



# Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 128

March/April, 2002



From  
the  
Swamp  
by  
Bob  
Jennings

It's snowing today. It's not raining, because it's warm and the snow is light, but it's snowing. I like it when it snows like this. The woods are quiet and peaceful, but the roads won't be slick on the drive home.

Out in the woods, there is a calmness. The only sounds are bird calls and the sound of the snow falling. It's not often that the sun has the snow fall, but there are heavy, wet flakes and we can hear them falling on the still, dead leaves.

It's nice just to stand here, to listen to it snow and to try to let the peace of these woods envelope us. It's also nice that we have places like this to go when it snows. Parks like most are special places, places where there is nature and animals, neighborhoods there that other world of work and worry and sometimes war.

This has not been a good year for many of us. We have seen hatred, greed to work us out, rampant destruction and fear and pain. It's hard to cope with these things, as we're not used to them. They are strange new elements thrust into our world and into our lives.

We should be glad that there are wild places, and silent places, and snowy places. Nature can bring our world back into focus, and offer us a moment when we must seek to realize the beauty in our lives.

As I stand in the forest today, I can feel the reality of this place begin to replace the

problems and anxieties that I carried here. It seems as if there are forces here that reject the negative things that I brought with me. Forces that tell me to look up, to see that gold against gray clouds, to find the best snow fall from the cottonwood.

Now I realize that I'm not worrying about the budget right at this moment. Instead, I'm trying to figure out if that brown illusion in the landscape is a Marsh Wren or a Winter Wren. I know that I have things to do back in the office, but first I need to do some snowflake inspecting, hoping to be the first person out to discover the beautiful snowflakes.

Along the trail ahead, I see a crimson streak of cardinal wings. The male is following the female closely, maintaining contact in case another male should present a viable alternative. They will be roaring soon, despite today's snow and chill.

The cardinals, like the other wild things, have their own care and concerns. Food, shelter, a mate - all these things are important here in these woods.

And perhaps there is a lesson there for us.

Take all the things that concern us, all the busy and the troubles and the uncertainties, and place them in a pile to burn for us. Pick them up one by one - look at them closely. Now look everything that isn't related to food, shelter and a mate. Your pile will get much smaller.

You can bring your cares to me here. You can even burn them away here. Normally we don't like it when our children leave demands on our trails, but I promise you that we won't say a thing if you leave your worries behind when you head for home.



# Nature Center Happenings

**Osley & Redwood Valley** will be **CLOSED** Monday through Wednesday, March 26, 28 & 27, 2008 while staff participate around the regional conference.



A \$1 parking fee per car for the general public will be charged on weekends when visiting Redwood Park beginning April 6. Members of Osley get in free. The area gate will be closed weekends.

## OSLEY AND REDWOOD GATES

The gates at Osley, Redwood Center are open daily, with the exception of some City holidays, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. At Osley, 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 Redwood Valley Nature Preserve, the gates are open Wednesday through Sunday, 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: 509-844 in 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.



## Kid's Saturday Programs

♣ general public, free to members, all ♣



**Discovery Club (ages 3-5 years)**  
Free, not accompanied by an adult, please

**Adventure Club (grades K-2nd)**  
Kids only, please

**March 8, 9(9:00) "Farmers, Bees and Bees"**  
Let's explore the wonderful world of bees! We will make some honey and go to the meadow. Sign-up begins March 1.

**April 10, 10:00-11:00 "Wings, Wings and Wiggly Wings"**

Let's take a closer look at insects! Sign-up begins April 7.



**March 8, 9(9:00-10) "Four Four"**  
Four's are important number words. Let us make some "Four" flowers to take home.

Sign-up begins March 1.  
**April 10, 10:00-11:00 "Fourer Flowers"**

Let us see all the things plants that work together when we plant-plant-plant-plant with kids. It's great fun! Sign-up begins April 7.



## ★ "Star Maps" ★ Star Programs ★ "Planet Dance" ★

Going anywhere dark over spring? Don't! Take a star map with you. Being outdoors if you have them, their child aged 7 and under should bring an adult to help assemble the map. Meet at Osley, starting at 8:30 p.m. and starting at 8:00 p.m. Sign-up begins March 3.

Tuesdays, March 11,  
7:00-8:00 p.m.

TELEPHONICAL  
- for members:

All ages All ♣



Bring something to sit on and blankets or a chair if you wish. Everyone will need glasses of April the first planets visible to the naked eye will average themselves in a dramatic way across the evening sky. Meet at the dark dome or Lake Umbagog. Start at 8:00 p.m. and finish at 9:15 p.m. Sign-up begins March 24.

Saturday, April 5,  
7:00-8:00 p.m.

## Spring Smooches

The American Robin is often heralded as a harbinger of Spring, and it really lays all eggs in the forest and fields. Welcome back the first of the migrating hummingbirds, warblers and bluebirds. They bring all the joy. Taste the first wild cranberries, wildflower honey or more of the season. Listen for the songs of the vibrant cherry birds. Smell the sweet scent of plums and cherries. Feel the warming of the fragrant earth. Now it's Spring smooches!



# Programs and special events

## March

### 1 "Saturday Morning Birding"

Saturday  
8:00-10:00 am  
Registration not required



Meet in the Odeon parking lot promptly at 8:00 am. Being announced? You know them.

### 2 "North Woods Walk"

Saturday  
10:00-11:00 am  
\$2 for non-members

April 14  
10:00-11:00 am  
\$2 for members

Start your weekend hike exploring the wilderness of Huckleberry Circle. Meet your facilitator at Sun-Verde at 10:00.

### 4 "Friday Morning: Journalists' Spring's End"

Saturday  
8:00-10:00 am  
\$2 for members



April 14  
10:00-11:00 am  
\$2 for members

Journaling is a wonderful way to find what nature has to offer. Join us to learn more about our journaling course, receiving complimentary handouts. Sign-up begins February 11.

### 30 "March Madness"

Saturday  
8:00-10:00 am  
\$2 for non-members



April 14  
10:00-11:00 am  
\$2 for members

Outdoors call to our youth and their parents to explore the forest through games. Could there be Super Superheroes here? Meet in the Odeon parking lot promptly at 8:00 am.

## April

### 6 "Saturday Morning Birding"

Saturday  
8:00-10:00 am  
Registration not required



April 14  
10:00-11:00 am  
Registration not required

Meet in the Odeon parking lot promptly at 8:00 am. Being announced? You know them.

### 15 "Butterflies Through Deciduous"

Saturday  
10:00-11:00 am  
\$2 for non-members



April 14  
10:00-11:00 am  
Registration not required

We will be doing butterfly identification to help you identify the butterflies that you see in the woods. Meet in the Odeon parking lot promptly at 10:00 am.

### 18 "Early Afternoon at Odeon"

Saturday  
1:00-3:00 pm  
\$2 for non-members

April 14  
1:00-3:00 pm  
\$2 for members



Competition for wildflowers that grow in the Odeon area. Meet at Odeon parking lot promptly at 1.

### April 20 is EARTH DAY!

Celebrate the day by joining a service group, check-up or writing a letter to the editor. Simply enjoy the beauty while walking the trails in Odeon park on your spring weekend.



### "Spring Songs"

Join us at seven tables for early spring songs and songs of the night on:

Group 1 to meet  
Thursday, March 14, 8:00-9:00 pm.  
Sign-up begins March 5.

Facilitator and table leader  
Wednesday, March 20, 8:00-9:00 pm.  
Sign-up begins March 10.

### Night Walks

All general public, members free



### "Creatures of the Night"

Creatures of the night, exchanging stories. Creatures of the night, what are the chances? Will we find any mammals?

Group 2 to meet  
Thursday, April 11, 7:00-8:00 pm.  
Sign-up begins March 5.

Facilitator and table leader  
Thursday, April 18, 7:00-8:00 pm.  
Sign-up begins April 7.

### Volunteer Training Days

If you enjoy the company of nature and love the outdoors it's not too late to participate in our essential volunteer training program. See the website under the sign and other for our full-text, starting beginning March 5 for more information or to email please call us at 626-2644. Hope to see you there!





## Outdoors Women Weekend



Saturday & Sunday, April 17 & 18

Women and non-age 18 and up are invited to enroll in one of a variety of classes being held at Dixie Nature Center. Some sessions being offered include fly-fishing and fly-tying on bank baskets, journaling, butterfly-gardening and identification, laughing, spring botany, natural stain and back-packing boots.



All necessary equipment will be provided.

Participants must provide their own lunch and drink.

Payment must be received on the day of registration.



To request a registration packet or for more information please call 407-6444.

## Member Support

In keeping things free we need your support more than ever. Members of Friends of the Nature Center help to support our educational programs and allow us to protect the habitat and wildlife of Dixie Nature Center and adjacent Upper Nature Preserve. Members can participate in our programs for free or at reduced rates. They are invited to "Members Only" events receive a discount of our gift shop and get free-look-round admission to Johnson Park. If you are not a member but would like to continue receiving our bi-monthly newsletter, please write us by May 1 by using address 407-644-4444, e-mailing at [info@fndc.org](mailto:info@fndc.org) or dropping us a line at the address on the newsletter. We hope you'll join us!

