ARBOR DAY SHOWCASE

Arbor Day is an event that celebrates the role of trees in our lives. It is an opportunity to raise awareness within the community about the benefits and services provided by urban trees. ElkhartWood is a community-supported urban forest outreach and education program that does this throughout the year. The program is supported by local woodworkers and sawyers who purchase logs from city trees; funding community tree planting projects in the fall.

On Arbor Day we celebrate this program with demonstrations from woodworkers and sawyers. In 2015 attendees had the opportunity to appreciate bowls being turned by Mike Yazel from Iron Ram Forge and steam bending with Dwight Fish from Fish & Willow Woodwrights. During the event, you can also enjoy the ElkhartWood Showcase inside the visitor cabin where you can see creative, finished wood products made from reclaimed urban wood. There will be a variety of beautiful artistry and talented workmanship on display that you won’t want to miss!

Arbor Day is a great time to learn more about how the ElkhartWood Program helps to preserve Elkhart’s history as told by its trees and at the same time contributes to the beautification of the city by improving the urban forest for present and future generations’ enjoyment.

FEATURED SPRING PROJECT:

The EEC is excited to let you know that a group of prospective students from Goshen College will be helping us get the EEC outdoor spaces ready for spring! The service project will take place on Saturday, March 12th from 12:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. The activities for this project include removal of invasive species, cleaning trails, spreading woodchips, and more! Certainly they will make a big improvement in the outdoor spaces at the EEC!
SKILLS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Bringing the Urban Forest Full Circle
March 18th at Hamburger University in Oak Brook, IL

One of the goals of the ElkhartWood program is to support workshops and educational opportunities related to urban forestry and wood products. The conference will highlight opportunities for individuals, businesses, trade groups and public entities to benefit from the salvage and conversion of urban logs into valued lumber and wood products. Participants will learn more about Urban Wood Utilization including lessons and best practices from successful programs. For detailed information visit http://illinoisurbanwood.org/

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman
April 29th-May 1st at Ross Camp in West Lafayette, IN

Women can choose their own adventure at an outdoor sports workshop with courses ranging from shotgun shooting to canoeing. Open to women age 18 and older. Registration begins March 1 at IndianaBOW.com. The program is designed for women to learn outdoor skills in a relaxed, low-pressure environment.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Event Planning Lineup for 2016
The Elkhart Environmental Center is working on several events this year. Volunteers are essential in the EEC’s goal of benefitting the community and the environment. Please contact the EEC by phone (574) 293-5070 for additional information about how you can help with one or more of these events!

• Arbor Day: Saturday, April 30th
• EnviroFest: Friday, July 15th
• Community Tree Planting: October, dates TBA
• EEC’s 25th Anniversary: TBA

Trails at the EEC and Boot Lake Nature Preserve

Adopt-a-Trail (year-round)
Nature lovers are needed to help care for trails at Boot Lake Nature Preserve and the EEC. Volunteers keep trails clear of trash and debris. Plenty of trails are still available!

Adopt-a-Spot at the EEC (year-round)
Adopt educational and/or natural areas at the EEC! Volunteers help keep areas free of weeds, invasive plants, litter, and do other tasks needed to keep them looking good!
Special Events

Arbor Day
This event will be at the EEC on April 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed for set-up, during the event, and clean-up. See page 2 for the volunteer schedule and sign-up details!

EnviroFest Planning Committee
If you would like to join our EnviroFest Planning Committee to help with fundraising, exhibitor recruitment, and more, contact the EEC by calling at (574) 293-5070 for more information!

Spring Projects: Help keep the EEC looking good!
The following are volunteer opportunities to give back to the community and the environment. If you are interested, please call the EEC for more information.

Reflection Grove Maintenance
The EEC needs your help to get this spot ready for spring by pulling weeds and trimming back overgrowth. Activities can be scheduled for individuals and groups.

Edible Education Garden Planting
The edible education garden at the EEC is a great spot for hands-on learning experiences! Every year the garden is visited by school and camp groups. We need help getting the garden ready: weeding, planting seeds and caring for the plants we grow.

Garlic Mustard Challenge (April-May)
Garlic mustard is an invasive, non-native herb that we need to remove! As part of the annual regional challenge, the EEC will be trying to pull as much as possible this spring. This is a great group volunteer activity and a fun competition!

Group Corporate Opportunities
Is your group, organization or company looking for a place to volunteer? Contact Rocio Gutierrez, Volunteer Coordinator, at (574) 293-5070 or rocio.gutierrez@coei.org to set up a project at the Elkhart Environmental Center.

NEWS FROM THE EEC

New Staff Member at the EEC- Meet Rocio!
The EEC has a new staff member, Rocio Gutierrez! Rocio is the new Program Coordinator at the center. If you helped at EnviroFest, the Community Tree Planting or came to our volunteer dinner in August you may have already met her. Rocio was an intern for the center from May through November 2015.

She is from Colombia, South America –don’t mistake it with ColUmbia! She is a Forest Engineer, Specialist in Environmental Education. Her experiences are mainly working with urban, rural and remote village communities of all ages in the planning, implementing and monitoring of environmental education projects. She is very eager to help the EEC grow and serve the Elkhart community. Stop by the EEC to say “hello” and get to know her!

Summer Interns
The EEC is getting ready for summer activities. As part of the process we are expecting to have our summer interns by the end of May! Their help is essential to maintain and expand the EEC programming and achieve our goals.

A RECIPE FOR VOLUNTEERS

Flourless Almond Butter Cookies
A cookie recipe to make in a snap! Courtesy of the new EEC program coordinator, Rocio Gutierrez.

Ingredients:
1 cup almond butter
2 large eggs lightly beaten
2 tablespoons of Greek yogurt
¼ cup of protein powder
¼ cup brown sugar
*You can also add as many chocolate chips as you like!

Method:
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a bowl stir together all ingredients until well incorporated. Place 1-tablespoon of dough one inch apart on parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake cookies until tops are set; about 15 minutes. Let them cool and enjoy!