



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 141

September/October, 2002

From The Past—September 1978 (Volume 1)

Meet Bob Jennings

Robert C. Jennings accepted the position of coordinator with the City of Tulsa by September, 1977. He is responsible for guiding the development of the Mary K. Okey Nature Center.

Jennings comes to Tulsa from a position of six years as Chief Scientist with the National Air, SO₂ Toxic and Stratospheric Experiment. His duties in Kansas City included development of stratospheric scientific and computer use of various medical study areas throughout the city in addition to the supervision of a staff of eleven technicians.

A graduate of the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Bob holds a Master's degree in Biology. His primary study areas during the 1960's were air quality, the effects of acids and rainwater, and the effects of aerosols for acid rainwater.



Photo by B. Jones

From the Stamp

By Bob Jennings

And so it begins...

Even though I've been here for a long time, and many projects are well underway, I have a number of things I want to discuss. Some things are beginning, but still need work. Others are in the final stages of the Kansas natural education program with Tulsa Public Schools or perhaps it's because we're beginning. Sometimes, a long-awaited event.

I really don't know why I have the feeling, and the one going to try to find out. I know it's only that and that I don't need it to go away. Instead, I want all of it and have been told that there's a really, really, and there's that the various meanings of "beginning".

Beginning to see the first set of papers because a study in the stamp, science and history, and knowing that people are already writing from home.

Beginning to see the first set of papers, your contributions, beginning later, and trying with them the possibility of a good problem for a study in...

Beginning to understand the need for a study when the elements for the project, and to find out that so many people understand it.

Beginning to look forward to the next major project, building the interactive Center, which means it's going to be a real step towards what the people here are already doing. -2-

Beginning to wonder if I will ever get a "beginning".

Beginning to realize that I really can do this project and find about the world here. I feel you should be able to.

But there's a lot, and this is the really important part.

We are beginning to work the young ones, with a plan that they can learn and have fun and start building a sense of things that need to be done in Tulsa. But, when they can learn the importance of each other and helping others, when they can see that others aren't for speaking and most of all when they can see that they share the planet, and that sharing is a very good thing.

Today's News—August, 2002

Robert C. Jennings has retired as the director of the Mary K. Okey Nature Center after 25 years of service. During his tenure the Interpretive Building was constructed and the Old Valley Design District and the Harold Steiner Visitor Center were brought under the management of the City of Tulsa. Staff increased and more creative programs were made available to the public. Various trails were added and improved upon.

The opportunities and leadership provided by Bob Jennings during the first 25 years leads to a great challenge to continue to provide the people of Tulsa and surrounding communities with exceptional service in a natural environment protected by future generations. This will be missed, yet his presence is extraordinary - with his staff and supporters, in the forest, at the marsh, on the prairie - in the broad scheme of things and in the details.

Thank you Bob - Happy Retirement!

Nature Center Happenings

Osley Nature Center & Outdoor
Valley Nature Preserve will be
closed Monday, September 1,
2008. Happy Labor Day Holiday!



OSLEY AND OSLEY HOUSE

The gates at Osley Nature Center are open daily, with the exception of most 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 once 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 for hours above the Nature Preserve is closed, on Mondays or Tuesdays, on City holidays, before 8:00 a.m., or after 5:00 p.m.

PRECIOUS INFORMATION

Call 409-9284 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.osleyandosleyhouse.org>

Kid's Saturday Programs

60 general public, free to members, all ♣

Discovery, Deb Myke 5-5 year old

Each child accompanied by an adult, please

September 13, 10:00-11:00 "Wonderful Worms"

Come find out what makes worms so special and important.

Sign-up begins September 5.

October 13, 10:00-11:00 "Staring Bones"

How many kinds of skeletons are there and what are their purposes?

Sign-up begins October 5.



Aerobics, Deb Myke 4-12nd

Kid's only, please

September 13, 10:00-11:00 "Life Under A Log"

Let us discover what animals live under and what under their feet eat.

Sign-up begins September 5.

October 13, 10:00-11:00

"The Incredible Connected To."

Come find out about birds & skeletons.

Sign-up begins October 5.



"The Evening Star"

Sunday, September 1,

8:00-9:00 p.m.

Meet at Stuart Park.

Our "evening star" is not really a star. What does it look like through a telescope? Do we have an evening star all year? What is the "morning star"? So many questions, and each one answered through up to many more being your curiosity and your questions. Something to sit on and gaze down at a telescope may be useful. However, 8:30 p.m. and sunset 7:53 p.m. Sign-up begins August 18. Call for directions.

Star Programs

60 general public
Free to members

All ages welcome
♣ with advance notice



"Planets Before Sunrise"

Thursday, October 17,

5:30-6:30 a.m.

Meet at Lake Yabala.

Sometimes the best time to watch stars and planets is before sunrise. Bring a telescope or binoculars to sit on and a telescope or binoculars if you wish. We will have our telescope set up. However, 5:30 a.m. and sunrise 5:32 a.m. Meet at the east side of Lake Yabala above the circle drive. Sign-up begins October 5.

Programs and special events

September

7 "Saturday Morning Dining" **Agas: All ■**
 10:00-11:00 a.m.
 registration not required

Meet at the Club for a special breakfast of \$10.00. Bring your own favorite item.

8 "Sea-Chart" **Agas: All ■**
 10:00-11:00 a.m.
 free registration

Discovering "COOL" old sailing charts is a great excuse to get out there! Join our monthly chart-reading group. You'll learn about a treasure trove of old maps, including coastal charts, which can be used to find out more about the history of your sailing area. We'll be looking at the "COOL" charts of the Chesapeake Bay. Sign-up begins August 21.

14 "Butterfly Walk" **Agas: All ■**
 10:00-11:00 a.m.
 registration not required

Meet at Club for special breakfast of \$10.00. Bring binoculars if possible.

15 "Sew-It-Up Sewing" **Agas: 14 to adult ■**
 10:00-11:00 a.m.
 members \$5.00, non-members \$10

Learn creative design using Sew-It-Up sewing techniques. The sewing class will bring an exercise for use in the Club for a special "Monday Club" sign-up begins September 1.

15 "Setting To Know Sailed" **Agas: All ■**
 10:00-11:00 p.m.
 free registration

We will explore the ports of Call for the sailing community. The setting will be Callahan, Maryland. Sign-up begins September 15.

October

7 "Saturday Morning Dining" **Agas: All ■**
 10:00-11:00 a.m.
 registration not required

Meet at the Club for a special breakfast of \$10.00. Bring whatever you like to eat.

8 "Butterfly Walk" **Agas: All ■**
 10:00-11:00 a.m.
 registration not required

Meet at Club for a special breakfast of \$10.00. Bring binoculars if possible.

12 "Fall Sketches: Art in Nature" **Agas: 14 to Adult ■**
 10:00 am - 11:00 pm
 \$10.00 to members

Sketching is a form of visual storytelling. It is an excellent tool for documenting the world as you see it. Join us for a special "Sketching in Nature" on October 12 at the Club of Call. We will explore the local surroundings, including the Chesapeake Bay. Sketching is a great way to document your sailing adventures. We'll be looking at the "Sketches" of the Chesapeake Bay. Sign-up begins with "Monday Club".

14 "Fall Harvest Fun" **Agas: All ■**
 10:00-11:00 p.m.
 free registration

We'll have everything you need to make the best of the fall season. Join us for a special "Fall Harvest Fun" on October 14 at the Club of Call. Sign-up begins October 14.

\$2 for non-members, member fee

Autumn Twilight

All Agas: All ■



Are friends more active when the moon is up? Let's find out. Join us for a stroll on the banks of Call in an early October evening. Walk will begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. Groups of 4 or more may join us Wednesday, October 9. Groups may register beginning September 1. Families and individuals may join us Sunday, October 15, with registration beginning October 8. We hope you will join us for an Autumn night walk.

SEPTEMBER

Volunteer Networker Training

Share your appreciation of nature with others! If you are 18 or older and live in our sharing program September 1-17. Learn how to lead groups for our fall season. No experience is required. For more information contact Gailly Jones, Gailly@wpaia.net

Ernie Hartwick's

The Ernie Hartwick program for 2012 through the garden's can lead you to new discoveries with nature. If you can join us for adventures, the first Saturday of the month September through May please call us for volunteer information.

The Stump by Gary Moore

The stump had been there for many years. It had seen many seasons pass. Its suspicious beginning was not unlike that of many of its kind. Somewhere a squirrel was preparing for a cold winter day, engaged in the gathering and burying of acorns. Many of these concealed stores the squirrel scuffed out—they provided sustenance to see him through to warmer spring days. He didn't find them all, however, and several remained perched in the cork end of the forest floor. One of these remained and sprouted with the warming soil temperatures and spring rains. It sent a slender shoot above its subterranean home. A tree began to grow.

Each season, each year, it continued to grow. Winter, it carried the mark of history. Summer drought and winter freezes were etched upon it, recorded for those who could read the signs. The tree flowered and set fruit. It provided food and shelter for many that shared its space. Its roots reached down deep into the soil, sipping water and nutrients, holding the tree fast to the earth. Its trunk stretched upwards, branches reaching toward the sun, leaves making up life giving energy.

Many children sought wisdom from the sun beneath its generous branches. Many theories and discoveries were shared about the complexity and mystery of life. More acorns buried its feet and those acorns were left to germinate when conditions were favorable. The tree stood tall and was witness to many things.

The tree never stopped giving sustenance to those around it. Even as it dropped leaves and branches, even as it decided to nothing but a stump, it continued to feed and shelter others. Children sat upon the stump as they explored the mystery of life around its base and within its crevices. Under its patient watch the seeds of understanding were sown. Grandchildren of the first-tended Woodpecker that had laid her first clutch of eggs in the dying tree still fly among the branches of the great tree descendants. Gophers touch signs for the sky.

The stump slowly feeds itself in the soil that gave it life. The cycle of life continues.

