



# Oxley Nature Center

July/August, 2006

Volume 164

## Program information 918-669-6644

-Oxley@ci.tulsa.ok.us  
-Website at "<http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org>".

-Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult unless otherwise stated.  
-Wheelchair accessible programs designated by & symbol.

## Mohawk Park Entry Fee:

Non-members will be charged an entry fee of \$2 per car 9:00-5:00 p.m., on Saturdays and Sundays, April -October.

## Oxley Nature Center:

### \*Closed: Tuesday, July 4

-Open daily, except most City holidays (see above).  
-Oxley gate open from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
-Interpretive building open from 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 12 noon-4:30 p.m. Sunday.  
-Hiking trails are accessible during Mohawk Park hours 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

## Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

-Open Wednesday through Sunday, except most City holidays.  
-**NEW!** During daylight savings (April 6-October 26) Redbud Valley gate and trails will be open on **Thursdays from 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.**  
-On Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays gate and trails will be open from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. only. Hiking after these hours is not allowed.  
-Interpretive building will be open 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

## A Vision Continued, 1930-1931

An oasis of natural beauty and recreation within a few miles of downtown Tulsa drew people by the thousands to Mohawk Park in its early years. In "The Tulsa Zoo—The First Fifty Years," by Tulsa Zoo Development Inc., the hardships of the times demonstrated the ingenuity and determination of Tulsa citizens and park employees. By 1930, the oil industry felt the effects of the "Great Depression;" the economy was affected, more than 7,000 were unemployed, and soup lines were set up. Drought and other environmental issues led to the "Dust Bowl" and an insecure future. Yet it was in these trying times the people of Tulsa could find refuge from their troubles in the peaceful and accessible Mohawk Park.

Improvements were made to the park by diverting overflow water from the new Mohawk Reservoir to Flat Rock Creek, Coal Creek, and other low water areas. Outlets into Bird Creek were dammed at the north end, draining lowlands and creating 10 miles of lagoons for boating and fishing. In an effort to control flooding of Bird Creek, an eight foot tall levee two miles long was constructed at the northwest boundary of the park. Despite tough times, or perhaps because of them, the park was evolving into the "place to go".

In an article published in The Tulsa Spirit, August 28, 1930, Hugh Davis, then Assistant Director of Mohawk Park Zoo, wrote "The type of development was suggested to park authorities by the terrain and vegetation. The park offers the quieter relaxing recreations, easily accessible to what is becoming one of the great cities of the southwest. Improvements are based on the need for such wholesome forms of play and rest as can be taken under this environment, away from the distracting and enervating sights and sounds of the city."

Davis said the State Game and Fish Commission operated the park as a state refuge. They had released game birds such as Bobwhite Quail and Ring-necked Pheasant, as well as hundreds of thousands of bass, crappie, and perch into the lagoon system. Today the pheasant are gone but many people, young and old, continue to cast their lines for that elusive fish.

Elsewhere in the park many changes were taking place. In 1931, the City Water Department built twelve ponds that would become the nucleus of an innovative fish hatchery. Boating and canoeing in the lagoons were popular pastimes. The Roosevelt bridle trail provided seven miles of horse trails through woodland and prairie. Two polo fields on the east end of the park offered alternative "horse play." Bicycle trails and several picnic facilities were also available. Open meadows provided places for archery, field meets, and baseball games. An 18-hole golf course occupied the southwest corner of the park.

Mohawk Park would continue to improve and serve as a respite to those who sought its quiet treasures during turbulent times. Great strides would be made in the park's development with the initiation of the several Federal programs designed to aid local communities through creation of jobs for the unemployed population. In our next issue we'll learn more about the CCC camp and fish hatcheries.

# Nature Center Happenings



## Volunteer Awards Celebration



Our volunteers were awesome this spring! We met Tuesday, June 6 at the Tulsa Garden Center to honor our volunteers and present awards to these people who gave their time to make our Nature Center a memorable experience for thousands of visitors of all ages. Introducing “nature” in all its myriad forms, and making a vital connection, is an ongoing process.

For a variety of personal reasons, many of our staunch volunteer naturalists could not be active during the past spring school field trip season. Our active volunteers rose to the challenge, taking our frequent phone calls asking for extra help (in addition to their regularly scheduled days). We could have never reached the number of school children we have without their dedication. Some of our volunteers also present winter outreach programs to schools or lead weekend tours and night walks throughout the year.

Our visitor center hosts provide invaluable help to visitors seeking information and guidance. Their brief contact with the public who call or visit is an important touchstone that creates a positive experience and perhaps an enduring interest in nature. Trail work volunteers, and those who adopt a trail, have worked to ensure the trails are in good condition for those who choose to visit our various habitats. Education outreach volunteers operate booths at various events, spreading the word about nature and what we have to offer. Others present special programs offered by Oxley, both on and offsite. We receive help with The Nature Store and inventory; and with getting this newsletter to YOU in a timely manner.

Members of ONCA Board of Directors are responsible for helping the Nature Center to excel in achieving its mission. We could not operate without them. They provide guidance and support in all aspects of our operation. President Dick Sherry recently received the individual 2006 Council Oak Award for outstanding contributions to the citizens of Tulsa through the Tulsa Park and Recreation Department, a much deserved honor.

Many of our volunteers serve in more than one capacity, participating in two or more activities. Did I say **awesome**? You bet!



### Awards

**Carol Eames**——**Outstanding volunteer** for service above and beyond!

**Barb Daily, Herb Fowler, and Jacques La France** —— **15 year service award**

**Helen Madden** —— **10 year service award**

**Karen Bryan** —— **5 year service award**

**Rusty Grimpe and Cindy Witherspoon** —— **3 year service award**

Your time is invaluable to us. Thank you for your support, enthusiasm, and willingness to share your love of nature!

\$2 for general public, free for members

### Full Moon Walks

Registration required, all ages, &

The full moon of summer will rise over the trees as we explore the trails. The day will still be light as we learn about the “crepuscular” lifestyles of the wildlife at Oxley. Crepuscular refers to animals, which includes many of our mammals, that are active at dawn or dusk. Join us as the days’ heat and light begin to dissipate.

**Saturday, July 8, 7:00-8:30 p.m. “Full Buck Moon”**

Perhaps we’ll see the buck deer with their new, velvety, antlers protruding out of their foreheads.



**Monday, August 7, 7:00-8:30 p.m. “Sturgeon Moon”**

Named for a good time to cast lines for fish, we may seek out aquatic life along some of our water habitats.

### ★★★★★★★★★ Astronomy Program ★★★★★★★★★★

\$2 for general public, free to members, registration required, open to all ages, & with advance notice.

Bring binoculars if you have them, and meet Terrace Park, just west of 27th and Memorial.

Tuesday, August 22, **“Planets Before Sunrise”** 5:30-6:30 a.m. True dark will already be starting to fade into dawn, and we will hear the birds wake up around us. If clear skies permit, we will watch the morning stars, and perhaps view a very old moon and a few planets through a telescope. Bring lawn chairs if you like.

# Programs and Special Events

## July

**1 "Saturday Morning Birding"** Ages: All, &  
Saturday 8:00-9:45 a.m.  
Free registration not required

A second clutch of Eastern Phoebe chicks may be fledging, trying out newly feathered wings. Join us in the Oxley parking lot and we'll look for more youngsters. Bring binoculars if you have them.

**8 "Butterfly Walk"** Ages: All, &  
Saturday 10:30-12 noon  
Free registration not required

We'll see Dusky Wings, Skippers, and others as we explore the prairie and forest! Meet at Oxley.

**15 "Creating a Bird Friendly Yard"** Ages: All, &  
Saturday 1:00-2:30 p.m.  
\$2 for general public free for members

Come and see how to attract birds to your yard; by providing food, shelter, and water. You will make a bird treat to take home. Meet at Oxley.

**22 "Wildflower Walk"** Ages: All &  
Saturday 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Free registration not required

Shall we look for Starry Campion and Jewelweed in the wooded areas, or Black-eyed Susan and Passionflower in the prairie? Join us to see what's in bloom at Oxley.

**23 "Paw Print Clothing"** Ages: All, &  
Sunday 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
\$2 for general public free for members

Let's explore the animal tracks around Oxley, and then make animal print clothing. Bring old socks, shirts, hats, or a canvas bag. Prepare to have fun as you learn about resident critters and create wearable art!

**29 "Ferns of Redbud Valley"** Ages: All  
Saturday 9:00-10:00 a.m.  
\$2 for general public free for members

We will explore the cool, shady, limestone bluffs to find the many ferns that find their home in this unique habitat. We'll see cloakfern, cliffbrake, spleenwort, and Woodsia.

## August

**5 "Saturday Morning Birding"** Ages: All, &  
Saturday 8:00-9:45 a.m.  
Free registration not required

The Belted Kingfisher might be fishing the pond, and Stilt Sandpipers may be found at Lake Sherry. Meet in the Oxley parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Bring binoculars if you have them.

**5 "Wheat-Weaving"** Ages: All, &  
Saturday 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
\$7 for general public \$5 for members

Join us to create a piece of heritage folk art. You will need patience and manual dexterity to weave your own "corn dolly". Meet at Oxley.

**12 "Butterfly Walk"** Ages: All, &  
Saturday 10:30-12 noon  
Free registration not required

Meet at Oxley for our butterfly walk as we look for "flying flowers" such as the Sleepy Orange or the Spicebush Swallowtail.

**20 "Field Sketching"** Ages: All, &  
Sunday 8:30-10:00 a.m.  
\$2 for general public free for members

Learn to draw nature: animals, trees, flowers, and anything else that attracts your attention. Bring a sketch book and pencil. Have fun being creative. Meet at Oxley.

**26 "Wildflower Walk"** Ages: All, &  
Saturday 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Free registration not required

Join us at Oxley to see if the Ironweed, Goldenrod, Butterfly Weed, and Buttonbush is blooming. We have found Cecropia Moth caterpillars on these!

**27 "Leaf Collecting"** Ages: All, &  
Sunday 7:30-8:30  
p.m. \$2 for general public free for members

Do you need a leaf collection for scouts, 4-H, school, or Campfire? You will collect ten different leaves and learn to press and identify them. Meet at Oxley.

**Leopold Education Project** is an interdisciplinary, critical learning, curriculum for educators and youth leaders of grades 6-12 designed to establish a positive land ethic among its participants. Join us at Oxley for a day of fun activities and exposure to new ideas and learning skills. Dress comfortably for the outdoors, bring a lunch, and read "*A Sand County Almanac*" by Aldo Leopold before you come.

**Wednesday, August 2, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

**Fee: \$35 per person**

(includes "*A Sand County Almanac*", task cards, and the curriculum.)

**Please call for more information and to register in advance.**

**Sponsored by the Mary K. Oxley Nature Center Association**

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### Want to Continue Receiving Newsletter?

If you are not a member but would like to continue to receive our bi-monthly newsletter, please notify us by September 1:

Call: 669-6644

Write: Oxley Nature Center

Fax: 669-6653

5701 East 36 Street N

E-mail: [oxley@ci.tulsa.ok.us](mailto:oxley@ci.tulsa.ok.us)

Tulsa, OK 74115

\*\* To reduce the amount of paper (hence trees, ink, postage) please consider getting your newsletter online at : [www.oxleynaturecenter.org](http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org) or; pass the hard copy along to family or friends!

## 6TH ANNUAL TULSA BUTTERFLY COUNT

Join us on **Wednesday, July 5, from 9:30 to 5:30 p.m.**



for the 32nd annual North American Butterfly Association (NABA) 4th of July Butterfly count. NABA tracks butterfly populations in Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Participants can spend part or all of the day helping spot and count butterflies at Oxley Nature Center, Redbud Valley Nature Preserve, or Stuart Park.

No previous experience is necessary, just come help us find these beautiful insects. Call to register before June 30 and your \$3 fee will be paid. You will be contributing to the collection of vital scientific data, as well as spending a summer day learning more about butterflies.

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### Member Support

We need your support! Members of Friends of Oxley Nature Center help support our educational programs and allow us to protect and improve the habitat for wildlife and plants at Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve.

Members participate in our programs for free or for a reduced rate, get into Mohawk Park free year round, receive a discount at The Nature Store, and are invited to members only events like our annual fall hayride and cookout. Join us today!

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