



It's Easy to Start Your Year off Well!

by Beth Heller, Interim Executive Director

Keeping New Year's resolutions can be hard. Especially if one of your resolutions is to be active outdoors the middle of a season that usually keeps us indoors. I've learned that finding a group of people with similar interests can help get me going. So, if you're aiming to start your year with more exercise, less stress and more meaningful time with family, we can connect you with others to help you along. Soon the resolution will become a part of your usual routine.

We have many ways you can get going this year. Some are DIY: free, self-organizing opportunities facilitated by the Urban Ecology Center.

Two DIY opportunities for this winter are:

Join other families and create a **Natural Families Nature Club**. These clubs connect families who want to participate in outdoor activities together. Think of them as nature play dates with new friends.

Natural Families Nature Clubs were created by the Children and Nature Network (C&NN). Cofounded by Richard Louv* and Cheryl Charles, C&NN is an international network that aims to get children outside. The Urban Ecology Center shares this goal, so we're helping people to organize their clubs. Come to an orientation the first weekend of January and receive a start-up kit.

Join our **Snow and Go** Facebook group and get ready to play in the snow! One of the best aspects of living in a cold climate is snow. But snowfall conditions are hard to predict. When the weather is right for skiing, snowshoeing or other outdoor activities, look at posts from community members and staff for opportunities to get outside together and play! We have equipment for members to borrow, or

continued on page 4



Building the World We Want

by Glenna Holstein, Branch Manager - Menomonee Valley

As we usher in 2017, I've been thinking a lot about the idea of change. It seems like it's something all of us want, in some way or another. We may have different ideas about what kind of change, but I get the sense that most folks would agree with the statement that "The way the world is right now is not ok. We need a change."



This desire for change has created a lot of conversations about what within the status quo we need to *fight against*. For me, it's a long list: climate change, injustice, disparity, oppression, just to name a few. While these conversations are critically important, I've realized that we tend to spend much less time talking about what it is we are *working for*. What would it look like to have the world we want to live in?

I truly believe that we need to spend more time thinking about that question. And I think that's one of the main reasons I appreciate the Urban Ecology Center. Our work, of course, does "fight against" some of the things I listed earlier. But at its core, the UEC is not about "filling a gap" or "addressing a problem"—it's about building the world we want to live in, right here in our own neighborhoods.

I have been reading *The Next American Revolution* by Grace Lee Boggs* recently, and she speaks with incredible eloquence on this idea of building the world we want.

So, what does that world look like? Honestly, I think it looks a lot like what I see at the Urban Ecology Center every day. It looks like people

continued on page 4

Branch Highlights



RIVERSIDE PARK

Melanie Ariens, with help of **UWM** students, designed and created the "So Much Life" mural that is on the tower. Along the Oak Leaf Trail is a mural designed and built by the **MIAD Cognita Natura class** with guidance from **James Barany** and **Ricky Heldt**. Thank you to all who created our beautiful murals!



WASHINGTON PARK

Kick off the new year with us. **Winterfest** returns on January 28th. Get ready for sledding, ice skating), and homemade pie! On February 21st we welcome **Jacqui Patterson, Director, Environmental and Climate Justice Program, NAACP**, for a presentation on the impacts of environmental and climate injustice.



MENOMONEE VALLEY

Join us February 25th for Three Bridges Park's first ever **Urban Candlelight Hike!** The Hank Aaron State Trail will be lit with over 200 candles to welcome and guide hikers and snowshoers as you explore our beautiful urban oasis.



What are Community Programs?

by Brandice Kirchner, Community Programs Educator

I am a relatively new Community Programs Educator at Washington Park. We do much more than I ever expected!

What do I do? Here are some examples.

Roughly a month ago we taught the principle of cause and effect to a group of five year olds from Fernwood Montessori School in Bay View. As they came into the building for their second visit three weeks later, many of them kept saying, "I remember you! We played tug of war and you lost!"

My co-teacher and I had a lesson plan and prepared and strategized ahead of time. We had several different activities, but fate stepped in with one more. We were talking about solids, liquids and gasses when, almost on cue, one of the students burped. They then got to learn the process of how our bodies break down food and how some of the gasses need to escape. Needless to say, there were lots of kiddos making interesting sounds with their mouths after that.

Later in the day, I worked with our after-school program called the Young Scientists Club. The Club is open to anyone. As a drop in program, participants are welcome to come (or not) as they choose. The age range

is from 5 years old to 12 years old, so it takes some creativity to come up with activities that will engage children of such a broad age range. Not only is there a different dynamic with interpersonal relations but also the content of what we are doing.

We keep in mind that these children were just in school all day, so our main objective is for them to have fun. We plan field trips every weekend, cook together on Fridays and go visit our neighborhood library. Some days we just run around the park. There is nothing rigid about our schedule.

Even though we prepare monthly calendars, we leave a lot of the activities up to the Club members. We see some children almost all five days every week, which is incredibly encouraging. If they choose to come, they must really enjoy their time here.

I love that my job at the UEC is so versatile. I not only get experience as an educator with local schools, but I organize events and build relationships with people in the neighborhood who visit the Washington Park branch. There is never monotony in my job, which makes me excited to come to work and experience what the day has in store for me. 🌱

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 this fiscal year can be found on our website.

Credits:



Carijean Buhk
Editor

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, Glenna Holstein and Brandice Kirchner.

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DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE

- **We are accepting applications for our summer internships!**

Summer is right around the corner so apply now for a summer internship at the Urban Ecology Center. We have 10-week internships in **Volunteer Coordination, Visitor Services, Green Building Management and Research, Environmental Education, Community Education or Citizen Science**. We also have 12-week internships in **Land Stewardship or Marketing**. Check out the job listings on our website for details.

- **Yes, You Can Be a Visionary!**

Over the years we've had more visionary friends who want to ensure that the work of our organization can continue well into the future. These loyal friends make 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.

SEE FOR YOURSELF! (No really, see what's happened with your support)

Photo credit: Maddie Bird



Photo credit: Matt Flower



Photo credit: Matt Flower



Thank You!

Photo credit: Anna Aragon



313
Fall Fund Drive
donors

Donated
\$82,376
to our Fall Fund Drive
(as of 12/19/16)

Including **\$5,861**
on Giving Tuesday!

Thank you for supporting
So Much Life
in our community!



If you'd like to support projects like these, consider volunteering or making a donation.
Learn how at www.urbanecologycenter.org

Building the World We Want

continued from page 1

nurturing the land, and being nourished by the land. It looks like adults sharing knowledge and skills with children who share their joy and wisdom with adults. It looks like kindness, rooted in the belief that the people around us matter, and that by caring for one another and for our earth, we care for ourselves.

I say this in part because I think it is important to recognize what a magnificent community we have built together, and to thank you for making it so. Perhaps even more importantly, though, I say this to remind everyone during this time of change that we still have all the things and all the people we need to build the world we want. That's not to say that it will be

easy, but it is possible—we can see it happening here at the Center. As Grace Lee Boggs says, “we are the leaders we have been looking for.” It's up to us, and we have everything we need. We just need to get to work. 🌱

*To learn more about Boggs, take a look at the longer version of this article posted on our blog.

It's Easy to Start Your Year off Well!

continued from page 1

you can bring your own. Break free from mid-winter cabin fever, join Snow and Go!

We also have opportunities I like to call DIWU or Do It With US! Guided activities are available throughout the winter at community gatherings and workshops.

Our annual **Winterfest** in Washington Park is a fun way for all ages to get outside, try winter outdoor equipment and celebrate. This is a great way to start a new habit of winter athletics, such as skiing, ice skating, snowshoeing, or sledding (weather permitting).

If Winterfest tickled your curiosity be sure to join any of our many **skiing and snowshoeing** classes. In Riverside Park, our small class sizes intentionally promote customized instruction. Washington Park and Menomonee Valley

provide hands-on, group instruction for beginners. All of our instructors focus on safety, skill-building and fun. Our programs are a great resource for beginner and intermediate level skiers, snowshoers and ice skaters. Scholarships are available for programs and memberships based on need.

Speaking of membership ... for a very small investment you can become a member of the UEC and enjoy our **equipment lending**. Through the equipment lending benefit, members can borrow outdoor equipment throughout the year free of charge. This way, rather than purchasing equipment that you might use only a couple times during the year, you can invest in a good cause, save money, reduce storage needs at home and have ongoing access to winter sports (and other) equipment. This is a popular

program, so reservations are recommended. Just call any of our three branches.

Getting outside in nature is not only a great form of exercise, but it also reduces stress and promotes health. Whether you are going on your own, with family and friends or with us, we can help you get outside in all conditions and within any budget.

Start your year off well! Don't let winter hold you captive at home. Keep your resolutions, combat cabin fever and enjoy our beautiful Wisconsin winter. We look forward to seeing you here! 🌱

*Richard Louv is the writer of the best seller, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*. You will find a story about the Urban Ecology Center in the second edition.



2017
SUMMER CAMPS

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

Our Riverside Park branch will be closed January 1 & 2, 2017



Save the Date!

15th Annual Local Farmer Open House

A great way to get farm fresh veggies aside from growing your own! Meet local farmers and learn how you can buy directly from a farmer through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Whether you are new to CSAs or have been subscribing for years, this event is for you. Attend workshops and stay for lunch! Food available to purchase.

Riverside Park | **Saturday, March 11** | 11AM - 3PM | Free!

URBAN ADVENTURES

Getting Started with Cross-Country Skiing

Let us help you get started in the wonderful winter recreation activity of classic style cross-country skiing! This indoor class will cover the basic equipment you need to get started, which snow conditions are best for skiing and recommend some local areas to explore on skis. You'll also learn what equipment you can borrow as an Urban Ecology Center member. Take this class and then take a small group lesson with us!

Mon., Jan. 2 | 6:30 - 8PM
Sun., Jan. 8 | 1:20 - 2:30PM
Tue., Jan. 10 | 6:30 - 8PM
Mon., Jan. 16 | 6:30 - 8PM
Sun., Jan. 22 | 1:20 - 2:30PM
Tue., Jan. 24 | 6:30 - 8PM
For adults | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

Small Group Cross-Country Ski Lessons for Beginners

Learn basic techniques for success in classic style cross-country skiing. Take one lesson, or multiple lessons to advance your skills. For ages 7 and older. Registration required.

Mon., Jan. 9 | 6 - 7:30PM
Sun., Jan. 15 | 1 - 2:30PM
Thu., Jan. 19 | 6 - 7:30PM
Mon., Jan. 23 | 6 - 7:30PM
Wed., Jan. 25 | 6 - 7:30PM
Sun., Jan. 29 | 1 - 2:30PM
Tue., Jan. 31 | 6 - 7:30PM
Sun., Feb. 5 | 1 - 2:30PM
Wed., Feb. 8 | 6 - 7:30PM
Sun., Feb. 19 | 1 - 2:30PM
Wed., Feb. 22 | 6 - 7:30PM
Mon., Feb. 27 | 6 - 7:30PM
For adults and children ages 7 and older | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Family Nature Clubs: Orientation and Walk

In a Family Nature Club you'll help create a community of families who design and participate in kid-friendly outdoor activities together. From outdoor play to structured programs, the what, when and how are up to you. Come to this orientation and receive a start-up kit from the Children and Nature Network. After the presentation, we'll take a short walk. Dress for the weather.

Sat., Jan. 7 | 11AM - 12:30PM
For adults and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

Nature Rangers

Investigate animals and plants, learn about science through different activities, create environmental research projects and more! Sign up to participate one day a week. The fee covers all the sessions for a two month period.

Every Mon. **or** Tue. | 4 - 5:30PM
For children ages 5 and older | \$10 (Nonmember: \$15)

National Day of Service: Family Soup Making

Join us for this all-ages soup lesson that doubles as a service opportunity. We'll discuss soup-making techniques, then collectively prepare a large batch of vegetarian soup. We'll end with soup and bread for lunch and deliver the remaining soup to a local meal program. Recipes are included. Individuals are welcome, but children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Please register by Jan 13th.

Mon., Jan. 16 | 9 - 11:30 AM
For adults, families and children | \$15 (Nonmembers: \$20) | Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult | Register by Jan 13

Animal Feeding

Come help feed our resident frogs, turtles, fish and snakes!

Every Sat. | 1PM
For everyone | Free

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) 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.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Plant Anatomy & Physiology — 6 part series

For adults and teens | \$100
(Nonmembers: \$120) (UEC volunteers:
\$75) for complete series

The Cell and Structure of Plant

Plant and cell architecture, genome
structure and expression, plant cells,
and water balance of plants.

Thu., Jan. 19 | 6 - 8:15PM

Mineral nutrition and photosynthesis

Mineral nutrition, solute transport,
photosynthesis 1 and 2.

Thu., Jan. 26 | 6 - 8:15PM

Respiration and metabolism

Photosynthesis wrap-up, stomatal
biology, translocation in phloem,
respiration, lipid and metabolism.

Thu., Feb. 2 | 6 - 8:15PM

Inorganic nutrients and hormones

Inorganic nutrients, cell walls, and
plant signals.

Thu., Feb. 9 | 6 - 8:15PM

Plant babies (plant reproduction)

Embryogenesis, seeds, and flower
development.

Thu., Feb. 16 | 6 - 8:15PM

Cell Death, Biotic & Abiotic Stress

Pollination, plant senescence, biotic
interactions, and abiotic stress.

Thu., Feb. 23 | 6 - 8:15PM

Tropical Ecology Course — 4 part series

Examine the amazing diversity of
the tropical areas of our planet in
this college-level course. Explore the
fascinating patterns found in tropical
plant, animal and abiotic communities.

Weds., Jan. 4, 11, 18 & 25 |

6:30PM - 8:30PM

For adults | \$100 (Nonmembers: \$125)
Past/current participants in Eco-travel
to the tropics: \$50) for all four sessions

Art Opening -

In The Balance

by Jean Dexter Sobon

Jean Dexter Sobon's exhibition reflects
on the disconnect existing between
our own species and the larger part
of the natural world. Each is a visual
metaphor with a story, question
or lesson based in history, myth or
Sobon's imaginative musings. Artist
will speak at 6pm, light refreshments
provided. Show runs through March.

Thu., Jan. 12 | 5 - 7PM

For everyone | Free -
donations appreciated

Sustainable Coffee Tasting

Join experts from Pendulum Coffee
and taste locally-roasted coffee from
around the world. We will explore the
beans' origin, sustainable farming
practices, coffee notes and aromas.

Sats., Jan. 14 & Feb. 11 | 10 - 11AM

For adults | \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Birds of Lake Michigan — Ozaukee County

Starting at Virmond Park in Ozaukee
County 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 stay for the Beak
to Tail workshop at 1pm at no extra
charge. We will meet at Riverside Park
and travel together.

Sat., Jan. 21 | 8AM - NOON

For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

From Beak to Tail: All About the Life of Bird

Join us for an in-depth look into the
wonders of bird ecology, conservation
and behavior.

Sat., Jan. 21 | 1 - 2:30PM

For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Knife Skills

If the thought of slicing and dicing all
those fresh local vegetables prevents
you from cooking from scratch, come
and learn how to "sharpen" your basic
knife skills. Trained chef Annie Wegner
LeFort will teach basic cutting and
sharpening techniques as well as
discuss selection and care of knives for
food preparation. Handouts included.
Register by Jan 16.

Mon., Jan. 23 | 7 - 8:30PM

For adults | \$15 (Nonmembers: \$20)

Eclipse Across America

Preview the first eclipse to sweep
across America in 99 years that will
occur in August 2017. Meet Bob
Bonadurer, Director of the Milwaukee
Public Museum's Soreff Planetarium
and watch a stunning video of the
alignment of the Sun, Moon and Earth.
Bob will give you an eclipse map that
provides viewing tips and locations.

Thu., Feb. 9 | 7 - 8:30PM

For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

The Art and Science of Massage

Relax this Valentine's Day weekend
with a massage in this hands-on
workshop. **Partners are required.**
Registration required by February 10
at 5pm

Sun., Feb. 12 | 2 - 4PM

For adults | \$30 per couple
(Nonmembers: \$40 per couple)

Owl Prowl

A winter night is the best time to
hear the hoots of nocturnal raptors,
the owls. We'll take a look into the
behaviors and adaptations that
make these birds amazing survivors,
then head to the woods to listen for
the calls of our neighborhood owls.
Registration required.

Tues., Feb. 21 & 28 | 6:30 - 8PM

For adults and families (ages 7
and older) | \$5 (Nonmembers:
\$7) per person

INTEREST GROUPS

Ojibwe Language Study Group

Every Mon. except Jan. 2 | 6 - 8PM

Community Vegan Potluck

Tues., Feb. 7 | 6:30 - 8PM

Photo Club

Thus., Jan. 5 & Feb. 2 | 6:30 - 9PM

350.org General Meeting

Tues., Jan. 17 & Feb. 14 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Echo Poets

Thus., Jan. 12 & Feb. 9 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Stargazers

Thus., Jan. 12 & Feb. 9 | 7 - 8:30PM

Faith and Ecology

Tues., Jan. 17 & Feb. 21 | 7 - 8:30PM

Friends of Real Food: Potluck Dinner and Program

Thus., Jan. 19 & Feb. 16 | 6 - 8PM

Early Morning Bird Walk

Every Thu. | 8 - 10:30AM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Riverside Park Volunteer Orientation

Want to spend more time outside?
Looking to work alongside
ecologically-minded people? Come
find out how you can contribute your
time and talents to the Urban Ecology
Center.

Wed., Jan. 11 | 5:30 - 7PM

Sat., Jan. 28 | 10:30AM - NOON

Fri., Feb. 10 | 3 - 4:30PM

Sat., Feb. 25 | 10:30AM - NOON

Tue., Feb. 28 | 5:30 - 7PM

For adults and teens | Free -
donations appreciated

Volunteer Papermaking

Learn the art of recycled papermaking
to create beautiful gifts for our Center's
contributing members.

Every Tue. | 4:30 - 6PM

For adults and teens | Free -
donations appreciated

ROOT Riverside Park

Help us improve and maintain the
health of our forests and plant
communities! We'll meet in the lobby
and head outside as a group.

Every Tue. | 9 - 11AM

Every Fri. | 2 - 4PM

For adults, families and teens |
Free - donations appreciated

Our Washington Park branch will be closed January 1 & 2, 2017

Saturday,
Jan. 28



**Winterfest
for Afternoon Nappers**
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

A festival for the lil' ones! Children ages 5 and under accompanied by an adult can enjoy a morning of fun including a craft, hike and puppet show, and still get home in time for their afternoon nap. Registration required. Please register all children. Space is limited.

For children ages 5 and younger accompanied by an adult
\$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)



Winter in Washington Park is a special time. With the lagoon frozen over and the hills covered in snow, it's the perfect place for an afternoon of adventure. **JOIN US for some family winter fun!** Our skating rink and sledding hill will be open (weather permitting), and we will have music, crafts, homemade pies and plenty of hot cocoa!

For everyone | FREE - donations appreciated

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAM

Upholding the Beloved Community: Advancing A Just and Equitable Transition to a Low Carbon World

*Jacqui Patterson, Director,
Environmental and Climate Justice Program, NAACP*

Tue., Feb. 21 | 7pm

For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

Jacqui Patterson, Director of Environmental and Climate Justice for the NAACP, will discuss the principles, process, practices and policies that will advance a transition that centers on conservation and preservation of the environment while uplifting human and civil rights. The impacts of environmental and climate injustice are far reaching, including compromising health, economic wellbeing, and educational outcomes, as well as displacement, cultural erosion, criminalization, and political disenfranchisement particularly for people of color. We must have a radical transformation and transition to regenerative, interdependent, cooperative systems that uplift all rights for all people while preserving the environment upon which we all rely for our existence.

URBAN ADVENTURES

Moonlight Snowshoe in Washington Park

Welcome all snowshoers — beginners and experts alike — for a relaxing stroll after dark. We'll provide the gear and hot chocolate. Remember to dress in layers.

Wed., Feb. 15 | 6 - 8PM

For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6
(Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Snowshoeing for Beginners

Learn the basics of snowshoeing and enjoy snowy hikes this winter. Equipment provided. Make sure to dress in layers and wear waterproof footwear.

Sat., Jan. 21 | 10 - 11:30AM

Sat., Feb. 4 | 10 - 11:30AM

Sat., Feb. 18 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6
(Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Cross-Country Skiing for Beginners

Don't get stuck inside this winter — give cross-country skiing a try! We'll provide the gear and will have you hitting the slopes. Be sure to dress in layers.

Sat., Feb. 11 | 10 - 11:30AM

Sat., Feb. 25 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6
(Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Moonlight Skiing in Washington Park

Up for an after-dark adventure? We invite all cross-country skiers — beginners and experts alike — to hit the slopes at night with us. We'll provide the gear and hot chocolate. Remember to dress in layers.

Wed., Feb. 1 | 6 - 8PM

For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6
(Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)



WASHINGTON PARK

Programs and Events

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Community Pie

Learn the basics of pie making or use your skills to help teach others. Our Young Scientists Club and volunteers from Community Pie will prepare pies filled with locally grown fruit. As a bonus to our visitors, your pies will be served at Winterfest!

Crust Making

Sat., Jan. 21 | 1 - 3PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Pie Filling

Fri., Jan. 27 | 4 - 6PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Family Ice Fishing Adventure

Whether you're new or an experienced angler, come to an ice fishing expedition! Transportation, equipment and hot cocoa provided. Register by February 16. Fishing license required for ages 16 and up.

Sat., Feb. 18 | 1 - 4pm
For adults and accompanied children
| Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12)
Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Young Scientists Club

From hiking to helping with research to caring for our animals, every day in the Club is a new adventure.

Every Tue. - Fri. | 4 - 6PM
Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM
For kids ages 7-12 | \$10 annual membership

Animal Feeding

Every Sat. | 1PM
For everyone | Free

ADULT PROGRAMS

Fishing for Dinner Series

In partnership with the Wisconsin DNR, the Hunger Task Force and the Pike Lake Fishing Club

Reel in dinner! Gear provided and no license required. Registration required. Join us for this multi-session series:

Fishing Techniques and Regulations

Wed., Jan. 4 & 11 | 6 - 8:30PM

Ice Fishing Expedition to Pike Lake State Park

Sat., Jan. 14 | 9AM - 2PM

Meet at Washington Park

Cooking Demonstration at the Hunger Task Force Farm

Wed., Jan. 18 | 6 - 8:30PM

For adults | \$12 (Nonmembers: \$15) for the entire series

Pho-nomenal Vietnamese Cooking!

Winter getting to you? Warm up with a big pot of steaming pho! Pho (pronounced f-oh) is a Vietnamese broth and noodle soup that is simmered with a variety of herbs and vegetables. Learn how to make this vegan and gluten free dish.

Thu., Jan. 12 | 6 - 8PM
For adults | \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Grow Like a Pro:

Fruit Tree and Shrub Training

Learn how to improve the health and productivity of fruit trees and shrubs during this hands-on workshop.

Sat., Feb. 18 | 9 - 11AM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Birds of Lake Michigan — Ozaukee County

Starting near Grafton we will work our way south along Lake Michigan to look for wintering birds. Binoculars and spotting scopes provided. Stay for the Beak to Tail workshop at no extra charge!

Sat., Feb. 18 | 8AM - NOON
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

From Beak to Tail:

All About the Life of Birds

Take an in-depth look into the wonders of bird ecology, conservation and behavior. Beginning through advanced birders welcome. Binoculars provided.

Sat., Feb. 18 | 1 - 2PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Zumba Express

Bring your dancing feet and gyrating hips to this 45-minute class.

Every Wed. | 5:30 - 6:15PM
For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Early Morning Bird Walks

Walk through the different habitats looking for birds and other natural denizens. Binoculars available.

Every Wed. | 8 - 10:30AM
For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5 suggested donation)

Zumba Fitness

Dance to great music and burn a ton of calories without even realizing it in this 60-minute class.

Every Wed. | 6:30 - 7:30PM
Members \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Tue., Jan. 3 | 5:30 - 6:30PM

Sat., Jan. 14 | 10:30 - 11:30AM

Sat., Feb. 11 | 10:30 - 11:30AM

Tue., Feb. 21 | 5:30 - 6:30PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

ROOT Washington Park

Ready to remove buckthorn and honeysuckle or help us clean seed? 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 - 11AM

Every Thu. | 3:30 - 5:30PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 344-5460

3 IN PERSON:
1859 N. 40th St.

= Accessible for persons with disabilities. We want to get you outside. Please call (414) 344-5460 with any communication preferences or physical concerns.

Our Menomonee Valley branch will be closed January 1 & 2, 2017

URBAN CANDLELIGHT HIKE

in THREE BRIDGES PARK

Hiking by candlelight, toasty warming shelters and warm refreshments await! The Hank Aaron State Trail will be lit with over 200 candles to welcome and guide explorers through this beautiful urban oasis.

Co-hosted with:
- Menomonee Valley Partners
- Friends of the Hank Aaron State Trail



Saturday, February 25 5:30 - 8:30pm

For everyone | Free!

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Three Bridges Park Self-Guided Scavenger Hunt

Try this self-guided scavenger hunt for kids and adults! Bring your friends and try to find tracks in the snow.

Sat., Jan. 7 | 9:30AM - NOON

Sat., Feb. 25 | 9:30AM - NOON

For adults and children ages 5 and older | Free - donations appreciated | Drop-in program, no registration necessary

Little Explorers Morning Playgroup

Help your kids learn and explore in our preschool playgroup. We have activities (including our secret slide) specifically designed to engage the senses of children ages 4 and under.

Fri., Jan. 13 & Feb. 10 | 11AM - NOON

For children aged 4 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

Sledding the Slopes of Menomonee Valley

Get outside for the perfect winter activity - an evening of snow and sledding in Three Bridges Park. Plus, we'll warm up with hot chocolate. If there is no snow, we will go for a hike.

Tue., Jan. 17 | 4 - 6PM

Thu., Feb. 9 | 4 - 6PM

For children aged 5 - 12 | Free for Young Scientists Club members (Nonmembers: \$5 per child)

Night Hike in Menomonee Valley

Explore the trails a guided Night Hike through Three Bridges Park! This is a perfect way to see the park as seasons change. We'll conclude with story time and hot cocoa by the fire.

Thu., Jan. 19 | 4 - 6PM

Tue., Feb. 14 | 4 - 6PM

For families with children ages 5-12 | Free for Young Scientists Club members (Nonmembers: \$5 per child)

Changing Our World Through Art: Art Opening by Escuela Verde's Youth Artists

In Escuela Verde's Art Club, students use their skills and voices to work for change in the community. The work in this show speaks out about issues ranging from climate change and environmental racism to immigration reform and gender inequality. The show runs through March 3rd.

Fri., Jan. 20 | 4 - 5:30PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Animal Tracker

Become an animal detective! We will search for tracks and learn how animals prepare for winter.

Thu., Jan. 26 | 4 - 6PM

Tue., Feb. 21 | 4 - 6PM

For families with children ages 5-12 | Free for Young Scientists Club members (Nonmembers: \$5)

EcoArt Wednesdays

Join us for nature-inspired recycled arts and crafts. Take home your very own creation every week!

Every Wed. | 4 - 5:30PM

For families with children age 12 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

Young Scientists Club

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. & Thu. | 4 - 6PM

and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM

For ages 5-12 | \$10 annual membership

Animal Feeding

Help feed our resident animals!

Every Sat. | 1PM

For everyone | Free

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.



MENOMONEE VALLEY

Programs and Events

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

ADULT PROGRAMS

Photo Phenology

Get out your cameras and watch the Valley change over the seasons and through the years! This club meets each month to take photographs and draw pictures of the natural area around the Center. We hope to create a picture record to help us understand the way the Valley is changing and the factors at play. Bring a camera if you can, but no photography experience necessary; we will learn as we go!

Sat., Jan. 28 & Feb. 25 | 9:30 - 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

URBAN ADVENTURES

Cross-Country Skiing for Beginners

Don't get stuck inside this winter - give cross-country skiing a try! We'll provide the gear and the instruction that'll have you hitting the slopes in no time. Be sure to dress in layers.

Sat., Jan. 21 | 10 - 11:30AM

Sat., Feb. 4 | 10 - 11:30AM

Sat., Feb. 18 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults and accompanied children |

Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9)

Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Cross-Country Skiing for Kids

Don't get stuck inside this winter - give cross-country skiing a try! We'll provide the gear and have you hitting the slopes in no time. Be sure to dress in layers.

Tue., Jan. 24 | 4 - 6PM

Thu., Feb. 16 | 4 - 6PM

For children ages 7-12 |

Free for Young Scientists Club

Members (Nonmembers: \$5 per child)

Snowshoeing for Kids

Take your kids on a snowy hike as you learn the basics of snowshoeing. Make sure to dress in layers and wear waterproof footwear. Equipment provided.

Tue., Jan. 31 | 4 - 6PM

Thu., Feb. 23 | 4 - 6PM

For children ages 7-12 |

Free for Young Scientist Club members

(Nonmembers: \$5 per child)

Snowshoeing for Beginners

Learn the basics of snowshoeing and enjoy snowy hikes this winter. Equipment provided. Make sure to dress in layers and wear waterproof footwear.

Sat., Feb. 11 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults and accompanied children |

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. | 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. | 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. | 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.

Thu., Jan. 12 | 5:30 - 7PM

Thu., Jan. 26 | 5:30 - 7PM

Wed., Feb. 8 | 5:30 - 7PM

Thu., Feb. 23 | 5:30 - 7PM

For adults and teens | Free -

donations appreciated

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Register today to save your spot!



Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website


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NEWSLETTER

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.

LOCATIONS & HOURS

Riverside Park

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

Hours of operation:
Monday - Thursday: 9am - 7pm
Friday & Saturday: 9am - 5pm
Sunday: Noon - 5pm

Washington Park

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

Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Thursday: Noon - 7pm
Friday: Noon - 6pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm

Menomonee Valley

3700 W. Pierce St.
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 431-2940
gholstein@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Thursday: Noon - 7pm
Friday: Noon - 6pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org
Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

BECOME A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER

By making your gift, you become a contributing member of the Center. Your support provides learning opportunities for thousands of urban youth each year and allows you to enjoy contributing membership benefits at all three of our branches.

Choose a Contributing Member Level:

- Student** - benefits one college student \$30
- Individual** - member plus one guest \$35
- Family** - two adults, and all children or grandchildren under 18 in a household plus one guest. \$45
- Other** - contributions above \$45 receive family level benefits and can help us:
 - provide a membership for a family in need (\$90)
 - provide a Summer Camp scholarship (\$200)
 - restore urban land with native plants (\$500)
 - Please enter an amount \$_____

Give a gift membership:

Gift memberships are a great way to connect your friends and family to the natural world.

Recipient Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Occasion _____ Deliver by _____

Membership Type: Individual \$35 Family \$45 Student \$30

Send the announcement card to: Me Gift Recipient Card picked up

Total \$ _____

Name I would like to remain anonymous

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Charge my Card Check enclosed (payable to **Urban Ecology Center**)

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ 3-digit code _____

Signature _____

Everyone is welcome! Thanks to generous donors we are able to offer need-based scholarships for memberships. For more information and to apply, please contact our Membership Staff at (414) 964-8505 or drop into one of our Centers and speak with our Visitor Services staff.

My gift is in honor of or in memory of _____

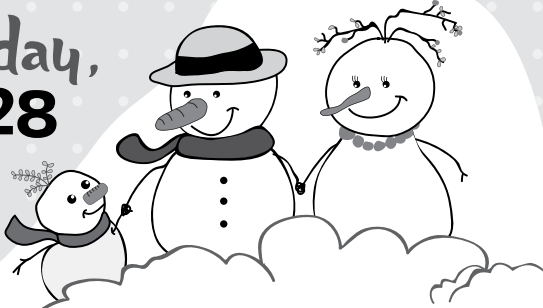
My employer (list below) has a matching gift program _____

I would like information about estate and planned giving

Please return this form to: Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

Did you know you can become a contributing member securely online? Visit urbanecologycenter.org and click Join.

**Saturday,
Jan. 28**



Winterfest

**12:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
at Washington Park**

FSC logo

IN THIS ISSUE

IT'S EASY TO START YOUR YEAR OFF WELL!

by Beth Heller

Keeping New Year's resolutions can be hard. Especially if one of your resolutions is to be active outdoors the middle of a season that usually keeps us indoors. I've learned that finding a group of people with similar interests can help get me going.

BUILDING THE WORLD WE WANT

by Glenna Holstein

I've realized that we tend to spend much less time talking about what it is we are working for. What would it look like to have the world we want to live in? I truly believe that we need to spend more time thinking about that question. And I think that's one of the main reasons I appreciate the Urban Ecology Center.

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS?

by Brandice Kirchner, Community Programs Educator

I am a relatively new Community Programs Educator at Washington Park. We do much more than I ever expected! ... I love that my job at the UEC is so versatile. I not only get experience as an educator with local schools, but I organize events and build relationships with people in the neighborhood who visit the Washington Park branch.

SEE FOR YOURSELF! (NO REALLY, SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED WITH YOUR SUPPORT)

**Thank
You!**

You've donated **\$63,695**
to our Fall Fund Drive (as of 12/13/16)

