



## An International Impact

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

As we created Urban Ecology Center branches, we were barely thinking outside of the bounds of our neighborhoods. Our goals were all about “acting local” - protecting and enhancing Milwaukee’s natural areas and its surrounding waters. “Thinking global” was attainable, but “acting global” seemed a bit out of reach. The thought of our work having anything to do with places as far flung as Guatemala, Mexico, Israel, the Congo or Tanzania was not even possible to conceive of back in those earlier days. It was also hard to imagine that we would be able to connect with someone internationally known on the environmental scene. But now all of these places, and a surprising number of well-known people, are touched in some way by our work.



Our stewardship of the land here in Milwaukee is impacting places many thousands of miles away! Did you know that an indigo bunting that we have recaptured in our banding nets four times over the past years ... one that uses Riverside Park as its summer nesting grounds, likely spends every winter in Guatemala? Three monarchs we tagged (yes indeed, we put a tiny sticker on their back wings) made it all the way to Michoacán, Mexico where they overwinter in massive colonies.

But it is not just animals we are impacting across borders. If you were to visit La Paz, Mexico you would find El Mangle, an ecology center designed to be similar to our buildings and community engagement model.

Last summer an Israeli delegation visited on an excursion to five different U.S. cities to see if there was a project that inspired them. Their intention was to recreate that project in northern Israel.

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## Community Science

by Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Community Science

I’ve thought it a little strange that one of the most important identifiers we carry – our names – are usually given to us by someone else. Of course we can always choose to go by nicknames, middle names or change names completely.

Thirteen years ago I accepted a position to lead the fairly young Citizen Science Department at the Urban Ecology Center. The Center was one of the first places in the world to have a Citizen Science department because it was a brand new field. Or was it? The reality is that we just gave a new name to a process that had been occurring for millennia – science undertaken wholly or in part by non-professional scientists (think Charles Darwin, Benjamin Franklin, Increase Lapham or any community member studying the world).

A few years after this field was named, we began to hear objections to the term Citizen in Citizen Science, particularly from communities with significant immigrant populations near the southern borders of the United States. Although the term citizen in this context was put forth with an entirely different meaning—as a civilian differentiated from academics or even as a citizen of the Earth—this was a new perspective I wanted to understand.

About 10 years ago we polled our “citizenry”, those involved with Citizen Science at the Center, and other community members not involved with the department. Feedback indicated that it didn’t seem like an important or polarizing issue so we kept the name but continued the discourse.

Over the next decade the conversation continued and opposition to the term grew. I started to feel like I was defending the use of the name even as I recognized this growing discontent. The term felt even more unwelcoming as “illegal immigration” began to dominate headlines and the fear of deportation consumed more people’s lives.

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## Branch Highlights



### RIVERSIDE PARK

We are excited to announce the inaugural Brew City Birding Festival from May 7-13. Look for live raptor shows, field trips, lectures, classes, storytelling, crafts, games, bird banding and more! The festival wraps up with the 7th Annual Green Birding Challenge on Saturday, May 13.



### WASHINGTON PARK

Warmer weather is here and so is equipment lending! Learn how you can become a member and have a great experience too. We have bikes, canoes, kayaks, yard tools, outdoor games, fishing rods, camping equipment and more. Contact us and plan an adventure today!



### MENOMONEE VALLEY

We are set to welcome back the warm weather in the Valley! Join us for our Community Planting day on June 10th to help us get the park ready for summer by planting native plants, while getting to know your neighbors. Or, get your blood pumping by coming on one of our Bike Tours, starting in June!



## Soil Sleuthing

by Chad Thomack, Environmental Educator

It was one of those freakishly warm days in February when the temperatures rose into the low 70s. I was working with a group of excited, but respectful, 2nd graders from Franklin Pierce Elementary. We were focusing on one of the most important of nature's resources, soil. Inside we learned how the FBI (fungus, bacteria, and invertebrates) change sticks, leaves and other organic material into soil. Then we headed outside for some exploring.

We made our way in the warm sun to a multitude of dirt piles we use for adding soil to our park. Each student was given a spade as their scientific instrument. Soon the students were digging in the dirt more enthusiastically than a dog digging for a bone, looking for those FBI.

It did not matter that they were not finding anything right away. Just having this tool in their hands was enough for them. Soon though we made our first find, ancient rocks (gravel) that we decided could be a meteorite! There's nothing like a little imagination to spark the curiosity of young scientists. Suddenly one of the students yelled, "I got a worm! I got a worm!" With mud-coated hands the student proudly showed his find.

All the students flocked to the spot quicker than crows mobbing an owl. They all couldn't wait

to dig in that exact same spot. I explained that there are many worms out there and if we all dug in the same spot someone was going to end up with a face full of dirt. We continued our digging in different spots. Worm after worm, meteorite after meteorite, we kept exploring. Their excitement could not be contained.

The students dug and dug all morning long until we had to give up our spot to the other half of the class that was exploring the park. We could have spent all of our time there, no doubt.

As I listened to the stories of discoveries made, reflected on how all of this excitement came from just from digging in the soil. Just giving students the chance to dig and use a tool was enough for them to puzzle out what can be discovered in nature. How simple, how engaging, and how amazing nature is when you just get out there and play, as well as get a bit dirty!

The teacher could not have been more pleased with his students and all the things they discovered that day. I also learned something; it is not the fancy vocabulary students learn while here or the concepts we think children should know that builds a land ethic. It is the chance to explore without worry and to get their hands a bit dirty while connecting with our planet. 🌱

## Save Trees - Go Paperless

Visit [urbanecologycenter.org/paperless](http://urbanecologycenter.org/paperless) to remove your name from our paper newsletter mailing list. We'll send you notifications to keep you up to date on Urban Ecology Center news, activities and articles via email.

Like the paper version better? Don't worry, we'll keep you on our list.

## DROPLETS

- **Wisconsin Bike Week!** Both our Riverside Park and Menomonee Valley branches will be hosting early morning bike commuter stations from Monday June 5th – Friday June 9th. Stop by on your bike between 7-9 am any day for snacks, coffee, and conversation!
- **Yes, You Can Be a Visionary!** Over the years we've had more visionary friends who want to ensure that the work of our organization can continue well into the future.

We plan and strategize on how we can impact more lives and expand the reach of our programs like the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project, Citizen Science and Land Stewardship that impact lives throughout our community.

But what about 10 years from now? 20 years from now? Our endowment at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation helps us now, with funding for current needs, as well as providing for a strong future. We have opportunities for more visionaries, like you! Please contact Jen Hense, Director of Development at [jhense@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jhense@urbanecologycenter.org) or 414-964-8505 to learn more about planned giving.

## Thank You to Our Contributing Members

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

### 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: Ken Leinbach, Chad Thomack and Tim Vargo.

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

## Our *Menomonee Valley* Branch

Collaborating with Menomonee Valley Partners, our branch is the hub of natural restoration and community.

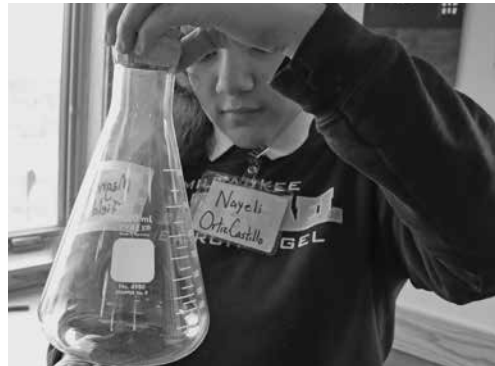
Some highlights include partnering with 19 schools, over 50 afterschool programs and 18 Summer Camps.



**7,857**

student visits so far this school year.\*  
Last year at this time we had 5,262.

\* data for September - March of each year



**75%**  
increase in total  
attendance over last year.

an estimated  
**1,500**

people attended our  
**Urban  
Candlelight Hike**,  
our biggest event  
in Three Bridges  
Park so far!



If you'd like to support projects like these, consider volunteering or making a donation.  
Learn how at [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org)

## Community Science

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We polled our constituents again recently and received an overwhelming response in favor of coming up with a more welcoming name that didn't alienate a segment of the community.

So I am happy to announce that the Citizen Science Department of the Urban Ecology Center is now going to be the Community Science Department. We want to emphasize that everyone in the community is encouraged to collaborate with us to perform research and monitoring, whether it's learning how to survey for wildlife, managing and analyzing data or carrying out original research. We are

also not the first to make this change but are joining other groups, such as Public Lab.

Public Lab, an organization founded by former UEC intern Shannon Dosemagen, focuses on creating deep collaborative networks guided by the questions and goals of all people involved in a project. They define community science as collaboratively-led scientific investigation, exploration and engagement in the entirety of the scientific process.

Old habits die hard and you will likely still hear us using the term Citizen Science. But over the coming year you will see us roll out

the change—from our website and annual reports to the sign over the door to Citizen Science Lab at Riverside Park. Whether you've put in hundreds of hours over the years or you're hearing about our department for the first time, I encourage you to come on a snake survey, work with Young Scientists or participate in the inaugural Brew City Birding Festival. Our collaborative work keeps getting better and better because of the talents and passion of our amazing community of Land Stewards, Volunteers, Community Programs, Visitors Service, schools, summer camps and our advisory groups. 🌱

## An International Impact

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Guess what they ended up picking as their project? As I write, Urban Ecology Center Board Member Eric Crawford, his wife Elsie, Beth Heller and I are preparing for a trip to Tiberias, a small city on the Sea of Galilee. We are going to help local residents explore how to create their own Urban Ecology Center.

Our most recent global connection happened during the publishing process of our new book, *Urban Ecology: A Natural way to Transform Kids, Parks, Cities and the World*. Our publisher asked if in addition to getting quotes of support from local leaders, we would be able to get an endorsement from someone nationally or even internationally known? With our ever expanding network it was possible. We are connected to people who are internationally known in environmental circles. But the question was, did we know anyone who would be recognized by our publisher and people in general? You know, someone like Jane Goodall?

Hey, wait, could we connect to Jane Goodall? Wouldn't that be amazing?

At first, I laughed at the idea. We had no connection to her as far as I knew. That's when we had an inspired idea. Our Forester, Caitlin Reinartz, is the daughter of Gay

Reinartz, Director of the Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative of the Milwaukee County Zoo -- essentially the Jane Goodall of Bonobos right here in Milwaukee!

"Caitlin, do you think your Mom knows Jane Goodall?" I asked.

A few texts later and I was in conversation with Gay. She agreed to help and wrote a lovely letter to Jane. In the wee hours of the morning Jane's assistant, Mary Lewis, let us know that Jane was off line in Tanzania. Her odd hour of correspondence led me to believe that Mary herself was communicating from somewhere exotic perhaps, and sure enough, she was in the Orkney Islands off the Northern coast of Scotland.

Mary kept our letter in mind and miraculously connected us to Jane in the narrow window of time she was around wifi. Now, when the print version of our book comes out this summer you'll see the following quote:

"As one who has dedicated my life to protecting the Chimpanzee, I know from experience that it is only by instilling respect and love for nature in the next generation that we have any chance to preserve thriving ecosystems that support

life on this planet. It is why places like the Urban Ecology Center are so critical for conservation education. As more and more children are growing up in cities, teaching land stewardship and nature conservation to children and their families is critical. I am excited by this book as it puts forth a practical blue print for how to do this well. The book shares the story of a model that has been perfected in three unique urban neighborhoods in Milwaukee, is being modeled in other cities in the United States and is beginning to spread to cities across the globe." -- Jane Goodall PhD, DBE Founder - the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace

It is so very true! All of these international connections make us want to focus on Milwaukee even more. Imagine this: If Milwaukee could become an ecologically literate city, meaning its kids, all kids in every neighborhood were to grow up with the kind of programming that the Urban Ecology Center offers, we as a collective would have a much bigger impact on other cities around the world. And it is this kind of thinking that is required to make sure that all species, like the Chimpanzee and the Bonobo all the way on the other side of the world, have a fighting chance for survival. 🌱



### A week of feathered fun for everyone! Sunday, May 7th - Saturday, May 13th

#### Family-friendly Kickoff: Sunday, May 7

Live Raptor Presentation • Bird Banding Demonstrations • Birding by Canoe • Beginning Ornithology • Bird-themed Crafts • And more!

#### Field Trips and Lectures: Monday, May 7 - Friday, May 12

Milwaukee Public Museum • Birds and Beer! • Native Landscaping for Birds • Nuances of Raptor Identification • And more!

#### Green Birding Challenge!

Saturday, May 13

How many birds can you find? Get a team of birders of all levels and try this no fossil-fuel fundraiser for UEC's Community Science Program!

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

## URBAN ADVENTURES

### Open Climb

Stop by and enjoy climbing our three story rock wall. Equipment is provided and belayers are on hand to assist. Free climbs on the first Sunday of the month!

Sun., May 14, 21, 28, Jun.

11, 18 & 25 | 2 - 4PM

For adults, teens, and families | \$3 per climb or \$15 for unlimited climbs per person (Nonmembers: \$5 per climb or \$20 for unlimited climbs per person)

### Birding By Canoe:

#### Des Plaines River

Look for breeding birds while paddling the Des Plaines River. Bring a lunch. Canoeing experience encouraged.

Sat., Jun. 3 | 8AM - 5PM

For adults | \$45 (Nonmembers: \$50)

### Paddle Sports Porter

Enjoy paddling the river and we'll do the rest. Hauling equipment (boat(s), paddles, PFDs) and return shuttles are included in this service. You can:

- Launch from the Rowing Club Boathouse in the morning and return to the same spot OR
- Launch from the Rowing Club Boathouse in the morning and we will pick you up at the harbor in the afternoon

Nonrefundable registration payment and completion of our Watercraft Lending Orientation required.

Every Fri. & Sat. |

Available 10AM - 5PM

For members only | \$15 per boat

| No downtown pick-up Jun. 30

- Jul. 8 & No kayaks Aug. 18

### Full Moon Canoe

Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St.). Registration and nonrefundable payment required by Jun. 5, 5pm.

Tue., Jun. 6 | 7:30 - 10PM

For adults and teens | \$20

(Nonmembers: \$25)

### River Rhythms Paddle

Canoe to River Rhythms! Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St.). Registration required 24 hours in advance of trip. To register non-paddling kids, contact Lesley at (414) 964-8505.

Wed., Jun. 21 6:30 - 10PM

For adults and families | Adults: \$10

(Nonmembers: \$15) Paddling kids:

\$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Kids under

10 who do not paddle: Free

### Watercraft Lending

#### Orientation

Members can borrow our canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddle boards for free! Become a contributing member, then take this orientation covering our policies and procedures, as well as an overview of the safe use of this equipment. Formerly known as the "Water Safety Course", this orientation is a requirement of our watercraft lending benefit.

Every Mon. except May 29 | 6 - 7PM

Every Sun. | 1 - 2PM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated | Membership required to borrow boats

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Riverside Park Volunteer Orientation

Sat., May 6 | 10:30AM - NOON

Fri., May 26 | 3 - 4:30PM

Wed., May 31 | 5:30 - 7PM

Sat., Jun. 10 | 10:30AM - NOON

Fri., Jun. 16 | 3 - 4:30PM

Tue., Jun. 20 | 10:30AM - NOON

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

### Volunteer Belayer Training

Learn climbing wall procedure and safety. If you cannot make any of the trainings, contact Lesley Sheridan at [lsheridan@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:lsheridan@urbanecologycenter.org)

Sun., May 14 | 11:30AM - 2PM

Thu., May 25 | 5:30 - 8PM

Sun., Jun. 11 | 11:30AM - 2PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

### ROOT Riverside Park

Sat., May 6 | 9:30 - 11AM

Sat., June 3 | 9:30 - 11AM

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

Every Fri. | 2 - 4PM

For adults and teens | Free

### Volunteer Papermaking

Every Tue. in May | 4:30 - 6PM

For adults and teens | Free

### Park Ranger Crew

Sat., May 13, 27, Jun. 10 & 24 |

9:30 - 11AM

For adults and teens | Free

### Fixin' Facilities

Every Thu. | 3 - 5PM

For adults and teens | Free

For adults, families and teens | Free

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### Food Preservation Series

##### *Introduction to Food Preservation* ♿

Enjoy this demonstration on the benefits of various food preservation techniques with an emphasis on hot water bath canning. This is the basis for all other canning classes this year. Register by May 5, 5pm.

Mon., May 8 | 7 - 8:30pm  
For adults | \$25  
(Nonmembers: \$30)

##### *First Fruits - Jams and Jellies* ♿

Can rhubarb into jams and preserves in this hands-on class. Bring an apron and a box to bring preserves home. Register by May 19, 5pm.

Mon., May 22 | 6:30 - 8:30PM  
For adults | \$35  
(Nonmembers: \$40)

##### *Early Summer Pickles* ♿

Preserve early summer vegetables in this hands-on program. Bring an apron and a box to carry preserves home. Register by June 23, 5pm.

Mon., Jun. 26 | 6:30 - 8:30PM  
For adults | \$35 (Nonmembers: \$40) Register by June 23, 5pm

#### Major WI Plant Families

##### *General Taxonomy, Lily Mustard Families* ♿

Learn basic plant characteristics and terminology, as well as the identifying characteristics of the Lily and Mustard Families.

Wed., May 17 | 6 - 8:15PM  
For adults | \$10 per class, \$40 for the series (Nonmembers: \$12 per class, \$48 for the series) (Land Stewardship Volunteers \$8 per class, \$32 for the series)

##### *Rose and Parsley* ♿

Learn the characteristics of the Rose and Parsley Families.

Wed., Jun. 14 | 6 - 8:15PM  
For adults | \$10 per class, \$40 for the series (Nonmembers: \$12 per class, \$48 for the series) (Land Stewardship Volunteers \$8 per class, \$32 for the series)

#### Native Plant Sale ♿

Prairie Future Seed Company. A portion of the profits will go to UEC.

Sat., May 27 | 9AM - 1PM  
For everyone | Free

#### Michigan Eco-Travel: The Sunset Side ♿

Learn the details of our Eco-travel trip to the east coast of Lake Michigan. Explore natural areas of Michigan's Lower Peninsula including Mackinac Island and Sleeping Bear Dunes. Trip dates are August 19 - 25.

Wed., May 3 | 6 - 7PM  
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

#### Free Music Open Jam Session ♿

Sun., May 21 | 2 - 5PM  
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

#### Odonate (Dragonflies & Damselflies) Surveys

Discover the secret life of odonates and hold a live creature in your hand!

Mon., May 22 | 11AM - 1PM  
Mon., Jun. 5 | 5:30 - 7:30PM  
Wed., Jun. 28 | 11AM - 1PM  
For everyone | Free

#### Creatures of the Night!

Search for bats, moths, spiders, fireflies, nighthawks and frogs as we learn adaptations they use to survive.

Mon., May 22 | 8PM - MIDNIGHT  
For everyone | Free

#### Monarch Larva Monitoring Survey

Learn how to find and count the monarch eggs and caterpillars as we monitor monarch populations.

Thu., Jun. 8, 15, 22, 29 | 11AM - noon  
For adults | Free

#### Interesting Invertebrates!

Explore the invertebrates — beetles, monarchs, odonates, and bumblebees.

Thu., Jun. 15 | 5 - 9PM  
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

#### Odonate (Dragonflies and Damselflies) Field Trip to Estabrook Park

Explore the park and look for Dragonflies and Damselflies. Recommended for participants in the Odonate Workshop and Walk series.

Thu., Jun. 8 | 1 - 4PM  
For adults | Free

#### Acoustic Bat Survey

Identify bat species in Riverside Park. We'll use a bat detector that makes their calls audible. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a headlamp/flashlight.

Thu., Jun. 15 | 9 - 10:15PM  
For everyone | Free

#### Remarkable Mushrooms of the Northwoods

Discover the amazing mushrooms in the Northwoods. Take a sneak peak of this year's North American Mycological Association foray in Bayfield County!

Tue., May 16 | 7 - 8:45PM  
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

#### Cultivating Edible Mushrooms ♿

Learn how to grow Shiitake, Oyster and Wine Cap Stropharia mushrooms on logs and wood chips at home.

Tue., May 30 | 7 - 8:45PM  
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

#### Shitake Log Inoculation Workshop ♿

Inoculate oak logs with Shiitake mushroom spawn in this hands-on workshop. Take home two 42-inch logs that will grow mushrooms for up to 5 years. Registration required by June 4.

Sat., Jun. 10 | 10AM - noon  
For adults | \$35 (Nonmembers: \$45)

### FAMILY PROGRAMS

#### Family Night Out: Skits, Strolls, and Songs

Enjoy skits with costumed characters, a guided nature walk and songs around the campfire. Register by May 18 at 5pm.

Sat., May 20 | 6 - 8PM | For families with kids ages 4-8 years old | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10) | Kids under 2 years old are free

#### Nature Rangers

Sign up for either the Monday or Tuesday session.

Every Mon. except May 29 or every Tue. | 4 - 5:30PM  
For children ages 5 and older | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

#### Animal Feeding ♿

Every Sat. | 1PM

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

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

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

3 **IN PERSON:**  
1500 E. Park Pl.

### Summer Solstice Soirée ≡ at Washington Park ≡

Celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Solstice Soirée as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Washington Park branch.

Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

6:00PM | TICKETS \$175

Check our website or contact Amy LaMacchia at (414) 964 - 8505 for more info.

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### Epic World Dance Party and Potluck

Everyone come and dance! Connect with your neighbors and celebrate diversity. People from all backgrounds and ages are welcome. Several multicultural dances will be taught by volunteer instructors in 20-minute mini-lessons, then everyone dances. Bring your friends and a dish to pass.

Sat., May 6 | 4 - 6:30PM  
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

### Animal Feeding

Every Sat. except Jun. 17 | 1PM

### Paddle Under the Summer Sun

Celebrate summer with some afternoon fun in the sun! Enjoy guided canoeing trips and family activities on our island. All skill levels welcome. Please register by Thursday, June 22.

Sat., Jun. 24 | 1 - 4PM  
For adults and accompanied children ages 4 and up | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$6)

### Young Scientists Club

Every Tue. - Fri. | 4 - 6PM  
Every Sat. except May 13 & Jun. 17 | 1 - 4PM  
For kids ages 7-12 | \$10 annual membership  
For everyone | Free

### E.B. Garner's Annual Fishing Day

Learn the art of fishing from water safety to baiting the hook to reeling the fish in at this yearly fishing extravaganza. Some equipment will be available.

Sat., Jun. 3 | 9AM - 3PM  
For families | Free - donations appreciated

### Wednesday Fishing Club

Come catch the big one with guided fishing lessons for kids and families from our DNR Angler Educator. Equipment provided. Fishing licenses required for ages 16 and up.

Wed., Jun. 21 & 28 | 4 - 6PM  
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

### Family Fishing Adventure

Anglers of all ages and skills are invited to a guided fishing expedition around the Milwaukee area. Each month we will visit a different park. Gear and transportation provided. Fishing license required for ages 16 and up. Please register by Thursday, June 22.

Sat., Jun. 24 | 9AM - 1PM  
For adults and accompanied children ages 4 and up | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12) Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

## URBAN ADVENTURES

### Watercraft Lending Orientation

Contributing members can borrow our canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards for free! To take advantage of this benefit, become a contributing member, then take this one hour, on land, orientation covering our lending policies and procedures, as well as an overview of the safe use of this equipment. Formerly known as the "Water Safety Course", this orientation is a requirement of our watercraft lending benefit.

Every Sat. except Jun. 17 | 10 - 11AM  
For adults | Free - donations appreciated | Membership required to borrow boats

### Canoeing for Beginners

The Washington Park Lagoon is a beautiful, calm and spacious body of water, a great place to learn the basics of paddling! Learn how to choose the right equipment, boating safety and paddling technique, then practice with guidance from one of our trained educators. Perfect for those who are new to paddling or just want some more practice.

Wed., May 31 | 6 - 8PM  
Wed., Jun. 28 | 6 - 8PM  
For adults and accompanied children age 6 and up | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Our Washington Park branch will be closed on June 17.

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:  
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:  
(414) 344-5460

3 IN PERSON:  
1859 N. 40th St.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### Make Your Own Sauerkraut

Delve into the world of fermented vegetables and make your own Sauerkraut! Learn the history of fermented veggies, try a few kinds and make a batch of Kraut just in time for grilling season. Bring a jar to take part of our batch home (a few jars are available). Register by Tuesday, May 16.

Thu., May 18 | 6 - 8PM  
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

#### Korean Cooking : Traditional Dishes to Celebrate Korean Culture

Saehee Chang, a local cooking instructor and founder of Kosari Kimchi, will provide an interactive cooking demonstration of traditional and delicious Korean dishes for any occasion. We will make Jap Chae-Festive Sweet Potato Noodles with Vegetables, and Traditional Green Onion Pancakes. Please register by Monday, May 22.

Wed., May 24 | 6 - 7:30PM  
For everyone | Adults: \$10  
(Nonmembers: \$12) Children:  
\$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

#### Make Your Own Kombucha

Kombucha is a fermented tea that has many health benefits, is fun to make and tastes great! Learn process of making this ancient drink, taste-test some infusions and take home your very own SCOBY (Symbiotic Culture of Bacteria and Yeast) to start your brew. Please register by Monday, June 4.

Thu., Jun. 8 | 6 - 8PM  
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

#### Odonate (Dragonflies & Damselflies) Surveys

Discover the secret life of odonates and the fascinating powers they possess. Learn odonate biology and get a chance to hold a live one in hand!

Mon., May 29 | 11AM - 1PM  
Wed., Jun. 7 | 11AM - 1PM  
Wed., Jun. 14 | 11AM - 1PM  
For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

#### Monarch Larva Monitoring

Get an up-close view of monarch butterfly babies! Learn how to find and count the monarch eggs and caterpillars as we monitor the monarch populations living in Washington Park.

Mon., Jun. 5 | 11AM - NOON  
Tue., Jun. 13 | 11AM - NOON  
Mon., Jun. 19 | 11AM - NOON  
Mon., Jun. 26 | 11AM - NOON  
For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

#### Creatures of the Night!

Search for and identify the creatures of the night living in Washington Park. We will focus on bats, moths, spiders, fireflies, nighthawks and frogs as we learn the adaptations they use to survive in the dark.

Wed., Jun. 7 | 8PM - MIDNIGHT  
For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

#### Interesting Invertebrates!

Some fascinating creatures live in our green spaces, many of them spineless! Explore the invertebrates — beetles, monarchs, odonates, and bumblebees — found in Washington Park.

Wed., Jun. 14 | 5 - 9PM  
For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

#### Acoustic Bat Survey

Identify bat species in Washington Park. We'll use a bat detector that makes their calls audible. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a headlamp/flashlight.

Wed., Jun. 14 | 9 - 10PM  
For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

#### Herptile Hoopla!

Discover some of the cold-blooded critters in our park and learn how we survey them. Herptiles is a catch all name referring to amphibians (frogs/toads, salamanders) and reptiles (turtles, snakes and lizards).

Wed., Jun. 28 | 3 - 5PM  
For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

#### Teaching Safe Bicycling

*Presented by the Wisconsin Bicycle Federation and Department of Transportation*

This is a Train-the-Trainer workshop designed to provide adults with the skills to host a youth bicycle rodeo in their local communities. Learn tips and skills to improve bicycling safety, and how to identify and avoid common bicycling hazards. Registration required. Please visit [bfw.org/2017](http://bfw.org/2017)

Fri., May 12 | 9AM - 4PM  
For adults | Free - donations  
appreciated

#### Beak to Tail:

*All About the Life of Birds *

Take an in-depth look into bird ecology, conservation and behavior. All birders welcome. Binoculars provided.

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

#### Early Morning Bird Walks

Looking for birds, mammals, butterflies and other denizens of Washington Park. Binoculars available.

Every Wed. | 8 - 10:30AM  
For adults, teens and families | Free -  
donations appreciated (Nonmembers:  
\$5 suggested donation)

#### Zumba Express

Dance to great music and burn a ton of calories without even realizing it. Open to all ages and skill levels.

Every Wed. | 5:30 - 6:15PM  
For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### Spring Bird Banding

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., May 16 | 5AM - NOON  
Wed., May 24 | 5AM - NOON  
For adults, teens and accompanied  
children | 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  
Every Fri. | 1 - 3PM  
For adults and teens | Free -  
donations appreciated

#### Volunteer Park Rangers

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. except Jun.  
17 | 11AM - NOON  
For everyone, children under 12 must  
be accompanied by an adult |  
Free - donations appreciated

#### Washington Park

#### Volunteer Orientation

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., May 9 | 5:30 - 6:30PM  
Sat., May 20 | 10:30 - 11:30AM  
Sat., Jun. 10 | 2 - 3PM  
Thu., Jun. 22 | 5:30 - 6:30PM  
For adults and teens | Free -  
donations appreciated



## Programs and Events

MAY & JUNE

### COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY in the Menomonee Valley

Saturday, June 10 | 9:30 - 11:30am

Join us in the Menomonee Valley to plant native vegetation in Three Bridges Park! Dress for the weather and bring gloves/trowels if you can. Meet at the Center and we'll head out to the planting site together.

For adults and accompanied children ages 6 and up | Free - donations appreciated

## 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., May 5 | 8 - 9PM

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

### Family Hike

Explore the trails with us on a guided hike through Three Bridges Park. This is a perfect way to see the park as seasons change. We'll conclude with story time by the fire.

Tue., May 9 | 4 - 6PM

Thu., Jun. 22 | 4 - 6PM

For families with children ages 5-12 | Free for Young Scientist Club members (Nonmembers: \$5)

### Little Explorers Morning Playgroup

Preschool is the age of discovery. We have activities specifically designed for children ages 4 and under.

Fri., May 12 & Jun. 9 | 11AM - NOON

For children ages 4 and under |

Free - donations appreciated

### Three Bridges Park Scavenger Hunt

There are hidden objects throughout Three Bridges Park. Can you find them all? An engaging scavenger hunt for kids and adults!

Thu., May 25 | 4:30pm - 6PM

For families with children ages 5-12 | Free for Young Scientist Club members (Nonmembers: \$5)

### Fantastic Frogs

Discover how frogs grow from eggs to tadpoles to full grown fly-snatchers. Then meet some real live frogs in our animal room!

Sat., Jun. 3 | 1 - 4PM

For families with children ages 5-12 | Free for Young Scientist Club members (Nonmembers: \$5)

### Life in the Pond

Collect, observe and identify creatures that reside in the ponds of Three Bridges Park. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Thu., Jun. 8 | 4:30 - 6PM

For families with children ages 5-12 | Free for Young Scientist Club members (Nonmembers: \$5)

### Friday Fishing Club

Come catch the big one on the south side! Guided fishing lessons for kids and families are available from our DNR Angler Educator. All equipment is provided! Fishing licenses required for ages 16 and up.

Fri., Jun. 23 30 | 4 - 5:30pm

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

### Busy Bees

Is that a bumble, honey, sweat, leaf cutter, green metallic or yellow faced bee? Learn our busy pollinators, their life cycle, anatomy and place in our urban environment.

Tue., Jun. 27 | 4 - 6PM

For families with children ages 5-12 | Free for Young Scientist Club members (Nonmembers: \$5)

### EcoArt Wednesdays

Join us for nature inspired recycled arts and crafts. Take home your very own creation every week!

Every Wed. | 4 - 5:30PM

For families with children age 12 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

### Young Scientists Club

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. & Thu. | 4 - 6PM

and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM

For ages 5-12 | \$10 annual membership

### Animal Feeding

Help feed our resident animals!

Every Sat. | 1PM

For everyone | Free

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Menomonee Valley Volunteer Orientation

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

Thu., May 4 | 5:30 - 7PM

Tue., May 16 | 5:30 - 7PM

Thu., Jun. 1 | 5:30 - 7PM

Tue., Jun. 13 | 5:30 - 7PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

### Spring Bird Banding - Menomonee Valley

Help us band songbirds in Three Bridges Park during migration. Listen to a wild bird's heartbeat up close.

Tue., May 2 & 23 | 5:15AM - NOON

For adults and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

### Volunteer Park Rangers

Every Sat. in May | 11AM - NOON

Every Thu. in Jun. | 11AM - NOON

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

Free - donations appreciated

### ROOT Menomonee Valley

Every Wed. | 9 - 11AM & 2 - 4PM

Every Thu. | 9 - 11AM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

### Fixin' Facilities

Every Thu. | 3 - 5PM

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

Free - donations appreciated

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

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

2 BY PHONE:  
(414) 431-2940

3 IN PERSON:  
3700 W. Pierce St.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### Art Opening: "The Globe Weaver" by Jenie Gao

The *Globe Weaver* series tells the story of what it means to be local in a globalized world told through animals in urban and rural settings, each one navigating its own complicated relationship with the world. Artist will speak at 6pm. Refreshments provided. The show will be up through August.

Thu., Jun. 08 | 5 - 7PM  
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

#### Paper-Making Workshop for Adults

Use recycled materials to make your own paper in this workshop for adults!

Sat., May 13 | 10AM - NOON  
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

#### Odonate (Dragonflies & Damselflies) Surveys

Discover the secret life of odonates and their fascinating feats. You may even get to hold a live creature!

Mon., May 15 | 11AM - 1PM  
Wed., Jun. 21 | 11AM & 1PM  
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

#### Creatures of the Night!

Search for and identify bats, moths, spiders, fireflies, nighthawks and frogs and learn the adaptations they use.

Wed., May 24 | 8PM - MIDNIGHT  
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

#### Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas Information Session

The Breeding Bird Atlas is the largest Community Science project in Wisconsin's history. Learn how you can get involved through our field trips.

Tue., May 23 | 6 - 7PM  
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

#### Photo Phenology

Get your cameras and watch the Valley change over the seasons!

Sat., May 27 & Jun. 24 | 10 - 11:30AM  
For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated

#### Acoustic Bat Survey

Identify bat species using a detector that makes their calls audible. Bring a headlamp/flashlight.

Tue., May 30 | 8:45 - 10PM  
Fri., Jun. 16 | 9 - 10:15PM  
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

#### Monarch Larva Monitoring Survey

Learn how to find and count the monarch eggs and caterpillars as we monitor the monarch populations living in Three Bridges Park.

Every Tue. in Jun. | 11AM - NOON  
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

#### Breeding Bird Atlas Field Trips

Help us contribute to the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas. Travel to a nearby green space (within an hour of Milwaukee), survey for birds and return to the Center to enter your data.

Thu., Jun. 1, 8, or 22 | 5:30 - 10AM  
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

#### Early Morning Birdwalks

Kick-start your day with fresh air and bird song. 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

#### Odonate (Dragonflies and Damselflies) Workshop and Walk (Part 2)

Discover the fascinating world of hundreds of different odonate species living in Wisconsin. We will start with an indoor lecture focusing on specific families of odonates and then move outdoors to catch and identify live critters. Attend part 1, 2 or both!

Tue., Jun. 6 | 5:30 - 7:30PM  
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

#### Interesting Invertebrates!

Explore the invertebrates - beetles, monarchs, odonates, and bumblebees.

Fri., Jun. 16 | 5 - 9PM  
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

### URBAN ADVENTURES

#### Watercraft Lending Orientation

Contributing members can borrow our canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards for free! To take advantage of this benefit, become a contributing member, then take this one hour, on land, orientation covering our lending policies and procedures, as well as an overview of the safe use of this equipment. Formerly known as the "Water Safety Course", this orientation is a requirement of our watercraft lending benefit.

Every Fri. | 5 - 6:00 PM  
For adults | Free - donations appreciated | Membership required to borrow boats

#### Hidden History on the Hank Aaron State Trail - West

Enjoy a leisurely bike tour from our branch to the Milwaukee Veteran Affairs Medical Center's grounds. Stops include: Milwaukee Soldiers Home, Miller Park and Stormwater Park. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours.

Sat., May. 20 | 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

#### Family Ride to Mitchell Park

Bring the family for a leisurely 1.2 miles morning group ride. Great for children of all ages. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours (bikes available for ages 10 and older).

Sat., May. 27 | 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
Fri., Jun. 2 | 4 - 5:30 PM  
For families | Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7) Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9)

#### Bike Tours

#### Calvary and Forest Home Cemeteries

See the graves of notable families on this leisurely bike tour of Calvary and Forest Home cemeteries. We'll stop by Milwaukee's first mayor Solomon Juneau, beer barons Blatz, Schlitz and Pabst, and industrialists Bradley and Davidson. Then a special stop at Wild Flour Bakery. Tour includes trails and side streets. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours.

Sat., Jun. 17 | 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

#### Hidden History on the Hank Aaron State Trail - East

Take a leisurely bike tour from our branch to the Lake. Stops include: The site of the Milwaukee Road Shops, Lakeshore State Park and Purple Door Ice Cream. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours.

Sat., Jun. 24 | 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

#### Mountain Biking Trails of Wauwatosa

Journey with us to Wauwatosa and visit "hidden" mountain biking trails in Jacobus and Doyne Parks. We'll round out our trip with a stop at Colectivo Coffee. Tour includes trails and side streets. Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours.

Fri., Jun. 30 | 12:30 - 3:00 PM  
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)



# NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a publication of the **Urban Ecology Center**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Thanks to the generous annual contributions of 215 foundations, corporations and organizations, 3300 members and many in-kind donors the Center provides safe parks and programs for over 300,000 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.**

Celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Solstice Soirée as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Washington Park branch.

Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>  
6:00PM | TICKETS \$175

Summer Solstice Soirée  
≡ at Washington Park ≡

Check our website or contact Amy LaMacchia at (414) 964 - 8505 for more info.

**Save a tree!**  
Go paperless today  
Check page 2 for details

FSC logo

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

**7,857**  
student visits

From September 2015- March 2016 our Menomonee Valley branch had 5,262 student visits. This year we had **7,857!**



photo credit: Anna Aragon