



Expanding our Reach

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

"Hello Urban Ecology Center! I am excited to apply to your Intensive workshop. I live in Santo Domingo, the capital city of the Dominican Republic, and have begun running environmental education programs in one of the parks. I read your book, and think the Intensive is just the training I need in order to use our current resources to create further impact, serve more schools, and educate all people to understand the importance of Environmental Education. We are inspired by what you have done!" — Elena

You may already know about *Urban Ecology*, the book I wrote last year about our story that I hoped would inspire others to take action in their own cities. But did you know that the book was only the beginning of our overall vision for change?

In July, we're beginning our exciting next step. We are hosting a 4-day Intensive workshop designed to inspire and train folks in other cities to replicate our work. Like the book, it is a strategic initiative to help us respond to the numerous requests we receive about our work and Elena was our very first applicant. She found us through a Cornell University Online class, where we were highlighted as a positive model for urban environmental education.

Why is it important to bring people to Milwaukee? In addition to wanting to show off our home city, much of our work revolves around having a sense of place. Our model is founded on understanding and nurturing our place – people, land, water, plants and wildlife. Bringing folks to Milwaukee provides them with the opportunity to see our model in action. They witness the interconnectedness of people, program and the natural environment and consider what it would look like in their own communities or "places".

With training, I believe this model can be implemented in any city in the

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Reflecting on 20 Years

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Much has changed over the past 20 years. One thing that hasn't is the dedication of two key people – Executive Director, Ken Leinbach and Board Director, Dennis Grzezinski. They, and many others, worked together to help establish the Urban Ecology Center (UEC) as the award winning educational and environmental model it is today. On the eve of their 20th anniversary with UEC, I thought I'd ask what brought them here and what changes they have seen as a result of their work. Here's what they said.

While Ken grew up on his parent's camp in Michigan surrounded by nature, it wasn't until he was 16 years old working with the Student Conservation Association that he developed a critical awareness of his own commitment to nature. He went on to become a science teacher, opening an environmental education center in Virginia and eventually landing here.

Dennis's commitment formed as a convergence of circumstances. Returning home from law school, he found the meadows, streams and woodlands of his childhood stomping grounds destroyed and replaced by a subdivision, shopping mall and roadway. During the summer he visited a friend who "dragged him along" on a backpacking trip to Sun Valley. These two experiences shaped a life long love of nature and a commitment to environmental preservation. They also helped him choose environmental law for his practice. As he said, "Representing workers whose minds and bodies had been terribly damaged by exposure to pesticides in their work connected me to one aspect of environmental law. My commitment to environmental protection and environmental justice has simply grown over time."

While these were different paths to the UEC, their lives became intertwined in friendship and hard work. And Milwaukee has changed.

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Branch Highlights



RIVERSIDE PARK

Spring is here and that means the birds are out, about and ready to be discovered! In celebration of Migratory Bird Day, we're hosting our 8th annual **Green Birding Challenge** (GBC) on **May 12**. A UEC-style fundraiser, GBC raises funds for our Research and Community Science program. Gather your flock and sign up!



WASHINGTON PARK

Turn your yard into a sanctuary for native plants and wildlife at **Bloom and Groom Plant Sale and Workshop** on **May 19**! We'll have over 60 species of plants for sale and workshops on design principles, planting tips and why planting trees is important. A portion of the profits will go to the Urban Ecology Center.



MENOMONEE VALLEY

New this year: our annual **Community Planting Day** on **June 9** will also feature a **Native Plant Sale**! Come get your hands dirty planting native vegetation with your neighbors in Three Bridges Park and then take some plants home to plant in your own garden!



Many Hands...

by Chad Thomack, Environmental Educator

I was enjoying a dinner with my family when I got a call from Beth, our Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning.

“Chad, I just wanted to give you a heads up that someone got into your bus and sprayed the fire extinguisher all over.” Oh shoot! I totally forgot to lock up my bus at the end of the night and now I am stuck with the repercussions. Luckily, I didn’t have to teach Monday morning so my mind shuffled around my typical weekly preparations to fit in cleaning the bus.

Monday afternoon, I got out the vacuum and began what was about to be a very arduous cleaning process. Extinguisher dust covers every inch; dashboard, seats, floor — everything!

“No worries,” I tell myself as the vacuum easily sucks it up. But 30 minutes into it, I am only a ¼ of the way from finishing. My thoughts became negative. Why would somebody do this? Why did someone feel this was a good use of their time? Then I shifted my thoughts to the silly

things I did as a teenager. Soon I was a bit more relaxed. Although still disappointed in the people who did this, I was maybe a bit more disappointed in myself not locking the door.

As I headed inside for more cleaning supplies, I ran into Ken, our Executive Director, who sensed my mood and offered help. “No, I’m okay. I got this. It was my mistake”, I answered.

I gathered some rags and headed back out only to be followed by several staff members who took a break to help. I was surprised and very grateful. Instead of being given a hard time for my mistake, I was supported. Within 10 minutes it was done! Alone it would have taken so much longer. Many hands do certainly make jobs go more quickly. Not only that, we all had a few laughs and my mood was lifted.

I look at this as a metaphor for how we operate here. There are many tasks we do that take many hands. It is our dedicated volunteers and staff who make this happen.

From getting mailings ready to thanking our community supporters, our volunteers are a huge help. As a staff, we donate vacation days to other staff members who are in need, we lend an extra hand at work and celebrate accomplishments. As an educator, I have been supported many times by staff in driving the students. Like a group of crows gathering around a fallen friend, we chip in to make our work lighter and lift each other’s spirits.

From its beginning, Urban Ecology Center has depended on the community to share their talents to make the UEC the vibrant place it is today. So I encourage to you join us in any way you can, even if it is just for a cup of coffee, a quick smile, and relaxing conversation on the couch. Maybe you will be inspired to join our many hands in stuffing envelopes, answering the phone as a receptionist, or assisting with a program or two. Who knows, perhaps with the help of a mentor like YOU those who chose to create issues with my bus might turn out to be a great ally! 🌱

Reflecting on 20 Years

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“Outdoor recreation has increased visibly” said Ken, “the bike path is busy and overall there are more people outside. ‘Sustainability’ is now much better understood, and ‘green’ describes more than a color.”

Dennis added, “Milwaukee now takes for granted clean air and clean water. We don’t have air quality alerts anymore.”

The progress is encouraging. Yet there is still so much more work to do.

In describing their aspirations for the Center over the next 20 years, both Ken and Dennis share a sense of urgency in scaling up our impacts.

“When I step outside of our [local] bubble, I just don’t see the kind of shift we need happening fast enough. There is a lot more to be done,” said Ken.

In facing these big challenges, what keeps them going? Ken notes, “the abundance of talent, skills and creativity in the city — I love seeing creative projects emerging from unexpected places.” And Dennis enjoys “the level of fun [and] playfulness that is present at each of the Centers and throughout the programs and activities — it is hard to find a person who isn’t smiling at the UEC.”

Happy 20 year anniversary, Ken and Dennis! 🌱

Thank You to Our Contributing Members

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

Credits:



Carijean Buhk
Editor

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

Contributing writers: Beth Heller, Ken Leinbach, Jeff McAvoy, Chad Thomack and Tim Vargo.

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

Your support allows the Urban Ecology Center's Land Stewardship team to improve habitat on over 70 acres of urban land, vastly expanding opportunities for outdoor science and recreation.

The UEC is restoring ecosystems which support more wildlife and create healthy outdoor classrooms where urban children, families, and residents can learn about their natural environment. Here's how:



In the past year, between three branches, we planted:
14,500 native grasses & wildflowers
and **1,010** native trees & shrubs



...and we engaged volunteers in
8,452 HOURS
of working on the land!

For the first time ever, we will be conducting prescribed burns at
ALL THREE
of our branches this spring!

Fire is an important restoration management tool to knock back encroaching invasive species, remove previous years' duff layers, add nutrients to the soil and invigorate the native fire adapted species.



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



Join our Wildlife Research (and Storytelling) Team!

by Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Community Science

A good researcher performs many roles — observer, record keeper, historian and the like. But one of our favorites is storyteller. You may have heard about how the UEC heals the land through thousands of hours from land stewardship volunteers and staff pulling nonnative plants, planting natives and preventing erosion. Often the results of these efforts are easy to see. But the changes are even more fascinating when you pay attention in other ways — by looking, listening, trapping, netting, or turning over coverboards

in search of wildlife using the land. With all of these tools in hand, the Community Science team can tell “healing” stories that rival any of your favorite bedtime tales.

Read our annual reviews and blog articles to hear how the American beaver and northern short-tailed shrew have returned urban green spaces. Read about the bluet damselflies and clubtail dragonflies that haven’t been seen in Milwaukee County in over 100 years! You can anticipate the

cliffhanger of what will come next — an otter? A nesting bald eagle? An evening bat?

We’d love to add to our growing group of storytellers this field season as together we write chapters about native bees and other pollinators, fireflies, singing frogs, sucker fish and shrikes. Learn how you can join our team of community scientists on May 17th at the Riverside Park branch or attend one of our many volunteer training opportunities. The (field) season of adventure awaits! 🦋



Together We’re Saving Paper!

by Jeff McAvoy, Director of Marketing and Communications

In honor of Earth Day we skipped the printing and mailing of our March/April issue, saving approximately 60,000 pages of paper. We also invited you to opt out of receiving the paper newsletter going forward. To our

delight over 350 of you chose to go paper-free. This will save an additional 25,200 pages per year! Thanks for helping us reduce our paper use. If you would still like to opt out, let us know at urbanecologycenter.org/paperless.

Go Paperless

Visit urbanecologycenter.org/paperless to remove your name from our paper newsletter mailing list. We’ll send you notifications to keep you up to date via email. Like the paper version better? Don’t worry, we’ll keep you on our list.

Expanding our Reach

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world. As the back cover of our book states:

There is a quiet experiment in Milwaukee that is turning heads. It’s a story of a group of ordinary people in an ordinary neighborhood who created something quite extraordinary. It starts with getting a city kid to explore their neighborhood park and has the power to transform a city. It’s remarkable. It’s contagious. And it works as a catalyst for social change.

As a supporter of the Urban Ecology Center you are a part of this change.

We’ll be welcoming the first cohort of Intensive attendees this July 23 – 27. To delight our guests during their time in Milwaukee, we are seeking help from people like YOU! We’re embracing the

“many hands make light work” philosophy here.

First, we are still accepting applicants to the Intensive until May 15th. Think of your network. Maybe you know someone in another city who would be interested in what we do. Please share the Intensive’s website with them: urbanecologycenter.org/intensive.

Second, we would love to knock their socks off with our hometown Milwaukee hospitality. Do you have a favorite restaurant, summer concert, or Milwaukee landmark you think our guests should experience? Might you be able to offer a ride to the airport? Or, maybe you’re not sure how to help but have time that week or before to support aspects of the Intensive as it develops. Contact

Megan Andrews-Sharer at mandrews@urbanecologycenter.org to volunteer.

For those not able to go to the Intensive, my own efforts to spread the word about the UEC model include speaking and keynoting at conferences and events. If you have connections to conference planners please feel free to share my new website with them: kenleinbach.com.

It is exciting to see our impacts in Milwaukee earning international attention! From the beginning of the Urban Ecology Center, our growth has been accelerated by our amazing community here in town. We can all take pride in this. Thank you! 🦋



A week of Feathered Fun for Everyone — now at ALL THREE BRANCHES!

Monday, May 7 - Friday, May 11

Fees and times vary, visit urbanecologycenter.org/brewcitybirding for a complete schedule

meet at Riverside Park for

Birding at Wind Point • Bird is the Word! • Look, Up in the Sky! It's a Hawk! No, a Falcon! • Bird Banding at UEC - What a Sliver of our Data Tells Us • The Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory • Horicon Marsh • Weekly Bird Walk • Birds in Poetry • Bird Navigation - A Remarkable Ability! • Havenwoods State Forest • Linking Climate Change and Changing Bird Populations • Landscaping for Native Birds



Get a team together and try this unique fundraiser for the UEC Research and Community Science program.

Saturday, May 12
Challenges start at 6:30AM, 8AM & 8:30AM

Register today!
urbanecologycenter.org/greenbirdingchallenge



Saturday, June 23
9AM - 1PM

For everyone
Free - donations appreciated

Attract birds to your yard through native plantings! Learn basic principles of design and how to keep birds safe. UEC and Western Great Lakes Bat and Bird Observatory experts share their passion for birds, plants and habitat. Native plants will also be for sale (portion of proceeds benefit UEC).

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Milwaukee Spring Children's Book Fair

Discover books that teach kids key environmental issues and inspire them to find ways to make the world a better place. Includes a broad selection of books for sale, author talks and in-person book signings.

Sat., May 5 | 10AM - 4PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Family Power Music Presents

The Family Power Music Presents series is a multi-genre and discipline feature showcase spanning every generation, discipline and genre imaginable. Doors open at 6pm with water/coffee and healthy snacks provided.

Fri., Jun. 22 | 7 - 9PM
For everyone | \$10 in advance (\$12 at the door)

Family Night Out: Night Hike & Campfire

Stay in town, get your hiking shoes and marshmallows ready, bring the kids and join us for an adventurous night out at Riverside Park! Registration required by May 18th at 5pm.

Sat., May 19 | 6 - 8PM
For families with kids ages 4-10 years old | \$7 (Nonmembers: \$12) | Kids under 2 yrs old are free

Nature Rangers

Sign up for either the Monday or Tuesday session.

Every Mon. (except May 28) or every Tue. | 4 - 5:30PM
For children ages 5 and older | \$10 (Nonmember: \$15)

Animal Feeding

Every Sat. | 1PM
For everyone | Free

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Riverside Park Volunteer Orientation

Find out how to contribute your time and talents to the UEC.

Tue., May 15 | 5:30 - 7PM
Sat., May 19 | 10:30AM - NOON
Fri., May 25 | 3 - 4:30PM
Sat., Jun. 2 | 10:30AM - NOON
Tue., Jun. 12 | 5:30 - 7PM
Fri., Jun. 29 | 3 - 4:30PM
For adults and teens | Free

Get Involved in Hands on Research

Learn how you can become our newest community scientist.

Thu., May 17 | 5:30 - 6:45PM
For adults and teens | Free

Volunteer Papermaking

Mon., May 14 & 21 | 4 - 5:30PM
For adults and teens | Free

Spring Bird Banding

Watch us remove birds from the nets and put on special identification bands. Register with Jennifer, jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org before attending.

Thu., May 3 | 5:15AM - NOON
Thu., May 24 | 5AM - NOON
For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

ROOT - Riverside Park

Every Tue. | 9 - 11AM & 2 - 4PM
Every Fri. | 2 - 4PM
Sat., May 5 & Jun. 2 | 9:30 - 11AM
For adults and teens | Free

Fixin' Facilities

Every Thu. | 3 - 5PM
For adults and teens | Free

Volunteer Park Rangers

Every Sat. | 11AM - NOON
For adults and teens | Free

INTEREST GROUPS

Ojibwe Language Study Group

Every Mon. (except May 28) | 6 - 8PM

Community Vegan Potluck

Tue., May 1 & Jun. 5 | 6:30 - 8PM

Photo Club

Thu., May 3 & Jun. 7 | 6:30 - 9PM

350.org General Meeting

Tue., May 8 & Jun. 12 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Echo Poets

Thu., May 10 & Jun. 14 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Stargazers

Thu., May 10 & Jun. 14 | 7 - 8:30PM

Faith and Ecology

Tue., May 15 & Jun. 19 | 7 - 8:30PM

Friends of Real Food: Potluck Dinner and Program

Thu., May 17 & Jun. 21 | 6 - 8PM

Early Morning Bird Walk

Every Thu. | 8 - 10AM

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 964-8505

3 IN PERSON:
1500 E. Park Pl.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Cool Spots with Caitlin (Just For Fun!)

For adults and kids accompanied by adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15) (2018 Land Stewardship Volunteers: \$5)

Chiwaukee Prairie

We will head down to the Illinois border to check out an amazing remnant prairie ecosystem right on Lake Michigan, the Chiwaukee prairie!

Sat., May 26 | 8AM - 3PM

Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area

We will check out the wonder that is the Cedarburg Bog and the adjacent Cedarburg Beech Woods Natural Area.

Sat., Jun. 23 | 8AM - 5PM

Major WI Plant Families

For adults | \$10 per class, \$40 for the series (Nonmembers: \$12 per class, \$48 for the series) (Land Stewardship Volunteers \$8 per class, \$32 for the series)

General Taxonomy, Lily and Mustard Families

Learn basic plant characteristics and terminology, as well as the identifying characteristics of the Lily and Mustard Families.

Wed., May 9 | 5:30 - 7:30PM

Rose and Parsley

A rose is a rose is a rose... no really it is! Let's talk about the characteristics of the Rose and Parsley Families.

Wed., Jun. 13 | 5:30 - 7:30PM

Beetle Survey

Find beetles in Riverside Park. Registration required.

Fri., May 4 | 9 - 11AM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Summer Tree Identification

Learn to identify most trees native to our area. Dress for the weather. Register for each class separately.

For adults | \$7 per class (Nonmembers: \$10 per class) UEC Land Stewardship volunteers: \$5 per class

Learn the Basics!

Thu., Jun. 21 | 5 - 7PM

The Oaks

Thu., Jun. 28 | 5 - 7PM

Eco-Travel Kickoff Session - Grenada and more

Join us for a preview for our upcoming eco-travel season featuring the details of our fall trip to Grenada!

Thu., May 3 | 6 - 7PM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

"A Year in the Wilderness: Bearing Witness in the Boundary Waters" ♿

Cosponsored by Boswell Books

When Amy and Dave Freeman learned of toxic mining proposed within the Boundary Water's watershed, they took action. *A Year in the Wilderness* tells their story. Signing to follow.

Mon., May 14 | 7 - 8:30PM

For everyone | Pay what you can

Basic Culinary Knife Skills ♿

Learn how to sharpen a knife, perform several basic cutting techniques and the selection and care of knives. Registration required by May 15, 5pm.

Wed., May 16 | 6 - 7:30PM

For adults | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)

Odonate Monitoring Introductory Workshop

Join us for this workshop on the basics of Dragonflies and Damselflies and how you can become involved in monitoring them.

Mon., May. 21 | 5:30 - 7PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Odonate Monitoring

Join us as we try to find the Dragonflies and Damselflies species in our green spaces. Register in advance.

Wed., Jun. 6 | 1 - 3PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

A Community Science Journey into the Lives of Macroinvertebrates ♿

Explore macroscopic creatures that inhabit our water and provide the base of the food chain. We will be accompanied by macroinvertebrate scientists from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Thu., May. 24 | 5 - 6:30PM

For adults | Pay what you can

Jams and Jellies ♿

Learn how to can fruits, such as strawberries or rhubarb, into jams and preserves in this hands-on class. Materials and fruit included. Registration required.

Wed., Jun. 13 | 6 - 8:30PM

For adults | \$35 (Nonmembers: \$40)

Monarch Larva Monitoring Survey

Learn how to find and count the monarch eggs and caterpillars. Register in advance.

Thu., Jun. 14 & 28 | 1 - 2:30PM

For everyone | Free

Firefly Monitoring Kickoff Celebration ♿

Whether you call them Fireflies or Lightning Bugs, these insects are truly fascinating! Join this summer's joint firefly monitoring project with the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Thu., Jun. 28 | 7:30 - 9PM

For adults and teens | Free

Small Mammal Monitoring

Help us set and check small mammal live traps. Registration required.

Set Traps:

Mon., Jun. 25 | 5 - 6:30PM

Tue., Jun. 26 | 5:30 - 7PM

Wed., Jun. 27 | 5:30 - 7PM

Check Traps

Tue., Jun. 26 | 6:30 - 8AM

Wed., Jun. 27 | 6:30 - 8AM

Thu., Jun. 28 | 6:30 - 8AM

For adults and teens | Free

Urban Ecology Center Day on the Lake

With the Milwaukee Sailing Center

Join the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center for a day on the water. After covering the basics, we'll break for lunch before an experienced sailor takes us around Milwaukee's harbor. Meet at the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center at 1450 N Lincoln Memorial Drive. Families welcome.

Sat., Jun. 30 | 11AM - 3PM

For everyone | Adults: \$40 (Nonmembers: \$50) Children: \$10 for members and nonmembers

URBAN ADVENTURES

Full Moon Canoe

Paddle down the Milwaukee River with the full moon above. Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St.). Registration and non-refundable payment required by 5pm the day before.

Tue., May 29 | 7:30 - 10PM

Wed., Jun. 27 | 7:30 - 10PM

For adults | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)

River Rhythms Paddle

End your day with a paddle to River Rhythms. Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St.). Equipment provided. Contact Margaret at (414) 964-8505 to register kids under 10 who do not paddle.

Wed., Jun. 20 | 6:30 - 10PM

For adults and families | Adults: \$15 (Nonmembers: \$20) Paddling kids: \$7 (Nonmembers: \$9)

Watercraft Lending Orientation ♿

Learn our policies and procedures, as well as an overview of the safe use of our watercraft. Orientation is a requirement of our watercraft lending. Membership required to borrow boats

Every Tue. | 6 - 7PM

Every Sun. | 1 - 2PM

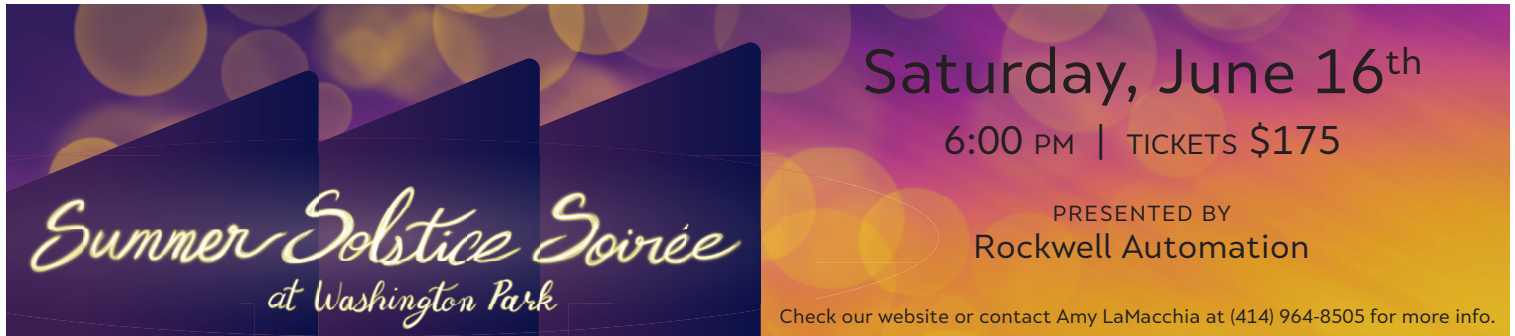
For adults | Free

Open Climb

Enjoy climbing our three story rock wall. All equipment is provided and trained belayers are on hand to assist.

Every Sun. (starting May 13) | 2 - 4PM

For adults, teens, and families | \$3 per climb or \$15 for unlimited climbs per person (Nonmembers: \$5 per climb or \$20 for unlimited climbs per person)



Summer Solstice Soirée
at Washington Park

Saturday, June 16th
6:00 PM | TICKETS \$175

PRESENTED BY
Rockwell Automation

Check our website or contact Amy LaMacchia at (414) 964-8505 for more info.



Get started transforming your yard into a native plant and wildlife sanctuary! Buy your pick of 60+ native perennial species. Then grow your knowledge of proper planting techniques. A portion of the profits from the sale will go to the Urban Ecology Center.

SCHEDULE:
9AM
Plant sale begins
10-10:45AM
Greening Milwaukee with Trees
12-12:45PM
Naturescaping Design Principles
1PM
Plant sale ends

Saturday, June 23 | 9AM - 1PM
For everyone | Workshops and admission are free

at WASHINGTON PARK



A week of Feathered Fun for Everyone – now at ALL THREE BRANCHES!

Monday, May 7 - Friday, May 11

meet at Washington Park for
Weekly Bird Walk • Green Birding Bike Ride! • Milwaukee Zoo Field Trip

meet at Gathering Place Brewery for
Birds and Beer! Sex Lives of Birds

fees and times vary, visit urbanecologycenter.org/brewcitybirding for a complete schedule

OUR WATER: *Milwaukee's mirror*

Toxic Lead: Stealing our Community's Future 
Wisconsin State Senator La Tonya Johnson will discuss toxic lead exposure in the City of Milwaukee and the impact that it has on families.
Tue., May 29 | 7 - 8:30PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Wisconsin Historical Society Water Exhibit
— *Great Lakes Small Streams: How Water Shapes Wisconsin* 
The Great Lakes region is of the largest freshwater resources on earth. *Great Lakes Small Streams* tells the story of our relationship with water through reproductions of 70 historic and contemporary photographs and documents.
Jun. 5-7 | 4 - 8PM
For everyone | Free

Film Screening —
Milwaukee: A City Built on Water 
In *Milwaukee: A City Built on Water*, historian John Gurda explores how the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan spurred Milwaukee's growth while also viewing the Wisconsin Historical Society's Water Exhibit *Great Lakes Small Streams*. Refreshments provided. Please register by June 6.
Thu., Jun. 7 | 5 - 6:30PM
For adults, teens and accompanied children | Pay what you can (\$3 suggested)

National Get Outdoors Day:
Encouraging Healthy and Active Outdoor Fun
Cohosted by the Milwaukee Let's Move Outside coalition
Celebrate National Get Outdoors Day in Washington Park! This is your chance to try outdoor activities that showcase what Milwaukee County Parks have to offer outdoors. We'll take nature hikes, play, look for birds, discover pond ecology, work with the land and bike.
Sat., Jun. 9 | 10AM-2PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Family Paddle Under the Summer Sun
Celebrate the coming of summer with some afternoon fun in the sun! Enjoy guided canoeing trips and family fun on our island. All skill levels welcome. Please register by Thursday, June 28.
Sat., Jun. 30 | 2 - 4PM | For adults and accompanied children ages 4 and up | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$6)

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 344-5460

3 IN PERSON:
1859 N. 40th St.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

E.B. Garner's Annual Fishing Day ♿

Learn the art of fishing — water safety to baiting the hook to reeling in the fish at this extravaganza. Some equipment available. Bring your own if you can.

Sat., Jun. 2 | 9AM - 3PM
For families | Free - donations appreciated

Family Fish and Paddle

Learn the basics of fishing and canoeing, then paddle with us out to the deepest parts of the lagoon and see what we can catch. All equipment provided. Fishing license required for ages 16 and up. Registration required.

Sat., Jun. 23 | 10AM - NOON
For adults and accompanied children age 6 and up |
Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12)
Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Wednesday Fishing Club ♿

Guided fishing lessons for kids and families from our DNR Angler Educator. All equipment provided. Fishing licenses required for ages 16 and up.

Every Wed. (starting Jun. 20) |
4 - 6PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Young Scientists Club

From hiking to gardening to helping with research to caring for our Center's animals, every day 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

URBAN ADVENTURES

Canoeing for Beginners

The Washington Park Lagoon is a beautiful, calm and spacious body of water — a great place to learn the basics of paddling! Learn how to choose the right equipment, boating safety and paddling technique, then practice with guidance from one of our trained educators. Perfect for those who are new to paddling or just want some more practice.

Wed., May 16 & Jun. 27

6 - 8PM

For adults and accompanied children age 6 and up | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12) Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

ADULT PROGRAMS

Beetle Survey

Did you know that one out of every four animal species on Earth is a beetle? If you want to discover a species new to science, this just may be your chance. Join UEC Beetle enthusiasts to help find which beetles are using our green spaces. Please register in advance as surveys may be cancelled in inclement weather.

Sat., May 26 | 9 - 11AM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Odonate Monitoring

Dragonflies and Damselflies are excellent indicators of environmental health. Join us as we identify which species are using our green spaces. Please register in advance as we may cancel in inclement weather.

Wed., May 30 | 1 - 3PM
Tue., Jun. 19 | 1 - 3PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project

Get an up-close view of monarch butterfly babies! Learn how to find and count the monarch eggs and caterpillars. Please register in advance as we may cancel in inclement weather.

Mon., Jun. 18 | 1 - 2:30PM
Mon., Jun. 25 | 1 - 2:30PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Pie Making 101: From the Crust Up ♿

Join us for a hands-on demonstration of simple pie baking skills and leave here with a pie to bake at home! Please register by Monday, June 25.

Thu., Jun. 28 | 6 - 8PM
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12) Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

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 adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

ROOT - Washington Park

Ready to remove buckthorn and honeysuckle or help us clean seed? Join us for ROOT (Restoring Our Outdoors Together) 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, teens and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

Washington Park

Volunteer Orientation ♿

Come find out how you can contribute your time and talents to the Urban Ecology Center.

Thu., May 10 | 5:30 - 6:30PM
Wed., May 30 | 5:30 - 6:30PM
Thu., Jun. 14 | 5:30 - 6:30PM
Sat., Jun. 23 | 10:30 - 11:30AM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Spring Bird Banding ♿

Our team will be retrieving birds from special types of nets, then taking their measurements at our banding station. Participants will get a chance to view a wild bird up close. Bird banding is dependent on specific weather conditions, so please register with Jennifer.jc@urbanecologycenter.org.

Wed., May 16 | 5AM - NOON
For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

INTEREST GROUPS

"Bee" Aware Interest Group ♿

Sat., May 5 & Jun. 2 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Early Morning Bird Walks

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





Saturday, June 9 | 9am - 1pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Join us in the Menomonee Valley to plant native vegetation in Three Bridges Park! Dress for the weather and bring gloves/trowels if you can. Meet at the Center and we'll head out to the planting site together.

NEW THIS YEAR: Native Plant Sale! Prairie Future Seed Company will be selling over 60 species of prairie, savanna and woodland perennials native to Southeast Wisconsin. A portion of the profits from the sale will go to the Urban Ecology Center.



A week of Feathered Fun for Everyone — now at ALL THREE BRANCHES!

**Monday, May 7 -
Friday, May 11**

meet at Menomonee Valley for

Menomonee Valley Bird Banding •
Weekly Bird Walk • Birding in Warnimont Park Field Trip •
Milwaukee Public Museum Field Trip

Fees and times vary, visit urbanecologycenter.org/brewcitybirding for a complete schedule



ADULT PROGRAMS

WERQ Dance Fitness!

Join instructor Trair Wise for a dance fitness workout with moves to hip hop and pop songs. Includes a dancer warm up, a full body cardio workout and a yoga inspired cool down.

Every Tue. | 6 - 6:45PM
For adults and teens | Free

Karma Yoga at the Valley

Join a registered teacher for Nidra yoga, a very gentle type of yoga ideal for those who are new to the practice.

Every Sat. | 11AM - NOON
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Evening Survey:

Bats and Frogs

After sunset, the nocturnal animals take the stage. Join a night hike and acoustic survey for bats and frogs. Registration required.

Tue., May 1 | 7:45 - 9:15PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Three Bridges Park Walking Club

Led by Rebeca and Brett Heaton-Juarez, you'll take a lively stroll in Three Bridges Park. Wheels and dog friendly.

Fri., May 11 & Jun. 1 | NOON - 1PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Spring Searching: Birding and Plant ID

Take a walk through the park, learn how to identify flowering plants in bloom this season and look for birds.

Tue. May 15 & Jun. 19 | 8 - 10AM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Odonate Monitoring

Dragonflies and Damselflies are excellent indicators of environmental health. Join us as we identify which species are using our green spaces. Registration required.

Tue., May 22 | 1 - 3PM
Wed., Jun. 13 | 1 - 3PM
For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

Photo Phenology

Bring a camera if you can, but no experience necessary.

Sat., May 26 & Jun. 23 |
9:30 - 11:30AM
For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated

Early Morning Birdwalks

Every Tue. | 8 - 10AM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Art Opening: Kathleen Walter – Human <> Nature

Focus on the commonality of many systems in nature and the man-made world. Artist will speak briefly at 6pm.

Thu., Jun. 14 | 5-7PM | For everyone

Walk and Talk at Menomonee Valley

Join our branch manager, Glenna, to explore our building and the park.

Thu., Jun. 14 | NOON - 1PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Beetle Survey

Did you know that one out of every four animal species is a beetle? Find which ones are in Three Bridges Park. Registration required.

Fri., Jun. 15 | 9 - 11AM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project

Get an up-close view of monarch butterfly babies! Find and count the monarch eggs and caterpillars. Registration required.

Tue., Jun. 19 | 10:45AM - 12:15PM
Tue., Jun. 26 | 1 - 2:30PM
For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free

Growing Healthy Soil for Healthy Communities

Led by staff from Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers and Walnut Way, we'll learn how to improve soil, through free soil tests, composting and safe gardening practices.

Wed., Jun. 20 | 5:30 - 7:30PM
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Small Mammal Monitoring

Join us as we set and check live traps to understand the small mammal populations in our green spaces. Registration required.

Set Traps:
Mon., Jun. 25 | 5 - 6:30PM
Tue., Jun. 26 | 5:30 - 7PM
Wed., Jun. 27 | 5:30 - 7PM

Check Traps

Tue., Jun. 26 | 6:30 - 8AM
Wed., Jun. 27 | 6:30 - 8AM
Thu., Jun. 28 | 6:30 - 8AM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Snake Coverboard Surveys

Snakes prefer to spend time in warm, dark areas. By placing a simple plywood board on the ground we are providing a perfect hiding place— and survey spot!

Thu., Jun. 28 | 3 - 4:30PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Programs and Events

MAY & JUNE

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Little Explorers Morning Playgroup

Preschool is the age of discovery and we're here to help your kids learn and explore! Join us for our monthly preschool playgroup. We have activities (including our secret slide) specifically designed to engage the senses of children ages 4 and under.

Fri., May 11 & Jun. 1 | 11AM - NOON
For children ages 4 and under | Free - donations appreciated

Paper Making Workshop

Learn how to make your own paper from recycled materials! All supplies provided.

Sat., May 12 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults and families | Adults: \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10) Children: Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

Friday Fishing Club

Guided fishing lessons for kids and families available from our DNR Angler Educator. All equipment provided. Fishing licenses required for ages 16 and up.

Fri., Jun. 22 & 29 | 4 - 5:30PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Terrarium Making Workshop

Learn how to make your very own terrarium using recycled jars! You'll build a simple terrarium to take home. All materials provided.

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

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. | 4:30 - 6:30PM
and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM
For ages 5-12 | \$15 annual membership

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

Animal Feeding

Help feed our resident animals!

Every Sat. | 1PM
For everyone | Free

URBAN ADVENTURES

Bike Tours: Murals in the South Side

The south side is filled with outdoor art inspired by tradition, hope and pop culture. Ride with us as we search buildings and alleys to find the murals in our neighborhood. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours.

Sat., Jun. 16 | 10AM - 12:15PM
For adults and teens | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Menomonee Valley Volunteer Orientation

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

Wed., May 2 | 5:30 - 7PM
Wed., May 23 | 5:30 - 7PM
Thu., Jun. 7 | 5:30 - 7PM
Tue., Jun. 26 | 5:30 - 7PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Spring Bird Banding - Menomonee Valley

Our team will be retrieving birds from special types of nets, then taking their measurements at our banding station. Learn what kinds of birds you can find during migration and year-round. Participants will get a chance to view a wild bird up close. Bird banding is dependent on specific weather conditions, so please register with Jennifer at jjcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org before attending.

Tue., May 8 | 5:15AM - NOON
For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

Milwaukee Riverkeeper Adopt-A-River Clean Up - Menomonee River

Join your friends and neighbors in a clean-up of the Menomonee River. Milwaukee Riverkeeper aims to clean up the river basin through their Adopt-A-River program. All supplies provided.

Sat., May 12 | 9AM - NOON
For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

Fixin' Facilities at Menomonee Valley

Help us maintain our building, vehicles and park!

Mon., May 7 & Jun. 4 | 11AM - 3PM
For adults | Free

ROOT Menomonee Valley

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

Every Wed. & Thu. | 9 - 11AM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Volunteer Park Rangers

Help keep our parks clean, safe and accessible. Dress for the weather and 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

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 431-2940

3 IN PERSON:
3700 W. Pierce St.

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 or visit our website at urbanecologycenter.org.

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
mforseth@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
tevens@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 I prefer to receive my newsletter electronically (no paper newsletter)

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.

Summer Solstice Soirée at Washington Park

PRESENTED BY
Rockwell Automation

Saturday, June 16th

6:00 PM | TICKETS \$175

Check our website or contact Amy LaMacchia
at (414) 964-8505 for more info.

IN THIS ISSUE

EXPANDING OUR REACH

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

You may already know about Urban Ecology, the book I wrote last year about our story that I hoped would inspire others to take action in their own cities. But did you know that it was only the beginning of our vision for change?

REFLECTING ON 20 YEARS

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Much has changed over the past 20 years. One thing that hasn't is the dedication of two key people – Executive Director, Ken Leinbach and Board Director, Dennis Grzezinski.

MANY HANDS...

by Chad Thomack, Environmental Educator

There are many tasks we do that take many hands. It is our dedicated volunteers and staff who make this happen.

JOIN OUR WILDLIFE RESEARCH (AND STORYTELLING) TEAM!

by Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Community Science

A good researcher performs many roles — observer, record keeper, historian and the like. But one of our favorites is storyteller.

TOGETHER WE'RE SAVING PAPER!

by Jeff McAvoy, Director of Marketing and Communications

In honor of Earth Day we skipped the printing and mailing of our March/April issue, saving approximately 60,000 pages of paper.

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



In the past year, between three branches, we planted:
14,500 native grasses & wildflowers
and **1,010** native trees & shrubs