



## So ... How Do You Write a Book?

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

The way I wrote a book was not traditional, but I doubt that is much of a surprise to most.

### Wait, did you catch that? I just wrote a book!

This adventure started two years ago when Peter and Jean Storer offered us support for the purpose of writing a book. Without any request from us, they felt that the Urban Ecology Center story needed to be told. What followed was a little bit of luck and some awesome opportunities.

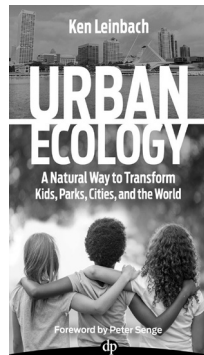
A chance conversation with an old college friend introduced me to Difference Press out of Washington DC. Difference Press is a one-of-a-kind group that is determined to only publish books that make a difference. I applied and got into their writing and publishing program. Encouraged by board and staff, last year I took a writing sabbatical and got the job done.

### Four months later and look! →

In September, three weeks before my writing sabbatical was to begin, Stefen Anderson, the headmaster of Conserve School visited the Center for the first time. We hit it off immediately.

By the end of a spontaneous tour he invited me to be the Author in Residence at their campus near Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin.

In return for an all-campus assembly program, teaching a few classes and being a presence to their students, they offered me a cabin on Black Oak Lake. I was lent a mountain bike with which to commute through the woods to their state-of-the-art campus for meals, Wi-Fi, an office and human contact.



What an amazing place and a generous gift. I fell in love with their semester school program, thoroughly enjoyed the 63 juniors who were there from all over the country and fit in immediately with the staff.

Most of my time, however, was spent writing.

While I like to write, I have always had a hard time sitting still for very long. So I set up four writing stations around the property. I'd start at one, a hammock set up between two birch trees which caught the morning sun perfectly, write for an hour or so, and then mountain bike to the next station. This was a tensile tent strung up on a bluff between three trees. Think of it like a tree house made of a triangular trampoline with a dome tent on top. Super comfy with lots of pillows and sleeping bags as it got colder. After more writing I'd head to the cabin for lunch and more writing. My final station was a ridiculously stable kayak which I would take out onto the lake. This plan worked spectacularly and occasionally even produced a fish!

That is where I wrote, and how I wrote, now on to what I wrote.

The book writing process of Difference Press begins with identifying my ideal reader — a personification of someone who really needs my book. I created "Michael", an assistant principal of a generic urban school. Then I had to outline a problem that was burning inside Michael's heart, which in this case was a loss of hope due to the environmental state of the planet and his struggle with the urban area in which he lived. Each chapter then becomes a series of logical steps that takes Michael to his dream come true which, of course, is the Urban Ecology Center.

So, what's in the book? Here's a brief description:

*With climate in the news, an urban core that has reached boiling point, and many children growing up without role models and only limited dreams – where is hope?*

*continued on page 4*

## Branch Highlights

### 📍 RIVERSIDE PARK

On March 31 we are excited to welcome John Gorka in a benefit concert. Also look for the **Local Farmer Open House** and a book signing with **B.J. Hollers**, a reading from **Anishinaabe Poets** and an art exhibit by Tonia Kountz, Daniel Stauff and Bridget Wolf — **A Walk In The Woods and Mostly Milwaukee Mushrooms**.

### 📍 WASHINGTON PARK

Spring is here and it's time to grow. Learn how to plan a vegetable and container garden at our **Grow Like a Pro Series**. Discover the secret to making the perfect pie crust at **Pie Making 101**. Help celebrate the earth by planting and caring for Washington Park at our **Earth Day of Service**.

### 📍 MENOMONEE VALLEY

Come view our **new art exhibit**, which opens March 9. In **"Steel, Concrete, and Water: Forming the Industrial American City"** Emmett Gross explores the relationship between human-built patterns and natural forms in American cities. Then in April, don't forget to join us for our Earth Day of Service!



## Never, Ever Give Up

by Katie Schober, Environmental Educator

In mid-January, during those grand days of winter when we actually had snow on the ground, I learned the value of taking chances through the determination of an 8<sup>th</sup> grade girl.

It was a chilly day, but I had discovered the previous week that students cannot wait to be outside, even on the coldest of days.

One student caught my attention as we walked out to the bus. She told me that it was her first trip to the Urban Ecology Center, her first winter in Wisconsin, and how excited she was for her first opportunity to explore snow. Little did she know, her class was about to go cross-country skiing.

Despite all of the initial excitement, cross-country skiing started out anything but smoothly for this winter novice. We struggled to find her well-fitting ski boots and poles. But for her, figuring out the skiing part was tougher. We practiced footwork and keeping balance, but alas, she spent more time in the snow than she had expected.

I checked in and gave her a few words of encouragement as we trekked toward Miller Park. Gathering her footing to continue on after a stumble, she responded: "A fall

does not bother me, I'm going to get it." She radiated the determination with which she overcame initial skiing mishaps.

After a while, part of the class headed in to visit our animal room, warm up, and rest after using unfamiliar leg muscles. Not this student!

It was tough to convince her to go inside once her practicing paid off and she was sliding through the snow, forging new paths.

*"A fall does not bother me,  
I'm going to get it."*

Her favorite part of skiing was speeding down an incline before we went inside. But my favorite parts of the trip were seeing how open she was to learning new techniques and trying again, the ear to ear smile on her face when she found her groove and losing track of the number of times she said, "This is AMAZING!"

The joy this student experienced from leaving behind doubts and practicing a new skill with unwavering spirit encouraged me to look at what is holding me back from seeking novel experiences, be it self-consciousness or fear of failing. She continues to inspire me to shake off the ease of comfort and familiarity in order to visit new spaces and learn about positive work that is being done to build community in Milwaukee. 🌱



Saturday, May 13

Get a team together and search for birds without using any fossil fuel! Start early or late morning. Families welcome. Proceeds go to the Urban Ecology Center Research and Citizen Science program.

Registration opens mid-March

Green Birding Challenge is now a part of our new

**BIRD WEEK**

## SUMMER CAMPS

2017

Week-long day camps for **Preschool - Highschool**



Scholarships Available

[urbanecologycenter.org/summercamp](http://urbanecologycenter.org/summercamp)

### Credits:



**Carijean Buhk**  
Editor

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

Contributing writers: Beth Heller, Ken Leinbach and Katie Schober.

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## Summer Solstice Soirée

the Urban Ecology Center's 10<sup>th</sup> annual event

Save the date Saturday, June 17

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



## Facility Rentals at the UEC

in 2016, over 9,000 people attended events hosted by renters at our three branches. From weddings to meetings, we offer 14 eco-friendly spaces and many amenities that are perfect for small to fairly large groups.

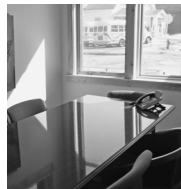
More importantly, by holding an event at the Urban Ecology Center, you are helping a child to get out into nature. You are helping an adult canoe for the first time and a teen teach kids how to grow a garden. You are connecting our community to the natural areas in their neighborhoods and so much more. Our renters are another part of the community that helps to make the UEC thrive.

**239**  
total rentals

In 2016 we hosted 239 facility rentals, including **34 weddings!**

*But what were those other 205 rentals?*

*Business retreats  
Professional trainings  
Community meetings  
Holiday parties  
Birthday parties  
Memorial services  
B'nai Mitzvah  
Rehearsal dinners  
Baby showers  
Bridal showers  
Preschool groups  
Martial arts classes  
High school dances*



**200**

place settings at Riverside Park

We encourage our facility renters to reduce waste by providing them with dishes, bowls, glasses and silverware to use for free.



For a total of

**\$113,516**

in earned revenue to support the mission of the Urban Ecology Center

If you'd like to support the Urban Ecology Center by hosting an event at one of our branches, contact **MaryBeth Kressin** at [mkressin@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:mkressin@urbanecologycenter.org) or (414) 964-8505, 156.

## So ... How Do You Write a Book?

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*There is a quiet experiment in Milwaukee that is turning heads. It starts from the simplicity of getting a city kid exploring their neighborhood park. How is it that so much life, community, and opportunity can grow from this unlikely soil?*

*This is a story of a group of ordinary people in a neighborhood who created something extraordinary. While reading this book you will discover...*

*The power of getting a city kid outside in nature.*

*That kindness works.*

*How to say no while following the yes.*

*The value of clarity and focus.*

*How to find abundance within your own diverse community by simply and humbly asking for help.*

*Ten tried and tested rules for raising money while having a ton of fun doing it.*

*A positive, believable, and very real vision for the future of our environment. We've got this!*

*And ... how to join our movement.*

*Cool, eh?*

*So ... want a copy of the book? Currently it is*

available only as an e-book on Amazon. On Earth Day, April 22, we will be offering it as a download for free! Then in May we should be getting our first print copies hot off the press. We'll let you know more details as we go along.

While I was busy writing, the rest of my team was doing the real mission work of the Center. I am so grateful to Beth Heller who spectacularly served as Interim Executive Director in my absence.

She was joined by our stellar Leadership Team and all the rest of the staff who made this book writing possible. It was great to be gone and even better to be back! 🌱



## Learning about Learning

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

An ornithologist and ecologist are hiking along the Milwaukee River. No, this is not a start to a bad joke – it is a story about how we think.

As they turn a corner, the ornithologist gasps as she sees a tree alive with the movement of over 20 birds! Stopping, she focuses her binoculars and directs her attention to the characteristics that will help her identify them. It is challenging and fun. She is having a great time and decides she needs to walk here more often and plans to tell all of her friends about this wonderful place to look for birds!

The ecologist, hearing a gasp, searches for the source of the excitement. Looking up, she sees a tree with purple berries, filled with dining birds. She is saddened. The tree is a buckthorn – an invasive species that has taken over where native service berries used to grow. She is aware that the berries are not only devoid of important nutrients, but also cause dehydration in birds. This scene is one of heartache for her. She might come to volunteer and help create a healthier habitat.

These two friends are in the same place at the same time, and yet their experiences are

very different. Both learned something by listening and looking at the very same scene, and yet they are coming to very different conclusions based not on their observations in the moment, but rather on past experiences.

Each conclusion is tied to the learning process we all go through: we make observations, add meaning, form beliefs, and take actions based on those beliefs. And each time we do this, our thinking is reinforced.

In this example, the ornithologist looks right past the berries. In her experience, a good birding practice is to look for specific patterns, shapes and colors on birds, so that they can be identified. By identifying the different kinds of birds, she can give them a name (which adds meaning), determine if this is a good place to look for birds (form a belief), then decide if she wants to come back (take an action).

It happens fast – in a split second. We don't think much about the thinking process. And, yet, if we can get into the practice of unfolding *how* we add meaning or form beliefs, we can create deeper understandings of each other and our world.

The practice of exploring our learning process is simple. But it is often forgotten.

In this example, two people are forming opinions about the value of a specific moment. Imagine applying this practice in deciding, as parents, how to raise your children. Or in understanding how a policy decision is being made at work, or understanding what is happening in an election.

The practice I just described is supported by a visual tool called the "ladder of inference" and is one of many tools that can be used to uncover – and shift – our own thinking.

The "ladder of inference" is just one of the Systems Thinking tools the Urban Ecology Center uses in our planning, decision making and in working with students. It helps us build a deeper, shared understanding upon which we can then act.

Want to learn more? Please consider attending the next regional Systems Thinking Institute — happening right here in Milwaukee on March 29-31! Visit [watersfoundation.org](http://watersfoundation.org) for details. 🌱

### EARTH DAY of SERVICE! at Riverside Park

#### It's a working celebration of the Earth!

Bring your friends and spend a morning helping in our Riverside Park followed by a community lunch. Meet new people and have fun helping the Earth! Family hikes and "mini" service projects are also available at 9:30 and 11am.

**Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> | 9AM - 1:30PM**



**Saturday, March 11  
11AM - 3PM | Free**

Know your farmer - know your food. This event is your once-a-year opportunity to talk with local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farmers, hear their growing practices and learn their subscription options (local deliveries of boxes of farm-fresh healthful produce and more). Stay to attend a workshop and buy lunch.

## HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

### A Concert to Benefit the Urban Ecology Center: John Gorka ♿

The Urban Ecology Center is honored to host an evening with singer/songwriter John Gorka. Don't miss this opportunity to see this folk legend in this intimate one-night performance. Space is limited. Register today to guarantee a spot at this show.

Fri., Mar. 31 | 7:30 - 9:30PM  
For everyone | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)

### Spirit and Nature — A Reading and Conversation with Anishinaabe Poets ♿ *presented by Potawatomi Hotel & Casino*

Wisconsin Poet Laureate Kim Blaeser's work features ekphrastic poetry, photography and picto-poems that intersect text and images inspired by Native American pictographs and ledger art. Blaeser, Denise Sweet and Margaret Noodin will perform poems, present art images and discuss examples of this project. Picto-poems blend nature photography with poetry to explore ideas of Native place, nature, preservation and spiritual sustenance.

Thu., Apr. 20 | 7 - 8:30PM | For teens and adults | Free - donations appreciated

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### From Sap to Syrup! Maple Sugaring ♿

Explore the process of maple sap harvesting and making syrup. Afterwards we'll head inside for pancakes with homemade maple syrup. Registration required.

Sat., Mar. 4, 18, 25 | 10AM - 12PM  
For adults and accompanied children |  
Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)  
Children: \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Owl Prowl

Take a look into the behaviors and adaptations that make owls amazing survivors, then head to the woods to listen for the calls of our neighborhood owls. Registration required.

Tue., Mar. 7 | 6:30 - 8PM  
For adults and families (ages 7 and older) | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) per person

### Girl Scouts: From Sap to Syrup - Maple Sugaring ♿

Follow the flow from sap to syrup as we explore the maple sugaring process! We'll be inside and out and even taste syrup made from our trees.

Sat., Mar. 25 | 2 - 4PM  
For Girl Scouts in grades K-2nd grade | \$7 per girl  
To register, visit [gswise.org](http://gswise.org)

### Nature Rangers

Sign up for either the Monday or Tuesday session.

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

### Animal Feeding ♿

Every Sat. | 1PM | For everyone | Free

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Riverside Park Volunteer Orientation ♿

Looking to work alongside ecologically-minded people? Find out how you can contribute your time and talents to the Urban Ecology Center.

Fri., Mar. 10 | 3 - 4:30PM  
Sat., Mar. 18 | 10:30AM - NOON  
Mon., Mar. 27 | 5:30 - 7PM  
Sat., Apr. 1 | 10:30AM - NOON  
Wed., Apr. 12 | 5:30 - 7PM  
Fri., Apr. 28 | 3 - 4:30PM  
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

### Bird Banding Workshop ♿

Recommended for those who want to participate in our Bird Banding project.

Wed., Apr. 12 | 8 - 11AM  
For adults and teens | Free

### Spring Bird Banding ♿

RSVP with Jennifer Callaghan at [jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org).

Thu., Apr. 13 | 5:30AM - NOON  
Thu., Apr. 27 | 5:30 - 11AM  
For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free

### Park Ranger Crew

Walk through the park, pick up trash and note any maintenance needs

Sat., Apr. 8, 22, 29 | 9:30 - 11AM  
For adults and teens | Free

### Fixin' Facilities

Help maintain our building, vehicles, park and playground!

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

### Volunteer Papermaking ♿

Every Tue. | 4:30 - 6PM  
For adults and teens | Free

### ROOT Riverside Park

Help us improve and maintain the health of our plant communities!

#### March:

Every Tue. | 9 - 11AM  
Every Fri. | 2 - 4PM

#### April:

Sat., Apr. 1 | 9:30 - 11AM  
Every Tue. | 9 - 11AM  
Every Tue. | 2 - 4PM  
Every Fri. | 2 - 4PM

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Poets and Musicians Earthstravaganza ♿

The Earth Poets and Musicians host this special event to benefit the UEC. The group, features Jahmes Finlayson, Louisa Gallas, Holly Haebig, Suzanne Rosenblatt and Harvey Taylor and invited poets, activists, performing artists and musicians.

Fri., Apr. 21 | 8 - 10PM  
For everyone | Suggested donation \$5 - \$10 to benefit UEC

#### Waking Up Your Garden 101: Planning and Prep ♿

Learn how to establish your garden site and prep your soil. Decide which plants to grow and we'll show you how to start them inside. Leave with a draft of your garden map and start-up plan.

Sun., Mar. 5 | 1:30 - 3PM  
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

#### Art Opening: A Walk In The Woods and Mostly Milwaukee Mushrooms - Tonia Kountz, Daniel Stauff & Bridget Wolf ♿

Three local artists share their walks in the woods of Riverside Park, their observations, sightings and wild foraging. Artist speak at 6pm. Show runs through June.

Thu., Apr. 13 | 5 - 7PM  
For everyone | Free

#### Free Music Open Jam Session ♿

Explore sound and music. Some instruments provided, but participants are encouraged to bring instruments.

Sun., Mar. 12 | 2 - 5PM  
For adults | Free

#### Book Signing: B.J. Hollars — *Flock Together: A Love Affair with Extinct Birds* ♿

After stumbling upon a book of photographs depicting extinct North American birds and heartbroken by the birds we've lost, author B.J. Hollars began a year-long journey to study the extinct birds and taking refuge in those that remain. Book signing to follow. Sponsored by Boswell Books.

Thu., Mar. 16 | 7 - 8:30PM  
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

#### Urban Beavers: *Understanding Their Ecology and Effects on Land* ♿

Beavers are new resident mammal species at two of our three branches! But what does this mean for the future of our green spaces? DNR's Milwaukee County Biologist and Regional Educator, Dianne Robinson, discusses the ecology and management of beavers in an urban habitat.

Thu., Mar. 16 | 6 - 7:30PM  
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

#### Sustainable Coffee Tasting ♿

Enjoy your morning coffee with experts from Pendulum Coffee.

Sat., Mar. 18 | 10 - 11AM  
For adults | \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

#### Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop ♿

Graft and take home two semi-dwarf apple, pear or plum trees. Root stocks and scion wood provided. Additional materials available for a fee. Bring a sharp knife. Register by March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Sat., Mar. 18 | 1 - 3PM  
For adults | \$18 (Nonmembers: \$20)

#### Scion Wood Exchange ♿

Join fellow fruit tree enthusiasts as we swap stories and trade scion wood. Bring as many types of cuttings as you wish. This event will immediately follow the tree grafting workshop.

Sat., Mar. 18 | 3 - 4:30PM  
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

#### Renewing Hope - Interfaith Earth Network Open House ♿

Find inspiration and practical ideas about the environment and sustainability topics. Workshops, kid's activities and more.

Sun., Mar. 19 | 2 - 5PM  
For everyone | Free

#### A Mindful Cyclist: *Cognition and Cycling in Milwaukee* ♿

People have numerous reasons for using a bicycle, but the one reason that stands out for Dr. David Howell is the development of one's thought process. In "The Descent into Happiness", Howell explores how bicycle commuting and touring serve as a vehicle for mindfulness.

Tue., Mar. 21 | 7 - 8:30PM  
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

#### From Beak to Tail: *All About the Life of Birds* ♿

Join us for an in-depth look into the wonders of bird ecology, conservation and behavior.

Sat., Mar. 25 | 1 - 2:30PM  
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

#### Birding at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center

Schlitz Audubon Nature Center's land has been designated a Wisconsin Important Bird Area. We'll tour the varied habitats and look for early spring migrants. Binoculars and spotting scopes provided. Half of the registration fee will be donated to Schlitz. We will meet at Riverside Park and travel together by bus.

Sat., Mar. 25 | 8AM - NOON  
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

### URBAN ADVENTURES

#### Small Group Cross-Country Ski or Snowshoe Lessons for Beginners

Schedule a one-on-one lesson for Riverside Park or closer to your home at a park within 15 miles of our branch. Equipment is provided. Lessons are offered between 8am and 8pm.

Mar. 2, 3 & 4 | 8AM - 8PM  
For adults, teens and children ages 5+ | At Riverside Park: \$30 (Nonmember: \$40) Off-site \$50 (Nonmember: \$60) | You must call Lesley Sheridan: (414) 964-505, x145, to schedule private lesson.

### INTEREST GROUPS

#### Ojibwe Language Study Group ♿

Every Mon. | 6 - 8PM

#### Community Vegan Potluck ♿

Tues., Mar. 7 & Apr. 4 | 6:30 - 8PM

#### Photo Club ♿

Thurs., Mar. 2 & Apr. 6 | 6:30 - 9PM

#### 350.org General Meeting ♿

Tues., Mar. 14 & Apr. 11 | 7 - 8:30PM

#### Urban Echo Poets ♿

Thurs., Mar. 9 & Apr. 13 | 7 - 8:30PM

#### Urban Stargazers ♿

Thurs., Mar. 9 & Apr. 13 | 7 - 8:30PM

#### Faith and Ecology ♿

Tues., Mar. 21 & Apr. 18 | 7 - 8:30PM

#### Friends of Real Food: Potluck and Program ♿

Thurs., Mar. 16 & Apr. 20 | 6 - 8PM

#### Early Morning Bird Walk ♿

Every Thu. | 8 - 10:30AM

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:  
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:  
(414) 964-8505

3 IN PERSON:  
1500 E. Park Pl.

### EARTH DAY of SERVICE!

at Washington Park

### It's a working celebration of the Earth!

Bring your friends and spend a morning helping in our Washington Park followed by a community lunch. Meet new people and have fun helping the Earth!

**Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> | 9AM - 1:30PM**

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Pie Making 101:

*From the Crust Up* ♿

Community Pie is devoted to teaching how to prepare delicious desserts using fruit from their neighborhood. Learn simple pie baking skills from this hands-on demonstration. Register by Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Wed., Apr. 5 | 6 - 8PM

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

### Early Morning Bird Walks

Walk through the different habitats looking for birds and other natural denizens. Binoculars available.

Every Wed. | 8 - 10:30AM

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

### Home Brewing Basics Series

There's a fascinating science behind the bottle of your favorite beer. In this two-session series, we will explore the natural process of fermentation and brew a batch of ale together. The price includes four bottles of finished beer. For adults age 21 and over.

**Session 1: Brewing Equipment, Recipes, Preparation and Fermentation**

**Session 2: Bottling and Aging**

Wed., Mar. 22 & Wed.,

Apr. 26 | 6 - 8PM

For adults, age 21 and older  
| \$15 (Nonmembers: \$20)

### Grow Like a Pro Series

#### *Vegetable Garden Design*

Growing your own fruits and vegetables can be incredibly rewarding. If planned right, you can enjoy a fruitful garden without having to spend hours tending it. In this workshop, we will create a customized edible garden blueprint, which will provide four seasons of homegrown produce.

Wed., Mar. 8 | 6 - 8PM

For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

#### *Native Plant Container Design/Gardening*

Expand your concept of container gardening. Look beyond your pair of decorative pots by the front door to the role that these planters can play in your landscape, vegetable garden, on your deck or patio and in your life. We will explore the beauty and importance of container gardening with native plants and discuss design concepts and overwintering practices for containerized plants.

Sat., Apr. 29 | 9 - 11AM

For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

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



Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website

[www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar)

**3 WAYS TO REGISTER:**

**1 ONLINE:**  
[www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org)

**2 BY PHONE:**  
(414) 344-5460

**3 IN PERSON:**  
1859 N. 40th St.

### FAMILY PROGRAMS

#### Real Time Dance Performance

Real Time brings movement-based artists' performances to new audiences, making the unfamiliar familiar. Through dance, music and conversation we'll explore how we share space in every moment and how that manifests in an environmental community center. Real Time features Andrea and Daniel Burkholder with guest artists Jon Mueller and Dawn Springer. For more info visit [andrea Burkholder.com](http://andrea Burkholder.com).

Fri., Apr. 7 | 8 - 9PM

For adults and families | No tickets or registration, instead pay what you will, cash only. Doors open at 7:30pm

#### From Sap to Syrup! Maple Sugaring

Take an in depth look into maple sap harvesting in Washington Park and how we make maple syrup. This program will be both indoors and out. After learning about the process we'll enjoy pancakes with homemade maple syrup. Registration required.

Sat., Mar. 4 | 1 - 3PM

Sat., Mar. 18 | 1 - 3PM

Sat., Mar. 25 | 1 - 3PM

For adults and accompanied children |

Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15) Children: \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

#### Animal Feeding

Come one, come all! Help feed the Center's resident turtles, snakes, fish and more!

Every Sat. | 1PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

#### Young Scientists Club

Do you know a child who is 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.

Every Tue. - Fri. | 4 - 6PM

Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM

For kids ages 7-12 | \$10 annual membership

#### Zumba Express

Dance to great music and burn a ton of calories without even realizing it with Zumba Fitness. Bring your dancing feet, gyrating hips and a desire to move! These classes are open to all ages and skill levels.

Every Wed. | 5:30 - 6:15PM

For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### Washington Park 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.

Tue., Mar. 7 | 5:30 - 6:30PM

Sat., Mar. 25 | 10:30 - 11:30AM

Tue., Apr. 4 | 5:30 - 6:30PM

Sat., Apr. 15 | 10:30 - 11:35AM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

#### Spring Bird Banding

Spend your morning with the songbirds who are passing through Washington Park. Help our bird banding researchers in the field. You may be able to hold a bird in your hands! Banding is highly weather dependent. RSVP with Jennifer Callaghan at [jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org) before attending.

Tue., Apr. 26 | 5:30AM - NOON

For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

#### Park Ranger Crew

Help keep our park clean, safe and accessible. Dress for the weather and join other volunteers as we walk through the park picking up trash and noting any maintenance needs

Every Sat. | 11AM - NOON

For everyone, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult |

Free - donations appreciated

#### ROOT Washington Park

Ready to remove buckthorn and honeysuckle or help us clean seed? Join us for ROOT (Restore Our Outdoor Treasures) in Washington Park as we work to improve natural habitat for native plants and wildlife.

Every Wed. | 9 - 11AM

Every Thu. | 3:30 - 5:30PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

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



Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website  
[www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar)

3 WAYS TO  
REGISTER:

1 **ONLINE:**  
[www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org)

2 **BY PHONE:**  
(414) 344-5460

3 **IN PERSON:**  
1859 N. 40th St.



Our Menomonee Valley branch will be closed April 27, 2017

### EARTH DAY of SERVICE! at Menomonee Valley

### It's a working celebration of the Earth!

Bring your friends and spend a morning helping in our Three Bridges Park followed by a community lunch. Meet new people and have fun helping the Earth!

**Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> | 9AM - 1:30PM**

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### Sledding the Slopes of Menomonee Valley

Get outside for the perfect winter evening - sledding and hot chocolate in Three Bridges Park. If there is no snow, we'll go for a hike.

Tue., Mar. 7 | 4 - 6:00 PM  
For families with children and teens | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

### Paper-Making Workshop

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

Thu., Mar. 9 | 4 - 6:00 PM  
For children ages 5-12 | Free for Young Scientist Club members (Nonmembers: \$5 per child)

### Snow-Globe Making Workshop

Skip the souvenir shop, learn how to make your own snow-globes! Take home your own, handmade globe. Materials provided.

Tue., Mar. 21 | 4 - 6:00 PM  
For families with children ages 5-12 | Free for Young Scientists Club members (Nonmembers: \$5 per child)

### Plant-Based Arts and Crafts

Learn how to use plants as tools for art! We will pick our own plants to be used for painting and printing. All materials supplied.

Sat., Apr. 1 | 1 - 2:30 PM  
For families | Free - donations appreciated

### Terrarium Making Workshop

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

Sat., Apr. 8 | 9:30 - 11:30 AM  
For families | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Make Seed Bombs that Grow Anywhere

Seed bombs - balls of compost, clay and seeds - are the perfect way to spread native plant species to spaces that need life and color. Create your own seed bombs to plant this spring. All materials provided.

Sat., Apr. 15 | 1:30 - 2:30 PM  
Sat., Apr. 29 | 10 - 11:00 AM  
For families | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Bird Feeder Creations

Learn how to make different bird feeders using recycled and upcycled supplies! All materials provided.

Thu., Apr. 20 | 4 - 6:00 PM  
For families with children ages 5-12 | Free for Young Scientists Club members (Nonmembers: \$5 per child)

### Young Scientists Club

Every day in the Young Scientists Club is a new adventure.

Every Tue. & Thu. except Apr. 27 | 4 - 6PM and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM  
For ages 5-12 | \$10 annual membership

### EcoArt Wednesdays

Join us for nature inspired recycled arts and crafts.

Every Wed. | 4 - 5:30PM  
For families with children age 12 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

### Animal Feeding

Every Sat. | 1PM  
For everyone | Free

## URBAN ADVENTURES

### Cross-Country Skiing for Beginners

Don't get stuck inside this winter - give cross-country skiing a try! We'll provide the gear and the instruction that'll have you hitting the slopes in no time. Be sure to dress in layers.

Sat., Mar. 4 | 10 - 11:30AM  
Sat., Mar. 18 | 10 - 11:30AM  
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Snowshoeing for Beginners

Learn the basics of snowshoeing and enjoy snowy hikes this winter. Equipment provided. Make sure to dress in layers and wear waterproof footwear.

Sat., Mar. 11 | 10 - 11:30AM  
Sat., Mar. 25 | 10 - 11:30AM  
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### Birding Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve

Look for early migrant songbirds and waterfowl at one of the last stretches of undeveloped bluffs along Lake Michigan. Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve is a 73-acre ecological jewel within the Ozaukee County Park system. Binoculars and spotting scopes provided. Also, feel free to bring a lunch and stay for the Beak to Tail workshop at 1pm at no extra charge. We will meet at the Menomonee Valley branch and travel together by bus.

Sat., Apr. 15 | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

#### From Beak to Tail:

##### *All About the Life of Birds* ♿

Join Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science, for an in-depth look into the wonders of bird ecology, conservation and behavior. This is an ongoing series you can jump into at any point. The program features a lecture, discussion and a dusk walk. Beginning through advanced birders welcome. Binoculars provided.

Sat., Apr. 15 | 1 - 2:30 PM  
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

#### Early Morning Birdwalks

Interested bird watchers of all ability levels are invited to explore Three Bridges Park for birds with us. Binoculars available.

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

#### VISION 2050: One Region, Focusing on our Future ♿

How do you want to be connected to your community and region where you live, work and play? This question is at the heart of VISION 2050, a new long-range plan for land use and transportation developed by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). VISION 2050 established an advisory vision for how the seven-county region can build on its existing strengths, increase the quality of life for residents and attract new growth. Kevin Muhs and Benjamin McKay of SEWRPC will discuss this final plan.

Tue., Mar. 7 | 7 - 8:30 PM  
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

#### Photo Phenology

Through images of the natural area around the Center. Bring a camera if you can. No experience necessary.

Sat., Mar. 25 & Apr. 22 |  
9:30 - 11:30AM  
For adults, teens and families |  
Free - donations appreciated

#### Art Opening:

##### *"Steel, Concrete, and Water: Forming the Industrial American City"* ♿ by Emmett Gross ♿

In "Steel, Concrete, and Water: Forming the Industrial American City" Emmett Gross explores the relationship between human-built patterns and natural forms. As he studies the industrial history of American cities, he tells a story of the physical, social, and economic forces that shape these urban forms. He hopes that his work will lead the viewer to delve into the history of cities.

Thu., Mar. 9 | 5 - 7:00 PM  
For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### Menomonee Valley Volunteer Orientation ♿

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

Thu., Mar. 9 | 5:30 - 7PM  
Thu., Mar. 23 | 5:30 - 7PM  
Thu., Apr. 6 | 5:30 - 7PM  
Thu., Apr. 20 | 5:30 - 7PM  
For adults and teens | Free -  
donations appreciated

#### Spring Bird Banding ♿

Spend your morning with the songbirds who are passing through Menomonee Valley. Help our bird banding researchers in the field. You may be able to hold a bird in your hands! Banding is highly weather dependent. RSVP with Jennifer Callaghan at [jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org) before attending.

Tue., Apr. 18 | 5:30AM - NOON  
For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

#### ROOT Menomonee Valley

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

Every Thu. except Apr. 27 | 9 - 11AM  
For adults and teens | Free -  
donations appreciated

#### Fixin' Facilities ♿

Lend a hand to maintain our building, vehicles, equipment and park.

Every Thu. except Apr. 27 | 3 - 5PM  
For adults and teens | Free -  
donations appreciated

#### Volunteer Park Rangers

Help keep our parks clean, safe and accessible. Dress for the weather and join other volunteers as we walk through the park picking up trash and noting any maintenance needs

Every Sat. | 11AM - NOON  
For everyone, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult |  
Free - donations appreciated

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2 BY PHONE:  
(414) 431-2940

3 IN PERSON:  
3700 W. Pierce St.



# NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a publication of the **Urban Ecology Center**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Thanks to the generous annual contributions of 250 foundations, corporations and organizations, 3300 members and many in-kind donors the Center provides safe parks and programs for over 200,000 people per year.

To make a contribution, please see below for the easy to use form, visit our website at [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org) or call the Center at (414) 964-8505.

The **Urban Ecology Center** fosters ecological understanding as inspiration for change, neighborhood by neighborhood. Our Environmental Community Centers:

- Provide outdoor science education for urban youth.
- Protect and use public natural areas, making them safe, accessible and vibrant.
- Preserve and enhance these natural areas and their surrounding waters.
- Promote community by offering resources that support learning, volunteerism, stewardship, recreation, and camaraderie.
- Practice and model environmentally responsible behaviors.

## LOCATIONS & HOURS

### Riverside Park

1500 E. Park Place  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211  
(414) 964-8505 Fax: (414) 964-1084  
[jferschinger@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto: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., 53208)  
(414) 344-5460 Fax: (414) 344-5462  
[tevans@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:tevans@urbanecologycenter.org)

Hours of operation:  
Tuesday - Thursday: Noon - 7pm  
Friday: Noon - 6pm  
Saturday: 9am - 5pm

### Menomonee Valley

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

Hours of operation:  
Tuesday - Thursday: Noon - 7pm  
Friday: Noon - 6pm  
Saturday: 9am - 5pm

[www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org)  
Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

## BECOME A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER

*By making your gift, you become a contributing member of the Center. Your support provides learning opportunities for thousands of urban youth each year and allows you to enjoy contributing membership benefits at all three of our branches.*

### Choose a Contributing Member Level:

- Student** - benefits one college student . . . . . \$30
- Individual** - member plus one guest . . . . . \$35
- Family** - two adults, and all children or grandchildren under 18 in a household plus one guest. . . . . \$45
- Other** - contributions above \$45 receive family level benefits and can help us:
  - provide a membership for a family in need (\$90)
  - provide a Summer Camp scholarship (\$200)
  - restore urban land with native plants (\$500)
  - Please enter an amount . . . . . \$\_\_\_\_\_

### Give a gift membership:

*Gift memberships are a great way to connect your friends and family to the natural world.*

Recipient Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion \_\_\_\_\_ Deliver by \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:  Individual \$35  Family \$45  Student \$30

Send the announcement card to:  Me  Gift Recipient  Card picked up

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Name  I would like to remain anonymous

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my Card  Check enclosed (payable to **Urban Ecology Center**)

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Everyone is welcome!** Thanks to generous donors we are able to offer need-based scholarships for memberships. For more information and to apply, please contact our Membership Staff at (414) 964-8505 or drop into one of our Centers and speak with our Visitor Services staff.

My gift is  in honor of or  in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

My employer (list below) has a matching gift program \_\_\_\_\_

I would like information about estate and planned giving

Please return this form to: Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

***Did you know you can become a contributing member securely online? Visit [urbanecologycenter.org](http://urbanecologycenter.org) and click Join.***

# EARTH DAY of SERVICE!

at  
all three  
branches

Bring your friends and  
spend a morning  
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community lunch.

**Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**9AM - 1:30PM**

FSC logo

## IN THIS ISSUE

### SO ... HOW DO YOU WRITE A BOOK?

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

The way I wrote a book was not traditional, but I doubt that is much of a surprise to most.

#### Wait, did you catch that? I just wrote a book!

This adventure started two years ago when Peter and Jean Storer offered us support for the purpose of writing a book ... What followed was a little bit of luck and some awesome opportunities.

### NEVER, EVER GIVE UP

by Katie Schober, Environmental Educator

In mid-January, during those grand days of winter when we actually had snow on the ground, I learned the value of taking chances through the determination of an 8<sup>th</sup> grade girl.

### LEARNING ABOUT LEARNING

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

An ornithologist and ecologist are hiking along the Milwaukee River. No, this is not a start to a bad joke – it is a story about how we think.

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



In 2016 we hosted  
**239** facility rentals,  
including  
**34** weddings!