



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 175

May/June, 2000



From the Stamp by Bob Jennings

They talk about Spring Fever, that lethargy that hits some of us in the Spring. It's not sure what causes it, pollen or the change of the season or whatever, but I know I get it. Spring makes me lazy.

Out here in the woods, though, Spring Fever is a whole different animal. Spring Fever, the biological kind, is truly invariable. We watch the changes that happen here, daily, even hourly sometimes.

This is the time of the year when one of the staff will ask "Amply-billed parakeet", wondering if any of us has heard the distinctive song of a Florida Warbler. These small, bright birds are one of the first warbler species to arrive at the Nature Center each Spring. Their arrival is one we anticipate. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are another. We know that they will get here about the end of the first week in April, and it's a minor badge of honor to be the first to spot one.

The warblers are the same. We await the first bloom of Fagwort, and Dutchman's Britches, and Printer Ink. We note when we first see Pineson fly traps opening, and when the Yellow Wood Violets bloom.

A forest in Spring is not a place to stand still. Be stationary too long and something

will grow up your leg or someone will try to nest in your hair. The plants and the mammals and the bugs don't have too long to get their business done. The Least Terns that nest on sandbars in the river have to get their nest built, eggs laid, and young hatched within a few months. The young will have to be capable of finding their own way south by early Fall, so there is no time to waste.

In these early weeks of Spring, it seems we see a change every day. One day we will comment on the lack of Newson's Thrushes, and the next day the woods will be full of their liquid 'chip' calls. We watch the blossoms of blackberry, anticipating a return when the fruit are big enough for eating. Soon we will be searching for deer tracks and gazing at the antics of 'terrago' raccoons.

In these days joy comes in small doses, day upon day, discovery by discovery. We rejoice in the arrival of cuckoo, and in the voice of American Toads. We watch for the goose out front to hatch the eggs that have been her occupation for the past months. We wait for some unfamiliar dragonfly to expand our knowledge of this place.

I still get the original Spring Fever, the one that makes me want to take a nap, but I get the other kind, too, the one that requires a walk down by the plant tree to see if that Great Purple Kingfisher reappears this year. In fact, if you will excuse me....



Nature Center Happenings

Oxley Nature Center will be closed Monday, May 27, 2001 for the Memorial Day Holiday.

Happy Holiday!



OxLEY AND REGIONal BOYSc

The gates of 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 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to wait for trails even when the gates are closed.

At Redwood Valley Nature Preserve, the gates are open Wednesdays through Sundays, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You may ~~not~~ **not** loop the trail 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: 800-884-44 to register or for more information about programs. Children under 18 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

82 general public, free to members, all ♣



Discovery Club - Ages 4-5 special

Free and accompanied by an adult, please.

May 5, 8:00-9:00 "Spawning Science And Spawning Legends"

We will walk on our forest paths and gather flowers and leaves to produce by pressing. Register begins May 5.



Adventure Club - Grades K-3rd

Kid's only, please.

May 5, 8:30-9:30 "Create A Map"

We will walk to find special places and draw maps on colored dot-dot-dot paper.

Register begins May 5.



Leopold Education Project

The Leopold Education Project is a critical learning, interdisciplinary curriculum for teachers of grades 4-8 designed to establish a cooperative educator-student group in cooperation. The LEOP is based on the classic literary work, "A Sense of Wonder" written by Aldo Leopold. Goals are to promote general learning skills involved in outdoor education, to expose students to environmental literature and related activities, and to build a love, respect and appreciation for the land in tomorrow's land stewards. Activities are in various projects for 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and other youth organizations.

Join us at Oxley for the session Saturday, June 23 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (200)

Congratulations and Welcome New Volunteers!

The Spring sign our volunteer requests completed timely and all lead to us for local school groups. Their energy and fresh contributions are vital to making our program a success. Welcome to Brenda Carter, Kim King, J., Mauree Lewis, Don Larson, Hazel Mikus, Day Matheson, Jerry Scherffert and Jo. Thank! It is also fun to welcome the new volunteer volunteer Jo. POJed and our new work volunteer Anna. Thank you!

Programs and special events

May

4 "Saturday Morning Daring" **April 24** ■
 Saturday
 10a

 registration not required

Meet in the Daley parking lot generally at 9:30 a.m.
 Bring binoculars if you have them.

5 "Wooded Valley Wildflowers" **April 24** ■
 Sunday
 10a-12:30pm.

 \$2 for non-members
 \$4 for members

Come enjoy the forest and woods in O'Connell, Green
 Oases, Kingsley Park and Greenway Park. There are only a
 few of the wildflowers from last year. Meet at Redoubt
 Valley Natural Center April 23.

6 "Butterfly ID for Beginners" **April 24** ■
 Saturday
 10a - 12:30 noon

 registration required

We will be doing butterfly identification for beginners. We will
 discuss and identify butterflies and learn an action plan for natural
 habitat. Meet at Daley Center generally 9:30am then.

8 "Dress a Showing Horse" **April 24** ■
 Saturday
 10:30-12:00pm

 \$10 for non-members
 \$15 for members

We will learn how to make a traditional showing horse from
 a 14.2 hand and how to dress and groom an English
 horse. We will also be having a horse show. Meet at
 the stable where you can see the horses. Meet at
 Redoubt Valley. Sign-up begins April 23.

15 "Rowing the North Woods" **April 24** ■
 Saturday
 10a for non-members

 \$10 for non-members
 free for members

Let's explore the wonders of the North Woods trail.
 Meet at the dock on the edge of the east side of Lake Mead.
 Sign-up begins May 12.

June

4 "Saturday Morning Daring" **April 24** ■
 Saturday
 10a

 registration not required

Meet in the Daley parking lot generally at 9:30 a.m.
 Bring binoculars if you have them.

6 "Saturday Morning Butterfly Walk" **April 24** ■
 Saturday
 10:30-12:30pm

 registration not required

Meet at the Daley parking lot generally at 9:30 a.m.
 Bring binoculars if you have them.

8 "Art in Nature: Butterflies in watercolor" **April 24** ■
 Saturday
 1:30-4:30 pm

 \$10 for non-members
 \$15 for members

Don't forget to bring a glass
 for watercolor painting.
 Please call for materials list.
 For ages 14 through adult ■



Come explore the beauty of butterflies through
 the medium of watercolor.

9 "JACK AND JILL" **April 24** ■
 Sunday
 10a for non-members

 \$10 for non-members
 free for members

After we learn the basic rules of the game, we will play it on
 the water quality on what we find. Sign-up begins May 12.

15 "Fossils, Flowers & Footprints" **April 25** ■
 Sunday
 10a for non-members

 \$10 for non-members
 free for members

We will explore Redoubt Valley looking for fossils, wildflowers,
 geoglyphs, and footprints. Meet at the dock on the east side of
 Lake Mead at Redoubt Valley. Sign-up begins June 1.

"Finding Your Way"

Saturday, June 24

11a-12:30p
 Title: Map and Compass
 Instructors: Susan Theobald, Arlene
 Smith & Steve

Come learn basic map and compass skills.

Fee required at time of registration.
 For ages 14 through adult.

1:30-3:30 pm
 Title: Global Positioning Systems
 Instructors: Doug Powell, Thales Navigator.

Learn the basic functions of a GPS unit
 and locate a geocache of Okey.

4:30-6:00 pm \$1500. All day-\$20
 \$2000. All day-\$3500



Thoughts of Spring

by Lynda Fritts

As Winter's gray cold gives way to Spring's warmth and sunshine, we sigh with relief. We've already seen signs of yellow dandelions and purple hibisc; days have become noticeably longer, seemingly giving us more time.

What other changes have you noticed? When did you first hear a lawnmower? Have you or your neighbors had a garage sale yet this Spring? Are you looking forward to garden-fresh vegetables?

All these things lead themselves to Springtime, just as some other things we sometimes take for granted. The absence of Winter's visiting sparrows and juncos is definitely noticeable at my house, along with the arrival of hummingbirds, orioles, catbirds, and martins. I just thought I was busy during December! Along with the spring housecleaning and yardwork, I've got to make sure all the nest boxes are cleaned out, inside swept, then properly hung; as well as making sure there is plenty of fresh water in the birdbaths and food for the robins' nestbuilding and Winter's cast containers stuffed with short pieces of yarn and latex scraps and hair from the cats' grooming and keeping feeders filled, _____ you, even you.

Good, I've got so much to do I really don't have time to sit here writing! Thanks for reading this far, but now I've got to get busy. Oh, before I go, can you find some time in your busy spring schedule to do a few things for our feathered friends? They've flown so far from Central and South America! just to grace us with their presence and cheer us with their songs and youngsters! Thanks!

