



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 155

March/April, 2006

First Bob Jennings Award for Excellence in Interpretive Management Awarded

There is 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 most I remember him because of something I did that provided a memory, like that place where we both watched a female porcupine and mouse in the deep snow out on the prairie. We were the only two humans on the plain 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 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 exemplified 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 the award, Lynn Viningboard, Director of Butte Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center in Missouri. The currently serves as Secretary on the NAI National Board. Bob's influence on many and specialties that will continue to be felt for years to come. *—Doris Lewis*

"I want to be the only to make people to feel of what's been done. My own people will be happy. I want to be the only one to make through what's right here." *—John Muir*

Wanted: People With a Passion for Nature!

If you have a few hours a week you're willing to share with children and adults, we have just the thing for you. Our spring/summer 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 individual groups of school children. Instruction and a love for children and nature are the only requirements. Contact Dolly for more information. Become a volunteer!

"I've loved it ever since!" -Becky

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 McMillan—Outstanding volunteer
Bob Page—Outstanding volunteer
 for service above and beyond!

Allen White—15 years of service

Leslie Bully—8 years of service
Don Sorenson—6 years of service

Art Browning—2 years of service
Mary Lou McMillan—3 years of service

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

"The child is a deep, elastic receptacle of wisdom. He needs the consistency that love and stability can alone afford, reinforcing within the joy, excitement and mystery of the world as he is." *—John Dewey*

Nature Center Happenings



Redwood Valley
and Colby
Nature Center
will be

CLOSED

Sunday,
March 27, 2005.

A \$2 per car Museum Park fee will be charged weekdays April through October. The next gate will be closed. Members of Colby get in free.

OPEN AND REBID DOWNS

The gates of Colby Nature Center are open daily, with the exception of most City holidays, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. At Colby, you may park outside the gates from 7:00 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 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You may **not** park the trails 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: 925-944-4444 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 conflict-free registration may be cancelled 48 hours prior to program.

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



Colby's Saturday Programs

♣ for general public, free to members, of ♣



Discovery Club (Ages 5-9 year old)

Learn and discover by an adult's place.

March 12, 10:00-11:00 "Get and Grow!"

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

April 9, 10:00-11:00 "Here's the Deal!"

Let's see our ponds to see if our class about Colby's wildlife. Sign-up begins Sunday, April 3.

Adventure Club (Ages 10-12)

Let's enjoy nature!

March 13, 10:00-11:00 "Pond Update!"

Let's discuss nature, signs and learn some fun things. Sign-up begins Sunday, March 6.

April 10, 10:00-11:00 "Am Natural Park?"

Each of us all make our own very nature.  Contact Sign-up begins Sunday, April 3.



Astronomy Programs



♣ 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 class 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 Tahoe. Depart is 8:27 p.m. and meet at 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 telescopes, bring your binoculars and something to sit on. Meet at the parking at Harbor Park, on 1st street between Yule and Nevada. Depart is 7:48 p.m. and meet at 8:08 p.m. Sign-up anytime.

"What is the value of preserving and strengthening the sense of awe and wonder, the 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 the tides, the folded bud ready for the spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated rhythms of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

-Rachel Carson



Celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day, April 22, marks the 38th anniversary of the 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 calls on people to come together to actively pursue a more sustainable future for our planet. **How can you celebrate Earth Day? Start with these new traditions.**

1. Volunteer to pick up trash, in your neighborhood, at a local park, at City, anywhere!
2. Recycle: newspapers, office paper, aluminum, glass, plastics, telephone books, catalogs, and corrugated cardboard. Contact the City of Palo Alto Utilities Department (366-8511) or the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (MET) at www.metrecycles.com or 366-2064.
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 of Oxy With Brenda Knapp

Nature Themes on Pecky Eggs

Date: Saturday, March 6

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

Age: 14 through adult ■

Skill level: beginner through advanced
Medium: dye, wax, and clay on pine or shell
Fees: \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members



Put your best egg coloring techniques to the test! In our workshop as we will use the traditional Japanese technique of wax-resist 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: 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Age: 7 through 13 ■

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

What could be more enjoyable to draw than cartoon? We'll learn to see the shapes of the animal, draw the features of the face, and draw the different adaptations seen in various species. Supplies will be provided.



Kids' Spring Break Nature Art Camp

Date: March 21 through March 26

Time: 10:00-4:00 p.m.

Age: 8 through 13 ■

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

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

Balls and Blooms in Pastels

Date: Saturday, April 2

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

Age: 14 through adult ■

Skill level: mid-beginner through advanced
Medium: chalk pastels on paper
Fees: \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members

Celebrate Spring by learning to draw the botanical beauty of blooming in your garden. Chalk pastels and medium chalk pastels are used to draw up and work with large areas of light, dark, and color. We'll cover shading, layering in color, color mixing, detailing, and knowing when to call it done! A supply list will be provided.



Kids' Fun With Fungi—Drawing Mushrooms and Other Fungi

Date: Saturday, April 16

Time: 2:30-6:00 p.m.

Age: 7 through 13 ■

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

Have you ever drawn mushrooms? 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 features and details. Supplies will be provided.



Programs and Special Events

March

3 "Saturday Morning Dining" **April: At 11**
Saturday **8:30-11:30 a.m.**
Free **registration not required**

Meet in the Gallery (adjacent to the Ballroom).
Bring identification with you from home.

4 "Field Sketching Nature" **April: At 11**
Sunday **10:00-12:00 noon**
\$2 for general public **free for members**

Bring a sketchbook and pencil. We will take the trails and stop along the way to make quick sketches of interesting plants and animals. Meet at Redwood Valley. Sign-up online.

5 "Breads, Breads, Breads!" **April: 12-4 up 11**
Sunday **10:00-4:00 p.m.**
\$2 for general public **\$2 for members**

Bring along your creativity and ideas to make either hot and/or cold breads. Tools will be provided.
Meet at Ukiah. Sign-up online.

14 "The Avian Garden" **April: At 11**
Saturday **10:00-11:00 noon**
\$2 for general public **free for members**



This is the first of a series of programs based on the article in "A Sonoma County Avianist" by Bob Langford. The presentation, where more than 100 birds are on the go! We are going everywhere. Join us to explore the Central Coast of Calif., Sonoma County. Find out how it is recommended that you visit "The Avian Garden" in "A Sonoma County Avianist". Sign-up online.

16 "Waterfowl Walk" **April: At 11**
Saturday **8:30-10:30 a.m.**
Free **registration not required**



Will we find the elusive, hooded Merganser (black and white) on the yellow legs? Meet at Redwood Valley. Sign-up online and view spring waterfowl.

April

1 "Saturday Morning Dining" **April: At 11**
Saturday **8:30-11:30 a.m.**
Free **registration not required**

Meet in the Gallery (adjacent to the Ballroom).
Bring identification if you have them.

2 "Come Fly With Me" **April: At 11**
Saturday **10:00-12:00 noon**
\$4 for general public **free for members**

This is the fourth of a series of programs based on the article in "A Sonoma County Avianist" by Bob Langford. Bob Crane has invited more than 100 birds to fly with me through the nature center to see the beautiful waterfowl migration. Sign-up online.

3 "Dumpty Larking" **April: At 11**
Saturday **1:00-3:00 p.m.**
Free **registration not required**

Join us for the first Dumpty walk of the season.
Bring identification if you have them. Meet at Ukiah.

11 "The Trail Not Taken" **April: At 11**
Sunday **1:00-3:00 p.m.**
\$2 for general public **free for members**

Let's wander off the beaten path and discover where the wild things are. Meet at Ukiah. Sign-up online.

15 "Waterfowl Walk" **April: At 11**
Saturday **8:30-10:30 a.m.**
Free **registration not required**

We will explore the North Woods for beautiful waterfowl. Meet at the northwest corner of Mendocino State Park. Will there be any great finds?

16 "Dumpty Larking" **April: At 11**
Saturday **1:00-3:00 p.m.**
\$4 for general public **free for members**

Do you think that sometimes you can predict the weather better than the meteorologist on television? We will measure the wind, clouds, humidity, and other weather instruments to find out whether you can predict our own weather. Meet at Ukiah. Sign-up online.

Pointing With Oklahoma Soils

Attendees specially selected soil point with soil, the first taking cores for analysis (soil about soil types another to collect and prepare with 0-2 medium for rotation expression.

Date: Saturday, March 12

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

Age: 14 through adult ■

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

Date: Sunday, March 13

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

Age: 10 years of age ■

Fee: \$20 for member family (up to 4 people), \$22 for each non-member family (up to 4 people) \$5 for each additional family member.



Registration required, for most attendees registration. All supplies will be provided.
Sponsored by OMSA.

Full Moon Walks

Registration required. \$10 for general public,
free for members, or ages ■

Monday, March 24, 7:00-8:30 p.m. "Worm Walk"

The temperatures are starting to warm up and the ground has thawed. It is the month when the earthworms are moving their way to the surface, where the fungi roots are watching them up. Join us as we use all our senses to explore Okey.



Sunday, April 26, 7:00-8:30 p.m. "Red Moon"

It is staying light like yesterday. The moon is full. How do you get a flower that has a color in different shades of pink. Which color will disappear first or will explore the roots of Okey?

For a complete listing of events and information on the activities and programs, see the Okey website at www.ok.gov/okmsa or call 800-452-4529. For more information on the activities and programs, see the Okey website at www.ok.gov/okmsa or call 800-452-4529. For more information on the activities and programs, see the Okey website at www.ok.gov/okmsa or call 800-452-4529.