



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

# Nature's View



# Nature Coming Together

By Angela Belli, Director

Nature takes time. Over the last three years, the Reserve has blossomed into an atmosphere of creation and fun. Many talented staff, volunteers, students, and faculty have brought life to this once abandoned field and barn.

The seasons will change, and each one in this coming year will bring visitors a surprise. If Mother Nature is kind to WPNR in the coming months, the next growing season will bring fields of wildflowers, milkweed, butterflies, bees, and more. Children and families can explore along a new Discovery Trail from the barn to the pond; or run, jump, build, and play in a variety of nature exploration areas along Reserve trails. A new extension of the Cattail Trail will allow nature peepers to take a wetland and stream stroll that connects visitors to campus.

It is not just the landscape that is ever changing; so is the activity in the learning center barn. Students in education have brought the joys of reading alive for many preschoolers this past year at Nature Storytime and interactive nature games, crafts and hunts at Tiny Wonder Time. Many families spent some time with Reserve staff and faculty to explore trees, touch and feel creepy crawlies, and cast some animal tracks at Reach Into Nature. Finally, guests to the barn can now visit the Barn Owl Gift Corner for unique gifts, trinkets, resources, and other finds of all kinds.

Each day at Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve brings the realities of this space a bit closer to the original vision Mrs. Palmer had for the community. The land's natural beauty is growing, nature programs are expanding, and educational opportunities are ever evolving. This is a great place to be, become involved, explore during a lunch walk, or rest in a rustic space for a short break. Each passing year connects the Reserve to nature, new friends and volunteers. This community treasure allows this small spot of nature to bring together people and the natural world.



Photo: Angela Belli

May you and your family enjoy all the wonders of winter this holiday season.

Merry Christmas,  
The Reserve Staff

**The Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve  
at Saint Vincent College**  
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Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650  
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### Website:

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:

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Photographs: Angela Belli, Reyne Kozar,  
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# 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)

## 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. **ALTHOUGH THIS PROGRAM IS GRANT FUNDED, BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2011, THERE WILL BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$1 PER CHILD PER MONTH. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY THE DEADLINE.**

**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: \$8.00/5 Week Session, REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

**REACH INTO NATURE** - A community "Get Outdoors and Explore" hike for all ages. The program will take place outside, so please dress appropriately for the weather.

## JANUARY

**1** HAPPY NEW YEAR - BARN CLOSED

**15** 8AM - 4:30 PM  
Trout Unlimited's Coldwater Conservation Corps  
Volunteer Training Workshop

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited has developed a process for monitoring small streams and their watersheds for early detection of the impacts from Marcellus Shale gas extraction. Space is limited for citizens interested in helping with monitoring of streams. For more information contact David Sewak, Trout Unlimited Marcellus Shale Field Organizer at [dsewak@tu.org](mailto:dsewak@tu.org). Registration Required

**19** 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
Tiny Wonder Time - "Polar Bears"

Registration Required

**21** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
Spectacular Snowmen - Session 1 - Week 1

Registration Required: \$8.00/Session (5 weeks)

**26** 10 AM - Reach Into Nature  
Winter Wonder Walk

Registration Required: \$3/person (2 yrs and up)

**28** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
Oh Deer! - Session 1 - Week 2

Registration Required: \$8.00/Session (5 weeks)

## FEBRUARY

**4** 10:30 AM Nature Story Time  
Furry Families - Session 1 - Week 3

Registration Required: \$8.00/Session (5 weeks)

**5** 10 AM - Saturdays at the Barn Program  
Winter Fun at the Reserve

Join the Reserve staff and explore the outdoors at the Reserve.

**11** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
Will You Be Mine? - Session 1 - Week 4

Registration Required: \$8.00/Session (5 weeks)

**16** 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
Tiny Wonder Time - "Winter Wonder"

Registration Required

**18** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
Terrific Turtles - Session 1 - Week 5

Registration Required: \$8.00/Session (5 weeks)

**19** 9:00 AM - 4:00PM  
Introduction to Environmental Science  
Grades 3-8 Teacher Workshop

Learn important information that will help you teach your students about the environment. Teachers will receive the NSTA book "Inside-Out: Environmental Science in the Classroom and the Field" Grades 3-8

**ACT 48: 6 Hours**

Registration Required: \$45.00

Registration Deadline: January 29, 2011

**23** 10 AM - Reach Into Nature  
Winter Weeds, Trees and Tracks

Registration Required: \$3/person (2 yrs and up)

## MARCH

**5** 8 AM - 4PM Saturdays at the Barn Program  
Spring Scrapbooking with "The CROP SHOP"

Join THE CROP SHOP gals and scrapbook all day at the barn. The Crop Shop will provide their expertise and use of their equipment for the day. Register early and receive a 15% discount at the store.

Registration Required - \$15.00/person (8 hours)

Lunch Option - \$6.00

**11** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
Thunder and Lightning - Session 2 - Week 1

Registration Required: \$8.00/Session (5 weeks)

**16** 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
Tiny Wonder Time - "Little Bit "O" Green"

Registration Required

**17-19** Pennsylvania Association of Environmental  
Educators Conference

Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA. [www.pae.net](http://www.pae.net) for more information.

**18** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
The Grass Grows Green - Session 2 - Week 2

Registration Required: \$8.00/Session (5 weeks)

**23** 10 AM - Reach Into Nature  
Winter's End Bird Walk

Registration Required: \$3/person (2 yrs and up)

**25** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
Big Bird, Little Bird - Session 2 - Week 3

Registration Required: \$8.00/Session (5 weeks)

**APRIL**

**1** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
Mighty Ants - Session 2 - Week 4

Registration Required: \$8.00/Session (5 weeks)

**2** 10 AM - Saturdays at the Barn Program  
A Natural Easter

Create a beautiful, natural Easter centerpiece with a bed of wheat grass and natural dyed eggs. We will provide the soil, wheat seeds and the natural dyes, you bring the eggs and a container for the grass.

Registration Required - \$3.00/person

**2** 12 PM - 2PM - Backyard Composting Workshop

Learn how to transform kitchen and yard waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment; great for gardeners and recyclers.

Registration Required - \$10.00/person

**8** 10:30 AM - Nature Story Time  
Growing Up Gardeners - Session 2 - Week 5

Registration Required: \$8.00/Session (5 weeks)

**9** 9 AM - 11AM  
Beatty County Road Clean Up

Join the Nature Reserve and Mountain View Rotary as we clean up Beatty Road. Coffee and Donuts at 8:30 AM, Please register at 724-537-5285. Meet at the Saint Vincent Gristmill.

**16** Westmoreland Earth Day

Vendors wanted - Please Contact Beth Bollinger

**20** 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
Tiny Wonder Time - "Happy Earthday Birthday"

Registration Required

**21-** Barn Closed - Trails Open Dawn to Dusk  
**22**

**27** 10 AM - Reach Into Nature  
Rain or Shine Walk About the Reserve

Registration Required: \$3/person (2 yrs and up)

**30** 9:00 AM - 4:00PM  
Tiny Hands in Nature Teacher Workshop  
(Educators PreK - Grade 2)

Discover how to bring the outside into your classroom with the Growing Up WILD Curriculum and other early learning curriculum. Curriculum Provided.

Sponsored by PA DEP, PA Game Commission and PA PDE.

**ACT 48: 6 Hours**

Registration Required: \$20.00 (lunch included)

Registration Deadline: March 15, 2011

**MAY**

**5** 6:30 PM - Jane Kirkland, Author Talk  
Sponsored by PAEE

Jane Kirkland, author of Take a Walk Books will share how to connect your children to the outdoors and make it a family adventure.

**7** 10 AM - Saturdays at the Barn Program  
Get your Child Outdoors Day

Join Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators in welcoming Jane Kirkland, award winning author of "Take a Walk" books and educator to the Nature Reserve. She will be leading a Nature Hike and have her books to purchase and sign.

**7** 9:00 AM - No Student Left Inside Workshop  
(Educators Pre K - Grade 12)

Three Outdoor Sessions presented by: PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and PAEE. Keynote Speaker: Jane Kirkland, author of "Take a Walk" book series.

Registration Required: FREE - 6 ACT 48 Hours

**18** 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
Tiny Wonder Time - "Pollinators in Our Garden"

Registration Required

**25** 10 AM - Reach Into Nature  
May Flowers Walk and Talk

Registration Required: \$3/person (2 yrs and up)

**JUNE**

**4** 10 AM - Saturdays at the Barn Program  
Pollination Garden Talk with Master Gardener, Ron Patun

Discover the importance of pollinators in our lives (for food crops and flowers) and how garden friendly practices can attract and sustain pollinators in our gardens.

**15** 10 AM - 11 AM OR 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
Tiny Wonder Time - "Sun and Wind"

Registration Required

**22** 10 AM - 3 PM  
Self-Guided Nature Exploring

Stop at the Barn and borrow our field equipment and supplies to complete a self-guided exploration on Reserve Grounds.

**JULY**

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

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

Come and explore the outdoors and living things around you and leave with a greater understanding of your surroundings and lots of things to continue your exploring throughout the year.

Registration Required: \$100/child

Registration Deadline: June 15, 2011

**21 -** 9:30AM - 4 PM  
**22** 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 (facility us and lunch)

Registration Deadline: June 15, 2011

## Connecting the Community to Nature

### Genesis of the Pollinator Garden at WPNR

by Ron Patun, Master Gardener

The Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve pollinator garden is located near the main entrance to the Reserve in the Monastic Garden area. It is based on information received from Penn State Extension Services and was started by Penn State Master Gardeners of Westmoreland County in conjunction with Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve staff and Saint Vincent College environmental science students.

Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve initiated the pollinator garden program during the summer of 2009. The purpose of the pollinator garden is to demonstrate those plants that are used to attract and nurture pollinators and to teach people how to connect to nature. Pollinators (bees, butterflies, moths, and some birds) are vital in nature since they support the growth of food crops, nuts, fruits, flowers, and other useful plant life.

The pollinator garden is composed of three raised beds, approximately 100' long and 4' wide. Two of the beds contain a variety of perennial pollinator friendly plants, including Milkweed, Purple Coneflower, Oregano, Thyme, Lavender, Beebalm, Catmint, Aster, and Sunflower. The 3rd bed contains a long row of annual plants, including a variety of 14' tall sunflowers and multiple mounds of a variety of pumpkins and gourds.

Natalie Martz, a Saint Vincent College Environmental Science student, is completing her senior research project on the habits of pollinators. Natalie helped plant the garden and learned to identify the 9 most common pollinators (bees) residing in our area. She identified and counted the bees that feed on the nectar of each of the designated pollinator plants. The collected data will become part of a massive state-wide data base. This data base contains pollination data from the other 48 designated pollinator gardens in Pennsylvania.

The garden receives a large number of daily visitors and provides a source of education and training for a variety of visitors and tour groups. The garden is maintained by Penn State Master Gardeners, WPNR staff, and students from Saint Vincent College. The garden has provided a valuable aid to teach people how to connect to nature, one flower and one pollinator at a time.



Photo: Mary Lawrence

### My Family and the Programs at the Reserve

by Reyne Kozar, Preschool Parent and Participating Family

I am so thrilled to have found the WPNR and the awesome programs they make available for children. It is truly a hidden treasure, and I feel so blessed to live in a community where programs such these are available to everyone. I am amazed that many people do not know about the programs, so I tell anyone who will listen about the wonderful things my daughters have learned at Saint Vincent in an old barn turned into a fun learning environment.



Photo: Reyne Kozar

This summer we went to a program on Monarch butterflies where we adopted a monarch caterpillar. In the process of feeding our one caterpillar, we gained another. We continued to feed them both and we followed the lifecycle of the butterfly. The process was truly amazing and it was incredible to watch my daughters' eyes as they saw the change from egg to butterfly. Without the Nature Reserve, we would have never had that experience, and it was an amazing one! To see through my daughters' eyes how wonderful and exciting learning can be is just awe-inspiring.

Both my daughters and I look forward to Nature Story time. The "teacher" is awesome and does a fabulous job, and we all love meeting and making new friends. Recently they did a lesson on Farms where they actually had straw all over the floor, which really made it feel like the kids were in a barn! They had a fun

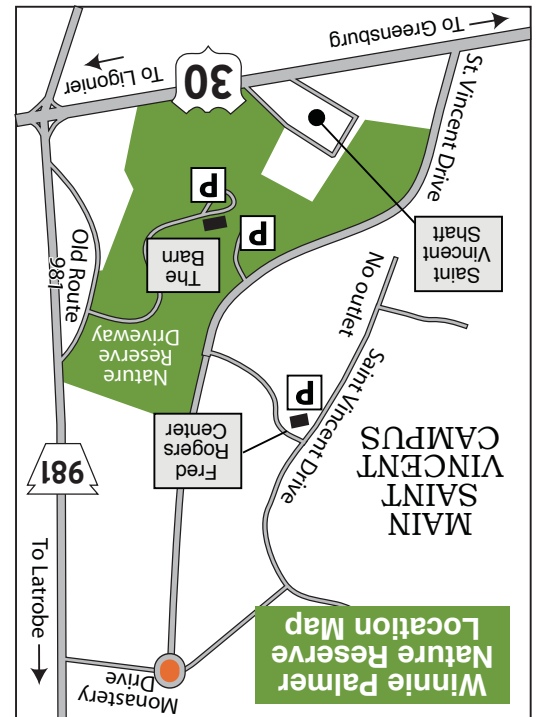
lesson on cows and farm animals as the teacher sat in her bibbed overhauls and looked like Farmer Jones. Another week they had a lesson on bats and learned about nocturnal animals while they played fun games and listened to a story. The story is always age-appropriate and the activities are always the hit of the day. My daughters have not only learned about animals and nature, but also about the environment and how we can help conserve it. Thank you to Mr. Palmer and all the people who have made the Nature Reserve what it is: a remarkable program for children where they can learn to love nature and their environment.



Photo: Kim Metzgar

Do you like combining Nature and Art? As the Reserve grows, the time to hit the trails and take pictures decreases for the staff. Please help us find our cover photo for the Summer 2011 issue by submitting your pictures, drawings, or other media for a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate for the Barn Owl Gift Corner at the Reserve and your art on the Front Cover. Artwork must be of the Reserve. Entry Form Available at the Reserve. Deadline: May 15, 2010

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, contact [beth.bollinger@email.stvincent.edu](mailto:beth.bollinger@email.stvincent.edu).



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