



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 144

March/April, 2000

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 amusing meteorological stories. And this is the time of year when our weather is most reliable 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 newsmonger. It wasn't necessarily a jab at our local weather forecasters, only that our state's location on the continent makes our weather so diggone contrary and very tricky to forecast. Actually only the best weather forecasters work in the southern plains.

Besides basking in 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 blow 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 some 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 skins along. Likewise, the deer are losing their winter gray coats. They seem a little lozier with their summer red coats on. The hawks have already dropped their feathers 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 revised. 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, 2008 while
staff attends NAI Regional
Conference.**



OXLEY AND REDBUD VALLEY:

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 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 still log the forest 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: 888-8844 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 us Online at: <http://www.naturecenterindy.org>

Kid's Saturday Programs

♣2 plus ♣2 materials for non-members, ♣2 for members

Discovery Club Ages 5-7 year old
Each club accompanied by an adult, please.

March 8, 8:00-9:00 "Learn the Bird Basics"
We'll go outside and look for the birds
after we make a bird walk. Sign-up begins
Thursday, March 6.

April 5, 8:00-9:00 "Can Goats be Domestic?"
We'll make a walk to all farm animal
rooms, see and pet them. Sign-up begins April 3.

Adventure Club Grades 8-12th
No's any price

March 8, 8:00-9:00 "Pave Your Trail"
Goose on Indian trail, and learn to say it in
six languages. Learn phrases and sentences to
talk up trail. Sign-up begins Thursday, March 6.

April 5, 8:00-9:00 "Happ' Homers"
We'll learn about making the right walk
connecting our own experiments with them.
Sign-up begins April 3.

"Moon Maps"

Sunday, March 16
7:00-9:30 p.m.

Meet at Oxley Nature Center

Star Programs

♣2 general public
free to members

All ages welcome

♣ with advance notice

"Spring Stars"

Thursday, April 3,
7:00-9:45 p.m.

Meet at Lake Tabala

Find the Great Bear and go star-
gazing to 3 other constellations.
We might also glimpse Mercury
before it sets. Bring binoculars and
something to sit on. Dinner 6-7
p.m. and Movies: 8:30 p.m. Meet at
the water drive on the east side of
Lake Tabala. Sign-up begins March 23.

Which way to tranquility stars?
Decorate the face of the Moon in the
Moon with a few landmarks. Then
we'll go out and look for them.
Bring binoculars if you like. Contact:
8:30 p.m. and Movies: 4:45 p.m.
Sign-up begins Saturday, March 1.

Programs and special events

March

1 "Saturday Morning Dining" **April 16 @ 11:00 a.m.**
Lunch **11:00-1:00 p.m.**
Fee **Registration not required**



Meet in the Dining rooming promptly at 10:30 a.m.
Registration if you have them.

2 "A Review of Books" **April 15 to adult**

Lunch **11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**
L3 for non-members **members pay \$10**

It discusses recommendations for February 20
Using authors' names will explore the author and members of
the author's culture. For more details.

3 "Dance with Mrs. Heidi Sauters" **April 15 to adult**
Lunch **11:00-12:00 p.m.**
\$1 per person/refreshment **members pay only \$10**

Do you have an unbridled passion for the past? Come and
discover what it was like to live a good life with the "Heidi Sauters"
Lunch of the past. Call Heidi Sauters for more details.
Meet at Goodwill Valley. Sign up begins February 20.

4 "Currently Reading" **April 16 @ 11:00 a.m.**
Lunch **11:00-12:00 p.m.**
Fee **Registration not required**

We will discuss some of the best and worst books
available to the public. There will be a book club with
meet at Goodwill Valley. Sign up begins February 20.

5 "Duke and Boone in Florida" **April 15 to adult**



Lunch **11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**
L3 for non-members **members pay \$10**

It's a story by author Heidi Sauters. Heidi Sauters
Lunch of the past. Call Heidi Sauters for more details.
Meet at Goodwill Valley. Sign up begins February 20.

6 "Dinner at Goodwill Valley" **April 15 to adult**

Lunch **11:00-12:00 p.m.**
\$1 for non-members **members pay \$10**

Each spring the Goodwill Valley can be a feast for the
senses. Let's have a special dinner with Heidi Sauters
Lunch of the past. Call Heidi Sauters for more details.
Meet at Goodwill Valley. Sign up begins March 15.

April

1 "Saturday Morning Dining" **April 16 @ 11:00 a.m.**
Lunch **11:00-1:00 p.m.**
Fee **Registration not required**



Meet in the Dining rooming promptly at 10:30 a.m.
Registration if you have them.

2 "Dinner Learner" **April 15 and up** **Children 15 and under**
must be accompanied by an adult **11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**
L3 for non-members **members pay only \$10**

Everyone is a descendant of someone who came
from another country. This is a chance to learn
about the history of the people who came to the United States.
Meet at Goodwill Valley. Sign up begins March 20.

3 "Goodwill Valley Night Hike" **April 16 to adult**
Family and Individuals Only **7:00-9:00 p.m.**
L3 for non-members **members pay \$10**



Join us for a special night of walking events.
Meet at Goodwill Valley. Sign up begins March 20.

4 "Currently Reading" **April 16 @ 11:00 a.m.**
Lunch **11:00-12:00 p.m.**
Fee **Registration not required**

Meet in the Dining rooming promptly at 10:30 a.m.
Registration if you have them.

5 "Goodwill Valley Night Hike" **April 16 to adult**
Groups of 4 or more **7:00-9:00 p.m.**
L3 for non-members **members pay \$10**



Join us for a special night of walking events.
Meet at Goodwill Valley. Sign up begins March 15.

6 "Wildflowers at Goodwill Valley" **April 15 to adult**
Lunch **11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**
L3 for non-members **members pay \$10**

Join us for a special dinner with Heidi Sauters. Meet at
Goodwill Valley. Sign up begins April 15.

Congratulations to staff member **Sue Ruby**
for being awarded Employee of the Month
of January for the City of Tuba

Spring Break Workshops

(Natural Art Workshop Series)

Taught by Mrs. Brenda Kross

Monday through Friday, March 17-21

Fee must accompany registration.

Materials are included in fee.

\$5 discount if pre-registered by March 5.

Drawing Nature

April 6-11

1:00-2:00 p.m.

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

Monday: Observing nature; pencil on paper.

Tuesday: Action drawings; colored pencils.

Wednesday: Flip-book films; markers.

Thursday: Colorful insects; watercolor.

Friday: Nature scenes; tempera.

Illustrating Life

April 12-17

2:15-3:45 p.m.

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

Monday: Observing, measuring, and writing

natural objects; pencil on paper.

Tuesday: Drawing fur and feathers; colored

pencil.

Wednesday: Botanical illustration; watercolor.

Thursday: Insect sculptures; study clay.

Friday: Nature scenes; oil/acrylic/tempera.

Fly-tying and Fly-tying Basics

Taught by Solyann Brown

Saturday, April 26

Fly-tying Basics

Learn equipment basics and-tying

techniques to use those elusive trout, bass and bluegills into taking your fly. Participants will practice tying an actually fish attractant in Monawa 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 oval frames, hand-tyed flies are art. Besides creating your own hand-tyed fly to take home, you will learn how to use flies, how to read the water, how to be useful and how to choose gear.

- Class held at Daley Nature Center
- 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- For ages 18 and up
- Register for one or both days

One day: \$20 for non-members, \$25 for members

Two days: \$35 for non-members, \$40 for members

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