



# Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 140

July/August, 2002



From  
the  
Stamp  
by  
Bob  
Jennings

If you don't mind, I'm going to sit down here in this shady spot by the spring and read a column. I know the end of the trail is just up ahead, but I want to pause a minute and think about everything we've seen so far.

Did you notice all the flowers today? There were Bluebells and Spring Bluebells in Great Field, and Purple Cowslips back beside the Markberry bushes. The Redstarts were amazing, and the leaves of the Sugar Maples were as brilliant scarlet as I've ever seen them. Lots of ripe persimmons in that grove, just by where the Wild Flows were blooming.

Did you see that spiny fern looking in the grass? It wasn't far from that fat old woodchuck by the dam. I watched a bobcat catch a rabbit, too, and hunted for a while as the coyotes searched the last little fragment of meadow.

I was amazed at the number of birds that were around, although this is always a good trail for birds. That Pochonson Warbler was awesome. One a piece of the nest had come loose and sprouted wings. I almost missed it, because I was busy counting the Hooded Mergansers in the open spaces where the lake hasn't frozen yet. The rails were noisy today, too, weren't they? They're always like this in the Fall, as they get ready to nest. I was so involved with them that I just about missed the first Eastern Phoebe of the year. Electricblue was nesting, and the great wren migrating south, and the hummingbirds are about ready to leave for the year.

I was going to spend a while working on my leatherby identification, but gave it up when that group of school kids passed. Now, they were a bit noisy, but it was the noise of excitement and curiosity, and that's a good kind of noise. How many do you guess there were? (Shouted) Thousands! More? Hard to tell, but they were sure having a good time.

What's that? I meant a little cardboard? Well, that's not unusual, just ask the folks around here! Oh, you mean that I couldn't have seen all those things today, cause some are summer things and some are winter things and some are... Oh, well, I guess you're right. But remember, I've been on this trail a long time. It'll be 28 years here in a month or so, and I guess I was just remembering some of the things that those years have shown me.

I'd better get up and finish this trail. I've got to go back and write that column for our newsletter. This will be the last one.

Though, truth, after all these years I'm going to hold in my papers, and let someone else have a chance at it. Don't know what I'll write about this time.

It'll be hard to squeeze 25 years into one last column. And the people! How am I going to thank all the people who've worked so hard and saved money and given money and time and hours of time. It's going to be hard to know what to say to them. Maybe I can think of something to leave behind when I go, something that they can enjoy after I'm off doing something else. Surely there's something that will remind them of me. I'll have to think about it a while.

Well, I'd better go. I think the old legs will get me up the hill and down to the start of the trail. Thing is, just a minute, seems like I've got something to say you. You go on ahead, I'll be there in a minute or two.

Truth, it was nice to run into you, too.



# Nature Center Happenings



Osley Nature  
Center & Redwood  
Valley Nature  
Preserve will be  
closed Thursday,  
July 4, 2008.

## OSLEY AND REDWOOD FORES

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

At Redwood Valley Nature Preserve, the gates are open Wednesdays through Sundays, from 9:00 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 9:00 a.m., or after 5:00 p.m.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

Call: 509-8644 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.redwoodvalleynature.org/](http://http://www.redwoodvalleynature.org/)

## Nature Center Welcomes Summer Staff

Where would we be without the help of our summer interns and T.A.S.R. (Training And Skills Knowledge) crew? Summer is a very busy time filled with guided tours, weekend programs, trail work, planting, fence building, general building cleaning and maintenance and more meaning! We are happy to have the energy and skills offered by interns **Judy LaFrance** (now spending her 4th summer with us) and **Chloe McFarland** (a recent graduate of Redwood Hall High School). Our T.A.S.R. crew includes **Shanetra Fields**, **Sarah Henderson**, **Brett Peterson** and **Kassell Billings**. We appreciate their taking the pains to and to be and are glad to have them with us!



Volunteer  
Awards  
Dinner  
honoring  
our  
volunteers

Every May 14, staff, volunteers and their guests celebrated together with barbecue provided by the Friends of Osley Nature Center Association. Everyone brought side-dishes and all enjoyed about spring season and had a wonderful time.

"Volunteer of the Year" awards were given to **Elizabeth Hare** and **Chloee Oray**. These weekly volunteer volunteers also assisted with trail work and the visitor center. **Ray Fowler**, a seasonal weekly volunteer volunteer was acknowledged for 10 years of service.

Our volunteers are our most important asset. With all of their talent, skill and enthusiasm we are able to provide our public with high-quality nature experiences we couldn't do it without them!

Thank You All Volunteers



## Dragon's & Damselfly: Dashing Jewels of the Insect World

If you spend any time at all in the summer countryside, woods, lake or stream, you will soon notice the stunning, soaring, acrobatic flying of dragonflies and damselflies. These wonderful insects have been gracing Oklahoma skies for hundreds of millions of years. In fact, the largest insects ever known to Earth flew over the land dragonflies (with 27 to 29-inch wingspans) that flew in the Permian period 260 million years ago. They



look have been found in Kansas and Oklahoma. About 150 species of dragonflies and damselflies have been recorded in Oklahoma.

They are beneficial insects, eating other bugs - mostly mosquitoes and other small pests - and, contrary to popular folklore, are harmless to humans.

Learn what many of them look like, and how to interpret their behavior when you see them in the field. Roy Beckenmeier, a retired Geological engineer who has studied them for thirty years will share his

enthusiasm by doing a multi-media presentation on these colorful and fascinating insects. We will then go for a walk and see them

up close and personal. Join us July 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Registration begins July 7. The fee is \$2 for non-members and less for members.



## Billy Bore

Spring arrived with a refreshing burst of renewal. In the March a pair of Canada Geese appeared on the pond just east the Interpretive Center of Caley. We monitored the process as the female constructed a nest on the bank and laid and incubated her eggs. On May 2nd four goslings hatched.



In early April we watched as a single woodchuck repeatedly curled huge mounds of leaves past the storm window. It wasn't until April 24 we discovered the hood been preparing a bed for her three young in a bunker system directly under the front steps. A "billy boom" right outside our front door!

From the back deck another family of woodchucks could be seen digging on the outside near the pond. Just off the back boardwalk on May 20 a Newborn town sparrow-the 20y- old bird in the grasses of the western 200 where its mother had left it in being. Yellow. Their voices splattered with awe, were able to watch the spotted town sparrow sleep in a nearby explored its surroundings with only a twitch of its dark wet nose or a turn of long, velvet ears.

