

CONVERGENT EVOLUTION!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

San Diego, California: Whoa ... what was that? I was way the heck out there in big swells, totally alone in a sea kayak off the Pacific coast of California. There it was again ... must be a dolphin -- tubular shape, perfect arched trajectory out of the water with hardly a splash at re-entry and as big as my sea kayak ... yikes! There it is again hardly ten feet away ... geez, I hope it's friendly. Wait, look at those eyes, that is no dolphin! I never knew a SEAL could be so big, Wow! Plus I never realized a seal would "porpoise" out of the water exactly like a dolphin. Cool ... a perfect example of convergent evolution! I live for moments like this.

Convergent evolution is when completely different species (like the seal and the dolphin) independently evolve the same physical characteristics and behaviors based on their need to adapt to similar environmental conditions -- in this case moving efficiently through the cold Pacific waters. I love exploring and making connections, learning not from a book but from experiences. Experiences that drive even more curiosity.

I was in California to share our unique model of providing environmental education to urban youth with two growing organizations ... the Ocean Discovery Institute of San Diego and Olivewood Gardens of nearby National City. I happened to be writing this article three weeks later while in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, this time hired by the Lancaster County Conservancy.

Like the dolphin and the seal, if you caught just a glimpse of each of these three organizations in action, you might think they were the same as the Urban Ecology Center ... a vermiculture (worm composting) class with third graders at one, an impressive multi-cultural high school research program run out of a double-wide trailer (just like we used to!) at another, and a stewardship program engaging volunteers to remove invasive garlic mustard at a third (that plant really gets around!). Until recently, none of these organizations had heard of the other, or even of the Urban Ecology Center, yet all of us are responding to the same environmental

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WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

by Beth Fetterley Heller,
Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Eleven years ago, I was the second full-time staff person hired to work in a trailer at a place that was just reinventing itself as the "Urban Ecology Center." Ken and a hiring committee from the Center's Board of Directors convinced me to join the small team of a full-time Executive Director, three part-time Educators, a part time Land Steward, a part-time Publicity Assistant, a volunteer Bookkeeper and dozens of program and land stewardship volunteers. Who would have thought that our team would grow to 50 year-round, 30 seasonal employees and 1500 volunteers? Each of these talented individuals work together to help further our mission.

I am delighted to announce new staff, recognize an employee who is stepping into a new role and introduce to you our recharged summer intern programs.

Cassie Mordini, our new Development Assistant, joins the development and marketing team to make sure that information we use to engage our members and donors is accurate and accessible. Effectively

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TO FEED BIRDS, FEED BUGS!

by Joel Springsteen, Land Steward

We all remember studying "food webs" in school, right? They provided our young minds with a unique view of our world from the perspective of who's eating whom. Over the last year and a half some dedicated volunteers and I have been reading up on which wildlife species feed on each of Milwaukee's native plants. As the research continued, I was simply awe-struck by the number of insects that are munching on our native flowers and plants.



Did you know that the Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), with its north and south facing sandpaper leaves and towering stalks of yellow flowers, makes a meal for 16 different species of insects? That's right! For six of those hungry species, the Compass Plant is their only source of food. I would never have imagined, while admiring the silvery

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URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER™

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: Bridget Brave, Beth Fetterley Heller, Jeff Geygan, Willie Karidis, Ken Leinbach, Emily Michi and Joel Springsteen.

River Reflections is a publication of the **Urban Ecology Center**. The **Urban Ecology Center** is a 501(c)3 tax exempt nonprofit organization. Its facility and programming are made possible through the generous annual contributions of 215 foundations and corporations, over 2700 member and donor families and many in-kind donors.

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

DROPLETS

◆ **Tree huggers? Or tree killers?**
So, you may notice a lot of large trees coming down just south of Riverside Park. This is not the work of some renegade tree killer. This is actually the beginning of the creation of the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum we plan to open in the fall of 2013. This private land, old industrial fill along the river, is being re-sculpted into a universally accessible "valley" approximating what historically was the original topography for the area. This is based on Increase Lapham's 1844 drawings. Lapham published the first substantial book on the geography of the Wisconsin Territory and is considered "Wisconsin's first great scientist." This land will eventually become part of the Urban Ecology Center's outdoor classroom and will be planted and managed to maximize the biodiversity of South Eastern Wisconsin. Unfortunately, to implement this ambitious project a patch of existing mature trees, largely Box Elder and ash, had to be removed. All material from these trees will be used within the Arboretum project.

◆ **Summer equipment lending is here!** Check out what's available for members to borrow for FREE at both locations:

Washington Park

- NEW in 2011!
 - Fishing poles
 - Camping equipment
 - Lawn sports
- Gardening tools
- Canoes/kayaks (for use during public hours on lagoon only)

Riverside Park

- NEW in 2011!
 - Backpacking gear
- Camping equipment
- Bikes
- Canoes/kayaks
- Lawn sports
- Gardening tools

WISH LIST

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

- Alka-seltzer tablets
- Cornstarch
- Field & Iannone 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
- Mittens and gloves- especially adult sizes
- Paper shredder
- Potting soil & quality topsoil
- Rain ponchos/jackets- all sizes
- Seasoned firewood
- Sweatpants
- Two-stage snow thrower
- Umbrella stands
- 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 cameras
- Extension cords
- Fleece mittens
- Fleece to make mittens
- Large capacity dehumidifier
- Old fitted sheets
- Old flannel shirts to make mittens
- Pitchforks
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Plexiglas
- Power strips
- Straw bales
- Tyvek
- Video camera

CONVERGENT EVOLUTION

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and social conditions that exist in our respective communities -- low science scores for students in multicultural urban schools, limited access to nature, urban landscapes with abused green space that needs healing and a shared passion to inspire action toward a better environment. Each is filling a unique niche in the fabric of society. Convergent evolution ... in a different form.

While seemingly the same, under closer examination you find that we are each quite different. The dolphin and the seal may have a similar shape, share some behaviors and eat fish, but their differences are equally obvious. Olivewood Gardens is using gardening as a context from which to teach ecological concepts and good nutrition, the Ocean Discovery Institute has the ocean as its tool to engage students in science and new opportunities for work and learning, while the Lancaster Conservancy so far is mostly focused on land stewardship ... but all of them wish to do much more.

That is why we were brought in to help. Who would have thought just a decade ago, when we were still in our double-wide trailer, that our "Milwaukee Idea" of solving a social problem in a park with kids' education and the magical connection to nature would have the kind of national impact we are experiencing today? I certainly never did, but I am humbled and proud to represent Milwaukee and our simple yet profound idea. And isn't it cool that this idea evolved here in a Midwest industrial town? This is not Portland, Oregon, Boulder, Colorado, San Francisco, Boston or New York. Somehow this adds credibility to our story.

In addition to these three locations, we've consulted in Syracuse, Baltimore, Columbus, Eugene and Racine and had folks visit us for multiple days from Minneapolis, Dallas, Los Angeles and more ... crazy. The interesting thing is

that we have done only a very limited amount of marketing. All these places find us by word of mouth or the internet.

Shara Fisler, Executive Director of the Ocean Discovery Institute, had this to say: "What I have learned about the Center is very exciting and probably the best model in terms of what we are working to achieve in the City Heights [neighborhood of San Diego]. I have toured over 50 projects throughout the country looking at examples, but have not seen the type of project that captures what your work does".

Dan Good, on the board of the Lancaster Conservancy, did a thorough internet search looking for an education program to emulate. He investigated over 30 places they thought might approach what they were looking for and when he found our site was, in his words, "Blown away". He visited the Center this past summer and then convinced their Executive Director and Board that they needed to bring Beth and me out for a visit.

I share all of this for two reasons: 1) because I think it is interesting. I'm guessing that in every city across the country there is some initiative evolving like ourselves to fill our unique urban niche, and 2) I think you should know that the support you provide to us is having a big impact ... not just locally, but nationally as well! Thank you!

Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Geez, look at that wing spread. It must be at least six feet from tip to tip. Black as night, that vulture is one beautiful flyer. Did you know that the old world vulture (those in Europe and Africa) and new world vultures (those in North and South America) look and behave almost identically, but in fact come from completely different genetic lineages? One uses the sense of smell to find carrion while the other uses the sense of sight, but beyond this hardly noticeable difference they appear identical. Yep, another example of convergent evolution. 🍀

THEN AND NOW, CELEBRATING WASHINGTON PARK

by Willie Karidis,
Washington Park Branch Manager

What do these three things have in common -- the first polar bear ever born in captivity, an Olympic speedskater and a place you could go with your entire family to enjoy horse racing or watch planes take off and land? If you guessed Washington Park, you guessed correctly. Researching the rich history of Washington Park opened my eyes to the joy this great park has brought to literally millions of people over the last 100 years. Here are a few highlights:

What is the likelihood that in 1919 in the middle of Milwaukee, "Zero" would be the first polar bear born in captivity? The Washington Park Zoo, home to seals, giraffes, lions, gorillas and rhinoceros, had grown to be the fifth largest zoo in the United States, hosting over one million visitors annually. Imagine, one million visitors in Washington Park! Zero's mother, Sultana (from the Athabaskan word, "Denali's wife"), lived until 1947, giving birth to 12 cubs. The family was part of the largest captive bear collection in the world. Sultana bore her last cub in 1935 and by this time was already a grandmother. Success "bred" growth and in 1958 the zoo moved to its current 200 acre location on Bluemound Road.

Back before speed skaters trained for the Olympics at the Pettit National Ice Center, there was a group of skaters who would routinely shovel off the Washington Park lagoon to do their training. Thousands of spectators would come to watch the speed skaters race around their homemade oval. Milwaukee firefighter, Delbert Lamb, was a local favorite. He finished fifth and sixth, in the 500 meter race in the 1936 Germany and 1948 Switzerland Winter Olympics. "Olympic winners receive no rich rewards", he stated, "they compete for love of the sport and the glory of their countries".

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FROM THE BOARD

by Jeff Geygan, President, Urban Ecology Center Board of Directors

Greetings friends of the UEC,

This is my first official communication with you as President of the Urban Ecology Center. I would like to begin with a big "thank you" to everyone for so generously sharing your time and talent – without your ongoing help we would be unable to achieve our mission.

My involvement with the Center extends back to 2005 when I joined as Board Treasurer and Finance Committee chair for three years. I had the distinct honor of serving with Dick Burke during that time, sharing his vision for a Center that would transform a neighborhood and enrich the lives of thousands of families. The following two years I acted as Vice-president and this past September was elected President of the Board and Executive Committee.

Your Board is made up of 27 volunteers. These are the people who, along with the leadership team of Ken, Beth, Judy and Ginger, are responsible for the ongoing sustainability of the Center. We are fortunate to have a very committed group with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Annually the membership elects Board members who serve for three year terms. The Board elects an Executive Committee to oversee the operation of the organization. In addition to the

Executive Committee, the Board has several other important committees including the Nominating & Governance Committee (chaired by Bill Rumpf), Development Committee (co-chaired by Jim Schleif & Will Nagovitz), Human Resources Committee (chaired by Eric Crawford), Strategic Planning Committee (co-chaired by Tim Bowers and Marc Andraca) and Finance Committee (chaired by Pete Campbell).

All members of the Board serve on at least one committee. In addition to attending bi-monthly Board meetings each member attends at least one monthly committee meeting. This is a serious commitment made by dedicated individuals.

We also have a special Task Force for Washington Park created to focus on programming and community support to help our new Branch Manager, Willie Karidis (see article on page 3). Board member Ed Krishok accepted my request to chair the Task Force. Thus far he has had great success in developing the Task Force and its goals. I am grateful for the work of Ed, Willie and all others involved.

If you have an interest in joining Ed, or any of our other committees, please let us know. We are fortunate to be working with folks who are energetic, creative and focused. You, our members, are who give it purpose. 🌱

TO FEED BIRDS, FEED BUGS!

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foliage of the Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*), that 11 different kinds of moth caterpillars, 10 beetles and 13 grasshoppers also admire its leaves -- for lunch. Native oak trees alone are salad for over 500 insect species!

It's not that exotic plants don't support insects at all, but the numbers are much lower. This shouldn't surprise us since native animals have been co-evolving with native plants for a very long time and not with plants from, say Japan or England. Every plant has a specific chemistry and only certain insects recognize and have the necessary enzymes to digest it.

Frogs, snakes, bats, birds and other animals depend on an abundant supply of insects to thrive. Even hummingbirds, with their finely tuned adaptations for sipping nectar on the wing, tweeze small insects from among leaves and flowers to provide their babies with much needed protein. The implications for gardeners and nature lovers are profound. We can support all local wildlife by incorporating more native plants in our home landscapes.

If you are imagining a yard of plants ravaged by chomping mandibles, you needn't worry. Planting a diversity of natives plants will balance insect species by attracting a whole host of insect predators to keep them in check which can actually reduce the number of "problem" insects in your garden.

To learn more about this outdoor café, check out Douglas Tallamy's amazing book *Bringing Nature Home; How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* or the website Illinois Wildflowers at <http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info>. Come to the Prairie Future Seed Company native plant sale at our Riverside location on Saturday, May 14th, to learn more about native plants and wildlife and help the food web in your backyard grow! 🌱



URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER'S *Summer Solstice Soiree*

June 18th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.
Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place

TICKETS ARE \$150 PER PERSON

Please check our website or contact Bridget Brave at bbrave@urbanecologycenter.org or 964-8505, x104 for more information.

(See page 6 for more details.)

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

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balancing creativity and disciplined analytical skills, Cassie brings eight years of experience in marketing, communications, information systems and staff training. She achieved a Bachelor's degree in Marketing and Graphic design and a Master's degree in Art History. She is a neighbor of our Washington Park branch and is excited to join the team. Welcome, Cassie!

Cathy Jourdain, our new Information Technology (IT) Specialist brings twenty five years of database, IT and software management and training to our operating team. She joins the Urban Ecology Center as we are migrating to a new system which will support our fundraising, educational programming and marketing efforts across both branches. Her talents will help us build efficiencies and make sure that our workflow is smooth. Cathy not only brings technical talent to the team, but has experience teaching and coaching others. Most recently she has worked in educational settings, including one of our partnering schools. Welcome, Cathy!

Willie Karidis, our new Washington Park Branch Manager, is a familiar face.

In last month's issue we highlighted him as he stepped into the interim Branch Manager role. Over the past two months, Willie met with staff and board leadership, colleagues, supporters and volunteers to further explore Urban Ecology Center's goals and strategies. We are delighted that he is ready to dig in as the Branch Manager, bringing his 30 years of environmental education experience, including 16 years as Executive Director of the Denali Education Center - Denali National Park, Alaska, to the west side of Milwaukee. Thank you and congratulations, Willie!

A wonderful crew of **Summer Interns** will be joining us again this June. The goals of our summer intern program are to introduce adults to career options in environmental and educational fields. Over the years, many interns have been college students gearing up for life after they graduate; others have been professionals looking to change careers. Interns complete three weeks of training, then rotate between our different departments at both branches of the Center for their work practicum. This year, we have refined the program so



that interns can build more specialized skills. Rather than rotate through seven different departments, they rotate through two or three. There are three specialties: 1) education, 2) research, facilities and land stewardship and 3) volunteer and visitor services. The education interns work closely with our year-round environmental educators to teach nature education and with our urban adventures staff to teach outdoor skills programs. Research, facilities and land stewardship interns assist with ecological field research and citizen-based monitoring programs, learn the unique aspects of managing a "green" building and develop land management and revitalization skills. Volunteer and visitor services interns learn how we build capacity through strategic volunteer integration and how we ensure that visitors are welcomed and engaged in our mission. Welcome, interns!

Outdoor Leaders are high school interns interested in developing their mentoring skills, working in the outdoors and deepening their environmental understanding. Each outdoor leader is mentored by a summer intern. Our goal in offering this program is to connect urban youth to a career pipeline in the ecological fields. Outdoor leaders will build outdoor recreation, field research, land stewardship and mentoring skills. Not only will these employees explore Milwaukee's urban wilderness, but they will trek north, exploring Lake Superior and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Check our next newsletter to see when they will offer a presentation describing their summer experiences. Welcome, Outdoor Leaders!

THEN AND NOW, CELEBRATING WASHINGTON PARK

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Lamb was elected into the National Speed Skating Hall of Fame in 1969.

The Washington Park Race Course was a one mile loop complete with grandstands for watching the harness race horses run. The race course was on the north side of the park where the baseball diamond is today. The grandstand was attached to the boathouse where the Urban Ecology Center now resides. In 1919 the US Flying Circus Air Show took off and landed in Washington Park, performing mock air battles thrilling the crowds with daring stunts over downtown Milwaukee. The makeshift airstrip proved to be quite the challenge as it was soft and muddy, providing heart stopping take offs and landings.

Washington Park is steeped in history. Why is this important? To make great decisions for our future, we must have an appreciation and respect for our past. The Urban Ecology Center is helping to write a new chapter in Washington Park's history, one that educates youth, restores habitat and provides opportunities for all people to enjoy their park. A used park is a safe park. Our opportunities are endless. Please join us in our quest to help make Washington Park the best it can be. 🌿



CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

The Center offers public programs at both Riverside & Washington Parks. Use the icons above 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER'S
Summer Solstice Soiree

Plan to join friends for a special summer night celebrating nature in the city. Enjoy the dinner, entertainment and auction items specially selected to delight you.

Proceeds will directly benefit the students, families, neighborhoods and the natural environments in which we carry out our mission.

June 18th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.
 Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place

TICKETS ARE \$150 PER PERSON

Please check our website or contact Bridget Brave at bbrave@urbanecologycenter.org or 964-8505, x104 for more information.



TEEN ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

An adventure race for co-ed teams of 4 high schoolers and an adult. Bike, hike, rock climb, canoe the Milwaukee River and take part in mystery events! T-shirt and lunch included.

Saturday, June 4
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
For teens, \$60 per team
Contact cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org to register!



STORYTELLER JACKSON GILLMAN: NATURE IN ACTION, STORY & SONG*

Sparkling with energy, wit and whimsy, Jackson Gillman is adept at transforming into a wide array of colorful characters and animals! Jackson's interactive nature program "Nature in Action, Story and Song" is an educational romp on the wild and crazy side of natural science. This program shouldn't be missed!

Monday, May 2
4 - 5 p.m.
For children
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7), Call to register, 964-8505



KIDS' AUTHOR EVENT: MARK KURLANSKY, A WORLD WITHOUT FISH*

Join master storyteller and author, Mark Kurlansky, as he talks about his new book *World Without Fish!*

Tuesday, May 10
4 - 5 p.m.
For children
Free - donations appreciated, Call to register, 964-8505



AUTHOR EVENT: A SPECIAL NIGHT WITH RICHARD LOUV*

Author of *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv, will read from his forthcoming book and discuss *The Nature Principle*. Books will be available for purchase through Boswell Book Sellers.

Wednesday, May 18
7 - 9 p.m.
For adults
\$5, Call to register, 964-8505



BIG GREEN BIRDING CHALLENGE!*

Join people all over the world in celebrating the migratory birds by participating in the 1st annual Big Green Birding Challenge. Teams of three will employ fossil-free birding to compete for prizes in categories designed for all ages, skills and mobility levels.

Saturday, May 14
6 a.m. - noon
For adults and accompanied children
Please call Tim Vargo x116 for details



MILWAUKEE VEGAN BAKE AND VEGGIE SEEDLING SALE*

Milwaukee Vegan Bake Sale features delicious vegan baked goods and homegrown organic vegetable seedlings to fundraise for local non-profits. Visit milwaukeeveganbakesale.com for more information!

Saturday, May 14
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated



NATIVE PLANT SALE- PRAIRIE FUTURE SEED COMPANY*

Create beauty, make space for native plants, provide food and shelter for wildlife, conserve water, take pride in our natural and cultural heritage. Choose from over 70 species of perennial wildflowers, grasses, and sedges for your garden. All plants are native to southeast Wisconsin with local genetics.

Saturday, May 14
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



GROW LOCAL MILWAUKEE: AN URBAN GARDENING EVENT

Co-sponsored by Outpost Natural Foods

Whether you are a beginning or seasoned gardener, this event is for you! Keynote speaker Melinda Meyers will discuss designing, planting and caring for backyard and container gardens. Come for an afternoon of workshops, informational booths and refreshments. Bring in your gardening tools to donate to Walnut Way.

Sunday, May 15
Noon - 4 p.m.
For adults
\$5 suggested donation
Call to register, 964-8505



MOVIE: VANISHING OF THE BEES*

Vanishing of the Bees takes a piercing investigative look at the economic, political and spiritual implications of the worldwide disappearance of the honeybee. This documentary also examines agricultural practices which endanger beekeepers and their hives. We'll have local honey, treats and refreshments on hand.

Thursday, May 26
6 - 8:30 p.m.
For everyone
Adults: \$7 (Nonmembers - \$10)
Children: Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



3RD ANNUAL GREATER MILWAUKEE VICTORY GARDEN BLITZ

Have a garden installed or volunteer to install the gardens. Join us for the kick-off at 9 a.m. Following the event all our volunteers gather for a lakeside potluck and party. It is a day to remember. Sign-up in advance.

Saturday, May 28
9 - 5 p.m.
Free - donations appreciated
For everyone
Visit www.VictoryGardenInitiative.org for more information

BICYCLER BREAKFAST*

Socialize with other bicycle commuters and share your bicycling goals for the rest of the season! Breakfast is provided at both Riverside Park and Washington Park branches!

Every morning from June 6 to June 10
7 - 9 a.m.
For bicycle commuters
Free - donations appreciated



BIKES @ WORK

Bikes@Work promotes the use of bicycles for commuting, shopping and other travel needs. Transition Milwaukee invites experienced commuters, bike shops and bicycle enthusiasts! Attend workshops and learn do-it-yourself projects. Sample commuter bikes on display. Bring your bike for a free tune-up!

Saturday, June 11
11 - 4 p.m.
For everyone
\$5, \$3 seniors (Nonmembers - \$7, \$3 seniors)
Call to register, 964-8505





= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

RIVER REFLECTIONS



PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

THE WORLD BENEATH OUR FEET*

Come with an adventurous spirit to explore our sensational soil and the many creatures that make it home!

Tuesday, May 17

10 - 11:30 a.m.

For children ages 3-5

accompanied by an adult

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

Children: \$3 (Nonmembers - \$5)

Call to register, 964-8505



BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES*

Join us for stories, games and an outdoor exploration as we discover the world of butterflies!

Thursday, June 23

10 - 11:30 a.m.

For children ages 3-5

accompanied by an adult

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

Children: \$3 (Nonmembers - \$5)

Call to register, 964-8505



HOMESCHOOL SERIES

THE MILWAUKEE RIVER

Our colorful busses are heading to Hubbard Park to explore the Milwaukee River. We'll wade in the water and scoop out critters. These living creatures will help tell us the quality of the water that flows through our city. Parents need to sign a waiver.

Monday, May 16

2 - 3:30 p.m.

For children ages

10 and older

\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)

Call to register, 964-8505



FAMILY PROGRAMS

CHANGING SEASONS PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT*

Give kids a creative edge and an education of their ever-changing environment through this photography project. Each month, kids will observe, photograph and discuss, from an aesthetic perspective how and why the seasons change.

Fridays, May 6

& June 3

4 - 6 p.m.

For kids ages

12 and younger, under 7 must

be accompanied by an adult

Children: \$3 (Nonmembers - \$6)

Accompanying adults: \$5

(Nonmembers - \$8)

Call to register, 964-8505



COMPOST AT HOME*

This compost workshop, hosted by Melissa Tashjian of the Milwaukee Community Compost Network, will show participants the basics on how to create a compost structure, how to properly maintain a compost pile, and the tools needed to engage the community & neighbors in creating a community compost location.

Wednesday, June 8

7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults and

accompanied children

Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers - \$15)

Children: \$5

(Nonmembers - \$10)

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

through June 10

3 - 4 p.m.

For children in

grades K-12

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



E.B. GARNER FISHING CLUB

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

Wednesday,

June 22

4 - 7 p.m.

For kids 7 and older

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



MAKING FELTED BEAD NECKLACES*

Spend time with a special woman on Mother's Day weekend at this felted bead necklace workshop. Learn the magic of wet felting using soft Merino wool, soapy water and your hands. Create a necklace with your handmade beads. Participants will decide which one of the three necklace styles they want to complete. All materials included.

Saturday, May 7

10 a.m. - noon

For adults and

accompanied children

age 10 and older

Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)

Children: \$7 (Nonmembers - \$8)

Register by May 4,

call 964-8505



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.

Saturday, June 18

10 a.m. - noon

Meet in the Hubbard

Park parking lot, 3565

N. Morris Boulevard

For everyone

Adults: \$7 per person or

\$21 for families of 4 or more

(Nonmembers - \$10 per person

or \$25 for families of 4 or more)

Call to register, 964-8505



YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB*

The Young Scientists Club is an opportunity for unsupervised kids to drop in and learn more about science and nature. Through research, stewardship, hiking and caring for our animals, we'll cover all sorts of topics.

Every Monday through

Wednesday

except May 30

4 - 5:30 p.m.

For children age 5 and older

Space is limited, call to

register, 964-8505

Suggested donation \$5

(Nonmembers - \$5 annual fee)



Every Tuesday through Friday

4 - 6 p.m.

Every Saturday

1 - 4 p.m.

For children ages 7-12

Free - donations appreciated

(Nonmembers - \$5 annual fee)



YOGAKIDS...OUTSIDE!

In this playful class, your child will imitate the trees, animals and other elements in the park while increasing strength, flexibility and focus. Games, music and learning about the body and mind are all part of YogaKids classes.

Every Tuesday

except May 3 & 31

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

For children ages 5-9

\$5 suggested donation

(Nonmembers - \$10

suggested donation)

Call to register, 964-8505



GET OUT AND HIKE!

Come ready to learn and hike! Experts from REI will teach us hiking basics and then Center staff will lead a hike through the urban wilderness. Please dress appropriately.

Saturday, May 7

10 - 11:30 a.m.

For adults and

accompanied

children age 6 and older

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

Children: \$3 (Nonmembers - \$5)

Call to register, 964-8505



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



SCIENCE SATURDAYS*

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

May: Migration

June: Gardens

Every Saturday

9:30 - 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. Topics:

May: The Planets

June: The Sun

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



ADULT LEARNING

SPRING FOOD PROGRAMS

FERMENTING LOCAL AND WILD FOOD*

Join herbalist and wildcrafter Linda Conroy for this fun and experiential workshop. We will make and sample a wide spectrum of fermented food from local and wild sources. Infused vinegars, fermented rosehip spread, lacto fermented nettle soda and much more! Participants will leave with recipes and a soda culture to get started.

Tuesday, May 3

6 - 9 p.m.

For adults

\$30 (Nonmembers - \$35)

Additional \$10 material fee paid to the instructor the day of class
Call to register, 964-8505



HOMESTEAD CHEESEMAKING: DEMONSTRATION AND EXPERIENTIAL!*

Our ancestors made cheese in their kitchen and people around the world still do. This workshop will teach you to follow their example in your own kitchen! Instructor Linda Conroy has been making cheese for 15 years. We will use simple easily accessible ingredients to make several varieties of cheese and fermented milk products. Cheese we will make include mozzarella, paneer and a cultured cream style cheese. Participants will leave with recipes and a culture to get started!

Tuesday, May 10

6 - 9 p.m.

For adults

\$40 (Nonmembers - \$45)

Additional \$10 material fee paid to the instructor the day of class
Call to register, 964-8505



SAVOR THE TASTE OF SUMMER*

INTRODUCTION TO FOOD PRESERVATION

Learn the benefits and challenges of various food preservation techniques with emphasis on hot-water-bath canning. The basis for all other canning classes this year, this class includes a demonstration and handouts.

Tuesday, May 24,

7 - 9 p.m.

For adults

\$10 preregister, \$15 at the door

(Nonmembers - \$15 preregister, \$18 at the door)

Call to register, 964-8505



JAMS AND JELLIES

Preserve the first fruits of the season in this hands-on class as participants can berry fruits into jams and preserves. Materials and recipes are provided in this hands-on class.

Tuesday, June 7 or June 28,

6 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$30 preregister, \$35 at the door

(Nonmembers - \$35 preregister, \$40 at the door)

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 coffee, bakery treats and an up-close and personal look at birds during spring migration. Please contact Jennifer Callaghan at jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org for information.

Every Tuesday, April 19 - May 31

Early mornings

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



BEEKEEPING BASICS COURSE:

3-PART SERIES & TEST*

Three 2-hour courses will give you the foundation to start beekeeping in a Top Bar Hive. We cover everything from setup to harvest, helping you to deepen your new relationship with bees. Fee includes Phil Chandler's *Barefoot Beekeeping*. To receive the certificate you are required to take a test, attend a Beesentation and complete this hands-on class.

Mondays, May 2 - 16

or June 6 - 20

6 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$85 (Nonmembers - \$100)

Call to register, 964-8505



BEESENTATIONS:

ALL ABOUT THE BEES!*

Discover who's inside the hive and how people have managed bees for pollination and honey. Whether you want to dance with bees through beekeeping, or learn of the dance they do to find nectar, this course gets you buzzing.

Tuesdays, May 3, 17,
June 7 & 21

7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$15)

Call to register, 964-8505



BIRD BANDING AT WASHINGTON PARK*

Washington Park is a great spot for watching and studying birds during spring migration. We will set up mist nets on the island in the lagoon and see who drops by.

Wednesday, May 4

7 a.m.

For adults and

accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



BEE SYMPOSIUMS*

Instructors Charlie Koenen & Jesse Spanaus are Beekeepers who work for Beepods.com, a Wisconsin manufacturer of Top Bar Hives designed for natural beekeeping in urban, rooftop and small-scale settings.
May: Colony Collapse Disorder Unveiled. Since 2006 Honeybee colonies have been disappearing in massive numbers. We'll explore how it began, what's to blame and what can be done to help the bees.

June: Swarming. Why do Honeybees swarm? We'll show you four reasons and discover how truly amazing these tiny pollinators can be!

Sundays,

May 8 & June 26

1 - 3 p.m.

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$15)

Call to register, 964-8505



SOLAR BUILDINGS, SOLAR CITIES

Can human civilization wean itself from the past three centuries of fossil fuel addiction? Architect and engineer Michael Utzinger draws on his 35 years of solar research to suggest a path to a solar future for our great grandchildren.

Tuesday, May 10

7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

(Nonmembers - \$5)

Call to register, 964-8505



EVENING BIRD HIKE

Almost 90 birds have been recorded at the urban oasis of Washington Park during May alone. Help us see if we can add to the list. Binoculars provided.

Wednesday, May 11

6 - 7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations

appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5)

Call to register, 964-8505



URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER TOURS

WASHINGTON PARK BRANCH TOURS*

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

Wednesdays,

May 4 and

June 1

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,

May 11, 25,

June 8 & 22

9 - 10:15 a.m.

For adults and

accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated

Call 964-8505 to register



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.

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

(rp) = Riverside Park (wp) = Washington Park (bh) = BoatHouse

MAY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Planets (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p>	<p>2 6a 3:30p Compost Crew (rp) Jackson Gillman: Nature in Action, Story & Song 4p (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp) 6p Beekkeeping Basics Course (rp)</p>	<p>3 Early 6a 9a 3p 3:30p 4p 4p 5:30p 6p 7p 6:30p</p> <p>Bird Banding (rp) Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Orientation (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Vegetation Surveying Workshop (rp) Fermenting Local & Wild Food (rp) Beesentations (rp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp)</p>	<p>4 6a 7a 8a 9a 3p 3p 4p 4p 4p 4p 6p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Bird Banding (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) WOW (rp) Homework Help (wp) Help (wp) WOW (rp) Washington Park Branch Tour (wp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Papermaking (rp) Fermenting Local and Wild Food (rp)</p>	<p>5 6a 8a 10:30 3p 4p 6p 6:30p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Burdock (wps) Homework Help (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Water Safety (rp) Photo Club (rp)</p>	<p>6 6a 2p 3p 4p 4p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Homework Help (wp) Seasons Changing Photography Project (wp) Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>7 9a 9a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Migration (wp), Planets (rp) 10a Making Felted Bead Necklaces (rp) Get Out & Hike! (rp) 10a Vol. Orientation (wp) 11a Vegetation Surveying (rp) 11a Water Safety (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Anim. Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>8 Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Planets (rp) Bee Symposium - Colony Collapse (rp)</p>	<p>9 6a 3:30p 4p 6p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp) Beekkeeping Basics Course (rp)</p>	<p>10 Early 6a 9a 3p 4p 4p 4:30p 6p 6:30p 7p</p> <p>Bird Banding (rp) Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Mark Kurlansky, A World Without Fish 4p (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) YogaKids (wp) Cheesemaking (rp) Community Living (rp) Solar Buildings, Solar Cities (rp)</p>	<p>11 6a 8a 9a 9a 3p 3p 4p 4p 6p 6p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) WOW (rp) Homework Help (wp) WOW (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Papermaking (rp) Evening Bird Hike (rp) Friends of Real Food (rp)</p>	<p>12 6a 8a 10:30 3p 4p 4p 6p 7p 7p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Big Bird Day (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Homework Help (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Water Safety (rp) Urban Echo Poets (rp) Urban Stargazers (rp)</p>	<p>13 6a 2p 3p 4p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Homework Help (wp) Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>14 Big Green Birding Challenge 6a (rp) Native Plant Sale 9a-1p (rp) Vegan Bake Sale 9a-5p (rp) 9a Park Rangers (rp & wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Migration (wp), Planets (rp) 10a Bee Hive Inspection (rp) 10a Composting (rp) 11a Water Safety (wp) 1p Vermicomposting (rp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Anim. Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>15 5a Birding Along the Sugar River (rp) Grow Local Milwaukee Noon - 4p (rp) Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Planets (rp)</p>	<p>16 6a 2p 3:30p 4p 4p 6p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) The Milwaukee River (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp) Young Scientists (rp) Beekkeeping Basics Course (rp)</p>	<p>17 Early 6a 9a 10a 3p 4p 4p 4:30p 7p</p> <p>Bird Banding (rp) Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Our World Beneath Our Feet (rp) Homework Help (wp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) YogaKids (wp) Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>18 6a 8a 9a 3p 3p 4p 4p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) WOW (rp) Homework Help (wp) WOW (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Papermaking (rp) A Special Night with Richard Louv 7p (rp)</p>	<p>19 6a 8a 8a 10:30 3p 4p 4p 6p 6:30p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Big GREEN Bird Day (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Homework Help (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Water Safety (rp) Vegetarian Potluck (rp)</p>	<p>20 6a 2p 3p 4p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Homework Help (wp) Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>21 9a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Migration (wp), Planets (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 11a Water Safety (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Anim. Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>22 Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Planets (rp)</p>	<p>23 6a 3:30p 4p 6p 6:30p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp) Ornithology (rp) Transition Milwaukee (rp)</p>	<p>24 Early 6a 9a 3p 4p 4p 4:30p 7p 8p</p> <p>Bird Banding (rp) Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) YogaKids (wp) Intro to Food Preservation (rp) DNR Frog & Toad Survey (wp)</p>	<p>25 6a 8a 9a 3p 3p 4p 4p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) WOW (rp) Homework Help (wp) WOW (rp) Papermaking (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p>	<p>26 6a 8a 10:30 3p 4p 4p 5:30p 6p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Burdock (wps) Homework Help (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Vol. Orientation (rp) Water Safety (rp) Vanishing of the Bees 6p (rp)</p>	<p>27 6a 2p 3p 4p</p> <p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Homework Help (wp) Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>28 Victory Garden Blitz 9a (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Migration (wp), Planets (rp) 10a Bee Hive Inspection (rp) 11a Water Safety (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Anim. Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>29 Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: Planets (rp)</p>	<p>30 All Urban Ecology Center branches closed</p>	<p>31 Early 6a 9a 3p 4p 4p</p> <p>Bird Banding (rp) Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Homework Help (wp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p>				

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

JUNE 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: The Sun (rp) 12:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Bicyclist Breakfast 7-9a (rp & wp) 3:30p Compost Crew (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp) 6p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Bicyclist Breakfast 7-9a (rp & wp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 3p Homework Help (wp) 4p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 4:30p YogaKIDS (wp) 6p Jams & Jellies (rp) 6:30p Victory Garden Initiative (rp) 7p Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Bicyclist Breakfast 7-9a (rp & wp) 8a Birdwalk (wp) 9a Riverside Park Tour (rp) 9a WOW (rp) 3p Homework Help (wp) 3p WOW (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 4p River Rhythms (bh) 5:30p Mammal Monitoring (rp) 6p Friends/Real Food (rp) 6p Compost at Home (wp) 7p</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Bicyclist Breakfast 7-9a (rp & wp) 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30 Burdock Brigade (wps) Help (wp) 3p Homework Help (wp) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 6p Water Safety (rp) 6:30p Photo Club (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) 2p Homework Help (wp) 3p Changing Seasons Photography Project (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>Teen Adventure Challenge 8:30a (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays Gardens (wp), The Sun (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 11a Water Safety (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: The Sun (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 3:30p Compost Crew (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp) 6p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 3:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp) 4p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 4:30p YogaKIDS (wp) 6p Jams & Jellies (rp) 6:30p Community Living Options (rp) 7p Climate Change (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 8a Birdwalk (wp) 9a WOW (rp) 3p Papermaking (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 4p River Rhythms (bh) 5:30p Bats of Washington Park (wp) 8p</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30 Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Water Safety (rp) 6p Vegetarian Polluck (rp) 6:30p</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) 2p Homework Help (wp) 3p Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>8a Treetop Yoga (rp) 9a The Good the Bad & the Ugly (rp) 9a Park Rangers (rp & wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays Gardens (wp), The Sun (rp) 10a Bee Hive Inspection (rp) Bites @ Work 11a-4p (rp) 11a Water Safety (wp) 11:30a Canoeing Basics (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: The Sun (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 3:30p Compost Crew (rp) 4p Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp) 6p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp) 6:30p Family Night Hike (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 4:30p YogaKIDS (wp) 6:30p Ornithology (rp) 7p Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 8a Birdwalk (wp) 9a WOW (rp) 3p Papermaking (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 4p River Rhythms (bh) 5:30p Bats of Washington Park (wp) 8p</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10a Beaujifful Burdericks (rp) 10:30 Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Water Safety (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) 2p Homework Help (wp) 3p Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>8a Treetop Yoga (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays Gardens (wp), The Sun (rp) 10a Lake Ecology Hike (rp) 10a Book Club (rp) 10a River Exploration (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 11a Water Safety (wp) Riverside Park location closed at noon 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (wp) 4th Annual Summer Solstice Soiree and Auction 6:30p (rp)</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays: The Sun (rp) 1p Bee Symposium - Swarming (rp) 1p Wild Plant Walk (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 3:30p Compost Crew (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp) 6p The Bioregional Herbalist (rp) 6:30p Transition Milwaukee (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 4:30p YogaKIDS (wp) 5:30p Kayaking 101 (bh) 6p Jams & Jellies (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 8a Birdwalk (wp) 9a WOW (rp) 3p Papermaking (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 4p River Rhythms (bh) 5:30p</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10a Beaujifful Burdericks (rp) 10:30 Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Water Safety (rp)</p>	<p>6a Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) 2p Homework Help (wp) 3p Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>8a Treetop Yoga (rp) 9a Park Rangers (rp & wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays Gardens (wp), The Sun (rp) 10a Bee Hive Inspection (rp) 10a Water Safety (wp) 11a Canoeing Basics (wp) 1p Young Scientists Club (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p>



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park


ADULT LEARNING CONTINUED

GARDENING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

CO-SPONSORED BY VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE


GARDEN PLANNING*

Learn how, when and where to plant warm and cold weather crops in small urban spaces using the most sustainable methods. Class is 45 minutes lecture followed by hands-on gardening.

Saturday, May 7
9 - 10:30 a.m. 
For adults
\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)
Call to register, 964-8505

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BUGGY*

Learn about adding nutrients to keep your plants thriving, and prevent the spread of common pest and diseases. Class includes lecture followed by hands-on gardening.

Saturday, June 11
9 - 10:30 a.m. 
For adults
\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)
Call to register, 964-8505

BIG BIRD DAY IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Help us count as many birds as we can find in Milwaukee County in a single day during this fun research challenge. We'll visit birding hot spots until we drop. Bring a lunch.

Thursday, May 12
8 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Call to register, 964-8505


BEE HIVE INSPECTION: MEET THE BEES: HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS*

Open the Beepod and see our bees at work! Follow a bi-weekly inspection by a beekeeper instructor. Learn about pollen, nectar, honey and brood. See Workers doing daily tasks. Spot the Drone bees, maybe even find the Queen! Best to wear white clothing and no perfume. Space is limited so sign up early!

Saturdays, May 14, 28, June 11 & 25
10 - 11 a.m. 
For adults
\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)
Call to register, 964-8505


COMPOSTING WORKSHOP*

Learn how to turn kitchen scraps and yard waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Composting is beneficial for your garden and reduces household waste!

Saturday, May 14
10 - 11:30 a.m. 
For adults
\$15
Register through KGMB website: <http://fs8.formsite.com/KGMBGM/form733054834/index.html>


VERMICOMPOSTING WORKSHOP*

Turn your kitchen scraps into "gold" for your garden! Learn how to build a simple indoor worm bin using common household items.

Saturday, May 14
1 - 2:30 p.m. 
For adults
\$15
Register through KGMB website: <http://fs8.formsite.com/KGMBGM/form733054834/index.html>


BIRDING ALONG THE SUGAR RIVER

Join local naturalists Owen Boyle and Bill Mueller for a birding-by-canoe trip on the Sugar River in southwest Rock County. We'll look for Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Red-shouldered Hawk and many other migrants and floodplain forest specialty birds. Basic canoe skills recommended. Canoes and PFD's provided. Please bring a bag lunch.

Sunday, May 15
5 a.m. - 5 p.m. 
For adults
\$50 (Nonmembers - \$60)
Call to register, 964-8505


SUSTAINABLE BUILDING EXHIBIT*

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, May 16 & June 20
4 - 7 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

BIG GREEN BIRD DAY

Wait a second ... Big Bird isn't green! It's a Big Green Bird Day because we will see how big of a species list we can come up with in one day on bicycles. Bring a lunch, a bike and binoculars. If you don't have a bike or binoculars, borrow ours! This research challenge now has health benefits!

Thursday, May 19 
8 a.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505


ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOPS*

Explore the amazing world of birds - from the physiologies of flight to the wonders of migration. A short presentation is followed by a dusk walk. All interest levels welcome and binoculars provided.

Monday, May 23
6 - 7:30 p.m. & 
Tuesday, June 21
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$10) Free for regular birding volunteers
Call to register, 964-8505


CLIMATE CHANGE: WHO STARTED IT AND WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?*

Delve into some surprising data on geology, ecology, energy, natural resources, societal and policy components of climate change. Roger Kuhns, PhD and President of SustainAudit LLC will discuss potential sustainable practices to manage observed and predicted impacts to how we live.

Tuesday, June 14 
7 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505


THE BATS OF WASHINGTON PARK

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

Wednesday, June 15 
8 - 10 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505


BOOK CLUB*

June's title is *The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values* by Sam Harris.

No Book Club in May. 
Saturday, June 18
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505


WILD PLANT WALK

Take a walk with herbalist Linda Conroy and Wild Forager John Holzart and learn to identify the applications of herbs and wild food growing right in our backyards. Learn approaches to urban foraging and ways to incorporate these plants into everyday life.

Sunday, June 26 
1 - 4 p.m.
For adults
\$15 (Nonmembers - \$20)
Call to register, 964-8505

THE BIOREGIONAL HERBALIST: CHOOSING HERBAL REMEDIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY*


The majority of herbs sold do not come from within the U.S. Many are grown using pesticides and are fumigated. Where do our remedies come from and are our choices sustainable? This program will include an opportunity to make an herbal preparation crafted with local plants.

Monday, June 27 
6 - 9 p.m.
For adults
\$25 registration plus (Nonmembers - \$30 registration plus \$5 for materials)
Additional \$5 material fee paid to instructor the day of class
Call to register, 964-8505

HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORERS

LAKE ECOLOGY HIKE

The Great Lakes are amazing. Come along and learn about the ecology of Milwaukee's water source. We'll learn about invasive species, water quality sand and have a great time along the lakefront. Dress for the weather and be ready to hike several miles. Bring a lunch and we can have a picnic together as well.

Saturday, June 18 
10 a.m. - noon
For teens
\$4 (Nonmembers - \$6)
Call to register, 964-8505

URBAN ADVENTURES

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

FITNESS BOOT CAMP

Get a jump start on your healthy lifestyle goals this spring. Join certified fitness trainer and yoga instructor Porsche Carmon and PC Sport Fitness for a fun-filled indoor/outdoor fitness program. Each class is packed with energizing strength and cardio drills, obstacle courses and games designed to help you build a strong fit body, mind and spirit. For more information visit www.pcsportfitness.com.

Monday - Friday,
May 2 - July 1
except May 30

6 - 7 a.m.
For adults and
accompanied children
\$99 per month
Call to register, 964-8505



TREETOP YOGA: 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.

Saturdays,
June 11 - 25
8 - 9 a.m.
For adults
\$10 per session
(Nonmembers - \$15
per session)
Registration is required,
call 964-8505



ART AT UEC

NOW SHOWING: 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. Show runs through June.

WATER SAFETY COURSE*

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 training, or training through one of our scheduled canoe/kayak trips, is a requirement of the canoe/kayak lending program. Registration required.

Every Thursday
6 p.m.



Every Saturday
11 - 11:30 a.m.



For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Registration required,
call 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.

Saturdays, June 11 & 25
11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

For adults & accompanied
children age 7
and older
Adults: \$5
Children: \$3
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 on the Milwaukee River. Bring a snack or dinner and we can eat on the water! Come prepared to get wet and bring something to hydrate yourself. To apply this trip toward water safety training, please inform the instructor.

Tuesday, June 28
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Meet at the Rowing
Club Boathouse (1900
N. Commerce St.)
For adults
\$35 (Nonmembers - \$40)
Call to register, 964-8505

OPEN CLIMB

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 (*available at www.urbanecologycenter.org*) before climbing. Gather some friends and sign up!

Every Tuesday
4 - 6 p.m.
For everyone
Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers - \$15)
Children: \$8 (Nonmembers - 12)
Registration required,
call 964-8505



RIVER RHYTHMS

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. Must have a minimum of six participants for the program to happen so sign up with friends! To apply this trip toward canoe/kayak lending training, please inform the instructor of this desire when you arrive.

Every Wednesday, June 8 - August 17
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse, 1900 N. Commerce St.
For adults and accompanied children
Adults: \$30 (Nonmembers - \$35)
Children: \$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)
Call to register, 964-8505

INTEREST GROUPS

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, May 3 &
June 7

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



UEC PHOTO CLUB*

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

Thursdays, May 5 &
June 2

6:30 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



COMMUNITY LIVING OPTIONS GROUP- MILWAUKEE

Today's renewed interest in community living or cohousing is directly related to the sustainability and practicality of shared living. We gather to learn, support and promote each other's ideas and experiences.

May: **Income, Outgo, Monthly Expenses; Making Some Sense of it All.** We will examine 2-3 expense planning documents from various "communities in formation" and talk about the reasons for inclusion or omission of certain details.
June: **Let's Take a Tour of Web Sites.** Organizer Lorraine Jacobs takes a "tour" of co-op and community related sites, sharing available information and how to find it. Worksheets and handouts will be provided.

Tuesdays, May 10 &
June 14
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 discussion.

May: **Why Doesn't My Body Like the Food I'm Eating? Food Allergies, Intolerances and Sensitivities.**

Speaker: Bernard Rosen, nutritionist and founder of Rosen Wellness.

Learn the difference between food intolerances, sensitivities and allergies, where they come from and what we can do to help ourselves eat right.

June: **Contributions and Conditions of Migrant Workers.** Join us as we explore the economic, social and working conditions of migrant workers in Wisconsin and the U.S. Presenters: Evelyn Cruz, State Monitor Advocate for Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program, Department of Workforce Development, Division of Employment and Training/Job Service Bureau and Eloisa Gómez, Daughter/Granddaughter of former migrant workers.

Wednesdays, May 11 &
June 8
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, May 12
& June 9
7 p.m.

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





= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

INTEREST GROUPS CONTINUED

URBAN STARGAZERS*

Join us for fun, information and stargazing.

Thursdays, May 12 & June 9
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, May 19 & June 16
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



TRANSITION MILWAUKEE: ALL CITY HUB MEETING*

Transition Milwaukee is part of an international movement to address climate change and peak oil proactively by relocating. We invite all those interested in or working in Transition to connect, share and collaborate. Newcomer orientation: 6 p.m. **May: What are You Doing for Power Down Week, June 25-July 3?** Come tell us about you or your organization and what you are doing for PDW. Everyone welcome.

June: Speed Reskilling Workshops. What can you teach and share in 3-5 min? From "no knead" bread making to generators, everyone has talents or knowledge to share. Email info@transitionmilwaukee.org if you want to be in the line up.

Mondays, May 23 & June 27
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults



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

EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS

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

Every Wednesday
8 a.m.



Every Thursday
8 a.m.



For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION*

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

Saturdays, May 7, 21, June 4 & 18
10 - 11 a.m.



Sundays, May 1 & June 5
12:30 - 2 p.m.

Tuesdays, May 3 & June 14

3:30 - 5 p.m.
Thursdays, May 26
5:30 - 7 p.m.

Wednesdays, June 1
5:30 - 7 p.m.

Tuesdays, June 22
10 - 11:30 a.m.



For adults and accompanied children age 12 and older
Call to register, 964-8505

VEGETATION SURVEYING WORKSHOP

Join the Urban Ecology Center Land Stewardship Team and learn how to collect vital information for our extensive vegetation survey for the EPA-GLRI habitat restoration project and creation of the Rotary Centennial Arboretum. Open to everyone but required for volunteers who wish to help with data collection.

Tuesday, May 3
5:30 - 7 p.m. or
Saturday, May 7
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.



For teens or adults
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$10 fee recommended for nonmembers not interested in volunteering for this project)
Call to register, 964-8505

BELAYER TRAINING

Join our team of trained and enthusiastic rock climbing volunteers and help with climbing programs of all kinds! At this training you will learn our policies and procedures for belaying climbers and facilitating climbing programs. Attendance is limited and pre-registration is required.

Saturday, May 7
9 a.m. - noon



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

PARK RANGERS

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

Saturdays, May 14,
June 11 & 25
9 - 10:30 a.m.



Every Saturday
9 - 10 a.m.

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



DNR FROG & TOAD SURVEY

Come out for a late night of 'froggin'' and help add to the Wisconsin DNR's statewide database of frogs and toads, run by citizen scientists. Dress for the weather and wear footwear that can get muddy. We will cover western and southern Milwaukee County. Call Tim Vargo x116 for details.

Tuesday, May 24
8 p.m. - midnight
For adults and accompanied children (Nonmembers - \$5)
Call to register, 964-8505



MAMMAL MONITORING TRAINING WORKSHOP

Does an acre of our urban wilderness provide habitat for over 50,000 meadow voles per year? In ideal conditions, this is possible (wow!) based on average gestation periods, population density and litter size. Come learn how to monitor meadow vole populations and other mammals in 40 acres of the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum.

Wednesday, June 8
6 - 8 p.m.



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

COMPOST CREW

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

Every Monday
except May 30
3:30 - 5 p.m.



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

BURDOCK BRIGADE

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

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

Every Tuesday
9 - 11 a.m.

Saturdays,
May 7, 21,
June 4 & 18
9 - 10:30 a.m.



Every Thursday
4 - 5:30 p.m.



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

WOW! WORK OUTSIDE WEDNESDAYS

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

Every Wednesday
9 - 11 a.m. and
3 - 5 p.m.

For everyone
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 supporters.

Every Wednesday
4 - 6 p.m.

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



FORESTRY FRIDAYS

Come help our work to improve the health of our forest in Riverside Park! Join the 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 everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER

The Urban Ecology Center receives a majority of its support from local foundations, corporations and individuals. This section of our newsletter is reserved to thank you and the many supporters of the Center. **The names listed are those who made a contribution to the Urban Ecology Center in the two months since our previous newsletter.**

We thank those of you who have begun a new membership, renewed your membership or given a gift membership. Since our membership has grown to 3000 households we no longer can list all of our new and renewing members here. When space is available we will print the list of in kind donations. Rest assured we appreciate every donation and membership and are working hard to make your investment in the Center produce results 7 days a week, 357 days of the year! Call Ginger at the Center if your name has not appeared as you expected.

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A HOOT IN THE
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THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER

A HOOT IN THE NIGHT INKIND CONTINUED

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Hawk's Nursery
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Milwaukee Public Museum
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SPIN Milwaukee
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YMCA of Metro Milwaukee

FAMILIES HAVE A HOOT!

by Bridget Brave, Development Systems Specialist & Event Coordinator

Milwaukee-area families gathered at the Urban Ecology Center this February for an evening of food, fun, sledding, games, song, critters, and a silent auction – all to help send kids to summer camp! This year's event, headed by committee co-chairs Deb Andraca and Suzanne Singh, was the most successful ever, bringing over 45 families to the Center and **raising nearly \$20,000 for summer camp scholarships!**

While the kiddos spent the evening making owl-themed crafts, enjoying a guided night hike, sledding and watching performers Fox and Branch and David Stokes, their parents bid on a variety of items hand-selected by the event committee. From an Erewhon kayak to a private ping-pong party at SPiN; elegant jewelry from local designer Melanie Ariens and a complete family camping set from REI, this year's silent auction offered something for every taste and budget.

A Hoot in the Night was sponsored by Godfrey and Kahn.

Thanks to the "host families" whose hard work and support made this night fantastic – 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.

Special thanks go to each and every family that attended and also Trocadero, City Market, REI, Patagonia, Erewhon and our generous auction donors.

We would like your kids to join us this summer! If your family can benefit from a summer camp scholarship, please contact Sarah Rohe at 964-8505 x125. 🍀

PERFECT OPPORTUNITY

by Emily Michi, Environmental Educator

"What would happen if we pet it?"

What a simple question I was asked by a curious kindergartner last fall. We were a group of ten 5-year-old kindergarten students and two adults exploring our man-made decomposition area in Washington Park. Up until now we had been pulling weeds to check out roots, digging for worms and rolling logs to find potato bugs. But then someone found a caterpillar on Queen Anne's Lace and it quickly became the star of the show. Everyone was passing the caterpillar from hand to hand, each student begging to have a turn. Soon there was such a commotion that I decided to be the keeper of the caterpillar. When everyone calmed down a bit, one student posed that question: "What would happen if we pet it?"

My gut reaction was that we should probably leave our stressed-out star alone. But how could I ignore this perfect teaching opportunity? I had to balance our goals. At the Urban Ecology Center we encourage students to observe and engage the world around them. We strive to promote curiosity and scientific discovery, especially in 5-year-old caterpillar enthusiasts. We also promote care and stewardship of nature being careful to prevent against the harm that could befall this delicate creature by small poking fingers. So in a period of time that felt like minutes, but was more likely only seconds, I came up with a compromise. "Why don't we see what happens if I touch him?"

I quickly explained I would be touching the caterpillar very carefully and then I made sure everyone was in a place so they could see. Once we were prepared I began the experiment. Slowly I brought one finger to the caterpillar and gently stroked its back. What happened next is the reason why I love my job. The caterpillar unfolded its neck and out popped what looked like an orange balloon shaped like a snake's tongue. The whole group, including me, jumped back. I looked up into the students' faces and everyone's jaws were on the ground. I touched the caterpillar a couple more times and every time I did, out would pop the orange tongue. Everyone was amazed and shocked by what just happened. It was a perfect teaching moment-- a student had a positive experience being a scientist and we all experienced something new. After the class was over and the caterpillar was returned safely to its home, I took the time to look up what it was that we had seen. It turns out that the caterpillar we found was a swallowtail and the orange tongue was a fleshy organ they use as a defense mechanism called the osmeterium.

As a teacher, the best classes are the ones where you get the opportunity to learn along with your students. I encourage you to go out with your child and become a scientist in our park. You never know when you both might learn something about the natural world by finding out the answer to a simple question. 🍀



Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211

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URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER'S
Summer Solstice Soiree

June 18th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.
Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place

TICKETS ARE \$150 PER PERSON

Please check our website or contact Bridget Brave at bbrave@urbanecologycenter.org or 964-8505, x104 for more information.




Please make your check payable to: **Urban Ecology Center** and return it with this form to:
Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

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Email _____

My neighborhood park is Riverside Washington I love them all!

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.

Charge my membership to: Master Card Visa

Card Number _____

Expiration Date ____/____/____

Signature _____ Date _____

MEMBERSHIP

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

Renew or begin your membership, choose one:

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

Give a gift membership:

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Recipient Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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Email _____

Send the announcement card to Me Gift recipient

Occasion _____ Deliver by _____

DONATION (IN ADDITION TO MEMBERSHIP)

Please accept my gift to support:

Provide a membership for a low income family (\$35)

Provide an educational program for families (\$75)

Provide a summer camp scholarship (\$195)

Support a high school summer intern (\$600)

Restore native plants to an acre of public land (\$1000)

Sponsor a school for a year, 24 field trips for city kids! (\$5000)

Total Enclosed

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY!