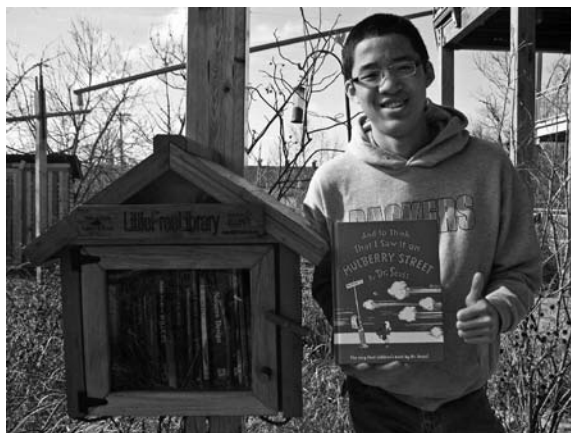


LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

The first call came in September of 2011 and it went something like this:

Hello, Mr. Leinbach. You do not know me, but I've been an admirer of your Center for some time. I used to live on Newberry Boulevard near Riverside Park. I was in Milwaukee recently and stopped by the Center again. You and your team have created something really amazing! I'd like to help out with an idea I had while driving home. I was listening to the radio and heard this story on NPR about a social entrepreneur, Todd Bol, and a professor from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Rick Brooks, who



Ethan Bott and our new Little Free Library (learn more about Ethan in the "Outdoor Leadership in Action" article below.)

invented this thing called the Little Free Library. I think you would like the concept and I will offer to sponsor one for your Center if you're interested.

That was how I met Tom Bugbee, a gregarious guy who runs a finance company in Minneapolis. This is also how I ultimately met Rick Brooks, the outreach program manager at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Continuing Studies Department mentioned above. And this eventually led to our installation of the first Little Free Library in the city of Milwaukee at our Riverside Park location.

Continued on page 5

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION!

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

Imagine yourself at age 16. Now imagine that you are in front of a room full of 30 of your teachers who are all staring at you, expecting you to teach them for the next hour. Ready to run away?

This scene actually happened on January 17th, on the 40th floor of the US Bank building in meeting rooms overlooking all three branches of the Center. The teen in the spotlight: Ethan Bott, Outdoor Leader at the Urban Ecology Center. How did he end up in the hot seat? Because of Stella. But we'll get to that later.

Ethan's first exposure to the Center was Riverside Park's slide entrance, a favorite fun introduction to our environmental community center he visited often with his family. Not too much later, Ethan became the youngest bird banding volunteer on the crew. In his first season, Ethan's mind served as a sponge as he observed close-up the amazing diversity of birds in our urban park. He learned about how they survive, how to distinguish a bird's age, fat content, general health and preferred habitats. The next

Continued on page 4

OTHER PEOPLE'S EYES

by Tory Bahe, Environmental Educator

"Water," he declared before the other kids even had a chance to step off the bus. Shayquon is a man of few words, but you can't get much past him. By my count, he's been on over 60 field trips to the Urban Ecology Center in the past five years. He's been snowshoeing and canoeing, he's looked at the littlest parts of Washington Park through a hand lens and searched for far off birds with binoculars; really, there aren't many corners of the park he and his classmates haven't explored.

Still, it took his saying "Water!" more emphatically a second time--while pointing at the lagoon with one hand and pulling on my sleeve with the other--for me to pay attention to his observation. It was true. The water level in the pond had risen several inches in the past two weeks and was nearly spilling out of its banks on the north end of the lagoon.

I walk in Washington Park almost daily but many changes are so incremental I don't even notice them unless I see the park through someone else's eyes. In most schools, Neighborhood Environmental Education Project

Continued on page 4

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: Tory Bahe, Lianna Bishop, Beth Heller, Willie Karidis and Ken Leinbach.

River Reflections is a publication of the **Urban Ecology Center**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Thanks to the generous annual contributions of 215 foundations, corporations and organizations, over 2700 member and many in-kind donors the Center serves over 80,000 people per year.

To make a contribution, please see page 14 for the easy to use form, visit our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org or call the Center at (414) 964-8505.

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

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

Urban Ecology Center

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

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

Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th St.,
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(Mailing address: 4145 W. Lisbon Ave.,
Milwaukee, WI 53208)
(414) 344-5460 Fax: (414) 344-5462
wkaridis@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Friday: 4 - 7 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

DROPLETS

◆ Thank you to **Foley and Lardner** for hosting a day-long training on your 40th floor for the Urban Ecology Center, giving us a birds-eye view of all three branches.

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



The Urban Ecology Center is excited to announce its **5th Annual Summer Solstice Soiree and Auction** scheduled for **June 23rd, 2012.**

Plan to join us for a special evening of food, music and fun. This event will raise funds to support the Center's mission.

Please watch our website or call for more information.

WISH LIST

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

- 2 Garmin GPS units (Geocache grade)
- Field & lannon stone
- Gas BBQ Grill
- Hand tools, power tools, automotive tools
- Ice cream buckets with lids
- iPad(s)
- Kids gardening gloves
- Leaf rakes
- Miter Saw 10" or 12" (Compound and Sliding)
- Mittens and gloves
- Old belts
- Potting soil & quality topsoil
- Rain ponchos/jackets- all sizes
- Seasoned firewood
- String trimmer, chainsaw
- Video camera
- Weed whackers and scythes
- Wire garden fencing/ wire mesh

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

- Aprons
- Banjo and/or mandolin
- Bike repair equipment & stand
- Bike trailer
- Bow saws
- Brooms
- Chest waders (w/suspenders)
- Digital camera
- Electric hot plate
- Glass measuring cups
- Grow-light stands
- Hand drums
- Headlamps
- Igloo Playmate-style cooler
- Kids' work gloves
- Large capacity dehumidifier
- Large glass jars with lids
- Large griddle, electric or gas
- Large plastic beads, all colors
- Mixing bowls & spoons
- Pillowcases
- Pitchforks
- Plastic cutting boards
- Plastic totes with lids
- Potato peelers, mashers
- Soil/compost thermometers
- Soup bowls, microwaveable

CREATING MEMORIES, ONE DAY AT A TIME

by Willie Karidis , Washington Park Branch Manager

Walking with kids past the bandshell in Washington Park and imagining its rich history always gives me pause. I can see thousands of people spread out over the vast lawn, listening to concerts, watching a theatrical play or getting lost in an opera. Our Young Scientist Club kids and the students of our NEEP (Neighborhood Environmental Education Project) program love to stand in the bandshell and perform, listening to their voices echo off the rounded walls.

The Emil Blatz Temple of Music opened in 1938 thanks to a generous gift of \$100,000 by, you guessed it, Emil Blatz. Today most people who live in the area simply call it the bandshell.

According to friends of Blatz he would often say, “there is too much sadness in the world without listening to it again in music.” Blatz wanted to create happiness around the bandshell, “nothing grand, just mama and papa and the kids sitting and listening.” In the early days the amphitheater would be filled to capacity for Music Under the Stars and in 1942 Blatz donated a huge American flag for which the County Park Commission erected a pole near the bandshell to display.

On Earth Day, April 21st, our Young Scientist Club and other neighborhood kids from the community will perform on the bandshell stage as part of our

partnership with Present Music. Music in Nature is the theme of our program where the kids create a nature based original song. Emil Blatz would be proud to know that his intention of creating happiness and inspiring creativity around the bandshell continues.

We never know how the actions we take today will affect the future. However, I know that the Urban Ecology Center is doing an amazing job of connecting both the natural wonders and the history of Washington Park. Each day I am inspired by the wonderful work of our staff who create a world where kids are excited to learn and are building their own memories to cherish for all time. 🌿

A LEGACY AT WORK

by Lianna Bishop, Development and Marketing Associate

What does my class of 10 graduate fellows at Marquette University have in common with the Urban Ecology Center? The answer lies in one of Milwaukee’s beloved philanthropists and founder of Trek Bicycle Corporation, Dick Burke (1934-2008).

Dick had a clear vision of how to make a difference. Through his Trinity Foundation, he focused on urban education, youth, and leadership development. He built relationships with community members and was deeply invested in making a lasting impact. He was the visionary behind the Trinity Fellows Program at Marquette University, a unique graduate fellowship dedicated to developing urban leaders with a commitment to social and economic justice.

I began my role as a Trinity Fellow at the Urban Ecology Center this past September. Fellows participate in a 21 month study/work program - taking coursework to earn a Master’s degree,

while also working at a local nonprofit agency. Coming from near and far, with academic backgrounds ranging from history to engineering, a commonality for all Fellows is prior full-time service experience with organizations such as PeaceCorps or AmeriCorps.

Each fellow feels the profoundness of Dick’s generosity in different ways, but I feel personally affected by these impacts in both my professional and academic pursuits: they are both products of Dick’s philanthropy. Thanks to his original multi-year grant for our Urban Ecology Center Riverside Park building, his family’s continued support for Washington Park and the Menomonee Valley, and his vision to create the Trinity Fellows program at Marquette University, I am an everyday witness to Dick’s legacy.

The Urban Ecology Center was matched with their first fellow, Jeff McAvoy, in 2009. Now our Marketing Communications Manager, Jeff has

enabled the Center to take giant steps in social media, graphic design and marketing communications. Even more recently, Trinity Fellow Aaron Zeleske began in the role of Arboretum Project Coordinator this past January.

In pursuing a master’s degree in Science, Health and Environmental Communications, it was only fitting that my first project at the Urban Ecology Center be the creation of the Center’s 2010-2011 Annual Report, an illumination of our accomplishments and activities of this past year. As an organization focused on building community, the report highlights our collective impacts with a myriad of programs and initiatives. We are happy to share this report with you – it can soon be accessed on our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org as a video and e-publication.

With my fortuitous Trinity Fellowship placement at the Urban Ecology Center, Dick Burke’s incredible generosity continues to make a difference. 🌿

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION!

continued from page 1

season, he began recording data and experiencing amazing, hands-on releasing of birds. Soon he was setting up and monitoring the nets, in charge of radio transmissions to scientists who rushed over to untangle the birds. He learned to take measurements and how to gently handle these delicate creatures.

Eventually Ethan became old enough to apply for a position with the Center's High School Outdoor Leadership Program. Through this intensive summer training, Ethan added mentoring children, deepening his outdoors skills, land stewardship and ecology skills to his repertoire. At the same time, he continued to build his field research skills.

A couple of months before his year-long internship was to come to an end, he and one of his peers were invited to join a team travelling to Arizona to explore Systems Thinking with world renowned thinker and author, Peter Senge. On this trip, Ethan studied modeling software that allowed him to build models of ecological systems, like population dynamics or disease

transmission, and then run real data to predict what will happen to the species represented in the model. He was able to secure an advanced Outdoor Leader internship at the Center where he applies modeling skills to the populations we study through our research program. Through that process, Ethan became the Center's expert in Stella, our new modeling software. When asked to teach the educators, Ethan stepped right up to the plate. Not only did he teach a session for the educators, but he is developing lesson plans for the educators to incorporate into the school partnership course offerings! Wow. That's leadership in action. But it doesn't end there.

I interviewed Ethan on January 23rd, and asked him to give all of our readers some advice. I asked this young ecologist what he would recommend to all of us in demonstrating our own outdoor leadership.

"Well," he said, "I'm biking today, and I like that I could bike with my dad to the Center as he headed to work. It's great to be with other bikers and walkers, even carpoolers. That's a good way to show ecologically sound

behavior." Did I mention it was the 3rd week of *January* when he was biking?

Even more important to this very humble and smart teen, is mentorship. Tim and Jenn from the research staff are Ethan's mentors, and Ethan in turn mentors some of the newer research volunteers. His parents are mentors, too. His love of camping, fishing, swimming, kayaking and relaxing on trips up north over the summer started with his family, who continue to encourage his outdoor explorations.

Want to follow in Ethan's footsteps? Be a mentor. Unsure where to start? Try volunteering with the Center, where you will have the opportunity to meet experts, learn from them and eventually pass your newfound talents on to the next generation, or, like Ethan, the previous one. That is outdoor leadership in action!

Teens: outdoor leadership applications are being accepted through the end of March! Visit www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org for more information. 🍂

OTHER PEOPLE'S EYES

continued from page 1

students come on field trips three or so times a year; their 24 trips per year are divided between many classes. The park looks completely different to them on every trip because it's a new season. But St. Coletta Day School is special. It has a total attendance of no more than 12 students and generally everyone comes on each of their Urban Ecology field trips. They were one of the schools in our branch's pilot year so kids who have been going to this school for awhile have experienced Washington Park multiple times in multiple seasons—

they have a unique opportunity to see the park as not many students do.

Their perspective is also different from many of ours for another reason: St. Coletta is a school which serves kids with special needs. Students there have a wide range of abilities, and each brings a different perspective to each trip. Some things I'm aware of, but most of the time I learn as I go. For example, Kit wears glasses and is known to run into things when he's distracted, but I never focused much on his vision until

the first time I handed him a pair of binoculars. Kit is a ball of energy to begin with; he often flies out the door of the school to give me a hug. But with binoculars in front of his eyes, I watched a whole new world come into focus for him and his excitement was palpable—"Miss Tory! Tree! Bird! **Look!**"

And truthfully, the moments I spend with my students open up a new way to look at the world for me, too. 🍂

A HOOT IN THE NIGHT -- FUN FOR FAMILIES, A HUGE HELP FOR KIDS

Over 60 families spent a fun, not very wintery evening at the A Hoot in the Night, the Center's annual summer camp fundraiser! Because of your generosity, 100 kids from low-income families will have the opportunity to attend summer camp at the Urban Ecology Center.

We'd like to thank our A Hoot in the Night co-chairs, Deb Andraca, Cheryl Olds Moret and Suzanne Singh. We'd also like to thank our Host Families: Deb and Marc Andraca, Elsie and Eric Crawford, Rachel and Sam Dickman, Cheryl and Blake Moret, Shannon

and Todd Muderlak, Suzanne and Anoop Singh and Lindsay and Teig Whaley-Smith. Special thanks to our sponsors Alterra Coffee Roasters, The City Market, Godfrey & Kahn, Attorneys at Law, Trocadero Gastrobar and Big Bay Brewing Company. 🍁

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

continued from page 1

You may have seen the "Thinking Outside the Box with Little Libraries" article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on January 22nd by Meg Jones. However what that article didn't highlight was the story of Tom Bugbee and his vision to connect the Urban Ecology Center with Little Free Library.

So what inspired Tom to install a library at our Center? "It just seemed like the perfect fit" is how he put it. Tom's desire was to provide more attention to both the Little Free Library and the Urban Ecology Center because of our common goals regarding the common good.

As the world passes 7 billion in population, Tom believes our focus should remain on environmental education, our collective stewardship roles and individual responsibility for our actions if we prefer, as a species, not to become extinct. In light of these thoughts and the mission of the Urban Ecology Center and Little Free Library, Tom thought it would be wonderful to bring things together through an introduction and installation.

Tom gave us the library in dedication of his mother, Peggy Yundt Bugbee - a Riverside High School graduate (1937), a local resident and a great lady. Tom also donated the first book, *And To Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street* by Dr. Seuss. Tom's mother and both his siblings were born here in Milwaukee and he grew up on East Newberry Blvd. Looking back Tom



fondly remembers Seuss's Mulberry St. as a reminder of Newberry St.

SO WHAT EXACTLY IS A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY?

A Little Free Library is a way to promote literacy and the love of reading by offering a free book exchange to community members. As you can see from the photo included here, our Little Free Library is meant to look like a one-room school house with a creative stand utilizing pitch fork and rakes designed and built by Chris Binder, Max Balan and Mike Banks from the Urban Ecology Center's Facility team. When the library is closed, not a drop of water gets inside. At the moment, our library is full of books about gardening, nature

and other related topics. When I checked this morning, some of our specific titles included National Geographic's *America's Wonderlands*, *Waters of Wisconsin* and a young adult novel called *Looking for Alaska*, but books have come and gone since we first installed it here at the Center. Get the idea? Take a book, leave a book ... well, actually you're not required to leave a book, but to keep our library vibrant your participation on both ends is greatly appreciated.

With this eloquently easy way to share books, I hope you are as excited as I am about this addition to the Center. Thanks to the introduction and contribution from Tom, we are now honored to offer the Little Free Library here at the Urban Ecology Center in Riverside Park and another will be "opening" soon in Washington Park. Stop by today as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations through the addition of our Little Free Library and all the wonderful titles inside!

Interested in starting your own Little Free Library? We are happy to share our ideas and if you need a little more inspiration visit the Little Free Library website (www.littlefreelibrary.org). Anyone out there interested in being our volunteer head librarian? We'd love to have a volunteer to help manage our little library program. If interested, contact John Suhar at jsuhar@urbanecologycenter.org. 🍁



CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

SPECIAL EVENTS

LEARN ALL ABOUT OUR

GREAT ALASKA ADVENTURE!

This fall, Christine & Willie Karidis will lead an Alaskan adventure to Anchorage, Seward, Talkeetna and Denali National Park. To learn more about this trip, join us for one of these presentations.

Thursdays, **March 8** at Washington Park

7 - 8 p.m. **March 15** at Riverside Park

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

JOHN FRANCIS *planetwalker*

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

Wednesday, March 14

7 - 8:30 p.m.

at Washington Park

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



**Saturday,
March 17**
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
at Riverside Park

For everyone
Free - donations
appreciated

Explore how you can eat more healthy, local, and sustainably produced food! Come and meet local farmers and learn about Community Supported Agriculture and how you can subscribe to a farm and/or buy sustainably produced meat, dairy, cheese, eggs and more directly from the farmers.

Earth Poets

an evening of celebration and concern

Join Earth Poets & Musicians Jahmes Finlayson, Louisa Gallas, Jeff Poniewaz, Suzanne Rosenblatt, Harvey Taylor, Holly Wake, plus special guests musician/dancer/poets Dena Aronson and Michelle Hatfield, for an evening of celebration and concern.

Saturday, April 14

7 p.m.

Family hour/open mic
(children very welcome)

8 p.m.

Concert

at Riverside Park

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

EARTH DAY
ACTIVITIES & EVENTS
SATURDAY, APRIL 21

9:00 a.m.

Weedout

at Riverside Park

Bring your gardening gloves and work with others to improve biodiversity and eradicate invasive species from our parks.

River Clean Up By Canoe

meet at Rowing Club Boathouse, 1990 N. Commerce St.

Take part in Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers annual Spring River Clean Up. We will use canoes to get to sections of the river that are hard to clean up from the shore. It is a fun way to serve the community and the river.

9:30 a.m.

River to Lake Hike

starts at Riverside Park

10:00 a.m.

Weedout

at Washington Park

Bring your gardening gloves and work with others to improve biodiversity and eradicate invasive species from our parks.

10:30 a.m.

Earth Day Festival for
Afternoon Nappers

at Riverside Park

Celebrate Earth Day with your younger crew: hike, craft, stories, fun! Space is limited, please register, call 964-8505. For kids 5 and younger accompanied by an adult.

**Noon to
4 p.m.**

EARTH DAY FESTIVALS

at Riverside Park

Highlights:

2:30-3 p.m. -- Plant a Chestnut tree with Victory Garden Initiative and take one home
3 p.m. -- Korean Drum Group with Garam Milwaukee

Also, learn about bees and our BeePod, hike, rock climb, make crafts and lots of other fun! Purchase lunch from the Vegan Food Truck or The Gouda Girls (formerly the Chubby Cheese Truck)

at Washington Park

Celebrate nature in our neighborhood with a fun afternoon of hiking, canoeing, music, food, and fun for the whole family!

FAMILY
PROGRAMS

PARTY IN THE PARKS!*

Enjoy your day off from school with a guided tour of some of Milwaukee County's most fun parks! We'll spend the afternoon hiking, playing games, and making new friends. Join our Young Scientists Club to participate!

Friday, March 9
2 - 6 p.m.

For kids ages 7-12

Free - Young Scientist Club membership required (\$10 annual membership)
Call to register, 964-8505



BASIC ANIMAL CARE

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

REPTILES AND
AMPHIBIANS*

Saturday, March 10
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

FISH*

Saturday, April 28
11 am - 12:30 p.m.



For adults &
accompanied children
Adults: \$5

(Nonmembers - \$10)

Children: \$3

(Nonmembers - \$7)

Call to register, 964-8505

MUSIC OF NATURE

Team up with the creative geniuses at Present Music and our Young Scientists Club to explore Washington Park's wild sounds in our urban environment. Then translate those sounds and themes into an original piece of music. Led by sound-inventor Mrs. Fun, your work will receive a world premiere at our Earth Day Festival, April 21st.

Tuesdays and Thursdays,
March 15, 20, 22, 27, 29,
April 3, 5,
17 & 19

4 - 5:30 p.m.

For kids ages 7-12

Free, donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505





= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

RIVER REFLECTIONS



FAMILY PROGRAMS CONTINUED

MAPLE SUGARING IN THE PARKS*

Participate in the classic Wisconsin winter activity of collecting maple sap and boiling it down into syrup. We will take a stroll through Riverside or Washington Park as we learn about this age old tradition. Samples of the finished product are also included! Dress to be outside. Come for one or more sessions!

Sundays, March 4 & 18
1 - 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 24
1 - 2:30 p.m.



Tuesday, March 20
4:30 - 6 p.m.

Saturdays, March 3, 10,
17 & 24

11 am - 12:30 p.m.



Tuesdays, March 6 & 20
4 - 5:30 p.m.

For everyone

Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers - \$9)

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

Maximum \$16 per family

Call to register, 964-8505

FAMILY MAPLE SUGARING HIKE*

Maple syrup is YUMMY! There's no doubt about that. But it's also scientifically interesting. Join us as we learn about the unique history of this sweet treat and a little bit about the cool biology at work.

Saturday, March 10
10 - 11:30 a.m.



For families with kids
ages 5 or older

\$4 or \$12 for families of 4 or more

(Nonmembers - \$7 or \$24 for families of 4 or more)

Call to register, 964-8505

PANCAKE BREAKFAST*

Come join us for a pancake breakfast to celebrate the coming of spring. Pancakes will be served with 100% maple syrup made from trees in Riverside and Washington Parks. Fruit, coffee and juice will also be provided.

Saturday, March 24
10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.



While you enjoy your pancake at Riverside you'll be treated to *Maple Sugaring in Milwaukee*, a short film made by At Films right here in Riverside Park.

Saturday, March 31
10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.



For everyone

Adults: \$7 (Nonmembers - \$9)

Children: \$5 (Nonmembers - \$6)

Call to register, 964-8505

FAMILY SPRING HIKE

Springtime is fascinating. Animals are waking up or returning from their migration. Plants are beginning to grow again. Come along and learn about some of the seasonal changes going on in Riverside Park. Fun for kids AND adults.

Saturday, April 14
10 - 11:30 a.m.



For families with kids

ages 5 or older

\$4 or \$12 for families of 4 or

more (Nonmembers - \$7 or

\$24 for families of 4 or more)

Call to register, 964-8505

YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB*

From hiking to gardening to helping with research, every day in the Young Scientists Club is a new adventure.

At Riverside Park
Every Monday through
Wednesday

4 - 5:30 p.m.



For kids 5 and up

\$10 annual fee

(Plus suggested daily
donation - \$5)

Space is limited to 12

participants, please call

ahead to register, 964-8505

At Washington Park

Every Tuesday
through Friday

4 - 6 p.m.



and Every Saturday

1 - 4 p.m.

For kids ages 7-12 years old

\$10 annual membership

Call to register, 964-8505



FOOD FRIDAYS!

Every Friday, we learn to cook food with tasty ingredients grown and harvested from Washington Park.

Every Friday
except March 9
4 p.m.

For accompanied

kids ages 7-12

Young Scientist Club
membership required (\$10

annual membership)

Call to register, 964-8505



ANIMAL FEEDING*

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

Every Saturday
1 p.m.

For everyone

Free -

donations

appreciated



SCIENCE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS*

Discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities. Theme for March and April: Reptiles

Drop-in program

Every Saturday

9:30 - 4:30 p.m. and

Every Sunday

12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

For adults and

accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated



HOMESCHOOL SERIES

HOMESCHOOL SERIES: MAPLE SUGARING*

Plants have fantastic mechanisms for storing energy. After a long winter of dormancy, they're waking up in March to get ready for spring growth. This means great things for Maple Syrup lovers! Come and learn the history and process for making this sweet treat.

Tuesday, March 13
2 - 3:30 p.m.



For kids ages 5

and older

\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)

Call to register, 964-8505

HOMESCHOOL SERIES: SEED STORIES*

Who loves to eat? We all do! But where does our food actually come from? Join us as we explore the journey our food takes from seed to plate, and help us prepare our Washington Park learning gardens for a huge, delicious harvest!

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

For kids ages 5

and older

\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)

Call to register, 964-8505



The Center offers public programs at both Riverside & Washington Parks. Use these icons 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.



ADULT LEARNING

GET GROWING WITH OUR SPRING GARDENING PROGRAMS

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING SERIES**VEGETABLE GARDEN PLANNING***

Learn where and when to plant which veggies for optimal production of annual crops. Presented by the Victory Garden Initiative.

Saturday, March 3

9 - 10:30 a.m.

For everyone

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)

Call to register, 964-8505

**PERMACULTURE GUILD BASICS***

Learn about this fascinating unit of edible Food Forests in which each food bearing tree is surrounded by its own bio-diverse ecosystem for optimal production and biodiversity. Presented by the Victory Garden Initiative.

Saturday, April 14

9 - 10:30 a.m.

For everyone

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)

Call to register, 964-8505

**DESIGN A SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY GARDEN***

Thinking about designing a school or community garden in your neighborhood? Join landscape architect and permaculturist Gus Reed along with Gretchen Mead to learn the basic elements of creating great gardening spaces.

Saturday, March 10

9 - 10:30 a.m.

For everyone

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)

Call to register, 964-8505

**COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKSHOP***

Want to learn how to find land and resources for a community garden? Or if you're already running a garden, how to address issues that came up last year? Join the Center, Milwaukee Urban Gardens, Milwaukee Department of City Development, Milwaukee Water Works and Victory Garden Initiative to learn all the ins and outs, rules and regs, of starting a community garden in your neighborhood. This workshop immediately follows VGI's garden design class.

Saturday, March 10

10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

For everyone

\$5 (Nonmembers - \$10)

Call to register, 964-8505

**A GREAT DAY FOR GRAFTING!***

Join the Center, Victory Garden Initiative, Transition Milwaukee and John Holzgart of Moonwise Herbs for a day of Fruit Tree Grafting. Learn how to graft trees and meet other fruit growers to exchange various species of fruit tree cuttings to graft on to your own trees. Let's transform Milwaukee into an edible food forest! Bring a lunch and stay all day. Each participant will get a grafted tree to take home.

9 - 10:30 a.m. -- **Fruit Tree Grafting** with John Holzgart

10:30 a.m. - noon -- **Scion Exchange**: Exchange species of fruit tree cuttings.

Noon - 3 p.m. -- **Guerrilla Grafting!** With help from the experts, take your scion out into the world and turn crabapple trees into edibles.

Saturday, March 24

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For adults

\$15 (Nonmembers - \$20)

Call to register, 964-8505

**INTRO TO FOOD PRESERVATION FOR GARDEN PLANNERS***

Get an early start to learning about different preservation methods and how they may help you determine your garden design and maximize growing space. Master Food Preserver Annie Wegner LeFort will lead this class.

Tuesday, March 27

7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$15)

Call to register, 964-8505

**FRUIT AND NUT TREE SELECTION AND PRUNING***

What does a healthy tree look like? How can you prune it for optimal health and production? Victory Garden Initiative's Michaela Molter and Gretchen Mead will get your edible trees off to the right start.

Saturday, April 21

9 - 10:30 a.m.

For everyone

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)

Call to register, 964-8505



THE BUZZ ABOUT TOWN -- BEE PROGRAMS AT THE CENTER

BEEKEEPING BASICS COURSE: 3-PART SERIES AND TEST*

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

Mondays, March 5, 12 & 19 or Mondays, April 2, 9 & 16

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$85 (Nonmembers - \$100)

Call to register, 964-8505

**BEESENTATIONS - ALL ABOUT THE BEES!***

Bees and Beekeeping Revealed! Bees play an important role in our food systems. This is an introduction to bees and beekeeping. Learn the difference between wasps and bees. Discover who's inside the hive and how Man has managed bees for pollination and honey. Whether you want to start a dance with bees through beekeeping, or just learn of the dance they do to find nectar, this course gets you buzzing.

Tuesdays, March 6, 20, April 3 & 17

7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$15)

Call to register, 964-8505



URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

MARCH 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Reptiles (rp) Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park (rp)	4p Young Scientists (rp) Beekeeping Basics (rp) Teen Night Hike (rp)	9a Burdock Brigade (rp) Maple Sugaring in Washington Park (wp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 6:30p Victory Garden Initiative (rp) 7p Beesentations (rp)	8a Birdwalk (wp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)	8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Music of Nature (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Great Alaska Adventure 7p (rp) 7p Urban Stargazers (rp) 7p Urban Echo Poets (rp)	2p Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays! (wp) 4p Volunteer Orientation (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp)	9a Veg. Garden Planning (rp) 9:30a Burdock Brigade (rp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Reptiles (rp) 10:30a Volunteer Orientation (rp) 11a Maple Sugaring in Washington Park (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Reptiles (rp)	4p Young Scientists (rp) Beekeeping Basics (rp) 7:30p New Urban Friends (rp)	9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 2p Homeschool Series: Maple Sugaring (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 6:30p Community Living Options Group (rp) 7p The Importance of Saving Natural Areas (rp)	8a Birdwalk (wp) 9a Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 6p Friends of Real Food (rp) John Francis: Planetwalker 7p (wp)	8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Music of Nature (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) 6:30p Veg. Pofluc (rp) Great Alaska Adventure 7p (wp)	2p Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays! (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp)	Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Reptiles (rp) 9:30a Burdock Brigade (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) Local Farmer Open House 11a-4p (rp) 11a Maple Sugaring in Washington Park (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Reptiles (rp) Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park (rp)	4p Young Scientists (rp) Beekeeping Basics (rp) 6:30p Riverside Park (rp) Transition Milwaukee (rp)	9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4p Maple Sugaring in Washington Park (wp) 4p Music of Nature (wp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 4:30p Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park (rp) 7p Beesentations (rp)	8a Birdwalk (wp) 9a Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 6p Twilight Bird Hike (wp)	8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Music of Nature (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp)	2p Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays! (wp) 3p Volunteer Orientation (rp) 4p Food Fridays! (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp)	9a Grafting! (wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Reptiles (rp) 9:30a Park Rangers (rp) 10a Book Club (rp) Drop in 10:30a-1p Riverside Park Pancake Breakfast (rp) 11a Maple Sugaring in Washington Park (wp) 1p Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park (rp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)
Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Reptiles (rp)	4p Young Scientists (rp) Maple Sugaring in Riverside Park (rp) 6:30p Transition Milwaukee (rp)	9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 4p Music of Nature (wp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 7p Intro to Preservation for Garden Planners (rp)	8a Birdwalk (wp) 9a Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 6p Twilight Bird Hike (wp)	8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Music of Nature (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) 5:30p Ornithology (rp)	2p Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays! (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp)	Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Reptiles (rp) 9:30a Park Rangers (rp) Drop in 10:30a-1p Washington Park Pancake Breakfast (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

APRIL 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Reptiles (rp)</p> <p>2p Art Opening: <i>Dreams and Watersheds and Wetlands</i> (artists presentation at 3p) (rp)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp) Beekeeping Basics (rp)</p> <p>6:30p</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Music of Nature (wp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp) Beeesentations (rp)</p> <p>7p</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8a Birdwalk (wp) Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>4p</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8a Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Music of Nature (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Photo Club (rp)</p> <p>10:30a 4p 4p 4p 6:30p</p>	<p>6</p> <p>2p Forestry Fridays (rp) Forestry Fridays (wp) Food Fridays! (wp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>4p 4p 4p 4p</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Reptiles (rp) Burdock Brigade (rp)</p> <p>9:30a 10:30a 1p 1p</p> <p>Volunteer Orientation (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Reptiles (rp)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp) Beekeeping Basics (rp)</p> <p>6:30p</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) Community Living Options Group (rp) When You Fall in Love with Birds (rp)</p> <p>2p 4p 5:30p 6:30p 7p</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8a Birdwalk (wp) Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Friends of Real Food (rp) Frog & Toad Survey (wp)</p> <p>9a 4p 6p 7:30p</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8a Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp)</p> <p>10:30a 4p 4p</p>	<p>13</p> <p>2p Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays! (wp) Forestry Fridays (wp) Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>4p 4p 4p</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30a 9a</p> <p>Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Reptiles (rp) Family Spring Hike (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p> <p>10a 1p 1p</p> <p>Park Rangers (rp) Permaculture Guild Basics (rp) Science Saturdays — Reptiles (rp)</p> <p>Earth Poets 7p (rp)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Reptiles (rp)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp) Cooking Circle: Veggie Burgers (rp) Beekeeping Basics (rp)</p> <p>6p 6:30p</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) Homeschool Series: Seed Stories (wp) Compost Crew (rp) Music of Nature (wp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Beeesentations (rp)</p> <p>2p 2p 4p 4p 7p</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8a Birdwalk (wp) Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>2p 4p</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8a Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Music of Nature (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Vegetarian Polluck (rp)</p> <p>10:30a 4p 4p 6:30p</p>	<p>20</p> <p>2p Forestry Fridays (rp) Food Fridays! (wp) Forestry Fridays (wp) Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>4p 4p 4p</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Weedout 9a (rp) 10a (wp) River Clean Up By Canoe 9a (bh) River to Lake hike 9:30a (rp) Earth Day Festival for Afternoon Nappers 10:30a (rp) Earth Day Festivals Noon-4p (rp & wp)</p> <p>9a 9:30a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Reptiles (rp) Young Scientists (wp) 1p 1p</p> <p>Fruit and Nut Tree Selection and Pruning (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Science Saturdays — Reptiles (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Reptiles (rp)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp) Transition Milwaukee (rp)</p> <p>6:30p</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp) Ornithology (rp)</p> <p>2p 4p 5:30p</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8a Birdwalk (wp) Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) Young Scientists (rp & wp)</p> <p>9a 2p 4p</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8a Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Young Scientists (wp) Burdock Brigade (wp) Spring Herbal Series (rp)</p> <p>10:30a 4p 4p 6p</p>	<p>27</p> <p>2p Forestry Fridays (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) Food Fridays! (wp) Young Scientists (wp)</p> <p>3p 4p 4p</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Reptiles (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Basic Animal Care: Fish (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p> <p>10a 11a 1p 1p</p> <p>Park Rangers (rp) Science Saturdays — Reptiles (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Basic Animal Care: Fish (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp & wp)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays — Reptiles (rp)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4p Young Scientists (rp)</p>					



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park



ADULT LEARNING CONTINUED

THE IMPORTANCE OF SAVING NATURAL AREAS*

Speaker: Bernice B. Popelka, author of *Saving Peacock Prairie*. Popelka recounts her journey in saving the last remaining black-soil, tall-grass virgin prairie in the Chicago area. She discusses the four values she places on natural areas as they relate to people and the unique features of Peacock Prairie.

Tuesday, March 13
7 - 8:30 p.m.



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

BOOK CLUB*

March: *Collapse* by Jared Diamond.
No book club in April.

Saturday, March 24
10 - 11 a.m.



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

TWILIGHT BIRD HIKE

Over 40 species have been recorded in Washington Park in March, including Woodcocks, Bluebirds, Phobes, Sapsuckers, Kingfishers, Coots and Grebes. We'll try to add to this list and enter our sightings on e-bird. Binoculars are provided.

Wednesday,
March 28
6 p.m.



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

ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOP*

Join us for a slideshow delving into the wonders of the bird world, followed by a bird walk.

Thursday, March 29 &
Tuesday, April 24
5:30 - 7 p.m.



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

WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH BIRDS*

Speaker: Steve Betchkal, author of *Make Birds Not War* and *All of This and Robins Too*. It doesn't matter when or how, all that matters is the falling in love. Artist, scientist and philosopher Steve Betchkal loves birds and he's not afraid to say it! Book signing will follow the lecture.

Tuesday, April 10
7 - 8:30 p.m.



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

DNR FROG & TOAD SURVEY

Come out for a late night of froggin' by ear and help add to the Wisconsin DNR's statewide database of frogs and toads. Dress for the weather and wear footwear that can get muddy. Call Tim Vargo x116 for details.

Wednesday, April 11
7:30 - 11:30 p.m.



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

COOKING CIRCLE: VEGGIE BURGERS FROM SCRATCH*

Even dedicated meat eaters will enjoy this class! Break out of the frozen burger box to create your own nutritionally pumped burgers using veggies, legumes and even nuts. Annie will share ideas and techniques for flavor pairing, preparation and cooking as well as incorporating leftover ingredients to handcraft your own patties. We'll add all the fixins and enjoy these burgers in anticipation of warm weather picnicking. Space is limited.

Monday, April 16
6 - 8:30 p.m.



For adults
\$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)
Call to register, 964-8505

SPRING HERBAL SERIES*

As the plants enliven and poke their heads through the soil we can meet and greet them. Join herbalist and wild forager Linda Conroy for this four week series and learn the lore and history of herbs that promote health and provide relief from everyday cuts and scrapes. We will go on walks to identify the plants of the season, make herbal preparations for topical use and create thirst quenching, nourishing herbal beverages You will take home some of our creations as well as recipes for future use.

Thursdays, April 26, May 3, 10 & 17
6 - 9 p.m.



For adults & accompanied children
Adults: \$70 (Nonmembers - \$80)
Children: \$65 (Nonmembers - \$70 plus)
In addition to the fees, there is a \$10 material fee payable to instructor the day of the class Call to register, 964-8505

ART AT THE CENTER

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

Monotypes (unique prints) from Nancy Aten and Dan Collins, who use art to communicate vision and challenges for landscape restoration projects on which we work. James Clifford captures beauty from what he sees in the surrounding landscape and produces images to share the beauty with others as he attempts to re-create the natural beauty that is all around us.

Hurry! Show ends late March
For everyone



Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

ART OPENING: LANDSCAPE DREAMS AND WATERSHEDS AND WETLANDS -- JOAN FAGAN & JESSE GRAVES

Sunday, April 1
2 - 4 p.m. Artists will do a brief talk at 3 p.m.
Artwork will be up through the end of June
For everyone



Free - donations appreciated, call to register, 964-8505

Joan Fagan's paintings are pastel landscapes that exist somewhere between the natural world and the artist's imagination. In *Mud Stencils: Messages for Sustainable Living* Jesse Graves applies his environmental street art technique of mud stenciling to the gallery space. Graves' latest work explores sustainable living through a combination of paint, mud and clay on panel. Stop by to view the artwork and enjoy refreshments.

TEEN PROGRAMS

TEEN NIGHT HIKE

As the sun goes down, Riverside Park comes alive in a whole new way. Join us for a night hike and campfire where you'll learn all about nocturnal happenings and enjoy some camp-out snacks. This is the perfect opportunity for students considering the High School Outdoor Leadership Program to see what the Urban Ecology Center is all about.

Monday, March 5
7 - 8:30 p.m.

For teens
Free - donations appreciated, call to register, 964-8505

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER TOURS

RIVERSIDE PARK BUILDING TOUR*

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

Wednesdays, March 14, 28, April 11 & 25
9 - 10:15 a.m.



For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated, call to register, 964-8505



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!



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS*

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

Saturday, March 3 & April 7

10:30 a.m. - noon

Fridays, March 23 & April 27

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 10

5:30 - 7 p.m.



Fridays, March 2 & April 6

4 - 5 p.m.

Saturdays,

March 17 & April 28

10 - 11 a.m.



For adults & youth

Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

WEEDOUT

Bring your gardening gloves and work with others to improve biodiversity and eradicate invasive species from our parks.

Saturday, April 21

9 - noon



Saturday, April 21

10 a.m. - noon

For adults and accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



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.

Wednesdays, April 18 & April 25

2 - 4 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505

COMPOST CREW

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

Every Tuesday starting in April

2 - 4 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children

Free - donations appreciated



BURDOCK BRIGADE

Get your hands dirty! Help us restore our parks by removing exotic invasive plants and propagating and planting native species.

WASHINGTON PARK SENIOR CENTER

Every Thursday

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

WASHINGTON PARK

Every Thursday

4 - 5 p.m.



RIVERSIDE PARK

Every Tuesday

9 - 11 a.m.

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month

New Time! 9:30 - 11 a.m.



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

FORESTRY FRIDAYS

Who doesn't love trees? Help us improve the health of our forests in Riverside Park, the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum and Washington Park.

Fridays, April 6, 13 & 20

4 - 5 p.m.



Every Friday 2 - 4 p.m.

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



PARK RANGER CREW

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

2nd, 4th & 5th Saturday of the month

New time!

9:30 - 11 a.m.

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



INTEREST GROUPS

UEC PHOTO CLUB*

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

Thursdays, March 1

& April 5

6:30 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE EAT AND MEET*

Tuesdays, March 6

& April 3

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505

March: Victory Garden Initiative Community Seed Ordering.

After our yummy potluck, we will choose the best of the best seeds, and work with our friends at Weber's Greenhouse to bring all those seeds to life. Come back in May to pick up the plants.

April: **Edible Arbor Day.** Join us as we celebrate this newest holiday! We will put a Victory Garden twist on the old tradition of planting trees for Arbor Day.



URBAN ECHO POETS*

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

Thursday, March 8

& April 12

7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



URBAN STARGAZERS*

Join us for fun, information and stargazing.

Special program in March: Join Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science, as he explores the workings of a telescope.

Thursday, March 8

& April 12

7 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



NEW URBAN FRIENDS*

Madison and Milwaukee share some challenges: aging housing that needs reinvestment, conversion of single-family homes into rentals, families fleeing to suburbs, lack of affordable housing for workers employed in surrounding areas. But challenges are opportunities! Former Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz shares New Urbanism in Old Neighborhoods: Revitalizing Urban Living.

Monday, March 12

7:30 - 9 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



COMMUNITY LIVING OPTIONS GROUP-MILWAUKEE (COLOG MILW)*

We meet monthly to learn the skills of building Intentional Living Communities and to support each other in individual projects of community creation.

Book share discussion:

Creating a Life Together by Diana Leafa Christian, a respected guide for "launching and sustaining successful ecovillages and intentional communities."

For guidance in obtaining a copy of the book contact jacobslm@sbcglobal.net.

March: **Movie Night.** Enjoy popcorn and refreshments as we watch a movie together and learn about community living elsewhere.

April: Community building.

Enjoy a group activity that will be fun and which will build community. Our goal for 2012 is to experience ways in which groups come together for deeper understanding of themselves as individuals and in relation to others.

Tuesdays, March 13

& April 10

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. --

Book Share

7:30 - 8:45 p.m.

-- Presentation

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505




INTEREST GROUPS CONTINUED

FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD*

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


March: Kenosha Potato Project. Speaker: Curzio Caravati. Kenosha Potato Project is a network of local gardeners who grow heritage potato varieties to preserve genetic diversity; similar to the Seed Savers Exchange but with potatoes and not seeds! Come and learn more about this fascinating project, what they are doing in SE WI, their focus for 2012, and how you can get involved.

April: Organic Therapy at the Center for Veterans Issues. Peer-to-peer Mentor Howard Hinterthuer shares how he helped to start an organic gardening project in Milwaukee that has many therapeutic and health benefits for the involved veterans. He will tell us why the project works and why it is growing--pun intended.

Wednesdays,
March 14 & April 11
6 - 8 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505


VEGETARIAN POTLUCK*

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

Thursdays, March 15
& April 19
6:30 - 8 p.m. 
For adults & accompanied children
Free - donations appreciated
Call to register, 964-8505



TRANSITION MILWAUKEE: ALL CITY HUB MEETING*

Transition Milwaukee is part of an international movement to address the challenges of climate change and peak oil proactively by relocalizing. We are working to rebuild local resilience and self-reliance through creating and promoting community projects to grow our own food, generate our own power, develop our own economies and reskill. Whether you are new to or familiar with the Transition Initiative, we invite you to come to our monthly Hub meetings. 6:45-7 networking, followed by the meeting.

Mondays, March 26
& April 23
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 
For adults
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5)
Childcare available: \$4 (Nonmembers - \$6)
Call to register, 964-8505

EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS

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

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

THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER



Wow! So many people gave to the Urban Ecology Center over the past two months that we needed to expand the space for the list! Thank you for this overwhelming support.

FOUNDATIONS / CORPORATIONS / ORGANIZATIONS

- Anonymous (2)
- Astor Street Foundation, Inc.
- Bader Rutter
- C&N Family Foundation, Inc
- Community Development Advocates, LLC.
- Cooper Industries
- Diane Martin Video Services, LLC
- Divine Word Lutheran Church
- Dorothy Inbusch Foundation, Inc.
- Downtown Rotary Club of Milwaukee
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