



"Rooted in Hope" Racine Dominican Eco-Justice Center

Winter 2012

Vol. 7 Issue 2

Vision:
Justice for Earth

Mission:
Environmental education
and care of Earth in the
context of community,
contemplation, creativity,
and cultivation

Values:
Conservation
Education
Sustainability

For Programs & Tours
262-681-8527

eco-justice@racinedominicans.org

For Hermitage reservations
262-639-4100 ex 1298 (day)
262-681-2146 (evenings)

A Sponsored Ministry of the
Racine Dominicans.
Tax deductible donations
can be made to

Eco-Justice Center
7133 Michna Road
Racine, WI 53402

www.racinedominicans.org

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A Word from Our President

I was excited to begin working with the Eco-Justice Center in the summer of 2011, first as a member of the Program Committee, then as chairperson of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee was formed to guide the Center as it made its transition from the Racine Dominican Ministries, Inc. to a new 501(c)3 organization known as the Eco-Justice Center, Inc. The Steering Committee met 1-2 times per month throughout the Fall and Winter of 2011, and the Spring of 2012. As our work proceeded I was asked to serve as the President of the new Eco-Justice Center Board. What an honor! On September 11, 2012, a remarkable group of people gathered in the Education Center and held the first board meeting. I was thrilled to chair this meeting and look forward to many more productive discussions with my new board member friends. Please take time to examine the names of board members listed on the lower left side of this page. This talented group of people is volunteering its time and talent to further the vision of the Eco-Justice Center: Justice for Earth.

Many more people donate their time and talent to the Center by serving on committees, attending work days, or coming over to do specific jobs. Recently we have had volunteers cutting more invasive buckthorn from the property, splitting wood, and harvesting tomatoes. The work never ends!

In addition to our time, talent, and hard work, we all recognize the need to make a financial contribution to the Center. No organization can sustain itself without reliable, regular funding sources. In the future we anticipate that some of our existing funding sources will be curtailed, and our staff costs will naturally increase as we expand our programs. Will you help us meet these challenges?

- Charlie Tennesen

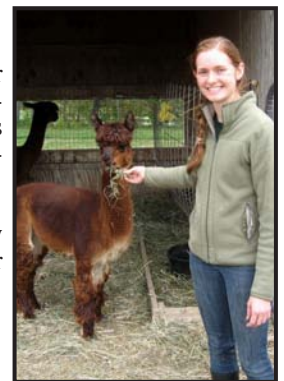


Charlie Tennesen's "sustainable tractor," named Sebastian, gives him a ride on a hand crafted cart.

Meet Dominican Volunteer, Kate Kirbie



Left, Kate plies her computer skill to develop learning sheets as take-home activities for tour groups.



Right, Kate feeds hay to Aldo, one of our new alpacas.

Kate Kirbie joined the EJC Staff as a Dominican Volunteer in August. She is a 2012 graduate of St. Mary College, Indiana who majored in biology with an emphasis in environmental studies. We are so blessed to have her energy, skills, and enthusiasm with us on a full-time basis. She was a tremendous help with harvesting garden produce and preparing the beds for their winter rest. Kate is also a great asset as a tour guide and "naturalist in residence" as we present environmental programs for school groups, both here and in classrooms.



Shopping for a Better World

You don't just vote once a year, but every day with each dollar you spend. Whether it be the toothpaste you buy, the store at which you shop, or the bank you trust your money with, you "vote with your wallet." *The Better World Shopping Guide*, by Ellis Jones, helps you make your vote more wisely. The guide was the topic of conversation for one of our Environmental Discussion groups in October, leaving everyone asking how the products they use ranked from A to F in Jones' grading system. Companies are ranked based on five key issues: human rights, the environment, animal protection, community involvement, and social justice. The fourth edition is now available for \$10 at the Eco-Justice Center. More information can also be found at www.betterworldshopper.com.

2013 Camp Schedule

Our seventh season of "Ecology Camp at the Farm" is being planned right now. Registrations will be accepted starting January 2, 2013; more information and forms are available online at www.racinedominicans.org

June 24-28	11-14 year olds (15 limit)
July 8-12	6-10 year olds (27 limit)
July 15-19	6-10 year olds (27 limit)
July 22-26	6-10 year olds (27 limit)



Michael Raschke moves compost with the newly acquired tractor.

Fabulous Fall Festival

Thanks to the tremendous help of volunteers, super weather, and a wonderful crowd of over 800 attendees, our 2012 festival proved to be our best ever with a profit of over \$11,800! Some of the proceeds went for the purchase of a used Massey-Ferguson 1010 tractor. It is so helpful in turning and moving compost and wood chips.

One of the special features of the festival was the presence of "Whisper," a miniature horse. She collected donations for the EJC in her saddle bags as she walked the grounds with Maria Martinez, pictured below.



Our older campers from last summer designed flowers and bees that now adorn the honey house.



Steve Savas displays his "Look Who Cares for Earth" plaque.

Salutz to Voluntzers



Fall Festival
2013

Sunday
Sept. 15th

11-4 pm.

Mark your
calendar!

Armed with chain saw and pruning tools, Dick and Pat Ehlert (left) waged battle with buckthorn that invaded wooded areas. Heidi Fannin (center) mixed up sensational smoothies as a special treat for campers. Mary Minton (right) devoted many hours during the growing season tending our flower beds. Joe Foley (lower left) is seated at one of the picnic tables that he and his crew repaired and repainted for his Eagle Scout project. Larry Schmitt and sons (lower right) along with other families from St. Matthew Parish helped rake leaves on "Service Saturday." We are enormously grateful to all our volunteers who contribute over 5,000 hours annually to maintain and beautify the Center. We try to match volunteer skills and interests with the needs of the Eco-Justice Center.



Five Frisky Friends!

Our alpaca family increased to five when Aldo and Gaylord (named for Wisconsin environmentalists Aldo Leopold, author of *Sand County Almanac* and Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day) joined Friar Tuck, Theo, and Grant at the EJC. Thanks to the generosity of Kevin and Ruthmary Long of Union Ridge Alpacas in Platteville, the two “new boys” arrived in early September. It took them a while to establish rank, but now they are well adjusted to sharing shelter, food, and pastures.



This Old Barn...



...Needs a New Roof!

After 25 years, the old shingles are not doing their job; with every strong wind, a few more shingles go flying off. It has been determined that the roof needs fixing before it starts leaking on the hay, straw, furniture and other things stored in the barn. For this cause, we are planning to raise funds to repair the roof before the summer camps begin; some camp activities take place in the barn. We are hoping to raise the needed funds through donations and grants.

Knitters Knook at the EJC



Lilah Behrends takes knitting lessons from Sr. Mary Ann Weyker. Lilah had the high bid for the lessons at the Fall Festival silent auction. After four sessions, she knows how to cast on and off, how to make a cable, and will soon be reading patterns.

Wish List

- Whole corn
- Wild bird feed
- Brown tarps
- Sand paper
- Flash drive
- Paint brushes
- Pruning shears
- Exterior white primer



Can We Meet the Challenge?

An anonymous donor has laid out a task for us. If we can raise up to \$5,000 in donations through the enclosed envelopes or on-line donations by February 14, 2013, the donor will contribute matching funds. It would be most gratifying if we could raise \$3,000 toward the roof replacement and up to \$2,000 for camperships. Please consider using the enclosed envelop to make a donation to the Eco-Justice Center in whatever amount you are able by Valentine's Day!
Thank you.

An All Seasons Sacred Space

Life is sometimes hectic and one aches for solitude in a quiet place. The Hermitage at the Eco-Justice Center offers just that to guests. Even in the midst of winter, visitors find a cozy atmosphere in this one room cabin with fireplace, comfy chair and bed, and all the essentials for simple living amid the beauty of nature. Come to rest, read, relax, renew, write, create, and enjoy. Contact the Center to make arrangements or to give the gift of a stay at the Hermitage to a friend.

“Adopt” A Farm Animal

One way of connecting with the Eco-Justice Center is by “adopting” a farm animal. Visit our website to learn more about the adoption process at www.racinedominicans.org.





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We wish you and yours
a very Blessed Christmas and
Happy New Year.

May you walk gently, live simply,
and love tenderly
on this beautiful Earth.

Peace and best wishes
from all of us
at the Eco-Justice Center,

Srs. Kathleen, Rose Marie, Mary Ann and Janet
Kate Kirbie and Michael Raschke

This newsletter is available in color on line at www.racinedominicans.org; tax deductible donations can also be made on line through Pay Pal on our website.

Come celebrate the Winter Solstice with us December 21 at 6:30 pm.