



La Vista Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
August 3, 2017
E-Newsletter

August, 2017 Programs and Eco-Spiritual Calendar

Opportunities to deepen your relationship with the natural world in August:



This is summer wildflower season! Look for blooming common milkweed, asters, evening primrose, goldenrod, wild bergamot, blazing star and butterfly milkweed. La Vista's pollinator garden is a good place to enjoy some of these natives. Please, come visit and notice the wildlife being nurtured by these plants. Yellow finches, hummingbirds and bees abound as they get nectar from the abundant bergamot. What wildlife does your backyard garden invite? Celebrate your mission as a gardener and provider of habitat for wildlife!

August also serves up two events to connect you with the heavens: the Perseid meteor shower which peaks on August 12 and the total solar eclipse on August 21. Don't miss them.

When it is too hot outdoors, we invite you to deepen your relationship by spending time contemplating these lines from Laudato Si': *The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face.* (233)

Two Special Ecological Programs in Tandem

Note: There is still time to register for the Aug. 12th event.

Caring for Our Common Home, a Symposium on the Environment
Saturday, August 12 9:00 - 11:00 am
Held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois

Since 1990, Dr. Peter H. Raven has been a Senior Science Advisor to the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Science that has a membership of the most respected names in science and is a valuable source of objective scientific information made available to the Holy See and to the international scientific community. Dr. Raven will share his experience as one of the minds behind the encyclical Laudato Si' which addressed climate change as a moral issue for all people of this Earth. Other speakers in the Symposium include meteorologist Mike Roberts addressing climate change, and Vic Hamer, founder of a non-profit organization that arranges for deep water wells to be drilled in desperate areas of Kenya. Our emcee will be Jean Ponzi who has been a strong voice for environmental awareness in St. Louis for nearly 30 years.

Registration: Please register through the Shrine by calling 618-394-6270 or email

**Come, Experience La Vista -
Oblates Caring for Our Common Home
Saturday, October 7, 9:15 am - 12:30 pm
Held at La Vista**

Oblates have lived many of the themes in Laudato Si' long before it was written. Join us and discover the deep connections between faith and land at La Vista as well as in your own life.



Brief Presentations include

Caring for the Land Called La Vista - Jack Lau, OMI
Missionary Oblates' Woods Nature Preserve - Debbie Newman
Pollinator Garden at La Vista - Virginia Nesmith
Forest Legacy Land Conservation - Alley Ringhausen
La Vista CSA Farm - Virginia Woulfe-Beile

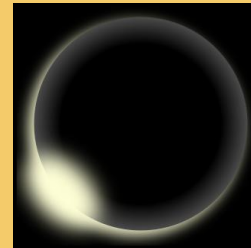
Options for touring La Vista include a haywagon ride, guided hike, virtual tour via slideshow, and self-directed walking tour.

Cost: \$15.00 includes light refreshments

For more information or to register, call La Vista at 618-466-5004 or visit www.lavistaelc.org

August 21 Solar Eclipse: Opportunity for Awe

- Shadow Bands
- Bailey Beads
- The Diamond Ring Effect
- Prominences and Flares
- Totality
- and Most importantly: The eclipse!



Learn about these special sights and more on NASA's Eclipse Web Site:
<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipse-101>

**Honeysuckle Tables: A Hands-On Workshop
Saturday, September 16, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

At La Vista we have a strong commitment to removing invasive honeysuckle, making way for native wildflowers and trees and protecting biodiversity. Now we have a way to "recycle" the dreaded invasive by making honeysuckle tables! Join us as woodworker/artist Dale Dufer teaches how to create a unique table, along with the ever-valuable skills of tool usage, balance, aesthetics, and creating structures out of repurposed material. You will take home table legs with a sub base, and you will need to provide your own table top for your special indoor or outdoor table.

Cost: \$35 **Registration:** Call 618-466-5004 Class size limited to 10.

**Autumn Equinox and a Celebration of Bees
Saturday, September 23, 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

Please join us for the beginning of the autumn harvest season as we celebrate the important and threatened pollinators, bees! You will hear Pat and Jerry Veicht share their passion for bees and honey, and you will get to visit their apiaries on the farm at La Vista.

Cost: Optional donations gratefully accepted.

Registration is requested by calling 618-466-5004 or email us at info@lavistaelc.org.

Please bring an autumn snack to share; drinks provided.

