



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 156

March/April, 2005

First Bob Jennings Award for Excellence in Interpretive Management Awarded

There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about Bob Jennings. That might seem natural when you work in a place that he was so much a part of. But mostly I remember him because of something I'd seen that provoked a memory, like that place where we both watched a coyote pounce on a mouse in the deep snow out on the prairie. We were the only two humans on the planet who had seen it. Sometimes I would just like to ask him something.



There is a lot to remember Bob for, and now there is another way to remember and to honor him for his contributions to Oxley Nature Center, the interpretive profession, the National Association of Interpretation (NAI), and each life he touched. Bob has been recognized by his peers as someone who has epitomized the qualities of an interpretive manager.

For this reason, a special award has been established, the *Bob Jennings Award for Excellence in Interpretive Management*. This award will recognize individuals who exhibit both excellence in management, and contributions to the NAI section of Nature Center Directors and Managers.

Congratulations to the first recipient of this award, Lynn Youngblood, Director of Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center in Missouri. She currently serves as Secretary on the NAI National Board. Bob's influence on Lynn, and others like her who may follow, will continue to be felt for years to come. -Eddie Reese

"I care to live only to entice people to look at nature's loveliness. My own special self is nothing. (I want to be) like a flake of glass through which light passes." -John Muir

Wanted: People With a Passion for Nature!

If you have a few hours a week you are willing to share with children out in nature, we have just the thing for you. Our spring basic training for volunteer naturalists takes place March 1 through March 31. Participants must be 18 years or older. You will learn how to explore the various habitats along our trails with small groups of school children. Enthusiasm and a love for children and nature are the only requirements. Contact Oxley for more information. Become a volunteer!

"A joy shared is a joy doubled." -Goethe

Volunteers Lauded at Annual Awards Dinner

Our volunteers are vital to achieving the goals of Oxley Nature Center. It is their dedication and willingness to share their time and skills with others that help us succeed.

The following volunteers were recognized at our awards dinner on January 28:

Mary Lou McGilbra-----Outstanding volunteer
Bob Pugh-----Outstanding volunteer
For service above and beyond!

Allen White-----15 years of service

Loretta Baily-----5 years of service
Kim Bebee-----5 years of service

Art Browning-----3 years of service
Mary Lou McGilbra-----3 years of service

Thank you to all our volunteers for your wonderful and selfless help with all our programs and endeavors!

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." -Rachel Carson

Nature Center Happenings



**Redbud Valley
and Oxley
Nature Center
will be**

CLOSED

**Sunday,
March 27, 2005.**

A \$2 per car Mohawk Park fee will be charged weekends April through October. The west gate will be closed. Members of Oxley get in free.

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 7:00 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. Programs with insufficient registration may be cancelled 48 hours prior to program.

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



Kid's Saturday Programs

\$2 for general public, free for members, all ♿



Discovery Club (Ages 3-5 years)

Each child accompanied by an adult, please

March 19, 10:00-11:30 "Wet and Wonderful"

Let's check out the pond to see who lives there. Sign-up begins Sunday, March 6.



April 16, 10:00-11:30 "What's that Smell?"

We'll use our noses to sniff out clues about Oxley's wildlife. Sign-up begins Sunday, April 3.

Adventure Club (Grades K-2nd)

Kid's only, please

March 19, 10:00-11:30 "Pioneer Weather"

We'll observe nature signs and learn some folk sayings. Sign-up begins Sunday, March 6.

April 16, 10:00-11:30 "Ant National Park"

Each of us will make our own tiny nature center! Sign-up begins Sunday, April 3.



Astronomy Programs



\$2 for general public, free to members, open to all ages, ♿ (with advance notice)

Friday, March 11, 7:15-8:45 p.m. **"Where Is Mercury?"** We have a clue and a guide to help us find this most elusive of the planets visible to the naked eye. Bring something to sit on and binoculars if you have them, and meet at the circle drive on the east side of Lake Yahola. Sunset is 6:27 p.m. and moonset is 7:52 p.m. Sign-up anytime.

Tuesday, April 5, 8:30-9:45 p.m. **"Jupiter At Its Best "** Earth's moon will not be up, but we'll see how many other moons we can find through our telescope. Bring your binoculars and something to sit on. Meet at the hilltop at Hunter Park, on 91st street between Yale and Sheridan. Sunset is 7:48 p.m. and moonset is 3:08 p.m. Sign-up anytime.

"What is the value of preserving and strengthening this sense of awe and wonder, this recognition of something beyond the boundaries of human existence?...Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of tides, the folded bud ready for the spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

-Rachel Carson



Celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day, April 22, marks the 35th anniversary of this environmental movement that began in 1970. That first Earth Day mobilized citizens and led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act. It has become an international event that rallies all people to come together to actively pursue a more sustainable future for our planet. **How can you celebrate Earth Day?** Start some new traditions.

1. Volunteer to pick up trash, in your neighborhood, at a local park, at Oxley, anywhere!
2. Recycle: newspapers, office paper, aluminum, glass, plastics, telephone books, catalogs, and corrugated cardboard. Contact the City of Tulsa Utilities Department (596-9511) or the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (M.e.t) at www.metrecycle.com or 584-0584.
3. Stop junk mail. Try (www.obviously.com/junkmail/) for more information.
4. Replace standard incandescent bulbs with new compact fluorescent lights.
5. Reduce your purchases of disposable and overpackaged items, and buy in bulk when possible.
6. Make conscious, informed decisions to lead an environmentally friendly lifestyle.
7. Take a walk in the woods.

A good resource for ideas is The Earthworks Group, who publish guides such as *"50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save The Earth"* by Earthworks Press.


You can make a difference, celebrate Earth Day every day!

Spring Art Classes at Oxley With Brenda Knapp

Nature Themes on Psanky Eggs

Date: Saturday, March 5

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Ages: 14 through adult, 

Skill Level: beginner through advanced

Medium: dye, wax, and polyurethane on shell

Tuition: \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members




Not your kids' egg coloring technique! Nature will be our inspiration as we will use the traditional Ukrainian technique of wax relief to draw incredibly intricate designs on eggs. Supplies will be provided but must be ordered in advance so please register by February 19.

Kids' Drawing Rabbits and Hares

Date: Saturday, March 19

Time: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Ages: 7 through 13, 

Tuition: \$7 for members, \$10 for non-members


What could be more enjoyable to draw than bunnies? We'll learn to see the shapes of the animals, draw the textures of the fur, and discuss the different adaptations seen in various species. Supplies will be provided.



Kids' Spring Break Nature Art Camp

Date: March 21 through March 25

Time: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Ages: 8 through 13, 

Tuition: \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members

We'll meet each afternoon to sample different techniques of capturing nature with art. Students will learn field sketching, shading and drawing textures, watercolors, and colored pencil. Subjects will include landscapes, birds, insects, mammals, plants, and nature artifacts. Supplies will be provided.

Bulbs and Blooms in Pastels

Date: Saturday, April 2

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Ages: 14 through adult, 

Skill Level: mid-beginner through advanced

Medium: chalk pastels on paper

Tuition: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members

Celebrate Spring by learning to draw the botanical beauties sprouting in your garden. Chalk pastel is a medium that helps an artist loosen up and work with large areas of light, dark, and color. We'll cover sketching, laying in color, color mixing, detailing, and knowing when to call it done! A supply list will be provided.



Kids' Fun With Fungus--Drawing Mushrooms and Other Fungi

Date: Saturday, April 16

Time: 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Ages: 7 through 13, 

Tuition: \$7 for members, \$10 for non-members


Have you ever drawn a mushroom? The wonderful world of fungi offers interesting subjects for artists. Students will learn what is unique to fungi, how to sketch the shape in pencil, and shade the drawing to give it a 3-D feel, then add textures and details. Supplies will be provided.



Preregistration is required for all art classes. Fee must accompany registration. Sponsored by ONCA.

Programs and Special Events

March

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


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

6 "Field Sketching Nature" Ages: All
Sunday 10:00-12:00 noon
\$2 for general public free for members

Bring a sketch book and pencil. We will hike the trails and stop along the way to make quick sketches of interesting plants and animals. Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign-up anytime.

13 "Rustic Stick Furniture" Ages: 13 & up 
Sunday 12:00-4:00 p.m.
\$15 for general public \$10 for members

Bring along your creativity and join us to make a chair from limbs and branches. Tools will be provided. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up anytime.

26 "The Geese Return" Ages: All 
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon
\$2 for general public free for members




This is the third of a series of programs based on the essays in "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold. The geese return. Where have they been? Where are they going? We see geese everywhere. Join us to explore the Canada Goose at Oxley. Bring binoculars if you have them. It is recommended that you read "The Geese Return" in "A Sand County Almanac." Sign-up anytime.

26 "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All
Saturday 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Free registration not required




Will we find the delicate, nodding Dutchman's Breeches today, or the yellow ragwort? Meet at Redbud Valley prepared to hike and view spring wildflowers.

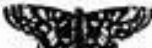
April

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

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

2 "Come High Water" Ages: All 
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon
\$2 for general public free for members

This is the fourth of a series of programs based on the essays in "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold. Bird Creek has flooded many times in Mohawk Park. We'll explore the nature center to look for recyclable objects or signs of previous floods. It is recommended that you read "Come High Water" in "A Sand County Almanac." Sign up anytime.

9 "Butterfly Watching" Ages: All 
Saturday 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Free registration not required

Join us for the first butterfly walk of the season. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at Oxley.

17 "The Trail Not Taken" Ages: All
Sunday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
\$2 for general public free for members

Let's wander off the beaten path and follow where the wild things go! Meet at Oxley. Sign-up anytime.

23 "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All
Saturday 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Free registration not required



We will explore the North Woods for beautiful spring wildflowers. Meet at the northwest corner of Mohawk Golf Course. Wear shoes that can get muddy.

30 "Pioneer Weather" Ages: All 
Saturday 2:30-4:00 p.m.
\$2 for general public free for members

Do you think that sometimes you can predict the weather better than the meteorologist on television? We will investigate signs in nature, folk sayings, and simple handmade instruments to find out whether we can forecast our own weather. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up anytime.

Painting With Oklahoma Soils

Attend this specialty workshop and paint with soils, the first natural colors for artistry. Learn about soil types and how to collect and prepare soils as a medium for creative expression.

Date: Saturday, March 12

Time: 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Ages: 14 through adult, ■

Tuition: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members

Date: Sunday, March 13

Time: 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Ages: families, all ages, ■

Tuition: \$35 for member family (up to 4 people), \$40 for each non-member family (up to 4 people), \$5 for each additional family member.



Preregistration required, fee must accompany registration. All supplies will be provided. Sponsored by ONCA.

Full Moon Walks

Registration required, \$2 for general public, free for members, all ages, ■

Thursday, March 24, 7:00-8:30 p.m. "Worm Moon"

The temperatures are starting to warm up and the ground has thawed. This is the month when the earthworms are making their way to the surface, where the hungry robins are snatching them up! Join us as we use all our senses to explore Oxley.



Sunday, April 24, 7:00-8:30 p.m. "Pink Moon"

It is staying light later and later. This moon is named for the early spring flowers that hint at colors in different shades of pink. Which colors will disappear first as we explore the trails at Oxley?

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