Branch Highlights

**RIVERSIDE PARK**
Calling all volunteers! We would like to thank you for all of the wonderful work that you do. Please come to the **Volunteer Appreciation Party on November 16th**, please RSVP by November 9. Also, the **Milwaukee Coffee Festival is November 5th**. Registration is required, so reserve your spot today.

**WASHINGTON PARK**
Join us for a series of lectures and discourse related to environmental and social justice in Milwaukee and around the world. On November 15th we are proud to host **Elizabeth Drame**, Department Chair of Exceptional Education, UW-Milwaukee as she reflects the experiences of black researchers.

**MENOMONEE VALLEY**
We’re seeking gallery exhibits for 2017. We look for artists who feature nature-related subjects, the natural sciences, natural products used as art or the relationship of urban environment to nature. Visit urbanecologycenter.org/art for more information. **Deadline to submit is November 30th**.

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**Force for Good**
by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Lately I’ve been thinking about how the Urban Ecology Center is like Star Wars. Wait, I know this sounds like a stretch, but stay with me. One of the underlying themes of Star Wars is that when diverse people come together for the greater good they can create world altering change. Tapping into the diversity of natural and community life here in Milwaukee, the Urban Ecology Center is creating “world altering” change, neighborhood by neighborhood. And we get the excitement of working locally now, not “a long time ago” and “far, far away.”

I bet you’re wondering why Star Wars was on my mind at all. Well…

We’ve had some pretty unique donations but it’s going to be tough to top a Jedi lightsaber! When a seven-year-old heard that the Executive Director of the Urban Ecology Center keeps a lightsaber on the wall behind his desk his eyes lit up. But when he heard that it was red (the color of Darth Vader’s lightsaber), he was determined to change that. That is how I ended up finding a brand new green lightsaber on my desk. “It’s the color Luke Skywalker had,” the boy said and smiled.

And that’s when it hit me. From his own frame of reference, this seven-year-old was sharing what the Urban Ecology Center meant to him — a powerful force for good. For us, this good is daring to redefine what it means to be out in nature and in the city. We’re

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**Green Career Pipeline: Voices of Our Future**
by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Malachi Crenshaw, a 10th grader at Rufus King High School, finished teaching his first solo Water Safety Course when I met him at the Washington Park branch. I asked him if he had been nervous about being the only instructor and he said “I was more curious. I’m pretty comfortable with public speaking and I know the content, so I mostly was interested to see how those would come together.” This is exactly the kind of experience we hope to provide to our High School Outdoor Leaders – hands-on work.

The High School Outdoor Leader program is one step in our “green career pipeline.” This “pipeline” aims to introduce youth to the possibilities of working in the environmental field. The process begins with our school program. Malachi first came to the Urban Ecology Center in 3rd grade with Golda Meir Elementary school on a field trip. He collected water samples from the Milwaukee River to determine how the quality of the water relates to pollution and the freshwater ecosystem. This was the first time he became interested in the environment.

After their school trip, students are invited to return after school or on the weekend. We encourage students to bring family members or come on their own as part of the Young Scientist Club. One of the things Malachi loves to do is bring his little brother to Washington Park to go fishing. His brother is currently a 3rd grader at Golda Meir. Perhaps he will become an Outdoor Leader like his older brother seven years from now.

In the next step in the “pipeline”, high school sophomores or juniors, can apply for the Outdoor Leadership program. This program is designed to provide two years of job training. Outdoor Leaders are placed in paid positions throughout the Center, helping with
restoring the land and connecting people in our communities. And all because of your help! Together we are sharing so much life!

Many thanks to all of you in our diverse, energetic community who help us continue to be a force for good. Specifically, I’d like to thank our Board of Directors (Jedi Counsel) who help create our vision, our contributing members (um, maybe the Galactic Senate ... no, that’s not right) who support our programs and our volunteers (Rebel Alliance, sort of) who provide hands-on help.

Ok, so the Urban Ecology Center isn’t exactly like Star Wars. But you have to admit that if our supporters and volunteers were working in one of their cities, it would be a whole lot greener and full of life.

May the force be with you this holiday season.

Writing in progress...
We are excited to announce that our Executive Director, Ken Leinbach, is writing a book to tell the story of the Urban Ecology Center. This is part of the organization’s strategic plan and will help to spread the word about the Urban Ecology Center far and wide!

To focus on this large project he is taking a writing sabbatical from October 1st to the end of the calendar year. During that time, Beth Heller will serve as Interim Executive Director and all matters that would normally be handled by Ken will be sent to Beth and other team members as appropriate.

Yes, You Can Be a Visionary!
Over the years we’ve had visionary friends who have wanted to ensure that the work of our organization can continue well into the future. These loyal friends made gifts, of all sizes, to turn this idea into reality and so can you! Your gifts of time, talents and financial resources are vital to programs that change lives every day!

We plan and strategize on how we can impact more lives and expand the reach of our programs like the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project, Citizen Science, Summer Camp and Land Stewardship that impact lives throughout our community. What about next year? 10 years from now? 20 years from now?

Our endowment at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation helps us now, with funding for current needs, as well as providing for a strong future. We have opportunities for more visionaries, like you! Please contact Jen Hense, Director of Development at jhense@urbanecologycenter.org or 414-964-8505 to learn more about planned giving.

Thank You to Our Contributing Members
Many thanks to the local foundations, corporations and individuals who have donated to the Center. The complete list of contributing members who have given within the last two months can be found on our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org/thankyoulist.

Credits:
The Urban Ecology Center Newsletter is created and distributed through a team effort by the following people: Carijean Buhk, Matthew Gnas, Judy Krause, Jeff McAvoy and Pat Mueller.

Contributing writers: Beth Heller, Ken Leinbach and Chad Thomack.

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Environmental education is at the core of our mission. The main way we accomplish this during the school year is our Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP). Through NEEP our partner schools send students to our branches for hands on science and environmental lessons.

We’re educating the next generation of environmental leaders. Plus, they have so much fun they don’t realize how much they’re learning!

REPORT CARD FOR 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR:

**Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP)**

- **30,000** total number of student visits during the 2015-16 school year
- **53** partner schools during the 2015-16 school year. That number rose to **60 schools** this year!
- **94%** of students surveyed said that they learned something on their field trip that will help them in school.
- **92%** of teachers reported felt that **NEEP improved their students’ respect for nature** by helping them understand how their actions impact the environment.

“Everything you do fits in perfectly with what we are doing in school, it’s like you can read my mind!” - teacher from a NEEP partner school

If you’d like to support projects like these, consider volunteering or making a donation. Learn how at [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org)
Reflection of Summer Lunches
by Chad Thomack, Environmental Educator

Even though we are a few months into the school year, I can’t help but reflect on my summer as a camp leader. Think of this as a preview of what your friends and family could look forward to next year.

The theme that sticks out most for me and my summer was my lunches. Yep, I said it, lunch. Last year I ate lunch outside at over 20 different places in Milwaukee. I am not talking about your local restaurants. I am talking packing up a lunch and driving, biking, hiking or paddling to our lunch destination.

My first week of camp brought me out to Wyalusing State Park on the Mississippi River just south of Prairie Du Chien for our first ever Fish and Float camp. For middle school students, this camp includes a couple nights of sleeping under the stars. What an adventure it was! We took boundary-breaking night hikes, fished on the back waters of the Wisconsin River and swam in the Mississippi River, all in just two days!

During another camp, we explored the city on bike. We started every morning at the Menomonee Valley branch, but we would eat lunch there only on day one. I shared with this group of middle school students that the more responsible they were, the more freedoms they’d get. They blew my mind with their respect for me and our guidelines. Every day we got our bikes and gear ready and left for the day, rain or shine. We biked almost 15-miles a day exploring Lincoln, Kletzsch, Estabrook, Jacobus, Doyne, Hart, Hoyt, Lakeshore and Three Bridges Parks. We also toured the Milwaukee VA historic grounds. All within a week!

The Outdoor Detectives camp brought me back to Riverside Park but only for a day. For this 3rd and 4th grade camp, we picked a park to explore, grabbed our exploration gear and off we’d go. Lion’s Den Gorge (state natural area near Grafton) was our most exciting adventure. Trails take you along the bluffs of Lake Michigan giving us views of blue Gatorade-colored water and down to the beach for more exploration, rock skipping and fun.

Summer at the Urban Ecology Center is certainly very busy with the addition of all the campers who come here to explore the natural world for a week-long camp. Check out the camps we will be starting in June 2017 and maybe your child will be able to enjoy lunch somewhere different next summer.

Summer Camps 2017
Week-long day camps for Preschool - 9th grade
Scholarships Available
Registration starts January 2017

Green Career Pipeline: Voices of Our Future
continued from page 1

community programs, visitor services, land stewardship, volunteer engagement and marketing efforts. By the end of the two year experience, the students are ready to bring an ecological lens to their future jobs, college and life.

In college, students can continue along the path with internships for credit and paid summer intern programs. This pathway prepares them for future employment at organizations with an environmental focus, or even the Urban Ecology Center!

You are invited to visit Malachi at our Washington Park branch, where you will be able see for yourself how talented he is at connecting people to our mission. Or visit any of our branches to meet his colleagues. Each of our outdoor leaders has their own unique story about their connection to the Center. Each has their own approach to working with us and in defining their ambitions for the future. You can meeting them in person or visit our blog, where we will be writing about each Outdoor Leader over the next few months. These are the voices of our future. When you hear their stories you will know that our future is bright.
Candlelight Walk
Enjoy the wonder of a winter night. Take a guided, candlelit walk featuring poetry and readings. Then warm up by the fire while you enjoy cider, snacks and music.
Registration for a specific walk time is required.
Saturday, December 17 | 7 - 9PM
For adults and teens | $5 (Nonmembers: $10)

Candlelight Walk for kids
Enjoy stories for kids on an easy walk through the woods.
Then warm up with games and treats. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.
Registration for a specific walk time is required.
Saturday, December 17 | 4:30 - 6:30PM
For families | Adults: $5 (Nonmembers: $7) Children: $3 (Nonmembers: $5)

Christmas Bird Count - East Side
Contribute to bird research during your morning hike -- join volunteers around the world for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Data we collect contributes to an international database of bird population trends. We’ll hike along the east bank of the Milwaukee River, stop for brunch and return via the west bank. Dress for a long hike and bring a lunch or money for brunch.
Saturday, Dec. 17 | 8am - 5pm
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Nature Rangers
Sign up for either the Monday or Tuesday session.
Every Mon. or every Tue. except Dec. 19, 20, 26 & 27 | 4 - 5:30PM
For children ages 5 and older | $10 (Nonmember: $15)

Animal Feeding
Every Sat. except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 & 31 | 1PM
For everyone | Free

Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:
1 ONLINE: www.urbanecologycenter.org
2 BY PHONE: (414) 964-8505
3 IN PERSON: 1500 E. Park Pl.

= Accessible for persons with disabilities. We want to get you outside. Please call (414) 964-8505 with any communication preferences or physical concerns.
Cranes Among Us
Hear the tale of the Sandhill’s emergence from near extinction in the 1930s and the Whooping Crane’s perilous course of survival from Andy Bingle of the International Crane Foundation and artist Ellen McCaughhey, whose paintings of cranes will fill the Community Room walls. Andy will incorporate Ellen’s paintings which portray cranes in a variety of typical situations in Wisconsin into his talk.
Sat., Nov. 19 | 2 - 3:30 PM
For adults and families | $5 (Nonmembers: $7)

Faith and Solar Initiative Presentation
Presented by Wisconsin Green Muslims and RENEW Wisconsin
Come to this brief introduction to solar energy systems. For more information, please contact: Huda Alkaff Founder and Director, Wisconsin Green Muslims at info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org
Tue., Nov. 29 | 7 - 8 PM
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Sustainable Coffee Tasting
Join experts from Pendulum Coffee as you taste locally-roasted brews from around the world. We will explore how local roasters bring out flavors unique to the beans’ origin. Learn about the growing regions, sustainable farming practices, notes, aromas and more. For all coffee enthusiasts! Space is limited.
Sat., Dec. 10 | 10 - 11 AM
For adults | $8 (Nonmembers: $10)

Volunteer opportunities
Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

Some programs fill quickly!
Register today to save your spot!

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2 BY PHONE: (414) 964-8505
3 IN PERSON: 1500 E. Park Pl.
Programs and Events

WASHINGTON PARK

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

**Environmental and social justice are issues that the Center has identified as paramount to our programming and our mission. This fall are we proud to host Elizabeth Drame, whose work is at the heart of these concerns.**

### Black Participatory Research: Stirring the Waters at the Margins 🎨

How do shared identity, experiences and differences shape participatory research? Elizabeth Drame, Department Chair of Exceptional Education, UW-Milwaukee, reflects on the experiences of black researchers who collaborated in participatory research projects in New Orleans, Philadelphia and Senegal. She explores emerging conflicts and tensions when various measures of diversity emerge alongside racial identity as central ways of seeing ourselves.

- **Tue., Nov. 15 | 7 - 8:30 PM**
  - For adults | Free - donations appreciated

### Birds of Lake Michigan

Starting at North Point, we will work our way south along Lake Michigan to look for wintering ducks, geese, scoters, grebes and loons. Binoculars and spotting scopes provided. Also, feel free to bring a lunch and follow us to our Menomonee Valley branch for the Beak to Tail workshop at 1pm.

- **Sat., Nov. 12 | 8AM - NOON**
  - For adults | $10 (Nonmembers: $15)

### Birds of Lake Michigan/Racine County

Starting at Wind Point in Racine County we will work our way north along Lake Michigan to look for wintering ducks, geese, scoters, grebes and loons. Binoculars and spotting scopes provided. Also, feel free to bring a lunch and join us for our From Beak to Tail workshop at 1pm.

- **Sat., Dec. 10 | 8:30AM - NOON**
  - For adults | $10 (Nonmembers: $15)

FAMILY PROGRAMS

### Young Scientists Club

Do you know a child who is interested in science and nature? From hiking to gardening to helping with research to caring for our Center’s animals, every day in the Young Scientists Club is a new adventure.

- **Every Tue. - Fri. except Nov. 16, 24, 25 and Dec. 20 - 31 | 4 - 6PM**
- **Every Sat. except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 & 31 | 1 - 4PM**
  - For kids ages 7-12 | $10 annual membership

### Animal Feeding 🐦

Every Sat. except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 & 31 | 1PM
  - For everyone | Free

### Washington Park 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 Urban Ecology Center.

- **Sat., Nov. 5 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM**
- **Tue., Nov. 22 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM**
- **Wed., Dec. 7 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM**
- **Sat., Dec. 17 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM**
  - For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

### Fixin’ Facilities 🌈

Come help maintain our building, vehicles and park. Help with anything from building and painting to repair and upkeep projects.

- **Every Fri. except Nov. 25 & Dec. 23 | 2 - 4PM**
  - For adults, families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

### ROOT Washington Park

Ready to dig in the dirt or help us clean seeds? Join us for ROOT (Restore Our Outdoor Treasures) in Washington Park as we work to improve natural habitat for native plants and wildlife.

- **Every Wed. | 9 - 11:00 AM**
- **Every Thu. except Nov. 24 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM**
  - For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website

[www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar)

- **3 WAYS TO REGISTER:**
  1. **ONLINE:**
     - [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org)
  2. **BY PHONE:**
     - (414) 344-5460
  3. **IN PERSON:**
     - 1859 N. 40th St.

observer = Accessible for persons with disabilities. We want to get you outside. Please call (414) 344-5460 with any communication preferences or physical concerns.
Some programs fill quickly! Register today to save your spot!

Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website:
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WASHINGTON PARK

Programs and Events

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

WASHINGTON PARK

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS & SPECIAL HOURS

November 16 ______ Closing at 4PM
November 24 - 26 ______ Closed
December 20 - 23 ______ NOON - 4PM
December 24 - 25 ______ Closed
December 27 - 30 ______ NOON - 4PM
December 31 ______ Closed

Normal hours (as listed on page 11) apply except for days listed to the left

ADULT PROGRAMS

Just because the growing season has ended, that doesn’t mean that there’s nothing to do until spring. Continue “growing” all winter long with the programs below

Food Preservation

Presented by Victory Garden Initiative
With some time and planning you can eat from your garden year-round. We’ll go over the basics of preserving and storing food including what freezes well, what you can dehydrate and what can be canned (sealed in jars). See this demonstration and receive a jar of freshly preserved goodies to take home!
Thu., Nov. 3 | 6 - 7:30PM
For adults | $12 members, students and seniors (Nonmembers: $20)

Growing Together: Community Organizing 101

Presented by Victory Garden Initiative
Bringing a community together around growing food can be quite a challenge in this day and age especially when people know the characters on sitcoms better than their next-door neighbors. This crash-course in community organizing will give you some tools to work with. We’ll practice talking about the food system and how growing food can be a fun, healthy way to build community.
Thu., Nov. 17 | 6 - 7:30PM
For adults | $12 members, students and seniors (Nonmembers: $20)

Grow Like a Pro: Vegetable Garden Design

Growing your own fruits and vegetables can be incredibly rewarding. If planned right, you can enjoy a fruitful garden without having to spend hours tending it. In this workshop, we will create a customized edible garden blueprint which will provide four seasons of homegrown produce.
Thu., Dec. 8 | 6 - 8PM
For adults | $10 (Nonmembers: $15)

From Beak to Tail: All About the Life of Birds

Join Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science, for an in-depth look into the wonders of bird ecology, conservation and behavior. This is an ongoing series you can jump into at any point. The program features a lecture, discussion and a dusk walk. Beginning through advanced birders welcome. Binoculars provided.
Sat., Dec. 10 | 1 - 2:30PM
For adults | $5 (Nonmembers: $10)

Early Morning Bird Walks

Washington Park is a fabulous oasis for urban birds and other critters. We will walk through the different habitats looking for birds, mammals, butterflies and other natural denizens. Binoculars available.
Every Wed. | 8 - 10:30AM
For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: $5 suggested donation)

Zumba Express

Dance to great music and burn a ton of calories without even realizing it. Bring your dancing feet and gyrating hips to this 45-minute class. Open to all ages and skill levels. Want a longer workout? Try Zumba Express — a 45-minute class that starts at 6:30pm.
Every Wed. except Dec. 21 & 28 | 5:30 - 6:15PM
For everyone | $5 (Nonmembers: $10)

Walk and Talk Series

Join our Branch Manager, Terry, to explore both our building and Washington Park — two locations uniquely connected to Milwaukee’s past and well-positioned to thrive in its future.
Wed., Nov. 16 | 4:30 - 5:30pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Mend It, Don’t Toss It

Plenty of useful garments get thrown away due to simple damage that’s easy to repair. Mending saves money, cuts down on waste and keeps your favorite pants and sweaters in great shape. Join us as we explore simple techniques for sewing and patching common clothing items. If you have a favorite item that needs some help, bring it in and we’ll show you how to fix it.
Sat., Dec. 10 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: $6 (Nonmembers: $9)
Children: $4 (Nonmembers: $7)

Zumba Fitness

Dance to great music and burn a ton of calories without even realizing it with Zumba Fitness. Bring your dancing feet and gyrating hips to this 60-minute class. Open to all ages and skill levels. Need a shorter workout? Try Zumba Express — a 45-minute class that starts at 5:30pm.
Every Wed. except Dec. 21 & 28 | 6:30 - 7:30PM
Members $5 (Nonmembers: $10)
MENOMONEE VALLEY

Programs and Events

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Noche de Altare
Noche de Altare is a Dia de los Muertos night event. Craft your own altars/ofrendas and participate in an evening full of family friendly activities, music and food. For more information or to register your altar/ofrenda please visit www.nochedealtaresmke.com.
Wed., Nov. 2 | 6 - 9PM
For everyone | Free - donations accepted

Eco-Art Gallery Night
Enjoy works created by the young members of our Eco-Art program! Their art focuses on sustainable practices and environmental education. Light refreshments will be provided. This special exhibition will be on display Friday evening through Saturday, December 3.
Fri., Dec. 2 | 4 - 6PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Phenology in the Valley: Gallery Show Closing Night
From October through December, the Menomonee Valley branch has showcased the photography of our Photo Phenology group. This group has been meeting monthly for several years to take photographs and draw pictures of the natural area around the Center. Their picture record helps us understand the way the Valley is changing and the factors at play. Join the group in celebrating the end of their first show!
Thu., Dec. 15 | 4 - 6PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Christmas Bird Count - West Side
Contribute to bird research during your morning hike — join volunteers around the world for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Data we collect contributes to an international database of bird population trends. We’ll meet at the Menomonee Valley branch and hike to Washington Park, with a stop for brunch along the way. After, we’ll take a shuttle back to the Valley. Dress for a long hike and bring a lunch or money for brunch.
Sat., Dec. 17 | 8AM - 5PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

ADULT PROGRAMS

Danza Prehispanica y Foclor:
Join instructors from Milwaukee’s Pok ta Pok Danza to learn danza prehispanica y foclor: indigenous, nature-based Mexican dance forms that have traditions dating back hundreds of years.

Beginner Class
Every Tue. through Dec. 13 | 4:30 - 5:30PM
For ages 6 and up | Free - donations appreciated

Advanced Class
Every Tue. through Dec. 13 | 5:30 - 6:30PM
For ages 6 and up | Free - donations appreciated

Walk and Talk Series
Join our branch manager, Glenna, to explore both our building and Three Bridges Park.
Wed., Nov. 9 | NOON - 1PM
For adults | $5 (Nonmembers: $10)

Indigenous Arts & Crafts
Connect with Milwaukee’s past and present - learn different art forms practiced by the Indigenous communities of Southeast Wisconsin. We will be making our own arts and crafts that celebrate traditional practices of the valley’s first peoples.
Sat., Nov. 19 | 1 - 4PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

From Beak to Tail: All About the Life of Birds
Take an in-depth look into the wonders of bird ecology, conservation and behavior. This is an ongoing series you can jump into at any point. Features a dusk walk. Binoculars provided.
Sat., Nov. 12 | 1 - 2:30PM
For adults | $5 (Nonmembers: $10)

Photo Phenology
Through our photographs and drawings, we can understand how the Valley is changing and the factors at play. No photography experience necessary; we will learn as we go!
Sat., Nov. 19 & Dec. 17 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated

Early Morning Birdwalks
Interested bird watchers of all ability levels are invited to explore Three Bridges Park for birds with us. Binoculars available.
Every Tue. | 8 - 10AM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Student Research Symposium
Students and volunteers of all ages conduct scientific research in the Urban Ecology Center’s outdoor spaces. Meet these researchers and learn their discoveries. This program will highlight original research conducted in 2016 by the Young Scientists Club, students and community volunteers.
Tue., Dec. 13 | 5:30 - 7PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Some programs fill quickly! Register today to save your spot!

Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website
www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE: www.urbanecologycenter.org
2 BY PHONE: (414) 431-2940
3 IN PERSON: 3700 W. Pierce St.

= Accessible for persons with disabilities. We want to get you outside. Please call (414) 431-2940 with any communication preferences or physical concerns.
### FAMILY PROGRAMS

**Three Bridges Park Scavenger Hunt**
There are twelve objects hidden all over Three Bridges Park. Can you find them all? An engaging scavenger hunt for kids and adults!

Sat., Nov. 5 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults and children ages 5 and older | Free - donations appreciated

**Family Hike**
Explore the trails with us on a guided hike through Three Bridges Park. This is a perfect way to see the park as seasons change. We'll conclude with story time by the fire.

Tue., Nov. 8, 22 & Dec. 6 | 4:15 - 5:45PM
Thu., Dec. 15 | 4:15 - 5:45PM
For families with children | Free - donations appreciated

**Little Explorers Morning Playgroup**
Preschool is the age of discovery and we're here to help your kids learn and explore! Join us on the 2nd Friday of the month for our preschool playgroup. We have activities specifically designed to engage the senses of children ages 4 and under

Fri., Nov. 11 & Dec. 9 | 11AM - NOON
For children ages 4 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

**Make Your Own Christmas Ornament**
Get creative and make the perfect sustainable gift for friends and family - a handmade Christmas ornament! Join us anytime from 10-11:30AM. Materials provided.

Sat., Dec. 10 | 10 - 11:30AM
For everyone | Adults: $6 (Nonmembers: $9) Children: $4 (Nonmembers: $7)

**Animal Tracker**
Become an animal detective! We will search for tracks in the valley and learn how animals prepare for winter.

Sat., Dec. 17 | 10 -11:30AM
For adults and children ages 6 and older | Adults: $6 (Nonmembers: $9) Children: $4 (Nonmembers: $7)

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**ROOT Menomonee Valley**
Come help us plant, weed and water Three Bridges Park and the green space along the Hank Aaron State Trail and around the Center.

Every Thu. except Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 22 & 29 | 9 - 11AM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

**Fixin’ Facilities**
Are you handy? Do you want to learn new skills? Lend a hand to maintain our building, vehicles, equipment and park. You will help with a variety of projects from construction and painting, to repair and upkeep.

Every Thu. except Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 22 & 29 | 3 - 5PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

**Volunteer Park Rangers**
Help keep our parks clean, safe and accessible. Dress for the weather and join other volunteers as we walk through the park picking up trash and noting any maintenance needs.

Every Sat. except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 & 31 | 11AM - NOON
For everyone, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult | Free - donations appreciated

**Menomonee Valley 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 Urban Ecology Center.

Wed., Nov. 2 | 5:30 - 7PM
Tue., Nov. 15 | 5:30 - 7PM
Thu., Dec. 1 | 5:30 - 7PM
Tue., Dec. 13 | 5:30 - 7PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

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3. **IN PERSON:**
   3700 W. Pierce St.

平等： accessible for persons with disabilities. We want to get you outside. Please call (414) 431-2940 with any communication preferences or physical concerns.
This newsletter is a publication of the Urban Ecology Center, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Thanks to the generous annual contributions of 215 foundations, corporations and organizations, 3300 members and many in-kind donors the Center provides safe parks and programs for over 300,000 people per year.

To make a contribution, please see below 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.

To make a contribution, please see below 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.

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www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org
Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!
Candlelight Walk
Celebrate the Winter Solstice with a guided candlelit walk through the park.
Registration for a specific walk time is required.

Saturday, December 17
7 - 9pm | Riverside Park
For adults and teens | $5 (Nonmembers: $10)

Candlelight Walk for kids
Enjoy the wonder of a winter night with stories for kids on an easy walk through the woods. Then warm up inside with games and treats. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Registration for a specific walk time is required.

Saturday, December 17
4:30 - 6:30pm | Riverside Park
For families | Adults: $5 (Nonmembers: $7) Children: $3 (Nonmembers: $5)

FORCE FOR GOOD
by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director
Lately I’ve been thinking about how the Urban Ecology Center is like Star Wars. Wait, I know this is a stretch, but stay with me. One of the underlying themes of Star Wars is that when diverse people come together for the greater good they can create world altering change.

GREEN CAREER PIPELINE: VOICES OF OUR FUTURE
by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning
Malachi Crenshaw, a 10th grader at Rufus King High School, finished teaching his first solo Water Safety Course ... I asked him if he had been nervous about being the only instructor and he said “I was more curious. I’m pretty comfortable with public speaking and I know the content, so I mostly was interested to see how those would come together.”

REFLECTION OF SUMMER LUNCHES
by Chad Thomack, Environmental Educator
Even though we are a few months into the school year, I can’t help but reflect on my summer as a camp leader. Think of this as a preview of what your friends and family could look forward to next year.

We had 30,000 Student visits during the 2015-2016 school year