



# La Vista Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
July 6, 2017  
E-Newsletter

## July, 2017 Programs and Eco-Spiritual Calendar

**JULY** is the warm month of blackberries ripening, katydids singing, black-eyed Susans blooming, young hummingbirds coming to our feeders, wild plums ripening, and wrens nesting in unique places. At La Vista a wren has made her nest at the base of a fern in a pot outside our office. From our sister Wren we learn fidelity to our life's work, simplicity of life, and the delightful charm of tiny beings. We give thanks for all of July's treasures that brighten our days and manifest the Holy Mystery. Which gifts have you observed in your special place? What have they taught you? Happy July!



**Looking Ahead...**

### Two Special Ecological Programs in Tandem

#### **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 [Programs@snows.org](mailto:Programs@snows.org).

**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](http://www.lavistaelc.org)

### **August 21 Solar Eclipse: Opportunity for Awe**

As you are probably aware, a total eclipse of the Sun will be visible in the from within a narrow corridor that traverses the United States and includes areas near La Vista in Missouri and southern Illinois. Awe and wonder are spiritual gifts, and the sun gives them to us in spades. If you have the opportunity to view the eclipse, we invite you to ponder these facts and be in awe:

*One million Earths could fit inside the Sun.*

*The temperature inside the Sun can reach 15 million degrees Celsius.*

*The Sun is 4.6 billion years old, just like Earth.*

*The Sun generously converts over half billion tons of hydrogen to helium every second, giving off light and heat Earth needs to be a warm, comfortable place to live.*

### **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 - 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 re-purposed 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](mailto:info@lavistaelc.org).

Please bring an autumn snack to share; drinks provided.

