of installing a rain barrel at your home or business. Thanks to Kohl's National "Go Green" project, a rain barrel building blitz coincides with this program. Inspired? You can purchase a rain barrel, supporting the Center, and harvest your own water.

Saturday, April 9
10:30 a.m. - noon

For adults and
accompanied children
ages 10 and older
Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



FAMILY PROGRAMS CONTINUED

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 March 8
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
For kids, ages 6-10
\$5 suggested donation
Call to register, 964-8505



HOMEWORK HELP*

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

Every Tuesday - Friday
3 - 4 p.m.
For youth
Free - donations appreciated



SCIENCE SATURDAYS*

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

March: Equinoxes
April: Earth

Every Saturday
9:30 - 5 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. Topics:

March: Rocks
April: Spiders

Drop-in program
Every Saturday
9:30 - 4:30 p.m. and
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 Riverside and Washington Parks.

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



HOMESCHOOL SERIES

MAPLE SUGARING*

Together we'll discover the science behind the sweetness. We'll split into two groups based on age and learn about sap and how people have used the sweet substance historically and we'll even get a chance to harvest our own sap from the trees in Riverside Park.

Monday, March 14.
2 - 3:30 p.m.
For kids ages 5 and older (please note your child's age when registering)
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)
Space is limited, call to register, 964-8505



LET'S GARDEN

Just like our Maple Sugaring program, this program will be split up by age to learn about soil and plants and all of the amazing interactions going on in a garden. Afterwards, we'll all join up together for a large group gardening project. Fun Times!

Monday, April 11.
2 - 3:30 p.m.
For kids ages 5 and older
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)
Call to register, 964-8505



ADULT LEARNING

BEESENTATIONS — ALL ABOUT THE BEES!*

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

Tuesdays, March 1, 15, April 5 and 19
7 - 8:30 p.m.

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



WINTER BIRDING IN SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN

Join guides Bill Mueller, Owen Boyle and Tim Vargo for a one-day winter birding field trip to Washington, Fond du Lac, Calumet and Sheboygan counties. Our locations will include the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, plus open country habitats and the Lake Michigan shoreline. We will search for wintering raptors, owls, gulls, waterfowl and winter songbirds. Please dress for the weather. We will stop for lunch along the way or you can bring your own.

Saturday, March 5
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For adults
\$40 (Nonmembers - \$50)
Call to register, 964-8505



BEEKEEPING BASICS COURSE — 3 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, March 7 - 21 or April 4 - 18
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults
\$85 (Nonmembers - \$100)
Call to register, 964-8505



HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORERS

Parental/Guardian permission is required for these programs. Download the permission form at www.urbanecologycenter.org/Adventures_Liability_Waiver.pdf.

TEEN OVERNIGHT AT THE CENTER IN RIVERSIDE PARK*

Friday, April 15, 8 p.m. - Saturday, April 16, 8 a.m.
For teens
\$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)
Registration required by April 13, call 964-8505

Get ready for a night of fun! Take a night hike, learn about astronomy, play some ping-pong, watch a film and more!

RIVER CLEAN UP BY CANOE

Take part in Milwaukee Riverkeepers annual Spring River Clean Up. We will use canoes to get to sections of the river and river bank that are hard to clean up from the shore. It is a fun way to serve the community and the river.

Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m. - noon
High school age youth
Free - donations appreciated
Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse - 1190 N. Commerce
Call to register, 964-8505



URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

MARCH 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		1	2	3	4	5	
		Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Maple Sugaring (wp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp) Beesentations (rp)	8a 9a 3-4p 4p 4-6p	Birdwalks (wp) Riverside Park Building Tours (rp) Homework Help (wp) Papermaking (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp)	8a 10:30a 3-4p 4p 4-6p 6:30p	Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Homework Help (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Photo Club (rp)	7a 9a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Equinoxes (wp), Rocks (rp) Maple Sugaring (rp) 10a 10a 10:30a 1p 1-4p
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Rocks (rp)	4-6p 6:30p 7p	Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Maple Sugaring (wp) YogaKids (wp) Community Living (rp)	8a 9a 3-4p 4p 4p 4-6p 6:30p	Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Homework Help (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Urban Echo Poets (rp) Urban Stargazers (rp)	3-4p 4-6p	9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Equinoxes (wp), Rocks (rp) 10a Local Farmer Open House 11a-4p (rp) 1p 1-4p	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Rocks (rp)	2p 4-6p 4-7p 6:30p	Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Maple Sugaring (wp) YogaKids (wp) Beesentations (rp)	8a 9a 3-4p 4-6p 4p	Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Vegetarian Potluck (rp)	2:30p 3-4p 4-6p	9a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Equinoxes (wp), Rocks (rp) 10a 10a 10:30a 11a 1p 1-4p	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Rocks (rp)	4-6p 7p 6:30p	Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Maple Sugaring (wp) YogaKids (wp) Volunteer Orientation (rp)	8a 9a 3-4p 4p 4-6p 5:30p	Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp)	3-4p 4-6p Author Event: Lisa and Paulson 7p (rp)	9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Equinoxes (wp), Rocks (rp) 10a 10a 10:30a-1p 1-2p 1-2p 1p 1-4p 2:30p	
27	28	29	30	31			
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Rocks (rp)	4-6p 6:30p	Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) YogaKids (wp)	8a 9a 3-4p 4-6p 4p 4p 6p 6p	Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp)	8a 10:30a 3-4p 3:15p 4p 4-6p		

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

APRIL 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Spiders (rp) Art Opening: Sally Kuzma	4 4-6p Young Scientists (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)	5 9a 3-4p 3:15p 4-6p 4-6p 4:30p 6:30p 7p Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Bat House Fun (wp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) YogaKids (wp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp) Beesentations (rp)	6 8a 9a 3p 3-4p 4p 4-6p 7p Birdwalks (wp) Riverside Park Building Tours (rp) WOW! (rp) Homework Help (wp) Papermaking (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Transcontinental Trail (wp)	7 8a 10:30a 3-4p 3:15p 4p 4-6p 6:30p Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Photo Club (rp)	8 2-4p 2:30p 3-4p 4-6p Forestry Fridays (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) Homework Help (wp) Young Scientists (wp)	9 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays—Earth (wp), Spiders (rp) 10a 1p 1-4p Burdock Brigade (rp) Park Rangers (wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays—Earth (wp), Spiders (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Young Scientists (wp)
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Spiders (rp)	10 2p 3:30p 4-6p 6:30p 6:30p 6:30p Homeschool Series: Let's Garden! (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp) Beekeeping Basics Course (rp) Frog & Toad Survey (rp)	12 8a 9a 3-4p 3:15p 4-6p 4-6p 4:30p 6p 6:30p 7p Banding Training (rp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Bat House Fun (wp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) YogaKids (wp) Homework Help (wp) Community Living Options Group (rp) Healing the People (rp)	13 8a 9a 3p 3-4p 4p 4p 4-6p 6:30p Birdwalks (wp) Riverside Park Building Tours (rp) WOW! (rp) Homework Help (wp) Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) Papermaking (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Friends of Real Food (rp)	14 8a 10:30a 3-4p 3:15p 4p 4-6p 7p 7p Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Urban Echo Poets (rp) Urban Stargazers (rp)	15 2-4p 3-4p 4-6p 8p Forestry Fridays (rp) Homework Help (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Teen Overnight	16 9a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays—Earth (wp), Spiders (rp) 10a 10:30a 10:30a 1p 1-4p Weed-Out! 9a-noon (rp) Park Rangers (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays—Earth (wp), Spiders (rp) 10a 10:30a Volunteer Orientation (wp) Earth Day Service Day Noon-3p (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Young Scientists (wp)
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Spiders (rp)	18 3:30p 6:30p Compost Crew (rp) Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)	19 early 9a 3-4p 3:15p 4-6p 4-6p 4:30p 5:30p 7p Bird Banding (rp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Bat House Fun (wp) Young Scientists (wp) YogaKids (wp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) Beesentations (rp)	20 8a 9a 3p 3-4p 4p 4-6p 7:30p Birdwalks (wp) Riverside Park Building Tours (rp) WOW! (rp) Homework Help (wp) Papermaking (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Bats of Washington Park (wp)	21 8a 10:30a 3-4p 3:15p 4p 4-6p 7p Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Veg. Pottluck (rp) The New Decisive Moment (rp)	22 2-4p 3-4p 4-6p Earth Poets & Musicians Celebration 7p (rp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Homework Help (wp) Young Scientists (wp)	23 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays—Earth (wp), Spiders (rp) 10a 1p 1-4p Park Ranger Crew (wp & rp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays—Earth (wp), Spiders (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Young Scientists (wp)
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Spiders (rp)	25 3:30p 4-7p 6:30p Compost Crew (rp) Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp) Transition Milwaukee (rp)	26 early 9a 3-4p 3:15p 4-6p 4-6p 4:30p Bird Banding (rp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Bat House Fun (wp) Young Scientists (wp) YogaKids (wp)	27 8a 9a 3p 3-4p 4p 4-6p Birdwalks (wp) Riverside Park Building Tours (rp) WOW! (rp) Homework Help (wp) Papermaking (rp) Young Scientists (wp)	28 8a 10:30a 3-4p 3:15p 4p 4-6p 5:30p Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Homework Help (wp) Music of Nature (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Ornithology (rp)	29 2-4p 3-4p 4-6p Forestry Fridays (rp) Homework Help (wp) Young Scientists (wp)	30 1p River Clean Up By Canoe 9a (bh) River to Lake Hike 9:30a (rp) Weed-Out! 9a-noon (rp & wp) Afternoon Nappers 10:30a (rp) Earth Day Festival Noon-4p (wp & rp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp)



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

ADULT LEARNING CONTINUED

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF BIRD IDENTIFICATION*

Speaker: Richard Crossley, internationally acclaimed birder and photographer, coauthor of the *Shorebird Guide* and *The Crossley ID Guide*.

Innovative birder and photographer, Richard will present photographic slides and a discussion of his new book *The Crossley ID Guide*. This is a story of lessons learned during his days growing up in the wild British birding scene and his travels around the world to living in Cape May. His guide is the first to show birds as you actually see them — caught in action, from multiple angles and against realistic, in-focus backgrounds. Whether you are a beginner, expert or anywhere in between, *The Crossley ID Guide* will vastly improve your ability to identify birds.

Monday, March 7
7 - 8:30 p.m.



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

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING EXHIBIT*

Remodeling, adding on, or building a new home? Visit the Center's Sustainable Building Exhibit for ideas to beautify your home while honoring the environment. This is a hands-on library of sample products for home construction and interior decorating.

Mondays,
March 14 and
April 25
4 - 7 p.m.



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

TREE CARE FOR HOMEOWNERS*

Trees add value and beauty to any property! Learn from the experts at Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful about tree selection, planting techniques, proper maintenance and care.

Saturday, March 19
10 a.m. - noon



For adults
\$15
Register through KGMB website: <http://fs8.formsite.com/KGMBGM/form733054834/index.html>

ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOPS*

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

Wednesday,
March 23



Thursday,
April 28



5:30 - 7 p.m.
For adults
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$10) Free for regular birding volunteers
Call to register, 964-8505

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER 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.

March: *The Queen Must Die: And Other Affairs of Bees and Men* by William Longgood.

No Book club meeting in April.

Saturday,
March 26
10 - 11 a.m.



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

TWILIGHT BIRD HIKE

It's only March, but spring migration will be under way. Over 40 species have been recorded in Washington Park in March, including Woodcocks, Bluebirds, Phoebes, Sapsuckers, Kingfishers, Coots and Grebes. We'll try to add to this list and enter our sightings on e-bird. All skill levels welcome and binoculars are provided.

Wednesday,
March 30
6 p.m.



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

A CONVERSATION ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE*

All people should be treated fairly when it comes to protecting and enjoying the environment. But some communities get the good stuff (like parks and clean air) while others are stuck with the burden (like power plants and waste facilities). Share your views on environmental justice with students from UW-Madison.

Wednesday,
March 30
6 - 8 p.m.



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

GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES* WORKSHOP BY MILWAUKEE URBAN GARDENS

Learn how to grow a great garden. Topics covered include soil, planting schedules, techniques to increase yields, composting, rain harvesting, pest control and managing a community garden. Includes handouts and light refreshments.

Wednesday,
March 30
4 - 7 p.m.



Saturday, April 9
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



For adults
\$30 (Nonmembers - \$40)
Call to register, 964-8505

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL TRAIL: AN OCEAN TO OCEAN JOURNEY BY PEDAL*

Have you ever dreamt of riding a bicycle across the country? Join our Community Program Educator, Mike Zang, as he presents his 2009 bicycle trip across the US from Virginia to Oregon; explaining the ins and outs of what it takes and doesn't take to pedal yourself from ocean to ocean. Hear stories, share ideas and learn more about the philosophy behind it all.

Wednesday, April 6
7 - 8 p.m.



For adults and accompanied children
Adults: \$5 (Nonmembers - \$10)
Children: Free (Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505

HEALING THE PEOPLE, HEALING THE LAND*

Speaker: Venice Williams, Program Director, Alice's Garden, Executive Director, Seedfolks Youth Ministry. Alice's Garden, a one-acre community garden in the heart of the city, is not just about fresh food and healthy eating. The tapestry of gardeners and programs is an invitation to cultural and healing gardening, especially as it relates to people of color and the land. Venice will foster a conversation about restoration and reconciliation as they relate to land, spirit and people.

Tuesday, April 12
7 - 8:30 p.m.



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

BIRD BANDING*

Few experiences compare with feeling the rapid heartbeat of a bird in your hand while releasing it back to the wild. Join us for an up-close and personal look at birds during spring migration.

Join us any Tuesday,
April 19 - May 31



Early mornings
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Please contact Jennifer Callaghan at jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org or 964-8505 for information or to register

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,
April 20
7:30 p.m.



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

INTEREST GROUPS

UEC PHOTO CLUB*

Monthly Meeting

Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills. Check out our website at www.uepc.org.

Thursdays,
March 3
& April 7
6:30 p.m.
For adults



Free - donations appreciated
Call to register,
964-8505

The New Decisive Moment: Henri Cartier-Bresson in the Digital Age*

Guest speaker John O'Hara, discusses techniques and shows examples from his digital portfolio of how he attempts to capture that elusive image. Beginner and experienced adults welcome.

Thursday,
April 21
7 - 9 p.m.
For adults



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

VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE: EAT AND MEET*

Join the Victory Garden Initiative for a potluck and more at our monthly Eat and Meet.

March: Its time to plan The Third Annual Great Milwaukee Victory Garden Blitz. Come find out how to get involved in the largest one day garden promotion event in the country! We need everyone to create a sustainable food system.

April: Discuss the ins and outs of berry patches. Also hear from our new project, City Berries: planting berry patches at playgrounds. For more info contact gretchen.mead@gmail.com.

Tuesdays, March 1
& April 5
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



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

COMMUNITY LIVING OPTIONS GROUP-MILWAUKEE*

Community Living Options Group-Milwaukee welcomes those interested in exploring community living options. This concept is enjoying renewed excitement across the country because of its sustainability and practicality. **March 8: Exploring Co-operative Finance in Milwaukee.** One foundation of co-operative housing is an expectation of equitable contribution. Chris Terbruggen will explore successes/struggles in establishing financial models.

April 12: How to See Co-Housing Potential in Existing Buildings. A slide-show of various 2-6 unit Milwaukee buildings, with the potential of transforming these dwellings into intentional communities with shared space.

Tuesdays, March 8
& April 12
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.

March: Real Wine: Making Informed and Ethical Choices When Buying and Drinking Wine. Speaker: Nate Norfolk, Certified Sommelier. Contains sulfites, sustainably farmed, organically grown, fair trade, old vines, estate bottled, dry farmed — what does this all mean when it comes to wine? Nate will help us separate the real ecologically sound wine from the real washed sour grapes.

April: MPS School Nutrition. Kymm Murch, the Administrator of Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) School Nutrition Services will talk to us about what is happening with the MPS food programs.

Wednesdays, March 9 and
April 13
6 - 8 p.m.



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.

Thursdays, March 10
& April 14
7 p.m.



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

URBAN STARGAZERS*

Join us for fun, information and stargazing. **March:** Join Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science, as he explores the workings of a telescope.

Thursdays, March 10
& April 14
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, March 17
& April 21
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 invite those interested or already working in Transition to connect, share and collaborate. It's a chance for neighborhood groups to exchange ideas and working groups to discuss goals and progress.

Mondays,
March 28
& April 25
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



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

EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS

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

Every Wednesday
8 a.m.



Every Thursday
8 a.m.



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

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER TOURS

BOOK YOUR OWN TOUR!

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

WASHINGTON PARK BRANCH TOUR*

Join Washington Park's Willie Karidis on a tour of Washington Park. Call ahead to confirm.

Wednesdays,
March 9 and
April 13
4 - 5 p.m.



For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
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,
March 9, 23,
April 13 & 27
9 - 10:15 a.m.



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



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get Your Hands Dirty for Earth Day

EARTH DAY SERVICE DAY

This is the day to "get 'er done!" We will have a plethora of projects for all ages.

Saturday, April 16
Noon - 3 p.m.

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



WEED-OUT!

Bring your gardening gloves and work alongside community members and volunteers as we work to improve biodiversity and eradicate Garlic Mustard and invasive plants from our parks.

Saturdays,
April 16 and 30



Saturday,
April 30



9 a.m. - noon
For everyone
Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

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

Saturdays, March 5 & April 16
10:30 a.m. - noon

Fridays, March 18 and April 8
2:30 - 4 p.m.



Tuesdays, March 22 and April 19
5:30 - 7 p.m.

Every Saturday except April 30
10 a.m.



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.

Saturdays, March 5, 19, April 2 and 16
9 - 10:30 a.m.
Every Tuesday 9-11am



Every Thursday
4 - 5 p.m.



Washington Park Senior Center
Every Thursday
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

ARBORETUM VOLUNTEER TRAINING

This session will introduce volunteers to a variety of opportunities to create and improve 40 acres of diverse native habitat between North Ave and Locust St. This area will include the new Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum funded by the Rotary Club of Milwaukee and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Saturday, March 19
11 a.m. - noon



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

DNR FROG AND 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. We will cover western and southern Milwaukee County. Call Tim Vargo x116 for details.

Monday, April 11
7:30 - 11:30 p.m.



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

BIRD BANDING TRAINING

A biologist once said, "A bird in the hand is worth thousands on the Discovery Channel." Learn how you can help us monitor migratory birds at the Urban Ecology Center.

Tuesday, April 12
8 a.m.



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

COMPOST CREW

Come and help to keep our compost systems working full steam! Roll up your sleeves as we chop, shred, layer, turn-over, and amend organic matter to create rich healthy soil for the Center's various gardens.

Every Monday starting April 4
3:30 - 5 p.m.



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

PAPERMAKING

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

Every Wednesday
4 - 6 p.m.



For teens, adults and accompanied children under the age of 12
Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

WOW! WORK OUTSIDE WEDNESDAYS

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

Every Wednesday starting April 6
3 - 5 p.m.



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

FORESTRY FRIDAYS

Come help the Center work to improve the health of our forest! Make a lasting, positive impact on Riverside Park while we remove invasives, plant trees and control erosion.

Every Friday starting April 1
2 - 4 p.m.



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

PARK RANGER CREW

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

Every Saturday
9 - 10 a.m.



For adults and accompanied children

Saturdays, March 12, 26, April 9 and 23
9 - 10:30 a.m.



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

ART AT UEG

ART OPENING: SALLY KUZMA

Sally Kuzma's ongoing series of prints based on seeds, corn, soybeans, and prairie plants are rooted in the landscape of the Midwest. Using a desktop scanner she makes botanical studies of these life forms and abstract compositions that explore our intimate, evolving reciprocity with the natural world. www.sallykuzma.com.

Sunday, April 3, 2 - 4 p.m.
For adults, Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



NOW SHOWING: EARTH'S ELEMENTS ART EXHIBIT

Show runs through March 19

A joint exhibit by Dara Chappie and Terry A. Fischer. 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 and flowing watercolor landscapes that put the viewer right out there in the lush summer or a sudden, harsh snowstorm. TerryAFischer.com, darachappie.com.

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 Bridget at the Center if your name has not appeared as you expected.

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The Urban Ecology Center
 is excited to announce its
 4th Annual Summer Solstice
 Soiree and Auction scheduled
 for June 18th, 2011. Plan to
 join us for a special evening
 of food, music and fun.
 This event will raise funds to
 support the Center's mission.
 Please watch our website or
 call for more information.



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Riverside and Washington Parks
Saturday, April 30 | Noon - 4 p.m.
For everyone | Free-donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER

My neighborhood park is Riverside Washington I love them all!

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.

Charge my membership to: Master Card Visa

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Please make your check payable to: **Urban Ecology Center** and return it with this form to:
Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place
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www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

MEMBERSHIP

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

Renew or begin your membership, choose one:

- Individual (\$25) includes guest
- Family (\$35) includes guest
- Student (\$12)

Give a gift membership:

- Individual (\$25) includes guest
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DONATION (IN ADDITION TO MEMBERSHIP)

Please accept my gift to support:

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

Total Enclosed

Financial assistance is available. Please call the Center at (414) 964-8505 and ask to speak to someone on our membership team for details.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY!