



# Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 144

March/April, 2003

## Reflections by Eddie Reese

Nothing changes like the weather around here. Will Rogers once commented that if you don't like the weather in Oklahoma wait a minute and it will change. Any resident of Oklahoma can tell you that, and natives love to tell amazing meteorological stories. And this is the time of year when our weather is most volatile and unpredictable. Now, there are folks that actually try to forecast the weather. I believe they even get paid to do this. It's not a job I would want. I once heard a climatology professor from Massachusetts say that anyone who tries to predict the weather in Oklahoma is either a fool or a newcomer. It wasn't necessarily a jab at our local weather forecasters, only that our state's location on the continent makes our weather so doggone contrary and very tricky to forecast. Actually only the best weather forecasters work in the southern plains.

Besides bewildering changes in weather, the birth of a new growing season brings changes to the world around us. Patches of yellow ragwort appear in the woods. Spice bush, blue and yellow violets and Dutchman's Breeches are blooming. They have to collect enough energy from the sun to bloom and set seed before the trees leaf out, covering them with shade until next Fall. The tree's buds are swelling and are ready to burst open come longer days and warmer weather. The familiar pink blooms of redbud trees are reminding us of their forgotten locations in the woods and fence rows. Winter is leaving and taking its gray skies along. Likewise, the deer are losing their winter gray coats. They seem a little livelier with their summer red coats on. The bucks have already dropped their antlers and are quickly growing new ones that appear as small velvet covered bumps.



Maybe you will notice some changes and surprises inside the interpretive building too. Over a period of time new exhibits will appear. Some of the older ones will be updated and renewed. There are going to be wonderful things to see or touch or even hear. But no matter how great the exhibits are inside the building the best stuff is still outside waiting to be discovered and explored.

# Nature Center Happenings

**Oxley and Redbud Valley  
will be closed from  
Sunday, March 2 through  
Wednesday March 5, 2003 while  
staff attends NAI Regional  
Conference.**



## **OXLEY AND REDBUD HOURS:**

The gates at Oxley Nature Center are open daily, with the exception of most City holidays, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. At Oxley, you may park outside the gates from 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. to walk the trails even when the gates are closed.

At Redbud Valley Nature Preserve, the gates are open Wednesdays through Sundays, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You may **not** hop the fence when the Nature Preserve is closed: on Mondays or Tuesdays, on City holidays, before 8:00 a.m., or after 5:00 p.m.

## **PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

**Call: 669-6644** to register or for more information about programs. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise stated. Programs that are wheelchair accessible are designated with the ♿ symbol.

Visit our Website at "<http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org>"

## **Kid's Saturday Programs**

\$2 plus \$3 materials fee (non-members), \$3 for members

### **Discovery Club (Ages 3-5 years)**

Each child accompanied by an adult, please

March 15, 10:00-11:30 "Where the Wind Blows"

We will go outside and look for the wind after we make a wind sock. \*Sign-up begins Thursday, March 6.

April 19, 10:00-11:30 "Rain Clouds to Rainbows"

We will make a mobile as we learn about clouds, rain and rainbows. Sign-up begins April 6.

### **Adventure Club (Grades K-2nd)**

Kid's only, please

March 15, 10:00-11:30 "Plains Indian Talk"

Receive an Indian name and learn to say it in sign language. Learn phrases and sentences to make sign talk. \*Sign-up begins Thursday, March 6.

April 19, 10:00-11:30 "Helping Hummers"

We'll learn about these tiny flyers while conducting our own experiments with them. Sign-up begins April 6.

### **"Moon Maps"**

**Sunday, March 16**

**7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Meet at Oxley Nature Center**

Which way to Tranquility Base?  
Decorate the face of the Man in the Moon with a few landmarks. Then we'll go out and look for them. Bring binoculars if you like. Sunset: 6:32 p.m. and Moonrise: 4:41 p.m. Sign-up begins Saturday, March 1.

## **Star Programs**

**\$2 general public  
free to members**

**All ages welcome**

♿ **with advance notice**

### **"Spring Stars"**

**Thursday, April 3,**

**7:30-8:45 p.m.**

**Meet at Lake Yahola**

Find the Great Bear and go star-hopping to 5 other constellations. We might also glimpse Mercury before it sets. Bring binoculars and something to sit on. Sunset: 6:47 p.m. and Moonset: 8:41 p.m. Meet at the circle drive on the east side of Lake Yahola. Sign-up begins March 23.

# Programs and special events

## March

1 "Saturday Morning Birding" Ages: All   
Saturday 8:00-9:45 a.m.  
Free registration not required


Meet in the Oxley parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m.  
Bring binoculars if you have them.

1 "A Rainbow of Beetles" Ages: 15 to adult


Saturday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
\$30 for non-members members pay \$25

\$5 discount for reservations made by February 22  
Using colored pencils we will capture the color and texture of these small creatures. Call Oxley for more details.

8 "Gourd With Pine Needle Baskets"

Ages: 18 to adult   
Saturday 12:30-4:00 p.m.  
\$2 plus \$10 materials fee members pay only \$10

Do you have an unfinished project from the previous class or do you want to learn to make a gourd with pine needle basket? Beginner or experienced basket makers are welcome. Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign-up begins February 23.

8 "Butterfly Gardening" Ages: All   
Saturday 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Free Registration not required

We will view some slides of butterflies and various plants important for their survival. Then we will go for a butterfly walk. Meet at Oxley. Bring binoculars if you have them.

22 "Bulbs and Blooms in Pastels"

Ages: 15 to adult   
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
\$25 for non-members members pay \$20


\$5 discount for reservations paid by March 12  
People of all skill levels are invited to learn to draw blossoms using chalk pastels. Call Oxley for more details.

29 "Ramblin' at Redbud Valley"

Ages: 10 to adult  
Saturday 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
\$2 for non-members free to members


Early springtime at Redbud Valley can be a beauty to behold! Let's find some of those seasonal wonders such as Dutchman's Breeches, ragwort and of course, redbuds. Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign-up begins March 16.

## April

5 "Saturday Morning Birding" Ages: All   
Saturday 8:00-9:45 a.m.  
Free registration not required

Meet in the Oxley parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m.  
Bring binoculars if you have them.

5 "Braintan Leather"


Ages: 8 and up (Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult)   
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
\$2 plus \$8 materials fee members pay only \$8

Everyone is a descendant of someone who wore or processed braintan leather. This is a hands-on workshop. Each participant will process deerskin into buckskin. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins March 23.

8 "Redbud Valley Night Hike"

Families and Individuals Only  
Tuesday 7:30-9:00 p.m.  
\$2 for non-members, free to members

Join us for a rugged hike on a spring evening. Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign-up begins March 30.

12 "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All   
Saturday 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Free Registration not required

Meet in Oxley parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m.  
Bring binoculars if you have them.

15 "Redbud Valley Night Hike"  
Groups (of 6 or more)

Tuesday 7:30-9:00 p.m.  
\$2 for non-members, free to members

Join us for a rugged hike on a spring evening. Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign-up begins March 1.

26 "Wildflowers at Redbud Valley"

Ages: 10 to adult  
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.  
\$2 for non-members free to members

Join us to enjoy the spring wildflower display. Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign-up begins April 13.

Congratulations to staff naturalist **Susie Ruby** for being awarded Employee of the Month of January for the City of Tulsa!

## Spring Break Workshops

(Natural Art Workshop Series)

Taught by Mrs. Brenda Knapp

**Monday through Friday, March 17-21**

Fee must accompany registration.

Materials are included in fee.

\$5 discount if postmarked by March 3.

### Drawing Nature

**Ages 6-11**

**1:00-2:00 p.m.**

\$30 for non-members, \$25 for members

Monday: Observing nature: pencil on paper.

Tuesday: Action drawings: colored pencils

Wednesday: Flip-book fishes: markers

Thursday: Colorful insects: watercolors

Friday: Nature scenes: tempera

### Illustrating Life

**Ages 12-17**

**2:15-3:45 p.m.**

\$28 for non-members, \$23 for members

Monday: Observing, measuring, and scaling  
natural objects: pencil on paper

Tuesday: Drawing fur and feathers: colored  
pencils

Wednesday: Botanical illustration: watercolors

Thursday: Insect sculptures: sculpy clay

Friday: Nature scenes and landscapes:  
tempera

## Fly-casting and Fly-tying Basics

Taught by Sallyann Brown

**Saturday, April 26**

### Fly-casting Basics

Learn equipment basics and casting techniques to lure those elusive trout, bass and bluegills into taking your fly. Participants will practice casting or actually fish a creek in Mohawk Park during the afternoon. An Oklahoma fishing license is required to fish.

**Sunday, April 27**

### Fly-tying Basics

Whether you use them to catch fish, or display them in a wall frame, hand-tied flies are art. Besides creating your own hand-tied fly to take home, you will learn how to use flies, how to read the water, how to tie useful knots and how to choose gear.

- Classes held at Oxley Nature Center
- 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- For ages 16 and up
- Register for one or both days

One day: \$30 for non-members, \$25 for members

Two days: \$50 for non-members, \$40 for members

- Please register by April 15
- Bring your own lunch each day