



If You Won't Listen to Me, Listen to the Lorax!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

One of the longest running programs we have at the Urban Ecology Center is called River Connections. Through this program, students get right into the Milwaukee River in hip waders to test water quality at two locations – one urban, here in Riverside Park, and one rural, at Riveredge Nature Center. The students are amazed when, on occasion, the readings they find in the city are better than the rural readings. We teach them that this is due, in part, to the removal of the North Avenue Dam which allowed the river to flow free, cleaning itself.



This free flowing water is essential to river health, which is essential to our health. We have made great strides in protecting the river and it is because of those positive outcomes that I feel it necessary for the Center to weigh in on an issue that compromises the health of our river. I know this kind of advocacy isn't our usual policy, but if you'll permit me some time on my soapbox, I feel you'll agree and want to help.

Climbing onto a soapbox like this makes me feel like *The Lorax*. I read in an article about Dr. Seuss that of all the books he wrote, *The Lorax* is his personal favorite. It is a story about the demise of the fictional Truffula Tree which served as the perfect metaphor for many of our environmental and economic issues. Dr. Seuss's style made *The Lorax* exceptionally accessible to the masses. "*The Lorax*," he once explained, "came out of my being angry. In *The Lorax* I was out to attack what I think are evil things and let the chips fall where they might."

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Travelling to the Tetons

by Sam Huenink, Community Program Educator

"Twelve high schoolers spending seven days in the wilderness without their cell phones? We will see how this goes!" I thought as we boarded the plane on our way to Wyoming. This adventure is a highlight of our two-year High School Outdoor Leadership internship that introduces teens to environmental careers and gives them solid employment experience they can put on college applications. Interns are mentors and role models as they teach young summer campers, study animals and engage the public. They also help plan our annual Teen Survival Challenge.

After the first year of their internship, the High School Outdoor Leaders are given the opportunity to take a trip to Wyoming. The goal is to develop leadership skills at the Teton Science School and learn about the ecosystems around the Teton Mountains and Yellowstone National Park. For some it was their first time on a plane and travelling outside of Wisconsin.

Here's how the week went:

Day 1 - Milwaukee to Jackson Hole

An afternoon flight and quick layover brought us safely to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Greeted by staff of the Teton Science School, we headed to their Kelly Campus where we'd be staying for a few of the nights. The Outdoor Leaders were excited to get their first taste of Wyoming wildlife. They were satisfied when we saw a couple of huge moose grazing across the creek.

Day 2 - Teton Science School

Studying the four major plant communities of Wyoming (sagebrush, conifers, aspens and riparian) helped the Outdoor Leaders realize how different the ecosystems are from those of Wisconsin. Everyone kept a positive attitude even while continuously swatting at the

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Branch Highlights



RIVERSIDE PARK

Fall is a wonderful time to get outside. The air is crisp and the colors are vibrant — a perfect time to bring your friends to the park. This year we have a new opportunity to introduce your family and friends to the Riverside Park river corridor and support the Center in a different way – hiking with our HKE MKE event! See page 2 for details.



WASHINGTON PARK

Fall into action with Community Programs and see what we have to offer. From canoeing to science experiments or research to food, there is always something for adults and young people to do. Drop in for a program or just hang out!



MENOMONEE VALLEY

We've dreamed of offering a regular, rotating art show. This year our dream came true — we're hosting the very first show of our new art series! Join us on October 3rd for the opening of "Neighborhood and Nature: Inspired Art"—featuring plein air paintings done in and around the Menomonee Valley!

Take a Hike with Us!



Registration:
 Adults: \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)
 Children (ages 6 - 17): \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)
 Ages 5 or younger are free

Sunday, September 20th 2015

8AM - 1PM (Don't worry, the Packers don't play until 7:30pm!)

2.5-mile hike begins and ends at Riverside Park

TO REGISTER TODAY OR FOR MORE INFO VISIT urbanecologycenter.org/hkemke

Get ready for our first benefit walk — HKE MKE!

While other benefit walks take place on city streets, HKE MKE will primarily take you through the beauty of the Milwaukee River corridor. The family and wheels friendly route is a 2.5-mile loop that begins and ends at our Riverside Park branch.

It's not a race. We want you to spend the morning enjoying the outdoors on a leisurely hike. We'll even have nature activities on the course that you can stop and participate in as you go.

HKE MKE is a unique way to support the Center. When you register you'll be

given a personal fundraising page online where your friends and family can donate. Set a goal then spread the word!

Better yet, form a team and have a friendly competition to see who can raise the most. Or even better, have your organization form a team and challenge other organizations to do the same.

Thanks to a partnership with the Bartolotta Restaurants, who have chosen us as their 2015 Project Spot-On partner, you'll be able to join in this favorite urban-nature experience of ours while helping to support the mission of the Center. 🍀

Credits:



Carijean Buhk
Editor

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

Contributing writers: Michael Espinoza, Sam Huenink and Ken Leinbach.

"See For Yourself" photos by Maddie Bird

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DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE

- **Wish List.** Below are some items we need for our three branches. Visit urbanecologycenter.org/wishlist for an expanded list.

Riverside Park

- Anabat detector
- Blenders
- HD quality video camera
- Ice cream buckets with lids
- GoPro camera
- Log splitter
- Matched set of heavy bottom, stainless steel cookware (Pots, pans, skillets)
- Terry cotton towels (new or used)
- Trimble Juno GPS
- Spray bottles

Washington Park

- 8ft folding tables
- Bicycle air pump (stand-up)
- Chopping knives
- Easel, large
- Large crock pots or nescos with lids (3)
- Large, 2-handled pots with lids (3)
- Lego/blocks/K'Nex building toys
- Podium
- Wooden high chairs

Menomonee Valley

- Digital camera
- Field guides
- Field/trail cameras (3)
- GPS units
- LED flashlights (3)
- Lightweight folding tables (2)
- Musical instruments
- Terry cloth rags
- Yoga mats (20)

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 urbanecologycenter.org/thankyoulist.

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

2015

SUMMER CAMPS

Spending time outdoor, actively engaging with nature is what our Summer Camps are all about!

Our campers explore the secrets of nature by looking under logs, hiking in the woods, climbing trees, building forts, creating art projects, taking pictures and more with kids from all over the city. They're building science and engineering skills to be better prepared for school year.



This year, we had
642
campers!



50 camp sessions cover biking, canoeing, fishing, art, insects, mammals and more!



over **3000** campers participated in our Summer Camps since 2000



\$11,725
Last fiscal year, 23 individuals and organizations donated \$11,725 for scholarships and programming

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

Travelling to the Tetons

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swarms of mosquitos. Through a variety of fun leadership and teamwork exercises, the Outdoor Leaders started to figure out their strengths, weaknesses, and strategies for being a leader.

Day 3 - String Lake

A full day on the lake is just what the doctor ordered. Residing at the base of the Teton Mountains, the picturesque String Lake was the perfect spot to launch our canoes and get away from the clouds of mosquitos. Most Outdoor Leaders stayed dry while finding out the challenges and rewards of teamwork and communication both on and off the water.

Day 4 - Yellowstone Lake

We boarded a bus and headed north to Yellowstone National Park. At the West Thumb of Yellowstone Lake, we visited the geothermal

features (geysers, hot springs and mud pots) and learned about the volcanic nature of the park. On the way to our campground in Mammoth, we saw herds of bison, pronghorns, a grizzly and two black bears! Seeing these groups of large wildlife was the highlight for most on the trip.

Day 5 - Mammoth Springs

We started the day with some volunteer work with the park rangers of Yellowstone by painting picnic benches throughout some campgrounds. Next came a visit to Mammoth Springs (with an ice cream break), a relaxing wade in a secluded river and a search for packs of wolves at dusk in Lamar Valley. A day packed full of adventure!

Day 6 - Artist's Point

After packing up camp, we headed back to Teton Science School stopping at Artist's Point

where the students reflected on how they had grown during the week. The gorgeous waterfall tumbling in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone was the perfect spot to wrap up the week. A lot of thoughtful conversation came from the Outdoor Leaders on how they learned to be more patient, genuine and appreciative throughout the week.

Day 7 - Return Home

Six days full of hiking, mosquito bites and no cell phones meant the Outdoor Leaders were ready to get back to Milwaukee. The weary crew arrived home full of new experiences and new stories to share. 🌲



Outdoor Awesomeness

by Michael Espinoza, Community Program Educator

Being outside is awesome because there is something for everyone. This was perfectly illustrated on a camping adventure with the Menomonee Valley Young Scientists Club this past summer. We packed two buses full of tents, sleeping bags, food and ourselves and drove up to Blue Heron Wildlife Sanctuary for our first Young Scientists and parents camping trip. Camping was a new experience for many, so we planned to do the basics like preparing dinner over a fire, telling stories and exploring the woods at night. But perhaps the best parts of the whole trip were the things that had not been planned.

During free time, parents got to know one another and shared their experiences. The kids were free to play as they wished. A mixed-age

group of children played a game they invented using a volleyball. Two five-year-olds found joy in running up and down a hill and looking for toads along the edge of a forest. A third group collected camp chairs and got comfortable with books. These play groups continued on for over an hour - a focused and creative playtime that none of the adults wanted to interrupt. It became clear that this moment was what being outside surrounded by nature is all about. The freedom to choose where to go and what to do based on your own desires.

This kind of freedom is one of the things that makes Young Scientists Club so unique. Our activities are largely directed by following the interests of the children. I get requests to play camouflage, go looking for caterpillars and

to hike down a trail that runs alongside the Menomonee River. It's hard to find a single activity that satisfies such varied desires, but as a group we come together to find an agreement on how to balance different interests. We'll go from an experiment in the community garden plots to a high energy predator and prey game in a field and close with a read aloud story on our building's rooftop garden. These kinds of experiences cultivate both a sense of inquiry and a capacity for cooperation in our Young Scientists. And those experiences are fuel for the children to return home and seek out their favorite outdoor activities on their own time: to become lifelong appreciators of the "outdoor awesomeness" that they find when they're at the Center. 🌲

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



Enjoy a leisurely hike through scenic Milwaukee while supporting the Urban Ecology Center!

Family Friendly!

Create or Join a Team!

Explore Urban Nature!

Sunday, September 20th 2015

8AM - 1PM (Don't worry, the Packers don't play until 7:30pm!)

2.5-mile hike begins and ends at Riverside Park

REGISTER TODAY!

urbanecologycenter.org/hkemke

RIVERSIDE PARK



Wow, there are a lot of great ways to get involved in September and October! Check out three new events: **Local Food and Wellness Fair**, **HKE MKE**, and **Ferment!Milwaukee**. Come back again for the popular **Milwaukee Coffee Festival** and the **Enchanted Forest**.

— Jamie Ferschinger,
Branch Manager - Riverside Park

WASHINGTON PARK



Fall into fun at Washington Park! Little ones have their own "festival" at the **Autumn Celebration for Afternoon Nappers**, then everyone can carve pumpkins at our **Autumn Celebration**. Grow stronger with the **Group Fitness Sessions & Boot Camps** and Washington Park's **Community Green Market**. Then get your teen outside so they can **Pedal the Park** with their peers.

— Terry Evans,
Branch Manager - Washington Park

MENOMONEE VALLEY



Ever wonder which animals are living in Three Bridges Park? Come find out this fall! We've got lots of opportunities to learn about fauna in the Valley. Join us for our **Early Morning Bird Walks**, **State of the Birds**, or **Fall Bird Banding in the Menomonee Valley** to learn about our avian friends. Or come by for **Busy Bees**, **Monarch Tagging** or our **Homeschool Series** on Insects to get to know some six-legged critters in the park!

— Glenna Holstein,
Branch Manager - Menomonee Valley

This events guide gives you a "snapshot" view of the programs and events happening at the Urban Ecology Center's three branches. Full descriptions and details can be found on our website at www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

Quick Guide



OPTIMIZE GOOD HEALTH WITH LOCAL FOOD AND NATURAL WELLNESS

In partnership with Green Square Center for the Healing Arts, Outpost Natural Food Co-op, and Slow Food WiSE

Fresh food is only one part of a healthy lifestyle. We need movement and body awareness to complete our physical self-care. Enjoy workshops, presentations and vendors as you learn about resources for eating locally and living well.

(RP) Saturday, September 12 | 11am - 3pm

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

**(RP) Saturday, September 19
10am - 3pm**

For adults and teens | Free

Celebrate Milwaukee's other favorite brew at a day of tasting and discovering sustainably grown and locally sold coffee from the leaders in the field. Coffee sampling, presentations, door prizes and more. For details visit mkecoffeefestival.com.



Autumn Celebration for Afternoon Nappers

Join us for a hike through the park, stories and a craft.

(WP) Saturday, October 24 | 10 - 11:30am

For accompanied children ages 3-5 | Free - donations appreciated | Space is limited! Register by October 17



Come celebrate a beautiful autumn in Washington Park! Join us for fall food and drinks, pumpkin carving and fun for all ages!

(WP) Saturday, October 24

1 - 4pm For everyone | Free

FERMENT! MILWAUKEE

Exploring the culinary & health benefits of fermentation

Meet local fermentation experts and vendors who sell fermented food products. We'll have workshops and more!

**(RP) Saturday, October 3
11am - 3pm**

For adults and accompanied teens
Free - donations appreciated

David Stokes:

Laughing with the Animals

Join naturalist, humorist and educator David Stokes for a special program that uses sign language, toys, live animals, short songs and stories to engage audiences of all ages in learning and enjoying nature. Bring your camera.

(RP) Sun., Sep. 27 | 1 - 2pm

For families | Adults: \$7 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$6)

David Ryle in Concert

Come join us for an afternoon of music! David Ryle will share his original brand of classical/folk/R&B and singer/songwriter fusion. Ryle is a classical guitar major at UWM who cites Eric Clapton, Dale Kavanaugh, Nick Drake, Bon Iver, Marvin Gaye and Ben Howard as major influences.

(MV) Sat., Oct. 10 | 3 - 4pm

For adults, teens, and families | \$7 (Non-members \$10)

Enchanted Forest: Uprooted

Meet a variety of plant and animal characters on a walk through the Enchanted Forest. You'll learn things like plant parts, seed dispersal, photosynthesis and more! Costumes encouraged! Registration for a walk time is required.

(RP) Sat., Oct. 17 | 5:30 - 7:30pm

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

Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website

www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

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

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:
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. 40th St.

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



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

Quick Guide

Washington Park Community Green Market

Come support the Washington Park Community Green Market. Our very own Young Scientists Club will be selling fresh produce.

(WP) Every Sat. except

Sep. 7 | 10AM - 2PM
For everyone | Free

Little Explorers - Friday Morning Playgroup

Join our preschool playgroup for activities with animals, furs, recycled art and a nature hike.

(MV) Fri., Sep. 4, 18, Oct. 2

& 16 | 9:30 - 10:30AM

For children ages 2-5 with an adult | \$5 per child (Nonmembers: \$7 per child)

Geocaching in the Valley

We'll search for geocaches in the Valley while we learn about the history of the land. GPS units provided.

(MV) Sat., Sep. 5 & Oct. 3 |

10 - 11:30AM

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

Monarch Tagging

Join us in a national effort to track migrating monarchs! No experience required.

(MV) Sat., Sep. 5 | 1:30 - 3:30PM

(RP) Thu., Sep. 10 | 5 - 6PM

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

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

HOMESCHOOL SERIES

Insect Orders

There are almost one million species of insects and all of them look unique. We'll examine the different orders of insects and learn what makes them special.

Butterflies and Dragonflies

(RP) Tue., Sep. 8 | 1 - 3PM

Beetles and Flies

(WP) Tue., Sep. 22 | 1 - 3PM

Grasshoppers and Bugs

(RP) Tue., Oct. 6 | 1 - 3PM

Bees and Ants

(MV) Tue., Oct. 20 | 1 - 3PM

For children age 5 and older | \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Busy Bees ♿

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

(MV) Sat., Sep. 19 | 10 - 11:30AM

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

Little Birders ♿

Help your preschool aged child develop an interest in nature by learning how to recognize some of the most common birds in the city.

(WP) Sat., Sep. 26 | 10 - 11:30AM

For accompanied children ages 2-5 | \$5 per child (Nonmembers - \$7 per child)

Saturday Preschool

Series: Fall Ventures

Explore nature with your little one! We'll play indoors and out, sing songs, tell stories and make crafts.

(RP) | Sat., Sep. 26 | 10 - 11:30am

For children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult | Adults: \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Children: \$3 (Nonmembers: \$5)

Girl Scouts:

Nature Crafting ♿

Discover various forms of combining art and nature such as mud painting, ephemeral sculptures and drawing.

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

For Girl Scouts in 2nd-3rd grades | To register, visit gswise.org

Girl Scouts: Nature at Night

Discover the cool adaptations that different nocturnal animals use and take a guided night hike to test your own nocturnal abilities!

(RP) Wed., Oct. 7 | 6:30 - 8:30PM

For Girl Scouts ages 6-9 years old | To register, visit gswise.org

Families Exploring the Park

Join our naturalists for a walk as we explore seasonal changes and explain the science behind them.

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

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

Community Pumpkin Carving ♿

Help us decorate the trails for our Enchanted Forest event. We will provide pumpkins, some carving tools and templates as well as a few games and light refreshments. Bring carving tools if you have them.

(RP) Thu., Oct. 15 | 3:30 - 7PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Skulls, Skins and Bones ♿

Through hands-on exploration of various animal parts, we will learn how to classify animals. We'll also meet some real live animals! This program is part of the Wisconsin Science Festival.

(MV) Thu., Oct. 22 | 4:30 - 6PM

For children between the ages of 7-12 | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12) Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Up Close and Personal with Wisconsin's Snakes ♿

Billie Harrison, herpetologist with the Milwaukee County Zoo, will introduce you to often-vilified and misunderstood, but ecologically important snakes found in Wisconsin.

(RP) Thu., Oct. 22 | 6 - 7PM

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

Park after Dark - Exploring Riverside Park's Nocturnal World!

Take a guided hike and learn the characteristics of the nocturnal animals in the park. We'll play night-themed games, then top off the evening with s'mores! Registration required by October 21st.

(RP) Fri., Oct. 23 | 7 - 9PM

For adults, teens and families | \$10 (Nonmember: \$15)

Animal Tracker!

Take an adventure in the woods and around the river to discover how birds interact in nature. This program is part of the Wisconsin Science Festival.

(MV) Sat., Oct. 24 | 10AM - NOON

For children between the ages of 7-12 | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12), Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Meet Your Native Neighbors - Get to Know the Animals of Wisconsin

Meet native snakes, turtles, and salamanders! Afterwards we will go on a guided hike or learn at self-exploration stations. Registration required by October 22nd.

(RP) Sun., Oct. 25 | 1 - 3PM

For families | Adult: \$6 (Nonmember: \$9); Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Recycled Halloween Art ♿

Make amazing Halloween art out of recycled materials! We will supply the materials and ideas.

(MV) Sat., Oct. 31 | 10AM - 4PM

For adults and accompanied children | \$5 per child (Nonmembers: \$7 per child)

Nature Rangers

Sign up for either the Monday or Tuesday session. Fee covers all sessions in September and October.

(RP) Every Mon. except Sep.

7 or every Tue. | 4 - 5:30PM

For children ages 5 and older | \$10 (Nonmember: \$15)

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

EcoArt Wednesdays ♿

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

(MV) Every Wed. | 4 - 6PM

For families with children age 12 and younger | Free for Young Scientist Club members (Nonmembers: \$5 per child)

Martial Arts Class

Hosted by Above the Clouds

Learn discipline, physical awareness and self-confidence. No experience needed! To register visit abovethecloudsmilwaukee.com.

(MV) Every Wed. starting

Sep. 16 | 5:15 - 6:15PM

For youth ages 9-15 | Free - donations appreciated

Animal Feeding ♿

Help feed the Center's resident turtles, snakes and more!

(RP) Every Sat. except Sep. 19 | 1PM

(WP) & **(MV)** Every Sat. | 1PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Science Saturdays and Sundays ♿

Come try these self-led activities. Theme: "Animal Homes".

(RP) Self-led, drop-in program available Every Sat. except Sep.

12, 19 and Oct. 3 | 10AM - 4PM

and Every Sun. | 1-4PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Quick Guide

Hawks and More at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve

Join us for a half-day trip to the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Ozaukee County. We'll look for migrating hawks and eagles. Bring a lunch. Binoculars provided.

(RP) Sat., Sep. 19 | 8AM - 1PM
For adults | \$50 (Nonmembers: \$60)

Group Fitness Sessions & Summer Boot Camps

Gain physical stamina and nutritional savvy from the Center and Fit4You Traveling Trainer. Get active, achieve your health goals day by day.

(WP) Sats. Sep. 5, 19, Oct. 3
Oct. 17 Oct. 31 | 8 - 9:30AM
For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Film Screening:

Symphony of the Soil ♿

Using a captivating mix of art and science, "Symphony of the Soil" shows us why we should care about and appreciate the complex and dynamic nature of this precious resource.

(RP) Wed., Sep. 9 | 6 - 8PM
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

State of the Birds ♿

Created by the nation's top bird science and conservation groups, "The State of the Birds" is the most comprehensive review of long-term trend data for U.S. birds ever conducted. William Mueller, Director of Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, will discuss the wide range of monitoring programs that provide this information and their recommendations for conservation.

(MV) Tue., Sep. 8 | 7 - 8:30PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Exploring Native Plants

Learn to identify native plants and understand their natural history on a guided walk through our Prairie and Wetland habitats.

(WP) Wed., Sep. 16 | 6 - 7:30PM
For adults | \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Walk and Talk Series

Walk and Talks ♿

Explore Riverside Park and the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum, the Menomonee Valley branch and Three Bridges Park or Washington Park on a guided tour.

(RP) Sats., Sep. 5 & Oct. 3 | 10 - 11AM
(MV) Weds., Sep. 9 & Oct.

(WP) Thus., Sep. 17 & Oct. 15 | 4 - 5PM
For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) | Registration required by 5pm the day prior to each tour

Sunset Hike, Dialogue and Dinner

Take an interactive walk through Riverside Park and stop along the way for a light dinner and conversation. We want to know your experiences with the Center and ways we can improve. We will end the evening with s'mores around the campfire. We would love to hear from you, please join us.

(RP) Thu., Sep. 17 | 5:30 - 7:30PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated | Register by Sept. 14

Naturalist Series

Tree ID Series ♿

Learn to identify Southeast Wisconsin native trees. Sign up for one or for all of the classes in the series.

Aspens and Poplars

(RP) Thu., Sep. 10 | 5 - 7PM

Conifers

(RP) Thu., Sep. 17 | 5 - 7PM
For adults and teens | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Land Stewardship and Docent Volunteers: \$3

Forest Ecology

Get to know some common woodland tree species while enjoying an exploration of Riverside Park's urban forest. Dress for the outdoors.

(RP) Sun., Sep. 20 | 2 - 3:30PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) Land Stewardship and Docent Volunteers: \$3

Photo Phenology

Get out your cameras and watch the Valley change over the seasons and through the years! Bring a camera if you can, but no photography experience necessary.

(MV) Sat., Sep. 26 Oct.
24 | 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, conservation and behavior.

(RP) Sat., Sep. 26 | 3 - 4:30PM

(WP) Sat., Oct. 17 | 3 - 4:30PM

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

Build Your Own Vermicompost Bin! ♿

Compost your food waste rapidly, while producing high quality soil and fertilizing liquid. Best of all, it's self-contained and nearly odorless. You'll leave with a bin full of worms and your very own in-home compost system!

(MV) Sat., Oct. 3 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults | \$35 (Nonmembers: \$40) | Register by September 27

Birding the Milwaukee River

Paddle on the upper Milwaukee River as we look for fall migrant birds (exact locations will depend on water levels). Please dress for the weather and bring a lunch. Canoes and PFD's provided.

(RP) Sat., Oct. 10 | 8AM - 5PM
For adults | \$45 (Nonmembers: \$50)

Plein Air Painting with Lynn Rix: *The Art of Creating Outside* ♿

This all-day workshop will focus on composition, value and color while teaching you the art of creating paintings outside, capturing the atmosphere and light of a particular moment in time. Class includes a short demo and one on one instruction. Easels provided, supply list will be sent with registration.

(MV) Sat., Oct. 17 | 9AM - 3PM

For adults and teenagers | \$60 (Nonmembers \$65)

Advocating for the Underdog: *Outreach and the Eastern Massasauga* ♿

In the case of the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, exaggerated depictions in the media hindered conservation and management efforts. Billie Harrison of the Milwaukee County Zoo, will discuss efforts by the Eastern Massasauga Species Survival Planning group to improve public opinion on these misunderstood animals and ensure their place in the ecosystem.

(RP) Thu., Oct. 22 | 7 - 8PM
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Basic Knife Skills ♿

"Sharpen" your basic knife skills. Annie Wegner LeFort of The Mindful Palate will teach basic cutting techniques and the selection and care of knives. Handouts included.

(RP) Tue., Oct. 27 | 7 - 8:30PM
For adults | \$15 (Nonmembers: \$20) | Register by October 25

ART AT THE CENTER

Art Opening: "Neighborhood and Nature: Inspired Art" ♿

Join us as we host our first-ever art show! This show will feature a group of plein air artists coordinated by Lynn Rix. The artists used a variety of media including oil, watercolor, pastel and acrylic. As many of them were created on site in the Menomonee Valley, the works depict wild native plant and animal species, the river and activities at the Center and environs and our surrounding neighborhoods.

(MV) Sat., Oct. 3 | 1 - 3PM
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Art Opening: *The Nature of Prints: Sally Duback and Barbara Manger, Forest Floor: Shannon Molter* ♿

Meet the local artists who create wonderful nature-related pieces. Artists speak informally at 6pm. Refreshments provided.

(RP) Thu., Oct. 8 | 5 - 7pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

All Urban Ecology Center branches will be closed Monday, September 7.

Quick Guide

Canoeing

Costume Canoe Cavalcade

Dress up in your most creative costume and join us for a canoe trip. We will meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St.), paddle downtown, pull out for a quick refreshment then paddle back. Registration required by Saturday, October 31 at 1pm.

(RP) Sat., Oct. 31 | 5 - 8PM
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Water Safety Course

(MV) Every Fri. in Sep. | 5 - 5:30PM
(WP) Every Sat. in Sep. | 10 - 10:30AM
(RP) Every Sun. in Sep. | 1 - 1:30PM
(RP) Every Mon. in Sep. except Sep. 7 | 6 - 6:30PM
For adults | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5) | Membership required to borrow boats

Kinnickinnic River Paddle

Get to know Milwaukee's smallest, urban watershed. Equipment provided. Meet at the Horny Goat Hideaway (2011 S. 1st St.). Registration required by September 4 at 10am.

(RP) Sat., Sep. 5 | 9:30AM - 12:30PM
For adults and teens | \$25 (Nonmembers: \$30)

Canoeing for Beginners

The lagoon is a beautiful, calm and spacious body of water: a perfect place for learning the basics of paddling! We'll cover the basics, then you'll practice with guided instruction.

(WP) Sat., Sep. 5 | 10:30AM - noon
For adults and accompanied children age 6 and older | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

History of Milwaukee by Canoe

Discover the history of downtown Milwaukee. Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St.)

(RP) Sun., Sep. 6 | 9AM - noon
For adults and families | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)

Full Moon Canoe

See the moon as you never have before! Meet at the Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N Commerce St.). Registration required by 5pm on September 26.

(RP) Sun., Sep. 27 | 6:30 - 9PM
For adults and teens | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)

Biking

Southside Biking Adventure Club

Bring a bike and helmet or borrow ours. Bring a bag lunch or cash to buy lunch.

(MV) Sats., Sep. 26 & Oct. 17 | 10:30AM - 1PM

For adults, teens and family with children ages 8 and up | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12) Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Teens Pedal the Park

Explore with us! We'll teach you the basics of biking safety, then take you on a guided tour. We have bikes available, but you're welcome to bring your own. Register by October 1.

(WP) Sat., Oct. 3 | 10AM - noon
For teens | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7) | Register by October 1st

Climbing

Free Open Climb

Come try rock climbing for free! You'll receive at least one free climb, more if time allows. First come, first served.

(RP) Sun., Sep. 6 | 2 - 4PM
For adults, teens and families | Free - donations appreciated

Open Climb

Enjoy climbing our 3-story rock wall. Equipment provided.

(RP) Sun., Sep. 13, 20 & 27 | 2 - 4PM 4:30 - 6:30PM
For adults, teens, and families | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12) Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10) Climbing passes available for in-person purchase.

Ojibwe Language Study Group

(RP) Every Mon. except Sep. 7 | 6 - 8PM

Photo Club

(RP) Thus., Sep. 3 & Oct. 1 | 6:30 - 9PM

Community Vegan Potluck

(RP) Tues., Sep. 1 & Oct. 6 | 6:30 - 8PM

350.org General Meeting

(RP) Tues., Sep. 8 & Oct. 13 | 7 - 8:30PM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Orientation

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

(MV) Thu., Sep. 3 | 5 - 6:30PM
(MV) Tue., Sep. 22 | 5 - 6:30PM
(MV) Sat., Oct. 3 | 10 - 11:30AM
(MV) Tue., Oct. 13 | 5 - 6:30PM

(WP) Tue., Sep. 8 | 4:30 - 5:30pm
(WP) Thu., Sep. 24 | 4:30 - 5:30PM
(WP) Thu., Oct. 8 | 4:30 - 5:30PM
(WP) Tue., Oct. 27 | 4:30 - 5:30PM

(RP) Fri., Sep. 11 | 3 - 4:30PM
(RP) Sun., Sep. 13 | 2 - 3:30PM
(RP) Wed., Sep. 30 | 5:30 - 7PM
(RP) Sat., Oct. 17 | 10:30AM - NOON
(RP) Wed., Oct. 21 | 5:30 - 7PM
(RP) Fri., Oct. 30 | 3 - 4:30PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

CRIKT: Cricket Monitoring

Join Citizens Researching Invertebrate Kritters Together (CRIKT) for an evening of cricket, grasshopper and katydid monitoring with UW-Parkside Professor Jessica Orlofsky.

(RP) Wed., Sep. 2 | 5 - 7PM
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Weekly volunteer opportunities

Find these weekly events on the calendar on our website

ROOT (Restore Our Outdoor Treasures)
Volunteer Papermaking

Youth Project Squad

Work on various projects like equipment repair, plant/animal care, building maintenance or grounds keeping while learning new skills.

(MV) Sats., Sep. 5 & Oct. 3 | NOON - 2PM
Thus., Sep. 17 & Oct. 15 | 4 - 6PM
For families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

2015 Fall Bird Banding

Help us as we capture, band and release migrating birds. After the birds are weighed and measured, they are released from the palm of your hand!

(MV) Tue., Sep. 8 | 6AM - noon
(MV) Tue., Sep. 22 | 6:15AM - noon
(MV) Tue., Oct. 13 | 6:30AM - noon

(RP) Thu., Sep. 17 | 6AM - noon
(RP) Thu., Oct. 8 | 6:30AM - noon
(RP) Thu., Oct. 22 | 6:45AM - noon

(WP) Wed., Sep. 23 | 6:15AM - noon
(WP) Wed., Sep. 30 | 6:15AM - noon
(WP) Wed., Oct. 14 | 6:30AM - noon

For adults, teens and accompanied children | Banding is highly weather dependent, register with Jennifer Callaghan at jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org before attending

Volunteer Park Ranger Crew

INTEREST GROUPS

Friends of Real Food: Potluck Dinner and Program

(RP) Weds., Sep. 9 | 6 - 8PM

Good Food Book Club

(RP) Tue., Oct. 20 | 7 - 8PM

Faith and Ecology

(RP) Tues., Sep. 15 & Oct. 20 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Echo Poets

(RP) Thus., Sep. 10 & Oct. 8 | 7 - 8:30PM

Urban Stargazers

(RP) Thus., Sep. 10 & Oct. 8 | 7 - 8:30PM

Transition Milwaukee: All City Hub Meeting

(RP) Mons., Sep. 28 & Oct. 26 | 6:30 - 8:30PM

Early Morning Birdwalks

(MV) Every Tue. | 8am
(WP) Every Wed. | 8am
(RP) Every Thu. | 8am

If You Won't Listen to Me, Listen to the Lorax!

continued from page 1

Well, I'm angry too. The issue is whether to remove the broken Estabrook Dam or to rebuild it. The proposal to rebuild the dam was very cleverly buried in the Milwaukee County annual budget package. Voting against the dam would be voting against repairs at the art museum and more. Our supporters' hands were tied. Short term politics trumped long term wisdom in an expensive move that will negatively affect Milwaukee's water quality for generations to come (not years, generations!).

I am not alone in this view. The Urban Ecology Center Board unanimously supports the position of removing what remains of old Estabrook Park Dam. The Milwaukee Riverkeeper, the River Revitalization Foundation, the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the Village of Shorewood, our County Executive, historian John Gurda and so many other respected leaders of this city are on the side of economic and ecological reason. The County Parks Department, who spent months researching the issue, strongly recommends the removal of the dam.

The river connects us. We all have our stories of walking along its banks or enjoying the ducks as they float by. So to remind us of what's at stake, I thought I'd try using Dr. Seuss's approach. Here is how I imagine the Lorax would advocate for removal of the Estabrook Park Dam!

*There once was a river that ran through a town.
People fished, people swam, with never a frown.
The water was clean, the fish you could eat and
on Saturday nights oh the people you'd meet!
In winter the skating and sledding was grand.
It was the best place to be in all of the land!*

*Well this river had other uses as well, we could
dam it for ice for the beer we could sell. We
could transport our goods to ports far and
wide so we built factories and tanneries and
breweries by its side. The town grew up big*

*and the people they came, they came and
they came and they came and they came! And
the river, you see, was feeling the strain.*

*The river kept flowing, but it did start to thicken,
and those that still swam all started to sicken. It
took time to figure the whys and because, the
wherefores, the reasons, the issues and wases.*

*And did I mention the dams? How they grew
and they grew? The herons, and the turtles
and beavers -- they knew. And the fish, oh the
fish, they had trouble seeing - Through the silt
and the toxins, it made difficult breathing.*

*You'd think that we'd stop, well ... we did
in a way. We stopped swimming and
fishing, we stopped much of our play.*

*Our county, I say, is making a mistake. A
very big and very expensive mistake. For
reasons of politics and not of the land they
plan to spend money rebuilding a dam. It
makes no sense from an ecological view, no
flooding advantage, nor property value.*

*This quick decision is so short sighted. We
are smarter than this, we are so much
brighter. Does anyone else get the irony
here, in this city of ours famous for beer?
We're trying to serve as a model for others, a
freshwater hub to share with our brothers.*

*Our efforts are needed with this damming
occasion, let's voice our concern to change
this equation. Let's take out the dam, let the
river run free, let the fish and the ducks and
the frogs jump with glee. We must right this
wrong that threatens our town. This is here.
This is now. Let's take the dam down!*

*Well my friends from Milwaukee, I have a clue ...
and it starts with me and it starts with you. We
are doing it now and I ask you, join in, share this
word, share this poem with all of your friends.*

Share this link: milwaukeekeeper.org
(check it often) from our partner in crime,
Milwaukee Riverkeeper is right on the dime.

We risk millions, and more, on a foolish
endeavor that causes more problems and
impacts forever. Only a few see a benefit here,
the rest of us taxpayers will suffer for years.

I am the Lorax, and I speak for the River.

I speak for the River which has no tongue. And
I'm sharing with you at the top of my lungs ...
"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful
lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

So ... what can we do? How will the River cope?
To you I say fear not, have hope! We need to get
through to the powers that be. Let the county
[supervisors] hear your voice. Let them see what
we see. Call them today or email tonight. As Dr.
Seuss says ... "Let the chips fall where they might."

Special thanks to Joelle Leinbach for her
creative contributions to this article. 🌱

Note: To help facilitate your action
please learn the issue.

Below are the best links to
inform your opinion:

- www.savethemilwaukeekeeper.com/learnmore
- milwaukeekeeper.org/estabrook-dam-removal/

Then contact your county supervisor.
Do it now, and here is how:

- www.savethemilwaukeekeeper.com/action/
- www.savethemilwaukeekeeper.com/contact-your-supervisor



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
tevens@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

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

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 and click membership.



See page 2 for details

FSC logo



Enjoy a leisurely hike through scenic Milwaukee while supporting the Urban Ecology Center!

Family Friendly!

Create or Join a Team!

Explore Urban Nature!

Sunday, September 20th 2015

8AM - 1PM (Don't worry, the Packers don't play until 7:30pm!)

2.5-mile hike begins and ends at Riverside Park

REGISTER TODAY!
urbanecologycenter.org/hkemke