



MUL8ME

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

If I had a car this would be the personalized license plate for me. It is perfect! If more people would only emulate me, the world would be a much better place don't you think? Am I being arrogant? Sure. Pompous? You bet. Conceited? Not in the slightest. Supercilious? Maybe . . . need to look that one up. But am I right? Absolutely!

Just to be clear, in case you are taking me seriously the last thing I really want is the world to truly emulate me. I'm as messed up as the best of us — just ask my family or my therapist. It would, however, be nice if a few more people chose to compost. Because when it comes to making dirt I am definitely emulatable (take that, spell check!)

This weekend I harvested our household's yearly supply of dirt. Three large outdoor trash bins full of beautiful, black, luscious soil and one large 20 gallon tub of black gold (worm castings) — the winter's take from our vermiculture bin that we've had in operation now for almost 15 years in the basement!

The process is ever so wondrous and easy to do. Well, relatively easy that is. You just put in a year's worth of all organic household waste (think banana peels, onion skins, lettuce cores, etc.) and the output is a prodigious amount of incredible, nutrient-rich topsoil for the garden. When sifting this lovely-to-touch, rich-smelling humus the foul odor and slimy origin of rotting food seems almost impossible — like turning coal into diamonds!



Alright, alright, maybe this is a stretch but until you have had the proud experience yourself of mastering the art of dirt creation, don't judge. It is quite the trick and can make you feel like a full fledged magician! In truth however, you are just witness to the beauty and magic of an ecological cycle at its best. Our waste is food for the worms (plus

continued on page 4



An Exciting Year for the Washington Park Young Scientists!

by Erick Anderson, Community Program Coordinator

It has been a huge year for the Young Scientists Club at Washington Park. Reflecting on it all, I can't even believe we've accomplished so much in such a short period of time! Longtime member Donald Harris did his best attempt to summarize exactly what we do in our club in a quote found on page 9. As I try to summarize it myself, I'm not even sure where to begin. What began as a way to engage drop-in kids at Washington Park has evolved into a dynamic, multi-faceted educational and recreational program that I'm proud to be a part of. I'll summarize for you a few of its many highlights over the past 12 months.

This past summer, we began a research partnership with the University of Minnesota's Driven to Discover program. The kids — with guidance from the staff — developed their own original bird research study and created a professional-quality research poster and paper. We then traveled to the University of Minnesota's insect fair, where we presented our research and won an Outstanding Project Award. Since then, our group of budding young scientists has also presented their work at our annual Citizen Science Research Summit, at the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative annual conference, and to a group of partnering teachers at our schools. As I write this, Donald is again presenting our work for the Hi-Mount Elementary science fair!

Continuing our exciting adventures into original research, our Community Program Educator Rachel is leading our crew through an MMSD-funded water quality study of our lagoon. This will serve as a baseline study to help us track the effects of our lagoon restoration efforts. I can say with confidence that these kids are developing skills I never even touched until studying science at the college level.

continued on page 4

Branch Highlights



RIVERSIDE PARK

Pardon the construction! Riverside High School's track and field and surrounding sidewalks are being replaced. Construction began in May and should be finished in August. Until that time, you may enter Riverside Park from Park Place, the Oak Leaf Trail, and Locust Street.



WASHINGTON PARK

Come join us on Wednesdays at 6:30pm for Milwaukee County Park's Summer Concert Series. The series starts on July 10th and runs every Wednesday through August 28th. Come early to borrow a canoe and explore the lagoon before the show! Bring a picnic and shake a leg!



MENOMONEE VALLEY

It's finally here! On July 20th, Three Bridges Park will open to the public (see our Quick Guide for details.) We hope you'll join us to celebrate. If you can't make it on the 20th, visit another time this summer to get to know our new Outdoor Classroom and Milwaukee's newest park!



Announcing the Arboretum Docent Program!

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

With the addition of 25 acres of land along the Milwaukee River and Oak Leaf Trail to the existing 15 acres of restored natural lands of Riverside Park, we are gearing up for adventures and exploration of our new 40-acre Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. You are invited to join in the fun through our new volunteer docent program. This training will prepare you to lead other nature and outdoor enthusiasts in learning about the Arboretum. Who should become a docent? You should, if you...

- Enjoy the outdoors
- Like meeting new people
- Love learning
- Are curious about the Arboretum
- Are excited to shape the lives of children
- Would like to meet other families or adults who care about nature

Interested? Great!

The introductory docent program includes four two-hour training sessions. To complete the training you must attend each session once. Training can be completed over four Monday sessions (2 hours each) or two

Saturday sessions (4 hours each). If a consistent schedule does not work for you, you can also mix and match Mondays and Saturdays, as long as you attend one of each session.

In addition, we ask that docents commit to leading at least 8 hours of tours in the following year. In particular, we are looking for docents to lead tours during the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Grand Opening celebrations on Tuesday, September 24, between 11am and 1:30 pm and Saturday, September 28 (times TBA).

Training Schedule:

Session 1: Monday, August 19, 5 - 7pm
or Saturday September 14, 9am - 1pm

Session 2: Monday, August 26, 5 - 7pm
or Saturday, September 14, 9am - 1pm

Session 3: Monday, September 9, 5 - 7pm
or Saturday, September 21, 9am - 1pm

Session 4: Monday, September 16, 5 - 7pm
or Saturday, September 21, 9am - 1pm

For more information about the Arboretum Docent program, check out Beth's post found on our blog: urbanecologycenter.org/blog/arboretumdocent.

Our Annual Report is Here!

September 2011 - August 2012

Thanks to you there is a whole year's worth of accomplishments, discoveries, openings, and learning to share in our annual report but, printing it on paper and mailing it out didn't align with our goals of being good stewards of the earth and our donors' contributions.

Visit our website at urbanecologycenter.org/annualreport to view the electronic version of the report which includes videos, stories, as well as a PDF copy.

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: Erick Anderson, Jamie Ferschinger, Beth Heller, Glenna Holstein, and Ken Leinbach.



DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE

Where's the Wish List? Our Wish List has moved to our website! Below are some items we need for our three branches. Visit <http://urbanecologycenter.org/get-involved/wishlist.html> for an expanded list.

Riverside Park

Automotive repair tools
Chainsaw
Rain ponchos/jackets — all sizes
Field & lannon stone
Hand tools
iPad(s)
Kids gardening gloves
Leaf rakes
Paper shredder (new or gently used)
Rain ponchos / jackets (all sizes)
Scythes
String trimmer

Washington Park

Air pump for playground balls
Aprons / smocks
Aquarium pumps & filters
Box fans or oscillating floor fans
Chopping knives
Grow-light stands
Hand gardening shears
Igloo Playmate-style cooler
Kickballs
Kids' work gloves
Power washer
Soccer balls
Watering wand

Menomonee Valley

15 Insect field guides
Blenders
Bird feathers
Butterfly mounts
Ceramic magnets
Graduated cylinders
Leaf rakes
Standing bike pumps
Suction cups / plungers
Telescopes
Toy box
Tweezers different sizes (5)
Van de Graaf Generators

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

From the Ground Up is an effort to improve job accessibility, science education, environmental and public health, and neighborhood vitality in the Menomonee Valley. It is a story of partnership, creative solutions, and profound impact. In collaboration with the State of Wisconsin and City of Milwaukee, the Urban Ecology Center and Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc. are implementing a ~~\$26 million~~ \$25 million (reduced thanks to construction savings) of group of interdependent projects. UEC/MVP Project Inc. was formed as a separate 501c3 non-profit to implement this effort.

Through this collaboration we added six miles to the Hank Aaron State Trail and opened the Valley Passage, opened a Menomonee Valley branch of the Urban Ecology, and turned a brownfield into Milwaukee's newest park.

In addition to significant public investment, From The Ground Up has been supported by hundreds of corporations, foundations and individual donors . . . so far! For more information and photos visit www.menomoneevalley-fromthegroundup.org.

New Transportation Linkages



6 miles of new bike & pedestrian trails



1 amazing new Urban Ecology Center



Three Bridges Park
opening July 20

photo credits: Nancy Aten, City of Milwaukee, Jeff McAvoy, and John Suhar

3 new bridges providing bike / pedestrian connections to the park, neighborhood and trails.



24 acres of brownfield turned public greenspace. Three Bridges Park will provide opportunities for outdoor learning, play, and restoration in the Menomonee Valley.

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

MUL8ME

continued from page 1

a ton of other microorganisms). A worm's waste is food for plants in our garden. The garden then produces food for us, the waste of which goes back to the worms. Its cool.

When I said earlier a year's supply of "all organic household waste," I really mean all of it. Here is how we do it at our house.

All food scraps go into a sealed container under our sink. Once or twice a week this is dumped in our main pile outside or, in the winter, into the worm bin in the basement. "Feed the worms inside or out" is one task of eight on the chore wheel that rotated weekly as our kids grew up. As we eat a largely vegetarian diet we do not have to worry about meat waste which should not be composted. Corn based Kitty litter and animal waste goes into a separate pile as the resulting soil from this source is not for the garden but rather for the non-edible plants in the yard. All yard waste joins the food waste pile. In the fall we don't rake our leaves into

the street (why let someone else have these valuable nutrients!) but instead rake them into a large pile where we shred them with our electric lawn mower, reducing the pile by two thirds. The shredded leaf pile lives behind our storage shed and near our two 4-foot-cubed caged compost bins (one for the garden and one for the yard). Every time we put food or waste into either pile we always immediately cover it with shredded leaves (or sometimes wood chips). The covering keeps smells to almost nothing and seems to prevent any rodent or raccoon issues as well. Every so often (every six to eight weeks or so) we thoroughly stir up all the piles with a shovel and pitchfork to get a little oxygen into the mix and check on the decomposing ecosystem. We stir the leaf pile as well, as we want the shredded leaves to break down even as we use them as "smell cover". By fall, all leaves are composted and by spring, everything else is too!

And that, my friend, is it! Now you can MUL8ME! At least when it comes to compost.

At our house composting is hardly work; it's more of a regular and easy habit. In this case, habit is our friend. When we started our garden the soil was mostly clay and our bounty was . . . well, not very bountiful. Each year, however, as we mix this compost humus into the soil it has become richer and deeper and life giving. The end result — at least the end that most people enjoy — is delicious and yummy vegetables that grace our table and our canning jars. In truth, however, there is no end nor beginning within this circular compost cycle. While most like the taste treat of the food on the table, for me the best part of this circle is the spring harvest of dirt. 🌱

Learn how composting relates to how we work with children at the Center in part two of Ken's article found on our blog: urbanecologycenter.org/blog/mul8me.

An Exciting Year for Washington Park Young Scientists!

continued from page 1

Speaking of awesome projects that Rachel is leading (there's a long list of those), we're also in the midst of a United HealthCare funded Walk-Across America campaign. Every Saturday, we've taken field trips exploring different parks in the Milwaukee area and tracked our miles of hiking and cross-country skiing using pedometers. Since January, we've collectively walked the distance from Portland to Indianapolis, learning a bit about each state we've passed through.

This summer, our Food Friday program will be in full swing thanks to funding from the Milwaukee Public Schools' Safe Schools Healthy Students grant. We'll be teaching kids to plant and maintain edible gardens, prepare healthful meals using our fresh produce, and eventually,

The Young Scientists Club is for kids in the community to come to have fun and our mission is to get kids outside. On Food Fridays we pick food we planted over the summer and then we cook and eat and all the kids enjoy. Saturdays are field trip days where we go on fun trips to Grant Park or maybe in the winter time Red Arrow Park to go ice skating. Thursday is gardening day, we plant a bunch of veggies or plants native to Wisconsin. Tuesday is a free day where kids choose the activities. All in all the Urban Ecology Center is a great place to be, for kids and adult volunteers.
— Donald Harris,
Young Scientists Club member

plan and prepare a restaurant-style meal for their families. I've seen our kids argue over who gets to eat their vegetables first! This may be our most impressive accomplishment of all.

Young Scientists Club feels like a second family to me, a family which has plenty of room for new members! We welcome any kids, ages 7-12, to join us every Tuesday - Friday (except Jul. 4 & Aug. 28 & 29) from 4 - 6pm and every Saturday from 1 - 4pm. I'm very proud of the fun, positive, and educational program the kids have worked with us to build and I'm thrilled to share it with new families! 🌱

JULY & AUGUST

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



Grand Opening of THREE BRIDGES PARK

Come celebrate the opening of Three Bridges Park, Milwaukee's newest park and our new 24-acre Outdoor Classroom in the Menomonee Valley! Gather between 9:30 and 10 a.m. on any one of the three bridges for a 10 a.m. inaugural procession to the ceremony on the 33rd Ct. bridge. Then stick around for food, music and all sorts of fun outdoor activities! Call (414) 431-2940 for directions to the bridges.

(MV) Sat., July 20 | 10am - 2pm

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

We want to help you eat locally!

At this resource fair you can meet and support local vendors.

You'll find options for:

bakery **cheese**
meat **beverages** and more!

Stay and have a lunch featuring local ingredients, attend cooking demos and gather recipe ideas and tips for eating locally all year.

(RP) Sat., Aug. 17 | 11am - 3pm

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated



The Heart of

Menomonee Valley presented by Playback Milwaukee Theatre Company ♿

Tell your story and watch it come to life through improvised word, movement and music.

(MV) Sat., Aug. 3 | 2:30 - 4:40pm

For adults and families with children ages 8 and up | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7), Free for children under 12 years old

Art Opening: Carol Brown, Patrice Procopio, and Gail Marquardt ♿

Take an intimate look at natural surroundings through Carol Brown's birds on canvas, Patrice Procopio's lifelike watercolors and Gail Marquardt's limited-edition photographs. Artists speak at 6pm.

(RP) Thu., Jul. 11 | 5 - 7pm

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

RIVERSIDE PARK



Lot of fun things to do! **Food Preservation classes** are starting again in July — try new and different classes this season.

Stop by on August 17th for the **7th Annual Eat Local Resource Fair**. Start your Saturdays with **Yoga on the Tower**. Be part of the **North American Butterfly Count** at all three branches. Need to get out of the city? Go on a **Family Camping Trip** with us! We hope to see you!

— *Jamie Ferschinger,*
Branch Manager - Riverside Park

WASHINGTON PARK



Summer is here and it's time to hit the lagoon! Get your feet wet at our **Canoeing Basics** class or stay on the shore with the **E.B. Garner Fishing Club**. Teens can join us for a

Pedal Through Washington Park. Bring your own bike or borrow one of ours! Whenever you visit Washington Park, remember our main door is on the southwest corner of the building near the canoes. Can't wait to see you here!

— *Willie Karidis,*
Branch Manager - Washington Park

MENOMONEE VALLEY



Once **Three Bridges Park opens on July 20th**, we have lots of fun ways for you to come explore Milwaukee's newest park! Come out for **Work Outside**

Wednesdays or **Flora Fun** if you'd like to get your hands dirty. Join us to **Bike the Hank Aaron State Trail**, share **S'mores and Stories** or go for a **Birding Picnic in the Park!**

— *Glenna Holstein,*
Branch Manager - Menomonee Valley

This events guide gives you a "snapshot" view of the programs and events happening at the Urban Ecology Center's three branches. Full descriptions and details can be found on our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

Quick Guide

Girl Scout Programs

To register, please visit <https://www.gswise.org>

Hop, Crawl or Fly
Join an entomologist for an active morning chasing, catching and studying a wide variety of insects living in the city. Plus, you can earn your Bugs Badge!
(WP) Sat., Jul. 20 | 9am - noon
For Brownies, grades 2-3

Introduction to Canoeing
Paddle your canoe across the lagoon in Washington Park.
(WP) Sat., Aug. 17 | 9am - noon
For Juniors, grades 4-5

Family Overnight Camping Trip
Ready for some family fun? Urban Ecology Center staff will lead an overnight camping trip at the Blue Heron Wildlife Sanctuary including a hike, naturalist program, and campfire. Transportation, meals, and tents will be provided - please bring own bedding.
(RP) Sat., Jul. 27, 1pm - Sun., Jul. 28, 11am
For families | \$50 (Nonmembers: \$60) for up to four family members (additional members \$10 per person, please call to add)

Food Fridays ♿
Join our Young Scientists Club in the maintenance of our gardens and help us cook the harvest!
(WP) Every Fri. | 4 - 6pm
For kids 7-12 | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5 suggested donation)

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 ♿
The theme for July and August is "Power of Plants!"
(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 animals, every day is a new adventure.
(RP) Every Mon. - Thu. except Jul. 4, Aug. 28 & 29 | 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 Jul. 4, Aug. 28 & 29 | 4 - 6pm
and Every Sat. | 1 - 4pm
For kids ages 7-12 | \$10 annual membership

(MV) Every Tue. & Thu. except Jul. 4 & Aug. 29 | 4 - 6pm
and Every Sat. | 1 - 4pm
For ages 5-12 | \$10 annual membership

North American Butterfly Count ♿
Help count and identify our resident butterflies for the North American Butterfly Association census.
(RP) (WP) & (MV) Sat., Jul. 6 | 11am - 1pm
For adults and accompanied children
Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

E.B. Garner Fishing Club ♿
Enjoy a fun evening fishing in Washington Park with local teacher E.B. Garner. Equipment provided.
(WP) Wed., Jul. 10, 24, Aug. 7 & 21 | 4 - 7pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Kindernature: Summer Frolic ♿
Have fun exploring nature through self-led, summer-themed activity stations both indoors and outdoors.
(RP) Sat., Jul. 13, 20, Aug. 3 & 10 | 9:30 - 10:30am
For families with children ages 3-5 | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Nature's Tapestry ♿
Hike through Riverside Park and gather natural objects to use to create a unique work of art.
(RP) Sat., Jul. 13 | 2 - 3:30pm
For families and children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Fun Fishing Mornings
Learn the basics of fishing at Lincoln Park. Fishing license required for people over 16 years old. Transportation available.
(RP) Tue., Jul. 16, 23 & 30 at Lincoln Park & Thu., Aug. 1, 8 & 15 at Lakeshore Park | 9 11am
For everyone | Adults: \$7 (Nonmembers: \$9), Child: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$6)

Family Yoga in the Park
Join us for a nature-themed family yoga workshop. Bring a mat; we will have some mats on hand to borrow.
(WP) Sat., Jul. 20 & Sat., Aug. 17 | 10 - 11am
For adults and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$20 per family)

Explore and Restore Expedition:
Ecological Awareness Paddle
Join us as we paddle and discuss the improving health of our waterways. Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse, 1990 N. Commerce St.
Explore and Restore Expeditions are supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative under Assistance Agreement No. GL 00E00651-0, and the Wisconsin DNR.
(RP) Sun., Jul. 21 | 12:30 - 3pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

S'mores and Stories ♿
Join us around a campfire as we roast marshmallows, tell stories, and explore the new Three Bridges Park.
(MV) Fri., Jul. 26 | 5:30 - 7pm
For families | Free (Nonmembers: \$5)

Radical Reptiles and Amazing Amphibians ♿
Join us as the Madison Area Herpetology Society explores the extremely diverse world of reptiles and amphibians.
(MV) Sat., Aug. 17 | 2 - 4pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Frolfing 101
What is frolfing you ask? It's a combination of frisbee and golfing! Travel with us to Estabrook Park and learn the basics of this exciting sport.
(RP) Sat., Aug. 31 | 2 - 4pm
For families and children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

TEEN PROGRAMS

Pedal Through Washington Park
Bring your bike or borrow one of ours!
(WP) Sat., Jul. 27 | 10am - noon
For teens ages 13 and up
\$6 (Nonmembers: \$4).
Registration is required

JULY						
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			

AUGUST						
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

All Urban Ecology Center branches will be closed July 4, Aug. 28, 29 & Sep. 2

Why August 28-29? Every year our staff takes time out away from the Center to reflect on the past year and prepare for the year ahead. It's a time of renewal while we are refreshed by the natural world. Consider trying it yourself. You'll come back reenergized for your own life mission!

Quick Guide

Research Lecture Series *presented by BMO Harris*

Coral Reef - Love and Loss

See the coral reef ecosystem as experienced by Carthage College students on a biodiversity study tour. Learn how this amazing marine community may go the way of the dinosaurs.
(MV) Tue., Jul. 9 | 7 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Identifying the Trees of Riverside Park Series

Join Caitlin Reinartz for all four weeks or for as many as you can.
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

*Maple, Olive, Dogwood,
Walnut, and Witch-
hazel Families*

(RP) Thu., Jul. 11 | 5:30 - 8pm

*Birch, Elm, Linden,
and Pea Families*

(RP) Thu., Jul. 25 | 5:30 - 8pm

*Beech, Rose, and
Willow Families*

(RP) Thu., Aug. 8 | 5:30 - 8pm

*Pine, Cypress, Hop-tree,
and Sycamore Families*

(RP) Thu., Aug. 22 | 5:30 - 8pm

Riverside Trail Runners

Go for a run on the trails along the Milwaukee River.

(RP) Every Wed. except

Aug. 29 | 6 - 7pm

For adults and teens | \$10

(Nonmembers: \$15) | Price includes all Wednesdays in July and August

Menomonee Valley Walking Tours

(MV) Every 1st & 3rd Wed.

except Aug. 29 | 10 - 11am

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Yoga on the Tower

Practice Hatha Yoga outdoors. Bring a yoga mat or contact us to borrow one.

(RP) Sats., July 13, 20 & 27 | 8 - 9am

For adults and teens | \$10 per class

or \$24 for all 3 (Nonmembers:

\$12 per class or \$30 for all 3)

Sustainable Coffee

Tasting

Join experts from MKE Coffee Guild as you taste locally roasted coffee from around the world.

(RP) Sat., Jul. 13 &

Aug. 10 | 10 - 11am

For adults | \$6 (Nonmembers - \$8)

Introduction to Permaculture

*Cosponsored by
Victory Garden Initiative*

Learn practical tools and knowledge of ecosystems that will help you garden and live more sustainably.

(RP) Sat., Jul. 13 | 9am - noon

For adults | \$18 | Visit www.victorygardeninitiative.org to register

Build a Butterfly House

Learn about migration, biology and habitat and construct your very own butterfly house. Materials provided.

(RP) Thu., Jul. 18 | 6:30 - 8:30pm

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

| Registration required by July 12

PV and Solar Thermal Structural Considerations

For professionals. Hosted by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association.

(MV) Sat., Jul. 27 | 9am - 5pm

For adults | \$230 MREA members, \$250 nonmembers (Urban Ecology member discount code urban10 to get \$10 off) | Register at <https://www.midwestrenew.org/workshops>

Real, Healthy Food!

Join nutritionist Kathy Blair Koch and explore what it means to "eat real."

(MV) Sat., Jul. 27 | 9:30am - 12:30pm

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Perfect Cup of Joe --

Brew at Home Sessions

MKE Coffee Guild will demonstrate how to get the most out of your brewing equipment.

(RP) Sat., Jul. 27 &

Aug. 31 | 10 - 11:30am

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

Photo Phenology

Photograph and sketch the natural area around the Center.

(MV) Sat., Jul. 27 & Aug. 31 |

10 - 11:30am

For adults, teens and families |

Free - donations appreciated

Don't Put That In Your Mouth! *The Dangers Of Genetically Modified Foods (GMO's)*

All attendees will receive a Shopping Guide. Speaker: Susan J. Riegg, M.D.

(MV) Wed., Jul. 31 | 6 - 7:30pm

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

From Beak to Tail:

All About the Life of Birds

(RP) Wed., Jul. 31 | 6 - 7:30pm

For adults | Members: \$5

(Nonmembers: \$10)

Good Bugs and Bad Bugs

Join local naturalist Glen Greiger for an overview of insects that can be helpful and harmful to plants and people.

(WP) Sat., Aug. 3 | 10 - 11:30am

For adults and accompanied children | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Birding Picnic in Three Bridges Park

Pack a picnic and come on a walk through Three Bridges to Mitchell Park.

(MV) Sat., Aug. 10 |

10:30am - 12:30pm

For adults and accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated

Edible Gardening for Sustainability Series:

Urban Permaculture Design and Guild Basics

Learn practical tools and knowledge of ecosystems that will help you garden and live more sustainably.

(WP) Sat., Aug. 10 | 9am - noon

For adults | \$18 | Visit www.victorygardeninitiative.org to register

Comida Real y Saludable!

Únete a la nutricionista Kathy Blair Koch para explorar que significa "comida real." Se hablará de opciones de comida que mejoraran tu salud y el medio ambiente. Presentado en español.

(MV) Sat., Aug. 10 |

9:30am - 12:30pm

Para adultos y jóvenes | Gratis - Se agradecen donaciones

Lichen Foray

Join Lichenologist Marie Trest on a foray to Cedarburg Bog and other locations. Lunch provided.

(RP) Sat., Aug. 17 | 10am - 5pm

For adults and families | \$45

(Nonmembers: \$50)

Cooking Circle:

Gleaning From Your Garden

Learn ways to pick, cook and preserve more than you thought you could from your garden. Recipes and handouts will be provided.

(RP) Mon., Aug. 19 | 6 - 8:30pm

For adults and teens | \$25

(Nonmembers: \$30) | Registration and payment required by August 16

Ecuador: Solutions for Nature and People

Evan Barrientos will share stories and lessons learned from his recent experience exploring sustainable agriculture in Ecuador.

(MV) Tue., Aug. 20 | 5:30 - 6:30pm

Free for adults | Donations appreciated

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

Quick Guide

Open Climbs

Stop in and climb our three story rock wall. All equipment is provided and trained belayers are on hand.

(RP) Tues., Jul. 2, 9, 23, 30,

Aug. 6, 13 & 20 | 5 - 7pm

(RP) Every Sun. | 2 - 4pm

(RP) Every Thu. except Jul.

4 & Aug. 29 | 5 - 7pm

For adults, teens and families | Adults:

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12) per session;

Children: \$8 (Nonmembers - \$10

per session) | Discounted punch

passes available at reception desk

Water Safety Course

Interested in borrowing our boats? Come take a water safety course.

(RP) Every Mon. | 6 - 6:30pm

(RP) Every Sun. | 1 - 1:30pm

(WP) Every Sat. | 10 - 10:30am

(MV) Tues., Jul. 2, 16, 30 &

August 13 | 6 - 6:30pm

(MV) Fri., Jul. 12, 26, Aug.

9 & 23 | 6 - 6:30pm

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Intermediate Paddling Class

Learn canoe and kayak rescues and practice portaging around obstacles in the Milwaukee River.

(RP) Sat., Jul. 6 | 10:30am - 1pm

(RP) Sun., Jul. 14 | 12:30 - 3pm

For adults | \$25 (Nonmembers: \$30)

River Rhythms Paddle

Join us for a paddle to Pere Marquette Park to enjoy live music during the River Rhythms concert series. Equipment provided. **Meet at the Rowing Club Boat House.** Registration required.

(RP) Wed., Jul. 10 &

Aug. 14 | 6:30 - 9pm

For adults and families | Adults:

\$15 (Nonmembers: \$20); Paddling

kids: \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10); Kids

under 10 who do not paddle:

Free - donations appreciated

Canoeing Basics

Practice your techniques on the still, quiet waters of the Washington Park Lagoon. All skill levels welcome.

(WP) Sat., Jul. 13 &

Aug. 10 | 11am - noon

For adults and accompanied children

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

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

Savvy City Cycling for Ladies

Hosted by the Bicycle

Federation of Wisconsin

Learn street riding skills, then head out for on-bike skills practice. Optional ride through Three Bridges Park. BYOB(bike) and helmet or borrow ours.

(MV) Tue., Jul. 23 | 5:30 - 7pm

For adults | Free - donations

appreciated

Paddling the Milwaukee Rivershed

Join us as we make our way from Riverside Park to Menomonee Valley. Be ready to paddle nearly three hours. Bring a snack or lunch to eat along the way. **Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse.** Register by July 26th.

(RP) Sat., Jul. 27 | 9am - 1pm

For adults and teens | \$30

(Nonmembers: \$35)

History of Milwaukee by Canoe

Learn about Milwaukee's history and current river ecological issues.

Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse. Register by August 2 or 10.

(RP) Sat., Aug. 3 & 11 | 9am - noon

For adults and families | \$10

(Nonmembers: \$15)

Tour de Ecology

Tour all three branches of the Center by bike. We will ride along the trails then return on the city streets. Bikes and helmets provided or bring your own. Register by August 16.

(RP) Sat., Aug. 17 | 9am - 1pm

For adults and teens (bike trailers welcome) | \$12 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Bike the Hank Aaron State Trail

Find out where the trail can take you as we explore the Menomonee Valley! Bring your own bike and helmet or borrow ours.

(MV) Sat., Aug. 24 | 10 - 11:30am

For adults and families with children

age 7 and up | Adults: \$6 (Nonmember:

\$9), Children: \$4 (Nonmember: \$7)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Orientation

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

(RP) Fri., Jul. 12 | 3 - 4:30pm

(RP) Sat., Jul. 20 | 10:30am - noon

(RP) Tue., Jul. 30 | 5:30 - 7pm

(RP) Fri., Aug. 9 | 3 - 4:30pm

(RP) Mon., Aug. 19 | 5:30 - 7pm

(RP) Sat., Aug. 31 | 10:30am - noon

(WP) Fri., Jul. 5 | 3:30 - 4:30pm

(WP) Tue., Jul. 16 | 5 - 6pm

(WP) Sat., Jul. 27 | 10:30 - 11:30am

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

(WP) Tue., Aug. 20 | 4:30 - 5:30pm

(WP) Fri., Aug. 30 | 3:30 - 4:30pm

(MV) Fri., Jul. 19 | 3:30 - 5pm

(MV) Thu., Jul. 25 | 10:30am - noon

(MV) Sat., Aug. 3 | 10:30am - noon

(MV) Thu., Aug. 8 | 5:30 - 7pm

(MV) Fri., Aug. 23 | 3:30 - 5pm

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Weekly volunteer opportunities include (see our website for details):

Work Outside Wednesdays

Compost Crew

Burdock Brigade

Volunteer Papermaking 

Flora Fridays

Become an Arboretum Docent!

Interested in sharing an insider's view of the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum? If so, you can be a docent! See page 9 for details!

(RP) Mon., Aug. 19 & 26 | 5 - 7pm

For adults | Free - donations

appreciated (Commitment to

lead tours upon completion of training is required)

Volunteer Belayer Training

Learn climbing wall procedures and safety so that you can belay at open climbs, special events and with school groups.

(RP) Tue., Jul. 16 | 5:30 - 8pm

For adults | Free - donations

appreciated

Citizen Science Data Workshop

Join this introductory workshop for those interested in becoming more involved in data analysis.

(RP) Mon., Jul. 29 | 6 - 7pm

For adults | Free - donations

appreciated

INTEREST GROUPS

Victory Garden Initiative Eat and Meet

(RP) Tues., Jul. 2 &

Aug. 6 | 6:30 - 8pm

Photo Club

(RP) Thus., July 11 &

Aug. 1 | 6:30 - 9pm

Friends of Real Food: Potluck Dinner and Program

(RP) Weds., Jul. 10 &

Aug. 14 | 6 - 8pm

Urban Echo Poets

(RP) Thu., Jul. 11 | 7 - 8:30pm

Urban Stargazers

(RP) Thu., Jul. 11 | 7 - 8:30pm

Transition Milwaukee: All City Hub Meeting

(RP) Mon., Jul. 22 &

Aug. 26 | 6:30 - 8:30pm

Early Morning Birdwalks

(MV) Every Tue. | 8am

(WP) Every Wed. except

Aug. 28 | 8am

(RP) Every Thu. except

July 4 & Aug. 28 | 8am

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

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

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

3 **IN PERSON:**
Just stop by!



Three Bridges Park Grand Opening!

by Glenna Holstein, Branch Manager - Menomonee Valley

We are thrilled to announce that on Saturday, July 20th, Three Bridges Park will open in the Menomonee Valley! I can't wait to help you explore this 24-acre brownfield-turned-greenspace!

This park marks the fourth and final piece in the "From the Ground Up" campaign, a joint effort of the Center, the Menomonee Valley Partners, the City of Milwaukee, the State of Wisconsin and many corporate and individual donors to revitalize the Valley and reconnect it to surrounding communities. As the land is healed, the community can become more vibrant.

I talk and think about this project so often that it's a little bit difficult for me to find the words to express how absolutely incredible a milestone this is. So I'd like to try something a little bit different — I want to share a poem of mine that was inspired by a visit to the brownfield that would become Three Bridges Park. I hope it captures some of the work and the hopes that have gone into this

park, and the essence of what it will be:

Three Bridges Park is truly a story of renaissance, or rebirth. So think of the grand opening really like the park's "re-birthday." It's going to be a ton of fun, just like a good birthday party should be. And just as with all birthdays, the reason they are exciting is not just because of what happens on that day—they celebrate the whole life that lies ahead. So we hope that you'll all join us for the fun on the 20th (see announcement on the cover of our Quick Guide) and that after that you'll all continue celebrating the life of the park for years to come!

*My boots press into the gravel path
Shifting tiny stones
Crunching them into each other.
I tread delicately
Among the mounds of abused earth
Determined to trample this land no more.
Sprinkles of water
Hurled at me by the wind
Become lines of sting, then cold, then wet*

*Upon my face.
Rain carves curling rivulets
Into the cold, damp earth
And settles in swirling puddles
At the base of every hill.
There is nothing here but mud
Miles and piles of mud.*

*It is only faith that convinces me
That someday soon it will be more.
That someday soon
Rivulets will become roots-
for big bluestem
and purple coneflower.
Puddles will become sanctuaries
for sleek, glistening salamanders.
Saplings, not even planted
will stretch into strong oaks
where chipmunks and children
carefully cache their treasures.
Yes, only faith
And the brave bold piping
of a nesting killdeer
Tells me this can be done. 🌿*



Interest Groups: What is Your Crazy Idea?

by Jamie Ferschinger, Branch Manager - Riverside Park

What good is an idea if it resides only in the isolation of one mind? Ideas that are shared and nurtured are those ideas that grow, become contagious, and bring about change. I believe that all ideas are valuable, even the ones that seem crazy at first. Diversity is essential for healthy, thriving, natural systems. Heterogeneity, not homogeneity, of ideas breeds innovation.

There are a lot of good ideas residing patiently in the isolation of your brain. You need to share them! The crazy ideas are usually the best ones and they want to come out. We want to help. The Urban Ecology Center has "Interest Group" programs every month that were developed and are led by people in the community. People like you!

Do you have an idea for a club, meeting group,

ongoing discussion, etc. but need a venue? You should start an Interest Group! The Center offers a free meeting space one time per month as well as help to promote Groups that are consistent with our mission and values. Here are some ideas: climate and climate change, clean water, energy, transportation, food, sustainable consumption of resources, healthy living, land use, environmental justice, and biodiversity. Interest Groups must be free and open to everyone.

The first Urban Ecology Center Interest Group was the Vegetarian Potluck that started when the Center operated out of a double-wide trailer. The Potluck, consisting of people in our community, met every month for almost 15 years and had its last meeting this year. A special thanks to everyone who was part of

the Vegetarian Potluck throughout the years. Some examples of current Interest Groups include: Friends of Real Food, Photo Club, 350.org, Transition Milwaukee, Echo Poets, Urban Stargazers and New Urban Friends. Check our newsletter or website for dates and times when these groups meet and stop in any time.

Regardless of whether you have an idea of your own or want to be part of one of the current interest groups, your ideas are welcome. If you have an idea for starting an Interest Group contact Jamie Ferschinger, Branch Manager - Riverside Park at (414) 964-8505 x114; Willie Karidis, Branch Manager - Washington Park at (414) 344-5460; or Glenna Holstein, Branch Manager - Menomonee Valley at (414) 431-2940. 🌿



On Saturday, May 25th, 19 teams embarked on the Teen Survival Challenge. Each team, consisting of four teens and one adult chaperone, took on challenges including fire building, rock wall climbing, orienteering, shelter building, tree identification, team building, and more. Each team strived to earn as many points from the challenges as possible. It was a fun day full of new experiences for all! Thank you to our 2013 sponsors who made this event possible!

Look for a video recap of the event at urbanecologycenter.org/what-we-do/teen-survival-challenge.html



summer solstice soiree

This newsletter was sent to print before our Soirée occurred. Check our website for a recap of the event and look for a complete listing of sponsors in our September/October issue. We thank our sponsors for their committed support of our mission.

Heartland Funds

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Thank you to our Sponsors!



Thank You to Our Donors

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

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 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.

LOCATIONS & HOURS

All Center locations have special hours during the holidays. See the Program & Events Quick Guide for details.

Riverside Park

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

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

Washington Park

1859 N. 40th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(Mailing address: 4145 W. Lisbon Ave.
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 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 _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

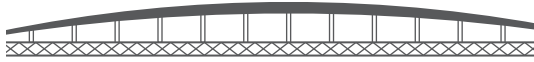
Expiration Date _____ / _____

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



Grand Opening of **THREE BRIDGES PARK**

Come celebrate the opening of Three Bridges Park, Milwaukee's newest park and our new 24-acre Outdoor Classroom in the Menomonee Valley! Gather between 9:30 and 10 a.m. on any one of the bridges, walk to the opening ceremony, then stick around for food, music, and outdoor activities! Call (414) 431-2940 for directions to the bridges.

(MV) Sat., July 20 | 10am - 2pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

FSC logo

IN THIS ISSUE

MUL8ME

By Ken Leinbach

AN EXCITING YEAR FOR THE WASHINGTON PARK YOUNG SCIENTISTS!

By Erick Anderson

THREE BRIDGES PARK GRAND OPENING!

By Glenna Holstein

INTEREST GROUPS: WHAT IS YOUR CRAZY IDEA?

By Jamie Ferschinger

ANNOUNCING THE ARBORETUM DOCENT PROGRAM!

By Beth Heller

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



24
acres

of brownfield is now
Three Bridges Park!