



"Rooted in Hope"

Racine Dominican Eco-Justice Center

Summer 2020

Vol. 15 Issue 1

Issued biannually

View this newsletter in
Full Color
on our new website:

ecojusticecenter.org

Grounds Temporarily Closed

Please see letter for more info

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8-4

Tel. 262-681-8527

rejane@ecojusticecenter.org

Eco-J Staff & Community

S. Rejane Cytacki, SCL
Executive Director

MaryLynn Conter Strack
Program Developer

Sarah Ronnevik
Program Assistant

Dawn DeMuyt
Farm Corps Program Manager

Jeff Appenzeller
Maintenance

S. Rose Marie Dischler, OP

S. Kathleen Bohn, OP

S. Mary Ann Weyker, OP

S. Janet Weyker, OP

THANKS to a generous \$5,000 grant from SC Johnson, A Family Company and a \$4,500 grant from the Racine Community Foundation, 700 RUSD first graders will participate in our Growing Healthy Field Trips.

Growing Healthy connects kids with nature and nutrition by teaching them about food sources and digestion while visiting Eco-J's gardens and animals.



A Word from Our Director

S. Rejane Cytacki

With our global community suffering from pandemic, racial injustice, and financial woes, Eco-Justice has been pausing to listen to the needs of our times. We are taking stock of where we have come from and where we want to go while taking time to revere our earth.

In this time of less human activity, I have heard from several people that they have a greater awareness of the changing of the seasons and more time to appreciate

nature's healing presence in our lives. This stands in contrast to the many essential workers who are working long hours and risking their own health. I want to express my gratitude and recognize any unmet need of having time to pause and appreciate nature's healing presence in their lives.

Back in March, the Eco-Justice Board made the difficult decision to keep our grounds closed off to the public with most of our programming cancelled until August 1. This is for the safety of those who work and live on the farm, as well as for the safety of the animals who are also susceptible to illness. For everyone's health and safety, we will not be hosting any large, in-person events this fall.

However, we are excited to announce that our popular **Farm Corps** program is up and running! You can read about our enthusiastic new Farm Corps interns inside this newsletter. I also encourage you to follow us on Facebook for updates on our exciting growing season and to learn when you can purchase our organically grown produce from the Farm Corps Farm Stand.

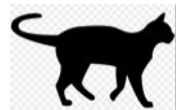
Additionally, on Facebook, we are posting fun videos featuring our many animal residents, how-to craft projects, games like Goat Bingo and more. We are dedicated to exploring safe ways to grow, to sow community, and to fulfill our mission to work towards **justice, healing and right relations among all Creation**. We hope you will keep in touch as we come up with creative new ways to bring you these virtual experiences, such as our modified Fall Festival offerings--please see inside for details!

We appreciate all of your support and wish for your continued health and safety.

In Gratitude,

S. Rejane

On June 3 we introduced Goat Bingo to our Facebook Followers. They simply had to download the playing card and enjoy the game in their own backyards.



Eco-J Board Members

We are grateful to our board members and committee chairs for leading us through these challenging times.

S. Sharon Simon, OP
President

Laura Feider
Vice-President

S. Rosalie Lauer, OP
Secretary

Jeanne Gramza
Treasurer

S. Jane Weiss, OP
Sponsorship Office

S. Gayle Bogdanowitz, OP
Rick Fare
Stacie Havron
Jerry Peterson

THANK YOU to our Supporting Foundations

HELEN DANIELS BADER FUND

BUHLER FAMILY FOUNDATION

GREEN BAY PACKERS FOUNDATION

Northwestern Mutual[®] Foundation

Racine Community Foundation

Potpourri Garden Club of Racine

SC Johnson
A family company at work for a better world

Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth • Compelled to Justice

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare

UNFI
BETTER FOOD. BETTER FUTURE.

Did you know chickens can learn their own names?



Follow us on Facebook to learn other fun farm animal facts, to watch short how-to videos for kids, to play **Goat Bingo**, to help us name new animals, and more. "Goldie" was the clear winner for our new orange-feathered friend. Isn't she a beauty!?! 

Introducing Eco-Justice Center's FALL FESTIVAL WEEK

~ SEPTEMBER 20-27, 2020 ~

In lieu of hosting our 14th annual fundraiser on site, we will be offering a week of online fun and festival favorites all while following CDC guidelines for safety.

Farm Corps' Farm Stand

Enter Our \$1,000 Sweepstakes!
Mail in the enclosed tickets or buy online
Sponsored by Strouf Funeral Home

Purchase Eco-J-themed Products

Online Auction

Online Demos:

Fall Equinox Celebration

Guided Tours by appointment

Drum making, needle felting, butter making, wool spinning, beekeeping and more!

Frozen Veggie or Chicken Chili

Yoga with Alpacas!

Stay Tuned for Updates!

Visit ecojusticecenter.org or follow us on Facebook

We Welcome MaryLynn as Our New Program Developer!

MaryLynn has over 20 years experience creating and presenting informal education programs. She is excited to help create healthier people, communities and ecosystems by connecting people with nature.

These days, with EJC still closed to visitors, MaryLynn has kept busy learning the lay of the land, organizing, cleaning, weeding, taking care of animals and working on new program ideas. MaryLynn loves how every day on the farm is different and brings her new and exciting challenges. A new skill she's learned is creating Facebook videos to boost our virtual presence.



The funniest experience she's had on the job so far:

About a week in, I was helping do a health check on the chickens. We had to catch them one by one. I caught the first one fairly easily but then the rest of the chickens figured out what was going on. Chickens number 2-15 were not as easy to catch which resulted in a lot of diving (me), flapping (them), and noise (me & them). Two lessons learned: 1. Chickens pay attention, and 2. Chickens are a lot faster than people give them credit for.

We are so happy to have you on the EJC team, MaryLynn!



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

With the cancellation of our largest fundraising events—Farm to Table Dinner & The Fall Festival—we are looking at a potential loss of nearly \$20,000 this year. Please consider making a monetary gift or in-kind donation (see wish list on next page) and be sure to purchase lots of \$1,000 Sweepstakes tickets! ~ \$3 each or ~ 6 for \$15 or ~ 12 for \$30 ~ This is your lucky year, we can feel it!



www.ecojusticecenter.org THANK YOU!!!



Interns Generously Sponsored by:



ADDIE



SEAN



DAPHNE

Addie is a senior at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, studying sociology as a major with a minor in horticulture.

"What led me to this job was the idea of being sustainable and environmentally friendly, and the need to educate the community about gardening and animals.

I would like to find a job working for a city or company that helps the city, and create a community garden that residents can learn about and grow their own food.

So far, my favorite thing about the job is the idea that every day will be a new adventure and I never know what I may be doing. I like the uniqueness this job offers. For example, on my first day, I learned how to give a goat a bath! Super exciting!!"

Sean attends the University of Wisconsin–Parkside and is pursuing a major in Environmental Studies.

"My goals are to become either a Park Ranger, Naturalist and/or Forester and to be able to travel around the world applying and gaining knowledge. I also have a great desire to build a cabin in Oregon or Colorado.

My favorite thing about this job is being able to watch the plants flourish and fruit and being able to learn about them and subjects surrounding them.

My dream job is to become an herbalist and own my own herbalist and craft shop. Another of my future plans is world domination beginning with the expansion of mints."

Daphne is a recent Carthage College graduate who double majored in English and Communication.

"I think that this is the best summer job ever! I get to be outside and help the community by growing and harvesting food.

This Fall, I will pursue a masters in Library and Information Science at UW-Madison. Within the past ten years, some public libraries across the US have become the location of community gardens. I applied for this job because I wanted to learn how to garden and take that skill with me to my future library of employment.

I also applied for this job because I wanted to hug the alpacas everyday and tell them I love them. I also am looking forward to seeing a bunch of butterflies."

A Hearty Thanks to Our Essential Volunteers!

We greatly rely on these individuals for the care of our animals, grounds, and firewood sales. They have been trained on EJC's strict COVID-related policies and have graciously adapted to our numerous safety measures. **We are so grateful!**

- ♥ Rachel Anderson ♥ Kathy Contreras ♥ Margie Curtis ♥ Brian Gleichauf ♥
- ♥ Sandy Jamieson ♥ Chris Jamieson ♥ Cheryl Krause ♥ Jenny LaBelle ♥
- ♥ Marty Meissner ♥ Jerry Peterson ♥ Deborah Scott ♥ Mike Scott ♥



Scan to Donate



"Rooted in Hope" Since 2004

Eco-Justice Center
7133 Michna Road
Racine, WI 53402



Printed on recycled paper with soy ink



Scan to Donate

What's Inside: A New Fall Festival Format, A New Employee, Our New Farm Corps Crew, & More!



Trudy, a female French Toulouse goose, moved to Eco-J last fall to join ranks with Rosie, a male Chinese goose. This past spring, a personality shift overcame Trudy that spiced up the daily routine of our unsuspecting maintenance worker, Jeff Appenzeller. When Jeff arrived each morning, Trudy greeted him loudly and passionately. Sometimes, she would fly to his car and land on the hood.

Throughout the day, Trudy followed Jeff around loyally, murmuring quietly as if filling him in on all that had transpired since she last saw him. Trudy followed Jeff when he drove the tractor to the field. She waited outside the Education Center when he disappeared inside. If anyone was looking for Jeff, they needed only to spot Trudy, who inundated him with constant supervision and protection.

But there was trouble if Rosie came too close! Rosie, it seemed, developed a jealous attitude toward Jeff and tried to bite and wing-thrash him at every opportunity. Devoted to defend her human friend, the two geese would engage in beak to feather combat until Rosie withdrew.

Now that spring has passed, Trudy's affection and attention to Jeff has waned. These days you will find Trudy and her avian companions maintaining a constant vigil here at the Eco-Justice Center. Meanwhile, Jeff counts down the days until next spring when a certain Toulouse goose is once again by his side. ♥

Eco-Justice Center Wish List:

Gift Cards for Farm & Fleet or Klema Feed, 5-Gallon Buckets, Postage Stamps, Office Scissors, Copier Paper, Post-its