



Force for Good

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Lately I've been thinking about how the Urban Ecology Center is like Star Wars. Wait, I know this sounds like a stretch, but stay with me. One of the underlying themes of Star Wars is that when diverse people come together for the greater good they can create world altering change. Tapping into the diversity of natural and community life here in Milwaukee, the Urban Ecology Center is creating "world altering" change, neighborhood by neighborhood. And we get the excitement of working locally now, not "a long time ago" and "far, far away."



I bet you're wondering why Star Wars was on my mind at all. Well...

We've had some pretty unique donations but it's going to be tough to top a Jedi lightsaber! When a seven-year-old heard that the Executive Director of the Urban Ecology Center keeps a lightsaber on the wall behind his desk his eyes lit up. But when he heard that it was red (the color of Darth Vader's lightsaber), he was determined to change that. That is how I ended up finding a brand new green lightsaber on my desk. "It's the color Luke Skywalker had," the boy said and smiled.

And that's when it hit me. From his own frame of reference, this seven-year-old was sharing what the Urban Ecology Center meant to him — a powerful force for good. For us, this good is daring to redefine what it means to be out in nature and in the city. We're

continued on page 2



Green Career Pipeline: Voices of Our Future

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Malachi Crenshaw, a 10th grader at Rufus King High School, finished teaching his first solo Water Safety Course when I met him at the Washington Park branch. I asked him if he had been nervous about being the only instructor and he said "I was more curious. I'm pretty comfortable with public speaking and I know the content, so I mostly was interested to see how those would come together." This is exactly the kind of experience we hope to provide to our High School Outdoor Leaders – hands-on work.

The High School Outdoor Leader program is one step in our "green career pipeline." This "pipeline" aims to introduce youth to the possibilities of working in the environmental field. The process begins with our school program. Malachi first came to the Urban Ecology Center in 3rd grade with Golda Meir Elementary school on a field trip. He collected water samples from the Milwaukee River to determine how the quality of the water relates to pollution and the freshwater ecosystem. This was the first time he became interested in the environment.

After their school trip, students are invited to return after school or on the weekend. We encourage students to bring family members or come on their own as part of the Young Scientist Club. One of the things Malachi loves to do is bring his little brother to Washington Park to go fishing. His brother is currently a 3rd grader at Golda Meir. Perhaps he will become an Outdoor Leader like his older brother seven years from now.

In the next step in the "pipeline", high school sophomores or juniors, can apply for the Outdoor Leadership program. This program is designed to provide two years of job training. Outdoor Leaders are placed in paid positions throughout the Center, helping with

continued on page 4

Branch Highlights



RIVERSIDE PARK

Calling all volunteers! We would like to thank you for all of the wonderful work that you do. Please come to the **Volunteer Appreciation Party on November 16th**, please RSVP by November 9. Also, the **Milwaukee Coffee Festival is November 5th**. Registration is required, so reserve your spot today.



WASHINGTON PARK

Join us for a series of lectures and discourse related to environmental and social justice in Milwaukee and around the world. **On November 15th** we are proud to host **Elizabeth Drame**, Department Chair of Exceptional Education, UW-Milwaukee as she reflects the experiences of black researchers.



MENOMONEE VALLEY

We're seeking gallery exhibits for 2017. We look for artists who feature nature-related subjects, the natural sciences, natural products used as art or the relationship of urban environment to nature. Visit urbanecologycenter.org/art for more information. **Deadline to submit is November 30th.**

Force for Good

continued from page 1

restoring the land and connecting people in our communities. And all because of your help! Together we are sharing so much life!

Many thanks to all of you in our diverse, energetic community who help us continue to be a force for good. Specifically, I'd like to thank our Board of Directors (Jedi Counsel) who help create our vision, our contributing members (um, maybe the Galactic Senate ... no, that's not right) who support our

programs and our volunteers (Rebel Alliance, sort of) who provide hands-on help.

Ok, so the Urban Ecology Center isn't *exactly* like Star Wars. But you have to admit that if our supporters and volunteers were working in one of their cities, it would be a whole lot greener and full of life.

May the force be with you this holiday season. 🌿

DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE

• Writing in progress...

We are excited to announce that our Executive Director, Ken Leinbach, is writing a book to tell the story of the Urban Ecology Center. This is part of the organization's strategic plan and will help to spread the word about the Urban Ecology Center far and wide!

To focus on this large project he is taking a writing sabbatical from October 1st to the end of the calendar year. During that time, Beth Heller will serve as Interim Executive Director and all matters that would normally be handled by Ken will be sent to Beth and other team members as appropriate.

- **Yes, You Can Be a Visionary!** Over the years we've had visionary friends who have wanted to ensure that the work of our organization can continue well into the future. These loyal friends made gifts, of all sizes, to turn this idea into reality and so can you! Your gifts of time, talents and financial resources are vital to programs that change lives every day!

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, Summer Camp and Land Stewardship that impact lives throughout our community. What about next year? 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 or 414-964-8505 to learn more about planned giving.



**HKE
MKE**
a benefit hike for the
Urban Ecology Center

Presented by



Rotary
Club of Milwaukee

Media Partner



**THANK YOU
SPONSORS &
PARTICIPANTS**

Together we raised
over \$46,000!

Our second annual fundraising hike was a huge success thanks to over 400 participants, volunteers, donors and sponsors. For a highlight video of the hike visit: <http://bit.ly/2drxlke>.



**Johnson
Controls**



PALERMO'S
A Family of Brands
Since 1964



**purple
door**
ice cream



BELAIR



erchwon

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.

Credits:



Carijean Buhk
Editor

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

Contributing writers: Beth Heller, Ken Leinbach and Chad Thomack.

Copyright © 2016 The Urban Ecology Center

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



Environmental education is at the core of our mission. The main way we accomplish this during the school year is our Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP). Through NEEP our partner schools send students to our branches for hands on science and environmental lessons.

We're educating the next generation of environmental leaders. Plus, they have so much fun they don't realize how much they're learning!

REPORT CARD FOR 2015-1016 SCHOOL YEAR:

Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP)

30,000

total number of student visits during the 2015- 16 school year

53

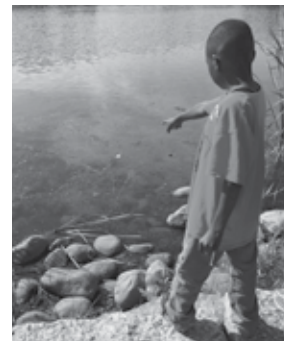
partner schools during the 2015 - 16 school year. That number rose to **60 schools** this year!

94%

of students surveyed said that they **learned something on their field trip that will help them in school.**

92%

of teachers reported felt that **NEEP improved their students' respect for nature** by helping them understand how their actions impact the environment



"Everything you do fits in perfectly with what we are doing in school, it's like you can read my mind!"
- teacher from a NEEP partner school

If you'd like to support projects like these, consider volunteering or making a donation. Learn how at www.urbanecologycenter.org



Reflection of Summer Lunches

by Chad Thomack, Environmental Educator

Even though we are a few months into the school year, I can't help but reflect on my summer as a camp leader. Think of this as a preview of what your friends and family could look forward to next year.

The theme that sticks out most for me and my summer was my lunches. Yep, I said it, lunch. Last year I ate lunch outside at over 20 different places in Milwaukee. I am not talking about your local restaurants. I am talking packing up a lunch and driving, biking, hiking or paddling to our lunch destination.

My first week of camp brought me out to Wyalusing State Park on the Mississippi River just south of Prairie Du Chien for our first ever Fish and Float camp. For middle school students, this camp includes a couple nights of sleeping

under the stars. What an adventure it was! We took boundary-breaking night hikes, fished on the back waters of the Wisconsin River and swam in the Mississippi River, all in just two days!

During another camp, we explored the city on bike. We started every morning at the Menomonee Valley branch, but we would eat lunch there only on day one. I shared with this group of middle school students that the more responsible they were, the more freedoms they'd get. They blew my mind with their respect for me and our guidelines. Every day we got our bikes and gear ready and left for the day, rain or shine. We biked almost 15-miles a day exploring Lincoln, Kletzsch, Estabrook, Jacobus, Doyne, Hart, Hoyt, Lakeshore and Three Bridges Parks. We also toured the Milwaukee VA historic grounds. All within a week!

The Outdoor Detectives camp brought me back to Riverside Park but only for a day. For this 3rd and 4th grade camp, we picked a park to explore, grabbed our exploration gear and off we'd go. Lion's Den Gorge (state natural area near Grafton) was our most exciting adventure. Trails take you along the bluffs of Lake Michigan giving us views of blue Gatorade-colored water and down to the beach for more exploration, rock skipping and fun.

Summer at the Urban Ecology Center is certainly very busy with the addition of all the campers who come here to explore the natural world for a week-long camp. Check out the camps we will be starting in June 2017 and maybe your child will be able to enjoy lunch somewhere different next summer. 🌿

Green Career Pipeline: Voices of Our Future

continued from page 1

community programs, visitor services, land stewardship, volunteer engagement and marketing efforts. By the end of the two year experience, the students are ready to bring an ecological lens to their future jobs, college and life.

In college, students can continue along the path with internships for credit and paid summer intern programs. This pathway

prepares them for future employment at organizations with an environmental focus, or even the Urban Ecology Center!

You are invited to visit Malachi at our Washington Park branch, where you will be able see for yourself how talented he is at connecting people to our mission. Or visit any of our branches to meet his colleagues. Each of our outdoor leaders has their own unique story

about their connection to the Center. Each has their own approach to working with us and in defining their ambitions for the future. You can meet them in person or visit our blog, where we will be writing about each Outdoor Leader over the next few months. These are the voices of our future. When you hear their stories you will know that our future is bright. 🌿



2017
SUMMER CAMPS

Week-long day camps for **Preschool - 9th grade** *Scholarships Available* **Registration starts January 2017**

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Milwaukee Coffee Festival

Saturday, November 5

10AM - 3PM | for adults

New this year –

Registration required

\$10 in advance

\$15 at the door (if space is available)



Celebrate Milwaukee's other favorite brew during the Milwaukee Coffee Festival. Join us for a day of tasting, experiencing and learning about sustainably grown and locally sold coffee from the leaders in the field. For details visit pendulumcoffee.com/milwaukee-coffee-festival/.

Come celebrate YOU — our wonderful volunteers — and all that you helped us accomplish this year.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

Wednesday, November 16th

5 - 8PM | FOR VOLUNTEERS

5 - 6PM

Campfire fun!

6 - 7PM

Enjoy a delicious arrangement of heavy appetizers

7 - 8PM

Entertainment by the staff and a dessert bar

Please register by November 9th
at urbanecologycenter.org/vap



Candlelight Walk

Enjoy the wonder of a winter night. Take a guided, candlelit walk featuring poetry and readings. Then warm up by the fire while you enjoy cider, snacks and music. Registration for a specific walk time is required.

Saturday, December 17 | 7 - 9PM

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

Candlelight Walk *for kids*

Enjoy stories for kids on an easy walk through the woods. Then warm up with games and treats. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Registration for a specific walk time is required.

Saturday, December 17 | 4:30 - 6:30PM

For families | Adults: \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Children: \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

Christmas Bird Count - East Side

Contribute to bird research during your morning hike -- join volunteers around the world for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Data we collect contributes to an international database of bird population trends. We'll hike along the east bank of the Milwaukee River, stop for brunch and return via the west bank. Dress for a long hike and bring a lunch or money for brunch.

Saturday, Dec. 17 | 8am - 5pm

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Nature Rangers

Sign up for either the Monday or Tuesday session.

Every Mon. or every Tue. except Dec. 19, 20, 26 & 27 | 4 - 5:30PM

For children ages 5 and older |

\$10 (Nonmember: \$15)

Animal Feeding

Every Sat. except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 & 31 | 1PM

For everyone | Free

Saturday Preschool Series

Bring your youngsters, ages 3-5 years, and enjoy exploring nature together. Each session will include a mix of seasonal indoor and outdoor play, songs and stories. Please dress for playing outdoors. Themes: November - Trees, Leaves and Seeds; December - Animals in Winter

Sat., Nov. 12 & Dec. 3 |

10:30 - 11:30AM

For children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult | Adults: \$5

(Nonmembers: \$7) Children: \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

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



Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website
www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 964-8505

3 IN PERSON:
1500 E. Park Pl.

Programs and Events

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

RIVERSIDE PARK

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS & SPECIAL HOURS

November 5 — OPENING AT 3PM

November 24 - 27 — Closed

December 19 - 23 — 9AM - 5PM

December 24 - 26 — Closed

December 27 - 30 — 9AM - 5PM

December 31 — Closed

Normal hours (as listed on page 11) apply except for days listed to the left

ADULT PROGRAMS

Cranes Among Us

Hear the tale of the Sandhill's emergence from near extinction in the 1930s and the Whooping Crane's perilous course of survival from Andy Bingle of the International Crane Foundation and artist Ellen McGaughey, whose paintings of cranes will fill the Community Room walls. Andy will incorporate Ellen's paintings which portray cranes in a variety of typical situations in Wisconsin into his talk.

Sat., Nov. 19 | 2 - 3:30PM

For adults and families | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Faith and Solar Initiative Presentation

Presented by Wisconsin Green Muslims and RENEW Wisconsin

Come to this brief introduction to solar energy systems. For more information, please contact: Huda Alkaff Founder and Director, Wisconsin Green Muslims at info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org

Tue., Nov. 29 | 7 - 8PM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Sustainable Coffee Tasting

Join experts from Pendulum Coffee as you taste locally-roasted brews from around the world. We will explore how local roasters bring out flavors unique to the beans' origin. Learn about the growing regions, sustainable farming practices, notes, aromas and more. For all coffee enthusiasts! Space is limited.

Sat., Dec. 10 | 10 - 11AM

For adults | \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

INTEREST GROUPS

Ojibwe Language Study Group

Every Mon. except Dec. 19 & 26 | 6 - 8PM

Community Vegan Potluck

Tue., Nov. 1 & Dec. 6 | 6:30 - 8PM

Photo Club

Thu., Nov. 3 & Dec. 1 | 6:30 - 9PM

350.org General Meeting

Tue., Nov. 8 & Dec. 13 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Echo Poets

Thu., Nov. 10 & Dec. 8 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Stargazers

Thu., Nov. 10 & Dec. 8 | 7 - 8:30PM

Faith and Ecology

Tue., Nov. 15 | 7 - 8:30PM

Friends of Real Food

Potluck Dinner and Program 

Thu., Nov. 17 & Dec. 15 | 7 - 8PM

Early Morning Bird Walk

Every Thu., except Nov. 24 | 8 - 10:30AM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Riverside Park 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.

Sat., Nov. 12 | 10:30AM - NOON

Fri., Nov. 18 | 3 - 4:30PM

Wed., Nov. 30 | 5:30 - 7PM

Fri., Dec. 9 | 3 - 4:30PM

Wed., Dec. 14 | 5:30 - 7PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Volunteer Papermaking

Join other Center volunteers and learn the art of recycled papermaking to create beautiful gifts for our Center's contributing members.

Every Tue. except

Dec. 20 & 27 | 4:30 - 6PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

ROOT Riverside Park

Help us improve and maintain the health of our forests and plant communities! We'll meet in the lobby of our Riverside Park branch and head outside as a group.

Every Tue. | 9 - 11AM

Every Fri. except Nov. 25 | 2 - 4PM

Every 1st and 3rd Sat. | 9:30 - 11AM

For adults, families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Fixin' Facilities

Come help maintain our building, vehicles, park and playground. Help with anything from building and painting, to repair and upkeep projects.

Every Thu. except Nov. 24

except Dec. 22 & 29 | 3 - 5PM

For adults, families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

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



Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website

www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

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

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

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

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Environmental and social justice are issues that the Center has identified as paramount to our programming and our mission. This fall we are proud to host Elizabeth Drame, whose work is at the heart of these concerns.

Black Participatory Research: Stirring the Waters at the Margins ♿

How do shared identity, experiences and differences shape participatory research? Elizabeth Drame, Department Chair of Exceptional Education, UW-Milwaukee, reflects on the experiences of black researchers who collaborated in participatory research projects in New Orleans, Philadelphia and Senegal. She explores emerging conflicts and tensions when various measures of diversity emerge alongside racial identity as central ways of seeing ourselves.

Tue., Nov. 15 | 7 - 8:30 PM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Birds of Lake Michigan

Starting at North Point, we will work our way south along Lake Michigan to look for wintering ducks, geese, scoters, grebes and loons. Binoculars and spotting scopes provided. Also, feel free to bring a lunch and follow us to our Menomonee Valley branch for the Beak to Tail workshop at 1pm.

Sat., Nov. 12 | 8AM - NOON

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

Birds of Lake Michigan/Racine County

Starting at Wind Point in Racine County we will work our way north along Lake Michigan to look for wintering ducks, geese, scoters, grebes and loons. Binoculars and spotting scopes provided. Also, feel free to bring a lunch and join us for our From Beak to Tail workshop at 1pm.

Sat., Dec. 10 | 8:30AM - NOON

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

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Young Scientists Club

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

Every Tue. - Fri. except Nov. 16, 24, 25 and Dec. 20 - 31 | 4 - 6PM

Every Sat. except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 & 31 | 1 - 4PM

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

Animal Feeding ♿

Every Sat. except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 & 31 | 1PM

For everyone | Free

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Washington Park Volunteer Orientation ♿

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

Sat., Nov. 5 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Tue., Nov. 22 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Wed., Dec. 7 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Sat., Dec. 17 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Fixin' Facilities ♿

Come help maintain our building, vehicles and park. Help with anything from building and painting to repair and upkeep projects.

Every Fri. except Nov. 25 & Dec. 23 | 2 - 4PM

For adults, families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

ROOT Washington Park

Ready to dig in the dirt or help us clean seeds? 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 - 11:00 AM

Every Thu. except Nov. 24 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

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



Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website

www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 344-5460

3 IN PERSON:
1859 N. 40th St.

Programs and Events

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

WASHINGTON PARK HOLIDAY CLOSINGS & SPECIAL HOURS

November 16	—	Closing at 4PM	December 24 - 25	—	Closed
November 24 - 26	—	Closed	December 27 - 30	—	NOON - 4PM
December 20 - 23	—	NOON - 4PM	December 31	—	Closed

Normal hours (as listed on page 11) apply except for days listed to the left

ADULT PROGRAMS

Just because the growing season has ended, that doesn't mean that there's nothing to do until spring. Continue "growing" all winter long with the programs below

Food Preservation

Presented by Victory Garden Initiative

With some time and planning you can eat from your garden year-round. We'll go over the basics of preserving and storing food including what freezes well, what you can dehydrate and what can be canned (sealed in jars). See this demonstration and receive a jar of freshly preserved goodies to take home!

Thu., Nov. 3 | 6 - 7:30PM

For adults | \$12 members, students and seniors (Nonmembers: \$20)

Growing Together:

Community Organizing 101

Presented by Victory Garden Initiative

Bringing a community together around growing food can be quite a challenge in this day and age especially when people know the characters on sitcoms better than their next-door neighbors. This crash-course in community organizing will give you some tools to work with. We'll practice talking about the food system and how growing food can be a fun, healthy way to build community.

Thu., Nov. 17 | 6 - 7:30PM

For adults | \$12 members, students and seniors (Nonmembers: \$20)

Grow Like a Pro:

Vegetable Garden Design

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

Thu., Dec. 8 | 6 - 8PM

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

From Beak to Tail:

All About the Life of Birds

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

Sat., Dec. 10 | 1 - 2:30PM

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

Early Morning Bird Walks

Washington Park is a fabulous oasis for urban birds and other critters. We will walk through the different habitats looking for birds, mammals, butterflies and other natural denizens. 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. Bring your dancing feet and gyrating hips to this 45-minute class. Open to all ages and skill levels. Want a longer workout? Join our hour-long Zumba Fitness class at 6:30pm.

Every Wed. except Dec.

21 & 28 | 5:30 - 6:15PM

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

Walk and Talk Series

Join our Branch Manager, Terry, to explore both our building and Washington Park — two locations uniquely connected to Milwaukee's past and well-positioned to thrive in its future.

Wed., Nov. 16 | 4:30 - 5:30pm

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Mend It, Don't Toss It

Plenty of useful garments get thrown away due to simple damage that's easy to repair. Mending saves money, cuts down on waste and keeps your favorite pants and sweaters in great shape. Join us as we explore simple techniques for sewing and patching common clothing items. If you have a favorite item that needs some help, bring it in and we'll show you how to fix it.

Sat., Dec. 10 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults and accompanied children |

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

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

Zumba Fitness

Dance to great music and burn a ton of calories without even realizing it with Zumba Fitness. Bring your dancing feet and gyrating hips to this 60-minute class. Open to all ages and skill levels. Need a shorter workout? Try Zumba Express — a 45-minute class that starts at 5:30pm.

Every Wed. except Dec. 21 & 28 |

6:30 - 7:30PM

Members \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

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



Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website


www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

3 WAYS TO
REGISTER:

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

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

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

 = Accessible for persons with disabilities. We want to get you outside. Please call (414) 344-5460 with any communication preferences or physical concerns.

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Noche de Altares

Noche de Altares is a Dia de los Muertos night event. Craft your own altars/ofrendas and participate in an evening full of family friendly activities, music and food. For more information or to register your altar/ofrenda please visit www.nochedealtaresmke.com.

Wed., Nov. 2 | 6 - 9PM
For everyone | Free - donations accepted

Eco-Art Gallery Night

Enjoy works created by the young members of our Eco-Art program! Their art focuses on sustainable practices and environmental education. Light refreshments will be provided. This special exhibition will be on display Friday evening through Saturday, December 3.

Fri., Dec. 2 | 4 - 6PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Phenology in the Valley: *Gallery Show Closing Night*

From October through December, the Menomonee Valley branch has showcased the photography of our Photo Phenology group. This group has been meeting monthly for several years to take photographs and draw pictures of the natural area around the Center. Their picture record helps us understand the way the Valley is changing and the factors at play. Join the group in celebrating the end of their first show!

Thu., Dec. 15 | 4 - 6PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Christmas Bird Count - West Side

Contribute to bird research during your morning hike — join volunteers around the world for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Data we collect contributes to an international database of bird population trends. We'll meet at the Menomonee Valley branch and hike to Washington Park, with a stop for brunch along the way. After, we'll take a shuttle back to the Valley. Dress for a long hike and bring a lunch or money for brunch.

Sat., Dec. 17 | 8AM - 5PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated us

ADULT PROGRAMS

Danza Prehispanica y Foclor:

Join instructors from Milwaukee's Pok ta Pok Danza to learn danza prehispanica y foclor: indigenous, nature-based Mexican dance forms that have traditions dating back hundreds of years.

Beginner Class

Every Tue. through Dec. 13 | 4:30 - 5:30PM
For ages 6 and up | Free - donations appreciated

Advanced Class

Every Tue. through Dec. 13 | 5:30 - 6:30PM
For ages 6 and up | Free - donations appreciated

Walk and Talk Series

Join our branch manager, Glenna, to explore both our building and Three Bridges Park.

Wed., Nov. 9 | NOON - 1PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Indigenous Arts & Crafts

Connect with Milwaukee's past and present - learn different art forms practiced by the Indigenous communities of Southeast Wisconsin. We will be making our own arts and crafts that celebrate traditional practices of the valley's first peoples.

Sat., Nov. 19 | 1 - 4PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

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

Take an in-depth look into the wonders of bird ecology, conservation and behavior. This is an ongoing series you can jump into at any point. Features a dusk walk. Binoculars provided.

Sat., Nov. 12 | 1 - 2:30PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Photo Phenology

Through our photographs and drawings, we can understand how the Valley is changing and the factors at play. No photography experience necessary; we will learn as we go!

Sat., Nov. 19 & Dec. 17 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated

Early Morning Birdwalks

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

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

Student Research Symposium

Students and volunteers of all ages conduct scientific research in the Urban Ecology Center's outdoor spaces. Meet these researchers and learn their discoveries. This program will highlight original research conducted in 2016 by the Young Scientists Club, students and community volunteers.

Tue., Dec. 13 | 5:30 - 7PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

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


Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website
www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:
(414) 431-2940

3 IN PERSON:
3700 W. Pierce St.

 = Accessible for persons with disabilities. We want to get you outside. Please call (414) 431-2940 with any communication preferences or physical concerns.



MENOMONEE VALLEY

Programs and Events

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

MENOMONEE VALLEY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS & SPECIAL HOURS

November 16	—	Closing at 4PM	December 24 - 25	—	Closed
November 17	—	Closed	December 27 - 30	—	NOON - 4PM
November 24 - 26	—	Closed	December 31	—	Closed
December 20 - 23	—	NOON - 4PM			

Normal hours (as listed on page 11) apply except for days listed to the left

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Three Bridges Park Scavenger Hunt

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

Sat., Nov. 5 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults and children ages 5 and older | Free - donations appreciated

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., Nov. 8, 22 & Dec. 6 | 4:15 - 5:45PM
Thu., Dec. 15 | 4:15 - 5:45PM
For families with children | Free - donations appreciated

Little Explorers Morning Playgroup

Preschool is the age of discovery and we're here to help your kids learn and explore! Join us on the 2nd Friday of the month for our preschool playgroup. We have activities (including our secret slide) specifically designed to engage the senses of children ages 4 and under

Fri., Nov. 11 & Dec. 9 | 11AM - NOON
For children ages 4 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

Geocaching in the Valley

Be a part of a world-wide treasure hunt! We'll search for geocaches in the valley while we learn about the history of the land. Beginners welcome, GPS units provided.

Sat., Nov. 12 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults and children ages 6 and older | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Make Your Own Christmas Ornament

Get creative and make the perfect sustainable gift for friends and family - a handmade Christmas ornament! Join us anytime from 10-11:30am. Materials provided.

Sat., Dec. 10 | 10 - 11:30AM
For everyone | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Animal Tracker

Become an animal detective! We will search for tracks in the valley and learn how animals prepare for winter.

Sat., Dec. 17 | 10 - 11:30AM
For adults and children ages 6 and older | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

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. except Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 3, 20, 22, 27 & 29 | 4 - 6PM and Every Sat. except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 & 31 | 1 - 4PM
For ages 5-12 | \$10 annual membership

EcoArt Wednesdays

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

Every Wed. except Nov. 16 | 4 - 5:30PM
For families with children age 12 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

Animal Feeding

Help feed our resident animals!

Every Sat. except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 & 31 | 1PM
For everyone | Free

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ROOT Menomonee Valley

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

Every Thu. except Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 22 & 29 | 9 - 11AM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Fixin' Facilities

Are you handy? Do you want to learn new skills? Lend a hand to maintain our building, vehicles, equipment and park. You will help with a variety of projects from construction and painting, to repair and upkeep.

Every Thu. except Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 22 & 29 | 3 - 5PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Volunteer Park Rangers

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

Every Sat. except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 & 31 | 11AM - NOON
For everyone, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult | Free - donations appreciated

Menomonee Valley Volunteer Orientation

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

Wed., Nov. 2 | 5:30 - 7PM
Tue., Nov. 15 | 5:30 - 7PM
Thu., Dec. 1 | 5:30 - 7PM
Tue., Dec. 13 | 5:30 - 7PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE: www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE: (414) 431-2940

3 IN PERSON: 3700 W. Pierce St.

♿ = Accessible for persons with disabilities. We want to get you outside. Please call (414) 431-2940 with any communication preferences or physical concerns.



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 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

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

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

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

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

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 and click Join.

Candlelight Walk

Celebrate the Winter Solstice with a guided candlelit walk through the park.
Registration for a specific walk time is required.

Saturday, December 17

7 - 9PM | Riverside Park

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

Candlelight Walk *for kids*

Enjoy the wonder of a winter night with stories for kids on an easy walk through the woods. Then warm up inside with games and treats. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration for a specific walk time is required.

Saturday, December 17

4:30 - 6:30PM | Riverside Park

For families | Adults: \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Children: \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

FSC logo

IN THIS ISSUE

FORCE FOR GOOD

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Lately I've been thinking about how the Urban Ecology Center is like Star Wars. Wait, I know this is a stretch, but stay with me. One of the underlying themes of Star Wars is that when diverse people come together for the greater good they can create world altering change.

GREEN CAREER PIPELINE: VOICES OF OUR FUTURE

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

Malachi Crenshaw, a 10th grader at Rufus King High School, finished teaching his first solo Water Safety Course ... I asked him if he had been nervous about being the only instructor and he said "I was more curious. I'm pretty comfortable with public speaking and I know the content, so I mostly was interested to see how those would come together."

REFLECTION OF SUMMER LUNCHES

by Chad Thomack, Environmental Educator

Even though we are a few months into the school year, I can't help but reflect on my summer as a camp leader. Think of this as a preview of what your friends and family could look forward to next year.

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



We had
30,000

Student visits
during the 2015-
2016 school year