



Come Celebrate!

Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

It's finally ready and YOU are invited to celebrate a beautiful new public gem: The Milwaukee Centennial Rotary Arboretum opens on September 28th, 2013!

The journey leading up to this event has been rich with energy, dedication, challenges and vision. Glimpses of this vision began in the early 1990s when a group of neighbors imagined what it would be like to

transform Riverside Park into a safer, ecologically robust outdoor classroom. They formed Friends of Riverside Park, which later evolved into the Urban Ecology Center. New park surveys and attendance records now show that within the last year there have been over 125,000 visits from students, families, adults and neighbors to the 15 acres of Riverside Park. The arboretum adds 25 acres to the existing park. *Come celebrate our new 40 acre outdoor classroom!*

Paralleling this educational goal was an effort to improve the quality of the Milwaukee River, as governmental officials and community members envisioned a river with uncontaminated waters for fishing, paddling and improved public health. The North Avenue dam was removed and the shoreline that emerged became re-vegetated. As plants grew on the newly exposed soil, more people began to imagine the value of this green buffer between the urban activities and our freshwater. The River Revitalization Foundation created the East Bank Trail, connecting people to the Milwaukee River. *Come celebrate the river!*



continued on page 2



Why are You Here?

by Willie Karidis, Branch Manager - Washington Park

I have been working here at Washington Park for three years now and I must say that they have been three of the most memorable years of my life! I've had the opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful people — our staff, volunteers and community members — as we continue to grow the Washington Park branch into a wonderful destination for all of Milwaukee. Each day we learn a little bit more about the park and the community. And each day we are connecting kids and families to nature. I never think of our work as a job. It is a way of life with priceless benefits measured in kindness, awareness and aha moments.

This past summer there were a couple of tragic incidents on the periphery of the park. Through all the turmoil and negative press there came a recurring question — why is the Urban Ecology Center here? The simple answer: being a positive presence in the community contributes to positive change. It is the most important time of all to be in Washington Park.

The reality is this: when you are working toward a goal, a community effort to change the perspective of how people view a place, it takes time. Hearing stories about the origins of the Urban Ecology Center in Riverside Park and the challenges they faced there keeps the journey we are facing at Washington Park in perspective. Change, real change, takes time.

To me one of the greatest measures of the Urban Ecology Center's success comes from the people whose lives have been impacted the most. Darrin Madison (16) is currently employed as an Outdoor Leader here in Washington Park. However, his time with the Urban Ecology Center started in 2007 when the branch opened and he was 10 years old.

He writes, "When I first started coming here, there were people of

continued on page 10

Branch Highlights



RIVERSIDE PARK

Have you been watching the progress of the arboretum construction? The Rotary Centennial Arboretum is officially opening September 28. Join us for the celebration then come back often to visit! Please be mindful of the young plants and keep all feet (human or otherwise) on the trails.



WASHINGTON PARK

Thanks to Milwaukee County Parks and National Business Furniture, Washington Park has 40 new fruit trees. Stop by and check out the new fruit orchard on the northwest corner of the park. Watch our newsletter for details about this delicious new addition to Washington Park!



MENOMONEE VALLEY

Our Menomonee Valley branch is turning 1! As we celebrate our first year in the Valley, we are thrilled to have added the 24-acre Three Bridges Park to our outdoor classroom! Come check out our new "baby" park and stop by to see for yourself what a difference a year can make!

Come Celebrate!

continued from page 1

As safety and ecological interest both increased in Riverside Park, more and more visitors poured into its 15 acres. Then, an opportunity: the Rotary Club was looking ahead 4-5 years in anticipation of celebrating its 100th year. With “service above self” as a motto, the club embraced the idea of extending the vibrant areas of the very busy Riverside Park so that more children could learn, more families and adults could explore, and a more environmentally sound natural area would support more habitat and create a cleaner waterway. They provided a lead gift that leveraged an additional \$8.5 million investment from the community (find a list of the many partners and supporters on our website) to build the arboretum. This community effort will leave a legacy for many generations to come. *Come celebrate the legacy!*

What I am writing now barely skims the surface the arboretum story and is intended to entice you to join the celebration. We have



MILWAUKEE ROTARY CENTENNIAL ARBORETUM

A COLLABORATION OF



written many articles throughout the duration of this project: stories and opportunities to explore like the endangered oak savannah, the docent program, stories of our key partners, adaptive land management practices, its tie to restoration of the Great Lakes, research projects and more. You can read all of these, if you haven't done so yet, at your leisure, and it will make this upcoming celebration feel even more amazing. *Come celebrate the community!*

As a member of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee and an employee of the Center, it is my pleasure to invite you to the party. As a Rotarian, I hope you will see the deep impact a group can make when committed to supporting a vibrant community. As an Urban Ecology Center employee, I hope that the celebration will be your first of many visits through the arboretum –all of which will inspire awe and deep appreciation for the value, magic, complexity and beauty of nature. *Come celebrate nature!* 🌿

Thank You to Our Donors

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

Credits:



Carijean Buhk
Editor

The Urban Ecology Center Newsletter is created and distributed through a team effort by the following people: Carijean Buhk, Ginger Duiven, Demetria Dunn, Judy Krause, Jeff McAvoy, Pat Mueller and Shirley Spelt.

Contributing writers: Beth Heller, John Ela, Jennifer Callaghan, Willie Karidis, Ken Leinbach, Anne Reis, Lesley Sheridan and Jeff Veglahn.



DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE

Where's the Wish List? Our Wish List has moved to our website! Below are some items we need for our three branches. Visit urbanecologycenter.org/wishlist for an expanded list.

Riverside Park

- Anabat bat detector
- Automotive repair tools
- Chainsaw
- Field & lannon stone
- Hand tools
- iPad(s)
- Kids gardening gloves
- Leaf rakes
- Paper shredder (new or gently used)
- Rain ponchos / jackets (all sizes)
- Scythes
- String trimmer

Washington Park

- Air pump for playground balls
- Aprons / smocks
- Aquarium pumps & filters
- Chopping knives
- Grow-light stands
- Hand gardening shears
- Igloo Playmate-style cooler
- Kickballs
- Kids' work gloves
- Power washer
- Soccer balls
- Watering wand

Menomonee Valley

- 15 Insect field guides
- Blenders
- Bird feathers
- Butterfly mounts
- Ceramic magnets
- Graduated cylinders
- Leaf rakes
- Standing bike pumps
- Suction cups / plungers
- Telescopes
- Toy box
- Tweezers different sizes (5)
- Van de Graaf Generators

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



The High School Outdoor Leader Program

is a two-year, environmental career internship for teens who have completed grades 9-10.

Outdoor Leaders are trained in 8 areas including education, stewardship, research and community relations. In addition, Outdoor Leaders take two week-long research trips. This year they even organized and ran our 2013 Teen Survival Challenge!

So, two years of fun and challenging work outdoors. Interested? Great! We will begin accepting new applications in January 2014. Contact Lesley at lsheridan@urbanecologycenter.org to be put on an early bird list and be the first to know how to apply.

Come to the
**High School
Outdoor Leader
Presentation on
September 5th**

meet the teens and hear
their stories of adventure!

(See our Quick Guide for details)

3664
miles

Going beyond their comfort
zones, our current group of
High School Outdoor
Leaders did research in
**Northern Wisconsin,
Michigan and Wyoming!**



195
teens

from over 11 high schools have
participated in the High School Leader
Program since it's beginning in 2000.



10
from our
educational
programs

Out of our 16 current
Outdoor Leaders, 10
were a part of our school
or summer camp
programming.

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



The Perfect Wave

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

Eyes closed and hands outstretched in the smooth water, I could feel the wake form from my palms just before the turbulent white foam of the wave. My body was alive with youthful spirit hardly feeling the cold of the 60 degree water and not at all the bodily aches and pains of 50 years of living. It was a great day to be alive!

I had been watching this wave while standing in the waist high water 50 to 75 yards off shore. I noticed it from a distance as a sizeable, well-formed swell. I watched as it coalesced into something special while passing the first, deeper sandbar off of Klode Park. As it approached the place where I stood on the second sand bar, I focused my attention on its ever increasing slope while it came closer, closer, closer. Experience had taught my body more than my mind that it all has to do with the slope at the time of commitment. I could feel the water on my legs get sucked outwards to

fill the volume of the rising swell. The second before turning my head toward shore my eyes saw nothing but a smooth wall of nearly vertical water from the towering wave. OMG!

By my way of thinking it starts with loving a place and learning to how to play in it well, no matter what your age or condition.

With my left leg forward and a smooth but strong push from my right, I launched my body to match the wave's speed then laid horizontally stiff like a board. It was all in the timing and the timing was absolutely perfect! No need to kick, body parallel with the lake floor, arms outstretched past my head, thumbs locked, hands angled slightly like the bow of a

ship on the smooth water in front of the wave. I was in the sweet spot. One all encompassing multi-sensory moment of connection. I was the wave. No cold, no pain, no thought, no time ...

Until ...

Cold, pain (only a little), thought and time reemerged - like awaking from a dream. I lifted my head, opened my eyes and found myself, like a man washed up on shore from a ship wreck, literally ON the beach in the soft light of the setting sun. Holy cow! I had just traveled 75 yards all the way to the wave's literal end, finally scraping up onto the mix of polished stones and sand (thus the little pain).

There was no one to witness this momentous event, no judge with a score card on shore. Not even my dog, who often joins me in this evening ritual of a cold baptism into

continued on page 10



Darwin, Franklin and You

by Jennifer Callaghan, Research Assistant and Anne Reis, GIS Specialist



What do Charles Darwin, Benjamin Franklin and our summer interns have in common? They are Citizen Scientists! A Citizen Scientist is someone who engages in the research process in a non-academic setting. People are often surprised to learn that anyone can participate in our research projects, regardless of their age, background or previous experience. All you need is a passion for the natural environment. Citizen Science volunteers at the Center work with bats, birds, bugs, frogs and toads, small mammals, snakes, turtles, insects, plants and more!

One of the major benefits of the Center's network of field stations is that it allows for long-term monitoring of changes over

time in species abundance and distribution. This allows the Center to evaluate the effects of large stewardship projects like the Rotary Centennial Arboretum and Three Bridges Park and adapt management plans over time. The Center also conducts original research, which involves looking for ecological patterns and creating hypotheses and protocols to test those hypotheses.

A volunteer can become involved in any aspect of research, from creating hypotheses to collecting or analyzing data. There are training workshops on how to collect data in the field, as well as workshops geared toward data analysis and interpretation.

As staff we look forward to the time spent working with our Citizen Science volunteers. We love the enthusiasm and passion they bring, the personal stories they share, and the thoughtful questions they ask. We relish the expressions on the face of a volunteer holding a live dragonfly for the first time or the moment they hear bats "talk". Our volunteers' generous spirit and curiosity is unsurpassed and has helped elevate our Citizen Science program to one recognized on a national level.

We encourage you to give volunteering for Citizen Science a try. The commitment can be as much or little as you choose. For more information on Citizen Science at the Center, see urbanecologycenter.org/citizenscience. 🌿

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



MILWAUKEE
ROTARY
CENTENNIAL
ARBORETUM

A COLLABORATION OF



Join us for the
**Grand
Opening
Celebration**
of the new 40-acre
**Milwaukee Rotary
Centennial Arboretum**

featuring the rare oak savannah habitat!

This event celebrates five years of collaborative work and the AMAZING results: hundreds of new native trees, tens of thousands of native plants, 6 acres of reclaimed industrial land, *ImagiNature stations*, and a beautiful new handicap accessible trail.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH
10am - 4pm

There will be music, crafts, docent-led tours and fun for the whole family.
Tours start at 10am | Ceremony at 11am



High School Outdoor Leader Presentation

Get inspired as the High School Outdoor Leaders describe their experience as interns at the Center and their trip this summer! If you are interested in what our hard-working teenagers have been up to this summer, please come and check this out!

Thursday, September 5th | 6 - 8pm
(MV) For everyone | Free - donations appreciated



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

Saturday, October 19th | 1 - 4pm
(WP) For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

RIVERSIDE PARK



A forest is a magical place, especially at night. On the evening of October 26th families can journey through the **Enchanted Forest** of Riverside Park. Come as you are or wear a costume and take a guided walk through the park to hear stories and meet life-sized creatures of the night.

— Jamie Ferschinger,
Branch Manager - Riverside Park

WASHINGTON PARK



On September 21 learn how to **"Preserve the Harvest"** with the Victory Garden Initiative. This class will provide an introduction to home food preservation as well as the tradition of canning and preserving. Reserve your spot now on the Victory Garden website! Join us on October 19 for our **Autumn Celebration!** Jump in a giant leaf pile, bring a pumpkin to carve, make a fun craft and try some pie or a delicious caramel apple!

— Willie Karidis,
Branch Manager - Washington Park

MENOMONEE VALLEY



We have lots of ways for you to explore the brand new Three Bridges Park this fall! Join us on Saturday, September 7, for a suite of fun activities for our branch's **First Year Celebration** or check out **Wild Space's "Acts of Wilderness"** performance in the park September 19-21. In October, get your spooky on by making your own **Recycled Costume** or joining us for our **Creepy Critters** series!

— 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

Highlighted Programs

Menomonee Valley First Year Celebration

Join us for fun activities all day as we celebrate our first birthday!

(MV) Sat., Sep. 7 | see times and ages below
Free - donations appreciated (Nonmember: \$5)

Bird Walk

We'll look for birds and compare what we see to our data from one year ago!

10 - 11:30am | For adults and accompanied children

Biking at Three Bridges Park

Bring your own bike and helmet or borrow one of ours.

2 - 3:30pm | For adults and families with children ages 8 and up

Photo Phenology Exhibition

See pictures from our Photo Phenology program illustrating changes that have happened during our first year.

9:30am - 4:30pm | For everyone

Acts of Wilderness

Put on by Wild Space Dance Company, *Acts of Wilderness* will lead audiences on an adventure in Three Bridges Park! Premium tickets include a pre-show talk with historian John Gurda.

(MV) Sep. 19 - 21 | 7:30 - 9:30pm

For everyone | Premium: \$30, General: \$20, Student/Senior: \$15 | Register at wildspacedance.org

Animal Feeding

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

(RP) (WP) & (MV) Every Sat. | 1pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Science Saturdays and Sundays

Theme for this fall "Animals and Their Homes."

(RP) Drop in program
Every Sat. | 10am - 4pm
Every Sun. | 1 - 4pm
For everyone
Free - donations appreciated

Young Scientists Club

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

(RP) Every Mon. - Thu. except Sep. 2 | 4 - 5:30pm
For ages 5 through 12 | \$10 annual fee (Plus suggested daily donation - \$5)
Space is limited to 12 participants, please register ahead of time

(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

Food Fridays

Join our Young Scientists Club as we plant and maintain our Learning Gardens, then enjoy the harvest!

(WP) Every Fri. | 4 - 6pm
For kids 7-12 | Free - donations appreciated (Nonmembers: \$5 suggested donation)

Kindernature:

Autumn Ventures

Have fun exploring nature with your 3-5 year old through self-led, fall-themed activity stations.

(RP) Sat., Sep. 7, 14, Oct. 12 & 19 | 9:30 - 11am
For families with children ages 3-5 | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Monarch Madness

Flutter on over to learn more about how butterflies live!

(RP) Sun., Sep. 15 | 2 - 3:30pm
For children age 5 and older | \$5 (Nonmember: \$7)

Creepy Critter Series

Learn about spiders, bats and snakes. Come for one day or all of them!

Spiders

Sat., Oct. 5 | 2 - 3:30pm

Bats

Sat., Oct. 12 | 2 - 3:30pm

Snakes

Sat., October 19 | 2 - 3:30pm

(MV) For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Camouflage Kings

Play games, create crafts and learn how animals blend into their surroundings to hide!

(RP) Sun., Oct. 13 | 2 - 3:30pm
For children age 5 and older | \$5 (Nonmember: \$7)

Recycled Halloween Costumes

We will supply the materials and some ideas for spooky costumes.

(MV) Sat., Oct. 26 | 10 - 11:30am
For families and children | Free - donations appreciated

Trick or Treat Street

Join the Silver City neighborhood for a fun day of Trick or Treating and kid friendly activities, then come to the Center for a Costume Contest at 2pm!

(MV) Sat., Oct. 26 | Noon - 2:30pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Enchanted Forest

Take a guided walk on candle lit paths and meet nocturnal characters. Then come inside for games, crafts and hot apple cider. Hikes leave every 20 minutes. Costumes encouraged!

(RP) Sat., Oct. 26 | 5:30 - 7:30pm
For everyone | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

HOMESCHOOL SERIES

Homeschool Series:

Enjoying the Harvest

Join us as we learn how to prepare and preserve seasonal foods.

Wild Edible Hike

(RP) Tue., Sep. 17 | 2-3:30pm

Growing and Preparing Your Own Food

(WP) Tue, Oct. 1 | 2-3:30pm

Bees and Other Pollinators

(MV) Tue., Oct. 15 | 2-3:30pm

Canning and Preserving Fresh Produce

(WP) Tue., Oct. 29 | 2-3:30pm
For children ages 4 and up
\$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

TEEN PROGRAMS

Creepy Caving

Explore the underground world of caves on a trip to Ledge View Nature Center! Register by Oct 9.

(RP) Sat., Oct. 12 | 10:30am - 5pm
For teens | \$10 (Nonmember: \$15)

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

Find full descriptions and details about these programs on our website

www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

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

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

3 **IN PERSON:**
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

Explore and Restore Expedition

Removing Barriers and Reconnecting Habitats

Join Ozaukee County Fish Passage Program Manager Matt Aho on a tour of the fishway at the Mequon Thiensville Dam and a project at Trinity Creek. Transportation available.

(RP) Wed., Sep. 18 | 4:30 - 7pm
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

HUBs Help Fish

Join Groundwork Milwaukee to learn about Habitat Underwater Baskets (HUBs) and the Gateway to Improved Long-term Spawning research project.

(RP) Sat., Oct. 5 |
9:30am - noon
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated |
Registration required by Oct. 2

Explore and Restore Expeditions are supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative under Assistance Agreement No. GL 00E00651-0, and the Wisconsin DNR.

Beesentations - Bees and Beekeeping Revealed

(RP) Every 1st & 3rd Mon.
except Sep. 2 | 6 - 8pm
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

The Long Walk for Birds

Come hear the tale of Bill Mueller's 246 mile journey to raise awareness about bird conservation.

(RP) Tue., Sep. 3 | 7 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Built on Water:

Milwaukee's Use and Abuse of a Vital Resource

Join historian John Gurda for a lively look at the lake and its adjacent waterways.

(RP) Tue., Sep. 10 | 7 - 8:30pm
& **(WP)** Tue., Oct. 8 | 7 - 8:30pm
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Food Programs

International Food and Art Walk

Visit us as you enjoy food, art and music on National Avenue!

(MV) Sat., Sep. 7 | Noon - 5pm
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Easy Authentic Vegetarian Indian Cooking

Learn to cook home-style Indian food.

(RP) Mon., Sep. 16 | 6 - 8:30pm
For adults and teens | \$35 (Nonmembers: \$40) | Registration required by Sep. 13

Preserving the Harvest

Cosponsored by Victory Garden Initiative
Join us for a basic introduction to home food preservation.

(WP) Sat., Sep. 21 | 9am - noon
For adults | \$18 | Visit victorygardeninitiative.org to register

Food Preservation:

Canned Goods (and More) in Action

(RP) Mon., Sep. 23 | 6 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$30 (Nonmembers: \$35) | Registration and payment required by Sep. 20.

Bloody Mary Essentials

(RP) Mon., Oct. 7 | 6 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$30 (Nonmembers: \$35) | Registration and payment required by Oct. 4

Indian Cooking With Spices

(RP) Tue., Oct. 1 | 6 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$35 (Nonmembers: \$40) | Registration required by Sept. 30

Cooking Circle: Planning Ahead, Cooking in Bulk, and Quick Preservation

We'll prepare several items to freeze or preserve at home.

(RP) Mon., Oct. 21 | 6 - 8:30pm
For adults and teens | \$30 (Nonmembers: \$35) | Registration required by Oct. 18

Gentle Flow Yoga Class (All Levels)

Begin your journey into yoga.

(MV) Wed., Sep. 11 | 5 - 5:55pm
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

(RP) Wed., Sep. 25 | 6 - 7pm
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Power Vinyasa Yoga Class (Intermediate Level)

Learn a sequence of asanas (postures) that allow muscles to open and stretch.

(MV) Wed., Sep. 11 | 6:05 - 7pm
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

(RP) Wed., Oct. 2 | 6-7 PM
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15)

Poop, Pee and Compost Tea: Caring for your Soil

Cosponsored by Victory Garden Initiative

Learn easy, organic methods of soil improvement and plant nutrition.

(WP) Sat., Sep. 14 | 9am - noon
For adults | \$18 | Visit www.victorygardeninitiative.org to register

Faith and Ecology

Explore the natural world and your spiritual journey. Facilitated by the Interfaith Earth Network.

(RP) Tues., Sep. 17 & Oct. 15 | 7 - 8:30pm
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Doors Open Milwaukee

Be sure to stop by our Menomonee Valley branch during "Doors Open Milwaukee" weekend.

(MV) Sat., Sep. 21 | 9am - 5pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

From Beak to Tail:

All About the Life of Birds

Join us for an in-depth look into the wonders of bird ecology.

(MV) Wed., Sep. 18 | 5 - 6:30pm
(WP) Sat., Oct. 5 | 4 - 5:30pm
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Menomonee Valley Walking Tours

(MV) Every 1st & 3rd Wed. | 10 -11am
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Milwaukee's HOME GR/OWN Initiative

Learn about this mayoral-led initiative which will increase access to healthy foods in low income neighborhoods.

(RP) Thus., Sep. 19 & Oct. 17 | 6:30 - 7:30pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Shorebirds of Horicon Marsh

Join us on a day trip to search for, study and learn identification of shorebirds.

(RP) Sat., Sep. 21 | 8am - 5pm
For adults | \$45 (Nonmembers: \$50)

Choices for Sustainable Living

Join this Northwest Earth Institute discussion course and deeply explore sustainability. Price includes book.

(RP) Every Tue., Sep. 24 - Nov. 5 | 6:30 - 8pm
For adults | \$30 (Nonmembers: \$35)

Fall Herbal Series:

Roots, Seeds and More

Join herbalist and wild crafter Linda Conroy to learn how to use herbs that promote health and healing.

(RP) Thus., Oct. 3, 17 & 24 | 6 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$65 for the series (Nonmembers: \$75 for the series) | Registration required by Sep. 30

Tree Pests And Diseases

Cosponsored by Victory Garden Initiative

(WP) Sat., Oct. 12 | 9am - noon
For adults | \$18 | Visit www.victorygardeninitiative.org to register

DIY Screen Printing

Take this 2-part class to learn the fundamentals of silk-screening.

(RP) Sat., Oct. 12 | 1pm - 4pm
For adults and teens | \$75 (Nonmembers: \$85) | Registration required by Oct. 7

Wildflower Seed

Collection Workshop

(MV) Sat., Oct. 12 | 10 - 11:30am
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

How to Be a Better Birder

Learn how to bird like the experts. Speaker: Derek Lovitch, author.

(RP) Tue., Oct. 15 | 7 - 8:30pm
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Quick Guide

Open Climbs

Stop in and climb our three story rock wall. All equipment is provided and trained belayers are on hand.

(RP) Every Sun. | 2 - 4pm
For adults, teens and families | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers - \$12) per session; Children: \$8 (Nonmembers - \$10 per session) | Discounted punch passes available at reception desk

Water Safety Course

Interested in borrowing our boats? Come take a water safety course.

(RP) Every Sun. until Oct. 13 | 1 - 1:30pm
(RP) Every Mon. except Sep. 2 until Oct. 14 | 6 - 6:30pm
(WP) Every Sat. | 10 - 10:30am
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Savvy City Cycling and City Bike Tour

Offered in partnership with Wisconsin Bike Fed

Learn tips and tricks to enjoy urban biking. We'll will begin indoors then head outside and explore routes found within 5 miles of Riverside Park. Bring a bike, helmet (some bikes available) and a bag lunch or cash for a lunch order.

(RP) Sat., Sep. 7 | 11am - 2pm
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

River Clean-up by Canoe

Help improve river aesthetics and protect wildlife by joining us for a trash pick-up on water!

Kinnickinnic River

Transportation provided from Riverside Park. Rain date: Sep. 9, 4:30 - 7:30pm.

Sun., Sep. 8 | 1 - 4pm
For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated | Registration is required by September 5

Downtown Milwaukee

Meet at the Rowing Club Boat House. Rain date: Sep 21, 10am - noon.

Fri., Sep. 20 | 5 - 7pm
For teens and adults | Free - donations appreciated | Registration required by Sep.17

Night Climb

We'll bring out our flash lights and give you a climbing experience you won't forget!

(RP) Thu., Sep. 12 | 8 - 10pm
For everyone | Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12), Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

Canoeing Basics

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

(WP) Sats., Sep. 14 & Oct. 12 | 11am - noon
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9); Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

Lumberjack Kayak and Brunch

Come in flannel and get ready for flapjacks! We'll paddle a stretch of the river and pull off for a family style brunch at Hubbard Park Lodge's rustic restaurant. Breakfast included.

(RP) Sun., Sep. 15 | 9am - 1pm
For adults and teens | \$35 (Nonmembers: \$40) | Registration and required by Aug. 29

Full Moon Paddle

With the full moon above and reflected city lights below, paddle down the Milwaukee River. See the city, and the full moon, as you never have before! Meet at the Rowing Club Boat House.

Thu., Sep. 19 | 7:30 - 10pm
For adults and teens | \$30 (Nonmembers - \$35) | Registration required by Sept 16

Fly Fishing Basics

We will teach you how to cast a fly rod and tie some basic fishing knots. You can borrow our hip waders and fly rods or bring your own.

(MV) Sat., Sep. 28 | 11:30am - 1pm
For everyone | Adults: \$7 (Nonmembers: \$9), Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$6)

Costume Canoe Cavalcade

Dress-up and join us for a paddle. Meet at the Rowing Club Boat House. Sun., Oct. 27 | 3 - 6pm
For adults | \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15) Registration required by Oct. 25

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Orientation

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

(RP) Sat., Sep. 7 | 10:30am - noon
(RP) Wed., Sep. 18 | 5:30 - 7pm
(RP) Fri., Sep. 27 | 3 - 4:30pm
(RP) Tue., Oct. 8 | 5:30 - 7pm
(RP) Fri., Oct. 18 | 3 - 4:30pm
(RP) Sat., Oct. 26 | 10:30am - noon

(WP) Tue., Sep. 10 | 4:30 - 5:30pm
(WP) Sat., Sep. 21 | 10:30 - 11:30am
(WP) Wed., Oct. 2 | 5:30pm - 6:30pm
(WP) Sat., Oct. 19 | 10:30 - 11:30am
(WP) Thu., Oct. 31 | 4:30 - 5:30pm

(MV) Tue., Sep. 17 | 5:30 - 7pm
(MV) Fri., Sep. 27 | 3 - 4:30pm
(MV) Sat., Oct. 12 | 10:30am - noon
(MV) Tue., Oct. 22 | 5:30 - 7pm
(MV) Fri., Oct. 25 | 3 - 4:30pm

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

Youth Volunteer Orientation

Learn about opportunities for youth!
(MV) Sat., Sep. 7 | 2 - 3:30pm
For teens | Free - donations appreciated

Become an Arboretum Docent!

Interested in sharing an insider's view of the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum? You can be a docent! See urbanecologycenter.org/blog/arboretumdocent for details.

(RP) Sats., Sep. 14 & 21 | 9am - 1pm
Mons., Sep. 9 & 16 | 5 - 7pm
Training is free | Commitment to lead tours upon completion of training is required.

Bird Banding

Join us we study migrating songbirds. Weather dependant. Please contact jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org before attending.

(RP) Tues., Sep. 3, 10, 24, Oct. 1 & 8 | 5:45am - 12:30pm
(MV) Tues., Sep. 17 & Oct. 17 | 6am - noon
(WP) Thu. Sep. 12 & Oct. 3 | 6am - 12:30pm
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

Data Workshop

Learn how you can become more involved in the Center's data analysis.

(RP) Mon., Sep. 30 | 6 - 7pm
For adults | Free - donations appreciated

Weekly volunteer opportunities

Find these weekly events on the calendar on our website

Work Outside
Wednesdays
Compost Crew

Burdock Brigades
Volunteer Papermaking
Forestry Fridays

Volunteer Park
Ranger Crew

INTEREST GROUPS

Photo Club

(RP) Thus., Sep. 12 & Oct. 3 | 6:30 - 9pm

Friends of Real Food: Potluck Dinner and Program

(RP) Weds., Sep. 11 & Oct. 9 | 6 - 8pm

Urban Echo Poets

(RP) Thus., Sep. 12 & Oct. 10 | 7 - 8:30pm

Urban Stargazers

(RP) Thus., Sep. 12 & Oct. 10 | 7 - 8:30pm

Transition Milwaukee: All City Hub Meeting

(RP) Mons., Sep. 23 & Oct. 28 | 6:30 - 8:30pm

Early Morning Birdwalks

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

All Urban Ecology Center branches will be closed on Monday, September 2.



Royal Bay-Bee Mania

by Jeff Veglahn, Land Steward and John Ela, Community Program Educator



The topic on the first day of the Urban Ecologists Summer Camp in the Menomonee Valley was insects. The honeybees in our rooftop hive gave the campers a special treat by letting them witness one of the more exciting events in the insect world: a bee swarm, which accompanies the birth of a new queen. This would soon become an experience they wouldn't forget.

The idea of a swarm of bees is terror-inducing for most people, but bees are actually at their most docile when swarming. Here's how it works: the queen lays an egg into a special part of the hive called a queen cup; this egg will develop into the new queen. Meanwhile, some worker bees scout the area for a new hive location, while others choose which workers will leave the hive to populate the new one. Once the new queen

is ready to take the throne, the swarm begins. Tens of thousands of bees leave the hive and swarm around it awaiting the queen's exit. This is what caught the attention of our campers.

The kids went to the roof of the building to get a better look at the swarming bees. When the old queen leaves the hive to settle in the new colony, the bees detect her scent and follow her. "This is the most awesome thing I've seen!" one of the students exclaimed, and with that we were all off to follow the queen.

Our queen flew east down Pierce Street and landed in a small oak next to the street. We walked there and met Charlie Koenen, local bee expert, standing among the swirling, buzzing throng. Charlie explained to the campers what was happening, as thousands

of workers flew around them. One by one the campers realized the bees were totally uninterested in them and the slowly became comfortable in the swarm. "I've hated bees until today." one of the campers said smiling.

As the bees settled on the tree, we got ready to collect the swarm and put them in a temporary hive. While some Urban Ecology Center staff members held the hive underneath the bees, Charlie gave the tree one firm shake. The whole swarm of bees fell into the hive and those holding the hive were literally covered in bees! The queen, along with a few hundred workers, was safely in the new hive. The swarm was a success: 15 campers, 20,000 bees, 0 bee stings, 1 new hive and 1 amazing experience! 🐝



Explore and Restore Milwaukee's Magnificent Waters

by Lesley Sheridan, Community Program Coordinator

Throughout history Milwaukee's rivers have tremendously affected the people of this area. People have relied on these now-urban waterways for food, travel, trade, industry and recreation. But just as Milwaukee's Magnificent Waters have affected us, our actions and behavior affect the rivers we love and rely on.

In 1987, the Milwaukee Estuary was designated an Area of Concern (AOC) by the federal government. The waters of the Estuary are considered impaired as the result of historical modifications like dredging and straightening, and heavy pollutant loads. It is one of forty-three AOC-designated Great Lake watersheds in the U.S. and Canada.

Areas of Concern are evaluated on fourteen characteristics called "Beneficial Use Impairments." These Impairments include: restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, beach closings, degradation of aesthetics

and loss of fish and wildlife habitat.

Currently, the Estuary AOC has eleven. To reach the ultimate goal of becoming delisted, an AOC must reverse degradation of these Impairments.

State agencies and local partners are working on projects throughout the watershed that improve fish and wildlife habitat, remove contaminated sediments and improve the aesthetics and recreational opportunities on the rivers.

Get more involved in the watershed where you work, live, and recreate through these opportunities:

Attend the "Built on Water" Lecture Series

Discover the rivers' past and future with a visual lecture series by Milwaukee historian John Gurda. These lectures explore the history of our relationship with our waterways (see the Adult Learning section of Quick Guide for details).

Participate in an Explore and Restore Expedition

Experience Milwaukee's Magnificent Waters with field trips to AOC projects sites with the Urban Ecology Center (see the Adult Learning section of Quick Guide for details).

Become a Citizen-Based Aesthetics Monitoring Program (CAMP) Volunteer or River/Beach Ambassador

Collect data that contributes to assessing the appearance and enjoyment of the rivers and inform others of the issues and efforts that affect us and our rivers. Contact Lesley Sheridan at lsheridan@urbanecologycenter.org for details.

Grants have been written, funds secured and projects are underway ... the only thing missing is YOU! Get informed, get inspired and get involved with Explore and Restore: Milwaukee's Magnificent Waters. 🌿

Why are You Here?

continued from page 1

all ages and we all looked out for each other. I remember building a snowball fortress and it never melted all winter. Sometimes we just sat in there and talked. Some of the most fun memories of my childhood. It's my home away from home. I never want to leave. If I could live here, I would."

Sounds like a good reason to be here, don't you think? But wait, there's more.

Kennedy Young (9) said, "We get to do lots of fun activities like sledding, ice skating and skiing in the winter and canoeing in the summer, it's awesome! Oh and feeding the animals, I like that."

Another good reason to be here! But wait, there's even more.

This past July, five Young Scientist Club members and volunteers along with four staff members attended Camp Snowball, a week long conference dedicated to Systems Thinking held at Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

Here's what some attendees had to say about the Urban Ecology Center and Camp Snowball.

"I wrote down ideas that could snowball," Kennedy's sister Jada (11) said, "how to stop bullying, and prevent kids from committing suicide. It made me think about innovating for a healthy future, it's important. Oh and we went to the aquarium and the zoo, it was cool because we saw a 2 headed turtle and it was alive."

"I learned how to create a snowball effect." Donald Harris (14) began, "If you do something good, it grows and gets bigger and bigger, it snowballs. It's all about innovation, you start with an idea and then it keeps building, it grows. I look at the Urban Ecology Center and say WOW! It started as an idea and now it is something so much greater than the idea."

His brother Donovin (12) added, "When you innovate you make things better for the future. I want to help make our school be more kid friendly and help to get teachers to understand their students better. The Urban Ecology Center gives neighborhoods opportunities to do things outside that they don't normally do so it makes the community

better. I want to be in the NFL but when I get to college I want to study Marine Biology."

Liam Darby (14) a dedicated volunteer and former Young Scientist Club member had this to say, "I felt privileged to spread our mission throughout the rest of the nation and for that matter the world. We are all a family here, if somebody gets knocked down we help each other up. Everybody here is a little piece of the puzzle which keeps the [Center] moving forward and I feel like a piece of the puzzle. The mission will stay ingrained in me for the rest of my life. That's what I like about the [Center]. We are doing the things that are needed to help the world."

The Urban Ecology Center is in Washington Park to help shape young lives, build lifetime memories and bring the community closer. Together with Milwaukee County Parks, Washington Park Partners, our visionary donors and the surrounding community we are dedicated to helping create a vibrant Park rich in diversity. Please join us for the ride and be part of a legacy of which Milwaukee will always be proud. 🌱

The Perfect Wave

continued from page 4

Lake Michigan, was there to appreciate my "impossible" exit from the water.

I had gone just to see the waves that evening. I did not know I would become one. But the Lake calls a special sound in my soul that I cannot explain. An evolutionary accident perhaps, the way some are called to sport, art or music. I walked the beach, letting the cold and turbulent water wrap around my swollen arthritic ankles. It felt good! The Lake called me deeper and soon I was playing in the waves ... heart pumping warm blood to my extremities to counteract the enveloping cold.

Who would have thought that during this spontaneous solo swim, in Milwaukee of all places, would be the moment to body surf the perfect wave?

I LOVE this place ... don't you?

While I appreciated the solitude, I do have to wonder why I was the only person around on this spectacular evening with waves crashing into shore and, in some cases, splashing crystalline droplets of reflected light 20 feet into the air as they crashed onto the protective rocks at Klode Park.

There are a million and a half people living in this urban area ... Where was everyone?

Play of this variety, outside in the elements, is to me a spiritual practice — my way to connect, recharge and rejuvenate. By my way of thinking it starts with loving a place and learning to how to play in it well, no matter what your age or condition. We do this every day at the Urban Ecology Center. In our three different neighborhoods we strive to be a catalyst to love, learn and play well in a place, our place. So next time when the winds are right and the waves are crashing ... maybe I'll see you there! 🌱

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, over 2700 members 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 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

All Center locations have special hours during the holidays. See the Program & Events Quick Guide for details.

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
wkardis@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Friday: 4 - 7pm
Saturday: 9 am - 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!

Join our community Today!

Membership

Did you know you can give a donation, join or renew your membership securely online? Visit urbanecologycenter.org and click either "donations" or "membership."

Renew or begin your membership, choose one:

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

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

Give a gift membership:

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

Recipient Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Eve. _____

Email _____

Send the announcement card to Me Gift recipient

Occasion _____ Deliver by _____

Donation (in addition to membership)

Please accept my gift to support:

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

Total Enclosed _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

My neighborhood park is

Riverside Washington Menomonee I love them all!

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.

Charge my membership to: Master Card Visa

Card Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date _____ / _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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

Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org



MILWAUKEE
ROTARY
CENTENNIAL
ARBORETUM
A COLLABORATION OF



Join us for the
**Grand
Opening
Celebration**
of the new 40-acre
**Milwaukee Rotary
Centennial Arboretum**

featuring the rare oak savannah habitat!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH | 10am - 4pm
Tours start at 10am | Ceremony at 11am

FSC logo

IN THIS ISSUE

COME CELEBRATE

By Beth Heller

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

By Willie Karidis

THE PERFECT WAVE

By Ken Leinbach

DARWIN, FRANKLIN AND YOU

By Jennifer Callaghan and Anne Reis

ROYAL BAY-BEE MANIA

By Jeff Veglahn and John Ela

EXPLORE AND RESTORE MILWAUKEE'S MAGNIFICENT WATERS

By Lesley Sheridan

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



195
teens

from over 11 high schools have
participated in the High School Leader
Program since it's beginning in 2000.