



## Another Magical Story

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

It feels a little like one of those movies of intrigue that involves the rare collection of unknown value, a chance rendezvous in a faraway place, large sums of money, serendipity, strategy sessions, encounters with powerful people and in the end, a perfect exclamation point to a life well lived. In this instance Pieter Godfrey's legacy lives on in the most unexpected of ways.

The tale starts on an intuitive hunch from a guy named Mike, a new volunteer at the Urban Ecology Center. This winter Mike reached out to Judy, the Center's Director of Finance and Operations and the project manager for our Riverland Project, with a simple request. Ginger, former Director of Development and Marketing, suggested he get involved with the project and see the scope of the Pieter Godfrey collection. Quoting Judy from the encounter: "Like others I've taken through the buildings, I think Mike felt a little overwhelmed on his first visit in January -- understandable as every time I walked through, I felt overwhelmed too!"

A little back story: The Riverland Project is our name for the four and a half acres we purchased from the estate of the late Pieter Godfrey in December. This is the property that lies in the middle of the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum between our Riverside Park branch and the Milwaukee River. With this sale we purchased two large cream-city brick warehouses in various stages of disrepair, absolutely jam packed with materials from the reclamation business that Pieter ran for over 25 years. It's a football field sized space with neatly stacked lumber, a variety of older tools, a restored saw mill, 200 plus doors, piles of stone, pallets



Theaster Gates and Ken Leinbach

of brick, and other random stuff, in some cases stacked 20 feet high.

As quantities of any one item are small, these are the things that Pieter, before his passing, had yet to sell. It is what was left of his collection after those managing his estate, prior to our purchase, had already sold the "easy-to-sell" stuff. The question for us was what do we, a dedicated

group trained to run an environmental education nonprofit, do with all the "hard-to-sell" materials of a business we know nothing about? We met with auction houses and experts in reclaimed material and even they did not know how to value much of what we had other than to say ... "Well there is certainly value in there" with the caveat that a lot would likely need to be thrown away. Thanks guys, we kinda knew that.

Then, the moment of serendipity occurred. From Judy: "I was in New York in late April for a funeral and about to board my plane at LaGuardia International Airport to head back to Milwaukee. As I

stood in line, reading my book and paying no attention to anything else, I heard my name. I looked up, recognizing the person standing in line behind me but not placing him immediately. 'I'm Mike,' he said. Right -- how strange to bump into him there! But he continued, 'I can't believe I'm running into you. I'm out here for a project and I just talked to the person who could have interest in all of your materials. I just saw him on this trip and now I'm seeing you. I can't believe it!'"

And that, my friends, is how we ultimately met Theaster Gates.

*continued on page 10*

## Branch Highlights



### RIVERSIDE PARK

Believe it or not, the Riverside Park building turns 10 years old this fall! Thank you for helping us fill the building with good conversation, new discoveries, smiles, laughter, monumental occasions and good friends. Watch for events celebrating the 10th anniversary all year long and stop in!



### WASHINGTON PARK

We're excited to announce that Washington Park earned the Frontline Park award from the City Parks Alliance! This is a national award that recognizes the good work being done in urban parks. One of the things that makes our park special is our Young Scientists Club for kids ages 7-12. Come check it out!



### MENOMONEE VALLEY

Over the course of the summer, staff, students, and volunteers planted over 9,000 new plants in Three Bridges Park—come and see how they're doing! Plus, can you believe it? The "new" Menomonee Valley branch has been open for two full years this September!



## Celebrating the Journey

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

He first arrived at the Urban Ecology Center as a guest presenter who shared the story of his solo 61 day wilderness trip tracing the steps of



Charles A. Sheldon through the back country of Denali on the 100th anniversary of Sheldon's trek. Shortly thereafter, Willie Karidis was hired at our Washington Park branch. Five years later Willie is returning to Alaska where, tapping into his deep appreciation for nature, wilderness and the depth of the human spirit, he will be the Chief Operating Officer of the world famous, 1049 mile Iditarod dogsled race! Between that first presentation and this new role with Iditarod, Willie's journey brought him into our lives and community: first as the coordinator for evening and weekend community programs at Washington Park, then as the Branch Manager. It is with mixed emotions that we send our well-wishes to Willie as he leaves his post as Branch Manager at Washington Park.

Willie has been leading our efforts in Washington Park through a transformational time at the Center. In the same month that he decided to pursue this new amazing opportunity, Washington Park earned national recognition for our work here in

Milwaukee with the Frontline Park award from the City Parks Alliance — the national expert in best practices in revitalizing urban parks. They selected Washington Park for its innovation in environmental education and partnerships. This award also belongs to the community, as we could not have created a safe place for children and families to learn and play without deep engagement from community partners, businesses, neighbors and supporters. What an amazing send-off for Willie, whose relationship building, leadership and hard work are at the core of this community engagement. So, we are excited by Willie's leadership and accomplishments, excited by the amazing opportunity ahead, and excited by the foundation he has laid for the future of our Washington Park branch.

We are also saddened by his departure. Willie has been a thought partner in refining our programs and branch operations, and we will miss him dearly. He's built a strong team of staff, volunteers and friends, all while having fun, laughing and enjoying the process. Willie reflects, *"My coworkers here are nothing short of wonderful; dedicated, creative, fun, problem solvers ... truly inspirational in every way. The people who walk through our doors, whether a volunteer, participant or guest, have opened my eyes to all the possibilities which exist here each day. The future is bright with the plans for*

*continued on page 10*

## Thank You to Our Contributing Members

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

### Credits:



Carijean Buhk  
Editor

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

Contributing writers: Celia Benton, Beth Heller, Meghan Jones and Ken Leinbach.

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### DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE

- **The Urban Ecology Center is proud to be partnering with Milwaukee Film Festival** to present two films: *Expedition to the End of the World* and *Ernest and Celestine*. An adventure film for the 21st century, *Expedition to the End of the World* follows a three-mast schooner packed with artists, scientists and ambitions worthy of Noah or Columbus, en route to the rapidly melting massifs of North-East Greenland. *Ernest and Celestine* is an awarding winning animated children's story of an unlikely friendship between a young mouse and a bear in a divided and fearful community. Check our website in September for show dates and times.
- **Wish List.** Below are some items we need for our three branches. Visit [urbanecologycenter.org/wishlist](http://urbanecologycenter.org/wishlist) for an expanded list.

#### Riverside Park

Anabat detector  
Apple PowerBook  
Bedsheets  
Blenders  
Ice cream buckets with lids  
iPad(s)  
Old terry cotton towels

#### Washington Park

8ft folding tables  
Bicycle air pump (stand-up)  
Chopping knives  
Sweatpants (gently used all sizes)  
Hand gardening shears  
Large easel  
Wooden high chairs

#### Menomonee Valley

Field guides  
Frying spoon  
Headlamps (backpacking style, 4)  
Knife set  
LED flashlights  
Metal colander with handle  
Yoga mats

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

## After School Special:

see how kids are engaged in science and nature, learning and fun through our after school and weekend programs!



over **2500**

Number of times kids have participated in this year's after school programs like Young Scientists Club, Food Fridays, and Driven to Discover.



### Where have the kids participating in our Driven to Discover program presented their research projects? Check out these highlights!

- Wisconsin Society for Ornithology / Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (2012)
- University of Minnesota Insect Fair (2012, 2013)
- Wisconsin Society for Ornithology / Bird City Wisconsin (2013)
- Cornell University Birds, Careers and Conservation Youth Leadership Workshop (2013)

*"The poise, professionalism and intentionality of the kids in answering difficult questions from adult professionals about their research was astounding."*

- Tim Vargo *Manager of Research and Citizen Science*

**40** per year best describes which of the following?

- The number of meals cooked by kids in our Food Fridays program.
- The number of field trips taken by our Young Scientists Club.
- Number of kids who helped plant and maintain the Learning Gardens at Washington Park.
- All of the above!



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



## Welcome New Staff!

We are thrilled to welcome two new leaders to the Urban Ecology Center: Jessica St. John is our new Director of Development and Marketing and Kirstin Anglea is our new Environmental Education Manager!

Jessica has extensive experience in leadership roles both locally and nationwide. Over her expansive career she was Director of Visitor Operations at the Milwaukee Art Museum, Capital Projects Coordinator at Kohl's, Executive Director at Walker's Point Center for the Arts, and Director of Operations and Enterprise at Biodynamic Association. She was previously the Principal of Aesera Advisory, where she served as a consultant to Fortune



500 companies including Harley-Davidson, as well as a number of leading arts and culture-based non-profit organizations across the country. She also served as the Director of the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York City and worked with the SVA Theatre, one of New York City's leading arts organizations and premier entertainment venues, host to the esteemed Tribeca Film Festival. She achieved her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Theatre from the University of Wisconsin-Madison then continued studies from Richmond University, London England. In addition to directing the development and marketing initiatives of the Center, Jessica is a member of our Leadership Team.

You may recognize Kirstin as a volunteer receptionist at our Riverside Park branch. She also played a key role as a Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP) substitute teacher this spring and has served as a project manager for the team that is helping

our Executive Director Ken write a book. Kirstin achieved her Doctor of Leadership in the Advancement of Learning and Service at Cardinal Stritch, where her thesis focused on reflective inquiry as professional development for teachers. She has a Master's of Science in Educational Leadership and a Bachelor of Science in Education. She is certified as a Director of Instruction/Principal and is also certified in elementary education for K-8. She also is a trained facilitator with the national organization the Center for Courage and Renewal.



Please join us in welcoming and congratulating these two brilliant additions to our staff! 🌱



## Become a Super Fixer at Riverside Park

by Meghan Jones, Volunteer Program Manager

Do you like DIY projects? Are you a seasoned mechanic or carpenter looking for a new challenge? Are you lacking skills but big on enthusiasm? Whether expert or novice, we have a new opportunity for you!

This fall, we are starting a regularly scheduled volunteer opportunity at our Riverside Park branch called Fixin' Facilities. It is a great way to hone your skills or learn new ones as you work with others and help the Center.

Fixin' Facilities volunteers will help our team with various projects and upkeep needs throughout the building, park and playground. Volunteers will help with a broad range of projects including painting, carpentry and much more.

Like to work outdoors? The group will also perform a wide variety of park and playground maintenance projects including wood chipping, weeding and graffiti removal.

And the fun doesn't end there. Stop in to help with some routine vehicle maintenance work.

No previous experience is needed to join this group as you will be working alongside staff members who will teach you as you go. There's so much that volunteers can do to help keep this building, the vehicles and the park maintained and looking great!

Whether you are fulfilling service hours for school, are interested in learning about this type

of work, or are just looking for a fun, hands-on volunteer experience, all are welcome to join!

Each month, projects will be planned ahead of time. Volunteers are welcome to just show up and find out what the group will be working on that day or they can check our website for a listing of the projects the group will be working on each week. Since this is a drop-in volunteer opportunity, you do not have to sign up ahead of time.

Come check out Fixin' Facilities on Wednesday afternoons starting in September! To learn all of the volunteer opportunities at the Center, come to any Volunteer Orientation. Check out our website for dates. 🌱

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

## Quick Guide

An abbreviated listing of what's happening at the Urban Ecology Center. Find full descriptions and register online at [www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar)

Saturday,  
September 6  
11AM - 3PM  
For everyone | Free  
Riverside Park ♿

### EAT RESOURCE FAIR LOCAL

We want to help you eat more locally! You'll find options for bakery, cheese, meat, beverages and more. Stay and have a lunch featuring local ingredients, attend cooking demos and gather recipe ideas and tips for eating locally all year.

Saturday,  
September 20  
10AM - 3PM  
For everyone | Free  
Riverside Park ♿



Join the Coffee Guild as we celebrate Milwaukee's other favorite brew - coffee! We'll feature the best local roasters and give you an in-depth look at how coffee comes to your cup. Free coffee and food samples will be available. For more info visit [www.mkecoffeefestival.com](http://www.mkecoffeefestival.com).

### THE WISCONSIN BAT FESTIVAL



Join us for live bat shows with Rob Mies, a film screening, children's activities, an artificial cave for spelunking and more. In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Milwaukee County Zoo, and Schlitz Audubon Nature Center.

Saturday, October 4 | 9AM - 8PM  
For everyone | Free  
Riverside Park ♿



Come celebrate a beautiful autumn in Washington Park!

Join us for fall food and drinks, pumpkin carving and fun for all ages!

Saturday, October 25 | 1 - 4PM  
For everyone | Free  
Washington Park ♿

Our Riverside Park branch will be closed on Monday, September 1. Our Washington Park and Menomonee Valley branches are regularly closed on Mondays. Our parks are always open, so be sure to get outside.

#### RIVERSIDE PARK



Here are three events you won't want to miss: the **Eat Local Resource Fair on September 6**, the **Milwaukee Coffee Festival on September 20**, and the

**Wisconsin Bat Festival on October 4**. Taste local flavors and meet the people who create them at the Eat Local Resource Fair, sip coffee from nearby coffee shops and learn about how you sip responsibly at the Milwaukee Coffee Festival and experience live bats, films, activities and more at the Bat Festival.

— Jamie Ferschinger,  
Branch Manager - Riverside Park

#### WASHINGTON PARK



It's that time of year again: the leaves are changing, the sun is setting earlier and we finish harvesting the bounty of food that has grown all summer. Join us for our **Autumn Celebration on October 25** and enjoy launching into a humongous leaf pile, bring a pumpkin to carve, master a fun craft and try some pie or a delicious caramel apple!

— Willie Karidis,  
Branch Manager - Washington Park

#### MENOMONEE VALLEY



So many ways to enjoy autumn in the Valley! Join us outside for **Menomonee Valley Plant IDon**, **Biking Three Bridges Park**, **EcoArt**, or **Outdoor Salsa Dancing!** Or, come expand your zoological knowledge with **Busy Bees** or **Snakes of the World!**

— Glenna Holstein,  
Branch Manager - Menomonee Valley

## Quick Guide

### New! Nature Rangers

Investigate animals and plants in Riverside Park, learn about science through different experts, create environmental research projects and more! Join us for this new after school program. Parents can sign up their kids to participate one day a week (Monday or Tuesday). The fee covers all the sessions for October and November.

**(RP)** Every Mon. or every Tue. starting in Oct. | 4 - 5:30PM  
For children ages 5 and older | \$5 (Nonmember: \$7)

### Kindernature:

#### Autumn Ventures

Have fun exploring nature with your child through self-led, fall-themed activity stations. Discover the wonders of fall in this season's Kindernature program.

**(RP)** Sat., Sep. 13, 27,  
Oct. 11 | 9:30 - 11AM

For families with children ages 3-5 | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Toddling Into

#### Nature: Trees

Help your toddler ages 3-5 years old learn to enjoy nature by exploring and investigating trees! Our toddling adventure will include outdoor and indoor play, stories and activities. Dress for the weather.

**(RP)** Thu., Sep. 18 | 10 - 11:30AM  
For families with children ages 3-5 | \$5/child (Nonmembers: \$7/child)  
Please register by Sep. 15.

### EcoArt

Join us for nature inspired arts and crafts and take home your very own creation!

**(MV)** Sat., Sep. 27 | 10 - 11:30AM  
For families with children age 12 and younger | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Life in the Lagoon

The Washington Park Lagoon is full of diverse life! Please join us for a chance to handle some pond animals in our Native Wisconsin Animal room and catch some water critters from the lagoon.

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

### Trick or Treat Street

Join the Silver City neighborhood for a fun day of Trick or Treating and kid-friendly activities! Look for the event on National Avenue between 31st and 39th Streets from noon - 2pm. Then come to the Center for a Costume Contest! For more information visit [www.silvercitydistrict.org/play/festivals-events](http://www.silvercitydistrict.org/play/festivals-events)

**(MV)** Sat., Oct. 25 | Noon - 2:30PM  
For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

### Food Fridays

Join our Young Scientists Club in planting and maintaining our Learning Gardens. We'll cook and enjoy tasty meals with the harvest!

**(WP)** Every Fri. | 4p - 6PM  
For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

### Animal Feeding

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

**(WP) & (MV)** Every Sat. | 1PM  
**(RP)** Every Sat. except  
Sep. 6, 20, and Oct. 4. | 1PM  
For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

## Highlighted Programs

### Family Overnight Camping Trip

Ready for some family fun? Yes! Come on an overnight camping trip at Blue Heron Wildlife Preserve in Ozaukee County. The trip includes a hike, naturalist program and campfire. Transportation available upon request. Tents and some meals will be provided. Please bring your own bedding.

**(RP)** Sat., Sep. 20, NOON -  
Sun., Sep. 21, 11am  
For families | \$60 Families of  
2-3 (Nonmembers: \$70); \$80  
Families of 4-5 (Nonmembers:  
\$90); \$100 Families of 6 or  
more (Nonmembers \$110)

### Enchanted Forest

See Riverside Park come alive with nocturnal characters. Visitors to the Enchanted Forest will meet these characters on a guided walk on the candlelit paths through the park. After the hike, come inside for games, crafts and hot apple cider. Hikes will leave about every 20 minutes. Costumes encouraged!

**(RP)** Sat., Oct. 18 | 5:30 - 7:30PM  
For everyone | Adults: \$6  
(Nonmembers: \$9) Children  
\$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Science Saturdays and Sundays

Come try these self-led activities. Theme: "Nature at Night."

**(RP)** Self-led, drop-in program  
available Every Sat. | 10AM - 4PM  
and Every Sun. | 1 - 4PM  
For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

### Young Scientists Club

From hiking to gardening to helping with research to caring for our animals, every day is a new adventure.

**(WP)** Every Tue. - Fri. | 4 - 6PM  
and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM  
For kids ages 7-12 | \$10  
annual membership  
**(MV)** Every Tue. & Thu. | 4 - 6PM  
and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM  
For ages 5-12 | \$10 annual membership

## HOMESCHOOL SERIES

### Homeschool Series:

#### Green Growth

Plants are the foundation of food webs. Collecting and studying plants is essential to learning about ecosystems and the species in them. Join us as we take an in-depth look at all the amazing things plants do.

**(RP)** Sep. 9: Plant Collection 101  
**(MV)** Sep. 23: From Flowers to  
Seeds  
**(WP)** Oct. 7: Tree Identification  
**(MV)** Oct. 20: Plant Adaptations

1 - 3PM  
For children ages 5 and older |  
\$7 (Nonmember: \$10)

Our Riverside Park branch will be closed on Monday, September 1. Our Washington Park and Menomonee Valley branches are regularly closed on Mondays. Our parks are always open, so be sure to get outside.

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

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

### 3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

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

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

3 **IN PERSON:**  
Just stop by!

**(RP)** = Riverside Park  
1500 E. Park Pl.

**(WP)** = Washington Park  
1859 N. 40<sup>th</sup> St.

**(MV)** = Menomonee Valley  
3700 W. Pierce St.



= Accessible for persons with disabilities  
Please call 2 weeks ahead of time





## Quick Guide

### Campfire Cooking Series

Practice the art of campfire cooking and sample simple, yummy foods prepared over a campfire. All materials and ingredients provided.

#### Breakfast

(RP) Fri., Sep. 5 | 5:30 - 7PM

Registration is required by Sep. 4 at 5PM

#### Dinner

(RP) Fri., Sep. 26 | 5:30 - 7PM

Registration is required

by Sep. 25 at 5PM

#### Desserts and Snacks

(RP) Fri., Oct. 10 | 5:30 - 7PM

Registration is required by Oct. 9 at 5PM

For everyone | Adults: \$7  
(Nonmembers: \$10), Children:  
\$5 (Nonmembers: \$8)

### Menomonee Valley Walking Tours

(MV) Every 1st Wed. of  
the month | 10 - 11AM

For adults | Free - donations  
appreciated

### Busy Bees

Learn about our busy pollinators, their life cycle, anatomy and place in our urban environment. Honey sampling included!

(MV) Sat., Sep. 6 | 10 - 11AM

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

### Snakes of the World

Join local herpetologist Cheryl Sterrenburg for a hands-on presentation about snake species from around the world and get to meet some of them up close!

(MV) Sat., Sep. 6 | 2:30 - 3:45PM

For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

### 350.org General Meeting

Sep: Ecological Economics. Jim Carpenter, MATC, lays out an economic path for a sustainable future.

Oct: Reflections on People's Climate March Militarism and Climate Change - The Links. Speaker: Julie Enslow, 350.org and Peace Action

(RP) Tues., Sep. 9 &

Oct. 14 | 7 - 8:30PM

For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

### Menomonee Valley Plant ID

Join us on a walk through Three Bridges Park and learn to identify the park's most common plant species.

(MV) Sat., Sep. 13 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults, teens, and families |  
Free - donations appreciated

### Milwaukee Centennial Arboretum Docent- Led Tour

Explore the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum with one of our trained volunteer docents!

(RP) Sat., Sep. 13, 27 &

Oct. 11 | 10:30 - 11:30AM

For everyone | Free - donations  
appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5)

### International Food and Art Walk

Enjoy art at the Center and in the neighborhood while sampling international cuisine from Thailand, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Peru, China and Vietnam! For more info, visit [www.silvercitydistrict.org](http://www.silvercitydistrict.org).

(MV) Sat., Sep. 13 | Noon - 5PM

For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

### Outdoor Salsa Dancing with Katherine Wilson

Come outside with Milwaukee salsa instructor Katherine Wilson for an introductory salsa lesson! If inclement weather we will meet indoors.

(MV) Sat., Sep. 13 | 3 - 4PM

For adults and teens | \$7  
(Nonmembers \$10)

### Local Food Biking Adventure

Conclude the 2014 Eat Local Challenge by exploring Milwaukee's local food scene by bike! Along the route we will visit: an urban farm, a food justice organization, a farmer's market and a restaurant dedicated to using local ingredients. Bikes and helmets provided or bring your own.

(RP) Sun., Sep. 14 | Noon - 4PM

For adults and teens | \$25  
(Nonmembers: \$30) Registration  
required by Sep. 12

### No Herbs Left Behind

In this demonstration we will discuss using herbs fresh as well as drying, freezing and preserving them in oils or pestos.

(RP) Mon., Sep. 15 | 7 - 8PM

For adults | \$15 (Nonmembers:  
\$20) Register by Sep. 12

### Doors Open Milwaukee

Visit our Menomonee Valley branch during Historic Milwaukee's "Doors Open Milwaukee" weekend. From September 20-21, over 100 buildings that hold special treasures and stories will open their doors to the public, free of charge. We're open on the 20th!

(MV) Sat., Sep. 20 | 9AM - 5PM

For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

### Naturalist Skills Series:

#### Discovering Forest Ecology

Get to know some common woodland tree species and the many ways functioning forest ecosystems are invaluable. Dress for the outdoors.

(RP) Sat., Sep. 20 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults | \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10)  
(NEEP and Docent Volunteers: \$5)

#### Photo Phenology

Take photographs and draw pictures of the natural area around the Center.

(MV) Sats., Sep. 27 & | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults, teens and families |  
Free - donations appreciated

### From Beak to Tail:

#### All About the Life of Birds

Join us for an in-depth look into bird ecology, then a dusk walk.

(WP) Tue., Sep. 30 | 4:30 - 6PM

(RP) Sat., Oct. 18 | 3:30 - 5PM

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

### Wetlands of the Penokee Hills

Discover the important role the wetlands of the Bad River Watershed play in helping maintain watershed health all the way downstream to the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs estuary. Also, learn up-to-date info about the proposed mine in this area. Speaker: Tracy Hames, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association.

(RP) Tue., Sep. 30 | 7 - 8:30PM

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

### Paper Making for Beginners

Learn to make hand sheets using the pour method and different techniques such as pulp painting, embedding, texturing and adding botanicals. Supplies provided. Class led by Sue Lee, an Arnold Grummer certified papermaker instructor.

(RP) Thu., Oct. 2 | 6 - 7:30PM

For adults and teens | \$15  
(Nonmember: \$20) Registration  
required by Oct. 1

### Sustainable Coffee Tasting

Join the MKE Coffee Guild for locally-roasted coffee from around the world.

(RP) Sat., Oct. 11 | 10 - 11AM

For adults | \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

### Making the Perfect Pie Crust

In this demonstration you will learn how to make a basic pie crust, a sugar crust for a fruit tart, a rustic crust for a galette and a gluten-free crust. Recipes will include ideas for fillings as well as freezing techniques.

(RP) Mon., Oct. 13 | 7 - 8PM

For everyone | \$15 (Nonmembers:  
\$20) Register by Oct. 10

### Water for Life: Citizen- science Water Quality Monitoring in Ecuador

Teams of local volunteers in Ecuador followed local streams from source to sea, measuring water quality along the way. Learn how community-collected data helped to prioritize riverside reforestation efforts. Speaker: Catherine Woodward, Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation.

(WP) Tue., Oct. 14 | 7 - 8:30PM

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

### Cache In, Trash Out!

Search for Geocaches and collect trash on an expedition in Menomonee Valley. We'll also get out a compass and practice navigation the old fashioned way!

(MV) Sat., Oct. 18 | 10 - 11:30AM

For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

### Washington Park Community Meeting

Come to a Community Planning meeting and give us your ideas to help shape the future of Washington Park. We'll discuss programming options and what a new, renovated Urban Ecology Center facility in Washington Park might look like.

(WP) Wed., Oct. 29 | 5 - 6:30PM

For everyone | Free -  
donations appreciated

## Quick Guide

### Full Moon Canoe

With the full moon above and reflected city lights below, paddle down the Milwaukee River. See the city and the full moon as you never have before! Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St).

**(RP)** Mon., Sep. 8 | 7 - 9:30PM

For adults and teens | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25) Registration and non-refundable payment required by Sep. 7 at 5PM

**(RP)** Wed., Oct. 8 | 6:30 - 9PM

For adults and teens | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25) Registration and non-refundable payment required by Oct. 7 at 5PM

### Biking in the Menomonee Valley

Join us as we head west on the Hank Aaron State Trail to Miller Park and beyond! Bring your own bike and helmet or borrow ours. Please call at least four days in advance if you would like to borrow a bike.

**(MV)** Sat., Sep. 20 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults and families with children ages 7 and up | Adults: \$6 (Nonmember: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmember: \$7)

### Kinnickinnic River Paddle

Get to know Milwaukee's smallest, but most densely populated urban watershed. Discover the Kinnickinnic's history and promising future. Equipment provided. Meet at the Bruce Street Boat Ramp (600 S. Water St).

**(RP)** Sat., Sep. 27 | 9:30AM - 12:30PM

For adults and teens | \$25 (Nonmembers: \$30) Registration is required by Sep. 25 at 5PM

### Canoeing Basics

Learn canoeing techniques on the still, quiet waters of the Washington Park Lagoon. All skill levels welcome.

**(WP)** Sat., Sep. 27 | 11AM - noon

For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Costume Canoe Cavalcade

Grab some friends, dress up in your most creative costume and join us for a costumed canoe trip. We will meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St), paddle downtown and pull out for a quick refreshment before heading back.

**(RP)** Fri., Oct. 31 | 5 - 8PM

For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15) Registration required by Oct. 31 at 1PM

### Open Climb

Stop in after work or school and enjoy climbing our three story rock wall. All equipment is provided and trained belayers are on hand to assist.

**(RP)** Every Sun. in Sep. | 2 - 4PM

For adults, teens, and families | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12) Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10) Climbing passes available for in-person purchase.

### Water Safety Course

Take this on land, water safety course and get ready for paddling. This training, or training through one of our scheduled trips, is a requirement of our canoe/kayak lending member benefit.

**(RP)** Every Sun. through

Oct. 12 | 1 - 1:30PM

**(RP)** Every Mon. through Oct.

13 except Sep. 1 | 6 - 6:30PM

**(MV)** Every Fri. through

Sep. | 5 - 5:30PM

**(WP)** Every Sat. through

Sep. | 10 - 10:30AM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5) |

Membership required to borrow boats

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Volunteer Orientation

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

**(RP)** Thu., Sep. 11 | 5:30 - 7PM

**(RP)** Fri., Sep. 19 | 3 - 4:30PM

**(RP)** Sat., Sep. 27 | 10:30AM - NOON

**(RP)** Sun., Oct. 5 | 1 - 2:30PM

**(RP)** Fri., Oct. 10 | 3 - 4:30PM

**(RP)** Thu., Oct. 30 | 5:30 - 7PM

**(WP)** Thu., Sep. 4 | 4:30 - 5:30PM

**(WP)** Tue., Sep. 16 | 5 - 6PM

**(WP)** Thu., Oct. 2 | 4:30 - 5:30PM

**(WP)** Thu., Oct. 16 | 5:30 - 6:30PM

**(MV)** Tue., Sep. 9 | 4:30 - 6PM

**(MV)** Thu., Sep. 25 | 5:30 - 7PM

**(MV)** Tue., Oct. 7 | 5:30 - 7PM

**(MV)** Thu., Oct. 23 | 5:30 - 7PM

For adults 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.

**(RP)** Every Wed. | 3 - 5pm

For adults, families and teens |

Free - donations appreciated

### Fall Bird Banding

Experience what it is like to hold a wild bird in your hands. Bird banding sessions are highly weather dependent, so please contact Jennifer Callaghan at [jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org)

**(RP)** Thu., Sep. 25 | 6:15AM - NOON

**(RP)** Thu., Oct. 23 | 6:45AM - NOON

**(RP)** Thu., Oct. 30 | 6:45AM - NOON

**(WP)** Wed., Sep. 17 | 6AM - NOON

**(WP)** Wed., Oct. 1 | 6:15AM - NOON

**(WP)** Wed., Oct. 15 | 6:30AM - NOON

**(MV)** Tue., Sep. 9 | 6AM - NOON

**(MV)** Tue., Sep. 23 | 6:15AM - NOON

**(MV)** Tue., Oct. 7 | 6:30AM - NOON

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

### Weekly volunteer opportunities

Find these weekly events on the calendar on our website

Burdock Brigades

Compost Crew

Dig it, Plant it, Grow it

Forestry Fridays

Volunteer Papermaking

Volunteer Park Rangers

Work Outside Wednesdays

## INTEREST GROUPS

### Photo Club

**(RP)** Thus., Sep. 4 & Oct. 2 |

6:30 - 9PM

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

**(RP)** Weds., Sep. 10 & Oct. 8 | 6 - 8PM

### Faith and Ecology

**(RP)** Tues., Sep. 16 & Oct. 21 |

7 - 8:30PM

### Urban Echo Poets

**(RP)** Thus., Sep. 11 & Oct. 9 |

7 - 8:30PM

### Urban Stargazers

**(RP)** Thus., Sep. 11 & Oct. 9 |

7 - 8:30PM

### Transition Milwaukee: All City Hub Meeting

**(RP)** Mons., Sep. 22 & Oct. 27 |

6:30 - 8:30PM

### Early Morning Birdwalks

**(MV)** Every Tue. | 8am

**(WP)** Every Wed. | 8am

**(RP)** Every Thu. | 8am

## ART AT THE CENTER

### Art Show Opening Reception: *The Mysterious, Magical World of Nature at Night*, Timothy Haglund

Timothy Haglund is primarily a plein air painter. He works in nature at night — a mysterious, magical time when one's awareness of his surroundings is heightened and one's presence in the landscape feels noticeably alone. The time, the mood, the stillness is alive in the subtleties of these painted night-scapes. Artist speaks at 6pm. Show runs through December.

**(RP)** Thu., Oct. 9 | 5 - 7PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated





## Inventive EcoArtists

by Celia Benton, Environmental Educator

Summer camp at the Urban Ecology Center is awesome for me as an educator. It's laid back and having the same campers for four days means we have the opportunity to focus on activities they are interested in and help them gain a more in-depth knowledge of the environments just outside the Center's doors.

EcoArt is one camp that particularly sticks out in my mind as the perfect example of why summer camp is so great. I led the camp with one of my fabulous interns (hi Karla!) and together we planned for a week of inspiring art within nature. The camp is for students who have completed 3rd or 4th grade and we focused on at least one art project per day, utilizing a different medium every day.

During one of the days, we went to the Mitchell Park Domes where each student drew and painted their favorite flowers. On another we spent the day looking for bugs and creating mini-sculptures of them out of pipe cleaners and beads.

During our day-long photography session, each camper used a digital camera to take photos around the Menomonee Valley and at Grant Park beach. The pictures the campers took are amazing and each one represents a unique point of view. One camper found human teeth particularly interesting while another shot fantastic landscapes. And there were some pretty hilarious selfies thrown in the mix as well.

Camper created photography from our EcoArt Summer Camp



photo credit: Paul



photo credit: Osmar

While all of the days were remarkable, our crafting and stenciling day was the most memorable for me. Some pretty neat things happened that day. We started with mud stenciling. You fill in this stencil with a mud mixture instead of paint – which meant we could pretty much stencil anywhere. We chose the back patio area of the Center.

Mud stenciling was messy, squishy and tons of fun. The campers soon progressed from stencils to creating their own mud paintings on the wall and around the deck.

After we finished stenciling, we made puppets out of a simple pattern and brown paper lunch bags. When Karla and I planned the day, we scheduled a thirty minute puppet making project we could do after lunch before the afternoon outdoor adventure.

We clearly underestimated how creative the campers would be.

Not only did the campers take time to create very detailed puppets, they were so excited they actually created a full puppet show and presented to some of us lucky staff. Best yet — the puppet show had an underlying theme of saving the environment!

Yep, that's right. With no prompting, the campers came up with a puppet show in which each puppet had a super power and an underlying story on why caring for the environment is important. That's pretty awesome, don't you think? I can't wait for summer camp next year, and I hope to see many more campers at the Valley branch!

*You don't have to wait until next summer to create art at the Menomonee Valley branch. Make your own masterpiece at our EcoArt program on Saturday, September 27 (see page 6 for details). 🌿*

## Travel with Us to Southern Costa Rica in January 2015

Travel with the Urban Ecology Center and the Costa Rica Rainforest Experience to the land of quetzals (see photo to right), jaguars, and White-headed capuchins. Its unique geography makes it the most biodiverse country per acre in the world, and the trip includes a visit to Corcovado National Park on the Osa Peninsula, a location National Geographic has christened the most intense biodiversity hotspot in the world!

For more information, please visit the Urban Ecology Center's eco-travel page on the website or contact Tim Vargo at [tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org). 🌿



## Another Magical Story

continued from page 1

Gates was trained as a potter, but his artistic practice includes among many things, sculpture, musical performance, installation and something that has been called large-scale urban intervention. He revitalizes distressed urban areas through art and recycled architecture while setting up locally run art studios (not too dissimilar from what we do using the environment as a context to revitalize neighborhoods). Last fall he was named one of the top 40 most powerful artists in the US by ArtReview. With installations internationally, he is currently focusing on projects in Chicago, St. Louis and Omaha.

Mike had seen Theaster in New York and mentioned the project. Theaster's interest was piqued, to say the least.

Well, a few board committee strategy sessions, a weekend meeting with Mike and Theaster and some non-contentious contract negotiations later, we are proud to announce a formal agreement has been reached between Theaster Gates Studios and the Urban Ecology Center.

Like Pieter, Theaster employs a diverse array of people within the expanding universe he's creating. There are the teenagers on the block paid to clean up, the lead craftsman who began as a de-nailer of salvaged wood, Gates' nephew apprenticing at the workshop, metal workers, art historians, computer geeks and other creative types. As Gates puts it, "I'm creating a kind of ecology of opportunity." This is something I could easily imagine Pieter saying as well.

Theaster visited the Center on a Saturday in July and saw the unique nature of what we had. He wants to preserve the collection (tools, materials, saw mill, etc.) as a whole and use it in various community endeavors largely in Chicago, which coincidentally is where much of Pieter's collection came from. He and his team plan to honor the history of the materials, the lifetime effort of Pieter Godfrey, and use them in a way that positively creates change. We will likely, in time, engage Theaster with some installation here in Milwaukee to honor the history that Pieter preserved.

Quite a story, eh? It is hard to imagine a better ending to this one-of-a-kind challenge.

*Please note: It is important for all of our neighbors and members to know that trucks will be in and out of the Riverland property in August and September related to the moving of this extensive collection.*

*A small amount of material will be saved for future projects at the Center, but we will not be opening up the material for local sale as we had originally anticipated. We realize this may be disappointing to some in our community but this is by far the best scenario for us as both owners of the material and stewards of the property and land.*

*Later in the fall we must dismantle the lower western building. This building has been determined by engineers, developers and the City to be structurally unsound, too dangerous to leave up and too expensive to restore. However, we plan to save the upper, eastern building and in time, renovate it. 🌱*



A panorama of the Riverland property

## Celebrating the Journey

continued from page 2

*engaging the community, expanding our programs and raising the money to 'Urban Ecologize' the Washington Park pavilion. I will miss being part of this process and it deeply saddens me."*

While Milwaukee is his childhood home, he spent the majority of his adult life in Alaska. Being a talented story teller, Willie often shares tales of the amazing adventures he had in the

Alaskan wilderness — and his eyes light up. Yes, his eyes light up when talking about his team and the accomplishments of his branch in Milwaukee, too. Somehow, though, his love of the gorgeous land and seascapes of Alaska show through in a way that leads us to believe that he is heading home. As Chief Operating Officer of the Iditarod, he will be building a new collection of amazing stories and reconnecting

to the awe of the Alaskan wilderness. And in his last official Urban Ecology Center role, he will lead this September's "Great Alaska Adventure" travel program. What could be a more fitting way to wrap up this chapter of his life and start a new one? Thank you to Willie and to all of you who have been a part of the Washington Park branch transformation. 🌱



# NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

## LOCATIONS & HOURS

### Riverside Park

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

Hours of operation:  
Monday - Thursday: 9am - 7PM  
Friday & Saturday: 9am - 5PM  
Sunday: Noon - 5PM

### Washington Park

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

Hours of operation:  
Tuesday - Friday: Noon - 6PM  
Saturday: 9am - 5PM

### Menomonee Valley

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

Hours of operation:  
Tuesday - Friday: Noon - 7PM  
Saturday: 9am - 5PM

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

## 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](http://urbanecologycenter.org) and click membership.**





FSC logo

## IN THIS ISSUE

### ANOTHER MAGICAL STORY

by Ken Leinbach

*It feels a little like one of those movies of intrigue that involves the rare collection of unknown value, a chance rendezvous in a faraway place, large sums of money, serendipity, strategy sessions, encounters with powerful people and in the end, a perfect exclamation point to a life well lived.*

### CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY

by Beth Heller

*It is with mixed emotions that we send our well-wishes to Willie as he leaves his post as Branch Manager at Washington Park.*

### BECOME SUPER FIXER AT RIVERSIDE PARK

by Meghan Jones

*Do you like DIY projects? Are you a seasoned mechanic or carpenter looking for a new challenge? Are you lacking skills but big on enthusiasm? Whether expert or novice, we have a new opportunity for you!*

### INVENTIVE ECOARTISTS

by Celia Benton

*With no prompting, the campers came up with a puppet show in which each puppet had a super power and an underlying story on why caring for the environment is important. That's pretty awesome, don't you think?*

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



over **2500**

Number of times kids have participated in this year's after school programs like Young Scientists Club, Food Fridays, and Driven to Discover.