



La Vista

Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

April 2016

E-Newsletter

We invite you to keep up with La Vista long distance by viewing pictures of recent events on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EcologicalLearningCenter/>

Autumn Weekend Earth Literacy Program

Wed., 6:00 pm, Oct. 19 - Sun., 1:00 pm, Oct. 23

For the second year we are offering a shortened version of "Exploring the Sacred Universe" Earth Literacy Program. Participants will be joined by the Oblate Novices, the young men from several countries currently studying at La Vista. Last year's very rich experience during beautiful fall days encouraged us to make this an annual event.

Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home* has brought new life to this classic program as readers look for ways to deepen their relationship with and responsibility for our common home. That is what we offer during these days of interactive community learning. Click on this link to download our brochure and registration form. Don't miss this special sacred as well as educational experience!

Click on the link to download the [2016 Earth Literacy Brochure](#).



Riverbend Earth Day Festival

Sat., April 16, Noon - 6:00 pm

Join the Riverbend community for this celebration of nature, music, food, and the arts. Guests can participate in organized hikes along woodland trails, enjoy fresh, local foods, and peruse unique goods by local vendors and artists. Other features will include live, a children's activity corner with nature-inspired arts and crafts, hands-on informational booths, clothing swaps and textile collection, and electronic recycling opportunities.

Location: Piasa Harbor, 10815 Lockhaven Road, Godfrey, IL

Free and open to the public.

For more information call 618-466-9930

Save the Date!!!

Oblate "Caveman" Presentation at our Summer Solstice Celebration

*****Friday, June 17, 7:00 - 9:00 pm (**Note the day and time - not our usual Saturday event)**

Many ancient caves around the world are aligned with the Summer Solstice sunrise, providing a gathering point for celebrating this celestial event. La Vista's version of this phenomenon is to celebrate the beginning of summer by honoring Paul Wightman, OMI, a long-time spelunker who is recognized as the earliest surveyor and explorer of the Fogelpole Cave System in Monroe County, Illinois. Recently the land around the cave was purchased for preservation and in honor of Father Paul's work has been named the *Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve*.

To start our evening celebration, Father Paul will offer a presentation about caves in Southern Illinois and Missouri and the large and diverse animal population they support such as the Indiana bat, a federally endangered species. The presentation will be followed by a wine and cheese reception so we can meet Father Paul and celebrate summer's beginning.

Registration is important and can be done by calling 618-466-5004 or by e-mailing us: info@lavistaec.org. Please indicate your name and the number attending. Donations to support La Vista are gratefully accepted.

Looking Ahead . . .

Authentic Indian Cooking Workshop Series

Saturday, June 25 and Saturday, October 1

10:30 am - 12:30 pm



Bring your appetite and enthusiasm for a fun-filled culinary experience. The classes include an introduction to Indian ingredients, a hands-on participation style workshop on delicious Indian cooking, and the enjoyment of eating the prepared dishes.

June 25th menu: Indian curry, aromatic rice, and Indian flatbread

October 1st menu: to be announced

Both classes will be led by our friend and experienced cook

Anu Trzaska.

Cost: \$15.00 per person per class. Sign up for one or both!

Registration: Send your payment to La Vista Ecological Learning Center, 4300 Levis Lane, Godfrey, IL 62035. Deadline for the first class is June 22; for the second, September 28. Please indicate which class you are attending and include your email address; confirmation will be sent via e-mail.

