

## BIG NEWS!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

I've been staring at this page for the last hour totally flummoxed as to the best way to convey what I have to share. It's quite the paradox. On the one hand I am so excited that I truly can't contain myself and just want to shout the amazing news out loud to the world! On the other hand I find myself incredibly humbled in quiet reflection not knowing how to find the right words to express my deep appreciation and gratitude for the incredible support that has come our way. The crazy thing is this is the third time in a month that I've been faced with this same emotional quandary.

The Center has received three major gifts, each meeting a timely and critical need. Each is of a considerable scale, well beyond our normal giving pattern... with one of astonishing proportion. I love this community! Here they are laid out as I received the news.

### \$400,000 GIFT FOR THE ARBORETUM

The first was a call from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation informing me that a donor who wished to remain anonymous would be making a gift of significance to the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum project. Subsequent emails followed this call resulting in the understanding that "significance" in this case meant \$400,000! This was stunning news and the timing was impeccable as it came in just days before our major partner in this vision, Pieter Godfrey, unexpectedly passed away in his sleep. This gift ensures that Pieter's vision will come to fruition, I'm sure of it. Had this gift not arrived, my confidence in this fact would have been greatly diminished.

The Arboretum project, initiated three years ago when Pieter pledged a donation of four acres of land to add to Riverside



An urban plot of land will become...



... the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum! This rendering by Amanda Kingsbury shows the Arboretum from the same point of view as above



This old tavern at 37th and Pierce St. will become...



...the new Menomonee Valley branch of the Center as depicted in this rendering by Uihlein-Wilson Architects

Park's 15, has since grown – thanks to an early gift from the Milwaukee Rotary Club, a large EPA grant and some additional land negotiations – into an amazing 40-acre park and outdoor classroom for our Riverside Park location. We still have a long way to go on this multi-million dollar project, we still need to raise \$400,000 to \$500,000 before opening in 2013, but this gift gets us past the tipping point. How does one thank a person for such a meaningful contribution? You see my quandary. Sometimes words are just not adequate.

### AN ASTONISHING GIFT FOR OUR THIRD BRANCH

The second major gift came in the form of a phone call directly from the source. The Burke Foundation called to inform us that their board had met and decided to give - hold your breath for this is the astonishing one - \$2.3 million to establish a third branch in the Menomonee Valley! You read this correctly. That is \$2,300,000!!!

Dick Burke, who founded Trek Bicycles, was a close friend of the Center back when we were in a double-wide trailer. He was the benefactor who provided half of the funds needed to build our beautiful Riverside Park building. He, too, unexpectedly passed away in March 2008, and his children took on the responsibility of his philanthropy. Modeling Dick they chose as one of their first significant gifts to provide half of the construction costs of our new Center in the Valley, as well as half of the amount needed to support five years of educational and community-based programming for Milwaukee's South Side...an area that has been clamoring for our services for years. Wow!!!! As John Burke stated in a recent email to me in present tense, "Dad is pleased".

When the news came in on this one, I did

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

Contributing writers: Erick Anderson, Ethan Bott, Dan Graves, Beth Heller, Willie Karidis, Ken Leinbach, Darrin Madison Jr., Megan Mischler and Mary Staten.

*River Reflections* is a publication of the **Urban Ecology Center**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Thanks to the generous annual contributions of 215 foundations, corporations and organizations, over 2700 member and many in-kind donors the Center serves over 80,000 people per year.

To make a contribution, please see page 14 for the easy to use form, visit our website at [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org) or call the Center at (414) 964-8505.

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

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

#### Urban Ecology Center

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

Hours of operation:  
Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.

**Washington Park**, 1859 N. 40<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
(Mailing address: 4145 W. Lisbon Ave.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53208)  
(414) 344-5460 Fax: (414) 344-5462  
[wkardis@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:wkardis@urbanecologycenter.org)

Hours of operation:  
Tuesday - Friday: 4 - 7 p.m.  
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

## DROPLETS

- **Hitting one out of the park!**  
We're grateful for the generous support of Craig Counsell (Brewers Infielder) and the Brewers Community Foundation! The



Brewers kicked off their "Green Week" sustainability initiative on June 20th by presenting a check to the Center and the Menomonee Valley Partners for our joint effort to establish a third branch of the Center just south of Miller Park.

- **We love our new Zeon!** Thanks to the generosity of Hustler lawn mowers and the foresight of Todd Pethke of A. Pethke Services the Center has "greened up" our lawn



mowing operation. Knowing that we strive to follow sustainable practices, Todd told us about the Zeon, an electric lawnmower produced by Hustler. No exhaust fumes, no expensive trips to the gas station — it was perfect for the Center! As we looked into

## WISH LIST

For Riverside Park  
Contact: Judy Krause, 964-8505, x102.

- Apple PowerBook
- Field & Iannoni stone
- Ice cream buckets with lids
- iPad(s)
- Kids gardening gloves
- Large ceramic/terracotta pots
- Leaf rakes
- Potting soil & quality topsoil
- Rain ponchos/jackets - all sizes
- Seasoned firewood
- Video camera
- Weed-wackers and scythes
- Wire garden fencing/wire mesh
- Woodworking tools, hand or powered

For Washington Park  
Contact: Willie Karidis, (414) 344-5460.

- Aprons
- Blenders
- Canning supplies and jars with lids
- Cheese graters
- Cordless drill
- Digital cameras
- Extension cords
- Glass measuring cups
- Large capacity dehumidifier
- Mixing bowls & spoons
- Pitchforks
- Plastic cutting boards
- Plastic storage bins with lids
- Plexiglas
- Potato peelers, mashers
- Power strips
- Straw bales
- Tyvek
- Video camera

purchasing one, we received word that Hustler wanted to donate a Zeon to an environmental organization. A few weeks later, we received our brand new, commercial-grade, all-electric riding mower. We are deeply grateful to Hustler for their fantastic donation and for their commitment to the environment.

**BIG NEWS!***continued from page 1*

shout out loud to the world, “Hey everyone, we just received a gift of over 2 million dollars!” Not everyone in the world heard me but those in the Center did, which resulted in much whooping and hollering from visitors and staff alike! Again, though ... how can you possibly adequately thank someone for this kind of gift? That was emotional quandary number two.

**MULTIPLE MAJOR GIFTS TO CLOSE THE GAP**

The third major gift is a little more complicated. You see, even though the Burke Foundation gift was HUGE, it was still approximately \$300,000 short of the amount needed for us to pull the trigger on construction for our new Center. It came in one week before it would be too late (due to construction timelines) to start building this year. Starting construction next year would delay opening for an entire school year. We were sooo close!!! But I was heading to Arizona for a System’s Thinking conference with Peter Senge (*see article on page 4*) at the same time our equal partner in the project, Laura Bray, Executive Director of the Menomonee Valley Partners was leaving on vacation. What to do?

We did what we always do. We relied on our amazing staff, volunteers and the community at large. We quickly put together an email that explained our dilemma and sent it out to our closest friends, advisors, and supporters. We engaged our respective boards, our advisory council and Valley businesses.

The response was, like the Burke Gift, astonishing. Within three days of sending our email, Marianne and Sheldon Lubar came through with a \$200,000 pledge! Rexnord Industries, a major supporter located in the Valley added \$100,000 to their previous gift of \$250,000, presented a fundraising challenge to other businesses and confirmed a product donation through their subsidiary Zurn. Other long time

supporters which included the Brico Fund, the Kasten Family, some board members and close advisors to the Center collectively added an additional \$50,000. We made it!! Construction starts this September ... Yes!!!

These amazing gifts provide a huge boost to this \$26 million project, pushing us over the \$20 million mark! Led by the Menomonee Valley Partners and the Center, this public-private endeavor engages the state, city, county, Valley businesses and neighborhood in transforming a 24-acre brownfield into a vibrant park and outdoor science classroom. Adding these gifts to those of early investors enables a more aggressive schedule: opening in fall 2012 to serve area residents, schools and businesses. I had a hard time keeping from crying. (See [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org) for a project overview. See column on the right for complete list of funding partners to date).

The beautiful thing here is that I know for a fact that all of the gifts mentioned, big and small, were HUGE to the people and businesses giving them, each was a gift of deep personal significance. What an honor it is to be part of this vision we call the Urban Ecology Center, an idea unique to Milwaukee.

Margaret J. Wheatley, a writer who studies organizational behavior, captures my thoughts better than I when she states, “the world doesn’t change one person at a time. It changes when networks of relationships form among people who share a common cause and a shared vision of what’s possible.”

That’s it! We, the Urban Ecology Center, exist because we represent networks of relationships among people who share a common cause. In this case the “cause” is our very existence as a community organization. Through the vehicle of this vibrant Center, we collectively — you and I and the networks we represent — create change ... and as Ms. Wheatley continues, “There is no power for change

greater than a community discovering what it cares about” — vibrant neighborhoods -- natural connections — active and engaged kids. Viewed through this lens, this outpouring of support makes sense and conveying my gratitude to you not so complicated. Thanks to all of you for your generosity. 🌻

**FROM THE GROUND UP  
MENOMONEE VALLEY  
PROJECT DONORS**

Thank you to the following corporations, organizations, individuals, and government departments and programs for making a gift or pledge to support this amazing project. Would you like to get involved? Call Ginger at 414-964-8505.

Helen Bader Foundation  
Brewers Community Foundation  
The Brico Fund  
Burke Foundation  
Monique Charlier & Holly Blomquist  
City of Milwaukee  
CSA Commercial  
Craig & Michelle Counsell  
Art & Rhonda Downey  
Ralph Evinrude Foundation Inc.  
Army Corps of Engineers  
US Department of Transportation  
Great Lakes Basin Partnership  
US Forest Service  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
- Jorgenson Family Fund  
- Enroth Family Foundation  
- Make-a-Difference Fund  
- Wright Brothers Fund  
Mike & Linda Groth  
Harley-Davidson Foundation  
Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation  
Herzfeld Foundation  
Fred & Susie Kasten  
Sheldon & Marianne Lubar  
Daniel F. “Jack” McKeithan  
Menomonee Valley Business  
Improvement District  
Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc.  
Milwaukee County Parks  
MMSD  
P&H Mining  
Palermo Villa Inc.  
Rexnord Industries  
Mark Sandy  
State of WI - WDNR Stewardship Fund  
Bert L. & Patricia S. Steigleder  
Charitable Trust  
US Bank  
Wisconsin Energy Foundation  
Joseph and Vera Zilber Family  
Foundation, Inc  
Zurn

## “HAVE YOU HEARD OF THIS GUY, PETER SENGE?”

by Beth Fetterley Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning, Ethan Bott, High School Outdoor Leader and Mary Staten, Director, Urban Ecology Center Board

It was a simple question. “Have you heard of this guy, Peter Senge?” asked Ken. My response, “You mean Peter Senge, the learning organizations guru?” Over the years, in business school and at work, Senge’s work has served me well as a reference for projects and discussions, including a “Senge’s 5 Disciplines” themed tour of the Center for graduate students. Why did his name keep resurfacing? Perhaps because he is a highly regarded international leader. Or maybe because there is a natural (pun intended) connection between ecology and systems thinking. So, yes, I’d definitely heard of him.

When Ken explained that one of our donors was connecting us with Peter, my response was enthusiastically positive. Shortly thereafter, we were on the phone discussing systems thinking as a learning tool and an upcoming conference. Our (anonymous) donor felt strongly enough about the value of connecting us that he covered the costs for six people to attend this conference.

In building our team, we were expected to engage different influences in the Center’s system, from students to staff to board. Two high school Outdoor Leaders fit the student bill perfectly.

After several conversations and emails with the students and their parents, Ethan Bott and Iemoni Moses were on board. We then invited board director, Mary Staten, MPS Science Curriculum Specialist. Mary’s reaction was the same as mine — an immediate “Yes!” With one spot left to fill, we invited Demetria Dunn, our Grant Manager, who also stepped up without hesitation. We weren’t quite sure what to expect, but we were all curious about systems thinking and ready to learn!

This team set out to the foothills of the Catalina Mountains in the heart of Arizona’s hot monsoon season to learn about systems thinking at the conference ironically called “Camp Snowball”. Our goal was two-fold: 1) Figure out what this “systems thinking” stuff really means, and 2) determine whether the “natural” connection between ecology and systems thinking made sense to us. We jumped right in to five days of intense workshops, networking and debriefing that left us exhausted but exhilarated about the possibilities for our organization. In that short time, we were able to explore tools to bring to the whole Urban Ecology Center team. We now plan to challenge ourselves

to practice using these tools and to grow our systems thinking toolbox.

Here are some reflections from the team:

### From Ethan Bott, High School Outdoor Leader:

*Everything was stunningly beautiful in Tucson. I saw forests of cacti for the first time in my life. I smelled the desert, having had no idea that it would smell different from Wisconsin. These classes were interesting and thought-provoking. In our Education for Sustainability workshop we learned about “mental models,” and learned to analyze our usual ways of thinking. Our presenter taught us twelve concepts that we should use to shape our behavior regarding the environment including “Healthy systems have limits” and “Create change at the source not at the symptom.” This is just a small part of what I learned at Camp Snowball. It provided opportunities to make new friends and to experience Tucson in a great way.*

### From Mary Staten, Director, Urban Ecology Center Board of Directors

*As a science educator, I see the importance and benefits of embedding this approach in the teaching and learning process in our schools. I think it compliments well the current common core standards movement that is happening nationally. As a long-time partner and recent board member of the UEC, I think building capacity in systems thinking can only strengthen the great work we are currently doing to provide outdoor science education and access to nature for children and adults in urban communities.*

While there were no actual snowballs in the 94-104° ecosystem, the tools and ideas now available have the potential to spread via the “snowball effect” into our lives, our work and our learning. So, who is Peter Senge? He is the one who packed the snowball (our hearts and minds) and nudged it to the top of the slope. We are thankful to his team, and our donor, for getting the ball rolling and are excited to see how it moves and grows. 🌱

## “DO YOU NEED A NEW CELL PHONE?”

by Erick Anderson and Dan Graves, Environmental Educators

“Do you need a new cell phone?” This isn’t the kind of question we would want to hear when imagining kids playing outside. This particular day, however, was a different story. Whenever we take our summer campers to the beach on “beach day” some spontaneous form of free play occurs. This day I had a group of 3rd and 4th graders and the creativity that arose was quite wonderful. One group of girls had set up a small “store” on the beach using driftwood and grapevines. They proceeded to collect flat, phone-sized

rocks to “sell” to any curious consumers passing by. Actually it became more of a give away. “What kind of phone do you need?” “I’ll take a Blackberry with some special apps,” I responded. I got a sweet piece of Blackberry-sized limestone in exchange. What a deal.

While it may seem trivial, all this activity has some serious benefits. Getting kids outside to play on their own helps reduce childhood obesity, creates a sense of independence and a healthy self-

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## WASHINGTON PARK VOICES — DARRIN MADISON JR. AND MEGAN MISCHLER

Below are articles written by two incredible youth from our Washington Park branch. Darrin Madison Jr. is a volunteer and has helped with land stewardship and leading group activities. Megan Mischler is an enthusiastic participant in our Young Scientist program whose energy is infectious. Many thanks to summer interns Maggie and Pa Houa who encouraged and guided these young writers.

These articles represent the Center's mission of mentoring in action. They're having fun, connecting with others and helping to transform a community. But don't take their word for it. Check it out for yourself! Come to a special event like Washington Bark on Saturday, September 17 or just visit during our open hours Tuesday - Friday, 4 - 7 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

By: Darrin Madison Jr. 9th Grader,  
Community Volunteer

My name is Darrin Madison Jr. I will attend Rufus King High school as a freshman. I have been coming to the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park for three years and volunteering the past year. I became more interested in volunteering when I successfully helped lead a volunteer land stewardship youth group.

In the Young Scientist Club, I have helped children with projects using natural resources. We have made maple syrup using the sap from the park. We also did some land stewardship projects like putting mulch around the native Wisconsin plants in the park. Mulching was my favorite project because it helps keep the invasive species from taking over the park.

I also helped grow fruits and vegetables in the gardens at Washington Park, including chocolate mint, tomatoes, carrots, and garlic. We also planted

peach, plum, cherry and pear trees around the Urban Ecology Center and lagoon. I never realized the effect that food had on the environment. People who grow their own food



Summer Camper harvests garlic from Washington Park's garden

instead of buying it in a store use less gas and lessen their impact on the ozone layer. Plus it tastes good!

My favorite part about volunteering at the Center is that kids are taking interest in nature and how it affects the world. They come every week not only expanding their knowledge through the study of ecology but enjoying it and teaching their friends. I get to learn about what they know and what they want to do with their lives. I am learning at the same time as the kids while doing the activities. In addition, volunteering shows that I care about my community and have developed leadership skills and experience. My volunteer work at Washington Park helped me get an internship with Northwestern Mutual!

Since I've been here everyone has been kind and they've opened up my mind to all kinds of different ways of looking at things. Also, they have given me a lot of experience in nature. I like that. Come to the Urban Ecology Center and become not just a member but part of our little family.

### YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB

by Megan Mischler, 8th  
Grader, Young Scientist

Are you sitting at home watching TV? Well, get off of the couch and have fun! I know a place that's fun and in your community. The best thing to do is the Urban Ecology Center's Young Scientists Club.

I am a Young Scientist at the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park and it's so much fun because we interact with nature. There are so many inside and outside activities. We do tree walks, animal games, gardening, canoeing and even fun field trips. In the winter we get to ice skate, ski, sled, ice fish and much more. The Center also has turtles, roads, fish, snakes and salamanders that we get to help feed. And these activities are not even half of the fun things Young Scientists get to do.

My favorite day was when we went canoeing to the island and we voted on what game to play. We decided on playing hide and go seek tag, which I really enjoyed. Then we picked invasive species. Picking these plants keeps them from spreading and taking over the island. It was a really fun day!

You should also meet the cool people at Washington Park. Mr. Mike plans all these amazing activities. You should also meet the Outdoor Leaders, high school students who feed the animals, play with the Young Scientists and help Mr. Mike. The person that runs the entire Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park is Mr. Willie. He comes and plays with the Young Scientists. He also helps Mr. Mike every once in a while. The other times he is supervising the other staff and makes sure the Center is running smoothly.

Well, if you are bored, then come on down to the Urban Ecology Center and have some fun! 🌿



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

**Be a part of music history...**

Presented By

**Six Bands . One Day.**

The Midwest's near-zero waste music festival

**Featuring The Fray**  
with Ben Folds, Fitz & the Tantrums  
Michelle Branch, Christina Perri  
and local favorite Evan Christian

**Sunday, September 18**  
Veterans Park | Gates open 11 a.m.

Tickets just \$25 available at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

Net revenues to go to the  
Urban Ecology Center and Park People

Rock the Green aims for near-zero waste using holistic, revolutionary production practices including:

- Powering the festival with clean energy solar, wind and bio-diesel generators
- Replacing all disposable items with their compostible equivalents
- Managing waste recovery stations throughout the festival grounds
  - Offering a free bike valet service
- Recyclable BPA-free collapsible water bottles included in ticket price that can be filled at free fresh water stations
  - Locally grown food vendors
- Educational exhibits sans paper handouts

**Rock and Roll to the Start!**

"Rock and Roll to the Gates" is a leisurely ride from the Urban Ecology Center to Veteran's Park. It's a fun way to open the gates and promote fossil fuel free transportation.

For more information visit  
[www.rockthegreen.com](http://www.rockthegreen.com)

**SPECIAL EVENTS****WASHINGTON BARK\***

High tail it over to Washington Park for the 7th Annual Washington Bark Day! Games, vendor booths, food, contests, local rescues, raffle, demos, agility/lure course, 1-mile dog walk

Saturday, September 17  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For everyone  
\$5 per dog  
Call to register, 964-8505

**FALL FESTIVAL\***

Whether you like it hot or cold most people can agree that fall is a beautiful season. Bring your friends and neighbors and celebrate the season with:

- Hands-on science experiments
- Rock climbing
- Nature walks in Riverside Park
- Crafts
- Carriage rides
- Games
- Caramel apples and baked potatoes
- Resource booths and more.

Saturday, September 24  
Noon - 4 p.m.

For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated

**FALL FESTIVAL FOR AFTERNOON NAPPERS\***

A Fall Festival program for the young ones! Enjoy a puppet show, craft and outdoor activities.

Saturday, September 24  
10:30 a.m. - noon

For kids ages 5 and younger accompanied by an adult  
Free - donations appreciated  
**Registration required** by September 23, call 964-8505

**FOR THE NEXT SEVEN GENERATIONS: FILM AND TALKING CIRCLE\***

Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers from all four corners came together and decided to form an alliance: The International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. Shot on location in the Amazon rainforest, the mountains of Mexico, North America and at a private meeting with the Dalai Lama in India. *For the Next 7 Generations* follows what happens when these wise women, facing a world in crisis, share their visions of healing and a call for change. The film will be followed by a talking circle.

Thursday, September 22  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults  
\$5 (Nonmembers - \$7)  
LIMIT 20 people. Registration recommended, call 964-8505

**AUTUMN CELEBRATION\***

Celebrate Autumn and the beginning of Winter by discovering all the great things to see and do in Washington Park. A time to join our neighbors and recognize our wonderful partners who are essential to our mission. Thanks to the Milwaukee County Parks Department we have new Play Trails and our new solar roof and panels for you to check out while you're here. Fun for the whole family!

Saturday, October 22  
1 - 4 p.m.

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

**COMMUNITY LIVING: THE BASIC INGREDIENTS CONFERENCE HOSTED BY COMMUNITY LIVING OPTIONS GROUP-MILWAUKEE**

Workshops include:

- Social & Cultural Dynamics of Living in Community
- Creating Your Group's Vision and Goals
- Basic Co-housing Models
- Finding a place to live

Watch the Center website and CoLOG Yahoo list for final details. Questions? Contact Lorraine Jacobs at (414) 562-6608 or [jacobslm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacobslm@sbcglobal.net).

Saturday, October 29  
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For adults  
\$10 includes all workshops & catered lunch (\$5 if bringing your own lunch)  
Registration will begin September 1, call 964-8505

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS****WILD ONES NATURAL LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS CONFERENCE**

Do you see your yard as an ecosystem? Gain insights about landscaping and growing native plants. Keynote speaker: Douglas Tallamy, Author of *Bringing Nature Home*

Saturday, October 15

Cardinal Stritch University, 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. (Doors open at 8)  
\$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, Register online [www.for-wild.org/conf](http://www.for-wild.org/conf)



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

## YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS



### MONARCH BUTTERFLY TAGGING & OZONE MONITORING\*

Join us as we carefully catch, tag and release monarch butterflies who are en route to Mexico. We will also carefully examine the Monarch's host plant, Common Milkweed, for signs of damage from ozone in the atmosphere. Both projects will supply valuable data to scientists as part of national research projects.

Thursday, September 1 5 - 6 p.m.



Wednesday, September 7 5 - 6 p.m.



For adults and accompanied children \$3 (Nonmembers - \$5) Call to register, 964-8505

## URBAN CENTER TOURS

### TOUR OF WASHINGTON PARK BRANCH\*

Join Washington Park Branch Manager Willie Karidis on a tour of Washington Park. Dress for the weather. Call ahead to confirm.

Wednesdays, September 7 & October 5 4 - 5 p.m.



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

### BOOK YOUR OWN TOUR!\*

Have a group of 5 or more who want to visit any of our branches? We offer private tours of our green building, park, gardens and branch locations. Please contact Mike at [mlarson@UrbanEcologyCenter.org](mailto:mlarson@UrbanEcologyCenter.org) for fees and scheduling.

The Center offers public programs at both Riverside & Washington Parks. Programs marked with an \* are accessible for persons with physical disabilities. All others have limited to no accessibility. Please call 964-8505 at least two days before the program date if you have accessibility needs. Scholarships are available for all fee-based programs.

### CHANGING SEASONS PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT\*

See the beauty of our park with new eyes! This photography project combines creativity with natural history to give kids a new understanding of the gradual change of seasons in Washington Park's ever-changing environment.

Fridays, September 2 & October 7 4 - 6 p.m.



For kids ages 12 and younger (under 7 must be accompanied by an adult) Adults: \$5 (Nonmembers - \$8) Children: \$3 (Nonmembers - \$6) Call to register, 964-8505

### E.B. GARNER FISHING CLUB\*

Interested in learning how to fish? Join E.B. Garner, friend of the Center, as he teaches you to cast, put on bait and take care of your fishing poles. Fun for all!

Wednesday, September 14 4 - 7 p.m.



For kids ages 7 and up Free - donations appreciated Call to register, 964-8505

### RIVERSIDE PARK BUILDING TOUR\*

Get an insider's view of Riverside Park's innovative building design and programming through these staff-led tours.

Wednesdays, September 14, 28, October 12 & 26 9 - 10:15 a.m.



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

### HOMESCHOOL SERIES: JOURNALING\*

The newest installment of our ongoing series for homeschoolers, this program explores one of the fundamental skills of a naturalist — journaling. Join us as we construct our very own nature journals out of recycled materials. Once our book is complete, we'll head outside and learn journaling techniques that maximize what you'll learn from your time in the wild.

Monday, September 19 2 - 3:30 p.m.



For kids ages 5 and up \$5 (Nonmembers - \$7) Call to register, 964-8505

### YOU FLOAT MY BOAT!\*

Build a mini solar boat or car kit thanks to our friends from We Energies. Learn how solar energy works and how renewable energy is an important resource for our planet.

Tuesday, September 27 4 - 6 p.m.



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

### JUGGLING 101\*

Ever want to learn to juggle? This fun skill isn't nearly as hard as it looks. In this workshop we'll teach you how to juggle 3 objects and you'll also make your very own colorful juggling balls using recycled materials. All that you need to bring is your patience and a "can-do" attitude!

Saturday, October 15 10:30 a.m. - noon



For everyone age 8 and up Adults: \$15 (Nonmembers - \$20) Children: \$12 (Nonmembers - \$16) Call to register, 964-8505

### SCIENCE SATURDAYS\*

Discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts.

Topics: September: Food For Thought, October: Forestry

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



For everyone Free - donations appreciated

### SCIENCE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS\*

Drop in and discover the world of science through self-led interactive activities and crafts. Theme for September and October: The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Drop-in program Every Saturday 9:30 - 4:30 p.m. and Every Sunday 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.



For adults and accompanied children Free - donations appreciated

### ANIMAL FEEDING\*

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

Every Saturday 1 p.m.



For everyone Free - donations appreciated



### YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB\*

The Young Scientists Club is an opportunity for unsupervised kids to be safe and learn more about science and nature. Through research, stewardship, hiking and caring for our animals, we'll cover all sorts of topics.

#### At Riverside Park

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays except September 5 4 - 5:30 p.m.



For kids 5 and up \$5 annual fee (Suggested daily donation - \$5) Space is limited to 12 participants, please call ahead to register, 964-8505

#### At Washington Park

Every Tuesday through Friday 4 - 6 p.m.



and Every Saturday 1 - 4 p.m. For kids ages 7-12 years old Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers - \$5 annual membership) Call to register, 964-8505

Both Urban Ecology Center locations will be closed on Monday, September 5



## ADULT LEARNING

## SAVOR THE TASTE OF SUMMER

## PICKLING SUMMER'S FARE\*

Canning fruits and vegetables in vinegar is an age old practice for preserving summer's harvest. We will guide you in a hands-on effort to preserve green beans and pickles. Canning materials, produce and hand-outs are provided.

Tuesday, September 13 or Tuesday, September 20  
6 - 8:30 p.m.

Call to register, 964-8505

For adults

\$30 preregister, \$35 at the door (Nonmembers  
- \$35 preregister, \$40 at the door)

Call to register, 964-8505



## URBAN HOMESTEAD SERIES

## PRESERVING WILD EDIBLES\*

There are so many free foods out in the wild if one knows how to identify and harvest them. Master Food Preserver Annie Wegner LeFort will discuss wild foraging, share recipes and demonstrate preservation techniques for these wild foods. Depending on what's in season, we may experiment with anything from wild black raspberry or Queen Anne's Lace jelly to rosehip tea and purslane salad.

Thursday, September 15 or Thursday, October 20  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$30 (Nonmembers - \$35)

Registration required by September 12  
or October 13 call 964-8505



## HERBAL OILS AND VINEGARS\*

The harvest season is looming and you still have lots of herbs to pick and use. Consider infusing your own oils and vinegars with these potent perennials. Master Food Preserver Annie Wegner LeFort will teach you how to safely preserve herbs in two different media so you can enjoy them all year or give them as holiday gifts.

Tuesday, October 18  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

For adults and

accompanied children

\$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)

Registration required by October 13, call 964-8505



## MAKING ALTERNATIVE FLOURS\*

Many people are growing their own vegetables and fruits these days, but locally grown and processed flour is often a missing piece in our eat local puzzle. Trained chef and Master Food Preserver Annie Wegner LeFort will teach you how to use wild and indigenous foods such as acorns and sunchoke to process your own gluten-free flours with minimal equipment.

Monday, October 31

6:30 - 8 p.m.

For adults and  
accompanied children

\$20 (Nonmembers - \$25)

Registration required by October 27, call 964-8505



## SUSTAINABLE GARDEN SERIES

*In collaboration with the Victory Garden Initiative*

FALL GARDENING FOR WINTER HARVESTING:  
SEASON EXTENDING, CLOSING DOWN THE  
SEASON AND STORING YOUR HARVEST

Learn all the simplest techniques for adding a month onto your garden at both ends of the season. Then, learn to prepare your garden and home for the winter. Includes end of the garden preparation and simple ways to get the most of fall abundance. You can eat your own tomatoes at your holiday dinner!

Saturday, September 17

9 - 10:30 a.m.

For adults

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)

Call to register, 964-8505



## INTRODUCTION TO PERMACULTURE\*

Learn about the basics of designing agricultural ecosystems that are sustainable and self-sufficient. Permaculture is the foundation of the work of Victory Garden Initiative and the vision of the future. Come learn the basics for creating your own home permaculture site and help us create an edible, sustainable Milwaukee!

Saturday, October 8

9 - 10:30 a.m.

For adults

\$10 (Nonmembers - \$12)

Call to register, 964-8505



## HERBAL SERIES

## ROOTS, SEEDS, BERRIES &amp; MORE!\*

Join herbalist and wild forager Linda Conroy for this three week series. Learn the lore and history of herbs that promote health, provide relief from ailments and promote healing of cuts, scrapes and more! We'll go on walks to identify the plants of the season, make herbal poultices and salves, learn to make nourishing herbal beverages and cold/cough remedies. You will take home some of our creations as well as recipes.

Thursdays,

September 29, October 6 & 13

6 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults

\$70 plus \$10 material fee the day of class (Nonmembers

- \$75 plus \$10 material fee for the class) for the series

Call to register, 964-8505



## TEEN PROGRAMS

## CREEPY CAVING

Face your fears on a Halloween exploration deep under the ground at Ledge View Nature Center's caves in Chilton, Wisconsin. Wear clothes that can get super muddy. Long sleeves and pants will protect your skin from the roughness of the cave crawls. Bring a flashlight and a change of clean clothes. Space is limited, sign up early!

Thursday, October 27

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For teens

\$10

(Nonmembers - \$12) Scholarships available

Call to register, 964-8505





# URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

# SEPTEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays- The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays- The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp)</p>	<p>Both Urban Ecology Center Locations Closed</p>	<p>Bird Banding (rp) Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp) Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>Bird Banding (rp) Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp) Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Birdwalk (rp) WOW (rp) Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) Papermaking (rp) Butterfly Tagging &amp; Ozone Monitoring (wp) Kayaking 101 (bh)</p>	<p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Water Safety (rp) Echo Poets (rp) Stargazers (rp)</p>	<p>Fitness Boot Camp (wp) Forestry Fridays (rp) Changing Seasons Photography Project (wp) Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Park Rangers (wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays: Food For Thought (wp), Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) Water Safety (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays- The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp)</p>	<p>6a 4p 7p</p>	<p>6a 9a 3:30p 4p 4p 6:30p 7p</p>	<p>6a 8a 9a 3p 4p 4p 5p 5:30p</p>	<p>6a 8a 10:30 4p 4p 6p 7p 7p</p>	<p>6a 2p 4p</p>	<p>8a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays: Food For Thought (wp), Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) 10a 10:30a 11a 1p 1p</p>	<p>8a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays: Food For Thought (wp), Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) 10a 10:30a 11a 1p 1p</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays- The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp)</p>	<p>6a 4p 7p</p>	<p>6a 9a 3:30p 4p 4p 6p 6:30p</p>	<p>6a 8a 9a 3p 4p 4p 5p 6p</p>	<p>6a 8a 10:30 4p 4p 6p 6:30p 6:30p</p>	<p>6a 2p 3:30p 4p</p>	<p>8a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays: Food For Thought (wp), Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) 10a 10:30a 11a-4p (wp) 1p 1p</p>	<p>8a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays: Food For Thought (wp), Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) 10a 10:30a 11a-4p (wp) 1p 1p</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays- The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp)</p>	<p>6a 2p 4p 4-7p</p>	<p>6a 9a 3:30p 4p 4p 6p 6:30p</p>	<p>6a 8a 9a 3p 4p 4p 5p 6p</p>	<p>6a 8a 10:30 4p 4p 6p 6:30p 6:30p</p>	<p>6a 2p 3:30p 4p</p>	<p>8a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays: Food For Thought (wp), Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) 10a 10:30a 11a-4p (wp) 1p 1p</p>	<p>8a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays: Food For Thought (wp), Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) 10a 10:30a 11a-4p (wp) 1p 1p</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays- The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp)</p>	<p>6a 4p 6:30p</p>	<p>6a 9a 3:30p 4p 4p 6p 7p</p>	<p>6a 8a 9a 3p 4p 4p 5p</p>	<p>6a 8a 10:30 4p 4p 6p 6:30p 6:30p</p>	<p>6a 2p 4p</p>	<p>8a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays: Food For Thought (wp), Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) 10a 10:30a 11a 1p 1p</p>	<p>8a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays: Food For Thought (wp), Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) 10a 10:30a 11a 1p 1p</p>

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EVENTS, NEWS & PHENOLOGY!  
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**RUCK the GREEN**  
Presented By **VEOLIA**

**Gates open at 11a (Veterans Park)**

# URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

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

# OCTOBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays— The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, &amp; Recycle (rp)</p> <p>2p Art Opening: Nature and Landscape (rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>3 Early 9a 3:30p 4p 4p 4:30p 6:30p 7p</p> <p>Bird Banding (rp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Ornithology (rp) Victory Garden Initiative (rp) Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>5 8a 3p 4p 4p 4p</p> <p>Birdwalk (wp) WOW (rp) Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Tour of Washington Park Branch (wp) Papermaking (rp)</p>	<p>6 8a 10:30 4p 4p 6p 6p 6:30p</p> <p>Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Roots, Seeds, Berries Series (rp) Water Safety (rp) Photo Club (rp)</p>	<p>7 2p 4p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Changing Seasons Photography Project (wp)</p>	<p>1 9a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Forestry (wp), The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) 10:30a 11a 1p 1p</p> <p>Park Rangers (wp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Forestry (wp), The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) 10:30a 11a 1p 1p</p> <p>Intro to Permaculture (rp) Park Rangers (rp &amp; wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Forestry (wp), The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Water Safety (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays— The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, &amp; Recycle (rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>10 Early 9a 3:30p 4p 4p 6:30p 7p</p> <p>Bird Banding (rp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Community Living Options Group (rp) The Round Goby Influence (rp)</p>	<p>12 8a 9a 3p 4p 4p 5:30p 6p</p> <p>Birdwalk (wp) Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) WOW (rp) Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Papermaking (rp) Kayaking 101 (bh) Friends/Real Food (rp)</p>	<p>13 8a 10:30 4p 4p 6p 6p 7p 7p</p> <p>Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Roots, Seeds, Berries Series (rp) Water Safety (rp) Echo Poets (rp) Stargazers (rp)</p>	<p>14 2p 3:30p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (rp) Volunteer Orientation (rp) Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>15 8a 9a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Forestry (wp), The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) Juggling (rp) 10:30a 11a 1p 1p</p> <p>Treetop Yoga (rp) Burdock Brigade (rp) Park Rangers (wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Forestry (wp), The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) Juggling (rp) Water Safety (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays— The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, &amp; Recycle (rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>4-7p Sustainable Building Exhibit (rp)</p>	<p>17 9a 3:30p 4p 4p 6:30p 7p</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Herbal Oils and Vinegars (rp) Beesentations (rp)</p>	<p>19 8a 3p 4p 4p</p> <p>Birdwalk (wp) WOW (rp) Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Papermaking (rp)</p>	<p>20 8a 10:30 4p 4p 6:30p 6p 6:30p (rp)</p> <p>Birdwalk (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Preserving Wild Edibles (rp) Water Safety (rp) Vegetarian Potluck</p>	<p>21 2p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (rp) Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>22 8a 8a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Forestry (wp), The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) 10a 10a</p> <p>Treetop Yoga (rp) Birding by Canoe (rp) Park Rangers (rp &amp; wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Forestry (wp), The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) Volunteer Orientation (wp) Book Club (rp)</p> <p><b>Autumn Celebration 1-4p (wp)</b> Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays— The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, &amp; Recycle (rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>6:30p Transition Milwaukee (rp)</p> <hr/> <p>31 Young Scientists (rp) Alternative Flours (rp)</p>	<p>24 9a 3:30p 4p 4p 5:30p</p> <p>Burdock Brigade (rp) Compost Crew (rp) Open Climb (rp) Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Volunteer Orientation (rp)</p>	<p>26 8a 9a 3p 4p 4p</p> <p>Birdwalk (wp) Riverside Park Building Tour (rp) WOW (rp) Young Scientists (rp &amp; wp) Papermaking (rp)</p>	<p>27 8a 9a 10:30 4p 4p 6p</p> <p>Birdwalk (rp) Creepy Caving (rp) Burdock Brigade (wps) Burdock Brigade (wp) Young Scientists (wp) Water Safety (rp)</p>	<p>28 2p 4p</p> <p>Forestry Fridays (rp) Young Scientists (wp)</p>	<p>29 8a 9a Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Forestry (wp), The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) Young Scientists (wp) 1p 1p</p> <p>Treetop Yoga (rp) <b>Community Living Conference 9a (rp)</b> Park Rangers (rp &amp; wp) Drop in 9:30a-4:30p Science Saturdays — Forestry (wp), The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (rp) Young Scientists (wp) Animal Feeding (rp &amp; wp)</p>
<p>Drop in 12:30-4:30p Science Sundays— The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, &amp; Recycle (rp)</p>	<p>4p Young Scientists (rp)</p> <p>6:30p Alternative Flours (rp)</p>	<p>30 Young Scientists (rp)</p>	<p>31 Young Scientists (rp) Alternative Flours (rp)</p>	<p>31 Young Scientists (rp) Alternative Flours (rp)</p>	<p>31 Young Scientists (rp) Alternative Flours (rp)</p>	<p>31 Young Scientists (rp) Alternative Flours (rp)</p>



= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

## ADULT LEARNING CONTINUED

### BIRD BANDING\*

Few experiences compare with feeling the heartbeat of a bird in your hand while releasing it back to the wild. Join us for coffee and an up-close look at birds.

Every Tuesday  
September 6 -  
October 11

Early mornings  
For adults and  
accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated  
For more information or  
to register contact Jenn  
at x133 or jcallaghan@  
urbanecologycenter.org



### EAT LOCAL CHALLENGE BOOK DISCUSSION\*

Join Boswell Books and the Urban Ecology Center for a book discussion of *City Farm: The Education of an Urban Farmer* by Novella Carpenter.

Monday,  
September 12  
7 - 8 p.m.

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



### ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOP: IF IT LOOKS LIKE A DUCK ... \*

The genus *Anas* comprises a huge portion of the dabbling ducks that come through Milwaukee, including mallards, wigeons, teal, pintails and shovelers. This workshop will help you sift through the dabble and become more familiar with this fascinating group of birds. A short slideshow will be followed by a dusk walk around the lagoon. Binoculars provided.

Wednesday,  
September 14  
5 - 6:30 p.m.

For adults  
\$10 (Nonmembers -  
\$15) Free for regular  
birding volunteers  
Call to register, 964-8505



### SUSTAINABLE BUILDING EXHIBIT\*

Remodeling, adding on, or building a new home? Visit the Center's Sustainable Building Exhibit for ideas to beautify your home while honoring the environment. This is a hands-on library of sample products for home construction and interior decorating.

Mondays, September 19 &  
October 17  
4 - 7 p.m.

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



### MILWAUKEE: LET'S MAKE IT A BIRD CITY WISCONSIN!\*

Perhaps you already have seen the signs in a nearby community and wondered, what is "Bird City Wisconsin"? Bird City Wisconsin seeks to mobilize those who know that birds are more than beautiful -- they are significant. Modeled after the widely successful Tree City USA, Bird City aims to do for urban bird conservation what Tree City has done to enhance urban forestry. Bird City Coordinator Carl Schwartz will outline how you can help in seeking recognition for Milwaukee.

Speaker: Carl Schwartz,  
Coordinator, Bird  
City Wisconsin  
Tuesday,  
September 20  
7 p.m.

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



### NATURAL WONDERS OF SOUTH-CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Join naturalists Bill Mueller and Owen Boyle as we search for shorebirds, migrant songbirds, waterfowl, nighthawks, butterflies, dragonflies, autumn wildflowers and more! We'll stay in the Wisconsin Rapids area for two nights and visit natural treasures including the Arlington Prairie Wetland and the Central Sands Ecological Landscape.

Friday, September 23 -  
Sunday, September 25  
For adults

\$100 plus lodging  
(Nonmembers - \$125  
plus lodging)  
Please contact Tim at x116 for  
information and to register

### ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOP\*

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

Tuesday, October 4  
4:30 - 6 p.m.

For adults  
\$10 (Nonmembers -  
\$15) Free for regular  
birding volunteers  
Call to register, 964-8505



### THE ROUND GOBY INFLUENCE: HOW THEY ARE CHANGING LAKE MICHIGAN'S ECOSYSTEM\*

In 2003 and 2006, Amanda Zopp collected data from sites along the eastern shore of Green Bay, Lake Michigan. The results may indicate that round goby populations are changing the macroinvertebrate communities and the ecosystem structure in Green Bay and Lake Michigan. We'll look at the long-term impacts of round gobies on zebra mussel, quagga mussel and non-mussel macroinvertebrates.

Speaker: Amanda  
Zopp, Senior Naturalist,  
Riveredge Nature Center  
Tuesday,  
October 11  
7 p.m.

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



### BIRDING BY CANOE

Join Center staff as we paddle a local waterway on the lookout for fall migrants. Birders of all experience levels are welcome. Bring a lunch and water.

Saturday,  
October 22  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For adults  
\$25 (Nonmembers - \$30)  
Call to register, 964-8505



### BOOK CLUB\*

The Book Club meets to discuss an environmentally themed book. Newcomers and ongoing participants are invited to come enjoy the conversation and refreshments. October's title: *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth* by William Bryant Logan

Saturday, October 22  
10 - 11 a.m.

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

### BEESNTATIONS\*

Bees play an important role in our food systems. In this introduction to bees and beekeeping learn the difference between wasps and bees, find out who's inside the hive and learn how people have managed bees for pollination and honey. Whether you want to start a dance with bees through beekeeping or just learn of the dance they do, this course gets you buzzing.

Tuesdays, September 6, 20,  
October 4 & 18  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

For adults  
\$10 (Nonmembers - \$15),  
Call to register, 964-8505



## ART AT UEC

### NOW SHOWING: PATTERNS, TILES AND SEA SCULPTURES\*

Show runs through the end of September. Thomas Gaudynski's drawings in this exhibition explore the wonder of natural beauty as discovered through chance and indeterminacy.

Using plant material, he draws colored ink marks in chance-derived arrays or bold patterns on sheets of rag paper.

Heather Eiden hand carves stories from life experiences into clay tiles in her low relief sculptures using carving techniques learned in Bali, Indonesia. Her art conveys the beauty of culture through symbolic images. Angela Laughingheart's series of knitted artifacts are felted wool, soft sculpture sea creatures. Knitted and felted by hand, photographed and using digital filters she is portraying her 3D work in 2D for this exhibit.



### ART OPENING: NATURE AND LANDSCAPE\*

Kleigh Hannah's paintings deal with the temporal nature of experiencing one's environment. What is stored in a glance is translated into paintings that use layers of color and graphic shapes that play off painterly expressions of movement. Beverly Schwabe's work is in monotypes, a one-of-a-kind print process. Beverly's landscape monotypes will leave viewers feeling connected to the natural world they have experienced or imagined.

Show runs through December 16.

Sunday, October 2  
2 - 4 p.m.

Artists will speak  
at 3 p.m.  
For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505





## URBAN ADVENTURES

## FITNESS BOOT CAMP

Join certified fitness trainer and yoga instructor, Porsche Carmon, and PC Sport Fitness for a fun-filled indoor and outdoor fitness program. Each class is packed with fun and energizing strength and cardio drills, obstacle courses, games and activities, all designed to help you build a strong body, mind and spirit. Check online and learn how to try us for free at [www.pcsportfitness.com](http://www.pcsportfitness.com).

Every Monday - Friday in September except September 5  
6 - 7 a.m.

For adults and accompanied children  
\$99 per month  
Call to register, 964-8505



## KAYAKING 101

Come learn the basics of kayaking. We will start with a brief lesson on land and then continue the lesson on the Milwaukee River. Bring a snack or dinner with you and we can eat on the water! Come prepared to get wet and bring something to hydrate yourself!

Wednesday, September 7  
or Wednesday, October 12  
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce St.)  
For adults and accompanied children ages 12 and older  
Adults: \$40

(Nonmembers - \$45)  
Children: \$35  
(Nonmembers - \$40)  
Call to register, 964-8505

## YOGA ON THE TOWER-3 CLASS SERIES

We bring yoga outdoors and take in all of what nature can offer with Vinyasa Style Yoga - smooth flowing poses in line with each breath. Classes will be taught in an intimate setting on the top of the tower. Space is limited. Pre-registration is required.

Saturdays, September 10, 17 & 24  
or Saturdays, October 15, 22 & 29  
8 - 9 a.m.

For adults  
\$10 (Nonmembers - \$15) per session  
Call to register, 964-8505



## MILWAUKEE RIVER CANOE AND CHEW

Join us on a trip down the Milwaukee River. We'll start at the Rowing Club Boathouse and make our way down to the Milwaukee Ale House for dinner. Then we'll paddle back taking in the city at night! Dinner not included in price.

Wednesday, September 28  
5 - 8:30 p.m.

Meet at the Rowing Club Boathouse (1990 N. Commerce St.)  
For adults and accompanied children ages 12 and older  
Adults: \$40  
(Nonmembers - \$45)  
Children: \$35  
(Nonmembers - \$40)  
Call to register, 964-8505

## OPEN CLIMBS ON THE TOWER WALL

Unwind by climbing our three story rock wall! Harnesses and belayers provided. All climbers must have a signed waiver before climbing, available at our reception desk. Gather some friends and sign up!

Every Tuesday  
4 - 5:30 p.m.

For everyone  
Adults: \$8  
(Nonmembers - \$12)  
Children: \$6  
(Nonmembers - \$10)  
Registration required,  
call 964-8505



## WATER SAFETY\*

Come take a short water safety course to make sure that you are ready to get out on the water. This is a requirement of the canoe/kayak lending program.

Every Thursday  
6 - 6:30 p.m.



Every Saturday through October 15 except September 17  
11 - 11:30 a.m.



For everyone  
Free - donations appreciated  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Registration required,  
call 964-8505

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS\*

Looking to work alongside ecologically-minded people? Come find out how you can contribute your time and talents to the Urban Ecology Center.

Saturdays,  
September 10 or October 1  
10:30 a.m. - noon



Fridays,  
September 16 or October 14  
3:30 - 5 p.m.

Tuesdays,  
September 27 or October 25  
5.30 - 7 p.m.

Saturdays,  
September 10, 24,  
October 8 & 22  
10 - 11 a.m.



For adults and children ages 12 and up  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505

## VOLUNTEER DRIVER TRAINING

Have you ever wanted to drive a bus? Learn to drive 15-passenger busses and vans. Drivers have the option of assisting with field trips. Must have a clean driving record and be available on weekdays. Bring a bag lunch.

Thursday, September 1  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

## BURDOCK BRIGADE

The Burdock Brigade engages in hands on restoration activities — removing exotic invasive plants and propagating and planting native species.

Washington Park  
Senior Center  
Every Thursday  
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Every Tuesday  
9 - 11 a.m.  
Saturdays,  
September 3, 17,  
October 1 & 15  
9 - 10:30 a.m.



Every Thursday  
4 - 5:30 p.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated



## COMPOST CREW

Come and help keep the Center's compost systems working full steam! We'll layer, turnover, and amend organic matter to create rich healthy soil for the Center's various gardens.

Every Tuesday  
3:30 - 5 p.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505

## WORK OUTSIDE WEDNESDAYS

Green up your thumbs in our native nursery or help keep the Center's gardens looking great and welcoming to wildlife.

Every Wednesdays  
3 - 5 p.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505

## PAPERMAKING\*

Learn the art of recycled papermaking to create beautiful gifts for our Center's supporters.

Every Wednesday  
4 - 6 p.m.  
For everyone  
Call to register, 964-8505

## FORESTRY FRIDAYS

Help us work to improve the health of our forest in Riverside Park and the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum!

Every Friday  
2 - 4 p.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated

## PARK RANGER CREW

Kick off your weekend at either branch of the Center and help keep our parks clean, safe and accessible. Dress for the weather and join other volunteers as we walk through the parks picking up trash and noting any maintenance needs.

Saturdays,  
September 10, 24,  
October 8, 22 & 29  
9 - 10:30 a.m.



Every Saturday  
9 - 10 a.m.  
For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated  
Call to register, 964-8505





= Riverside Park



= Washington Park

## INTEREST GROUPS

### UEC PHOTO CLUB\*

Explore nature in an artistic light and develop new skills. Check out our website at [www.uecpc.org](http://www.uecpc.org)

Thursdays,  
September 1 &  
October 6  
6:30 p.m.



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

### VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE EAT AND MEET\*

Join our monthly potluck and meet new friends, plan projects and learn about better ways of growing our own food. Bring a dish and bring a friend.

Tuesdays,  
September 6 &  
October 4  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



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

### URBAN ECHO POETS\*

Our purpose is to observe and experience nature, then to express these observations in poetry and essay. We will read and write and appreciate poetry with images from nature at its core.

Thursdays,  
September 8 &  
October 13  
7 p.m.



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

### NEW URBAN FRIENDS\*

Love living walking distance from nature, neighbors, businesses? Learn what you need to know to keep walkable neighborhoods thriving. We're thrilled John Norquist's former Communications Director Steve Filmanowicz will lead our kickoff, New Urbanism 101.

Monday,  
September 12  
7 - 9 p.m.



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

### COMMUNITY LIVING OPTIONS GROUP- MILWAUKEE\*

We welcome those interested in exploring all options of intentional community living and housing. We gather to learn, support and promote each others' ideas and endeavors.

September: Let's Take a Tour of Websites. Go on a "tour" of co-op and community related websites to learn what can be found and how to access it. Handouts will be provided.

October: Celebrate "Co-op Month". Did you know that October is "Co-op Month"?

We will enjoy a look at the history of co-ops in the US with historian Rose Daitsman.

Tuesdays,  
September 13 &  
October 11  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



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

### FRIENDS OF REAL FOOD\*

Share a potluck dinner and join the enthusiastic, informative discussion.

September: **Eating Local at Area Restaurants.** Join us for this exciting interchange as we celebrate the 5th annual Milwaukee Eat Local Challenge. A panel of enthusiastic locavores and food bloggers explore area restaurants that feature local food, new restaurants and what it means to serve "local food".

October: **The Good Meat - Film and discussion.** This documentary follows Oglala Lakota Beau LeBeau's struggles and triumphs as he attempts to reclaim his health through exercise and adopting a traditional indigenous diet centered on food such as buffalo. As we follow s story, we'll learn how the problem of obesity is impacting the health of Native Americans.

Wednesdays,  
September 14 &  
October 12  
6 - 8 p.m.



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

### VEGETARIAN POTLUCK\*

Bring a plate and fork along with your meatless dish to share at our picnic style meal.

Thursdays,  
September 15 &  
October 20  
6:30 - 8 p.m.



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

### TRANSITION MILWAUKEE: ALL CITY HUB MEETING\*

Transition Milwaukee is part of an international movement to address the challenges of climate change and peak oil proactively by relocalizing. We are working to rebuild local resilience and self-reliance through creating and promoting community projects to grow our own food, generate our own power, develop our own economies and reskill. Whether you are new to or familiar with the Transition Initiative, we invite you to come!

Mondays,  
September 26 &  
October 24  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



For adults  
Free - donations appreciated  
(Nonmembers - \$5)  
Childcare available: \$4  
(Nonmembers - \$6 )  
Call to register, 964-8505

### EARLY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Interested bird watchers of all ability levels are invited to explore bird life with us. Binoculars available.

Every  
Wednesday  
8 a.m.



Every Thursday  
8 a.m.



For adults and accompanied children  
Free - donations appreciated



### URBAN STARGAZERS\*

Join us for fun, information and stargazing.

Thursdays,  
September 8 &  
October 13  
7 p.m.



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

### DO YOU NEED A NEW CELL PHONE?

*continued from page 4*

confidence and reduces attention deficit disorder. What a difference a day at the beach makes!

Sometimes we take summer campers into the woods, provide them with no plan for the day and allow them to create their own experience. It's thrilling to watch the rules of the forest take shape and central to this is the construction of forts. Wilderness fort building is renaissance-worthy art as far as kids are concerned. The forts themselves are fairly impressive, elaborate structures. But particularly fascinating are the ways in which kids defend their forts from invaders. One camper actually climbed into a tree to serve as a night watchman and banged an alarm stick at the first sign of trouble. Another installed an ID-reader into his fort, which was a notch in one of the logs large enough to insert a piece of bark.

It is our goal to expose kids and adults to nature from an early age. Nature play not only encourages both physical and mental well-being, but also helps create environmentally aware people. And if we have a little fun along the way, all the better! 🌿

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER SOLSTICE SOIREE AND AUCTION SPONSORS AND DONORS**



Thanks to all of our sponsors, distinguished guests, friends and members of the Center, board directors, and volunteers for making the 4th Annual Summer Solstice Soiree & Auction a record setting success! The splendid summer night could not have been more perfect, and the outpouring of support was more than humbling. The event raised nearly \$95,000 to support the Center's operations! 🌻

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**Tom and Kathy Schrader**



## THANK YOU FROM THE CENTER

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

We thank those of you who have begun a new membership, renewed your membership or given a gift membership. Since our membership has grown to 3000 households we no longer can list all of our new and renewing members here. When space is available we will print the list of in kind donations. Rest assured we appreciate every donation and membership and are working hard to make your investment in the Center produce results 7 days a week, 365 days of the year! Call Cassie Mordini at 964-8505 if your name has not appeared as you expected.

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Thank  
You



Summer Campers enjoying Lake Michigan during "beach day" (see article on page 4)



Riverside Park  
1500 E. Park Place  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

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**Sunday, September 18**

Washington Bark  
Saturday, September 17

Fall Festival &  
Afternoon Nappers  
Saturday, September 24



**URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER**  
www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org

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

Please make your check payable to:  
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with this form to:

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My neighborhood park is  
 Riverside  Washington  I love them all!

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.

Charge my membership to:  Master Card  Visa

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**MEMBERSHIP**

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

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

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

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

**Give a gift membership:**

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

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*Please accept my gift to support:*

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

**Total Enclosed**

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