



GROW FOOD, AND GARDEN FOR LIFE -- ALL LIFE!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director and Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science

“Tim, I think I finally figured it out ... It is so elegantly simple! When someone is fortunate enough to have a little green space or yard, the guiding principle should be simply to plant food. It could be a vegetable garden (food for people), a butterfly garden, or a native perennial bed which is food for our wild insects, birds and mammals. As Dr. Tallamy says, ‘Garden for life!’ -- All Life” (Dr. Doug Tallamy, by the way, is the author of *Bringing Nature Home* and a professor of Entomology at the University of Delaware, whose research was one of the sparks of this conversation).

We have this kind of banter at work where we noodle on a thought or a question ... sometimes over a period of months. Eventually, through shared reading and collaboration with other staff and volunteers, an answer emerges. It’s quite stimulating and a great intellectual perk for being involved with the Center.

We (especially Tim and I) have been thinking a lot about green space lately, specifically personal front yards and back yards. The questions we’ve been pondering are: From an environmental perspective, what would we create as the perfect yard? Should it be the traditional grass yard for kids to play, a garden of native plants like we have at the Center? Or should it all be about vegetables and edible plants?

We support vegetable gardens and love the thinking and practice behind permaculture (which is why one of our lead partners at the Urban Ecology Center is the Victory Garden Initiative). But as trained ecologists, we know how important it is to grow native plants that support the insect population so critical to sustaining the systems which keep life in balance on this planet. However, both natural landscaping and vegetable gardening require an awful lot of time and knowledge to do well. From a time perspective neither of these practices

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TRANSFORMATION IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Standing in the heart of the city, images from 10 years ago popped into my mind. Back then this was a place with dilapidated buildings void of people, trees and flowers. Access to residential neighborhoods to the north and south was severed by grinding traffic on the highway and an inaccessible Menomonee River. Remnants of a bridge and a boarded-up tunnel blended into the wasteland. But where some see desolation, others see untapped opportunity.



As a native Milwaukeean, I’ve witnessed first hand the amazing transformation happening in the Menomonee Valley. What you find in the same place today is quite the opposite of the bleak location I remember. I experienced a vivid reminder of this

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FROM THE TOP DOWN

by Willie Karidis, Washington Park Branch Manager

The Washington Park Pavilion, the home of the Urban Ecology Center Washington Park branch, will soon be sporting an amazing new look. The old, rusted, leaky roof, complete with inoperable solar thermal panels, is being replaced with a slick new silver metal roof. Included in the construction will be a 5-kilowatt photovoltaic (solar electric) system which will produce electricity to help power the Pavilion. In addition there will be brand new solar thermal panels which will heat all of the domestic hot water for the entire building. On top of all that, we are having one of the gutters diverted to fill two or three 250 gallon cubes with rain water that will be used to water our Learning Gardens in the front of the Pavilion. We are thrilled!

We have to thank Milwaukee County Parks for making this dream a reality. At any point along this process the County could have pulled the photovoltaics, solar thermal and the gutter diversion and provided just a basic roof to its building. However, the County values our partnership and recognized that the educational component of

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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, Willie Karidis, Ken Leinbach, Erin Shawago and Tim Vargo.

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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

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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.

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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

◆ **Register for programs online!** The Urban Ecology Center is excited to announce that starting in July, you can register for programs online using the fantastic new calendar on our website. If you haven't checked out, visit the calendar at UrbanEcologyCenter.org and see how easy it is to search for programs. When you find a program you like, click on its title and find the registration button on the right side of the window, above the "add to calendar" button. Just click and register. Please call us at if you have any questions. We'll still take registrations by phone, just call (414) 964-8505.

◆ **Welcome to our summer staff!** Every summer the Urban Ecology Center staff doubles as we welcome our summer interns. Summer Interns gain experience in environmental education, outdoor adventures, field research, volunteer coordination, land stewardship, green building management and much more. You'll find them working with campers, monitoring wildlife, learning green practices and helping create a positive experience for visitors of all ages. In addition, we have interns working on our Rotary Arboretum project. Some also act as mentors to our High School Outdoor Leaders. Below are this year's interns and the area in which they'll be working: **Summer Camp:** Rene Abarca, Lisle Bertsche, Indaca Brown, Will Bufe, Roger Coleman, Erica Johnson, J'mag Karbeah, Rachel King, Meghan O'Brien, Kasandra Scott, Rachel Soika, Charles Uihlein, Elizabeth Van, Justin Weinfurter. **Volunteer & Visitor Services:** Mary Rose Gietl, Jamie Hollins. **Arboretum Restoration:** Robert Foran, Isaac Roberson, Michael Hoffmann. **Facilities, Research/Stewardship:** Wendy Gadous, Maria Rojas.

WISH LIST

What do you need for the Menomonee Valley branch?

We have an extensive list of items still needed for our new branch. So many that the list won't fit in this space. Please visit www.urbanecologycenter.org/menomonee-valley-wish-list.html and see how you can help!

For Riverside Park

Contact: Judy Krause, 964-8505, x102.

- 3 umbrella stands
- Auto repair tools
- Gas BBQ Grill
- Ice cream buckets with lids
- Ice trays
- iPad(s)
- Kids' gardening gloves
- Leaf rakes
- Potting soil & quality topsoil
- String Trimmer and scythes
- Wire garden fencing/ wire mesh
- 2 Garmin GPS units (Geocache grade)
- Old belts
- Miter Saw 10" or 12" (Compound and Sliding)
- Chainsaw
- Milwaukee Tools 18v Combo Kit

For Washington Park

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

- Aprons
- Blenders
- Bow saws
- Buckets (2 to 5 gallon size)
- Chest waders (w/suspenders)
- Digital cameras
- Gently used socks and sweatpants
- Glass measuring cups
- Grow-light stands
- Hand shears
- Igloo Playmate-style cooler
- Kids' work gloves
- Laptop computer, netbook or iPad
- Large capacity dehumidifier
- Pitchforks
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Strawbales
- Tyvek
- Weed whackers/string trimmers

SCAT STORIES

by Erin Shawgo, Environmental Educator

Goose scat has been a big part of my life these last six months thanks to a group of students from Community High School, a public, charter school in Milwaukee.

Community High joined my co-teacher Tory and me last November to fulfill a service learning component of their curriculum. We introduced them to the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park and explored options for a long term service project. After learning about trash pick-up, invasive plant removal and seed collection, what really piqued the group's interest was the issue of geese overpopulating our park. And that started our six month exploration of goose scat.

At first glance, having geese in the park may seem like a great thing. They offer a close-up view of wildlife and can be fun to watch. I enjoy seeing kids smile and giggle when encountering a mother and her young in the spring. But having an abundance of geese also means a surplus of goose scat. Scat is the technical name for poo, something that almost every student that visits Washington Park learns

during their first nature walk. After a few complaints about the scat on their shoes, our service learners decided that the park would be more pleasant if we could find a way to reduce the number of geese calling it home.

The students began by researching why so many geese visited the park, what problems they caused and what people around the country were doing to handle similar situations. On a trip to Madison we met with experts from the DNR and film makers who had made a short documentary about solutions used there. We learned that geese liked Washington Park because of its open lawn, easy access to the water with shorelines full of short vegetation and because people provide a lovely bread buffet for them at the north end of the lagoon.

Through mapping and photography activities we gained more evidence of the erosion the geese were causing along the lagoon's shoreline. Research showed us that bread is not good for geese and is hard for them to digest since their diet should mainly consist of green vegetation.

We learned how to oil eggs to prevent them from hatching, watched videos and spoke to experts about doing a goose round-up, and learned about the difficulties of having people obtain hunting permits to hunt geese in an urban area.

Ultimately the group decided to put their focus into shoreline restoration and increased signage in the park. With the help of staff at Washington Park, they've helped plant taller wetland plants along the lagoon to deter geese from going in and out of the water on foot thereby increasing erosion. They've also helped cut buckthorn to clear the shoreline for new plantings. The students decided that there were not enough signs in the park alerting people to the consequences of feeding bread to the geese. They identified the area where people fed geese the most and helped design signs to teach why feeding the geese is bad for the park and bad for the geese.

It has been an amazing experience to see a group of high school students work to make their community a better place, and it all started because they stepped in a little too much goose scat on a walk through the park. 🍄

FROM THE TOP DOWN

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the roof's renewable energy features were a fantastic tool for learning. All visitors to the Washington Park branch of the Urban Ecology Center will have the opportunity to see these new features. All they have to do is look up at the south side roof. Thank you Milwaukee County Parks!

In ideal circumstances, it is important to have a home which not only provides shelter but is an inspiring educational model of energy efficiency.

We are working each day toward the goal of providing the community of Washington Park with a dynamic suite of educational programs which reach and teach all ages. Our new roof is a major step in creating a long term home for our programs and for the community to celebrate. It is funny to think that a roof can have such an impact, but it's true. There is something pretty special about not having to put buckets on the floor

to catch rainwater during a heavy storm ... life's simple pleasures.

The Urban Ecology Center seeks to be in Washington Park for a very long time. A new roof on the Pavilion which features renewable energy components is an amazing asset for teaching visitors now and in the future. The new roof has given us the chance to use the architecture of the building as a learning tool and we are excited and feel fortunate for the opportunity. 🍄

TRANSFORMATION IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

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transformation on “Community Planting Day” this past May.

It was a sunny, breezy day, with temperatures a bit above average. A group of 30 people gathered carrying shovels, trowels, buckets and wheel barrows between three large, new manufacturing businesses: Ingeteam, Charter Wire and Palermos. The group included families with children, neighbors from both sides of the Valley and members of the businesses and organizations that have been committed to the Valley’s transformation. Bicyclists passed by every few minutes, pausing with curiosity to watch our work. Neighbors walked over to help and walked home when they were done, some over the new “Valley Passage” where there is still evidence of the old bridge and tunnel. Birds were singing along the river, there were shade trees when we needed relief. Rainwater collected in the new catchment system was used to water our native plantings. It was sign of new life.

This amazing transformation is there, right now, in the Valley, ready for you to explore. Take the Hank Aaron State Trail, it runs right through the



New Urban Ecology Center branch in the Menomonee Valley! See it on September 8!

middle of it. People are just beginning to explore the new life in the Valley.

While the City, State, Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc., businesses, and neighbors have been leading the charge for over a decade, a new chapter in this story is just beginning. The Urban Ecology Center will open its doors on September 8th, ready to bring students to this developing outdoor classroom. Our goal is to bring students and neighbors to this tender land to revel and aid in its recovery.

The Center has joined partners to transform a 24-acre vacant rail yard

into an outdoor classroom and segment of the Hank Aaron State Trail to link area residents to Valley jobs and recreation. Construction will begin this summer and continue through 2013. The park will include a mile of trails, two bike/pedestrian bridges, community gardens, water quality improvements, native landscapes, and habitat for fish, birds, and other animals. The park will be planted over many seasons and with many hands.

Schools are already lined up and excited to participate in our Neighborhood Environmental Education Project. Families at planting day expressed interest in volunteering, summer camps and our weekend programs. We have been warmly welcomed by our soon to be new neighbors and invite you to celebrate with us too.

Come see collective impact of government, businesses, not-for-profits and community members all working to revitalize the heart of the city. Please join us at our new Menomonee Valley branch at 3700 W. Pierce Street from noon-4 pm on Saturday, September 8th to participate in an amazing transformation. 🌱

A SPECIAL MOMENT

Every June, the entire Urban Ecology Center Staff spends a day connecting with our Summer Interns before the summer programs kick into gear. It’s a great way to get to know the folks we’ll be working side by side with for the next three months.

Every year there is a special moment that touches us all and this year was no exception. In this case, we were asked to sit quietly anywhere in the

Oak Circle section of Riverside Park and write or draw what we saw or felt about our spot. After, we formed small groups to share our reflections. That’s when the special moment happened.

Jamie Nicole Hollins, one of our Volunteer and Visitor Services interns (who had also been a High School Outdoor Leader) shared the poem on the right about the circular oval path in Riverside Park. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

The Concrete Path

by Jamie Nicole Hollins

I’ve seen the soles of many men.
All who have gone
Have come again;
Some, to find their peace in nature,
Others, to satisfy a heart
of adventure.
But no matter the reason,
or season, or light
I invite all to inquire, and
All minds to ignite.

GROW FOOD, AND GARDEN FOR LIFE -- ALL LIFE!*continued from page 1*

can compare to the ease of a quick pass over your lawn with a mower. Hmmm, thus the debate continues.

Green lawns, the current cultural standard have some inherent negative environmental issues. According to Tallamy, Americans mow over 40 million acres of Kentucky Blue Grass every other week during the growing season. That's an area the size of Wisconsin! Imagine how much energy and irreplaceable fossil fuels that takes. Crazy!

Then there are all the pesticides and fertilizers we put on our lawns -- now known to have big effects on our water supplies and our general health. We could go on ... don't even get us started on the harvesting practice of the chemical laden top soil that we call sod. That process is incredibly resource intensive.

Who knew lawn care has such global implications? Ok, the traditional lawn is out. Kids can play in the park.

What about a traditional flower garden then?

One of the reasons exotic ornamentals are so popular is because our insects don't eat them. That sounds good until you dig a bit deeper. According to Dr. Tallamy's research, nonnative ornamental plants support 29 times less biodiversity than native plants. 96% of the warblers, woodpeckers and hummingbirds* you love to see at your feeder or in your yard depend on insects that feed off of native plants. Song birds that brighten spring mornings have been in major decline, down a whopping 40% since the 1960s.

As Dr. Tallamy says, "Chances are, you have never thought of your garden as a wildlife preserve that represents the last chance we have for sustaining plants and animals that were once common throughout the U.S. But that is exactly the role our suburban

[and urban] landscapes are now playing and will play even more in the near future." Who ever thought that how you treat your lawn would have national implications or that there was a moral imperative (call it activism or even patriotism if you will) to how you treat your personal land?

When we started this conversation, we were thinking in terms of complicated percentages. Tim's backyard, for example, has a mix of about 50% native perennials, 10% nonnative ornamentals, including family heirlooms, 20% vegetable garden and 20% lawn. He has room to barbecue and entertain and is addicted to checking every morning to see what is blooming or fruiting or what insects are pollinating his blackberries. Sounds pretty perfect ... for Tim. But what about others?

As our conversation progressed, we reached out to another good thinker within our Urban Ecology Center family -- Nancy Aten from Landscapes of Place. She shared a keen insight in an email to us. "It's especially interesting that you asked me about this last night, guys," she wrote, "because I spent much of my thoughts while I was outside in my native garden yesterday on the question of why there are still so many lawns and decorative gardens in the world. In my 'yard' I get to admire such interesting insects and experience unique and amazing cycles of life on our plants. Lawns and decorative gardens provide so little to eat so you don't get this experience!"

That's it ... the easy to remember sound bite we've been looking for and the inspiration for our title. We should simply grow food and garden for life -- all life!

This idea has us imagining a more biodiverse neighborhood -- one where front yards are about sharing herbs and foods with our neighbors and back yards are about watching birds

and butterflies. Imagine if the local garden shop sold only native plants, natural fertilizers and organic vegetable seeds and seedlings. Knowledge of our "gardening for food" concept would be imbedded in the culture and life, all life, would be sustained. It's a nice vision, but how do we get there?

We know this much, we won't get there alone. So, we're asking you to join us in pursuit of a cultural shift in thinking that values yards as an important part of our global green space, sustaining life -- both human and non-human. Imagine some of the 40 million acres of lawn being replaced by plants that provide food.

If you like this vision, start by considering your own yard or neighborhood green space. How can it be modified to provide food for life? Ken is considering this very question, and is the first to admit that his front lawn is currently grass and nonnative ornamental plants. After rethinking your own space, consider engaging friends, family and neighbors in a conversation on the subject. One way to get the conversation going is to read Dr. Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home*. We also encourage you to come volunteer to help our land stewards as we build the Rotary Centennial Arboretum, all with native plants. You'll learn a ton!

So in short, if it were up to us, the perfect yard would be your yard, in all its diversity, with food for life! Some may choose to grow primarily people food. Others might choose to largely support song birds. The presence of native plants should increase and grass should be minimized and communal. Every "perfect" yard should be uniquely different, but together we can help the entire ecosystem.

*Hummingbirds supplement their diet of nectar with insects, eating dozens a day. 🌱



CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Starting in July, you can register for programs online using the fantastic new calendar on our website. If you haven't checked out, visit the calendar at UrbanEcologyCenter.org and see how easy it is to search for programs. When you find a program you like, click on its title and find the registration button on the right side of the window, above the "add to calendar" button. Just click and register. Please call us at if you have any questions. We'll still take registrations by phone, just call (414) 964-8505.



Register online! Visit UrbanEcologyCenter.org

MENOMONEE VALLEY BRANCH

GRAND OPENING

Saturday, September 8th | NOON - 4PM



It's time to celebrate! We are thrilled to be opening our branch in the Menomonee Valley and we hope you are excited too! Come check out our new building, enjoy family friendly activities and more.

3700 W. PIERCE ST. MILWAUKEE, WI 53215

FREE public festival

6TH ANNUAL EAT LOCAL RESOURCE FAIR: NAVIGATING THE LOCAL FOOD NETWORK*

We want to help you eat more locally! At this resource fair you can meet and support local vendors — bakery, cheese, meat, beverages and more. Stay and have a local lunch, attend cooking demos, gather recipe ideas and tips for eating locally all year and more. Visit urbanecologycenter.org/eat-local-challenge for details.

Saturday, August 25



11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated



PERMACULTURE DESIGN CERTIFICATION COURSE

Join Rock Star Permaculturist, Mark Shepard and the Victory Garden Initiative Urban Permaculture Guild for our second annual Permaculture Design Certification Course. This course is the complete Bill Mollison Certification Course and is a professional certification program. Topics include: Communities, Economics, Patterns, Design Methods, Trees, Water, Soils, Earthworks, Gardening/Farming, Built Environment, Aquaponics, Urban Applications.

Every day, Friday, August 17 through Sunday, August 26
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



For adults

Sliding scale \$600-\$900 for the series

Go to VictoryGardenInitiative.org to register

HIGH SCHOOL OUTDOOR LEADER PRESENTATION*

Get inspired as the High School Outdoor Leaders describe their experience as interns at the Center and share their trip this summer! If you are interested in what our hard-working teenagers have been up to this summer, please come and check this out!

Tuesday, August 21



6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

For adults and

accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated

Please note: Urban Ecology Center Riverside Park branch will be closing at 5 p.m. and Washington Park branch will be closed on Monday, August 27 and Tuesday, August 28 for the Center's annual staff retreat.

The Center offers public programs at both Riverside & Washington Parks. Use the icons above to know at a glance the location of each program. Programs marked with an * are accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited to no accessibility. Please call 964-8505 at least two days before the program date if you have accessibility needs. Scholarships are available for all fee-based programs.

FAMILY PROGRAMS



MONARCH LARVAE MONITORING*

Join the ranks of Citizen Scientists by collecting data for the University of Minnesota's nationwide Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project. After a brief introduction to the miraculous life cycle of the monarch butterfly (egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and adult), you will comb the park for examples of all stages of the butterfly's life.

Thursday, July 5
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.



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

NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY COUNT*

Join us for a stroll through Riverside or Washington Park to count and identify our resident butterflies. Every year the North American Butterfly Association coordinates volunteers across three countries (USA, Canada and Mexico) to census butterfly populations. No experience necessary.

At Riverside and Washington Parks

Saturday, July 7
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
or adults and accompanied children
Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)



BLUEBIRD HOUSE BUILDING

Join our Young Scientists Club as we build and install houses for our Washington Park bluebirds!

Tuesdays, July 10, 17 & 24
5 - 6 p.m.



For all ages, children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult
Free - donations appreciated

POWERDOWN WEEK WRAP-UP FESTIVAL*

To close out Transition Milwaukee's PowerDown week, come celebrate a potluck dinner at the Washington Park Urban Ecology Center. Enjoy canoeing, birdwatching, fishing, hiking, bring an acoustic instrument or drum, and a dish of home-cooked food to share. Event is free and open to the public.

Sunday, July 15
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



For everyone
Free - donations appreciated

E.B. GARNER FISHING CLUB

Interested in learning how to fish? Join E.B. Garner as he teaches you to cast, put on bait and take care of your fishing poles. Fun for all!

Wednesdays,
July 18, August 1,
15 & 29
4 - 7 p.m.



For kids 7 and up
Free - donations appreciated

FAMILY ORIENTEERING OUTING

Before advanced computer technology brought us GPS and Geocaching, people relied more heavily on maps and compasses to find their way around. Join us for a romp around Riverside Park as we learn to use these relatively simple tools for exploring our world!

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



For families with children 7 and up
Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers \$7)

GEOCACHING 101*

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt in which participants seek hidden caches using geographic coordinates and a handheld GPS unit. Come learn about how you or your family can get started in this unique and fun hobby.

Monday, August 6
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.



For everyone
Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

THE BATS OF WASHINGTON PARK

When the sun sets over Washington Park, conditions become ripe for an aerial battle for mastery of the nighttime skies. Insects emerge to feed, and so do insect-eating bats. Join us for a night-time bat hike with our bat detector that helps us hear bats in real time.

Wednesday,
August 15
8:00 - 10:00 p.m.



For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated

LET'S DO EXPERIMENTS: SCIENCE AT HOME

Learn to do science experiments using household items! We will do experiments together at the Center and will give you handouts with instructions so you can continue the fun at home.

Saturday, August 18
10:00 a.m. - noon



For families
Adults: \$7 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Non-member: \$6)

YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB*

Do you know a child who's interested in science and nature? From hiking to gardening to helping with research to caring for our Center's animals, every day in the Young Scientists Club is a new adventure.

At Riverside Park

Every Monday through Thursday except July 4
4 - 5:30 p.m.



For ages 5 through 12
\$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 except July 4
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

FOOD FRIDAYS*

Join our Young Scientists Club in the planting and maintenance of our Learning Gardens, and help us cook and enjoy tasty meals with the harvest!

Every Friday
4 - 6 p.m.



For kids ages 7-12 years old
Free for Young Scientist Club members (Nonmembers: \$5 suggested donation)
Call to register, 964-8505

SCIENCE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS*

Discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts. **The summer theme is insects!**

Drop in program

Every Saturday,
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Every Sunday
1 - 4 p.m.

For everyone
Free - donations appreciated

ANIMAL FEEDING*

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

At Riverside and Washington Parks

Every Saturday
1 p.m.



For everyone
Free - donations appreciated





THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!

Facebook PHOTOS, EVENTS, VIDEOS & MORE!
facebook.com/urbanecologycenter

twitter EVENTS, NEWS & PHENOLOGY!
twitter.com/urbanecology

LinkedIn JOBS, INTERNSHIPS, NEWS & MORE!
Look us up under "groups"


foursquare *CHECK-IN* AT BOTH OF OUR LOCATIONS!

ADULT LEARNING

Summer Food Programs at the Center


**BEEKEEPING BASICS-
THREE PART SERIES***

Three, 2-hour courses will give you the foundation to start beekeeping in a Top Bar Hive, from setup to installing the queen, placement, inspections and harvesting. Course includes Phil Chandler's *Barefoot Beekeeping*. You are required to take a test, attend a Beesentation and hands-on class in spring to receive the Beepod Certificate for Beekeeping.

Mondays, July 2, 9 & 16
or Mondays,
August 6, 13 & 20 
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
\$85 (Nonmembers: \$100)
For adults


**BEESENTATION: BEES AND
BEEKEEPING REVEALED! ***

This is an introduction to bees and beekeeping. Discover who is inside the hive and how man has managed bees for pollination and honey.

Tuesdays, July 3, 17,
August 7 & 21 
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)


**INTRODUCTION TO
FOOD PRESERVATION***

Food preservation season is upon us! This class will explain preservation techniques with emphasis on hot-water-bath canning. The lecture and demo will include handouts, recipes, and helpful tips. This program is a part of Power Down Week. Challenge yourself to use less energy and connect with others!

Tuesday, July 10 
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
For adults and teens
Adults: \$10 preregister, \$15 at the door (Nonmembers: \$15 preregister, \$18 at the door)


FRUIT ORCHARD FUN

Join us at Washington Park with Transition West volunteers as we expand our fruit orchard by sheet mulching, weeding invasives, and planting out natives. This will be the first major step before planting more fruit trees later this summer. Learn about food forests while actually helping to create one! Connect with like-minded folks searching for the same inspiration!

Thursday, July 12 
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated


**EDIBLE GARDENING
FOR SUSTAINABILITY:
SOIL FERTILITY***

Join Victory Garden Initiative to learn about enhancing soil fertility by adding all kinds of organic matter.

Saturday, July 14 
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
For adults
\$15 (Nonmembers: \$18)


**COOKING CIRCLE:
VEGETARIAN ENTREES***

Local produce is plentiful - time to take advantage of the summer abundance! In this class, we'll focus on vegetable-based main dishes but we'll also discuss sides, salad and sandwich ideas. We'll cook together and enjoy the fruits of our labor. Bring an apron and a container for possible leftovers.

Monday, July 16 
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)


**SUCCESSION PLANTING
AND GROWING GREENS***

Take a more detailed look at planting and harvesting greens throughout the season. Get your last fall crops in!

Saturday, August 4 
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
\$15 members
(nonmembers: \$18)


BASIC KNIFE SKILLS*

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

Monday, August 13 
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
For adults
Adults: \$10
(Nonmembers: \$15)


**COOKING CIRCLE:
BAKING WITH SEASONAL
FRUITS, VEGETABLES
AND HERBS***

Are you interested in putting even more nutrient-rich foods into your diet? Try working (or sneaking) them into dessert! In this hands-on class we'll focus on sweet and savory goodies, breakfast bakery and herbal ice cream. Learn natural alternatives to white sugar and gluten-free baking tips. We'll enjoy these tasty treats at the end of class. Bring an apron and a container for possible leftovers.

Monday,
August 20 
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)


**FOOD PRESERVATION
CLASS - TOMATO FEST***

At the end of summer tomatoes are delicious and plentiful -- perfect to put into jars as tomato sauce, tomato paste and whole tomatoes. This hands-on class includes materials, produce and handouts. Space is limited, register today!

Tuesday, August 28 
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$30 preregister, \$35 at the door (Nonmembers: \$35 preregister, \$40 at the door)

SEED SAVING WORKSHOP*


This fun workshop will introduce you to the exciting world of seed saving by looking at several different plants and how to collect seeds from them. Learn the dynamics of seed production, pollination, timing, seed identification, cleaning and storing. We'll start out with a visit to the plants outside for a hands-on collecting demonstration!

Thursday, August 30 
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
For adults
\$15 (Nonmembers: \$20)

Yoga Outdoors


YOGA ON THE TOWER

Come practice your yoga close to the sky! Certified instructor Lynn Jack will lead yoga sessions atop our 40-foot observation tower. Yoga on the tower allows you to tune-in to the sights and sounds of nature in Riverside Park and the surrounding city as it awakens.

Saturdays, July 7, 14 & 21 or
Saturdays,
August 4, 11 & 18 
8 - 9 a.m.
For adults
\$30 series (Nonmembers:
\$45 series)

YOGA IN THE PARK

Yoga and meditation teach balance, flexibility and centered awareness in the midst of everyday life. Yoga surrounded by the natural beauty of Washington Park, as well as nature poetry and themes, will further serve to inspire stress relief and a rejuvenated spirit. Root to the earth and reach for the sky as we do sun salutations to greet the summer day! Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat, if able.

Saturdays, July 28 &
August 25 
10 - 11:15 a.m.
For adults
\$7 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Please note: Urban Ecology Center Riverside Park branch will be closing at 5 p.m. and Washington Park branch will be closed on Monday, August 27 and Tuesday, August 28 for the Center's annual staff retreat.

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

JULY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Insects (rp) Water Safety (rp) Open Climb (rp) Art Opening (rp)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4p 5:30p 6:30p 8:30p</p> <p>Young Scientist (rp) Kayaking 102 (rp) Beekeeping (rp) DNR Frog & Toad Survey (wp)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9a 2p 4p 4p 6:30p 6:30p 6:30p</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Open Climb (rp) Ornithology (rp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp) Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>All Urban Ecology Center Locations Closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8a 4p 4p 5p 6p 6:30p</p> <p>Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Monarch Larvae Monitoring (rp) Water Safety (rp) Photo Club (rp)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10a 1p 2p 3p 4p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (wp) Milwaukee River Kayak Kleitzsch to Estabrook Park (rp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) Food Fridays (wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8a 9a 9:30a 10a Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays— Insects (rp) Butterfly Count (rp & wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Insects (rp) Water Safety (rp) Open Climb (rp)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4p 6:30p 7:30p</p> <p>Young Scientist (rp) Beekeeping (rp) New Urban Friends (rp)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9a 10a 2p 2p 4p 4p 5p 7p 7p 7:30p</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Vol Orientation (rp) Tune-up Tuesdays (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Open Climb (rp) Bluebird Houses (wp) Under the Sun (rp) Food Preservation (rp) Community Living Options Group (rp)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8a 2p 4p 5:30p 6p 6p</p> <p>Birdwalks (wp) Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) River Rhythms (bh) Evening Bird Hike (wp) Friends of Real Food (rp)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8a 10a 4p 4p 6p 7p 7p</p> <p>Birdwalks (rp) Fruit Orchard Fun (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Water Safety (rp) Urban Echo Poets (rp) Urban Stargazers (rp)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10a 1p 2p 4p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (wp) Kinnickinnic River Canoe (rp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays (wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8a 9a 9a 9:30a 10a Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays— Insects (rp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Insects (rp) Water Safety (rp) Open Climb (rp) PowerDown Week Wrap-Up Festival (wp)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4p 4p 6p 6:30p</p> <p>Young Scientist (rp) Macro Invertebrate Mayhem (rp) Vegetarian Entrees (rp) Beekeeping (rp)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9a 2p 4p 4p 5p 6:30p</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Bluebird House Building (wp) Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8a 2p 4p 4p 5:30p</p> <p>Birdwalks (wp) Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) EB Garner Fishing Club (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) River Rhythms (bh)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8a 4p 4p 6p 6:30p</p> <p>Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Water Safety (rp) Vegetarian Potluck (rp)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10a 2p 2p 4p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (wp) Menomonee Valley Volunteer Orientation (mv) Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays (wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8a 9a 9:30a 10a 10a 10a 10:30a Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays— Insects (rp) Compost 101 (wp) Vermicomposting (rp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Insects (rp) Water Safety (rp) Open Climb (rp)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4p 6p 6:30p</p> <p>Young Scientist (rp) Hike Lincoln Park (rp) Transition Milwaukee (rp)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9a 2p 2p 4p 4p 5p 6p</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Tune-up Tuesdays (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Bluebird House Building (wp) River Hike (rp)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8a 2p 3p 4p 5:30p</p> <p>Birdwalks (wp) Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) River Rhythms (bh)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8a 4p 4p 6p</p> <p>Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Water Safety (rp)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10a 2p 4p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays (wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9a 9a 9:30a 10a 10a Drop in 10a-4p Science Sat— Insects (rp) 11a 1p 1p 1p</p> <p>River Clean Up (bh) Park Ranger Crew (wp) Park Ranger Crew (rp) Yoga in the Park (wp) Water Safety (wp) Drop in 10a-4p Canoeing Basics (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Insects (rp) Water Safety (rp) Open Climb (rp)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10a 4p</p> <p>Canoe Thiensville to Brown Deer Rd. (rp) Young Scientist (rp)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9a 10a 2p 4p 4p</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Canoe Thiensville to Brown Deer Rd. (wp) Compost Crew (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientist (rp & wp)</p>				

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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


AUGUST 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Insects (rp) Water Safety (rp) Open Climb (rp)</p> <p>1p 2p</p>	<p>4p 5:30p 6:30p</p> <p>Young Scientist (rp) Geocaching 101 (rp) Beekeeping (rp)</p>	<p>9a 2p 2p 4p 4p 6:30p 6:30p</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Tune-up Tuesdays (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp) Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>8a 2p 4p 5:30p 6p</p> <p>Birdwalks (wp) Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) E.B. Garner Fishing Club (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) River Rhythms (bh) Friends of Real Food (rp)</p>	<p>8a 4p 4p 6p</p> <p>Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Water Safety (rp)</p>	<p>10a 2p 4p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays (wp) Young Scientist (wp) Volunteer Orientation (wp)</p>	<p>8a 9a 9a 9:30a 10a Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays— Insects (rp) 1p 1p</p> <p>Yoga on the Tower (rp) Succession Planting (wp) Park Ranger Crew (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Water Safety (wp) Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays— Insects (rp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Insects (rp) Water Safety (rp) Open Climb (rp)</p> <p>1p 2p</p>	<p>4p 4p 6p 6:30p</p> <p>Young Scientist (rp) Macro Invertebrate Mayhem (rp) Basic Knife Skills (rp) Beekeeping (rp)</p>	<p>9a 2p 2p 4p 4p 7:30p</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Community Living Options Group (rp)</p>	<p>8a 2p 4p 4p 5:30p 8p</p> <p>Birdwalks (wp) Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) E.B. Garner Fishing Club (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) River Rhythms (bh) Bats (wp)</p>	<p>8a 1p 4p 4p 6p 6:30p</p> <p>Birdwalks (rp) History Canoe (bh) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Water Safety (rp) Vegetarian Potluck (rp)</p>	<p>10a 8a 2p 4p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (wp) Permaculture Design Certification (wp) Permaculture Design Certification (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays (wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>	<p>8a 8a 9a 9:30a 10a 10a 10a Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays— Insects (rp) 1p 1p</p> <p>Yoga on the Tower (rp) Permaculture Design Certification (wp) Park Ranger Crew (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Water Safety (wp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Experiments (rp) Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays— Insects (rp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Insects (rp) Water Safety (rp)</p> <p>1p</p>	<p>8a 4p 6p 6:30p</p> <p>Permaculture Design Certification (wp) Young Scientist (rp) Baking w/Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs (rp) Beekeeping (rp)</p>	<p>8a 9a 2p 2p 4p 6:30p 6:30p</p> <p>Permaculture Design Certification (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Tune-up Tuesdays (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) High School Outdoor Leader Presentation 6p (rp) Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>8a 8a 2p 4p</p> <p>Permaculture Design Certification (wp) Birdwalks (wp) Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp)</p>	<p>8a 8a 4p 4p 6p</p> <p>Permaculture Design Certification (wp) Birdwalks (rp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Water Safety (rp)</p>	<p>10a 8a 2p 4p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (wp) Permaculture Design Certification (wp) Permaculture Design Certification (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays (wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>	<p>8a 9a 9:30a 10a 10a Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays— Insects (rp) 11a 1p 1p</p> <p>Permaculture Design Certification (wp) Park Ranger Crew (wp) Park Ranger Crew (wp) Water Safety (wp) Yoga in the Park (wp) Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays— Insects (rp) Eat Local Resource Fair 11a (rp) 11a 1p 1p</p> <p>Permaculture Design Certification (wp) Park Ranger Crew (wp) Park Ranger Crew (rp) Water Safety (wp) Yoga in the Park (wp) Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays— Insects (rp) Eat Local Resource Fair 11a (rp) 11a 1p 1p</p>
<p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Insects (rp) Water Safety (rp)</p> <p>1p</p>	<p>8a 4p 6:30p</p> <p>Riverside Park branch closes at 5p Washington Park branch closed Tomato Fest (rp) Tranistion Milwaukee (rp)</p>	<p>8a 2p 4p 4p</p> <p>Birdwalks (wp) Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) E.B. Garner Fishing Club (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp)</p>	<p>8a 9a Noon 4p 4p 5:30p 6p 6p</p> <p>Birdwalks (rp) Vol. Orientation (rp) River Connection Volunteer Training (rp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp) Vol. Orientation (rp) Water Safety (rp) Seed Saving (rp)</p>	<p>8a 9a Noon 4p 4p</p> <p>Birdwalks (rp) Vol. Orientation (rp) River Connection Volunteer Training (rp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientist Club (rp & wp)</p>	<p>10a 2p 4p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays (wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays (wp) Young Scientist (wp)</p>

ADULT LEARNING CONTINUED


DNR FROG & TOAD SURVEY

Come out for a late night of froggin' by ear and help add to the Wisconsin DNR's Citizen Scientist run statewide database of frogs and toads. Dress for the weather and wear footwear that can get muddy.

Monday, July 2
8:30 - 11:30 p.m. 
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated


ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOP*

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

Tuesday, July 3
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. 
For adults
Members: \$5
(Nonmembers: \$10)


SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN: GREENHOUSE GAS CONTROL AND UTILIZATION TECHNOLOGIES*

Did you know that people can convert sunlight, carbon dioxide and water into fuels? Come and learn about a cutting-edge technology that creates a green energy source with the assistance of nanomaterial catalysts. What are nanomaterial catalysts? Come find out! Speaker: Ying Li, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, UWM.

Tuesday, July 10
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. 
For adults
Members: \$5
(Nonmembers: \$10)


EVENING BIRD HIKE

By early July, most of the birds are busy raising their first or second brood. We'll learn ways to tell the adults from the young. Binoculars provided.

Wednesday, July 11
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. 
For adults and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated


COMPOSTING WORKSHOP*

Turn kitchen scraps and yard waste into a nutrient-rich soil. Composting is beneficial for your garden and reduces household waste! Offered in partnership with Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful. Register on the KGMB website.

Saturday, July 21
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. 
For adults
\$15


AT HOME COMPOST 101*

Learn how to start a working compost pile in your backyard. We'll cover the basics of compost and different compost techniques and applications.

Saturday, July 21
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 
For adults
\$10 (Nonmembers \$15)

VERMICOMPOSTING WORKSHOP*


Turn your kitchen scraps into gold for your garden! Learn how to build a simple indoor worm bin using common household items. Offered in partnership with Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (KGMB). Register on the KGMB website.

Saturday, July 21
1:00 - 2:30 p.m. 
For adults
\$15

INTEREST GROUPS


VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE: EAT AND MEET*

Join Victory Garden Initiative for a monthly potluck and gathering of food-growing folks.

Tuesdays, July 3 & August 7
6:30 - 8 p.m. 
For adults, teens, and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505


URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PHOTO CLUB

If you are an experienced photographer or just beginning, join other photographers to explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills. .

Thursdays, July 5 & August 2
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 
For adults, teens, and accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505


NEW URBAN FRIENDS*

Come join us to learn about New Urbanism and the movement to create sustainable cities.

Monday, July 9
7:30 - 9:00p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated

COMMUNITY LIVING OPTIONS GROUP- MILWAUKEE: COMMUNITY BUILDING NIGHT*

Join us as we explore our personal and group expectations for community life. In partnership with the Riverwest Investment Cooperative.


Tuesday, July 10 & August 14
7:30 - 8:45 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated

FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD*

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


July: SEED: Creating Jobs Through Local Agriculture. Bob Beezat, Board President of Sustainable Edible Economic Development (SEED), will discuss the successes and challenges they face to create local agricultural product jobs.

August: Video Night! Watch the latest and best short videos from the real food movement. Get ready for the Eat Local Challenge (the 1st two weeks of September).

Wednesdays, July 11 & August 8
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated


URBAN ECHO POETS*

Our purpose is to observe and experience nature, then to express these observations in poetry and essay. (No August meeting)

Thursday, July 12
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated


URBAN STARGAZERS*

Join us for fun, information and if the skies are clear, stargazing. (No August meeting)

Thursday, July 12
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated


VEGETARIAN POTLUCK*

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

Thursdays, July 19 & August 16
6:30 - 8 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated


TRANSITION MILWAUKEE


Become part of an international movement to rebuild local resilience and self-reliance. In August we welcome Riverwest Currents editor **Jan Christianson** back to discuss what it takes to create an Abundant Community.

Monday, July 23 & August 27
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated

EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS

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

Every Wednesday except July 4
8 a.m. 

Every Thursday
8 a.m. 
For adults and teens
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers: \$5 suggested donation)

Please note: Urban Ecology Center Riverside Park branch will be closing at 5 p.m. and Washington Park branch will be closed on Monday, August 27 and Tuesday, August 28 for the Center's annual staff retreat.

URBAN ADVENTURES

These programs are supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, under Assistance Agreement No. GL00E00651-0 and the Wisconsin DNR.)

MACRO INVERTEBRATE MAYHEM

Did you know insects living in the river can tell us about water quality? Don't slip boots and join us as we use kick nets to take a close look at macroinvertebrates.

Mondays, July 16 & August 13
4 - 6 p.m.

For adults, teens, and families
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers: \$5)



MILWAUKEE RIVER KAYAK KLETZCH TO ESTABROOK PARK

Come explore this beautiful stretch of the Milwaukee River. We will discover and discuss current issues facing the river as well as what we can do and what has been done.

Friday, July 6
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

For adults and families
\$10 (Nonmember \$15)



HISTORY OF MILWAUKEE BY CANOE

Look at the city's history from a different perspective! We will paddle down the river comparing the current scenery to pictures of the past.

Saturday, July 14
9:00 a.m. - noon

For adults and families
\$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)



HIKE LINCOLN PARK

Discover how a water park and dredging of the sloughs way have revitalized Lincoln Park and explore little known areas of the park.

Monday, July 23
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults, teens, and families
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers: \$5)



MILWAUKEE RIVER HIKE

Learn about amazing projects in the stretch of river from Locust Street to North Avenue that are helping to improve the health of the Milwaukee River.

Tuesday, July 24
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

For adults, teens, and families
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers: \$5)



MILWAUKEE RIVER CLEAN UP BY CANOE

Explore the Milwaukee River while helping to make it a better place. We will paddle down the river and collect garbage.

Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce St. Milwaukee).

Saturday, July 28
9:00 a.m. - noon

For adults, teens, and families
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers \$5)



MILWAUKEE RIVER CANOE - THIENSVILLE TO BROWN DEER RD.

Join us as we paddle down this rural stretch of the Milwaukee River. We will discover the plants and animals that inhabit this magnificent waterway. We will also discuss the current issues and projects that are helping to improve the river.

Monday, July 30
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For adults and families
\$10 (Nonmember \$15)



EXPLORE THE KINNICKINNIC RIVER

Did you know that the Kinnickinnic River is home to Great Blue Herons and beavers? Discover this hidden urban waterway. We will discuss several significant projects that have improved this local resource.

BY CANOE

Friday, July 13
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

For adults and families
\$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)



ON A HIKE

Thursday, August 2
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults, teens, and families
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers \$5)



KAYAKING 102

Ready to take your kayaking skills to the next level? Join Urban Adventures staff on a kayaking trip down the Milwaukee River. This trip will feature a few rapids so be prepared to get wet. Payment required at registration.

Monday, July 2
5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

For adults
\$45 (Nonmember \$50)



CANOEING BASICS

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

Saturdays, July 28,
August 11 & 25

11 a.m. - noon
For adults and accompanied children ages 5 and older
Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9)
Children: \$4
(Nonmembers: \$7)
Call to register, 964-8505



RIVER RHYTHMS

Paddle with us down the river from the Rowing Club Boathouse to River Rhythms in Pere Marquette Park. River Rhythms is a free, fun music concert series. After we'll paddle back. Dress for the weather. Pack some snacks or purchase some there.

July 11: Jeanna Salzer Trio & The Crooked Keys

July 18: Madison County

July 25: Milwaukee Battle of the Bands

August 1: Madisalsa

August 8: Trapper Schoepp & The Shades

August 15: Skerryvore
Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce St. Milwaukee)
Every Wednesday, July 11 - August 15
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
For adults, teens, and families
\$35 (Nonmember \$40)




URBAN ADVENTURES CONTINUED

MILWAUKEE HISTORY CANOE TRIP


Want to learn about Milwaukee's history in a unique fashion? Join Urban Adventures Coordinator Chad Thomack on a paddle through downtown and explore some of Milwaukee's interesting history from the vantage point of the river.

Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce St. Milwaukee)


Thursday, August 16 
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
For adults and families
\$45 (Nonmember: \$50)

WATER SAFETY COURSE*

Come take a 30 minute water safety course to make sure you are ready to get out on the water. This training, or training through one of our scheduled canoe/kayak trips, is a requirement of the boat lending program. Registration required.


Every Thursday 
6 - 6:30 p.m.


Every Sunday
1 - 1:30 p.m.

Every Saturday 
10 - 10:30 a.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
(Nonmembers: \$5)
Membership required to borrow boats

OPEN CLIMB

Unwind by climbing on our three story rock wall! All climbers must have a completed and signed waiver before climbing. No walk-ins. Must have a minimum of six people registered so gather some friends and sign up!


Every Sunday until August 12 
2 - 3:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday until August 14 
4 - 5:30 p.m.

For adults, teens and children ages 6 and older accompanied by an adult
Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12), Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

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


Friday, July 6 
3 - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, July 10
10 - 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 25
3 - 4:30 p.m.

Friday, August 10
10 - 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, August 30
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 21
10 - 11:00 a.m.

Friday, August 3 
4 - 5 p.m.

Saturday, August 18
10 - 11:00 a.m.

For adults and teens
Free - donations appreciated


MENOMONEE VALLEY VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION*

Attend this informational meeting to find out how you can contribute your skills and time to get our new branch off to a great start.

Menomonee Valley branch, 3700 W. Pierce Street
Friday, July 20
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated

VOLUNTEER TEACHER ORIENTATION


Do days of canoeing, studying birds, biking the Oak Leaf Trail and catching bugs with students appeal to you? Find out how you can do this and more on field trips with neighborhood school groups by becoming one of our amazing volunteer teachers this school year! Must be available on weekdays.

Thursday, August 30 
9:00 a.m. - noon
For adults
Free - donations appreciated

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES


RIVER CONNECTIONS VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Want to help teach an exciting program in partnership with Riveredge Nature Center? Come for an afternoon of learning how this program flows. Please bring lunch as we will eat on the way up.

Thursday, August 30 
Noon - 4:00 p.m.
For adults
Free - donations appreciated


TUNE-UP TUESDAYS*

Do you enjoy fixing bikes, tents, canoes and other types of equipment? Come join our mechanical repair crew.

Tuesdays, July 10, 24, August 7 & 21 
2 - 4 p.m.
For adults and teens
Free - donations appreciated


COMPOST CREW


Come and help keep the Center's compost systems working full steam!

Every Tuesday 
2 - 4 p.m.
For adults and teens
Free - donations appreciated

BURDOCK BRIGADE

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

Every Thursday 
4 - 5:30 p.m.


Every Tuesday 
9 - 11 a.m.

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month
9:30 - 11 a.m.

For adults, families, and teens
Free - donations appreciated


WORK OUTSIDE WEDNESDAYS

Green up your thumbs in our native nursery or while you keep the Center's gardens looking great and welcoming to wildlife.

Every Wednesday except July 4 
2 - 4 p.m.
For adults, families and teens
Free - donations appreciated

FORESTRY FRIDAYS

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


Every Friday 
2 - 4 p.m.


Every Friday 
10 a.m. - noon

For adults, families and teens
Free - donations appreciated

PARK RANGER CREW

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

Every 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturday of the month 
9:30 - 11 a.m.

Every Saturday 
9 - 10 a.m.


For adults, families, and teens
Free - donations appreciated



ART AT UEC

ART OPENING: NATURE'S MOMENTS & PULP RENDERINGS

Meet the artists, enjoy refreshments & hear artists' reflections! **Amber Shefchek's** oil paintings are focused on plants and animals. The backgrounds are developed through layers inspired by places of her youth and the vibrancy of nature's colors. **Don Urness** began making paper from trash in the 1980s. Urness's recycled paper pulp projects reflect his interest in the environment and how light affects nature and objects. Artists speak at 3pm.

Sunday, July 1 
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
For adults and teens
Free - donations appreciated

A RECORD BREAKING TEEN ADVENTURE CHALLENGE!

Over 70 teens experienced an outdoor sports adventure they won't forget. That's the largest number of participants we've ever had! We also had a record breaking number of volunteers! Seventy-two folks helped the teens climb, canoe, bike, hike learn how to use a compass and develop teamwork skills they'll use long after the day's excitement is through. Congratulations to our winning team, El Puente High School!

We are grateful for title sponsor Johnson Controls and the organizations listed to the right for their support of this year's Challenge.

Visit our Facebook page to see more photos of the Challenge.

WANT IN ON THIS?

Contact Chad Thomack at cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org and ask to be put on the Teen Adventure Challenge 2013 team info list.

Or contact Cassie Mordini at cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org and ask to be put on the Teen Adventure Challenge 2013 sponsor info list.



Photo by Ana Maria Minter



Thank You!

Title Sponsor

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Advanced Base Camp Sponsors



Photo by Becky Fitzgerald

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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Milwaukee, WI 53211

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MENOMONEE VALLEY BRANCH GRAND OPENING

Saturday, September 8th | NOON - 4PM



It's time to celebrate! We are thrilled to be opening our branch in the Menomonee Valley and we hope you are excited too! Come check out our new building, enjoy family friendly activities and more.

3700 W. PIERCE ST. MILWAUKEE, WI 53215 | **FREE** public festival



www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

Please make your check payable to: **Urban Ecology Center** and return it with this form to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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 _____

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Signature _____ Date _____

MEMBERSHIP

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

Renew or begin your membership, choose one:

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

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

Give a gift membership:

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

Recipient Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

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 _____

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY!