



# La Vista Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
May 1, 2017  
E-Newsletter

## May, Wildflower Month!

Many of the lovely plants that bloom in our woodlands in May are wildflowers, and they ask us to come close to notice their subtle, transitory beauty. Not only do they provide a feast for our senses, they also provide some of the earliest pollen and nectar sources for pollinators. So, hurry to your nearest woodlands and enjoy these special delights of God's creation.

You might also want to ponder these words from poet Mary Oliver, taken from her poem *Terns*:

*But nothing you ever understand will be sweeter, or more binding, than this deepest affinity between your eyes and the world.*

Some of the wildflowers in bloom include:

Dutchman's breeches, Blue-eyed grass, Columbine, May apple, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Bellwort, Virginia bluebells, Wild hyacinth, Wild Sweet William - pictured here in the Oblates Woods Nature Preserve.



## May 9, Work Day

### Picking Up Trash in the Oblates Woods Nature Preserve

9:30 - 12:30 am



When we first did this project in April, we left feeling deep satisfaction in having made a difference to creation! We were able to recycle 90% of what we removed, mostly glass and tin. We had so much fun that we will repeat the experience on May 9<sup>th</sup>! (Plus, we didn't finish.) You are welcome to join us in what turned out to be an archeological dig of sorts. We invite you to stay for lunch and to bring a friend! Please let us know if you are coming, 618-466-5004.

## May 14, Mother's Day

After you give thanks and celebrate your birth mother, why not spend some time celebrating with your Earth mother? Watch for lightning bugs on a warm evening; listen for cricket frogs whose calls sound like small pebbles being struck rapidly together; enjoy Blackberry winter; watch for Eastern bluebirds to begin nesting; observe goldfinches eating dandelion seeds; rejoice in all the gifts that sustain you in being!

## Retreating into the Universe Story and Laudato Si

June 16 5:00pm - June 22 10:00am

*\* Held at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat, Wheatland, IA \**

Pope Francis in his encyclical has sparked a greater interest in how each of us is encouraged to become more mindful of our relationship with Earth. Using this and other resources, plus quiet time in The Prairie beauty, we will explore more deeply how the Universe Story is the foundation for an awakening consciousness of Earth as a primary revelation of the Divine. We will look at basic principles and characteristics that will guide us to a wholistic, feminine and integrated relationship with all beings and parts of creation. The goal of this retreat is to move us from contemplation to action in our care for our common home.

Presenters: School Sisters of Notre Dame

Limit 12 participants

Fee: \$500

For information

call **563-336-8414**

## Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>: Summer Solstice Celebration and Pollinator Garden Fundraiser/Concert

**5:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Spend a relaxing evening at La Vista  
for a good cause!**

Pollinators care for us, responsible for every third bite of food we eat. At La Vista we care for them by providing a pesticide free habitat and a way station for migrating monarchs. **Join us and be part of this special effort.**



- Enjoy great music
- Savor delicious hors d'oeuvres
- Revel in sunset on the bluffs
- Contribute to the ongoing creation of our pollinator garden

**Music by Chaz and Friends:  
American and Celtic Folk Rock, Irish and African traditional**

**Donation: \$15 Adults, \$10 Students, Free for children under 10**

Registration: Send your donation to  
La Vista Ecological Learning Center 4300 Levis Lane Godfrey, IL 62035

Confirmation via e-mail; please include yours.

For more information: 618-466-5004 or [info@lavistaelc.org](mailto:info@lavistaelc.org)  
Please bring a lawn chair.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows presents...

**CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME - The Environment**  
**August 12, 2017, 9:00 - 11:30 am**

With

**Mike Roberts**

Former KSDK - Channel 5 Meteorologist

**Dr. Peter Raven**

Senior Science Advisor

Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Science

**Vic Hamer**

Founder of Give Me Water, Lord

Place: Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, Belleville, Illinois  
Cost \$20 To register or for more information,  
call 618-394-6270 or email [Programs@snows.org](mailto:Programs@snows.org)

