

## THE NECESSARY REVOLUTION ... AND YOU ARE INVITED!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Below I share a recent email sent to 14 of us from around the globe who are working together as part of a nascent group called the Academy for Systemic Change:

*Hello everyone,*

*In response to an inquiry from England, I was re-reading David Bohm's classic texts and noticed that it was exactly 8 years ago that I wrote a foreword to his book On Dialogue when it was being republished.*

*While sending this might constitute a nuisance in the midst of your otherwise busy day, I cannot help but notice how prescient Bohm was in articulating the very territory that we are now seeking to bring to a larger scale of awareness.*

*David was an eminent quantum theorist, a protégé of Einstein's at Princeton. He spent the last years of his life exploring*

*dialogue because he was convinced that there was no way out of humanity's plight without a fundamental shift in awareness that would allow us to actually see that mind and matter arise from a common source and are fundamentally connected. That which we perceive as our thoughts and emotions or awareness are really our part in a dance with the universe. If we could learn to participate once again in that dance, he believed, much would change. As Claudia said to me the other day, we do not need to change, we just need to become aware.*

*Enjoy the day!*

*Peter*

Wow, not just your hum-drum email chit chat ... eh? I share this as I think it provides unique insight into our friend Peter Senge -- ever heard of him?

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## ZEN AND THE ART OF BICYCLE TOURING

by Mike Zang, Community Educator

On May 11th the Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park will be launching a premiere bicycle touring series. For three solid days, we will explore various bike trails and routes of southeastern Wisconsin including two beautiful state parks - Kohler-Andrae and Kettle Moraine. The former, located along the crisp shoreline of Lake Michigan, boasts one-hundred foot tall sand dunes, miles of golden beach, pine groves and an abundance of wildlife. The latter, the northern Kettle Moraine unit, is a 30,000 acre woodland area carved out by ancient glaciers which left behind stupendous land formations, known today as kettles and moraines.



When I traveled by bike from Virginia Beach to Oregon in 2009, those 80 something days showed me a lot, not just in terms of outer landscape, but internal

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## BLAZING A PATH OF SUSTAINABILITY

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

One of the most exciting aspects of working at the Urban Ecology Center is discovering the effect of decisions we made nearly a decade ago. We were blazing a trail of ecological sustainability. But, would anyone follow that trail? A small Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article about the Clock Shadow building project triggered a series of events that revealed the answer.

When we designed our Riverside Park facility we had a big goal: we wanted a building that could act as a role model of innovative green design. Our community faces combined sewer overflows, polluting our beloved rivers and lake. To reduce our impact we installed a simple, custom-made system that catches rain water, cleans it with gravity-fed series of sieves, holds it in three 350-gallon cisterns, and then, when the time is right, pumps it into our toilets.

Because rainwater is not considered drinkable and, according to the regulations at the time, toilet water is supposed to be clean enough to drink, we were not

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River Reflections is created and distributed through a team effort by the following people: Carijean Buhk, Ginger Duiven, Demetria Dunn, Judy Krause, Jeff McAvoy, Pat Mueller, Shirley Spelt and a volunteer mailing crew.

Contributing writers: Beth Heller, Ken Leinbach, Regina Miller, Tim Vargo and Mike Zang.

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](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

#### Urban Ecology Center

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Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.

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[www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org)

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

## DROPLETS

There are a lot of new faces at the Center. We'd like to welcome our new staff members: **Nancy Spransy** is our new HR Specialist. Nancy volunteered for several years on our Human Resources committee. She comes to us with extensive experience in both not-for-profit and manufacturing settings. **Natalie Holoubek** is our new Executive Assistant to Director of Finance and Operations. Natalie has experience owning her own business, organizing a local annual event with the focus on buying locally, as well as teaching. **Danielle Lennie** joined our marketing and development team as a Development Assistant. Danielle comes to us from Mental Health America of Wisconsin where she worked in membership and donor services, fundraising and event planning. **Stefan Gendelman** has joined our staff on a limited term basis as a Facilities Caretaker to help us in our facilities maintenance area as we determine what we need with the expansion of space at Washington Park and the Menomonee Valley. Stefan has had his own handyman business, which included home and landscaping work. **Sam Huenink** is our new Community Program Educator. Sam comes to us with extensive experience at Maywood Environmental Park in Sheboygan, the Shedd Aquarium and Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Garden in Chicago. **Laurel Cutright** is our new Washington Park Educator. Laurel was a summer intern here in 2007 and has since been doing a variety of environmental and formal and informal education jobs in Minneapolis, including leading high school environmental job corps and working with culturally diverse students as a substitute teacher. **Kara Baldwin** will work at the Riverside Park branch. Kara

## WISH LIST

### SPECIAL WISH LIST FOR OUR MEMOMONEE VALLEY BRANCH!

Below is a partial list of items we need for our new home in the Menomonee Valley. For a complete list, visit our website at [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org). Please contact Glenna Holstein at [gholstein@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:gholstein@urbanecologycenter.org) to donate items or for more information.

- Kitchenware — we need 168 matching:
  - 16 oz glasses
  - Bowls
  - Large plates
  - Small plates
  - Silverware (forks, spoons, knives)
- 2-drawer file cabinets (many!)
- Dry erase boards
- Meeting table and 12 matching chairs
- Mobile/wheeled podium
- Nice cushioned office chairs (at least 6 matching)
- Trash can
- Wall screen

started as a volunteer here this fall, and has worked in formal and informal education settings, from being an elementary and high school science teacher to a museum educator. She is also in grad school earning her Masters of Science in Free-choice learning with a minor in wildlife science. **Michael Banks** has been hired full time (He was here part-time on a limited term basis.) as Assistant Facilities Coordinator to work at Riverside Park. We're happy to have so many new talented folks on our team!

## BLAZING A PATH OF SUSTAINABILITY

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up to plumbing code. Even though the moment water touches the toilet bowl it becomes contaminated, it still needed to enter the bowl in a potable state. This regulation launched us into an extremely complex approval process that included installing a chlorination system, many days, months and years of meeting, waiting, testing, analysis, discussion, more testing and more waiting. Throughout this process we entered into a long series of conversations with the city and then the state. After several years of negotiation, regular (sometimes weekly) water testing and some extreme patience, we were finally able to turn off the chlorination and have our system approved as it was originally intended to function. Today, chemical free, clean water falling from the sky is used to flush our toilets. It was a long and difficult process, but for us, it was worth it.

Fast forward to March of this year when my loving brother, Will - who always defends my honor - came to me with an article about a wonderful group of people doing good work. However, he pointed out, the article quoted Dan Beyer claiming that their new building had the first rainwater catchment system in the city. After all we went through to implement and get approval for our rainwater, it was alarming to see someone else claiming credit for being the first such system. Unsure how to respond and definitely not eager to reprimand anyone for doing great work, I deliberated with colleagues. Should we send a correction in to the newspaper? Who has time for this? Do we really want to do this?

These questions occupied my mind for several days.

Serendipitously, days later I attended a breakfast meeting and found myself at a table full of new faces. Sitting directly next to me was Dan Beyer of Continuum Architects, the guy who was quoted in the article! When

he introduced himself, I laughed out loud and noted that I had a bone to pick with him. Dan shared that the Urban Ecology Center's design helped them plan their rainwater catchment system. We exchanged business cards and soon after that we met for coffee and explored the connections between our two projects.

His project, developed by my friend Juli Kaufmann of Fix Development LLC, aimed to construct a commercial building that reaches beyond current best practices in environmental design. They found logic in using rain water to flush toilets. Monique Charlier, of Rivet LLC, who had managed the installation of the Urban Ecology Center's system, was on their team. According to Dan, they braced themselves for a rough road, yet determined to succeed in reaching this ecological goal. The road was not rough. "It was easy," Dan said. Perhaps disbelieving, I asked

him what he meant. He explained, "The Urban Ecology Center laid the groundwork. We submitted our design to the city, they forwarded it to the state, and it was approved." Just like that. What took us years to accomplish they were able to do with just a couple of meetings. Amazing!

And now Dan is picking up the reins of sustainable building design and has identified the next challenge to the current codes: directing rainwater to hose bibs that can be used to water gardens long after a storm.

Although we hoped that our tedious work a decade ago would inspire others, we had no way of knowing that our struggles would make it so much easier for someone to follow in our footsteps. Bravo to Fix Development and Continuum Architects for picking up the *reins* and capturing the *rain!* 🌧️

### INTRODUCING TWO RISING STARS AT THE CENTER

As the Center prepares to serve three neighborhoods across Milwaukee, our leadership staff has grown. We welcome two new Branch Managers, Jamie Ferschinger in Riverside Park and Glenna Holstein in the Menomonee Valley.

Jamie is well known at Riverside Park, where she has coordinated evening and weekend programs for the community for almost six years. Under her leadership, our local food programming has grown tremendously. The Local Food and Farmer Open House now connects over 1,000 participants each year to Community Supported Agriculture and local food options. Jamie and her team have also refined our High School Outdoor Leader internship that introduces youth to careers in the environmental field.

In addition, Jamie is Chair of the Milwaukee Food Council, serves on the Victory Garden Initiative board, volunteers at the VA Medical Center and is an associate professor of Environmental Science and Biology at DeVry University. Before coming to the Center she completed her Master's of Science degree in Environmental Science and Forestry in Conservation Biology with honors and attained her Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry from UW Stevens Point. Jamie brings passion, commitment, management

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## THE NECESSARY REVOLUTION ... AND YOU ARE INVITED!

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Whether you have or haven't I'd love for you to hear him speak as Peter is coming to visit the Urban Ecology Center on May 31st at xx p.m. and you are invited! (see page 6 for details)

Six of us from the Center got to know Peter at a conference on educational change this past summer. We all hit it off and have been working together ever since. He, however, has never seen the Center ... thus his upcoming visit.

Peter is a strategist and an international thought leader. In 1990, as a professor at MIT, he authored the best selling book *The Fifth Discipline: The Art And Practice Of The Learning Organization* in which he developed an organizational structure for business that he coined "a learning organization". The fifth discipline in this structure is something called systems thinking, about which he

writes extensively. Systems thinking represents a set of practices that one can learn which offers a holistic way of looking at a problem. Viewing "problems" as parts of an overall system, rather than just reacting to the "problem" in isolation, can help prevent negative unintended consequences (think Shakespeare, Central Park and Starlings -- don't know what I'm talking about? Look it up!). Peter's work has been embraced worldwide by the likes of Ford Motor, AT&T, Nike, Harley-Davidson, the Tucson School System, and many others. Two decades later *The Fifth Discipline* is still the best selling management book in China. Peter's most recent book is *The Necessary Revolution: How Individuals and Organizations Are Working Together to Create a Sustainable World*.

So, why are we so excited to share Peter with Milwaukee?

Three reasons come immediately to mind ...

- 1) First and foremost because Peter is just a great guy. He is sought after by the highest levels of government, business and education world wide, yet when you meet him you'd never in a million years guess at this. He is the real deal. A deep thinker who never really stops, but somehow manages to keep life in balance.
- 2) The "learning organization concept" is one that we embrace at the Center and one we think others should know about. We encourage leaders of any organization in the city to come and participate in this exciting discussion.
- 3) Finally, we -- Peter and the six of us from Milwaukee who attended his conference -- strongly believe that infusing the education system here in Milwaukee with the habits and structures imbued within the systems thinking approach would, long term, produce a higher level of academic achievement overall. Perhaps more importantly our students would be better prepared for the problems the next generation will need to solve. It is our hope that Peter's visit might serve as a catalyst for others in Milwaukee's education community to come together and start "a necessary revolution"!

What I really, really like about Peter's methods (which are being embraced by school systems across the country) is that it is not a new curriculum of what to think, but is instead a powerful set of tools we can use to learn to how to think. This is a revolution I can get behind.

Come join us May 31st and see what you think! 🌱

## URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER'S *Summer Solstice Soiree*

Plan to join friends for a special summer night celebrating nature in the city. Enjoy the dinner, entertainment and auction items specially selected to delight you.

Proceeds will directly benefit the students, families, neighborhoods and the natural environments in which we carry out our mission.

**June 23rd, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.**  
Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place

TICKETS ARE \$150 PER PERSON

Please check our website or contact Cassie Mordini at [cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org) or 964-8505, x104 for more information.



## NEW ADVENTURES UP NORTH

by Regina Miller, Environmental Educator

They had no idea what to expect. It was a cold February morning when the 7th and 8th grade students from Milwaukee College Prep - Lloyd Street Campus left the familiarity of Milwaukee's urban setting and headed for northern Wisconsin. Would the land up north look like Milwaukee? Would there be a lot of trees? Or farms, open land and lots of snow? They were excited and a little nervous about the adventure ahead of them "up north".

These students and I were on our way to Treehaven, a residential natural resources education and conference facility owned and operated by the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources. Thanks to the Kopmeier Foundation, each year Treehaven is able to offer a two-and-a-half-day, north woods winter experience to two middle school classes from our Neighborhood Environmental Education Project partnering schools. Since Milwaukee College Prep is

one of the schools I work with, I was lucky to be invited along.

Upon arrival, we saw that there were indeed many trees and lots of snow - knee deep snow in fact! Most of these students had never been to northern Wisconsin before this trip. Their classes at the Urban Ecology Center are often the first time they've even been out in the woods. Over the course of our time there, the students got to participate in many snowy adventures including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing/tracking, and shelter building. Skiing was a challenge and as all beginners do, they fell quite a lot! Despite this, many students said this was their favorite activity. One said, "The best experience I had was when we went skiing - I thought I couldn't do it, but I can!"

It started snowing around 3:30 on the afternoon of the last day we were there. Later that night we all bundled up and went out to howl for wolves. The students' endless questions showed

their strong interest in these amazing animals. The snow was coming down hard and in the darkness the snowflakes blew and pecked against our cheeks. We hiked down to the edge of the frozen pond and then walked out onto it. We stopped in the middle and waited in silence. Our Treehaven guide went ahead alone and started howling for wolves. The group huddled together and stood quietly listening for a response. We didn't hear any wolves howl back, but it was a great experience to be out on the frozen pond at night in a snowstorm. After waiting a bit, we walked back to land and gathered on benches around the campfire. As the students made s'mores, we each had a chance to reflect on what they gained from the trip. Here are their words of reflection: "I gained courage because I had the courage to try different things", "I gained lots of knowledge about the northern woods", "Nature is beautiful".

Truly this trip was an amazing adventure these students will not soon forget. ❁

## ZEN AND THE ART OF BICYCLE TOURING

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as well. A mere speck compared to the vastness of North America, my small viewpoint gave way to a whole new perception of beauty, space and time; all taken in at a patient 12 miles per hour. The bicycle (in my book, the greatest invention ever) doubles as a frameless viewfinder for enhancing the whole body-sensory experience. When riding over an extended period of time, this vision increases in robustness and helps us really feel a part of our surroundings. In a country where most vacations require frequent gas station fill-ups, pit-stops at McDonald's and the hypnotic passing of interstate miles, a long bicycle trip offers a truly unique and unparalleled experience. Compared

to the rapidity of car travel, a long distance bike trip gives one a greater sense of space, of time, and of place, aspects that many motorists today do not or, frankly, cannot reflect on clearly enough because of the physical constraints of motorized vehicles.

Back to our trip - yes... Look forward to a trip that will average about 50 miles a day (classified by Adventure Cycling of America as "moderate"). This will be a perfect introduction for cyclists who are somewhat experienced, but have yet to travel greater distances overnight. The cost of our three day journey will cover park admissions, group camping, shared supplies, food,

and an outfitted "sag wagon" to follow riders with their gear if needed. It will be imperative to bring along a tent, sleeping bag, proper cycling gear (lights and helmets especially), and other basic camping equipment. In preparation, I will host two orientations on April 28th and May 5th. Attendance to one is required. We will work out logistics and answer any questions.

Although we won't be crossing the United States, perhaps this trip will excite your spirit to ride more around the city, plan your own long distance trips, change your perspectives or simply just enjoy the ride and think about nothing! ❁

## CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

### URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER'S *Summer Solstice Soiree*

June 23rd, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.  
Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place

TICKETS ARE \$150 PER PERSON

Please check our website or contact Cassie Mordini at [cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org) or 964-8505, x104 for more information.



### A NIGHT WITH PETER SENGE: THE NECESSARY REVOLUTION\*

Come hear Peter Senge, MIT professor, strategist and international thought leader best known for his top selling book *The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of Learning Organizations*. Peter will share his story and his vision, one that we embrace at the Urban Ecology Center, for infusing our schools with systems thinking to improve problem solving, real learning and academic performance. It's an honor to bring someone of this global stature to Milwaukee.



Thursday, May 31  
7:30 - 9 p.m.

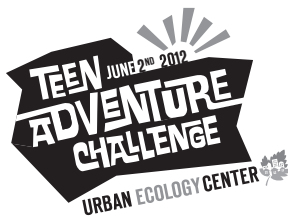


For adults

Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$10)  
Registration required by May 26th

### TEEN ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

An adventure race for co-ed teams of 4 high school students and an adult. Bike, hike, rock climb, canoe the Milwaukee River and take part in mystery events! T-shirt and lunch included.



Saturday, June 2  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



For teens,

\$40 per team

Contact [cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:cthomack@urbanecologycenter.org) to register!

### BIKE TO WORK WEEK\*

Socialize with other bicycle commuters and share your bicycling goals for the rest of the season! Breakfast is provided at Riverside Park along the Oak Leaf Trail. Thank you for bicycle commuting!

Weekdays, May 14-18

7 - 9 a.m.

For all eco-friendly commuters

Free - donations appreciated



### GREEN BIRDING CHALLENGE\*

Can you find the most bird species in a five hour time period? Can you do it without using any fossil fuels? Join us for our 2nd Annual Green Birding Challenge -- a team birding competition to benefit research and citizen science at the Urban Ecology Center.

Sunday, May 20

6 a.m. - noon

For adults, teens and families

\$25 registration fee per person

See page 12 for details



### SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN

#### INTERURBAN BICYCLE TOUR

Join the Urban Ecology Center's first overnight bicycle tour. In three spring days we'll cover 150 miles of beautiful southeastern Wisconsin terrain including Kohler-Andrae and Kettle Moraine State Parks.

Friday, May 11, 7 a.m. - Sunday, May 13, 5 p.m.

For adults

\$150 (Nonmembers: \$185)

Mandatory Orientation — Saturday, May 5, 9 - 10 a.m.



### VEGAN BAKE SALE\*

Milwaukee Vegan Bake Sale will return to Urban Ecology Center to sell delicious vegan baked goods and homegrown organic vegetable seedlings. All proceeds are donated to local non-profit organizations. Stop by for some tasty treats and benefit a great cause.

Saturday, May 12

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

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated



### A DELIBERATE LIFE: AUTHOR EVENT WITH TOM MONTGOMERY FATE\*

The Center and Boswell Book Co. welcome Tom Montgomery Fate. Fate will read and discuss his new nature memoir, *Cabin Fever: A Suburban Father's Search for the Wild*. Fate considers the modern relevance of Thoreau amid a high tech accelerated life, and if/ how a deliberate life is still possible. The book invites readers into an interrogation of their own lives, and into a new kind of vision: the possibility of enough in a culture of more. Books available to purchase.

Wednesday, May 16

7 - 8 p.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)



### EXPLORING LAKE WISCONSIN\*

Come explore "Lake Wisconsin", Washington Park's new 550-gallon native fish tank, and the aquatic life of the Washington Park lagoon.

Saturday, June 30

2 - 4 p.m.

For everyone


\$5 suggested donation



## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### STORYTELLING WITH STORY TILES\*

We will begin by searching for stories and getting inspired on a hike in Riverside Park. Then, using hand-carved clay tiles with narrative images created by artist Heather Eiden, we will make stories of our own. For each story we will choose four tiles, line them up, write the story that we see, and then share the stories with others. Each participant will make cardboard story tiles of their own so the storytelling can continue at home. Join us for a morning of stories and fun!


Saturday, May 12   
10 a.m. - noon  
For children accompanied by adults  
\$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)  
Call to register, 964-8505

### BASIC ANIMAL CARE\*

Caring for animals can be a powerful way to connect with nature. Learn tips on how to keep animals happy and healthy.


#### Reptiles and Amphibians

Join our animal caretaker Daniel Rawley for a beginner's lesson on how to care for snakes, turtles, frogs, and salamanders.

Saturday, May 19   
11 a.m. - noon  
For adults & accompanied children  
Adults: \$6  
(Nonmembers: \$9)  
Children: \$4  
(Nonmembers: \$7)  
Call to register, 964-8505


#### Freshwater Fish

Join our animal caretaker Daniel Rawley for a beginner's lesson on how to care for native freshwater fish.

Saturday, June 16   
11 a.m. - noon  
For adults & accompanied children  
Adults: \$6  
(Nonmembers: \$9)  
Children: \$4  
(Nonmembers: \$7)  
Call to register, 964-8505


### GEOCACHING 101

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

Thursday, May 24   
5:30 - 7 p.m.  
For everyone  
Adults: \$6  
(Nonmembers: \$9)  
Children: \$4  
(Nonmembers: \$7)  
Call to register, 964-8505

### ANIMALS OF WISCONSIN

Some very interesting animals call Wisconsin home. Many of them can be found right here in Riverside Park. Come along with us as we explore their world and interact with a few of them in person in the Native Wisconsin Animal Room.

Saturday, June 9   
10:30 a.m. - noon  
For everyone  
Adults: \$6  
(Nonmembers: \$9)  
Children: \$4  
(Nonmembers: \$7)  
Call to register, 964-8505

### YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB\*


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

**At Riverside Park**  
Every Monday through Wednesday  
4 - 5:30 p.m.   
For ages 5 through 12  
\$10 annual fee  
(Plus suggested daily donation - \$5)  
Space is limited to 12 participants, please call ahead to register, 964-8505

**At Washington Park**  
Every Tuesday through Friday  
4 - 6 p.m.   
and Every Saturday  
1 - 4 p.m.  
For kids ages 7-12 years old  
\$10 annual membership  
Call to register, 964-8505

### FOOD FRIDAYS\*

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

Every Friday   
4 - 6 p.m.  
For kids ages 7-12 years old  
Free for Young Scientist Club members  
(Nonmembers: \$5 suggested donation)  
Call to register, 964-8505

### 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 and crafts. **May: The Planets, June: Flowers**

Drop in program


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

Every Sunday  
1 - 4 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated

## HOMESCHOOL SERIES


### CRAZY ABOUT CANOEING!

Learn the basics of canoeing safety and technique. Then, join us for a paddle on the beautiful Washington Park Lagoon. No prior canoeing experience necessary! All participants must have a completed and signed waiver before canoeing.

Tuesday, May 22   
2 - 3:30 p.m.  
For kids ages 5 and older  
\$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) per child  
Call to register, 964-8505

### READY TO ROCK CLIMB!

Challenge yourself! Can you make it to the top of the Urban Ecology Center's rock climbing wall? All participants must have a completed and signed waiver before climbing.

Tuesday, June 5   
2 - 3:30 p.m.  
For kids ages 5 and older  
\$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) per child  
Call to register, 964-8505

## TEEN PROGRAMS

### BIKE TO THE LAKE


Teens, are you excited about getting outside on a bike. We'll start off at Riverside Park, jump on one of our provided bikes, head to the lakefront and we'll see what there is to discover on the way.

Sunday, June 10   
1 - 4 p.m.  
For teens  
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505

## ADULT LEARNING


### BIRD BANDING\*

Help the Urban Ecology Center's research team study migrating songbirds and get an up-close look at the operation. Dress comfortably and for the weather.

Tuesdays in May  
5:15 a.m. - noon   
For adults and teens  
Free - donations welcome  
Call to register, 964-8505


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

This is an introduction to bees and beekeeping. Discover who is inside the hive and how man has managed bees for pollination and honey. 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, May 1,  
15, June 5 & 19   
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
For adults  
\$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)  
Call to register, 964-8505


### BIRD BANDING AT WASHINGTON PARK\*

Recent studies have identified Washington Park as one of the busiest sites for bird and bat migration in the entire Great Lakes Region! We will set up mist nets and see what shows up. Registration is required.

Wednesday, May 2   
7 - 11 a.m.  
For adults and teens  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505


### SPRING HERBAL SERIES\*

Join herbalist and wild forager Linda Conroy and earn the lore and history of herbs that promote health and healing. We will go on walks to identify the plants of the season, make preparations for topical use, and create thirst quenching, nourishing beverages.

Thursdays, May 3,  
10, & 17   
6 - 9 p.m.  
For adults and teens  
Adults: \$70  
(Nonmembers - \$80)  
Children: \$65 (Nonmembers - \$70) *In addition to the fees, there is a \$10 material fee payable to instructor the day of the class.*  
Call to register, 964-8505


### AT-HOME COMPOST 101\*

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

Saturday, May 5   
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
For adults  
\$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)  
Call to register, 964-8505

### BAT SURVEY WALK


Join Mapping Specialist Anne Reis for a bat survey through Washington Park. She will show how to monitor bats with an acoustic detector. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a flashlight. Meet behind the building near the rear entrance.

Wednesday, May 9   
8 - 10 p.m.  
For adults, teens,  
and children  
accompanied by an adult  
Free - donations appreciated  
(Nonmembers: \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505

### GARDEN MENTOR TRAINING\*

co-sponsored by the Victory Garden Initiative


Join this dynamic group of folks who are helping dozens of new gardeners around the city to be successful for their first season. VGI will train you to work with a family for the season. Make a difference! Grow food! Help others!

Saturday, May 5   
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
For adults and  
accompanied children  
\$15 (Nonmembers: \$18)  
Call to register, 964-8505

### VEGETABLE GARDEN PLANNING\*


co-sponsored by the Victory Garden Initiative

Learn the basics of vegetable gardening, just in time to plant your tomatoes this year. This is the perfect chance to meet other gardeners and learn how to use your garden for optimal production.

Saturday, May 5   
9 - 10:30 a.m.  
For adults and  
accompanied children  
\$15 (Nonmembers: \$18)  
Call to register, 964-8505


### BASIC ANIMAL CARE FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS\*

Animals in the classroom can be a powerful learning experience. We'll teach you how to set up an aquarium or terrarium in your classroom, and engage your students in the care of a variety of native Wisconsin animals. Registration required.

Monday, May 7   
10 a.m. - noon  
For all teachers,  
homeschool parents,  
and accompanied children  
Adults: \$6  
(Nonmembers: \$9)  
Children: \$4  
(Nonmembers: \$7)  
Call to register, 964-8505


### BEEKEEPING BASICS-THREE PART SERIES\*

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

Mondays, May 7, 14 & 21  
or Mondays,  
June 4, 11 & 18   
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
\$85 (Nonmembers: \$100)  
For adults  
Call to register, 964-8505

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM, BUT SOME ARE MORE DOWNSTREAM THAN OTHERS\*


Join Jack Kloppenburg, University of Wisconsin-Madison, as he discusses how Environmental Justice can revitalize communities. Environmental degradation and the loss of ecosystem services affect everyone. But those most directly affected are often people of color, poor, and marginalized. Environmental justice means recognizing and redressing this pattern of disproportional impact.

Tuesday, May 8   
7 - 8:30 p.m.  
For adults, teens,  
and families  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505

### COOKING CIRCLE


#### ENTREE SALADS\*

Learn how to create simple, healthful salads for a main course. We'll discuss various types of greens and other vegetables that may constitute a salad as well as how to nutritionally round out the meal. We'll practice making homemade dressings and vinaigrette (including a lesson on how to make mayonnaise from scratch) and build our own salads to enjoy at the end of class. Space is limited. Register in advance.

Monday, May 21   
6 - 8:30 p.m.  
For adults, teens  
and accompanied  
children  
\$20 (Nonmembers:  
\$25), Children: \$5  
Call to register, 964-8505


#### MAKING PIZZA FROM SCRATCH\*

This family class will focus on making pizza from scratch beginning with basic yeasted dough. We'll share topping ideas and flavor pairings and practice assembling and baking these pies to perfection. Recipes will be provided (along with a tried and true homemade gluten-free crust recipe). Space is limited. Register in advance.

Monday, June 18   
6 - 8:30 p.m.  
For adults, teens  
and accompanied  
children  
\$20 (Nonmembers:  
\$25), Children: \$5  
Call to register, 964-8505

### EVENING BIRD HIKE

Spring migration is well under way and more than 100 birds have been recorded at the urban oasis of Washington Park during May alone! Help us see if we can add to the list. Binoculars provided.

Wednesday, May 9   
6 - 7 p.m.  
For adults, teens,  
and accompanied  
children  
Free - donations appreciated  
(Nonmembers: \$5  
suggested donation)  
Call to register, 964-8505



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 5:15a-noon Bird Banding (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 2p Tune-up Tuesdays (rp) 2p Compost Crew (rp) 4-5:30p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 6p VGI: Eat and Meet (rp) 6:30p Beesentations (rp)	2 7-11a Bird Banding (wp) 8a Burdock Brigade (wp) 2p Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 7:30p Bat Monitoring Workshop (rp)	3 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 6p Spring Herbal Series (rp) 6p Water Safety Course (rp)	4 10a Forestry Fridays (wp) 2p Forestry Fridays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Food Fridays! (wp) 4p Volunteer Orientation (wp)	5 <b>Bicycle Tour Orientation - 9a (wp)</b> 9a Veg. Garden Planning (wp) Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays — The Planets (rp) 9a Park Ranger Crew (wp) 9:30a Burdock Brigade (rp) 10a Water Safety Course (wp) 11a Canoeing Basics (wp) 11a At-Home Compost (wp) 11a Garden Mentoring (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)
6 Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — The Planets (rp)	7 10a Basic Animal Care for Classroom Teachers (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp) 5p Frog and Turtle Monitoring Workshop (rp) 6:30p Beekeeping Basics (rp)	8 5:15a-noon Bird Banding (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 2p Compost Crew (rp) 4-5:30p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 7p Environmental Justice (rp) 7:30p Community Living Options Group (rp)	9 8a Birdwalk (wp) 2p Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 5p Volunteer Invertebrate Monitoring Workshop (rp) 6p Evening Bird Hike (wp) 6p Friends of Real Food (rp) 8p Bat Survey Walk (wp)	10 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Work Outside Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 6p Spring Herbal Series (rp) 6p Water Safety Course (rp) 7p Urban Stargazers (rp) 7p Urban Echo Poets (rp)	11 <b>Southeast Wisconsin Interurban Bicycle Tour leaves 7a (wp)</b> 10a Forestry Fridays (wp) 2p Forestry Fridays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Food Fridays! (wp)	12 <b>Vegan Bake Sale - 9:30a-4:30p (rp)</b> 9a Perennials & Weeds (rp) Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays — The Planets (rp) 9a Park Ranger Crew (wp) 9:30a Park Ranger Crew (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (rp) 10a Water Safety Course (wp) 10a The Mushroom Path (wp) 10a Story Tiles (rp) 11a Canoeing Basics (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp) 5:30p Yoga Jam (rp)
13 Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — The Planets (rp) <b>Southeast Wisconsin Interurban Bicycle Tour returns 5p (wp)</b>	14 7-9a Bike to Work Week (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp) 6:30p Beekeeping Basics (rp)	15 5:15a-noon Bird Banding (rp) 7-9a Bike to Work Week (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 2p Compost Crew (rp) 2p Tune-up Tuesdays (rp) 4-5:30p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 6:30p Beesentations (rp)	16 7-9a Bike to Work Week (rp) 8a Burdock Brigade (wp) 2p Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) <b>A Deliberate Life: Author Event with Tom Montgomery Fate 7p (rp)</b>	17 7-9a Bike to Work Week (rp) 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 6p Spring Herbal Series (rp) 6p Water Safety Course (rp) 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck (rp)	18 7-9a Bike to Work Week (rp) 10a Forestry Fridays (wp) 2p Forestry Fridays (rp) 3p Volunteer Orientation (rp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Food Fridays! (wp) 4p Water Safety Course (rp) 6p Volunteer Snake Monitoring Workshop (rp)	19 Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays — The Planets (rp) 9a Park Ranger Crew (wp) 9:30a Burdock Brigade (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10a Water Safety Course (wp) 10a Garden Plant Swap (rp) 11a Canoeing Basics (wp) 11a Reptiles & Amphibians (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)
20 <b>Green Birding Challenge 6a (rp)</b> Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — The Planets (rp) 7p Partial Solar Eclipse Viewing (rp)	21 4p Young Scientists (rp) 6p Entree Salads (rp) 6:30p Beekeeping Basics (rp) 8p Frog & Toad Survey (wp)	22 5:15a-noon Bird Banding (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 2p Compost Crew (rp) 2p Crazy About Canoeing! (wp) 4-5:30p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 5:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp)	23 8a Birdwalk (wp) 2p Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)	24 8a Big Bird Day (rp) 8a Burdock Brigade (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 5:30p Geocaching 101 (rp) 6p Water Safety Course (rp)	25 10a Forestry Fridays (wp) 2p Forestry Fridays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Food Fridays! (wp)	26 8a Victory Garden Blitz (wp) Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays — The Planets (rp) 9a Park Ranger Crew (wp) 9:30a Park Ranger Crew (rp) 10a Water Safety Course (wp) 10a Book Club (rp) 11a Canoeing Basics (wp) 1p River Canoe (rp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp & wp)
27 Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — The Planets (rp)	28 4p Young Scientists (rp)	29 5:15a-noon Bird Banding (rp) 9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 2p Compost Crew (rp) 2p Tune-up Tuesdays (rp) 4-5:30p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp)	30 8a Birdwalk (wp) 2p Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp & wp) 6p Ornithology (wp)	31 8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Menomonee Hike (rp) 6p Water Safety Course (rp) <b>A Night with Peter Senge 7:30p (rp)</b>		

# URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

# JUNE 2012


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Flowers (rp) Open Climb (rp)</p> <p>2-3:30p</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp) Beekeeping Basics (rp)</p> <p>6:30p</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Ready to Rock Climb! (rp) Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Transit of Venus (rp) VGI: Eat and Meet 6p Beesentations (rp) 6:30p</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (wp) 2p Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 6p Water Safety Course (rp)</p>	<p>10a Forestry Fridays (wp) 2p Forestry Fridays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Food Fridays! (wp) 4p Volunteer Orientation (wp)</p>	<p>8a Yoga on the Tower (rp) Teen Adventure Challenge 9a (rp) 9a Good, Bad, Buggy (wp) 9a Park Ranger Crew (wp) 9:30a Burdock Brigade (rp) Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays —Flowers (rp) 10a Water Safety Course (wp) 11a Canoeing Basics (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Flowers (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) 1p Bike to the Lake (rp) 1p Water Safety Course (rp) 2-3:30p Open Climb (rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp) Beekeeping Basics (rp) 6:30p Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 2p Compost Crew (rp) 2p Tune-up Tuesdays (rp) 4-5:30p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) 7p Building the Foundation for a County Natural Areas Program (rp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (wp) 2p Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) 5:30p River Rhythms (bh) 6p Friends of Real Food (rp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 6p Water Safety Course (rp) 7p Urban Stargazers (rp) 7p Urban Echo Poets (rp)</p>	<p>10a Forestry Fridays (wp) 2p Forestry Fridays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Food Fridays! (wp)</p>	<p>8a Yoga on the Tower (rp) 9a Park Ranger Crew (wp) 9:30a Burdock Brigade (rp) Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays —Flowers (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10a Water Safety Course (wp) 11a Canoeing Basics (wp) 11a Freshwater Fish (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Flowers (rp) Water Safety Course (rp) Open Climb (rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp) Making Pizza from Scratch (rp) 6p Beekeeping Basics (rp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 10a Volunteer Orientation (rp) 2p Compost Crew (rp) 4-5:30p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) 6:30p Beesentations (rp) 6:30p Ornithology (rp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (wp) 2p Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) 5:30p River Rhythms (bh)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 6p Water Safety Course (rp) 6:30p Vegetarian Potluck (rp)</p>	<p>10a Forestry Fridays (wp) 2p Forestry Fridays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Food Fridays! (wp)</p>	<p>9a Park Ranger Crew (wp) 9:30a Park Ranger Crew (rp) Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays —Flowers (rp) 10a Water Safety Course (wp) 10a Book Club (rp) Riverside Park location closes at noon 11a Canoeing Basics (wp) 1p River Kayak (rp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (wp)</p> <p><b>Summer Solstice Soiree and Auction 6:30p (rp)</b></p>
<p>Drop in 1-4p Science Sundays — Flowers (rp) Plant Walk (rp) Water Safety Course (rp) Open Climb (rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>9a Burdock Brigade (rp) 2p Tune-up Tuesdays (rp) 2p Compost Crew (rp) 4-5:30p Open Climb (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (wp) 2p Work Outside Wednesdays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) 5:30p River Rhythms (bh)</p>	<p>8a Birdwalk (rp) 10:30a Burdock Brigade (wps) 4p Burdock Brigade (wp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 6p Water Safety Course (rp)</p>	<p>10a Forestry Fridays (wp) 2p Forestry Fridays (rp) 4p Young Scientists (wp) 4p Food Fridays! (wp)</p>	<p>9a Park Ranger Crew (wp) 9:30a Park Ranger Crew (rp) Drop in 10a-4p Science Saturdays —Flowers (rp) 10a Water Safety Course (wp) 11a Canoeing Basics (wp) 1p Young Scientists (wp) 1p Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p> <p><b>Exploring Lake Wisconsin 2p (wp)</b></p>

**ADULT LEARNING CONTINUED**

**EDIBLE GARDENING FOR SUSTAINABILITY**


**PERENNIALS AND WEEDS\***  
co-sponsored by the Victory Garden Initiative

Expand your palate: eat and grow the least energy intensive and easiest to grow foods...weeds and perennials. Take a whole new look at creating a sustainable food system through this simple change in gardening focus.

Saturday, May 12   
9 - 10:30 a.m.  
For adults and families  
\$15 (Nonmembers: \$18) per person  
Call to register, 964-8505


**THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE BUGGY\***

Identify common diseases and pests, then learn to minimize them the permaculture way by promoting plant health and creating a bio-diverse ecosystem.

Saturday, June 2   
9 - 10:30 a.m.  
For adults and families  
\$15 (Nonmembers: \$18) per person  
Call to register, 964-8505


**GETTING ON THE MUSHROOM PATH\***

Discover how to build and maintain your garden paths to provide a mushroom crop throughout the season. We will use the King Stropharia species. This hands-on class is outdoors weather permitting, indoors if needed.

Saturday, May 12   
10 - 11 a.m.  
For adults, teens, and families  
\$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)  
Call to register, 964-8505


**YOGA JAM**

Come flow through yoga poses to live music with certified instructor Lynn Jack. This will be a fun and relaxing class. All levels are welcome; please bring a yoga mat.

Saturday, May 12   
5:30 - 7 p.m.  
For adults  
\$15 (Nonmembers: \$20) (Nonmembers: \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505


**GARDEN PLANT SWAP\***

Do you have some extra fruit and veggie plants from your garden? The Center and Milwaukee Urban Gardens are co-hosting a live plant swap. This is an opportunity to swap plants (e.g. berries, tomatoes, peppers, etc.), stories and tips with other gardeners.

Saturday, May 19   
10 a.m. - noon  
For adults and families  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505


**PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING\***

Join our Urban Stargazers and the Milwaukee Public Museum and safely watch the moon take a big bite out of the sun! This is the first visible eclipse in Milwaukee in 10 years. Remember, it's never safe to look directly at the sun but we will help you observe the eclipse safely. This event will be cancelled if it is completely cloudy.

Sunday, May 20   
7 - 8:30 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated  
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, run by citizen scientists. Dress for the weather and wear footwear that can get muddy. We will cover western and southern Milwaukee County. Call Tim Vargo x116 for details.

Monday, May 21   
8 p.m. - midnight  
For adults and teens  
Free for Members.  
Donation appreciation for Nonmembers  
Call to register, 964-8505


**MILWAUKEE COUNTY BIG BIRD DAY**

Help us count as many birds as we can find in Milwaukee County in a single day during this fun research challenge. We'll visit birding hot spots until we drop. Binoculars provided. Bring a lunch.

Thursday, May 24   
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505


**GREAT MILWAUKEE VICTORY GARDEN BLITZ**  
co-sponsored by the Victory Garden Initiative

Formerly an event to install as many gardens in one day as possible, this year's Blitz will include a week of garden installations all over Milwaukee! See our website (VictoryGardenInitiative.org) for the Blitz Week Calendar, volunteer information, garden installation information and so much more! Our big day of garden building and celebration will be on Saturday, May 26th!

Saturday, May 26   
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated


**BOOK CLUB\***


**May:** *Cabin Fever: A Suburban Father's Search for the Wild* by Tom Montgomery Fate. **June:** *A Sunburned Country* by Bill Bryson

Saturdays, May 26 & June 23   
10 - 11 a.m.  
For adults and teens  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505

**ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOPS\***

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


Wednesday, May 30   
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 19   
6:30 - 8 p.m.

For teens and adults  
\$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)  
Call to register, 964-8505


**YOGA ON THE TOWER**

Come practice your yoga close to the sky with certified instructor Lynn Jack. Yoga on the tower allows you to tune in to the sights and sounds of nature in Riverside Park and the surrounding city as it awakens while you focus on your yoga practice.

Saturdays, June 2, 9, & 16   
8 - 9 a.m.  
For adults  
\$30 series (Nonmembers: \$45 series)  
Call to register, 964-8505


**TRANSIT OF VENUS\***

Join the Urban Stargazers for a very rare and wondrous astronomical event. We will safely view the far off planet Venus as it passes across the face of the sun. Viewing the sun directly is dangerous, so we will set up safe viewing methods. This is a once in a lifetime chance - this transit won't happen again until 2117! Please register in advance so we can confirm cancellations if faced with inclement weather.

Tuesday, June 5   
5 - 8:30 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505


**BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR A COUNTY NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM\***

Come out and learn more about the Natural Areas Program, its current activities, and its goals for the future from Brian Russart, Natural Areas Coordinator, Milwaukee County Parks/ UW-Extension. We are very fortunate to have over 9,000 acres of urban natural areas in the Milwaukee County Park system, a new 40 mile hiking trail system and countless opportunities to enjoy nature at our fingertips.

Tuesday, June 12   
7 - 8:30p.m.  
For adults, teens, and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)  
Call to register, 964-8505

**FOOD & MEDICINE WILD PLANT WALK\***

Take a walk about with herbalist Linda Conroy and Wild Forager John Holzwart. We will identify and discuss the applications of herbs and wild food growing right in our back yards. You will be surprised and delighted by the green world. We will also discuss approaches to urban foraging and approaches to incorporating these plants into everyday life.

Sunday, June 24   
1 - 4:30 p.m.  
For adults  
\$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)  
Call to register, 964-8505

## URBAN ADVENTURES

The programs below are paid for by support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, under Assistance Agreement No. GL00E00651-0.

### MILWAUKEE RIVER CANOE (KLETZCH TO RIVERSIDE PARK)

Explore the Milwaukee River from Kletzch to Riverside Park. Along the way we will discuss recent improvements and projects happening on the Milwaukee River. Dress for the weather and be prepared to get a little wet.

Saturday, May 26

1 - 4 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children ages 9 and older

\$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Call to register, 964-8505



### LITTLE MENOMONEE PARK WAY HIKE

Come discover this magnificent park with winding rivers and wetland plains. On the hike we will discuss current issues with the park and well as what we can do about it.

Thursday, May 31

4 - 6:30 p.m.

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated

Call to register, 964-8505



### HIKE LINCOLN PARK

Explore the new and improved Lincoln Park. Our hike starts along the Milwaukee River and extends through the entire park.

Saturday, June 9

10 a.m. - noon

For everyone

Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

Call to register, 964-8505



### MILWAUKEE RIVER KAYAK

Paddle the Milwaukee River from Kletzch to Riverside Park. This route has a couple portages and a few gentle rapids. Learn about current ecological issues and actions you can take to improve the river.

Saturday, June 23

1 - 4 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children ages 9 and older

\$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Call to register, 964-8505



### OPEN CLIMB

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

Every Tuesday

4 - 5:30 p.m.



Every Sunday starting in June

2 - 3:30 p.m.

For adults, teens

and children ages 6 and older accompanied by an adult

Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12), Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Call to register, 964-8505



### CANOEING BASICS

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

Every Saturday

11 a.m. - noon

For adults and accompanied children

ages 5 and older

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

Children: \$4

(Nonmembers: \$7)

Call to register, 964-8505



### RIVER RHYTHMS

Paddle down the Milwaukee River from the Rowing Club Boat House to Pere Marquette Park. Enjoy music and festivities at River Rhythms, then paddle back. Must have a minimum of six participants for the program to happen so sign up with friends! Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse, (1990 N. Commerce St.)

Every Wednesday starting June 13

5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

For adults and accompanied children ages 8 and older

Adults: \$35

(Nonmembers: \$40)

Children: \$30

(Nonmembers: \$35)

Call to register, 964-8505

### WATER SAFETY COURSE\*

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

Every Thursday

6 - 6:30 p.m.



Every Sunday starting June 9  
1 p.m.

Every Saturday

10 - 10:30 a.m.

For adults

Free - donations appreciated

(Nonmembers: \$5)

Membership required

to borrow boats

Call to register, 964-8505



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

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, May 12  
10 - 11:30 a.m.

Fridays, May 18 & June 8,  
3 - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22  
5:30 - 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 10,  
12:30 - 2 p.m.

Monday, June 11  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 19  
10 - 11:30 a.m.



Saturday, May 19 or June 16  
10 - 11 a.m.

Friday, May 4 or  
June 1  
4 - 5 p.m.



For adults and teens  
Free  
Call to register, 964-8505

### BAT MONITORING WORKSHOP\*

Join our Bat Monitoring Field Technician Anne Reis for an introductory workshop on basic bat monitoring techniques. We will head out after sunset into Riverside Park to monitor bats, if the weather permits.

Wednesday, May 2  
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

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



### FROG AND TURTLE MONITORING WORKSHOP\*

Join Field Technician Katie Matulis for a workshop on frog and turtle monitoring techniques. A field trip to the monitoring sites will occur, weather permitting.

Monday, May 7  
5 - 6:30 p.m.

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



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CONT.**

**VOLUNTEER INVERTEBRATE MONITORING WORKSHOP\***

Urban Ecology Center's Invertebrate Monitoring field technician Maggie Tarasewicz will discuss ways to become involved with the Center's invertebrate research in the lab and the field.

Wednesday, May 9  
5 - 6 p.m.



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

**VOLUNTEER SNAKE MONITORING WORKSHOP\***

Join Urban Ecology Center's Snake Monitoring Technician Julia Robson, for a discussion about research opportunities and ways for volunteers to become involved in the snake monitoring project.

Friday, May 18  
6 - 7 p.m.



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

**TUNE-UP TUESDAYS\***

Do you enjoy fixing bikes, tents, canoes and other types of equipment? Would you like to put your skills to good use for a great organization? Come join like-minded people as part of our NEW mechanical repair crew.

Tuesdays, May 1, 15,  
29, June 12 & 26  
2 - 4 p.m.



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

**COMPOST CREW**

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

Every Tuesday  
2 - 4 p.m.



For adults and teens  
Free - donations appreciated  
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.

Every Wednesday  
2 - 4 p.m.



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

**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  
9:30 - 11 a.m.

For adults, families, and teens  
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.

Every Friday  
10 a.m. - noon



Every Friday  
2 - 4 p.m.



For adults, families and teens  
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.

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



Every Saturday  
9 - 10 a.m.



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

**INTEREST GROUPS**

**VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE: EAT AND MEET\***

Join us at this Eat and Meet to learn how you can get involved in our now famous signature event, The Great Milwaukee Victory Garden Blitz. This year we will be installing gardens all week long.

Tuesdays, May 1 & June 5  
6 - 8 p.m.



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

**COMMUNITY LIVING OPTIONS GROUP-MILWAUKEE (COLOG MILW): COMMUNITY BUILDING NIGHT\***

Come share personal and group experiences to learn what is important to your vision for community living. We will also discuss planning for our annual one day conference. CoLOG-Milwaukee activities featured in partnership with the Riverwest Investment Cooperative.

Tuesday, May 8  
7:30 - 8:45 p.m.



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

**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.

Thursdays, May 10 & June 14  
7 - 8:30 p.m.



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

**URBAN STARGAZERS\***

Join us for fun, information and if the skies are clear, stargazing.

Thursdays, May 10 & June 14  
7 - 8:30 p.m.



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

**FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD\***

Share a potluck dinner and join the enthusiastic discussions.

**May:** Creating Our 2012 Farm Bill -- For a Healthy, Fair Food System and New Opportunity. Margaret Krome, Policy Program Director, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, will talk about what is important to include in the next Farm Bill. Learn how you can support new farmers, local food, land stewardship, fair markets and enough funds for nutrition assistance programs.

**June:** The Clock Shadow Building, A Sustainable Local Food System on the South Side. The new Clock Shadow building in the Walker's Point neighborhood is garnering national attention as a venture in sustainability and wellness. Come meet the building developer and tenants including Fix Development, LLC; Clock Shadow Creamery; Purple Door Ice Cream; CORE/El Centro; Aurora Walker's Point Community Clinic and The Healing Center.

Wednesday, May 9 & June 13  
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, May 17 & June 21  
6:30 - 8 p.m.



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

## GREEN BIRDING CHALLENGE IS BACK!

by Tim Vargo, Manager of Research and Citizen Science

We'll give you something to crow about. The Urban Ecology Center's Green Birding Challenge is back!

This year's challenge will be on Sunday, May 20th, from 6 a.m. to noon. Donations raised will help support our mission to connect people in our community to research.

Birding is "green" when little or no fossil fuels are used by the folks looking for birds. The 2nd Annual Green Birding Challenge is an opportunity for teams of bird watching enthusiasts to bike, walk or stay in one place as they tally what they find. This year's Challenge features new Family/Children/Novice division.

If you're looking to introduce a novice to birdwatching or just appreciate the assistance of a birding expert, this challenge is for you.

Teams will compete in one of four "green" or fossil-fuel-free birding categories designed for all levels of skill or mobility.

- **Stationary Birding** -- Count as many birds as possible from a fixed location.
- **Birding on Foot** -- Head out on foot in search of birds.
- **Birding by Bike** -- Hop on bikes to extend your range.

- **Mini Challenge for Families/Children/Novices** -- Shorter timeframe or the assistance of a birding expert.

Can your team find the most bird species and/or raise the most donations? Prizes include guided trips and other bird-related items. Compete to be the best team in your category! After the prizes are awarded, we'll have a delicious lunch.

Whether you are a world-traveled birder or simply a cardinal comrade, we promise that you'll get hooked on green birding!

How to get started:

1. Put together a team of three people. (You can add a fourth, but only if one of your team members is a birding novice). Mini-Challenge teams will not be limited in number.
2. Choose a category in which to compete
3. Register your team online at: [www.urbanecologycenter.org/greenbirdingchallenge/registration.html](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/greenbirdingchallenge/registration.html). Registration Fee: \$25.00 per person.
4. After you register, start collecting pledges! Ask folks to visit [www.urbanecologycenter.org/greenbirdingchallenge/pledges.html](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/greenbirdingchallenge/pledges.html) to donate online or to learn about alternate ways to give. You can also download a pledge sheet and collect donations as you go about your day (please turn in all donations by the day of the Challenge). Don't forget to give folks your team name so you can be credited with their donation

### INTRODUCING TWO RISING STARS AT THE CENTER

*continued from page 3*

skills and intelligence to her new role. Please congratulate her on your next visit to Riverside Park.

Glenna was first introduced to the Center nearly a decade ago as a high school student assisting with land stewardship and citizen-based monitoring projects. This is where she first uncovered her passion for education, ecological responsibility and justice. She graduated with honors from Pomona College where she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in environmental analysis with an emphasis in race, class, gender and the environment.

Over the years, Glenna has specialized in bilingual environmental education. Through teaching in Philadelphia and Chicago, she developed a love of urban teaching and a deep understanding of public school system achievements, challenges and academic assessment. Though a native English speaker, Glenna put her formal Spanish language training to practice by providing tutoring and academic support for school age children in Peru, teaching English to Mexican and Guatemalan adults in California, and leading education activities for a zoo in New Mexico. In addition, she ran an environmental education program for the Albuquerque Biopark in New Mexico.

While Glenna fully deserves accolades for achieving such a well rounded set of experiences that prepared her for this position, we are proud to have been a part of her learning process. Who better to speak for the Center than someone who has experienced it as a member, a volunteer, an intern, an employee and now a leader! Please help us welcome Glenna to her new role. 🌿



Ready to look for birds? Sign your team up today! 🌿

## THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER

The Urban Ecology Center receives a majority of its support from local foundations, corporations and individuals. This section of our newsletter is reserved to thank you and the many supporters of the Center. **The names listed are those who made a contribution to the Urban Ecology Center in the two months since our previous newsletter.**

We thank all of you who have begun a new membership, renewed your membership, given a gift membership or made a donation to our mission. We work hard to recognize all our supporters accurately. Contact Cassie at 964-8505 or [cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org) if your name has not appeared as you expected.

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CORPORATIONS/  
ORGANIZATIONS

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Fidelity Charitable Gift  
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Ornithology, Inc.

## IN HONOR OF...

Beth Heller's birthday  
- Anonymous  
- Kristin & Justin  
Arndt  
- Clair & Mary Baum  
- Philip Bielefeld

- Rebecca Burda &  
Brian Swift  
- Rachel Christenson  
- Meg Daly  
- Kendra DeMarco  
- Matthew &  
Kate Edwards  
- Dan & Pat Fetterley  
- Sarah & Will Fetterley  
- Meghan &  
Josh Forseth  
- David & Lisa Froiland  
- Stacy Goetzman  
- Amy Gutowski  
- Marvin & Joanne  
Heller  
- Christel Henke  
- Dante & Jennifer  
Houston  
- Dean & Lois  
Markwardt  
- Kristin Matera  
- Jennifer Mattes  
- Brian & Angela  
O'Regan  
- Erin Peschel  
- Glen Radford  
- Rich & Patty Roberts  
- Sarah Smith  
- Sarah Stout  
- Karin Tamblingson  
- NJ Unaka & Jamie  
Washam  
- Katie Weeks  
Quinn & Reid Muderlak  
- Mary Hinner  
Kat Reilly & Nick  
Toman  
- Anonymous  
Pat Mueller's birthday  
- Anne & William Rose  
Nancy Aten  
- Door County  
Land Trust  
Ken Leinbach &  
Max Balan  
- Dennis Grzezinski  
& Jane Porath  
Ben Werner's Bar  
Mitzvah  
- Kenneth & Julianna  
Kapp  
- The La Prest &  
Werner Family  
- Jannis Mindel  
John Schafer's birthday  
- Jessica Zalewski  
& John Schafer  
Zoe Kohl's birthday  
- Alexandra Dimitroff  
- Jennifer & Jason  
Rosenberg

## IN MEMORY OF...

Al Peronto's birthday  
- Sara Peronto  
Orvella Flaten  
- Nancy Thomadsen

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Thank  
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Milwaukee, WI 53211

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## URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER'S *Summer Solstice Soiree*

June 23rd, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.  
Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place

TICKETS ARE \$150 PER PERSON



Please check our website or contact Cassie Mordini at [cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:cmordini@urbanecologycenter.org) or 964-8505, x104 for more information.

FSC logo



[www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org)

Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
My neighborhood park is  
 Riverside  Washington  I love them all!  
 I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.  
Charge my membership to:  Master Card  Visa  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP

**Did you know you can give a donation, join or renew your membership securely online? Visit [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org) and click either "donations" or "membership"**

**Renew or begin your membership, choose one:**

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

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

**Give a gift membership:**

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

Recipient Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Send the announcement card to  Me  Gift recipient  
Occasion \_\_\_\_\_  
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### DONATION (IN ADDITION TO MEMBERSHIP)

Please accept my gift to support:

- Provide a membership for a low income family (\$35)
- Provide an educational program for families (\$75)
- Provide a summer camp scholarship (\$195)
- Support a high school summer intern (\$600)
- Restore native plants to an acre of public land (\$1000)
- Sponsor a school for a year, 24 field trips for city kids! (\$5000)

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY!**