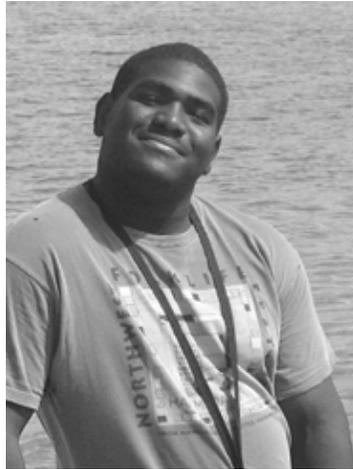


## MY FAVORITE AGE - HIGH SCHOOL!

by Beth Fetterley, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Recently I was asked what age is my favorite to teach. Hmmmm. In Albuquerque, I ran a preschool program with little angels whose eyes revealed the newness of the world each day. Adorable. In New York, I managed Elderhostel programs, of which the longest living “regular” was 99 years old. In his retirement, he became a literature professor at Columbia University. He was not only brilliant, but also an active participant in the rigorous “Hike the Catskills” week-long programs. Inspiring. And I have taught every level in between. But needing a clear response, I landed where I started my career – with high school students.

“Why that age?” was the not altogether unexpected follow-up question. Eagerly, I formulated my response. High school



Shawn,  
High School Outdoor Leader graduate

students can process complex thoughts, pondering like adults. Engaging. Yet high school students are youthful, playful and adventurous. Fun. They like to challenge many assumptions that are so easy for adults to take for granted. Refreshing. Putting all this together, it means we can engage in deep and meaningful conversations, then go outside and play a goofy game. Perhaps they also help me connect to my youth. Most significant though is that they are also teachers.

Take Shawn, for example. Shawn first connected to us when he was a middle school student attending field trips. As a Riverside High School student, he volunteered every week and eventually applied to the

*Continued on page 4*

## WHITE-NOSED SYNDROME: ARE WISCONSIN'S BATS IN TROUBLE?

by Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science

It started in New York in 2007. Thousands of emaciated bats emerged early from their hibernacula in winter and then dropped dead in piles on the ground. It's not a vampire movie. Unlike Dracula, these bats didn't turn to dust because they were out after sunrise. These were the first known victims of white-nosed syndrome in which a white fungus concentrates on hairless parts of bats – the nose, ears and wings. Researchers were caught off guard – why were these bats dying? Was the fungus killing them or was it a symptom of another disease? How was it spreading?

One year later, white-nosed syndrome spread to four more states. Will the disease continue to spread, eventually reaching Wisconsin? “We don't know” says Dave Redell, bat ecologist with the Wisconsin DNR, “It certainly has the potential to spread quickly because bats can migrate or disperse hundreds of miles in a single season.”

According to Redell there are several factors that make this disease potentially devastating: 1) We already saw a large geographical expansion over a single year; 2) Mortality rates at affected caves approach 90%; and 3)

*Continued on page 10*

## TWO VIGNETTES

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

### VIGNETTE # 1

“Urban Ecology Center, this is Dan” came a voice over the radio on Beth's desk.

“Dan, this is Beth. Ken and I are meeting right now, how can I help you?”

“Sorry to bother you, but I'm in the bus awaiting the kids from Golda Meir. I'm teaching about the water cycle and I can't remember exactly how many pennies I need for the third grade Water, Water Everywhere bus ride activity? Can you look it up for me?”

“No worries, hold on a second.”

Sitting at her computer, Beth immediately got on our server, looked in the school program folder and quickly found the activity.

“Dan, here it is. First you need a dollar in change. Tell them that if the world was a dollar, three quarters represents what is covered by water. Then ask how much fresh water is in the dollar. Pull out three pennies. Then ask how much is usable fresh water. Let them know

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*River Reflections* is created and distributed through a team effort by the following people: Carijean Buhk, Ginger Duiven, Beth Fetterley, Judy Krause, Pat Mueller, Shirley Spelt and a volunteer mailing crew.

Contributing writers: John Clancy, Beth Fetterley, Dan Graves, Ken Leinbach, Steve Marshall, Tim Vargo, Daven Villoth, Susan Winans and Joey Zocher.

*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 82 foundations and corporations, over 2600 member and donor families and many in-kind donors. **No tax dollars are used to operate the Urban Ecology Center.**

To make a contribution, please see page 12 for the easy to use form, visit our website at [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org) or call Ginger Duiven at x106.

The **Urban Ecology Center** educates and inspires people to understand and value nature as motivation for positive 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, recreation, stewardship and camaraderie.

## Urban Ecology Center

**Riverside Park**, 1500 E. Park Place  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211  
(414) 964-8505 Fax: (414) 964-1084  
[uec@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto: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. 40<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208  
(414) 344-5460 Fax: (414) 344-5462  
[jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org)

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

[www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org)

💧 **Teen Adventure Challenge prizes needed.** Our Teen Adventure Challenge is an outdoor team race through the Milwaukee River corridor. Each team has five members. We need your help giving prizes to these enthusiastic teams! If you or someone you know can help by giving a group of five items (baseball caps, water bottles, backpacks, hats, gloves, wool socks, flashlights, multi-tools, etc), please call Nikiya at 964-8505.

💧 **Planning your legacy.** When you include charitable gifts in your will, make sure that your attorney uses the correct legal name of the intended recipients in order to avoid confusion and unnecessary delays. **Our legal name is Urban Ecology Center, Inc.** If you need help in finding an estate planning attorney, feel free to contact Ginger Duiven at (414) 964-8505, x106. She would be happy to assist in finding you a referral to several capable attorneys.

💧 **Thank you to our in-kind donors.** Alterra Coffee Roasters, Jeff Anderson, Joyce & John Boyland, Karl Bucholz, Vivian Corres, Jane Criff, Daisy Troop 1586 & Deb Andraca, Mike Eitel, Danni Gendelman, Pieter Godfrey, Great Lakes Water Institute-Sandra McClellan Lab, Heather Harrison, Richard Hausfeld, Lorraine Jacobs, Jim & Laurie Lemke, Barbara Markoff, Barbara Miner, Omanhene Cocoa Bean Company, Erv Russell, Mike Russell, Ginny Sandquist, Jim Schleif, Joseph Schmidt, Al Sherkow & Debbie Hartman, Elizabeth Strassman, Pat Weisberg, Sandy Weisto, Ron L. Wilke and Maria Zaroni.

*The Urban Ecology Center is excited to announce the Summer Solstice Soiree and Auction Event scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Plan to join us for a special evening of food, music and fun. This event will raise funds to support the Center's mission. Please watch our website or call for more information.*



## WISH LIST

For Riverside Park

*If you have a donation for the Center, please call Judy Krause, x102.*

- 3 umbrella stands
- 30 pairs of lightweight welding goggles
- Adult gloves and mittens
- Air compressor
- Alka-seltzer
- Animal heat rocks and heat pads
- Blenders
- Cornstarch
- Dandelion diggers
- Electric or Diesel Grounds "Utility" Vehicle (not a car or truck)
- Gardening/work gloves
- Hand clippers
- Hand trowels
- Heavy duty wheelbarrows
- Ice auger
- Ice cream buckets
- Ice skates
- Kayaks
- Kernel popcorn
- Large attractive ceramic planters for indoor potted plants (12"-24")
- Long handled loppers
- Nylon pants
- Open trailer for hauling
- Projector screen
- Rain ponchos/jackets for little kids (kindergarten - 3rd grade)
- Reptile basking light bulbs and infrared light bulbs
- Scooter (moped)
- Skate skis
- Sleds
- Small all occasion gift bags
- Sturdy 2-drawer file cabinets
- Used cell phones, print cartridges, video games and digital cameras
- Video camera
- Waterproof pants for kids

For Washington Park

*If you have a donation for Washington Park, please call Joey Zocher, (414) 344-5460.*

- Fishing nets
- Fishing poles
- GPS device
- Guitar strings
- Hip wader drying rack
- Hybrid car
- Kids boots
- Kites
- Musical instruments - acoustic
- Old snow pants / sweatpants
- Old towels and rags
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Sleds
- Sprinklers
- Sweatshirts
- Winter adult boots

## TWO VIGNETTES

continued from page 1

that it is less than one penny!”

“Got it. Thanks, and just in time too because here come the kids with Eric.”

The whole incident took all of three minutes but it put a big smile on my face. “Wow, Beth, do you realize just how far we have come? Does this place rock or what? We’re humming like a well-oiled machine!” I said with pride. “Think about it. Remember all the research that went into acquiring the right radio system and how when we moved to the new building we were able to expand our range so we could reach every school we served. And think of the time it took to figure out the shared drive on the computer and the work that went into creating the file system so that every staff member has instant access to the curriculum. Every program now has a name, a file of possible activities, a bus ride activity, pre and post class materials to share with the school. It’s amazing!”

### VIGNETTE # 2

I was looking out the window of the camouflage room with my Wednesday morning tour group. It was a clear, crisp winter day outside and from this high vantage I was showing the natural area of Riverside Park, the climbing wall on the tower and the community gardens. Way below us aside the bicycle path, a group of middle school students were being instructed on the way to put on snowshoes.

“Ken, what’s that?” one of the visitors asked pointing out the window.

“Cool, it’s a Cooper’s hawk! Good eyes! It doesn’t look like the teacher has spotted it yet. Hold on a second; I have an idea.”

I quickly dialed the Center’s number on my cell phone.

“Maria? This is Ken” (Maria, answering at the front desk, is our Wednesday morning volunteer receptionist).

“Can you radio the group on the bike path and tell the teacher to look up?”

Laughing, she did as instructed. In less than 20 seconds from when we first noticed the hawk, we could see Dan (who happened to be teaching again) grab the radio from his belt, listen, look up and excitedly start pointing. Soon all eyes were on the exquisite accipiter perched a mere 30 feet above their heads, eyeing them all with great curiosity. They watched for a good two minutes before the hawk swooped down and up again, off into the forest.

Cell phone, trained volunteer at the ready, radio, well prepared staff and poof -- a spontaneous teachable moment. I love this place!

If you ever wonder what it means when we ask for operational support at the Urban Ecology Center, this is what it means—building the infrastructure needed to facilitate amazing experiences for kids, families, youth and adults. Any contribution, above and beyond your basic membership, is what keeps this Center vibrant and relevant.

You may not know, but your membership fee barely covers the cost of itself. We keep the fee low (significantly lower than many membership organizations) so all in our community have the opportunity to participate. We then have faith that those who have more will contribute to our annual campaign. Without your extra gift each year, we would not have the radios, the trained volunteer at the front desk, the computer systems which provide efficiency, the equipment needed to run programs or the bus to pick up the kids. In the end it is your gift that brings students out to see a Cooper’s hawk and learn the value of water. We’re “humming like a well oiled machine”, thanks to you!

P.S. If you have not given to the annual campaign yet this year, please, please do so now. We still really need your support this year. It’s as easy as clicking the “donate” button on our website at [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org).

## DAVEN’S LETTER

by Daven Villoth, 5<sup>th</sup> grader

*During a “Going Green” unit at Golda Meir School, 5th graders learned about living a “Green” life. Students were required to write a persuasive letter to someone in the community about the benefits of living a green life. Fifth grader Daven Villoth wrote a very inspiring letter suggesting that as a global community, we need to work together to save our environment and reduce our carbon footprint.*

Dear Fellow Consumer,

I have realized that you and I are both a part of the reason why we humans are not reducing our carbon footprint as much as we could. Take a moment to think about what you do in an everyday day. Think about all of the conveniences you believe you can’t live without. Think about accessories such as Ipods, cell phones, video games and other energy consuming items. Do you think there is any way that we could have modern day conveniences and still save energy? Yes there is. We could use solar panels to generate environmentally friendly electricity. And not only that, but if we all just walked instead of driving cars, the government could put more money toward improving or building bicycle trails, sidewalks, public parks and things like bike racks on buses. We can also buy products we can reuse and recycle.

People believe they cannot live without Ipods, cell phones, video games and computers. A way people can still use these appliances and still save energy is for people to find an alternative energy source. That source is the sun. If people use solar energy, the time they spend on energy consuming products will not harm the environment. We are already smart enough to make solar powered calculators. So why can’t we make those modern “need to have” conveniences solar powered?

All that sure would be nice, but companies will not make these items if we consumers are not willing to pay more if we have to. If we are willing to pay extra money, companies will put money into researching ways to build all sorts of environmentally friendly appliances. And people like

*To read the rest of Daven’s letter visit [www.urbanecologycenter.org/davensletter.html](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/davensletter.html)*

## “¡SÍ, BAJEMOS LA COLINA!”

by Dan Graves, Environmental Educator

“So, what causes winter?” I asked the energetic middle school students from Milwaukee Education Center (MEC). The answers that I received were as varied as the snowflakes falling from a winter sky. “The earth turns from the sun,” one student declared. Another shouted, “The earth is farther away from the sun in winter, so it gets colder.” Eventually, from the dusty archives of their brains we located the fact that the earth rotates on roughly a 23° axis. This axis causes a decrease in the amount of incoming solar radiation in the winter creating cold and an increase in incoming solar radiation in the summer creating warmth. We discussed some adaptations that Wisconsin animals have developed to be able to deal with the extremes that we experience during winter. Lots of mammals grow extra fat and fur. Other animals burrow under ground where the temperature is more constant. Still others deal with winter by going to their “second home” in warmer climates. “How do we as homo sapiens deal with winter?” After an array of answers, I proclaimed, “We ski!”

None of the students had been cross-country skiing before, so it was a task preparing them how to use the poles, skis and, most importantly, how to stand up after falling. After a half-mile ski north on the Oak Leaf trail and an all class race across the Riverside University High School football field, we decided in the spirit of the Olympic games to have some downhill ski trials on the sledding hill east of the Center’s building. The idea stemmed from their adventure-loving teacher Thor Stolen who loves to stretch the minds and muscles of his students. One student who overheard our downhill discussion said “¡Sí, bajemos la colina!” or “Let’s go down the hill!” After a few trials on the “bunny” side of the hill, I watched the teachers fearlessly lead their students down the “black diamond” side of the hill. Covered in snow but smiling from ear to ear, the students returned the skis and loaded onto the bus to return to school. On the bus it occurred to me after such a fun afternoon how thankful I am for the changing seasons of Wisconsin and that 23° axis on which our earth rotates.

## LOOKING EAST - READY TO SPRING FORWARD?

by Steve Marshall, Urban Stargazers

Or just ready for spring? Well, both happen in March (8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>). Between them is a full moon (10<sup>th</sup>). And of course we need to be ready for April first. Ha ha! Later we have the Passover full moon (9<sup>th</sup>). But how do we start?

First, get up at 6 a.m. on March 1<sup>st</sup> and look east. Stretch your arms and arch your back to a comfortable 40° gaze and spot the constellation Hercules, for once not upside down as in summer and fall, above the dazzling blue-white star Vega. The “key” is the “Keystone” – a relatively bright trapezoid about the width of a binocular view tapered to the right. A fuzball therein is the famous globular cluster M13.

Depending on visibility you can see four appendages to this trapezoidal

(and heroic) body, either kneeling with arm raised (his club is actually the dangerous head of Draco, a dragon looking over his shoulder), or arched back more than you, coiled to spring up and to the right as in a tennis serve. Either way he doesn’t have a head, though a crown Corona Borealis is close by to the right. Higher and to the southeast, the bright orange star Arcturus reminds us that our own warming sun is just lighting the sky and bringing the warmth of spring.

Now that you’re getting up early, the same sight will greet you after March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 a.m. But you’ll need to be more limber as March and April pass us by. They will all be higher in the sky.

## HIGH SCHOOL

continued from page 1

Outdoor Leadership program. He was accepted into the program and successfully completed it in 2007.

Upon returning from the Wyoming trip, Shawn was hired for a full year paid internship at the Center. He took pride in taking care of the animals and helping with the field biological research. He also pushed and challenged the staff. While challenging our adult assumptions, he learned negotiation skills and we learned how to improve our program.

Toward the end of his internship, Shawn organized a group of students to run the Teen Adventure Challenge. The team navigated the high waters of the Milwaukee River, ran through the foliage of the Milwaukee River wildlife corridor, climbed our 40’ tower, breezed through the aquatic ecology challenge, mastered the map and compass, and pushed themselves to not only succeed, but to have fun. Shawn returned for a second summer Outdoor Leadership experience, this time as a mentor to other students. But his leadership is not limited to the Urban Ecology Center.

Building on his entrepreneurial spirit, Shawn, a high school senior, now works for “Green Business Concepts” an electronics recycling enterprise. It is not uncommon for him to approach me with a new idea for a product or service that he’d like to launch. We have conversations now about internet-based marketing, inventory management, supply and demand, and - of course - protecting the planet. Did I mention he’s still in high school?

Shawn is one of many amazing high school students at the Urban Ecology Center. And there is room for plenty more! This is an exciting time of year, because this is when we start to see new high school students connecting to the Center.

Do you know any high school students? Please send them our way. We can’t wait to meet them! To sign up for the Teen Adventure Challenge on June 6<sup>th</sup> and to apply for the Outdoor Leadership Program, please visit [www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org).

## ANDRE'S REQUEST

by Joey Zocher, Washington Park Program Director

Thump, thump, thump! It wasn't odd that someone was at the door; there was a room full of people and we were open to more. What was odd was that the door was not locked. I left my chair in the discussion circle to open the door and the mystery was solved. Outside was a frozen youngster too small to open the heavy door on his own!

It was one of those sub-zero days in January when Stand Together Milwaukee and Public Allies aired their documentary "America's Promise", the second film in their Guns, Grief and Grace in America series, here in Washington Park. I received many phone calls that day, wondering if we should cancel due to the cold (schools had already been cancelled for the following day). My response was always the same, "If you want to, but we'll be open and there will be kids here expecting it." And so the show went on! Over 20 people, ranging from this young seven year old to, well, older, watched the documentary on gun violence and had a great discussion about ways we can prevent violence in the neighborhoods surrounding Washington Park.

The kids really brought the discussion to life with a frankness and sincerity

that impressed everyone. When talking about change, Josh mentioned "I used to be really bad until I turned 11. Then I met with my mentor and, well, I'm not bad anymore." Can a mentor really help that much? When asked what we could do to help stop the violence in Milwaukee, Andre responded "clean-up the neighborhoods". So simple. So true.

In honor of Andre's request, we will kick off our Earth Day Celebration on April 25 with a neighborhood clean-up! The Center, The Great American Clean-up, Public Allies, Stand Together Milwaukee, Neighbors United for Washington Park and 88nine invite you to join us at a site at 11 a.m. (see list below for locations). Afterwards, go the Washington Park bandshell to kick off our Earth Day Celebration!

As an extra incentive, the Harley-Davidson Foundation has donated silver garbage cans as thank you gifts for clean up volunteers! We thank the Harley-Davidson Foundation for its generosity and continued support of our Center.

Contact Joey at (414) 344-5460 or [jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org) for more information on Earth Day or if you're interested in volunteering to help mentor kids like Josh.

## FROM THE BOARD

by John Clancy, President,  
UEC Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors please accept our thanks to all of you that made a contribution to our year end campaign. In this economic climate your gifts matter now, more than ever.

I'd like to welcome and introduce our newest board member, Deb Spanic. Deb brings a number of talents to the Center. She is an attorney at Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, where she concentrates her practice in commercial and information technology transactions and intellectual property. She has significant experience in negotiating and drafting technology transfer, software, patent, and trademark license agreements, which should be helpful as the Center continues to upgrade its technology. In addition, before joining WHD, Deb worked in the business sector and was responsible for directing internet development for Northwestern Mutual Life in the marketing department, and served as in-house IP counsel to Briggs & Stratton Corporation. Deb has also served as president of Downtown Montessori Academy PTO and is on the board of directors of the Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra. Deb's marketing experience should be very helpful as she has joined our marketing committee, which is under the new leadership of Deb and Marc Andraca.

Finally, I wanted to highlight the new planning process that the board is undergoing. We recently had a board retreat and decided that, despite the present economic situation, it is crucial the Center continue to look forward to see what it would like to be five and ten years from now. We discussed a number of great opportunities for the Center to expand its service to the Milwaukee community. To help make sure that we pursue the best options for both the Center and the community, we are undergoing a long-term planning process, visioning what the Center could be in 5, 10, or even 20 years from now. As our work progresses we will update you.

## WASHINGTON PARK EARTH DAY CLEAN UP LOCATIONS—MEET US AT 11 A.M.!

**Highland Community School**—meet at the playground at 3030 W. Highland (partnering with Cold Spring Park Neighborhood Association and Historic Concordia Neighbors, Inc.)

**Hmong American Friendship Association**—meet at the community gardens on 38th and Vliet (partnering with Martin Drive Neighborhood Association)

**St. Sebastian & St. Coletta**—meet at the playground on 1747 N. 54th St. (partnering with Washington Heights Neighborhood Association)

**Washington High School**—meet at the front steps at 2525 N. Sherman Blvd. (partnering with Sherman Park Community Association)

**Westside Academy II**—meet at the playground on 75th and Brown (partnering with Lisbon Area Neighborhood Development)

## MARCH - APRIL CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

### What's with the frogs and fish?

The Center offers programs at both our Riverside and Washington Park locations. 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 ahead of the program date if you have accessibility needs.

Scholarships are available for all fee-based programs. For information call 964-8505.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### CSA AND LOCAL FOOD OPEN HOUSE\*

Saturday, March 7  
Noon - 4 p.m.

For everyone  
Free- donations appreciated



Learn about community supported agriculture (CSA) and other local food producers, meet CSA farmers and sign up for a weekly delivery of fresh, organic produce. Stay for children's activities and win \$300 towards local food! Co-sponsored by Slow Foods WISE.

#### "HOUSE" CONCERT

Thursday, April 2  
7 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children  
Adults: \$10  
(Nonmembers - \$15)  
Children: \$8  
(Nonmembers - \$12)  
Call to register, 964-8505



Cindy Kallet and Grey Larsen, each well-known and loved for their decades of music making, have joined musical forces in a new duo. The duo's repertoire includes original songs, traditional Irish music, Scandinavian fiddle duets, old-time fiddle and guitar tunes from southern Indiana. Part of the proceeds of this concert will go to benefit the Center.

#### EARTH DAY FOR AFTERNOON NAPPERS\*

Saturday, April 18  
10:30 a.m. - noon

For ages 5 and younger  
accompanied by an adult  
Free- donations appreciated  
Registration required by April 17<sup>th</sup>, call 964-8505.



An Earth Day Festival program for the young ones! Enjoy a puppet show, craft and outdoor activities.

#### EARTH DAY FESTIVAL AT RIVERSIDE PARK\*

Saturday, April 18  
Noon - 4 p.m.

For everyone  
Free- donations appreciated



Come to our annual Riverside Park festival and enjoy music, rock climbing, nature walks, crafts, carriage rides, games, food, resource booths and more. Our featured entertainment is a Korean Traditional Drum Group. This new and dynamic group will engage everyone in the earthly and fascinating sounds of unique Korean drums.

#### 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL EARTH POETS & MUSICIANS FESTIVAL\*

Friday, April 24  
7 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated  
(Nonmembers - individuals - \$5, families - \$10)



Come for an evening of poetry and song. 7 p.m. — Family-oriented/interactive poetry and music with children. 8 pm. — Concert, featuring Jahmes Tony Finlayson, Louisa Loveridge Gallas, Holly Haebig, Jeff Poniewaz, Suzanne Rosenblatt, Harvey Taylor, and special guest, the fabulous Claudia Schmidt.

#### EARTH DAY FESTIVAL AT WASHINGTON PARK\*

Saturday, April 25  
Noon - 4 p.m.

For everyone  
Free-donations appreciated



Come to our annual Washington Park festival and enjoy music, canoeing, nature walks, crafts, games, food, resource booths and more. Begin your day by helping us clean our neighborhood at 11 a.m., (see page 5 for details).

### HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORERS

#### MAPLE FESTIVAL TRIP FOR TEENS

Saturday, March 21  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For teens  
\$10 (scholarships available)



Travel to Riveredge Nature Center's Maple Sugar Magic Festival to celebrate the maple tapping season. Space is limited, so sign up early.

**Teens must have a permission form signed by a parent or guardian to participate.**

Download a permission form at [www.urbanecologycenter.org/permission](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/permission) or ask for a form from our receptionist.

#### RIVER CLEAN UP BY CANOE

Saturday, April 18  
9 a.m. - noon

For teens  
**Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse - 1190 N. Commerce St.**  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505

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

#### ROCK YOUR APRIL

Saturday, April 25  
2 - 4 p.m.

For teens  
\$3  
(Nonmembers - \$5)



We dare you to scale our 40' climbing wall! Rock your April by rock climbing with other teens.

**Teens must have a permission form signed by a parent or guardian to participate.** Download a permission form at [www.urbanecologycenter.org/permission](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/permission) or ask for a form from our receptionist.

### URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER TOURS

#### WEDNESDAY WALKS WITH KEN\*

Wednesdays, 9 - 11 a.m.

For adults and accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505



Explore Riverside Park and/or our green facility with Executive Director, Ken Leinbach (tour leader substitution on occasion). Call ahead to confirm.

#### TOUR OF WASHINGTON PARK BRANCH\*

Wednesdays  
5 - 6 p.m.

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



Join Washington Park Program Director Joey Zocher on a tour of our new branch and Washington Park. Dress for the weather. Call ahead to confirm.

#### BETH'S BUILDING TOUR\*

Thursdays  
5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

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



Explore our green facility with Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning, Beth Fetterley, and learn about the Center's innovative building design and programming (tour leader substitution on occasion).

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### MAPLE SUGARING IN WASHINGTON PARK

Tuesday, March 3 & 17  
5 - 6 p.m.  
For everyone  
Adults: \$5  
(Nonmembers - \$8)   
Children: \$3  
(Nonmembers - \$6)  
Call to register, 964-8505

Learn how to tell maple trees from other trees in Washington Park, then try your hand at tapping trees and collecting sap.

### STORYTIME WITH EVA\*

Saturdays,   
March 7 & 21  
10 - 11 a.m.  
For ages 5 and younger accompanied by an adult  
\$2 or \$6 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers - \$3 or \$9 for families of 4 or more)  
Call to register, 964-8505

Warm up by the fire with some cocoa and listen to stories.

### CREATE A CROCHETED PLASTIC BAG\*

Sunday, March 8 & 15  
1 p.m.   
For everyone  
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$8)

Crochet your old plastic grocery bags into an over-the-shoulder reusable bag during this two-week series. Crocheting experience is necessary. Please bring scissors, 30-40 plastic bags, and J-M crocheting hooks.

### MAPLE SUGARING IN RIVERSIDE PARK

Sundays, March 8 & 15  
2 - 4 p.m.   
For everyone  
Adults: \$5  
(Nonmembers - \$8)  
\$3 (Nonmembers - \$6)  
Maximum of \$15 per family  
Call to register, 964-8505

Participate in a fun winter tradition — collecting maple sap and boiling it into syrup. On the 8<sup>th</sup> we will tap trees and on the 15<sup>th</sup> we will boil our sap into delicious syrup.

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST\*

Sunday, March 15  
10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.   
For everyone  
Adults: \$3  
(Nonmembers - \$6)  
Children: \$2  
(Nonmembers - \$4)  
Call to register, 964-8505

Come join us for a pancake breakfast featuring 100% maple syrup made from trees in Riverside Park. Sausage, coffee and juice will also be provided.

### LET'S POONGMUL! KOREAN DRUMMING FOR KIDS\*

Sunday, March 15   
2 - 3 p.m.  
For ages 4 and older, parents welcome  
\$4 or \$12 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers - \$7 or \$24 for families of 4 or more)  
Registration required, call 964-8505

Learn traditional rhythms of Korea through drumming in this fun and interactive workshop. Use special sticks to play the Jang-Go, an hourglass-shaped wooden drum. As you drum you'll learn Korean culture, language and how Korean drums are connected to nature.

### FAMILY GARDENING\*

Saturday, March 21   
3 - 4:30 p.m.  
For adults and children accompanied by adults  
Adults: \$5  
(Nonmembers - \$7)  
Children: \$3  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505

Make gardening fun for the whole family! Explore how to plan, prepare and plant a garden while involving the entire family. Learn about theme gardens, activities and more!

### ALL ABOUT PLANTS: JUST FOR KIDS\*

Saturday, March 21   
3 - 4:30 p.m.  
For ages 4-10 with or without an accompanying adult  
\$3 (Nonmembers - \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505

Have you ever eaten a root or tasted a stem? Well, here's your chance to do just that! Enjoy an afternoon of plant crafts, stories and games. Parents participating in "Family Gardening" may choose this hands-on alternative for their children.

### LET'S MAKE GRANOLA\*

Sunday, March 29   
1 - 3 p.m.  
For adults and children accompanied by adults  
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)  
Call to register, 964-8505

We will learn how to make granola and granola bars. Members requested program. Delicious!

### NATURE DETECTIVES

Sundays, March 29 & April 26   
2 - 3:30 p.m.  
For everyone  
\$4 or \$12 for families of 4 or more (Nonmembers - \$7 or \$24 for families of 4 or more)  
Call to register, 964-8505

Discover the natural world as we explore Riverside Park using magnifying glasses and doing scavenger hunts.

### APRIL FOOLS OR FACTS\*

Wednesday, April 1   
6 - 7 p.m.  
For everyone  
Adults: \$4  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Children: \$2  
(Nonmembers - \$3)  
Call to register, 964-8505

Will a toad give you warts? Can a porcupine really shoot its quills? Learn the answers to these questions, plus many more! We promise you won't leave a fool!

### PHUN WITH PHYSICS!\*

Wednesday, April 8   
7 - 8 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505

Nature is governed by forces that we can't see. Get ready to become mad scientists and explore the laws of physics through fun interactive demos! Maybe you'll even get to blow up a thing or two.

### IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S A...WOODCOCK?

Saturday, April 11   
6 - 8:30 p.m.  
For everyone  
\$7 (Nonmembers - \$10)  
Call to register, 964-8505

"Peent, Peent" It's the sound of an American woodcock. Learn what makes this bird truly unique. Then travel to a site to watch its spectacular sky dance. Transportation provided.

### TREE ID FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Wednesday,   
April 22  
7 - 8 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated  
(Nonmembers - \$5)

Learn fun and helpful hints on how to easily identify the different trees growing in Washington Park and in your neighborhood.

### CAMP COOKING\*

Tuesdays in April   
5 - 6 p.m.  
For everyone  
Adults: \$5 (Nonmembers - \$8)  
Children: \$3  
(Nonmembers - \$6)  
Call to register, 964-8505

Like to cook? Enjoy being outdoors? Then come to Washington Park and have the best of both worlds. Demos are courtesy of our own classically trained chef so you know it'll be good.

### FISHING WITH E.B. GARNER\*

Wednesdays in April   
5 - 6:30 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated

Enjoy a fun evening fishing in Washington Park. Learn fishing techniques and play fishing games. Dependent on the weather. Poles provided.

### SCIENCE AND MATH TUTORING\*

Thursdays   
4 - 7 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated

Getting stuck on your science and math homework? Then stop by the Center at Washington Park and get over the hump with help from our knowledgeable staff.

### OUTDOOR PLAY

Fridays   
5 - 7 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated

Come play outside with us in Washington Park!

### ANIMAL FEEDING\*

Saturdays   
1 - 2 p.m.   
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated

Come to either location to help feed the Center's resident turtles, snakes and fish as you learn about the animals that inhabit Riverside and Washington Parks.

### SCIENCE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS\*

Drop in program   
Saturdays,  
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sundays, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated

Explore science through self-led interactive activities. Topics:

March: Owls April: Flight

## ADULT LEARNING

### MENU FOR THE FUTURE DISCUSSION COURSE\*

Kick-off Meeting:

Sunday, March 1  
3 - 4 p.m.

Group meets on Sundays,  
March 8 - April 19 (no  
meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>)

For adults

\$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)  
Call to register, 964-8505

Throughout this six-week course we will talk about food systems and their impacts on our world, gain insight into agricultural and personal practices that promote ecological and personal well being, and consider ways to support local food systems. Space is limited.

### LET'S POONGMUL! KOREAN TRADITIONAL DRUMMING FOR ADULTS AND TEENS\*

Mondays,  
March 9 - 30  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

For adults and teens  
\$8 (Nonmembers - \$10) per session  
Registration required,  
call 964-8505

Learn to play Korean drums!

This 4-week series for teenagers and adults incorporates Korean drumming, culture and language. Learn to play an hourglass shaped wooden drum called the Jang-Go and basic rhythms of Korean drumming. Drums provided.

### ECOLOGY OF VIBRATIONAL COMMUNICATION: The Hidden World in Your Backyard\*

Speaker: Rafael L. Rodríguez,  
Assistant Professor, UWM  
Tuesday, March 10  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

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

Humans miss out on much of the variety of life that surrounds us, in part because our senses cannot detect the vibrational signals and sounds that travel through the substrates. Learn how this form of communication changes our understanding of the lives of many species right in our backyards!

### T'AI CHI AND BEYOND: ADVENTURES IN EXERCISE!

Saturdays, March 7 & April 4  
9:30 - 11 a.m.

For adults and accompanied children

Adults: \$12 (Nonmembers - \$15) Children: \$8  
(Nonmembers - \$10) per session

Come play at an intergenerational exploration of movement and exercise! Parents, children and grandparents will discover fun ways to move, stretch, balance, relax and groove! Enjoy one or both sessions.

### SEED SWAP\*

Saturday, March 14  
1 - 2 p.m.

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

Do you have an overabundance of seeds or want to try something new? Bring your seeds and swap them with others.

### GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES\*

Part 1: Sprouting  
Your Garden

Riverside Park  
Saturday, March 14  
2 - 4 p.m.

Part 2: The Harvest  
Washington Park

Saturday, March 28  
2 - 4 p.m.

For adults  
\$20 payable to Milwaukee  
Urban Gardens  
Register at [www.milwaukeeurbangardens.org](http://www.milwaukeeurbangardens.org)

This series provides a detailed overview of organic gardening. Part 1 focuses on how to create and maintain a garden to suit your gardening goals. Part 2 details garden maintenance, pest control and how to have an explosive harvest. We'll also demonstrate ways to preserve all the extra produce and explore preparing ground for winter.

### AN AMERICAN EDUCATOR IN CHINA\*

Wednesday,  
March 18  
7 - 8 p.m.

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

Come hear Environmental Educator Tory Bahe's stories about her experiences at environmental summer camps in Northern China and the work the International Crane Foundation is doing in this vast and changing country.

### COMPOSTING WORKSHOP\*

Saturday, March 21  
10 - 11:30 a.m.

For adults  
\$15, payable to Keep Greater  
Milwaukee Beautiful  
Registration required through  
KGMB at [http://kgmb.org/adult\\_programs.html](http://kgmb.org/adult_programs.html)

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

### VERMICOMPOSTING WORKSHOP\*

Saturday, March 21  
1 - 2:30 p.m.

For adults  
\$15 Payable to Keep Greater  
Milwaukee Beautiful  
Registration required through  
KGMB at [http://kgmb.org/adult\\_programs.html](http://kgmb.org/adult_programs.html)

Explore how worms can turn your kitchen scraps into rich compost to fertilize your garden. Learn about vermicomposting and how you can start and maintain your own system.

### RAPTOR SURVEY

Saturday, March 28  
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

For adults and  
accompanied children  
Adults: \$6  
(Nonmembers - \$10)  
Children: \$4  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505

Listen and search for raptors as we survey parts of Milwaukee County. Transportation provided. Weather dependent. Space is limited, so please register early!

### BOOK CLUB\*

Saturdays, March 28  
& April 25  
10 - 11 a.m.

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

March: *Crossing Open Ground* by Barry Lopez

April: *The Force of Spirit* by Scott Russell Sanders

### ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOPS\*

Tuesday, March 31 &  
Thursday, April 30  
5:30 - 7 p.m.

For adults  
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$10)  
Free for regular  
birding volunteers  
Call to register, 964-8505

These monthly workshops delve into the mysterious and wonderful world of birds looking at current research and well-established topics. Birdwalk follows. Binoculars provided.

### TWILIGHT BIRD HIKE

Wednesday, April 1  
6 p.m.

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

Thirty-six bird species have been recorded in Washington Park, including woodcock, bluebirds, phoebes, sapsuckers, kingfishers, coots and grebes. We'll try to add to this list. All skill levels welcome and binoculars are provided. After the walk stay for hot chocolate and a talk on birds (see below for details).

### BRRRRRRRDS IN WINTER\*

Wednesday, April 1  
7 p.m.

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

Most birds go south for the winter, but a lot stick it out with the rest of us. We'll look at behavioral and physiological adaptations that allow birds to go through the deep freezes of winter while maintaining a 104° body temperature.

### FROG TALK (LITERALLY)\*

Speaker:  
Gerlinde Hoebel, Associate  
Adjunct Professor, UWM  
Tuesday, April 14  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

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

How do frogs communicate? What are they saying to each other? Get answers to these exciting questions and experience the sights and sounds of frogs from across the globe.

## ADULT LEARNING

**PRAIRIE CHICKEN VIEWING - BUENA VISTA MARSH**Wednesday, April 15 -  
Thursday, April 16

For adults

\$45 plus lodging  
(Nonmembers - \$55  
plus lodging)Includes \$10 contribution  
to UW-Stevens Point Prairie  
Chicken conservation efforts  
Registration required, call  
Tim at 964-8505, x116Join us for an overnight and early  
morning viewing of greater prairie  
chicken mating ritual. They jump  
and square off against each other  
all while drumming their feet. It's  
a truly unforgettable experience.**BIRD BANDING**Tuesdays, April 21 -  
May 26

Early mornings

For adults and  
accompanied childrenFree - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505Few experiences compare with  
feeling the rapid heartbeat of  
a bird in your hand. Join us  
for an up-close look at birds  
during spring migration.**DNR FROG & TOAD SURVEY**Friday, April 24  
7:30 - 11:30 p.m.For adults and  
accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505Come out for a late night of froggin'  
and help add to the Wisconsin  
DNR's statewide database of frogs  
and toads. Dress for the weather and  
wear footwear that can get muddy.**SUSTAINABLE BUILDING EXHIBIT OPEN HOURS**

Mondays

4 - 7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505Remodeling, adding on, or  
building new? 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. Resource person  
available during open hours.

## URBAN ADVENTURES

**OPEN CLIMBS ON TOWER**

Sundays, March 1 &amp; 15,

April 5 & 19,  
2:30-4:30 p.m.

For everyone

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

Children: \$8 (Nonmembers - \$12)

Call to register, 964-8505

Build strength, balance and confidence by climbing on our  
tower's rock wall! All climbers must have a completed and signed  
waiver before climbing, available at [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org). Please call ahead to register, no walk-ins.

## ART AT UEC

**RETURNING TO EARTH: ROBERT SMITH;  
HUMAN NATURE: HAL KOENIG\***

Show runs through late March

**TREESCAPES, SEASCAPES, LAGOONS, LAKE:  
ADOLPH AND SUZANNE ROSENBLATT\***

Sunday, April 5

2 - 4 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Show runs through late June

Both Adolph and Suzanne Rosenblatt are inspired by real life. Adolph  
settles down near a cluster of trees with his Cray-Pas and cardboard  
and plays with forms, space and light. Suzanne stations herself on the  
shoreline of river, lake or lagoon and draws or paints using images  
and words. Talk by artists at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

## INTEREST GROUPS

**UEC PHOTO CLUB\***

Thursdays, March 5

&amp; April 2

6:30 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Explore nature in an artistic  
light and develop new skills.**STAND TOGETHER MILWAUKEE**

Wednesdays,

March 11

&amp; April 8

8:45 - 10:30 a.m.

For Adults

Free - donations appreciated

Collaborate with other  
organizations and individuals to  
stand together to confront gun  
violence in Milwaukee and restore  
a sense of healthy community  
through collaborative action.**URBAN ECHO POETS\***

Thursdays, March 12

&amp; April 9

7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

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.**FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD\***

Wednesdays,

March 11 &amp; April 8

6 - 8 p.m.

For adults

Free- donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505

March: Affordable Real Food.

It's possible to eat locally and  
sustainably grown food on a  
budget. Learn some affordable  
sources of good food in our area.

April: Foraging for Wild Food.

Matt Flower, an enthusiastic  
gatherer of wild foods, will help us  
explore what wild foods we can find  
in the city—even in our own yards!**URBAN STARGAZERS:***Celestial Navigation  
with Dan Fetterley\**

Thursday,

March 12

7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Ancient Polynesians travelled  
long distances across the open  
South Pacific Ocean to reach  
small island destinations. Learn  
how they did this using the  
stars as aids to navigation.**KNITTING CIRCLE\***

Sundays, March 15

&amp; April 26

3 - 4:30 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

If you are new to knitting or  
an experienced knitter, please  
join us for a cup of coffee, good  
conversation and knitting.**VEGETARIAN POTLUCK\***

Thursdays,

March 19 &amp; April 16

6:30 - 8 p.m.

For adults &amp;

accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciatedBring a plate and fork along  
with your meatless dish to share  
at our picnic style meal.**PATHS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE\***

Tuesdays,

March 31 &amp;

April 21

6:30 - 8 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

(Nonmembers - \$5)

Childcare available: \$4

(Nonmembers \$6)

Call to register, 964-8505

March: Creating Community  
Wealth. Alternative currencies have  
a long history and may become  
important in a more localized  
economy. Rob McClure will share  
insights from the 13-year-old  
currency known as Madison Hours.

April: Victory Gardens for a

New Era. Learn about a new  
initiative that aims to build  
community and increase local  
sustainability and food security by  
replacing lawns with gardens.**URBAN STARGAZERS\***

Thursday, April 9

7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Join us for fun, information  
and stargazing.**EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS\***

Thursdays

8 a.m.

For adults &amp;

accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciatedKick start your day with fresh  
air and bird song. Interested  
bird watchers of all ability levels  
are invited to explore bird life  
with us. Binoculars available.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

by Susan Winans, Volunteer Coordinator

“We want to get out of the office and be outside.” “We’d like to have a hands-on learning experience.” “We’re looking for an opportunity to get to know each other better and build our team.” “We hope to give back to the community.”

These are some of the reasons group leaders call the Center to schedule a service project, and we are happy to help them meet their goals and put them to work!

It is the Center’s mission to protect and preserve the natural lands that make up Riverside and Washington Parks. Youth groups, scouts, synagogues, churches, colleges, universities and businesses provide hundreds of volunteers annually to help us further this mission. We couldn’t do it without them! As an organization that avoids using chemicals and machinery to manage the land, we need human power to bring about vibrant parks and healthier ecosystems.

It would be hard to walk through either park without seeing evidence

of the work of our service groups during the past year. In Riverside Park the community garden beds are filled with soil and surrounded by a fence thanks to volunteers. A section of the riverbank once covered with invasive canary grass now has native plants growing there. Nursery beds along the bike path are ready to nurture young plants this spring.

In Washington Park, volunteers planted over 12,000 native plants last summer alone! Also, they helped with a wetland restoration project included removal of invasive cattails and installation of a boardwalk.

Connect your group to the Center! Group service projects are scheduled April through October. Contact Susan at 964-8505, x110, if you’re interested in finding out what your group can do for the Urban Ecology Center this year.

Not affiliated with a group? Come and join other volunteers on projects at the Center. See the volunteer opportunities listed on the right for more details.

## WHITE-NOSED SYNDROME

*continued from page 1*

bats have a low reproductive rate of 1 young per female per year, which means recovery would take a very long time.

So what can you do? There is certainly a need for research and monitoring, so you could support organizations looking into the problem. Or you could help scientists by monitoring bats in your own backyard, and you don’t need to have a Ph.D.

Through generous support from the Citizen-Based Monitoring Network of Wisconsin, the Center will receive a portable bat detector for use in our Citizen Science programming. With minimal training you will be able to walk through your neighborhood or a nearby park and the device will record the bats you come across. A

frequency-lowering mechanism will allow you to “hear” bats in real-time and a GPS unit will allow you to easily produce a map of your journey, along with the location of bat sightings.

The more we learn about the current distribution, densities, habits and behavior of Wisconsin bats, the better we will be able to combat white-nosed syndrome if it does make it our way. Bats are an important part of any ecosystem, controlling insects and pests, pollinating, and dispersing the seeds of many plants, including peaches, avocados and cashews.

If you are interested in monitoring bats in your neighborhood, please contact Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science, (414) 964-8505, x116 or tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*Unless otherwise noted, please contact Susan at x110 or swinans@urbanecologycenter.org to sign up for the following opportunities*

### Volunteer Orientations

**Riverside Park**, Saturdays, March 14 & April 4, 10:30 a.m. - noon  
Thursday, March 26, 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

**Washington Park**, Saturdays, March 14 & April 4, 10 - 11 a.m.

### Volunteer video professional.

We need someone to help us capture interviews and stories.  
Contact: Ginger, x106.

**Burdock Brigade.** Help remove exotic invasive plant species and plant native species.

**Riverside Park**, Tuesdays, 9 - 11 a.m. & Saturdays, March 7, 21, April 4 & 18, 9 - 10:30 a.m.

**Washington Park**, Saturdays, Noon - 2 p.m.

**Park Rangers.** Help with indoor and outdoor projects.

**Riverside Park**, Saturday, March 14, 28, April 11 & 25, 9 - 10:30 a.m.

**Washington Park**, Saturdays, 9 - 10 a.m.

### Bird banding training.

Learn how you can help us monitor migratory birds.  
Contact: Tim, x116.

**Riverside Park**, Tuesday, April 14, 9 a.m.

**Weed-Out.** Bring your gardening gloves and help remove invasive plants.

**Riverside Park**, Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. - noon

**Belayer training.** Become one of our trained rock climbing volunteers! Contact: Chad, x115.

**Riverside Park**, Saturday, May 2, 1 - 4 p.m., Registration required, call 964-8505

**Papermaking.** Learn the art of recycled papermaking and create beautiful gifts for our supporters.

**Riverside Park**, Thursdays, 4 - 6 p.m.

## THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER

The Center receives a majority of its support from local foundations, corporations and individuals. This page is reserved each issue to thank you and the many supporters of the Center. **The names listed are those that made a contribution to the Center in the two months since our last 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 2600 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! Call Ginger x106 if your name has not appeared as you expected.

**We would like to thank the wonderful donors who attended the Summer Camp fundraising event on January 31. Look for your name in our next issue!**

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**SEE PAGE 2 FOR OUR INKIND DONORS!**

# JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY!

## MEMBERSHIP

### Renew or begin your membership, choose one:

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

Financial assistance is available. Please call Nikiya Harris, Development Assistant at x105 or [nharris@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:nharris@urbanecologycenter.org) for details.

### Give a gift membership:

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

Recipient Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send the announcement card to

- Me    Gift recipient    Card picked up

Occasion \_\_\_\_\_ Deliver by \_\_\_\_\_

## DONATION (IN ADDITION TO MEMBERSHIP)

Please accept my gift to support:

- A community program (\$50)
- One half day for a school class (\$125)
- One full day for a school class (\$250)
- A Citizen Science project (\$500)
- Improved Riverside Park trails (\$1,000)
- A school for one year (\$5,000)
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org)



at Washington Park  
Saturday, April 25

at Riverside Park  
Saturday, April 18



**EARTH DAY!**

Riverside Park  
1500 E. Park Place  
Milwaukee, WI 53211



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# URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

# MARCH 2009

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3p	Science Sundays, Drop in: 12:30-4:30p (rp), topic: Owls on Tower (RP) Menu for the Future Discussion Course - Kid-off Meeting (rp)	Returning to Earth: Robert Smith; Human Nature: Hal Koenig, Show runs through late March (rp)	Burdock Brigade (rp) Maple Sugaring in Washington Park (wp)	9a Wednesday Walks with Ken (rp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp)	8a Birdwalk (rp) (rp) 4p Science and Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 4p Beth's Building Tour (rp) 6:30p UEC Photo Club (rp)	5p Outdoor Play (wp)	Science Saturdays, Drop in: 9:30a-4:30p (rp), topic: Owls 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) 9a Trail Chv/Beyond (rp) 9:30a Trail Chv/Beyond (rp) <b>CSA and Local Food Open House</b> Noon - 4p (rp) Noon Burdock Brigade (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches) 2p Storytime with Eva (rp)
1p 2p	Create a Crocheted Plastic Bag (rp) Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park (rp)	Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp) 6:30p Let's Poopgnull! Korean Traditional Drumming for Adults and Teens (rp)	9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 7p Ecology of Vibrational Communication (rp)	8:45a Stand Together Milwaukee Wednesday Walks with Ken (rp) 9a Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) 5p Friends of Reel Food (RP)	8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science and Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 4p Beth's Building Tour (rp) 5:30p Urban Stargazers: Celestial Navigation (rp) 7p Urban Echo Poets (rp) 7p	5p Outdoor Play (wp)	9a Park Rangers (all branches) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10:30a Volunteer Orientation (rp) Noon Burdock Brigade (wp) 1p Seed Swap (rp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches) 2p Grow your Own Groceries Part 1 (rp)
10:30a 1p 2p 2p 2:30p 3p	15 Bancroft Breakfast (rp) Create a Crocheted Plastic Bag (rp) Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park (rp) Let's Poopgnull! Korean Drumming for Kids (rp) Open Climbs on lower (RP) Knitting Circle (rp)	Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp) 6:30p Let's Poopgnull! Korean Traditional Drumming for Adults and Teens (rp)	9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 5p Maple Sugaring in Washington Park (wp)	9a Wednesday Walks with Ken (rp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) 7p An American Educator in China (wp)	8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science and Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 4p Beth's Building Tour (rp) 6:30p Vegetarian Pollack (RP)	5p Outdoor Play (wp)	9a Maple Festival Trip for Teens (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) 10a Composting Workshop (rp) Noon Burdock Brigade (wp) 1p Vermicomposting Workshop (rp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches) 2p Storytime with Eva (rp) 3p Family Gardening (rp) 3p All About Kids: Just for Kids (rp)
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1p 2p	29 Let's Make Gramola (rp) Nature Detectives (rp)	Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp) 6:30p Korean Traditional Drumming for Adults and Teens (rp)	9a Burdock Brigade (rp)	9a Wednesday Walks with Ken (rp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp)	8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science and Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking (rp) 4p Beth's Building Tour (rp) 6:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp)	5p Outdoor Play (wp)	8a Raptor Survey (rp) 9a Park Rangers (all branches) 10a Book Club (rp) Noon Burdock Brigade (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches) 2p Grow your Own Groceries Part 2 (wp)

# URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

# APRIL 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9a Wednesday Walks with Ken (rp) 5p Fishing with E.B. Garner (wp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) 6p Twilight Bird Hike (wp) 7p Birpprds in Winter (wp) 6p April Fools or Fads (rp)	2 8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science and Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking(rp) 5:30p Beth's Building Tour (rp) 6:30p UEC Photo Club (rp) <b>"House" Center to Benefit the Center (rp) 7p</b>	3 5p Outdoor Play (wp)	4 Science Saturdays Drop in 9:30a-4:30p (rp) topic: Flight 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) 9:30a Tai Chi/Beyond (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10:30a Volunteer Orientation (rp) Noon Burdock Brigade (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches)
5 Science Sundays Drop in 12:30-4:30p (rp) topic: Flight 2p Telescopes, Lagoons, Lake, Adolph and Suzanne Rosenblitt (rp) 2:30p Open Climbs on Tower (RP)	6 Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)	7 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 5p Camp Cooking (wp)	8 8:45a Stand Together Milwaukee (wp) 9a Wednesday Walks with Ken (rp) 5p Fishing with E.B. Garner (wp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) 6p Friends of Real Food (RP) 7p Phun with Physical (wp)	9 8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science and Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking(rp) 5:30p Beth's Building Tour (rp) 7p Urban Stargazers (rp) 7p Urban Echo Poets (rp)	10 5p Outdoor Play (wp)	11 9a Park Rangers (all branches) Noon Burdock Brigade (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches) 6p It's a Bird, it's a Plane, it's a... Woodcock? (rp)
12	13 Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)	14 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Bird Banding Training (rp) 5p Camp Cooking (wp) 7p Frog Talk (literally) (rp)	15 Leave for overnight Prairie Chicken Viewing - Buena Vista Marsh 9a Wednesday Walks with Ken (rp) 5p Fishing with E.B. Garner (wp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp)	16 Return from overnight Prairie Chicken Viewing - Buena Vista Marsh 8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science and Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking(rp) 5:30p Beth's Building Tour (rp) 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck (RP)	17 5p Outdoor Play (wp)	18 9a Weed-Out 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 9a Park Rangers (wp) 9a River Clean Up By Canoe (rp) <b>Earth Day for Afternoon Nappers 10:30 a.m. - noon (rp)</b> <b>Earth Day/Riverside Park Noon - 4p (rp)</b> Noon Burdock Brigade (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches)
19	20 Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)	21 Early 9a Bird Banding (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 5p Camp Cooking (wp) 6:30p Paths to a Sustainable Future (rp) 6:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp) 6:30p Paths to a Sustainable Future (rp)	22 9a Wednesday Walks with Ken (rp) 5p Fishing with E.B. Garner (wp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) 7p Tree ID for the Whole Family (wp)	23 8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science and Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking(rp) 5:30p Beth's Building Tour (rp)	24 5p Outdoor Play (wp) <b>The 22nd Annual Earth Poets &amp; Musicians Festival 7p (rp)</b> DNR Frog & Toad Survey (rp)	25 9a Park Rangers (all branches) 10a Book Club (rp) <b>Earth Day/ Washington Park Noon - 4p (wp)</b> Noon Burdock Brigade (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (all branches) 2p Rock Your April (rp)
26 2p Nature Detectives (rp) 3p Knitting Circle (rp)	27 Drop in, 4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit Open Hours (rp)	28 Early 9a Bird Banding (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 5p Camp Cooking (wp)	29 9a Wednesday Walks with Ken (rp) 5p Fishing with E.B. Garner (wp) 5p Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp)	30 8a Birdwalk (rp) 4p Science and Math Tutoring (wp) 4p Papermaking(rp) 5:30p Ornithology Workshop (rp) 5:30p Beth's Building Tour (rp)		