



Leading for Global Abundance

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

In May I'll have been on this planet for half of a century. Seems like that should be enough time to have learned a thing or two, don't you think? While I can't claim extraordinary brilliance or wisdom, there are a few things I have figured out and, perhaps in part because of my graying hair, people on occasion actually seem to listen to me! I don't expect you to fall into this category, but I hope you will at least give my words some consideration.

One thing that I know for sure is the collective actions of us humans, mostly unknowingly, are destroying the living potential of this planet. I came to this conclusion 16 years ago, after I spent three years studying the state of the world's ecosystems very intentionally in graduate school. What I learned scared the bejesus out of me and motivated significant changes in my personal behavior, my lifestyle and eventually led to a complete career change toward facilitating the growth of a community in Milwaukee we call the Urban Ecology Center.

Another thing I figured out is that I'm not "all that". There is no way that I, alone, can do what needs to be done. The need is far too great! It took us all to get into this mess, and it's going to take us

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**"If your need is legitimate,
your purpose is pure,
and your vision is clear
-- when you ask for help,
it is amazing to me how
people are willing to use
their talents, whatever
they are, to assist."**



Finding Inspiration in the Corporate World

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Finding meaningful, inspiring stories of impactful corporate leadership in environmental sustainability for many may seem like a fantasy. From my experience, I know this kind of leadership is not only alive and well in our business community but also essential to our collective future. Forward thinking corporate leaders and employees use their ingenuity to think beyond the bottom line of the current quarter and plan for the future. This kind of leadership and the thinking that it is built upon is possible and it's game changing.

If you have doubts, I invite you to join us to read Peter Senge's book, *The Necessary Revolution: How Individuals and Organizations are Working Together to Create a Sustainable World*, and discuss the book in a course at the Center this winter. This book captures real, global stories of corporations engaging in important, holistic ecological work. It reveals that innovation can happen anywhere at a company, not just at the top, and how we all as individuals have the ability to influence our impact on the world. The stories are exciting and give me real hope for the future.

The Urban Ecology Center staff read this book over the summer. Many of these stories resonated with us, providing inspiration and changing our perspectives. Some of the projects described seem huge, but were rendered very possible through "tool box" sections peppered throughout the book that provide the reader with specific tools and suggestions for doing the same work in our own teams, organizations and businesses. We immediately put some ideas to use, influencing and improving how we manage our work at the Center. In discussion, staff members reflected on how organizations like Nike, Coca Cola and Alcoa, as well as World Wildlife Fund and The Sustainable Food Lab, collaborated across sector boundaries to make changes. Both sectors learned from each other, and together were able to accomplish

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Branch Highlights



RIVERSIDE PARK

Fight cabin fever! Connect with others over a nice meal at Riverside Park. We invite everyone to the monthly Friends of Real Food potluck and programs where the conversation and delicious homemade food is shared among friends and neighbors.



WASHINGTON PARK

Don't miss our winter lecture series! Emmy award winning filmmaker Chip Duncan returns on January 23rd to discuss his recent work. Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Gregory Thornton joins us on February 27th to discuss how strong schools help build strong communities.



MENOMONEE VALLEY

The Menomonee Valley is buzzing with activity! The 24 acre outdoor classroom is taking shape. We have filled all the spots for our school program and we have bunches of happy kids showing up for Young Scientist Club Tuesdays and Thursdays! Come visit us and see for yourself!



It's All About Magnetism

by Alejandra Jiménez Marván, Environmental Educator

No matter how we dropped it on the cup of water, the needle kept pointing north. "Isn't it awesome? Would you have imagined that we would be able to create a handmade compass by magnetizing a simple sewing needle?" I needed no other evaluation but the students' amazed faces to realize that our class was pointing in the right direction, too.

Had I not learned about electricity and magnetism in a fun and interactive way as a child, I would not have been so successful with that class. I remember when, as a teenager in Mexico, I first learned how to design my own compass with the scouts. I never knew where that compass would

take me, but I have no doubt it pointed in the right direction. After being an environmental educator at the Menomonee Valley Branch for four months now, and I feel incredibly grateful for this opportunity.

Be it electricity and magnetism, the water cycle, identifying insects, or describing habitats in the Menomonee Valley, I believe that we, as environmental educators at the Urban Ecology Center, give the most of ourselves to make science transcend textbooks. We need to help students realize that the nature they read about is, as a matter of fact, around the corner. This job requires not only knowledge but also immense sensibility

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With winter finally upon us, the Center is looking forward to **A Hoot in the Night** on **Saturday, February 16th** (See the Quick Guide for details)! Bring the family for a night of sledding, campfires, s'mores, live performances, owl hikes, dinner, music, a silent auction and lots of winter fun!

All proceeds from the event provide scholarships for kids from low-income families to attend Summer Camp at the Urban Ecology Center. Last year, 100 scholarships were provided so kids could climb, hike, play and explore nature!

The event is \$100 per family. Just \$95 more will send a child to an Urban Ecology Center Summer Camp for a week! Registration will begin online after January 1, 2013 at www.urbanecologycenter.org/ahoot.

If you have any questions, contact Cassie Mordini at cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org or Danielle Lennie at dlennie@urbanecologycenter.org.

Credits:



Carijean Buhk
Editor

The Urban Ecology Center Newsletter is created and distributed through a team effort by the following people: Carijean Buhk, Ginger Duiven, Demetria Dunn, Judy Krause, Jeff McAvoy, Pat Mueller and Shirley Spelt.

Contributing writers: Beth Heller, Alejandra Jiménez Marván, Willie Karidis and Ken Leinbach.



DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE

- **For over a decade, the Vegetarian Potluck Group** gathered monthly to share delicious food, good conversation and many laughs. Sadly, they will no longer be gathering. We wish to extend warm gratitude to all of those who came to the table over the years.
- **Where's the Wish List?** Our Wish List has moved to our website! Below are some items we need for our three branches. Visit our website for an expanded list.

Riverside Park

3 umbrella stands
Apple PowerBook
Automotive repair tools
Kernel popcorn
Men's belts
Mittens and gloves- especially adult sizes
Propane Grill
Rain ponchos/jackets- all sizes
Toaster

Washington Park

Air compressor
Bow saws
Fleece to make mittens
Functioning aquarium pumps & filters
Gently used socks and sweatpants
Grow-light stands
Kids' work gloves
Large capacity dehumidifier
Native fish
Power tools (18 volt or better)
Straw bales
Watering wand

Menomonee Valley

15 Insect Field Guides
5 Gallon Buckets with Handles
Bird feathers
Butterfly mounts
Extension ladder
Glass pie dish
Set of rubber animal tracks and scat
Sleds
Telescopes

SEE FOR YOURSELF! (No really, see how many contributed to our success last year!)



With the support of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee we are turning 40 acres of land along the Milwaukee River into a biologically diverse arboretum

66 Foundations and Organizations



Urban Ecology Center Board members and donors Jennifer Bolger Breceda and Jim Schleif

2,864 total members and donors (and growing!) and **1,920** individual volunteers who volunteered **5,546** times!

We are often asked how we have been able to grow to reach so many people -- 20,888 students in 44 Milwaukee schools and a total of 90,000 individuals just last year alone. Our answer? We have a great big group of loyal, generous supporters, that's how! Our donors and friends include:

112 Corporations



One way corporations like Heartland Advisors and Johnson Controls support our mission is by sponsoring our fundraising events.

42 Center advisory council, board and committee members

Advisory Council Member Susie Kasten and her husband Fred cut the ribbon officially opening "Susie's Bridge", a special gift from Fred to the Urban Ecology Center in honor of Susie's birthday.



If you'd like to support the Urban Ecology Center, consider volunteering or making a donation. Learn how at www.urbanecologycenter.org



The Great Alaska Adventure 2013!

by Willie Karidis, Branch Manager - Washington Park

"Taking this trip to Alaska was the best thing that I'd ever done for myself."

- Mia Kuether, participant, 2012
Great Alaska Adventure

"From the famous owl's nest from the movie Into The Wild, to swimming moose, a lonely grizzly, beaver entering his mansion, magnificent clear view of Denali, outstanding meals, our naturalist Nan's wisdom, delightful people and so much more in one adventure....it was awesome!"

- Ellen Boettcher and Pat Cochran,
participants, 2012 Great Alaska Adventure

This past September my wife Christine and I led 45 Urban Ecology Center members to our former home and showed them a slice of what makes Alaska magical. It was so much fun, we are doing it again!

September 5th - 14, 2013, are the dates slated for this year's trip. Why September? It's beautiful! The fall colors are booming, the mosquitoes are long gone and there is a chance to see the northern lights. What's more, Alaska's tourism business is seasonally based, essentially from late May to mid September. For the most part, the crowds of summer tourists have subsided, leaving us with more inspiring

The Great Alaska Adventure 2013!

Trip dates: September 5th - 14, 2013

Sign up/orientation: Thursday, January 17th, 7 - 8pm at the Riverside Park location

Cost: \$2325 plus airfare to Juneau



*Touring Kenai Fjords National Park with Major Marine Tours.
Photo courtesy of Willie Karidis.*

Alaska wilderness to share with fewer people. For those of us who have lived in Alaska, this is one of our favorite times of the year.

The itinerary of the Great Alaska Adventure is a wonderful coast to interior snapshot, spread out over 9 nights and 10 days. We will assemble in Anchorage for the first night and then in the morning immediately take the train through the pristine wilderness of the Kenai Peninsula. Be prepared for alpine glaciers and spectacular mountains as we reach the southern terminus of the Alaska Railroad and the quaint coastal town of Seward. Here we will spend two nights visiting the Exit Glacier and taking a boat tour of Kenai Fjords National Park, home of whales, sea otters, puffins and tidewater glaciers. From here we will take a motorcoach through the interior of the state to Denali National Park. We will spend 6 nights with the Denali Education Center at their 10 acre campus located on the banks of the Nenana River. Daily hiking opportunities, learning about the wildlife and natural history of Denali and evening programs from local explorers will highlight your experience. The bus trip into Denali National Park will provide an opportunity to search for grizzlies, dall sheep, caribou, moose, wolf and other residents of this subarctic ecosystem. The scenery is breathtaking and the people of the area are welcoming and friendly.

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It's All About Magnetism

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toward nature. I look back and feel thankful to my family, friends, scouts and teachers, who made me create a positive attitude and love for Mother Earth since I was a child.

Because I know how important it was for me that my mentors helped me have fun outside, it's important to me as a teacher to accomplish

our teaching goals by helping students enjoy every single activity. Since teaching is not only about knowledge, but also about sensibility, our motivation takes over the reins to make students develop a positive attitude toward the Valley. We teach by playing games, by singing songs, by doing fun experiments, puppet shows, handcrafts, and plenty of hands-on

activities. The point of helping students make that compass, apart from teaching magnetism, is to make them feel somehow attracted to the Valley. Thus, we hope our students respond to the Urban Ecology "magnetic field" so that they themselves impart their environmental "magnetic forces" to their friends and family. 🌿

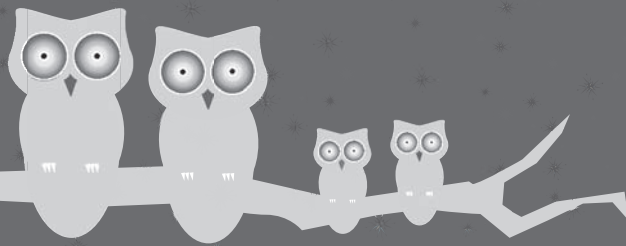
JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Quick Guide

An abbreviated listing of what's happening at the Urban Ecology Center. Find full descriptions and register online at www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

All Urban Ecology Center branches will be closed December 31, 2012 - January 1, 2013
Menomonee Valley and Washington Park Branches will be closed January 22

Bundle Up and Come Outside!



A Hoot in the Night

Bring the whole family for a night of sledding, campfires, s'mores, live animal shows, owl hikes, dinner, music, a silent auction and lots of winter fun!

(RP) Saturday, February 16 | 5:30 - 9:30pm

\$100 per family | Just \$95 more and send a kid to an Urban Ecology Center camp for a week!

Registration online after January 1, 2013
www.urbanecologycenter.org/ahoot

All proceeds from the event will allow kids from low-income families to attend Summer Camp at the Urban Ecology Center!

WINTERFEST

Winter in Wisconsin is a special time. Join us as we celebrate with some family winter fun!

Highlights include:

- Sled dog demonstration
- Ice skating
- Sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Cross country skiing
- Ice fishing

(WP) Sat., Jan. 26 | Noon - 4pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

WINTERFEST for Afternoon Nappers

A festival for the lil' ones!

Children 5 and under accompanied by an adult can enjoy a morning of fun including a craft, hike, puppet show and more and still get home in time for their afternoon nap. Space is limited.

(WP) Sat., Jan. 26 | 10:30am - noon

For children 5 and younger accompanied by an adult | Free - donations appreciated



ABOUT THE Quick Guide

As our online tools improve, we strive to rely less on paper based communications. This "quick guide" is meant to inform you about the programs happening at the Urban Ecology Center's three branches and give you a brief description and any essential information you may need for them. Full details and registration forms can be found on our website at: www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

RIVERSIDE PARK



Save the Date! Many of you look forward to the annual **Local Farmer Open House**. At the beginning of the year I always receive inquiries about the date of the event. Here is your answer (drum roll, please) the **annual Local Farmer Open House will be on Saturday, March 9 from 11am - 4pm**. This year's event will include Community Supported Agriculture farmers only, not producers of meat, cheese, eggs, etc. You can look forward to meeting those food producers at the Eat Local Resource Fair in August. So mark your calendars and we will see you in March!

— Branch Manager - Riverside Park, Jamie Ferschinger

WASHINGTON PARK



There is nothing quite like winter. We love it so much that we hold a special festival each year, **Winterfest**, to celebrate the best of Washington Park during our favorite time of year.

Join us at **Winterfest on Saturday, January 26** for snow shoeing, skiing, ice skating and the Door County Sled Dogs. Make no mistake, it's a doggone good time!

— Branch Manager - Washington Park, Willie Karidis

MENOMONEE VALLEY



We are excited to be exploring new partnerships with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association and Above the Clouds creative arts program to bring some new offerings for both kids and adults! Sign up for the **Basic Photovoltaics program** to get started thinking about solar, or check out <http://abovethecloudsmilwaukee.com/> for a list of **dance classes** being offered at MV. And don't forget to join us for some winter fun with **Sledding and Stories** or **Animal Signs by Snowshoe!**

— Branch Manager - Menomonee Valley, Glenna Holstein

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It's almost time!



Summer Camp registration begins January 18th!

Get weekly emails about our programs!

THE
**WEEKLY
GUIDE**

Our Main email Newsletter
list of events for the coming week



THE
**WEEKLY
R&R**

Research & Restoration News
native plant and animal of the month

Sign up on our website
www.urbanecologycenter.org

JANUARY

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

Quick Guide

Young Scientists Club Ski Adventure

Learn to ski, make new friends and drink some hot cocoa! What's not to like? Join us on an expedition to a local ski trail to learn the basics of cross country skiing. For Young Scientists Club members and families from all three locations.

(WP) Sat., Jan. 5 | Noon - 4pm
Young Scientists Club membership is required | Free - donations appreciated

Kindernature: Winter Fun

Parents and kids ages 3-5 yrs old will experience nature together on a self-guided journey both indoors and out. Have fun exploring through winter-themed activities, crafts and a snack station. Please dress for the outdoors.

(RP) Sat., Jan. 12 | 9:30 - 11am
For children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult | \$5 per child
(Nonmembers: \$7 per child)

Animal Signs by Snowshoe

Snow and mud show a variety of tracks, and the bare trees reveal dens, nests or traces of fur otherwise hidden by leaves. Join us to learn how to identify animal tracks and signs--if there is snow we'll travel by snowshoe! Please dress for the weather!

(MV) Sat., Jan. 19 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults and families | Adults \$6 (nonmembers \$9), Children \$4 (nonmembers \$7)

Family Snowshoe Hike

Get off the beaten path and explore Riverside Park on snowshoes. Warm up afterward by the fire in the Center's tipi. Snowshoes provided, wear boots or lace up shoes. We will go on a hike if there is no snow.

(RP) Sat., Jan. 26 | 10 - 11:30am
For families and children 5 and older | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Photo Phenology

We'll meet each month to photograph and sketch the natural area around the Center. Cameras or sketch pads not required but bring your own if you can.

(MV) Sat., Jan. 26 & Sat.,
Feb. 23 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults, teens and families
Free - donations appreciated

Family Movie Night

What better way to warm up during the winter than a family movie night at the Center? Join us for fun films for all ages!

(MV) Wed., Jan. 30 & Wed.,
Feb. 27 | 5 - 7pm
For families, children must be accompanied by an adult | Free - donations appreciated

Sledding and Stories

Go in search of the best sledding spots in the Menomonee Valley! Bring your own sled, or borrow one of ours! Program is snow dependent.

(MV) Sat., Feb. 2 | 10 - 11:30am
For kids ages 5 and up | Children \$5 (Nonmembers \$7)

Stories of Early Life in the Land Called the Gathering Place

Travel back to a time when the lands we know today were marshes, swamps and rivers. This was a time when hunting, gathering and passing on family traditions was a way of life. Center volunteer, Beth Graf, will take you on this journey through interesting and interactive stories.

(RP) Sat., Feb. 2 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults and families | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children: \$4, (Nonmembers: \$7)

Recycled Valentines

Come get creative with some reusable materials and make a lovely valentine for your sweetheart. (Or anyone else!)

(MV) Sat., Feb. 9 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults, teens, and families | Free-donations appreciated

Whooo is Coming? An Owl Excursion

Whooo is out in Riverside Park at night? Learn about our nocturnal owl friends and search through the park for signs and sounds of owls on this family hike.

(RP) Mon., Feb. 11 | 4 - 5:30pm
For families and children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Fun with Worms!

Learn how easy and effective it is to use worms to compost your food and garden waste. We will provide you with all the knowledge you need to set up your very own vermicomposting system in your home.

(MV) Sat., Feb. 16 | 10 - noon
For adults, teens, and accompanied children 6 and up | Free - donations appreciated

Wildlife Detectives

Play wildlife detective and discover how to recognize and interpret the clues animals leave behind like tracks, trails and signs that tell the stories of where they were and what they were doing. Dress for the weather.

(RP) Sun., Feb. 24 | 2 - 3:30pm
For children in grades 3-5 | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Animal Feeding

Help feed the Center's resident turtles, snakes and fish.

(RP) **(WP)** & **(MV)** Every Sat. | 1pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Science Saturdays and Sundays

Discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts. The theme for January and February is Animals in the Winter!

(RP) Drop in program
Every Sat. | 10am - 4pm
Every Sun. | 1 - 4pm
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 in the Young Scientists Club is a new adventure.

(RP) Every Mon - Thu except
Jan. 1 | 4 - 5:30pm
For ages 5 through 12 | \$10 annual fee (Plus suggested daily donation - \$5)
Space is limited to 12 participants, please register ahead of time

(WP) Every Tue - Fri. except
Jan. 1 & 22 | 4 - 6pm
and Every Sat | 1 - 4pm
For kids ages 7-12 years old
\$10 annual membership

(MV) Every Tue. & Thu. except Jan. 1 & 22 | 4 - 6pm
and Every Sat. | 1 - 4pm
For ages 5-12 | \$10 annual membership

All Urban Ecology Center branches will be closed December 31, 2012 - January 1, 2013. Menomonee Valley and Washington Park Branches will be closed January 22

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:
Just stop by!

(RP) = Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Pl.

(WP) = Washington Park
1859 N. 40th St.

(MV) = Menomonee Valley
3700 W. Pierce St.



= Accessible for persons with disabilities
Please call 2 weeks ahead of time

Washington Park Lecture Series

An Evening With Filmmaker Chip Duncan

Filmmaker Chip Duncan returns to discuss his recent work. He will share some background on his current documentary on climate change and provide a sneak preview of his upcoming public television series on Ronald Reagan.

(WP) Wed., Jan. 23 | 7 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Dr. Gregory Thornton: Educational Partnerships for a Stronger Community

It takes a community to raise a child; and strong schools help build strong communities. Dr. Thornton shares how Milwaukee Public Schools prepare students for our future, and the role that we as community members play in this important work.

(WP) Wed., Feb. 27 | 7 - 8pm
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Urban (Re)cology: Integrating Science & Art into Land Management

See how synergizing science and art can inspire community response to environmental challenges. Includes a dozen artifacts that combine local archives, fine art and ecology.

(RP) Tue., Jan. 8 | 7 - 8pm
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Necessary Revolution Discussion Course

Read and discuss *The Necessary Revolution*, by Peter Senge, which explores how NGOs, corporations and communities use systemic approaches to work toward a more sustainable future. Space is limited. First session is an orientation.

(RP) Thu., Jan. 10, 24, Feb. 7 & Feb. 21 -- This 8 week session ends on April 18 | 7 - 8pm
For adults | \$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)
Additional fee for book or purchase your own. Limited books available free of charge so sign up early!

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

Quick Guide

Learning for a Sustainable Future

Meet Jaimie Cloud, founder of the Cloud Institute, and learn how she has inspired schools and communities to learn together to create economic prosperity, vibrant communities, social justice and healthy ecosystems.

(RP) Mon., Jan. 21 | 7 - 8
For adults and teens | \$10
(Nonmembers: \$15)

PV 101 Basic Photovoltaics (Solar Electricity)

Hosted by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), this course teaches the basics of solar electric systems. Learn how photovoltaic (PV) systems work and understand the basics of PV site assessment.

(MV) Fri., Jan. 25 | 9am - 5pm
For adults | \$90 MREA Members, MREA nonmembers: \$110
To register, contact MREA 715-592-6595

From Beak to Tail: All About the Life of Birds

Join us for an in-depth look into bird ecology, conservation and behavior. Join this ongoing series anytime. Lecture followed by walk. All levels of birders welcome. Binoculars provided.

(MV) Sat., Jan. 26 | 3 - 4:30pm
(RP) Sat., Feb. 23 | 3:30 - 5pm
For adults | Members: \$5
(Nonmembers: \$10)

The Bats of Cuba - Is There a Wisconsin Connection?

Speaker: Lainet Garcia-Rivera, Urban Ecology Center. Cuba has the highest diversity of bat species in the Antilles Islands. Lainet will discuss bats in Cuba, threats they face and how a change in methodology made a difference in detecting diversity.

(MV) Tue., Jan. 29 | 7 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Mycophilia: Revelations from the Weird World of Mushrooms with Author Eugenia Bone

Whether you are a mushroom enthusiast, a foodie, a science buff, a naturalist, a chef, or a casual reader, you will be entertained as Eugenia guides you into the interesting world of mushrooms. Books will be available for purchase. A night not to be missed!

(RP) Tue., Feb. 5 | 7 - 8pm
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Introduction to Permaculture Workshop

Learn permaculture basics, guiding principles and strategies for implementing design. Offered by UW-Stevens Point Global Environmental Management Education Center. Please bring a sack lunch.

(RP) Sat., Feb. 9 | 10am - 3pm
For adults | \$40 (Nonmembers: \$50)

Solar Energy Options for Home, Business and Community

Speaker: Nick Hylla, Executive Director, Midwest Renewable Energy Association. Thinking about going solar? Now is a good time to make the investment. Come explore the opportunities available for home owners, business owners, municipalities and investors.

(MV) Tue., Feb. 12 | 7 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Tree Houses are Awesome: The Art of Tree House Building

Enjoy an overview of environmentally sustainable tree house design and learn how you can adapt the techniques of professional tree house construction. Led by the Center's own John Fox who is a former professional tree house builder and occasional UWM Architecture professor.

(RP) Wed., Feb. 13 | 6:30 - 8pm
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

The Art and Science of Massage

Relax this Valentines Day weekend. In this hands-on workshop where you'll learn the art and science behind giving a good massage. Partners are necessary.

(RP) Sun., Feb. 17 | 2 - 4:30pm
For adults | \$10 per person
(Nonmembers: \$15 per person) |
Registration required by February 16

Cooking Circle: Gluten- Free Baking From Scratch

Eating gluten-free doesn't mean being deprived of baked goods. Learn how to choose ingredients and bake gluten-free. Pastry chef Annie Wegner LeFort is gluten-free and will share her experience with transitioning her diet. Handouts and recipes included. Bring an apron and containers for leftovers.

(RP) Mon., Feb. 18 | 6 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$25 (Nonmembers: \$30)

PV and Solar Thermal Structural Considerations

Offered by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, this one-day course teaches the structural considerations involved in solar installations.

(MV) Sat., Feb. 23 | 9am - 5pm
For adults | To register visit
www.midwestrenew.org

Menomonee Valley Walking Tours

Branch Manager Glenna Holstein and Corey Zetts from Menomonee Valley Partners will discuss the Valley's history, current revitalization and future plans!

(MV) 1st & 3rd Wed. of the month | 10 - 11am
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website
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Quick Guide

Introduction to Cross Country Skiing

Ever thought about going cross country skiing but don't have the skis or the know how? Come on by and learn how to cross country ski. We provide the skis and instruction as we venture through Washington Park. Make sure to dress in layers.

(WP) Sat., Jan. 5, 19, Feb. 9 or 23 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults and accompanied children ages 12 and older | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Introduction to Snowshoeing

Trying to find a way to enjoy cold winter days? Learn how to snowshoe! Bring an adventurous spirit; we'll provide the snowshoes and hot chocolate. Make sure to dress in layers and wear waterproof footwear.

(WP) Sat., Jan. 12, Sat., Feb. 2 or 16 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults and accompanied children 12 and older | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

The following Milwaukee Magnificent Waters programs are supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, under Assistance Agreement No. GL00E00651-0 and Wisconsin DNR

Milwaukee River Snowshoe Hike at Riverside Park

We'll discover the changes that affected the river and what a future of ecological improvement may hold. Snowshoes provided or bring your own. No snow? We will still enjoy a winter walk.

(RP) Mon., Jan. 14 | 4 - 5:30pm
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

Ski Milwaukee River at Lincoln Park

We will look for signs of wildlife using this important urban habitat and discuss recent changes to this part of the river. Equipment and ski instruction included. No snow? We will hike instead. Meet at Riverside.

(RP) Sat., Jan. 19 | 9:30 - 11:30am
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

Little Menomonee River Snowshoe Hike

Learn the history of the once extremely polluted Little Menomonee River, its 2010 clean-up and comeback! Snowshoes provided. No snow? We will still enjoy a winter walk. Meet at Riverside.

(RP) Sun., Jan. 27 | 1:30 - 3:30pm
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

Kinnickinnic River Snowshoe Hike at Baran Park

Witness how rehabilitation of the river has revitalized both the ecological and human communities that rely on it. Snowshoes provided. No snow? We will still enjoy a winter walk. Meet at Riverside Park.

(RP) Sun., Feb. 3 | 1:30 - 3:30pm
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

Ski the Milwaukee River at Riverside Park

Experience the joy and challenge of cross country skiing as we appreciate the effects the river has on nature in our backyard. Equipment and basic ski instruction provided. If there's no snow we will hike.

(RP) Sat., Feb. 16 | 9:30 - 11:30am
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

Milwaukee River Snowshoe Hike at Lincoln Park

Join us for a snowshoe hike through the hidden corners of this park as we search for signs of wildlife and discuss how improvements to the waterways help urban herons, deer and frogs! Snowshoes provided. No snow? We will still enjoy a winter walk. Meet at Riverside.

(RP) Mon., Feb. 18 | 3:30 - 5:30pm
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

HOMESCHOOL SERIES

Snowy Physics - 3 part series

Physical science can be hard to wrap your head around. In our winter home school series, we will study how things move by using three winter sports as examples: ice skating, skiing and sledding. Join us as we boost our science knowledge while exercising, having fun and drinking some hot cocoa!

(RP) Tue., Jan. 15: Sledding at Riverside Park | 10 - 11:30am
(WP) Tue., Feb. 5: Ice skating at Washington Park | 10 - 11:30am
(MV) Tue., Feb. 19: Cross Country Skiing at Menomonee Valley | 10 - 11:30am
For kids 4 and up | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) per session

TEEN PROGRAMS

Winter Fun for Teens!

Screams and laughter fill the air as the sun warms your face and you can see your own breath! Come make new friends and enjoy a wonderful Saturday afternoon of sledding, building snow shelters and snowball fights. Afterwards, we'll enjoy yummy hot chocolate and s'mores. Don't miss out! Please dress to be outside.

(WP) Sat., Feb. 9 | 2 - 3:30pm
For teens | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

ART AT THE CENTER

Art Opening: Mary Lee Agnew, Patrick Bader and David McLimans — Photo and Collage Exhibit

Mary Lee Agnew's photos will inspire you to get out and discover the wildlife in the city. Be amazed by the intricate natural beauty captured in Patrick Bader's photos. And marvel at the complexity of David McLimans' brilliant collages. Enjoy refreshments and listen to the artists speak at 6pm.

(RP) Thu., Jan. 10 | 5 - 7pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

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



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

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 **ONLINE:**
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 **BY PHONE:**
(414) 964-8505

3

(RP) = Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Pl.

(WP) = Washington Park
1859 N. 40th St.

(MV) = Menomonee Valley
3700 W. Pierce St.



= Accessible for persons with disabilities
Please call 2 weeks ahead of time

Quick Guide

Volunteer Orientation

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

(RP) Thu., Jan. 3 | 5:30 - 7pm

(RP) Fri., Jan. 25 | 3 - 4:30pm

(RP) Sat., Feb. 2 | 10:30am - noon

(RP) Fri., Feb. 8 | 3 - 4:30pm

(RP) Thu., Feb. 21 | 5:30 - 7pm

(WP) Thu., Jan. 3 | 4:30 - 5:30pm

(WP) Wed., Jan. 16 | 5:30 - 6:30pm

(WP) Thu., Jan. 24 | 3 - 4pm

(WP) Wed., Feb. 6 | 5:30 - 6:30pm

(WP) Sat., Feb. 16 | 10:30 - 11:30am

(WP) Thu., Feb. 28 | 4:30 - 5:30pm

(MV) Fri., Jan. 18 | 3 - 4:30pm

(MV) Sat., Jan. 19 | 10:30am - noon

(MV) Tue., Jan. 22 | 5:30 - 7pm

(MV) Sat., Feb. 9 | 10:30am - noon

(MV) Fri., Feb. 15 | 3 - 4:30pm

(MV) Tue., Feb. 26 | 5:30 - 7pm

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Citizen Science Data Workshop

Did you know that people in the community help us conduct scientific research in Riverside Park? Want to learn more about the research and citizen science data we collect at the Center? Join us for an introduction to our data process!

(RP) Thu., Jan. 24 | 6 - 7pm

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Burdock Brigade

Help us restore our parks by removing exotic invasive plants and propagating and planting native species.

(WP) Every Thu. | 4 - 5:30pm

(RP) Every Tue. except

Jan. 1 | 9 - 11am

(RP) 1st & 3rd Sat. of the

month | 9:30 - 11am

For adults, families, and teens

Free - donations appreciated

Volunteer Papermaking

Feeling creative? Join other Center volunteers and learn the art of recycled papermaking to create beautiful gifts for our Center's supporters.

(RP) Every Thu. | 4 - 6pm

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Forestry Fridays

Help us improve the health of our forests in Riverside Park and the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum.

(RP) Every Fri. | 2 - 4pm

For adults, families and teens

Free - donations appreciated

Park Ranger Crew

Join other volunteers and walk through the park picking up trash and noting any maintenance needs.

(RP) Every 2nd, 4th & 5th Sat.

of the month | 9:30 - 11am

(WP) Every Sat. starting

Jan. 12 | 9 - 10am

(MV) Every Thu. | 10am - Noon

For adults, families, and teens

Free - donations appreciated

All Urban Ecology Center branches will be closed December 31 - January 1
Menomonee Valley and Washington Park Branches will be closed January 22

INTEREST GROUPS

Photo Club

(RP) Thu., Jan. 3 & Thu., Feb. 7 | 6:30 - 8:30pm

Victory Garden Initiative Eat and Meet

Hear VGI's strategic plan for the year.

(RP) Tue., Jan. 8 | 6:30 - 8pm

Sign-up for fall and spring events

(RP) Tue., Feb. 5 | 6:30 - 8pm

Friends of Real Food: *Potluck Dinner and Program*

Martha's Mighty Fine Food: Starting a sustainable local food business

(RP) Wed. Jan. 9 | 6 - 8pm

Dirty Work: The Story of Elsie's Farm.

A film about a Wisconsin CSA farm

(RP) Wed., Feb. 13 | 6 - 8pm

Urban Echo Poets

(RP) Thu., Jan. 10 & Thu., Feb. 14 | 7 - 8:30pm

Urban Stargazers

(RP) Thu., Jan. 10 & Thu., Feb. 14 | 7 - 8:30pm

New Urban Friends

(RP) Mon., Jan. 14 | 7:30 - 9pm

Transition Milwaukee: All City Hub Meeting

(RP) Mon., Jan. 28 & Mon., Feb. 25 | 6:30 - 8:30pm

Early Morning Birdwalks

(MV) Every Tue. except Jan. 1 | 8am

(WP) Every Wed. | 8am

(RP) Every Thu. | 8am

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



Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website
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Leading for Global Abundance

Continued from page 1

all to get out of it. I need you and you need me. By definition then, getting through the planetary ecological transition I see looming on the horizon, will require the time and attention of many ... a whole lot of many.

To this end, it is imperative we figure out how to work together. And I mean WE with capital letters. WE need to work across political boundaries, across races and across economic and gender divides. In short ... WE need to build, using the words of author John McKnight, "a strong and healthy abundant global community." Or as Paul Polman, CEO of the multinational food and detergent company Unilever recently said, "To get things done, we need to find new ways of cooperating, based on the greater use of partnerships and collaborative networks." I think Mr. Polman is on to something. Perhaps the best way to grow an abundant global community is to find, link and catalyze existing and growing local communities of abundance.

Abundance per McKnight means having enough — where we value what we have and find it satisfying. We have enough personally and materially and spiritually. We have purpose. An abundant community includes the natural systems around our social construct. We have enough without taking too much. We have what we need wherever we are.

So how does one do this? How does one build community and open up to the inherent abundance within it?

I've had the good fortune to have been at the nascent stage of a number of successful communities and had the privilege to watch them grow into something magical and I dare say abundant. As such, last year I was asked by a collaboration of Marquette and Cardinal Stritch Universities to be a panelist to follow up on a joint presentation put forward by thought leaders and authors Peter Block and John McKnight along with

theologian Walter Brueggemann. I was charged with answering the question of "How does one create an abundant community?"

Despite my involvement in doing exactly this, I'm embarrassed to admit I had never put critical thought to the process. After a period of reflection, a flow of ideas emerged. They are fresh and untried, but I presented them for the panel discussion to much affirmation and now will try it out on you (you can see the whole presentation at <http://tinyurl.com/ken-on-abundance>. Check it out, you might find it amusing!). I'd love to hear your thoughts!

Here then is my new four step method to lead to abundance.

Here goes ...

It starts with authentic leadership -- or a community catalyst with a vision. They begin with step one.

Step 1: "I need your help"

This simple statement has power. By asking for help one shows a certain vulnerability and humility. I can't do this alone. I need you. At the same time, within these four words is a gift. The person being asked, if they accept the gift, is given a new sense of purpose. Having purpose is at the foundation of self worth and within a group provides the key to forming authentic community.

Step 2: "Time permitting, I know you can help me"

Here you are both showing respect, "I respect your time" -- and faith, "I believe in you". This last one is huge. Having faith in someone is an affirmation of that person. Affirmation is a great step forward toward bridging the chasms presented by race, class, religion and economic differences as well as gender divides, differences of sexual orientation, etc. When someone believes in me their

faith can have the power to bring out more than I knew I had. Or in reverse, my faith in you can bring out your best, too! It works!

Step 3: "In order for you to help me you need to believe that you can"

Step two often brings out step three in the helper, but still at its core, you can help only if you are willing to try. You may not think you have what it takes, but by saying "ok, I'll help" you have crossed a threshold from complacency to action. This action has to come from within. A leader may inspire, but only you can act.

Step 4: "Now we need to communicate"

I need your help, I know you can help me, and you have accepted this new purpose. We can now sit together, communicate and figure out where your time, passion and gifts match my need and through this communication we grow community and find abundance. This is the fun part (well, it is all fun actually). The depth that results often has a multiplier effect. You end up helping me and I end up helping you and the world ends up a little better for the effort. See?...Fun!

If we have leaders who can be the catalyst for community on the local level, and then we can connect those localities together in networks of learning, the possibilities and the resulting abundance are exciting!

It takes authentic leadership, collaboration and long term thinking -- this is at the core of a healthy, abundant community.

If your need is legitimate, your purpose is pure, and your vision is clear -- when you ask for help it is amazing how people (people from all walks of life -- a successful CEO, a new graduate, a retired teacher, a nice lady with Down syndrome who lives across the street, a working mom, a stay-at-home dad, you name it!) are willing to use their talents to assist. 🌱

Finding Inspiration in the Corporate World

Continued from page 1

more than either could on their own.

For me, this book resonated deeply. In 2003, I went to business school for two reasons: 1) I was inspired by and immersed in the promise of the Urban Ecology Center model and wanted to prepare myself for the work ahead, and 2) I believed that all sectors of our community, including corporations, could work together better to improve our ecological position. I wanted to be able to knowledgeably challenge environmentalist friends and colleagues who were in the habit of blaming corporations for our current ecological crisis and bring a new perspective to the conversation which illustrated the role I saw businesses could uniquely play in creating a more sustainable future. The

Executive MBA program provided me with a window into corporate culture, management, drivers, approaches and pressures. It is here that I first became familiar with Peter Senge's work. Graduate school, coupled with seven years of volunteer work with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Commerce, provided me with an inside view of the business community here in Milwaukee. Based on those experiences, I see that the Milwaukee community is capable, and more than ever, eager, to work toward a sustainable future.

In the promise of the Urban Ecology Center I can see both small and large opportunities to help catalyze momentum in Milwaukee. I invite you: business leaders and employees,

community organization members, parents, neighbors to join us in this dialogue. You may just find inspiration in each other, and develop the relationships, basis of understanding and the knowledge you need to help move us toward a more sustainable future. Is it the start of the Necessary Revolution? I hope you will join us and decide for yourself. 🌱

Necessary Revolution Discussion Course

(RP) Thu., Jan. 10, 24, Feb. 7 & Feb. 21 -- This 8 week session ends on April 18 | 7 - 8pm
For adults | \$20 (Nonmembers - \$25) Additional fee for book or purchase your own. Limited books available free of charge so sign up early!

The Great Alaska Adventure 2013!

Continued from page 4

You will have your first opportunity to sign up for the trip on Thursday, January 17th from 7-8:00 pm at the Riverside Park location of the Urban Ecology Center. We will present a slideshow which will show highlights of the trip and answer questions about gear, logistics and itinerary. All sign ups for the Great Alaska Adventure will be on a first come, first served basis. A \$200 nonrefundable deposit will be required upon sign up. If

necessary, a second orientation will be held on January 31st, same times, also at the Riverside Park location. Program cost, including all lodging, transportation and most meals, for the Great Alaska Adventure is \$2325. Program price does not include airline reservations.

We hope you can join us for this spectacular journey into the inspiring wilderness of Alaska. 🌱



2012 Great Alaska Adventure participants in front of crystal clear Denali at Eielson Visitor Center, mile 66 along the Park Road.
Photo courtesy of Willie Karidis.

Thank You to Our Donors

We thank all of you who have become members, renewed your membership, given a gift membership or made a donation to our mission. Our list of supporters has grown so large that we can no longer print it in the newsletter. The list can instead be found on our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org/thankyoulist. Many thanks to the local foundations, corporations and individuals who have donated to the Center within the last two months.

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, over 2700 members and many in-kind donors the Center serves over 80,000 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, WI 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., Milwaukee, WI 53208)
(414) 344-5460 Fax: (414) 344-5462
wkaridis@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Friday: 4 - 7pm
Saturday: 9 am - 5pm

Menomonee Valley

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

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

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org
Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

Join our community Today!

Membership

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

Renew or begin your membership, choose one:

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

Financial assistance is available. Please call the Center at (414) 964-8505 and ask to speak to someone on our membership team 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

Occasion _____ Deliver by _____

Donation (in addition to membership)

Please accept my gift to support:

- Provide a membership for a low income family (\$35)
- Provide an educational program for families (\$75)
- Provide a summer camp scholarship (\$195)
- Support a high school summer intern (\$600)
- Restore native plants to an acre of public land (\$1000)
- Sponsor a school for a year, 24 field trips for city kids! (\$5000)

Total Enclosed _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

My neighborhood park is

Riverside Washington Menomonee 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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WINTERFEST

Winter in Wisconsin is a special time. Join us as we celebrate with some family winter fun!

Highlights include:

- Sled dog demonstration
- Ice skating
- Sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Cross country skiing
- Ice fishing

(WP) Sat., Jan. 26 | Noon - 4pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated



FSC logo

IN THIS ISSUE

LEADING FOR GLOBAL ABUNDANCE

By Ken Leinbach

If your need is legitimate, your purpose is pure, and your vision is clear -- when you ask for help, it is amazing to me how people are willing to use their talents, what ever they are, to assist.

FINDING INSPIRATION IN THE CORPORATE WORLD

By Beth Heller

Finding meaningful, inspiring stories of leadership in environmental sustainability in businesses or corporations for many may seem like a fantasy. I would argue that is not only real, but necessary. Corporate leaders and employees have the capacity to think beyond the bottom line of the current quarter and plan for the future.

IT'S ALL ABOUT MAGNETISM

by Alejandra Jiménez Marván

"Isn't it awesome? Would you have imagined that we would be able to create a handmade compass by magnetizing a simple sewing needle?" I needed no other evaluation but the students' amazed faces to realize that our class was pointing in the right direction, too.

THE GREAT ALASKA ADVENTURE 2013!

By Willie Karidis

This past September my wife Christine and I led 45 Urban Ecology Center members to our former home and showed them a slice of what makes Alaska magical. It was so much fun, we are doing it again!

SEE FOR YOURSELF! (No really, see how many contributed to our success last year!)



2,864 total members
and donors contributed
to our success last year!