



# La Vista Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
June 1, 2018  
E-News

**Follow this link  
to read the Summer / Fall Issue of La Vista Visions:**

[Click on: Final Summer / Fall Newsletter.pdf](#)

This issue includes:

- *Religion Enters the Age of Ecology* by Norm Comtois, OMI
- *25th Anniversary of the Missionary Oblates Woods Nature Preserve* by Debbie Newman
- Classes, celebrations, new discussion course and more in our *Calendar of Events*

## JUNE E-NEWS AND ECO-SPIRITUAL CALENDAR



As I read through the daily happenings in nature on the June page of the Natural Events Calendar from the Missouri Department of Conservation, I was allured by the wonderful words used to characterize life this month: *ripening, nesting, blooming, breeding, attracting, weaning, basking, singing*. Since each of us is one with all that lives and breathes, the same energy is coursing through us.

Do you feel it?

## June 5: World Environment Day

Each World Environment Day is organized around a theme focusing attention on a particularly pressing environmental concern, and the theme for 2018 is beating plastic pollution. Their motto this year is, *If you can't reuse it, refuse it*.

Someone gifted La Vista with the DVD: Plastic Paradise, "a movie that stirs people to want to reverse course". I read this quote online and have experienced it as true. We showed it at the beginning of Lent, and I am still hearing about how it affected viewers. If you want to show it to a group, please let me know, and I will send it to you (if you promise to return it promptly!). Make your request via email: [info@lavistaelc.org](mailto:info@lavistaelc.org). OR you can very likely get it at your local library. It is VERY worthwhile.

## June 9: Nature Journaling Through the Seasons - Summer Session 9:00 - 11:00 am

*"Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."*

Nature journaling is a wonderful way to record and remember your experiences among the beauties and *mysteries* of Earth. We'll begin indoors, learning several interesting journaling techniques; then, we'll move outdoors to enjoy La Vista and practice what we have learned. Our presenter is Angie Jungbluth, a veteran science teacher, an experienced nature journaling teacher and a signature member of the St. Louis Watercolor Society. Her enthusiasm for journaling is contagious

Cost: \$15 per session. Send your payment to La Vista 4300 Levis Lane, Godfrey, IL 62035. Please include your e-mail address, and you will be sent a materials list with registration confirmation.

## June 12: Volunteer work day in the Preserve

9:30 - 12:30, concluding with lunch. Call and let me know if you want to join us. 618-466-5004. We are currently removing honeysuckle.

## June 18: Third Anniversary of the Publication of Laudato Si

If you haven't read it yet, now is the time! Let Laudato Si inspire you and move you to action. How about finding your favorite quote and using it as a mantra throughout this month? My current favorite: *Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.* You can read the encyclical online:

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

Also, in case you missed it, you can watch a You Tube of Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker's presentation on Laudato Si on our web site. This is her presentation done at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in April. Visit [www.lavistaelc.org](http://www.lavistaelc.org) and go to the Blog.

## June 23: Celebration of Summertime, Bees, and National Pollinator Week 2:00 - 4:00 pm



Why not spend a couple hours at La Vista on this longest day of the year? Vernon DePauw, wood carver and friend of La Vista, will share his enthusiasm for pollinators, especially bees.

A limited number of premade pollinator houses for you to purchase, decorate and take home will be available. Join us, rain or shine! No cost, and donations are always welcome. Let us know if you plan on attending: [info@lavistaelc.org](mailto:info@lavistaelc.org)

**Cost:** none

**Registration:** Call 618-466-5004 or e-mail us

[info@lavistaelc.org](mailto:info@lavistaelc.org)

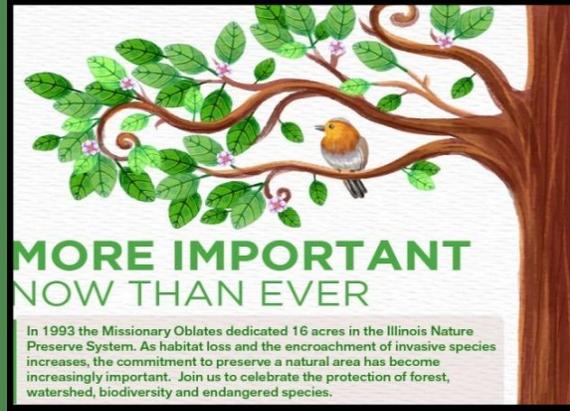
### SAVE THE DATE AND HELP US CELEBRATE

**25th Anniversary Dedication Celebration of the  
Missionary Oblates Woods Nature Preserve  
Saturday, July 7 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

In 1993 the Missionary Oblates decided to participate in the Illinois Nature Preserve

System, making a commitment to protect a portion of Illinois' natural history—forever. Their vision was groundbreaking. The Missionary Oblates were the first faith-based organization to protect land through the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

Join us on July 7th to celebrate this anniversary and learn about the importance of preserving forests everywhere.



Speakers will include Father Lou Studer, OMI, Oblate Provincial Leader, Father Jack Lau, OMI, and representatives of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. We'll have refreshments and an optional field trip in the Preserve to take in the beauty and see the work of our faithful volunteers.

**Cost:** none

**Registration:** Call 618-466-5004 or e-mail us at [info@lavistaelc.org](mailto:info@lavistaelc.org).