



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 148

May/June, 2005

Reflections

by Eddie Brown

I like spring. You would think I would get used to it by now. But I am always amazed at the transformation. It's always exciting to see the first robin. We made a special trip to the North Woods just to see the first bluebird. I experience these events every year. The deer coats change from winter gray to summer reddish brown and the summer birds reborn. It never gets old. It's like I see all of them for the first time every spring. But how can we get used to seeing ourselves? I'm glad they keep coming back.

Another favorite spring activity of mine is rummaging through the plant nurseries across town. Sometimes I'm looking for something in particular. Sometimes I'm just looking for a surprise. I never know what I might discover. One thing is for sure. I have come to look at every plant care to see what surprises will become the next botanical nightmare? Most of the plants in the nurseries are non-natives. They could have come from anywhere on the planet. It's not supposed to be foreign. It's just that sometimes they find a way to get their offspring into some wild place like the nature center. Most of these plants never make it in the wild. But a few of them flourish. Numerous looking plants transition into monsters. Each time in their native habitat they may just get by. There is a bug that keeps eating its them, or the climate suppresses them. But in their new world none of these pressures that make them behave nice and they go rampant. The plants already have their legs up with them.

Take Japanese honeycreepers for example. I don't know how it got here, but I know it spreads. One plant can eventually cover hundreds of square yards. On Yale Avenue near 10th Street North I noticed a small patch of honeycreepers on a flower. It was about two square yards in size last spring. Right now it may cover a quarter of an acre. There is no sign of it slowing down, it just keeps spreading. Any plants in its way are crushed up. It's just like laying a blanket over them. Gradually, the lack of sunlight and competition for water and nutrients the nothing do not. I'll never forget the day I found a willow tree I hadn't seen before. It was on a street right across. I had not seen it anywhere else and I have not seen it since. But it's not in that spot anymore. There was lots of honeycreepers nearby that had spread to that spot and choked the little willow tree out.

There are other troublesome plants here like that. The list can get long. Some of the bad guys are serious invaders. Johnson grass, Chinese wisteria, and Japanese grass. They're not intrinsically bad. It's just that when they escape from cultivation and become the only plant in the woods or prairie, they have crossed over to the dark side. It's hard to love a species from the nature center I would prefer to lose one that is invasive instead of the upland sand lily in the North Woods. If invasive plants such as honeycreepers, creeping reynoldsia, and lilacs win the war, where do they can we go for trout, blue, first spring would really be a summer.

What about the effect on wildlife. With the spread and dominance of exotic species our plant diversity diminishes. That affects the wildlife. One example is the yucca plant. It serves as a primary source of the yucca plants at Redford Valley and the yucca disappears there goes the yucca moth as well. The yucca moth depends upon the yucca plant for survival. We could discuss lots of examples and there are some plant/animal relationships that we haven't discovered yet. So, if you see a patch of honeycreepers or Japanese being removed, remember what is being preserved. And plan a trip next March to see the first blue and other spring flowers.

Nature Center Happenings

Oxley and Redbud Valley will be closed.

**Friday, May 23
and Monday,
May 26, 2003
for Memorial
Day Holiday**



OXLEY AND REDBUD VALLEY

The gates of Oxley Nature Center are open daily, with the exception of most City holidays, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, you may park outside the gates from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. to walk the trails from where the gates are closed.

In Redbud Valley Nature Preserve, the gates are open weekdays through Sundays, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more info, stop the office about the Nature Preserve to check on weekdays or Saturdays, on City holidays, before 8:00 a.m., or after 5:00 p.m.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Call: 609-984-4100 to register or for more information about programs. Children under 13 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.oxleyandredbud.com>

Kid's Saturday Programs

♣ for general public, ♣♣ for members, all ♣

Discovery Club (ages 5-9 special)
Each week accompanied by an adult, please.

May 10, 8:00-9:00 "Sun and Snow"
We will go outside and look for our shadows and make our projects.
Sign-up begins Sunday, May 4.



Adventure Club (Grades K-2nd)
Kid's only, please!

May 17, 8:00-9:00 "Flying Mouse"
Come learn about one of our most
delicious yet unique animals. Sign-up
begins Sunday, May 4.



Star Program

♣ for general public,
♣♣ for members

All ages welcome

♣ with advance notice

"Total Lunar Eclipse"

**Thursday, May 15,
8:00-9:00 p.m.**

The total eclipse of the moon will start long before the moon sets over Tulsa. In fact, the moon will reach its darkest moments of totality a few minutes before it rises, being something to sit on and contemplate or a telescope if you wish. We'll watch the eclipse, the moon rise and the eclipse proceed as the moon moves out of the earth's shadow. Meet at the circle drive on the east side of Lake Tulsa. Sign-up begins May 4.

Welcome to New Volunteers

Oxley Nature Center staff would like to welcome Linda Godbold and Vernon Jackson as our new volunteer naturalists after their graduation from spring training. We also welcome Carol Barnes who will assist us with clerical work and Matt DeLong who will be helping with trail work.

Programs and special events

May

June

- 5 "Saturday Morning Dining"  **April 24 @ 10:00 a.m. registration not required****

Meet in the Oley parking lot promptly at 9:00 a.m. Bring a minimum 2 cups milk tea.

- 6 "Dormery ID for Congress"  **April 24 @ 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. registration not required****

We will be having Congress on our own different topics. Subjects will be: Migratory and songbirds, owls and then go outside for a nature observation. Meet in Oley. Bring binoculars if you have them.

- 8 "Turkey Habitat Walk"  **April 24 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. fee to members****

We will walk the habitat of the turkey. Meet in Oley. Sign up tonight June 10.

- 11 "Breakfast at Redoubt"  **April 24 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. fee to members****

Bring a coffee and breakfast. We'll have a fire started. Meet in Redoubt. Sign up tonight June 10.

You can contribute to Oley Nature Center Association when you do your Amazon.com through the Nature Center's website. To make your purchase go to:

<http://www.oleynaturecenter.org/>
and click on Amazon.com. Oley will get a 10% share of the sale!

- 7 "Saturday Morning Dining"  **April 24 @ 10:00 a.m. registration not required****

Meet in the Oley parking lot promptly at 9:00 a.m. Bring a minimum 2 cups milk tea.

- 8 "Grapes & Potatoes in Hones"  **April 24 @ 10:00 - 11:00 p.m. fee to members****

Woods Hole will be having the language that will be the history of the wine. Meet in Oley. Sign up tonight June 10.

- 14 "Dormery Walk"  **April 24 @ 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. registration not required****

Meet in Oley parking lot promptly at 9:00 a.m. Bring binoculars if you have them.

- 21 "Redoubt Valley Backcountry Hike"  **April 24 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. fee to members****

Explore the backcountry of Redoubt Valley on their own way. This is a rugged and difficult hike and is not recommended for small children or beginning hikers. No open firewood. Long pants are mandatory. Food and water are recommended. Meet in Redoubt. Sign up tonight June 10.

- 25 "Sentine & Turkey"  **April 24 @ 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. fee to members****

We'll have a live look at how after having the bird. We'll have a live look at how after having the bird. We'll have a live look at how after having the bird. We'll have a live look at how after having the bird. We'll have a live look at how after having the bird. We'll have a live look at how after having the bird.

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day—May 10

Many of the birds that nest and raise young in Oklahoma get here from their winter quarters in Central and South America by flying thousands of miles each spring. You can enjoy them by learning more about them through observation and feeding. You can also help them by providing their food and water, nesting sites and cover. Visit your local nature center, zoo and park, become involved in national and local bird organizations. Celebrate the birds!



7th Annual Outdoors Woman Weekend

Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1



Are you a person who enjoys the outdoors, but would like to gain confidence and learn more skills? Here is your chance! Women (and men) ages 18 and up are invited to attend in a variety of outdoor-skills related classes being held at Oakley Nature Center. Some highlights offered:

- ☐ Fly-fishing and fly-tying
- ☐ Butterfly identification
- ☐ Dutch oven cooking
- ☐ Map and compass
- ☐ Geocaching with a GPS unit
- ☐ Backpacking and hiking
- ☐ Primitive skills - make a catfish-bone needle or a looped string bag
- ☐ Tai Chi
- ☐ Adventure sampler - rock wall climbing, bicycle repair and equipment services.



All necessary equipment will be provided.
Payment must be received at time of registration.

To request a registration packet
or for more information:
phone: 818-869-6004
fax: 818-869-6003

Outw@nd.Tales.ORG.US
www.oakleynaturecenter.org

