



La Vista Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

July 1, 2019

E-News

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July, 2019 Eco-Spirituality Calendar

Bees Evoke Sacred Gifts of Awe and Wonder



A Midwest July brings us a variety of lovely wildflowers with great names: black-eyed Susan, butterfly milkweed, compass plant, prairie blazing star, royal catchfly, mountain mint, green milkweed, swamp milkweed, wild bergamot, and yarrow to name a few. This means that bees, the most amazing insects of all, are having a heyday.

Among pollinators the bee has to take the prize for its ability to evoke awe and wonder from homo sapiens. After reading *The Dancing Bees* by Karl von Frisch, my love of bees blossomed. Von Frisch was an extraordinary, Nobel Prize-winning Austrian scientist who designed amazing experiments leading to the discovery of the language of bees.

Maybe you already know a lot about bees, but this July when you observe bees be wowed anew by these facts von Frisch discovered.

- Bees communicate both direction and distance to other members of the hive with their "dancing" movements, no "words" needed.
- Bees navigate through the air by using the sun as a compass, and on the two days each year when the sun is directly overhead, THEY REST! How smart is that?
- Bees see color and are extremely sensitive to smell. Using these skills and directed by a scout, bees go to a specific flower where they collect pollen to bring back to the hive.
- Bees have an internal clock and rely on their own good sense of time.

Karl von Frisch has been added to my list of ecological heroes and is a source of inspiration.

"The bee's life is like a magic well: the more you draw from it, the more it fills with water" - Karl Von Frisch

Thursday, July 4: *Interdependence Day*

Take 76 minutes on this holiday to ponder your relationship with nature by viewing the documentary *Love Thy Nature* on Uplift TV. (Uplift stands for Unity, Peace and Love In a Field of Transcendence. This free resource is a treasure!)

<https://uplift.tv>



Nature's Fireworks
Photo Courtesy of Kevin McLaughlin

Tuesday, July 9: Work Day in the Oblates Woods Nature Preserve 9:00 am - 11:30 pm. Snacks included.

Register: info@lavistaelc.org.

Tuesday, July 16 - Full Moon

On this night, our Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth from our Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon was known by Native American tribes as the Full Buck Moon because male buck deer begin to grow new antlers at this time of year.

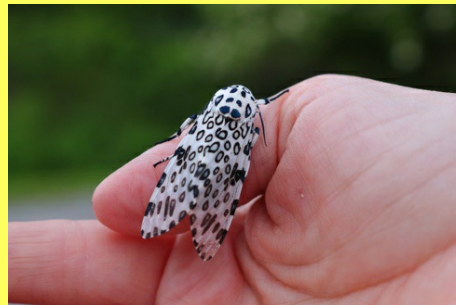
The beauty of the full moon makes this time of the month a powerful time of gratitude, a time to gratefully align with the beauty of life itself and all you have manifested with your unique life. Where do you feel the fullness of life? With whom do you share the fullness of life?

Full moon is also a time of great energy. Harness this energy with your prayerful intentions and direct it toward all who need healing at this precarious time on Earth.

Saturday, July 20: An Evening Adventure

Meet Moths Up-close and Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the First Moon Walk 7:30 - 9:30 pm

National Moth Week, July 20 - 28, is an opportunity to explore nighttime nature. Among the most diverse and successful organisms on Earth, moths deserve our attention, and that's what they'll get on July 20th. We'll put out some "moth brew" and a light to attract them, enabling up-close observation. Learn how they have been affected by climate change as well as ways to help them in your own back yard.



Do you remember where you were on July 20, 1969? Bring your binoculars and hope for clear skies so we can observe the moon on the anniversary of the first moon walk. Share your memories as we gather, celebrate and enjoy evening at La Vista.

Cost: \$5, or donation according to means

Registration: info@lavistaelc.org

Fourth Friday Night Film Festival 23, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22 pm

**Aug.
7:00 - 8:30**

Join us each fourth Friday to view documentaries described as, "deeply subversive, challenging the status quo". We'll cover topics like education, ecology, future design, and eco-consciousness. If you enjoy ideas that turn our current dysfunctional worldview on its head, you'll appreciate the perspectives offered in these videos as well as the lively conversation they evoke.

Cost: \$5 per night

