

ABUNDANT ABUNDANCE

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Raise your hand if you believe that it takes a village to raise a child? Don't be shy, no one's looking raise your hand!

It is too bad that Hillary Clinton, who for many is a lightning rod of liberalism, entitled her book with this phrase a few years back, politicizing a known truth. The village concept is a good one no matter what side of the aisle you are on. It takes more than just parents (if kids are lucky enough to have them in their lives) to impart the necessary wisdom, intelligence and values to successfully navigate the complexities of life. Coaches, teachers, religious leaders, extended family, neighbors, librarians, baby sitters ... this is our village.



The sage never tries to store things up. The more he gives to others, the greater his or her abundance.

- Lao Tzu

OK, next question: How many of you can name all the kids living near you on your block, your street or in your apartment building? Hmm, not so many hands go up ... don't worry, mine didn't either.

These were some of the questions John McNight, author of *The Abundant Community*, asked the 100 or so people who attended the Building a Better Milwaukee event organized by Cardinal Stritch and Marquette Universities.

John, who shared the podium with author Peter Block and theologian Walter Brueggemann, went on to divide us into small groups and gave us a couple of discussion

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HEALING THE LAND WHILE WE HEAL OURSELVES

by Beth Fetterley Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

I'm about to make some very bold statements. Children's health can be positively impacted by activity in nature. The Urban Ecology Center gets kids outdoors. Therefore the Urban Ecology Center positively impacts children's health.

At first glance, these statements don't seem "very bold". We know intuitively that kids need play time outdoors. Above and beyond common sense, there is a growing body of evidence showing that regular access to nature improves our health by reducing stress, encouraging exercise, improving concentration and reducing aggression. Many children are having health problems not previously seen at such a young age. We want to make sure our programming is having the maximum impact on this epidemic.

In 2012, we are excited to be working with the Medical College of Wisconsin to quantify the

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THE GREAT ALASKA ADVENTURE!

by Willie Karidis, Washington Park Branch Manager

Breathtaking glaciers, spectacular wildlife, jaw dropping vistas and North America's tallest mountain await as the Urban Ecology Center hosts the Great Alaska Adventure. From September 5-14, 2012. We invite you to reserve your spot now and plan your travel to the Great Land, Alaska. Learn more about this fantastic place and trip below.



My favorite time of the year in Alaska is the first two weeks in September. The tundra is a carpet of vibrant fall colors, the prolific mosquitos of summer are long

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

Contributing writers: Beth Heller, Glenna Holstein, Willie Karidis and Ken Leinbach.

River Reflections 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 member and many in-kind donors the Center serves over 80,000 people per year.

To make a contribution, please see page 14 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

Urban Ecology Center

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

Hours of operation:
Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.

Washington Park, 1859 N. 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 - 7 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

DROPLETS

◆ **Thank you Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and Bader-Rutter!**
Building Partners for Humanity is an annual campaign run by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that encourages local ad agencies to partner with local nonprofit organizations to create a half-page, pro-bono ad that the Journal then features for a week in the fall. The Urban Ecology was chosen by Bader-Rutter & Associates who created a great ad with a beautiful illustration by Matt Zumbo (you can see it on the Partners for Humanity facebook page). As a bonus, our ad was one of three chosen by a panel of judges to win a \$1000 donation from the Journal. We love our ad and are very grateful to be included in this program.

◆ **Help us fight cabin fever!** Donate your gently-used ski poles, sleds and snowshoes to the Center and help us get people outside this winter. Please contact Mike Larson at mlarson@urbanecologycenter.org before donating skis, ice skates and other types of outdoor equipment.

◆ **Because you know it's going to snow, you just don't know when...** Email Chad at cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org to get word of spontaneous ski or snowshoe outings. Everyone is welcome!

◆ **Equal opportunity winter fun!** To ensure that everyone will have equal access to our shoes and skis this winter, we are going to use a new registration system. If you are planning to participate in one of our Urban Adventure skiing and snowshoeing programs, please call to register at least two days prior to the event. For skiing programs, we also ask you to give us your shoe size and height upon registration. Thanks for your help in making sure that everyone can have a fun time outdoors this winter.

WISH LIST

For Riverside Park
Contact: Judy Krause, 964-8505, x102.

- 2 Garmin GPS units (Geocache grade)
- Adult mittens and gloves
- Field & lannon stone
- Gas BBQ grill
- Ice cream buckets with lids
- Ice trays
- Potting soil & quality topsoil
- Rain ponchos/jackets
- Seasoned firewood
- Sweatpants
- Two-stage snow thrower
- Utility trailer (1 ton payload or more)
- Woodworking tools, hand or powered

For Washington Park
Contact: Willie Karidis, (414) 344-5460.

- Aprons
- Banjo
- Blenders
- Bow saws
- Chest waders (w/suspenders)
- Coffee table (round, or w/ rounded corners)
- Cross country ski trail grooming equipment
- Digital camera
- Fleece or waterproof gloves or mittens
- Gently used socks and sweatpants
- Glass measuring cups
- Grow-light stands
- Hand drums (no drum sets, please!)
- Igloo Playmate-style cooler
- Kids' work gloves
- Large capacity dehumidifier
- Large literature rack
- Mandolin
- Mixing bowls
- Mixing spoons
- Old fitted sheets
- Pillowcases
- Plastic cutting boards
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Potato peelers, mashers
- Video camera

HEALING THE LAND WHILE WE HEAL OURSELVES

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Center's effect on community health and wellness. Through the generous funding support of the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program, we will be measuring the influence of our programs on the knowledge and attitude of program participants at the new Menomonee Valley branch. This is an exciting and unique opportunity because the park and the programming do not yet exist, so we are able to gather baseline data on the current status of residents' knowledge, attitudes and behavior.

What we know that just having a park nearby does not automatically engage people in these healthy behaviors. To the contrary, green spaces that do not have intentional, positive community engagement can be a magnet for unhealthy activities and delinquency. In choosing the right location for each of our three branches, we specifically target areas where parks are underutilized

and crime is prevalent. Because we enrich parks in densely populated neighborhoods, we have the opportunity to improve the health of many individuals, as well as the neighborhood as a whole. Healing the land while we heal ourselves — this is how the Center encapsulates our approach.

Addressing these types of community health issues is hard work and the risk of time outdoors becoming a chore is always near. As a community center, we seek to add depth to our understanding of how important the interconnections are between people, green spaces, learning, fun and health. Fun is a critical element to this model. We know that kids will enjoy a brisk walk much more if they feel a sense of discovery, and that fresh vegetables are more appealing to children when they have nurtured them from seeds, and that tenacious invasive species removal is much more fun when you do it with a group of

people. Rather than being discouraged by vandalism, we are prepared for it, collect data on it and engage community members in reversing it. This not only provides a sense of accomplishment (which can be very fun), but, over time, the frequency of this type of delinquent behavior decreases. Embracing the fun is a healthy approach.

Over the next two years, in partnership with the Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc. we will be installing and nurturing a 24-acre park where there now is barren industrial land. In September 2012, we will open our doors, serving as a gateway to fun and healthy activity in the new green space. We extend our thanks to the Medical College of Wisconsin's Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program and to the many individuals, businesses and supporters who make it possible for us to heal the land as we heal ourselves.

A NEW STANDARD

by Glenna Holstein, Environmental Educator

In the interest of full disclosure, I should confess that I have never been a fan of standardization. One of my mother's favorite stories about me is that, upon first entering a Boston Store at age 3, I gasped and said, somewhat incredulously, "Mommy, look at all those dresses that are the same!" Even then, I preferred the uniqueness of thrift store items to the standardization of the department store. I think this also explains why I squirm every time we talk about standardizing education. While there are certainly facts and skills that all students should understand by the time they graduate, I worry that we put too much emphasis on giving each child the

same education rather than on giving them the education they each need.



Every day I am reminded of how kids need varied experiences to learn. I see them excel in an environment where we encourage them to touch this and smell that and explore the world around them. I get to watch a child who can't sit still inside a classroom proudly tell his teacher that he did a great job on our hike finding leaves for our poster. I get to hear a high school student who is skeptical of science look up from her basin full of macroinvertebrates and say, "Excuse me, Miss? This is fun!"

That's why I love teaching at the Urban Ecology Center. We focus on creating a unique experience to fit the needs of our schools, teachers and kids. We offer schools

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ABUNDANT ABUNDANCE

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topics. First, we were to share what we felt our personal gifts were. "I'm good at making those around me feel at ease" and "I'm a great organizer" were two mentioned in our group.

So, what are your gifts?

He then asked us to share our passions or skills; great or small. Someone mentioned modern dance; I offered up juggling.

How about you? What are your passions?

After gathering as a large group again, John asked each of us to think about one skill or gift that we could, and would if offered the opportunity, teach or share with a young person in our neighborhood. He wanted things that we were passionate about.

Take a moment to think about yours ... then ask your friends about theirs ...

Once we had our "thought", he went around with his wireless mike and randomly asked people to share in one or two words what they would be excited to teach. After hearing from 30 or so people with items like ... baking pie, calligraphy, woodwork and growing food he stopped and asked, "Notice anything?"

What we noticed is that out of the 30 people who spoke, there was maybe only one duplicate skill to be shared. His point? Within any random grouping of people, if one seeks it out, there is an incredible diversity of gifts, passions, skills and talents. This is our abundance!

We also noticed that only a very few of our passions we wished to impart to the next generations are topics that are taught in school. Getting an education is clearly important to us all, but so is exposing our children from an early age to the many skills, passions and gifts you and I can share ... don't you agree?

So the question becomes ... how do

we get at this abundance? How do we connect children to adults? How do we transfer skills, knowledge and passions to each other? Or stated another way -- how do we create a more robust community?

I often share with people the research that indicates that if children grow up with two things -- consistent contact to natural land from an early age as well as interested adults to guide them -- those children will develop a strong environmental ethic, reflected in their personal behaviors through life. In this day and age we call this kind of personal behavior "being green". At the social experiment we call the Urban Ecology Center, we take this research seriously. Thus underlying ALL of our programs is the very intentional two-part goal of:

1) Maximizing access to and consistent connection with nature found in the city for students and adults in our neighborhoods ...

while at the same time using this land as a means to ...

2) Facilitate deep connections with each other...connections such that the abundance within each of us

becomes explicit and shared!

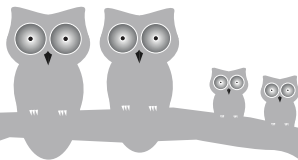
This is something that we strive to do at the Urban Ecology Center. To offer children and youth opportunities to learn new skills. To provide opportunities for them to interact with passionate adults as teachers and mentors. To create a fun and safe environment for new learning ... a place of hope and abundance!

Wanna help?

Make it a new year's resolution. We'd love to have you come and volunteer with our programs for kids. Or perhaps you have a skill you wish to share, but don't have the venue in which to do it? Why not do it with us? Or, better yet, why not talk with the parents in your neighborhood. You could then bring the whole gang of kids to the Center for a hike, a day of sledding when the snow arrives or a campfire.

The world needs you as an active part of our village.

Note: The next Building a Better Milwaukee event will be occurring on March 7th, 2012. Sessions are from noon-3 p.m. or 5- 8 p.m. 🦉



A Hoot in the Night

Join families from across Milwaukee on Saturday, February 4, for a night of fun for a worthy cause: Summer Camp scholarships for low income-youth.

Enjoy owl hikes, sledding, campfires and s'mores, special entertainment by Mr. Flower and his special guest, Gandhi the Great Horned Owl and music by family favorite Fox and Branch. Bid on items at our silent auction and enjoy dinner provided by Trocadero.

Our scholarship program ensures that children from diverse backgrounds will spend time learning, growing and becoming a community together.

Come to A Hoot in the Night! Tickets are \$100 per family. Check www.urbanecologycenter.org/ahoot to register. Special thanks to our A Hoot in the Night co-chairs: Deb Andraca and Suzanne Singh.

It's almost time!



Summer Camp registration begins January 17th!

photos by Brittany Long, Meghan O'Brien and Kelsey Burke

THE GREAT ALASKA ADVENTURE!

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gone, and it is finally getting dark at 8:30, the chance to see northern lights exist every night. But the best part is a feeling which is a little harder to define — there is a peacefulness which takes over and you can see it in the faces of the locals and feel it in the crispness of the land. It is that time when summer has not quite ended and winter has not quite begun, the transition from hyper feeding to hibernation. The magical time of year when your camera is always ready and no matter how hard you try, your pictures never really translate the memory.

I've been fortunate to live an Alaskan life. Early on I was drawn to Denali National Park where I would end up living a cabin life for twenty five years. Denali is unlike any place I have ever been. Each day I felt blessed to live in such an amazing place. Going to work as the Executive Director of the Denali Education Center I never knew what I would see...a herd of caribou crossing the road, a lynx hunting for snowshoe hare or a moose and her newborn twin calves grazing on willow, fattening up for winter. Sunrises and sunsets never failed to inspire and when full moons rose over the horizon you could slow yourself down enough to actually watch it move. Wonderful times I will always cherish.

Now that I am the Branch Manager in Washington Park, I have been

asked to lead a trip back to Alaska with my wife Christine and develop an eco-travel tour giving an insider's view of some of our favorite places. We are thrilled with the opportunity.



We will take the Alaska Railroad from Anchorage through the pristine Kenai Mountains to the sea side town of Seward. We'll spend two nights on Resurrection Bay exploring the area and boarding a ship which will take us into Kenai Fjords National Park, home of tidewater glaciers, puffins and if we are lucky, humpback and orca whales. Also, we will visit the historic town of Talkeetna, home of the Denali (Mt. McKinley) climbing community. The name Talkeetna is Athabascan and means "where the rivers join". If the Alaska Range is visible, it is one of the most beautiful places to see it from.

Denali National Park is the size of Massachusetts with one 92 mile road, between 300 - 350 grizzly bears, approximately 2000 caribou and North America's highest mountain at 20,320 feet, Denali. We will spend six nights at the Denali Education Center staying in their beautiful campus located on the Nenana River on the border of Denali National Park. Here we will learn about the subarctic ecosystem, wildlife and natural history of this 6 million acre national park. We will hike the trails and for those up to it, climb a short way up one of the peaks of the Alaska Range. Best of all we will take a trip into the heart of Denali where we will have a chance to see the diverse wildlife of the park and the stunning fall scenery. Each night, depending on conditions, we will have the opportunity to spy the aurora borealis or northern lights. It is not uncommon for the entire Denali community to break out in wolf-like howls as the lights dance across the sky.

On two Thursday evenings, January 19 and February 16, I will present slide shows and an in-depth look at the communities we will be visiting, answering questions you have about the trip. We have a limited amount of spots, available on a first come, first serve basis. If you'd like more information you can write me directly at wkaridis@urbanecologycenter.org. Please join us as we show you the best of Alaska. 🌲



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

SPECIAL EVENTS

ALASKA

LEARN ALL ABOUT OUR

GREAT ALASKA ADVENTURE!

This fall, Christine & Willie Karidis will lead an Alaskan adventure to Anchorage, Seward, Talkeetna and Denali National Park (see the article that begins on page 1). To learn more about this trip, join Willie for one of his Alaskan Adventure presentations.

**Thursdays January 19
& February 16**

7 - 8 p.m.

AT RIVERSIDE PARK

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

WINTERFEST!

Family fun in the Winter!

ENJOY:

sled dog demonstration • sledding • ice skating • snowshoeing • cross country skiing • screen printing on your favorite t-shirt • and more for the entire family!

Saturday, January 28
1 to 4 p.m.

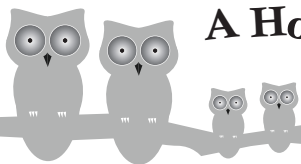
AT WASHINGTON PARK

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated



A Hoot in the Night



Bring the whole family to the Urban Ecology Center's A Hoot in the Night for winter activities, entertainment and fun for a worthy cause! All proceeds will give low-income kids the opportunity to attend summer camp at the Urban Ecology Center. (More details on page 4)

Register online at:
urbanecologycenter.org/ahoot
or call (414) 964-8505

Saturday, February 4
5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

AT RIVERSIDE PARK

Save the Date!

**JOHN FRANCIS:
THE PLANETWALKER**

Wednesday, March 14
Time TBA

AT WASHINGTON PARK
See page 8 for details

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS*

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.

Saturdays,
January 14 and
February 4

10:30 a.m. - noon

Fridays, January 13

& February 10

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays,
January 18 & February 15

5:30 - 7 p.m.



Fridays, January 6
& February 3

4 - 5 p.m.

Saturdays, January
21 & February 18

10 - 11 a.m.



For adults & youth

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505

VOLUNTEER TEACHER ORIENTATION*

Snowshoe, study birds, bike the Oak Leaf Trail and search for animal tracks with our school field trip program! Find out how our volunteer teachers do this and more on field trips with neighborhood school groups. Volunteer teachers must be available on weekdays.

Tuesday, January 24

1 - 3 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505

PAPERMAKING*

Join other volunteers as we learn the art of recycled papermaking to create beautiful gifts for our Center's supporters.

Every Wednesday

4 - 6 p.m.

For teens, adults and

accompanied children,

ages 12 and under

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



BURDOCK BRIGADE

The Burdock Brigade engages in hands on restoration activities, removing exotic invasive plants and propagating and planting native species in order to preserve and restore native vegetation and wildlife habitat.

WASHINGTON PARK SENIOR CENTER

Join us as we work with help from the Washington Park Senior Center participants.

Every Thursday

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

WASHINGTON PARK

Join us as we work with help from our Young Scientists Club.

Every Thursday
4 - 5 p.m.



RIVERSIDE PARK

Every Tuesday
9 - 11 a.m.

1st & 3rd Saturday

of the month

9 - 10:30 a.m.



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

FORESTRY FRIDAYS

Come help us work to improve the health of our forest in Riverside Park and the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum!

Every Friday

2 - 4 p.m.

For adults and

accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



PARK RANGER CREW

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 Saturday

9 - 10 a.m.



2nd & 4th Saturday
of the month

9 - 10:30 a.m.

For adults and

accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



* = accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited to no accessibility.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

* = accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited to no accessibility.

SCIENCE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS*

Discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts. **Theme for January and February: Solar System.**

Drop-in program
Every Saturday
9:30 - 4:30 p.m. and
Every Sunday except
January 1

12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
For adults and
accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated



ANIMAL FEEDING*

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

Every Saturday
1 p.m.
For everyone
Free -
donations
appreciated



YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB*

The Young Scientists Club is an excellent opportunity for kids to learn about science and nature. We'll do and learn all sorts of stuff like taking care of our animals, hiking through our urban wilderness, helping with stewardship projects and learning about birds, science and research!

At Riverside Park
Mondays, Tuesdays
& Wednesdays
4 - 5:30 p.m.

For kids 5 and up
\$10 annual fee
(Plus suggested daily
donation - \$5)
Space is limited to 12
participants, please call
ahead to register, 964-8505



At Washington Park
Every Tuesday
through Friday
4 - 6 p.m.

and Every Saturday
1 - 4 p.m.
For kids ages 7-12 years old
\$10 annual membership
Call to register, 964-8505



DON'T WALK, RIDE! FIX-A-FLAT WORKSHOP*

Find out what every cyclist should have with them at all times at South Shore Cyclery's "Don't Walk Home, Ride!" program. In this hands-on clinic you'll learn how to fix a flat, why flats happen and how to prevent them. Please bring the front wheel of your bike (some wheels available for practice).

Saturdays, January
14 or February 18
11 a.m. - noon

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



SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING FOR KIDS

No school? Let's celebrate with a cross-county ski and snowshoe trip! We provide the transportation and equipment.

Friday, January 20
2 - 6 p.m.

For Young Scientist
Club Members
Free - donations appreciated
Please register as space is
limited, call 964-8505



BASIC ANIMAL CARE: REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS*

Join our animal caretaker Daniel Rawley for a tour of our Native Wisconsin Animal Room and a beginners lesson on how to care for reptiles and amphibians.

Saturday, January 21
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

For adults and
accompanied
children
Adults: \$5
(Nonmembers - \$10)
Children: \$3
(Nonmembers - \$7)
Call to register, 964-8505



STORY TIME IN THE TIPI

Help keep the oral tradition of storytelling alive as we gather around the fire in our tipi.

Saturday, January 21
10:30 a.m. - noon

For kids ages 4
and older accompanied
by an adult
\$4 per person or \$12
for families of 4 or more
(Nonmembers - \$7
per person or \$24 for
families of 4 or more)
Call to register, 964-8505



HERBAL AND MILK BASED SOAP MAKING*

Milk-based soap is a creamy, skin-softening luxury and you can make your own at home! We will explore the art of creating soap that incorporates fresh goat milk, cow milk, whey and herbal infusions and will learn to make herbal infused oils, herbal water infusions and more!! Experienced and novice soap makers welcome. Participants will take home recipes, inspiration and soap that we create.

Tuesday, January 24
6 - 9 p.m.

For adults and kids
accompanied by an adult
Adults: \$20
(Nonmembers - \$25)
Children: \$15
(Nonmembers - \$20)
Register by January
23rd, call 964-8505



FAMILY SNOW PLAY DAY

Let's get together and celebrate one of the greatest perks in Milwaukee during the winter ... SNOW! We'll make snowmen, throw snowballs, build forts and even take a trip or two down the sledding hill. Lots of fun to be had by all! Please dress to be outside and look forward to a warm cup of hot cocoa after the program.

Saturday, February 11
10:30 a.m. - noon

For families with
kids ages 5 and up
\$4 per person or \$12
for families of 4 or more
(Nonmembers - \$7
per person or \$24 for
families of 4 or more)
Call to register, 964-8505



SLEDDING TOUR FOR KIDS

Let's celebrate the day off from school with a tour of Milwaukee's most exciting sledding spots. We provide the transportation and sleds!

Friday, February 17
2 - 6 p.m.

For Young
Scientist Club Members
Free - donations appreciated
Please register as space is
limited, call 964-8505



BASIC ANIMAL CARE: FISH*

Caring for animals can be a powerful way to connect with nature. Join our animal caretaker Daniel Rawley for a tour of our Native Wisconsin Animal Room and a beginners lesson on how to care for freshwater fish.

Saturday,
February 18
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

For adults and
accompanied children
Adults: \$5
(Nonmembers - \$10)
Children: \$3
(Nonmembers - \$7)
Call to register, 964-8505



FAMILY ICE FISHING

Enjoy an afternoon of ice fishing on the Washington Park lagoon. We provide the equipment and the hot chocolate! Fishing license required for ages 16 and over.

Saturday,
February 18
1 - 4 p.m.

For adults and
accompanied children
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7) Free
for kids in our Young Scientist
Club and their parents.
Call to register, 964-8505



HOMESCHOOL SERIES

ENERGY IN NATURE

Energy is all around us! We'll learn about types of energy through fun and interaction. We'll follow that with a demonstration of kinetic energy and some trips down the sledding hill.

Tuesday, January 17
2 - 3:30 p.m.

For kids ages
5 and older
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)
Call to register, 964-8505



ANIMAL TRACKING AND ICE SKATING

There's more to tracking than just following footprints! Learn the stories that tracks can tell and make some tracks of your own across the frozen lagoon on ice skates.

Tuesday,
February 28
2 - 3:30 p.m.

For kids ages 5 and older
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)
Call to register, 964-8505





ADULT LEARNING

WASHINGTON PARK
LECTURE SERIESWEST SIDE STORY: A HISTORY OF OUR
NEIGHBORHOODS WITH JOHN GURDA*

Local author and historian, John Gurda, takes us on a journey through the history of Milwaukee's westside, including Washington Park.

Tuesday, January 10

7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers - \$5)

Call to register, 964-8505



WINTER SURVIVAL*

Branch Manager and former Alaskan resident Willie Karidis presents the basics of winter survival from his own experience in the wilderness of Denali. Learn about proper winter gear and how to assemble an arctic oven tent!

Saturday, February 11

10 a.m. - noon

For adults and youth

ages 16 and older

\$5 (Nonmembers - \$10)

Call to register, 964-8505



CHIP DUNCAN: ENOUGH TO GO AROUND*

Award-winning journalist, photographer and traveler Chip Duncan chronicles the human toll of disaster and conflict in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Darfur in his new book *Enough to Go Around*.

Wednesday, February 22

7 - 8 p.m.

For adults

\$5 (Nonmembers - \$10)

Call to register, 964-8505



JOHN FRANCIS: THE PLANETWALKER

A 1971 oil spill in the San Francisco Bay changed the life of John Francis. He vowed to stop using motorized transportation, a vow that lasted 22 years. Walking across the United States in silence, he spread his inspiring environmental message.

Wednesday, March 14

Time TBD

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



TEEN PROGRAMS

TEEN ART IN THE PARK

Do you need an outlet for your creativity? Want to have fun with new people? Join like-minded teens and adults and help us cover Riverside Park in snowmen or other winter creations. We'll warm up afterwards with some hot cocoa. No snow? No problem! We'll learn about other Ephemeral Art possibilities and still have the chance to beautify our park. Remember to please dress for the weather!

Sunday, January 8

1 - 2:30 p.m.

For teens

\$3 (Nonmembers - \$5), call to register, 964-8505

* = accessible for persons with physical disabilities.
All others have limited to no accessibility.

COOKING SERIES

INTRODUCTION TO "FROM SCRATCH" COOKING*

Are you interested in learning basic cooking techniques or figuring out how to plan meals and cook more efficiently? Trained chef Annie Wegner LeFort will discuss basic kitchen tools, how to stock your pantry and what it means to cook from scratch, among other topics. Come ready to contribute and ask questions.

Monday, January 9

6:30 - 8 p.m.

For adults

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)

Call to register, 964-8505



INTRODUCTION TO CREATING SOUPS*

Do you love eating hearty soups in winter? Have you always wanted to make your own soups from scratch? Join Annie for a basic lesson in soup making using fresh, seasonal ingredients. We'll begin the night with a brief discussion of soup stocks, thickening methods, presentation and preservation techniques, then round out the evening by helping prepare a batch of soup for all to enjoy and take home.

Monday, February 6

6 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)

Please register by February 3, call 964-8505

QUICK BREADS FROM SCRATCH
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY*

Baking bread is truly an art form and it might seem intimidating. We will start from the beginning and learn to bake quick breads (non-yeast breads that are more simple to prepare). Join trained chef Annie Wegner LeFort for this class for the entire family where she'll discuss tools, techniques, ingredients (including alternative flours) and flavors. We'll finish the evening in the kitchen using both sweet and savory flavors to make a quick bread loaf, muffins and biscuits.

Monday, February 27

6 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults and kids accompanied by an adult

Adults: \$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)

Children: \$7 (Nonmembers - \$10)

Please register by February 24, call 964-8505



TEACHER TRAININGS

GROWING UP WILD
WORKSHOP*

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood curriculum guide that includes hands-on, nature-based activities for children ages 4-7. Discover songs, movement activities, art, snacks and more that will connect young learners to the natural world. This training includes the Growing Up WILD curriculum guide, designed by the Council for Environmental Education.

Friday, January 20

9 a.m. - noon

For adults

\$15 (Nonmembers - \$20)

Call to register, 964-8505

URBAN WILDLIFE
TRUNK WORKSHOP*

The Urban Wildlife Trunk is a collection of activities and materials you can borrow to teach your class about animals, adaptations, habitats and more. By attending this workshop, you will gain access to this and other materials to borrow for use in your classroom. Most activities are designed for 4-7th grades, but can be adapted for K-12.

Friday, January 20

1 - 3 p.m.

For adults

\$5 (Nonmembers - \$10)


Call to register, 964-8505



URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

(rp) = Riverside Park (wp) = Washington Park (wps) = WP Senior Center (bh) = Boathouse

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Both Urban Ecology Center locations closed</p> <p>Happy New Year!</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Holiday hours for Riverside Park — 9a-5p</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp) Beesentations (rp)</p> <p>9a 4p 6:30p 7p</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Birdwalk (wp) Milwaukee County Parks Snowshoe Series (meet @ rp) Papermaking (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>8a 3p 4p 4p</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Photo Club (rp)</p> <p>8a 10:30a 4p 4p 6:30p</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>2p 4p 4p</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Park Rangers (wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Solar System (rp) Intro to Cross Country Skiing (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Intro to Cross Country Skiing (rp)</p> <p>9a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p 10a 1p 1p 2p</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Geocache by Snowshoel (meet @ rp) Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Solar System (rp) Teen Art in the Park (rp) Landscapes: Wild, Forgotten, Restored (rp)</p> <p>1p 2-4p</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Young Scientists (rp) Intro to "From Scratch" Cooking (rp) New Urban Friends (rp)</p> <p>4p 6:30p 7:30p</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Community Living Options Group (rp) West Side Story (wp)</p> <p>9a 4p 6:30p 7p</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Birdwalk (wp) Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) Papermaking (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Friends of Real Food (rp)</p> <p>8a 9a 4p 4p 6p</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Snowshoe Hikes (meet @ rp) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Urban Stargazers (rp) Urban Echo Poets (rp)</p> <p>8a 10:30a 3p 4p 4p 7p 7p</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>2p 3p 4p</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Yogaskil (rp) Park Rangers (rp & wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Solar System (rp) Intro to Snowshoeing (wp) 10:30a Volunteer Orientation (rp) 11a Fix-a-Flat Workshop (rp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p> <p>9a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p 10a 10:30a 11a 1p 1p</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Ski the Kettle Moraine (rp) Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Solar System (rp)</p> <p>10a Drop in 12:30-4:30p</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>4p</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Energy in Nature (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Beesentations (rp)</p> <p>9a 2p 4p 7p</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Birdwalk (wp) Milwaukee County Parks Snowshoe Series (meet @ rp) Papermaking (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p> <p>8a 3p 4p 4p 5:30p</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Vegetarian Polluk (rp) Great Alaska Adventure Informational Meeting (rp)</p> <p>8a 10:30a 4p 4p 6:30p 7p</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Growing Up WILD (rp) Urban Wildlife Trunk (rp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Skiing and Snowshoeing for Kids (wp) Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>9a 1p 2p 2-6p 4p</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Intro to Permaculture (rp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Park Rangers (wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Solar System (rp) Intro to Cross Country Skiing (wp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Story Time in the Tipi (rp) Animal Care: Reptiles and Amphibians (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Ski Greater Milwaukee (meet @ rp)</p> <p>9a 9a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p 10a 10a 10:30a 11a 1p 1p 1p</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Solar System (rp) Snowshoe Hikes (meet @ rp)</p> <p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p 3p</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>4p</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Volunteer Teacher Orientation (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Soap Making (rp) Hungry for Change (rp)</p> <p>9a 1p 4p 6p 6:30p</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Birdwalk (wp) Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) Papermaking (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>8a 9a 4p 4p</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Intro to Cross Country Skiing (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp)</p> <p>8a 10:30a 2p 4p 4p</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (rp) Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>2p 4p</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Intro to Urban Permaculture Design (rp) Park Rangers (rp & wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Solar System (rp) Book Club (rp) Winterfest 1-4p (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Ski Greater Milwaukee (meet @ rp)</p> <p>9a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p 10a 1p 1p 1p</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Solar System (rp) Ski Greater Milwaukee (meet @ rp) Ornithology (rp)</p> <p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p 1p 3p</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>4p</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>9a 4p</p>				

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

(rp) = Riverside Park (wp) = Washington Park (wps) = WP Senior Center (bh) = BoatHouse

FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>8a Birdwalk (wp)</p> <p>10:30a Milwaukee County Parks Snowshoe Series (meet @ rp)</p> <p>4p Papermaking (rp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp)</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (wps)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (wp)</p> <p>6:30p Photo Club (rp)</p>	<p>2p Forestry Fridays (rp)</p> <p>4p Volunteer Orientation (wp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>9a Park Rangers (wp)</p> <p>Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Solar System (rp)</p> <p>10a Intro to Cross Country Skiing (wp)</p> <p>10:30a Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p> <p>Riverside Park location closes at noon</p> <p>1p Ski Greater Milwaukee (meet outside of rp)</p> <p>1p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>1p Animal Feeding (wp)</p> <p>A Hoot in the Night 5:30p</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Solar System (rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>6p Intro to Creating Soups (rp)</p> <p>6:30p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>6:30p Hungry for Change (rp)</p> <p>6:30p Victory Garden Initiative (rp)</p> <p>7p Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (wp)</p> <p>Riverside Park Building Tour (rp)</p> <p>9a Milwaukee County Parks Snowshoe Series (meet @ rp)</p> <p>3p Papermaking (rp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>4p Friends of Real Food (rp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp)</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (wps)</p> <p>10:30a Snowshoe Hikes (meet @ rp)</p> <p>3p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>4p Burdock Brigade (wp)</p> <p>4p Urban Stargazers (rp)</p> <p>7p Urban Echo Poets (rp)</p>	<p>2p Forestry Fridays (rp)</p> <p>3p Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>9a Park Rangers (rp & wp)</p> <p>Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Solar System (rp)</p> <p>10a Winter Survival (wp)</p> <p>10a Intro to Snowshoeing (wp)</p> <p>10a Ornithology (wp)</p> <p>10:30a Family Snow Play Day (rp)</p> <p>1p Ski Greater Milwaukee (meet @ rp)</p> <p>1p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>10a Ski the Kettle Moraine (rp)</p> <p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Solar System (rp)</p> <p>2p The Art and Science of Massage (rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>6:30p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>6:30p Community Living Options Group (rp)</p> <p>7p From Waste to Community Resource (rp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (wp)</p> <p>Papermaking (rp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>5:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p> <p>6:30p Yoga and Snowshoe Night Hike (rp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp)</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (wps)</p> <p>10:30a Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>4p Burdock Brigade (wp)</p> <p>6:30p Vegetarian Potluck (rp)</p> <p>7p Great Alaska Adventure Informational Meeting (rp)</p>	<p>2p Forestry Fridays (rp)</p> <p>2-6p Sledding Tour for Kids (wp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>9a Seed Starting Basics (rp)</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>9a Park Rangers (wp)</p> <p>Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Solar System (rp)</p> <p>10a Intro to Skiing (wp)</p> <p>10a Volunteer Orientation (wp)</p> <p>11a Fix-a-Flat Workshop (rp)</p> <p>11a Animal Care: Fish (wp)</p> <p>1-4p Family Ice Fishing (wp)</p> <p>1p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Solar System (rp)</p> <p>3p Snowshoe Hikes (meet @ rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>6:30p Beekeeping Basics Course (rp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>6:30p Hungry for Change (rp)</p> <p>7p Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (wp)</p> <p>Riverside Park Building Tour (rp)</p> <p>9a Milwaukee County Parks Snowshoe Series (meet @ rp)</p> <p>4p Papermaking (rp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>7p Chip Duncan: Enough to Go Around (wp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp)</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (wps)</p> <p>10:30a Intro to Cross Country Skiing (rp)</p> <p>2p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>4p Burdock Brigade (wp)</p> <p>6p Last Mountain (rp)</p>	<p>9a Winter Birds in Minnesota trip leaves</p> <p>2p Forestry Fridays (rp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>9a Yagaski! (rp)</p> <p>9a Park Rangers (rp & wp)</p> <p>Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Solar System (rp)</p> <p>10a Intro to Snowshoeing (wp)</p> <p>10a Book Club (rp)</p> <p>1p Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>Noon Geocache (meet @ rp)</p> <p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Solar System (rp)</p> <p>5p Winter Birds trip returns (rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>6p Quick Breads (rp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>2p Animal Tracking and Ice Skating (wp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (wp)</p> <p>Milwaukee County Parks Snowshoe Series (meet @ rp)</p> <p>4p Papermaking (rp)</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p>			

ADULT LEARNING CONTINUED

EDIBLE GARDENING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

YEAR-LONG, MULTI-PART SERIES BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2012

We will offer 1-2 classes per month on edible gardening topics. For more information, contact gretchen.mead@victorygardeninitiative.org. See first three session topics below.

For adults
\$15, \$100 for the series (Nonmembers - \$20, \$120 for the series)
Call to register, 964-8505

INTRODUCTION TO PERMACULTURE*

Permaculture is the foundation of the work of Victory Garden Initiative and the vision for our future. Join VGI Executive Director Gretchen Mead to learn about the basics of agricultural ecosystems that are sustainable and self-sufficient.

Saturday, January 21
9 - 10:30 a.m.



INTRODUCTION TO URBAN PERMACULTURE DESIGN*

With basic permaculture concepts developed from our previous class, participants will delve into designing and practicing permaculture in an urban setting. Intro to Permaculture class is recommended but not required.

Saturday, January 28
9 - 10:30 a.m.



SEED STARTING BASICS*

Wondering which seeds are best, where to order from and when to plant them? We will answer your questions about seed starting. You will go home with small flat of cold hardy seeds to nurture into food.

Saturday, February 18
9 - 10:30 a.m.



* = accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited to no accessibility.

BEESENTATIONS - ALL ABOUT THE BEES!*

This is an introduction to bees and beekeeping. Discover who's inside the hive and how to manage bees for pollination and honey. Whether you want to start a dance with bees or just learn of the dance they do, this course gets you buzzing.

Tuesdays, January 3, 17, February 7 & 21
7 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$10 (Nonmembers - \$15)
Call to register, 964-8505



HUNGRY FOR CHANGE: FOOD, ETHICS AND SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSION COURSE*

Hungry for Change, a Northwest Earth Institute discussion course, explores the true meaning of the phrase "you are what you eat." This course challenges you to examine your role not only as a consumer of food, but also as a creator of food, of systems and of the world we all live in. Sessions include readings, assignments, accompanying video clips, podcasts and websites. Price includes book. Participants should pick up their book at the Center and complete first reading prior to the first meeting.

Tuesdays, January 24, February 7, 21, March 6, 20, April 3 & 17
6:30 - 8 p.m.
For adults
\$25 (Nonmembers - \$30)
Registration required, call 964-8505



BOOK CLUB*

The Book Club meets to discuss an environmentally themed book. Newcomers and ongoing participants are invited to come enjoy the conversation and refreshments.

January: *The Necessary Revolution: Working Together to Create a Sustainable World* by Peter Senge
February: *When the Killing's Done* by T.C. Boyle

Saturdays, January 28 & February 25
10 - 11 a.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOPS*

Please join us for a slideshow delving into the wonders of the bird world, followed by a dusk bird walk. Binoculars provided.

Sunday, January 29
3 - 4:30 p.m.



Saturday, February 11
10 a.m.



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

BEEKEEPING BASICS COURSE: 3-PART SERIES AND TEST*

Three 2-hour courses will give you the foundation to start beekeeping in a Top Bar Hive including setup, installing the queen, placement, inspections and harvesting. We cover swarming, stings and what you can expect and how to deepen your new relationship with bees. Course includes Phil Chandler's *Barefoot Beekeeping* book. You are required to take a test, attend a Beesentation and a hands-on class in spring to receive the Beepod Certificate for Beekeeping.

Mondays, February 6, 13 & 20
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$85 (Nonmembers - \$100)
Call to register, 964-8505



THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MASSAGE*

Relax this Valentine's Day weekend with a massage. In this hands-on workshop participants will learn the art and science behind giving a good massage. Partners are necessary.

Sunday, February 12
2 - 4:30 p.m.
For adults
\$10 per person (Nonmembers - \$14 per person)
Registration required by February 10th, call 964-8505



FROM WASTE TO COMMUNITY RESOURCE*

Speaker: Jesse Blom, Education Coordinator, Sweet Water Foundation. Sweet Water Organics and Sweet Water Foundation have launched a hybrid business enterprise fusing a commercial farming operation with a non-profit educational program inside of an old factory building in Bay View. Jesse will explore the many ways that Sweet Water is aiming to convert wasted space, materials and talent into resources for the greater community.

Tuesday, February 14
7 - 8:30 p.m.



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

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL SELECTION: THE LAST MOUNTAIN*

In the valleys of Appalachia, a battle is being fought over a mountain. It is a battle over Big Coal with consequences that affect every American. Nowhere is that concern greater than in Coal River Valley, West Virginia, where a small but passionate group is trying to stop Big Coal corporations from continuing the practice of Mountain Top Removal. Join us for this selection and discussion to follow.

Thursday, February 23
7 - 9 p.m.



For adults
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)
Call to register, 964-8505

WINTER BIRDS IN MINNESOTA

Sax-Zim bog is southern vacation spot for many arctic breeders, a premier winter birding spot. Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Boreal Chickadees, Gray Jays, Black-billed Magpies, Evening Grosbeaks, and Common and Hoary Redpolls are all possibilities in this. Transportation, lodging and guiding by ecologists Bill Mueller and Owen Boyle are included.

Friday, February 24, 9 a.m. - Sunday, February 26, 5 p.m.
For adults
\$275



(Nonmembers - \$300)
Please contact Tim Vargo to register, 964-8505 x116



URBAN ADVENTURES

EXPLORE THE PARKS THIS WINTER!

Winter is a great time to get outside and explore nature. Snow is a great substrate to find animal tracks and make your own. Join us as we explore Greater Milwaukee parks. Meet at Riverside Park; transportation to other parks provided.

DISCOVER THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS BY SNOWSHOE SERIES

Milwaukee County has a rich natural history and gold medal parks. Join the adventures crew as we explore some of our favorite parks on snowshoes. Plan to be outside for two hours. No experience necessary. Transportation is provided. No snow? We will hike it! Register for all five programs and receive a \$10 discount. Meet at Riverside Park.

Wednesday, January 4 -- Lincoln Park
 Wednesday, January 18 -- Kletzch Park
 Wednesday, February 1 -- Menomonee Valley
 Wednesday, February 8 -- Little Menomonee Parkway
 Wednesday, February 29 -- County Grounds
 3 p.m. - sundown
 For adults and accompanied kids ages 10 and older
 Adults: \$12 (Nonmembers - \$14)
 Children: \$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)
 Registration required 2 days in advance, call 964-8505

SNOWSHOE HIKES

Join us on a snowshoeing adventure as we explore some of the areas hidden gems as well as some old favorites. Meet at Riverside Park, transportation to other parks provided. Snowshoes will be provided.

Thursday, January 12 -- Riverside Park
 Sunday, January 22 -- Muskego Park
 Thursday, February 9 -- Riverside Park
 Sunday, February 19 -- Lions Den Gorge
 3 p.m. - sundown
 For adults and accompanied kids ages 10 and older
 \$5 (Nonmembers - \$7) per session
 Registration required 2 days in advance, call 964-8505
 Payment due at time of registration

SKI GREATER MILWAUKEE

Trying to find a way to enjoy cold winter days? Learn how to cross country ski! Bring an adventurous spirit; we'll provide the skis and transportation as we explore the ski trails around Greater Milwaukee. Make sure to dress in layers. Meet at Riverside Park.

Saturday, January 21 -- Brown Deer Park
 Saturday, January 28 -- Whitnall Park
 Sunday, January 29 -- Lapham Peak
 Saturday, February 4 -- Minooka Park
 Saturday, February 11 -- Nashotah Park
 1 - 4 p.m.
 For adults and families with kids ages 10 and older
 Adults: \$12 (Nonmembers - \$14)
 Children: \$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)
 Registration required 2 days in advance, call 964-8505

GEOCACHE BY SNOWSHOE!

Geocaching is a real-world treasure hunting game. Using GPS units (provided) hunt for geocaches and along the way explore beautiful natural areas. Come prepared to be outside with hats, gloves, and many layers.

Sunday, January 8 -- Fox River Park
 Sunday, February 26 -- Foxbrook Park
 Noon - 4 p.m.
 For adults and families with kids ages 10 and older
 Adults: \$15 (Nonmembers - \$20) per session
 Children: \$10 (Nonmembers - \$15) per session
 Registration required 2 days in advance, call 964-8505

INTRO TO CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Bring an adventurous spirit; we'll provide the skis and hot chocolate. Ever thought about learning how to cross country ski but don't have the skis or the know how? Not a problem anymore! Come on by and learn how to cross country ski with the instructors here at the Urban Ecology Center. We provide the skis as we adventure through our parks. Make sure to dress in layers and be prepared for a fantastic time.

Saturdays,
 January 7 or 21 or
 February 4 or 18
 10 a.m. - noon



Thursdays, January
 26 or February 23
 or Saturday,
 January 7
 2 - 4 p.m.



For adults and families with kids ages 10 and older
 Adults: \$5
 (Nonmembers - \$7)
 Children: \$4
 (Nonmembers - \$5)
 Registration required 2 days in advance, call 964-8505



YOGASKI!

Come discover two great ways to get through the winter months in Wisconsin. We will practice Vinyasa Style Yoga inside then take our well-stretched bodies outside for some cross country skiing. No skiing experience required as we will be learning the basics. Come dressed in layers.

Saturdays,
 January 14 or
 February 25
 9 a.m. - noon



For adults and youth ages 12 and older
 Adults: \$20
 (Nonmembers - \$25)
 Children: \$15
 (Nonmembers - \$20)
 Registration required 2 days in advance, call 964-8505

INTRO TO SNOWSHOEING

Ever thought about learning how to snowshoe but don't have the equipment or the know how? Not a problem anymore! Come on by and learn how to snowshoe with the instructors here at the Center. We provide the snowshoes and instruction as we adventure through Washington Park. Make sure to dress in layers.

Saturdays, January
 14 or February 11
 or 25
 10 a.m. - noon



For adults & accompanied children ages 12 and older
 \$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)
 Registration required 2 days in advance, call 964-8505

SKI THE KETTLE MORAIN

Explore the rolling terrain of Kettle Moraine State Forest on groomed ski trails. Dress in layers, bring water and a lunch. Meet at Riverside Park. In the event of minimal or no snow we will hike. Single Day Trail pass will be provided.

Sunday, January 15 --
 Greenbush Trails (N. Kettle)
 Sunday, February 12 --
 Scuppernong Trails (S. Kettle)
 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 For adults and families with kids ages 10 and older
 Adults: \$35 (Nonmembers - \$40) per session
 Children: \$25 (Nonmembers - \$30) per session
 Registration required 2 days in advance, call 964-8505. Payment due at time of registration

YOGA AND SNOWSHOE NIGHT HIKE

Join us on an uplifting experience. We will start out with some Vinyasa Style Yoga and then float on the snow outside on snowshoes. Discover the beautiful silence that the Milwaukee River corridor can offer.

Wednesday, February 15
 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults and youth ages 12 and older
 Adults: \$15
 (Nonmembers - \$20)
 Children: \$10
 (Nonmembers - \$15)
 Registration required 2 days in advance, call 964-8505





= Riverside Park




= Washington Park

INTEREST GROUPS

VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE EAT AND MEET*


January: What will Victory Garden Initiative (VGI) bring in 2012? While enjoying a potluck, review our Annual Report with our board members and discuss the 2012 vision. Have your own idea for building communities of people who grow food together? A listening session will follow the presentation. Be the first folks to become official VGI members and get a t-shirt and bumper sticker.

February: Victory Garden Initiative Fermented Family Eat and Meet. Join us for our monthly potluck to connect our members, plan projects and learn about better ways of growing our own food. Food and activities will engage children (and parents) of all ages. Special attention will be given to fermented foods. Families are encouraged to share their meal blessing.

Tuesdays, January 3 & February 7
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505


UEC PHOTO CLUB*

Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills. Check out our website at www.uepc.org

Thursdays, January 5 & February 2
6:30 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

NEW URBAN FRIENDS*

The Milwaukee Streetcar is moving along. Rocky Marcoux, Commissioner of the Department of City Development, offers us an exclusive update and insider's viewpoint. We've started to build a little community of people interested in supporting the creation of inviting and functional public spaces. Join us!


Monday, January 9 
7:30 - 9 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

COMMUNITY LIVING OPTIONS GROUP-MILWAUKEE (COLOG MILW)*

Are you interested in building an intentional community and co-housing environment? We learn together, support each other's endeavors and encourage co-housing in Milwaukee.

January: "Green Frugality" Living a Sharing Urban Life with Chris and John Beimborn. Chris and John have created a uniquely intentional way of living "lightly". Find out how their principles could be included in your community building vision and goal planning.

February: Transition Milwaukee: Living Local through Cooperation. Milwaukee was designated the 93rd Official Transition Town in June 2011. Learn what that means for your community building from Transition Milwaukee representatives.


Tuesdays, January 10 & February 14
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD*

Share a potluck dinner and join the enthusiastic, informative discussion.

January: *Truck Farm*, film. After moving to NYC, Ian Cheney (*King Corn*) needed a new place to grow food. His solution? He turned the bed of his 1986 Dodge pickup into a mini-farm. *Truck Farm* documents this traveling, edible exhibit that brings a rural experience to urban students, acts as a mobile CSA and offers new way to think about urban agriculture.


February: Vandana Shiva: A Global Perspective on Sustainable Agriculture. Vandana Shiva is an internationally prominent activist dedicated to building sustainable food systems that promote food sovereignty and security. She founded Navdanya, an organization that promotes seed saving and organic agriculture in India. Join us as we examine how ecological agriculture is the only lasting solution to hunger and poverty.

Wednesdays, January 11 & February 8
6 - 8 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

* = accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited to no accessibility.

URBAN STARGAZERS*

Join us for fun, information and stargazing.


Thursdays, January 12 & February 9
7 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

URBAN ECHO POETS*

Our purpose is to observe and experience nature, then to express these observations in poetry and essay. We will read and write and appreciate poetry with images from nature at its core.

Thursdays, January 12 & February 9
7 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505


VEGETARIAN POTLUCK*


Thursdays, January 19 & February 16
6:30 - 8 p.m. 
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

Bring a plate and fork along with your meatless dish to share at our picnic-style meal.

EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Interested bird watchers of all ability levels are invited to explore bird life with us. Binoculars available.


Every Wednesday
8 a.m. 

Every Thursday
8 a.m. 
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

ART AT THE CENTER

LANDSCAPES: WILD, FORGOTTEN, RESTORED JIM CLIFFORD, NANCY ATEN & DAN COLLINS*


Nancy Aten and Dan Collins create monotypes that communicate vision and challenges for landscape restoration projects they work on in our community. James Clifford captures beauty from what he sees in the surrounding landscape and produces images to share the beauty with others as he attempts to recreate the natural beauty that is all around us.

Sunday, January 8 
2 - 4 p.m.
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER TOURS

RIVERSIDE PARK BUILDING TOUR*

Get an insider's view of Riverside Park's innovative building design and programming through these staff-led tours.

Wednesdays, January 11, 25 & February 8 & 22
9 - 10:15 a.m. 
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

BOOK YOUR OWN TOUR!*

Have a group of five or more who want to visit any of our branches? We offer private tours of our green building, park, gardens and branch locations. Please contact Mike at mlarson@UrbanEcologyCenter.org for fees and scheduling.

THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER

The Urban Ecology Center receives a majority of its support from local foundations, corporations and individuals. This section of our newsletter is reserved to thank you and the many supporters of the Center. **The names listed are those who made a contribution to the Urban Ecology Center in the two months since our previous newsletter.**

We thank all of you who have begun a new membership, renewed your membership, given a gift membership or made a donation to our mission. We work hard to recognize all our supporters accurately. Contact Cassie at 964-8505 or cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org if your name has not appeared as you expected.

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Foundation

**GIFTS IN
HONOR OF...**

Tim Vargo's work
- Vicki Piaskowski

**GIFTS IN
MEMORY OF...**

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- Joan Hawley
Pieter Godfrey
- Tom & Monique
Meyer
- Susan Nowitzke
Ewbank & Mark
Ewbank
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- Kathleen Raab
- Anne & Frederick
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Thank You

A NEW STANDARD

continued from page 3

over 60 programs to choose from, and if that's not enough, teachers can ask us to create the outside-the-classroom experience their students need. Almost all children benefit from hands-on experience with science, but for those who struggle in a standard classroom, it's sometimes the only way they can learn. On a recent field trip, a teacher pulled me aside saying, "I love when we do activities like this... It engages my [kids with] ADHD and behavior problems....that kid? Totally engaged! If we were at school, I would have sent him to the office by now."

These experiences remind children that learning isn't just about filling in the right answer; it's about wondering and asking questions and sometimes getting muddy! All kids, especially those who are struggling in a classroom setting, benefit from this supplement to standardized learning. And to me, that's what truly matters. 🌿



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1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211

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Family fun in the Winter!

ENJOY:

sled dog demonstration • sledding • ice skating • snowshoeing • cross country skiing • screen printing on your favorite t-shirt • and more for the entire family!

Saturday, January 28

1 to 4 p.m.

AT WASHINGTON PARK

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated



FSC logo



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Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

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Address _____
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State/Zip _____
Phone _____
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My neighborhood park is Riverside Washington I love them all!
 I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.
Charge my membership to: Master Card Visa
Card Number _____
Expiration Date ____/____/____
Signature _____
Date _____

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) includes guest
- 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) includes guest
- Student (\$12)

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)

DONATION (IN ADDITION TO MEMBERSHIP)

Recipient Name _____
Address _____
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