

"Rooted in Hope" Since 2004

Eco-Justice Center
7133 Michna Road
Racine, Wisconsin 53402

GROUNDS OPEN DAILY
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



RACINE DOMINICAN MISSION PARTNER

"ROOTED IN HOPE"

Eco-Justice Center

FALL 2022 NEWLETTER



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LEARN
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Be a Discovery Days Sponsor!

Discovery Days is Eco-J's largest and most important fundraiser of the year. Discovery Days sponsors are individuals or businesses that make financial or in-kind donations to assist with printing, signage, music, food, and more. If you or a business you know would like to be a Discovery Days sponsor, please email: marylynn@ecojusticecenter.org



Thanks again to last year's sponsors: Strouf Funeral Home, Draeger-Langendorf Funeral Home, Twenty Twenty Vision, Belle City Dentistry, Maller Peterson, KEB, Educators Credit Union, Festival Foods, O & H Bakery, Piggly Wiggly, Gordon Food Service

Summer Camp Wrap up

We asked Katie Flannery, Eco-J's Program Manager about summer camps.

This was the first year that Eco-J summer camps were extended to full-day - how was that received?

"Families loved the Lead & Learn events on Fridays in which the whole family could come and learn from their camper. Families were able to see the kid's enthusiasm for all that they learned throughout the week. It was great to see children making new friends and trying things that they had never done before."

What can we expect for next year?

"We're hoping to develop a gardening & horticulture curriculum for all age groups, centering around our gardens and giving kids a chance to engage in new ways with the produce we cultivate on the farm."

We'd like to acknowledge the following staff and volunteers that helped make summer camps a success:

Summer Camp 'Commander' - Katie
Education Interns - Grant, Maddie, Rachel
High school assistants - Skylynn, Emery, James, Caroline, Arev
Farm Corp Crew - Dawn, Aubrey, Alex, Susie
Animal Intern - Gabriela

Specialty teachers:
Jeff Appenzeller
Rick Fare
Martha Oppeneer
Brian, Jenny & Evie Gleichauf



Introducing... 'Pacas & Pints

Eco-J is partnering with Littleport Brewing Company, local food trucks & musicians to create a new fundraiser called 'Pacas & Pints.

"This year we're replacing our 'Farm to Table' fundraiser with this one-of-a-kind family-friendly event," says MaryLynn Conter Strack, executive director of the Eco-Justice Center. "We hope to see our regular supporters as well as bring in some new families that may not have been to Eco-J before."

Participants can bring a blanket or camping chair and find a good spot near the alpaca pasture to relax with a drink and listen to music. Besides going on a 20-minute alpaca tour, the grounds will be open for participants to climb up to the treehouse, explore the gardens, and walk the trail.

On August 12th, food will be available for purchase from Rockitacos, while Specialty Nacho Queen will be supplying food on August 25th. Rare Privilege will provide music for both August dates. Littleport Brewing Company will have a special brew available, in addition to non-alcoholic options.

Tickets are \$30 and include a drink ticket and an alpaca tour. Children 10 & under free. Tickets can be purchased on Eco-J's website or at the door. There is an attendance limit, so advance ticket purchase is recommended.



More Exciting News



Farm Corp

We are thrilled to announce that UNFI granted \$20,000 to our 2022 Farm Corps program. In 2021 Farm Corps grew over 2900 pounds of produce, increasing the supply of organic food available locally. Produce was available for purchase at our on-site Farm Stand, and 38% of our total harvest was donated to the Northside Emergency Food Pantry in Racine. Additionally, the fresh produce is used for Eco-Justice food, health, and nutrition educational programming. This is the 7th year that UNFI has supported this essential Eco-J program.

Growing Healthy

The Growing Healthy program is a nutrition education program, serving all of the Racine Unified School District's first-graders. Children come to Eco-J for a field trip to experience a healthy food taste test in the garden, play a pollination game and get up-close to an alpaca when learning about digestion.

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the **SC Johnson Foundation** and a \$5,000 grant from the **Racine Community Foundation** we are able to continue this nutrition program for 2022!



Summer Camp Scholarships

In order to ensure summer camps are accessible to everyone, Eco-J offers scholarships for families who do not have the financial capacity to pay for the entire cost of camp. Scholarships were provided for nine children in 2022 due to the generosity of the following organizations: **Educators Credit Union**, **DKG Pi Chapter**, and **Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church**



Mark Your Calendars!



'Pacas & Pints

Sit near the alpaca pasture, relax with a beer and listen to music. \$30 ticket includes a drink & alpaca tour. Tickets can be purchased on our website or at the door.



Yoga with Alpacas

Instructor Chloe Wright will instruct you in 'gentle yoga' in the alpaca pasture as the alpacas wander around you. Join the herd for a relaxing start to your day. Pre-registration required.



Drum Circle & Night Hike

Celebrate the kick-off to Discovery Days and an early Fall Equinox. Suggested donation \$5.



Discovery Days

Discovery Days is all about 'trying it out!' Weekend-long fun activities for the whole family. Admission \$5 for adults, \$3 children age 4 & up.



Meditative Hike

Vimala Judy Franklin, a Buddhist teacher of Blue Lotus Temple, will lead you in a meditative hike. Pre-registration required.

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LEARN.MAKE.TRY.CREATE

Eco-J's family-friendly fundraiser is back and bigger than ever! Discovery Days is all about 'trying it out.'

"Discovery Days is an opportunity for families to try out things together," says MaryLynn Conter Strack, executive director. "It's kind of like a 'maker's fair' in the sense that we have many activities in which participants can try out everything from butter-making to wool-spinning to wet-felting beads. I always appreciated the chance to make things myself – even as an adult. This is everyone's chance to do just that."

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and includes free tours, scavenger hunts, and some activities. Other activities have a nominal fee for supplies. "You can also register for a special hour-long "Paint-n-Peck" session in which an instructor teaches you how to paint one of our chickens," says Conter Strack.

Discovery Days kicks off on Friday evening, September 16, with a drum circle, bonfire, and night hike. Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18, participants can start the day with a meditative hike or Yoga with Alpacas before grounds open for Discovery Days from 11:00-4:00.

Participants can eat lunch with food from local vendors and listen to music near the alpaca pasture. Then shop the farm stand or gift shop, climb the treehouse, or take a tour.

A 20-item silent auction will be held online with items like a pizza party on the farm, a stay at the Center's Hermitage cabin, fine art items and more. Our popular sweepstakes is back with a \$1,000 grand prize. Sweepstakes tickets are \$3 and can be mailed in (included in this newsletter), purchased online or at the event.

Proceeds help ensure the proper care of nearly 30 animals who live on the farm while also supporting Eco-J's many educational programs.

