



A publication of the  
WINNIE PALMER NATURE RESERVE AT SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE

# Nature's View



# Nature Coming Together

By Peg Palmer Wears

It is a pleasure to look out from the area south of the Saint Vincent Campus, the area that encompasses the airport and route 30, and see the Basilica amidst a beautiful collage of fields and woods, paths and wetlands. To think this could have been developed commercially and put the college at the center of warehouse-like buildings and parking lots, well, it makes my heart swell with pride and relief for the opportunity to develop the Nature Reserve instead. The people who came together to preserve and enhance this important asset are legion and are from all political persuasions and walks of life.

Ecology; the study of living things in relation to each other and to their environment, is the idea that comes to my mind when I drop by the Nature Reserve and see walkers and children playing, bird watchers, folks practicing tai chi and yoga, all in contemplation of the natural world, rebuilding their peace of mind and their brains. With creativity and cultural advancement we learn that when our own situation is improved while our actions benefit the larger community, this boon comes back around in the cycle to further benefit us, (better known as "what goes around comes around" OR a "win-win"). And nature can be an excellent investment as it has a way of paying us back exponentially for the effect we make on it.

Please come to the Nature Reserve even if you sit for a moment in the parking lot. Reflect there on the difference between the natural and the contrived. Rembrandt said "practice what you know and it will make clear what you do not know". We all know nature and in front of that peaceful barn one may be reminded of a set of priorities the pressures of everyday life can obscure. And I hope you will feel gratitude, as I do, for the vision of one Winnie Palmer!



**The Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve  
at Saint Vincent College**  
744 Walzer Way  
Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650  
Phone 724-537-5284  
Fax 724-537-5286

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## Website:

[www.wpnr.org](http://www.wpnr.org)

## Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
First Saturday of Each Month: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Saturdays at the Barn Programs Begin: 10 a.m.

## Contributors to this Issue:

Angela Belli & Beth Bollinger, WPNR Staff;  
Kim Metzgar, Design Assistant  
Photographs: Angela Belli, Andrew Smith

# WINNIE PALMER NATURE RESERVE CALENDAR

Registration forms and additional information are available on the web site ([www.wpnr.org](http://www.wpnr.org)) or by stopping the Nature Reserve. **No phone or e-mail reservations will be accepted.**  
**ALL EVENTS ARE HELD AT WINNIE PALMER NATURE RESERVE UNLESS INDICATED.**

## Monthly Meetings at the Barn

Third Wednesday- 7 PM - Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited - For More Information: [www.forbestrailtu.org](http://www.forbestrailtu.org)  
 (Does not meet, June, July or August)

## Special Programs at the Reserve

**TINY WONDER TIME** - Tiny Wonder Time is an hour of nature play for children ages 2-4 the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Each session includes an outside activity (weather permitting), interactive activities, a craft, and a snack. Children must be accompanied by a Parent or Caregiver. **THERE IS A NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-TRANSFERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$1 PER CHILD PER MONTH. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

**NATURE STORY TIME** - Nature Story Time is a literature hour for children ages 2-5 with an adult. Each session includes a story and craft. Children must be accompanied by a Parent or Caregiver.  
**COST: \$10.00/5 Week Session, REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

## JULY

**2** Barn Closed - Trails Open Dawn to Dusk

**11-15** 10AM - 2 PM each day  
 Nature Explorer Camp for 6-9 yr. olds

"Going Buggy" in search of butterflies, spiders, ants, dragonflies, bees, beetles and more. Hands-on investigations, games and labs will take children on a nature adventure within the 50-acre Reserve and Monastery Run Improvement Wetlands. Campers will receive an insect investigation kit at the end of the week to continue discovering nature's tiny creatures in their own backyard.

Registration Required: \$100/child  
 Registration Deadline: June 30, 2011

**20** 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
 Tiny Wonder Time - "Beach Day"

Registration Required

**21 - 22** 9:30AM - 4 PM  
 PA Amphibians & Reptiles Workshop  
 by the PA Fish and Boat Commission

Discover the biology, ecology and identification of PA's reptile and amphibian species through hands-on activities. Sponsored and led by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. ACT 48: 12 Hours

Registration Required: \$30.00 (for facility use and lunch)  
 Registration Deadline: July 1, 2011

**27** 1 PM - 3PM  
 Dragonfly Hike at Monastery Run Project Site

Join the Reserve staff at the Saint Vincent Gristmill to adventure around the wetlands to catch and identify dragonflies.

**THIS EVENT IS NOT AT THE WINNIE PALMER NATURE RESERVE**

## AUGUST

**3** Tiny Wonder Time Registration Begins  
 for Fall Session (September - December)

Registration Forms Available Online and at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve Barn

**6** 10 AM - Saturdays at the Barn Program  
 Snake Saturday and other Nature Friends

Join the student researcher, Ali Klofta and her Advisor, Dr. Cynthia Walter and discover the snakes of the Reserve. Learn about snake research and explore the Reserve for other creatures along the way!

**17** 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
 Tiny Wonder Time - "The Big Dig"

Registration Required

**24** 1PM - 3PM  
 Monarch Butterflies and their Caterpillars

The beautiful Monarch Butterfly visits Pennsylvania for only a few months. Discover how to find the eggs and caterpillars, raise them in captivity and release them to begin their journey south.

## SEPTEMBER

**3** Barn Closed - Trails Open Dawn to Dusk

**9** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
 Eat, Grow, Change - Session 1 - Week 1

Registration Required: \$10.00/Session (5 weeks)

**16** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
 Where Will He Sleep? - Session 1 - Week 2

Registration Required: \$10.00/Session (5 weeks)

**21** 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
 Tiny Wonder Time - "Rollie Pollies Everywhere"

Registration Required

**23** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
 A House to Call Home- Session 1 - Week 3

Registration Required: \$10.00/Session (5 weeks)

**30** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
 Frog in the Bog - Session 1 - Week 4

Registration Required: \$10.00/Session (5 weeks)

# OCTOBER

## 1 10 AM - 4 PM "Old Fashioned Tailgating"

Nature Reserve Naturalist Intern and Eagle Scout, Andy Smith will Tailgate the Old Fashioned Way - Dutch Oven Cooking and Mountain pies.

## 7 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time Uniquely You - Session 1 - Week 5

Registration Required: \$10.00/Session (5 weeks)

## 8 10 AM - Saturdays at the Barn Program Backyard Nature Day

Discover the Nature all around you. Learning Stations at the Barn will include - Monarchs, Pond Critters, Fallen Logs, Tall Grass Creatures and Trees/Plants.

## 14 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Growing Up Wild Facilitator Training

Growing UP WILD features field-tested, hands-on activities about wildlife, people and the environment. Each activity includes art projects, reading, music, math connections and outdoor learning as well as content about specific groups of animals or ecological concepts. Attendees MUST meet requirements set forth by PA Game Commission. Visit [www.wpnr.org](http://www.wpnr.org) for more information  
Registration Required: Contact THERESA ALBERICI at [talberici@state.pa.us](mailto:talberici@state.pa.us) or phone at 717-787-1434  
Registration Deadline: September 30, 2011

## 19 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Tiny Wonder Time - "Let's Fall into Fall"

Registration Required

## 21 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time Worms are Cool! - Session 2 - Week 1

Registration Required: \$10.00/Session (5 weeks)

## 28 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time Fall Friends- Session 2 - Week 2

Registration Required: \$10.00/Session (5 weeks)

# NOVEMBER

## 4 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time Watch Out! - Session 2 - Week 3

Registration Required: \$10.00/Session (5 weeks)

## 5 10 AM - Saturdays at the Barn Program Living Naturally

Explore an environmentally friendly approach to living. Presentations, products and information on how to purchase, eat, clean and live in a more ecologically minded and healthy way. Come learn from others that have adopted a green way of living.

## 11 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time An Unexpected Surprise - Session 2 - Week 4

Registration Required: \$10.00/Session (5 weeks)

## 16 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Tiny Wonder Time - "Compost Stew"

Registration Required

## 18 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time Time for Bed - Session 2 - Week 5

Registration Required: \$10.00/Session (5 weeks)

## 19 9AM - 4PM - Project Wet Teacher Training

ProjectWET is an international, interdisciplinary, water education program for formal and non-formal educators. ProjectWET will bring together water properties, uses, wetlands, conservation and many more water issues.  
Registration Required: \$20.00/person  
Registration Deadline: November 5, 2011

## 24 - 28 - Barn Closed - Trails Open Dawn to Dusk

## 30 Tiny Wonder Time Registration Begins for Winter 2012 Session (January - May)

Registration Forms Available Online and at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve Barn

# DECEMBER

## 3 10 AM - Saturdays at the Barn Program Christmas Open House

Back by popular demand, the Christmas Open House will feature local artisans and vendors to share their artistic talents and unique treasures with you. Interested Vendors should contact Beth Bollinger.

## 21 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Tiny Wonder Time - "Hoo...Hoo...Hoo"

Registration Required

## 23 - 31 - Barn Closed - Trails Open Dawn to Dusk

# JANUARY

## 1-2 Barn Closed - Trails Open Dawn to Dusk

## 7 10AM - Saturdays at the Barn Program

### *Special Thanks to Richmond Ferguson!*

The Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve extends its gratitude to Richmond Ferguson Jr., for his decade of service as General Counsel and member of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Ferguson as retired from both positions, having volunteered his legal expertise to the Palmer family when the Nature Reserve project came to life at the turn of the century. Attorney Terry Ferguson has taken over his father's role with the organization.



## Space for a Little Nature

by Angela Belli, Director

The Reserve captures Winnie Palmer's vision to protect the scenic view of the Saint Vincent College campus from development along the busy Route 30 corridor, and serves as a lasting tribute to a woman who wanted to preserve the landscape she knew and loved. I think she would be pleased today to see how her initial vision has become a valuable green space for the community of Saint Vincent and abroad to reconnect to nature, while exercising, studying, or playing along the trails.

This special place began with a name, Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve at Saint Vincent College. To some a familiar word, "Reserve", but for others an unknown. A nature reserve or natural preserve, whatever you would like to call it, means that it is protected land that encourages habitat for wildlife, plants, and other animal life. In our case at WPNR, it also includes other special interests, such as the historic Lochery Blockhouse. This special space is set aside and managed for conservation; and an important area for study and research.



Photo by: Andrew Smith - A view from his Bike



The "Reserve" was designed utilizing 50 acres that includes marshlands, native meadowland, seasonal, native gardens, areas to raise crops for research and demonstration, a stream corridor, forested edges, and other natural gardens that encourage wildlife, and provides a unique location for learning and leisure. This small niche of nature fosters a distinctive, attractive community that over time has created a strong sense of place for the people that visit daily or yearly. Bird watchers, bikers, runners and dog walkers have collaboratively used the space in accordance with the Rules of the Reserve. But not just for the recreationalist, the Reserve serves to integrate academics, community volunteerism, and civic service learning projects. Through scientific research, trail building, habitat enhancement, and native gardening, the community has become actively involved and "owns" the landscape that was developed. Having many levels, just as an

ecosystem should be is a landscape that continues to teach everyone that we are part of the biology of this world. We don't own it, but we are part of it; therefore need to take care of its development and foster its continued growth.

Within the busy Latrobe area, the Reserve is a unique location that can teach everyone young and old through the wonders of nature; provide an outdoor enthusiast area; and remind one of the intrinsic value of conservation areas. Not only is this a great area to explore, but a place one shares with native wildlife, such as Groundhogs, White-tailed Deer, Garter Snakes, Northern Spring Salamanders and much more. As we take a little time outside while we walk the dog, ride our bike- or however you can connect a little more with nature- be a responsible visitor to the "Reserve", and understand that we all are part of the natural world and we have the responsibility to protect the "Wild" that make the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve their home.



### RULES OF THE RESERVE

1. Leave No Trace - Dispose properly of pet waste and trash in receptacles.
2. Dogs must be leashed at all times.
3. Respect Wildlife - Explore gently and do not pick the wildflowers.
4. Be considerate of other visitors along the trail.
5. No motorized vehicles on nature trails.

# Space for Families and Friends

As the Nature Reserve continues to grow a landscape for discovery, play, relaxation and learning, keep your eyes open for special spaces for families and friends to meet and experience nature.



*Pond and Natural Play Area: Explore aquatic life or sit for a quiet moment, or build with natural materials.*



*Pollinator Garden: Located at the Monastic Garden, learn what plants attract nature's butterflies and bees.*



*Colonial Garden: In progress at the Lochry Blockhouse - A representation of 1800's gardening.*

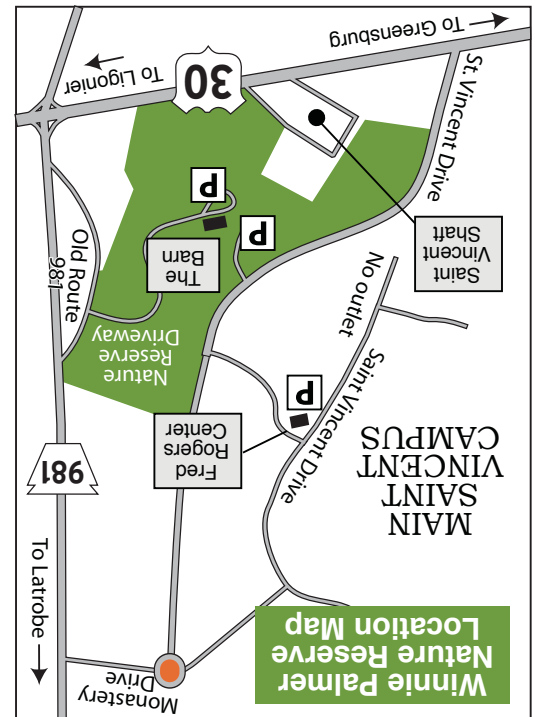


*Nature Discovery Trail: Take a 12 station journey, learning about wildflowers, tree growth or pond creatures.*



*Childrens Natural Playground: Tucked in the pines, near the Monastic Gardens, take a swing, balance or hide.*

In an effort to keep you more informed, find us on Facebook and you will receive news and updates from the reserve about new programs and events.



*Address Service Requested*

Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650  
744 Walzer Way  
Saint Vincent College

**The Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve**

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