



# Oxley Nature Center

March/April, 2007

Volume 168

**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 ♿  
-Please register 48 hours in advance unless otherwise stated.

## Holiday Closings:

Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve will be closed: Friday, April 6.

## Oxley Nature Center:

-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, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. only. Hiking after these hours is not allowed. Closed most City holidays.  
-Interpretive building will be open 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
-Redbud Valley Nature Trail will be open until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings, March 15 through May 31.

## CSI Oxley by Eddie Reese

Two weeks after a series of ice and snow storms the ground was still white. A short distance from Lake Sherry just off Blue Heron Trail a grisly scene was discovered.

Early that Saturday morning a group of birders found fresh blood on the snow, a lot of blood. The bright red of blood was in sharp contrast to the whiteness of the snow.

It was reported that there was fur scattered everywhere, on the trail and off into the woods. Other evidence, internal organs, were present, but no carcass or bones could be found.

What happened? Everyone wanted to know. What kind of animal was it? The naturalist with the group determined that the fur was that of a white-tailed deer. Something or someone had killed a deer in the nature center.

Was this a crime scene? Was an investigation in order? A lot of questions needed to be asked and answered to determine that.

Another group of people on a full moon walk had passed that area the night before at approximately 8:00 p.m. They had seen nothing. So, this event occurred somewhere between 8:00 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. the following morning when the birders discovered the scene.

At first, speculation was that a poacher killed this animal. That was a plausible explanation, but did the evidence support this conclusion?

True, no carcass was found and there was a gut pile. A poacher would have gutted the animal and carried the carcass away like any legitimate hunter would. But there was lots of fur scattered around. Most likely a poacher would not have taken the time to skin the carcass at the kill site. That chore

would have been done later just like any legitimate hunter would do.

The scene of the supposed crime was at least a mile from the nearest road. That's a long way to carry an extra 80 to 100 pounds and a weapon used in the alleged crime. There was no sign of human tracks around the kill site or on any trail leading away from the kill site.

**A closer survey of the area revealed bobcat tracks. Coyote and crow tracks were also abundant.**

So, here is a plausible explanation. There are a lot of deer in Mohawk Park. Competition for food is fairly high. There had been ice on the ground for two weeks which made food sources such as acorns, pecans, and green vegetation difficult to find. Weakened by a lack of food, a young, inexperienced doe could be easy prey for a pack of coyotes or a bobcat.

It is unclear which predator killed the deer. If the bobcat killed the deer, the coyotes scavenged the uneaten remains or maybe it was the other way around. There were lots of tracks of both. Opossums and other small animals cleaned up the rest. After two days nothing remained of the deer except small piles of scattered fur. Even that will be used in the nests of birds and rodents or decompose back into soil.

So is this a CSI? Was a crime committed? There was no sign of poaching. That's a crime. Predators most likely killed the deer. This is just another small event in a long and intertwined series of events that make up a complex ecosystem.



So now you have the facts. **You** be the Nature Detective. What if you were the investigator? What do you think happened?

# Nature Center Happenings

## Volunteer Naturalist Training



Plant some seeds for the children and nature.

One of the best things in the world is being outside on a beautiful Oklahoma spring morning! How about sharing that wonderful experience with young people? Oxley Nature Center is able to present award-winning environmental education programs to many of our local schools with the aid of trained volunteer naturalists. A six-part training session begins March 6th or 7th, and meets two mornings a week to provide the new recruit with a familiarity of Oxley's trails and habitats as well as interpretation skills. After graduating on March 29th or 30th, volunteer naturalists work one morning each week during April and May. Please call for more information about joining our dedicated team of volunteer naturalists: 669-6644.

\$2 for general public, free for members

## Kid's Saturday Programs

Please register in advance, all &

### Discovery Club (Ages 3-5)

Each child accompanied by an adult, please

### Adventure Club (Ages 6-8)

Kids only, please

**March 17, "The Sun is my Favorite Star"**  
**10:00-11:30** In spring we have warmer weather and longer days. Let's play around with the lengthening shadows.

**March 17, 10:00-11:30 "The Hole Story"**  
We can learn how to "read" some of the stories that holes have to tell when we know what to look for.

**April 21, 10:00-11:30 "Worms, Snails, and Me"**  
Animals get from one place to another in many different ways. What are some methods of animal movement?

**April 21, 10:00-11:30 "Business of Birds"**  
Let's imitate birds by finding things to recycle by molding or weaving them into nests.

\$2 for general public, free for members

## Full Moon Walks

Registration required, all ages, &

### "Full Worm Moon"



**Saturday, March 3, 7:30-8:30 p.m.**  
The ground has begun to thaw, signaling the end of winter. A total lunar eclipse will occur as this moon rises. Attend the astronomy program and then join us to explore the trails in moonlight. Please register.

### "Full Pink Moon"

**Monday, April 2, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**  
This is the first full moon of the spring season. Fish begin spawning and early wildflowers are in bloom. Join us to experience a chorus of amorous frogs and the scent of fresh green growth, maybe onions!

## ★★★★ Astronomy Programs ★★★★★

### **Saturday, March 3, "Bad Moon Rising - a Lunar Eclipse Watch" 5:30-9:00 p.m.**

The Tulsa Air and Space Museum, the Astronomy Club of Tulsa, and Oxley Nature Center are sponsoring a viewing of the eclipsed moon rising over Tulsa. Bring the family to watch the moon emerge from the earth's shadow as it rises. Join us at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum where telescopes will be available to view this phenomenon. There is no fee, but donations are accepted. Dress warmly, and bring binoculars if you have them.

### **Friday, April 20, "Coyote's Eyeball" 8:30-9:30 p.m.**

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

Arcturus is one of the brightest of the spring stars and has given people many interesting things to think about over the years. We'll learn how to recognize it whenever it is up in the night sky.

**Dress warmly, bring binoculars if you have them, and something to sit on.**

**Meet on the east side of Lake Yahola, above the circle drive.**

# Programs and Special Events

## March

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

Spring is arriving along with migrating songbirds. Courtship behavior is in full swing. Join us at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

**4 "Field Sketching"**      Ages: All, &  
Sunday      10:00-12:00 noon  
\$2 for general public      free for members

Learn to draw nature and document what you see. Bring paper or a sketch book and pencils and join us at Oxley. All skill levels are welcome.

**10 "Butterflies"**      Ages: All, &  
Saturday      10:30-12:00 noon  
Free      registration not required

Butterfly watching is a wonderful hobby. We will watch an introductory power point presentation before going outside to look for butterflies. Meet at Oxley.

**11 "What's That Leaf?"**      Ages: All, &  
Sunday      2:00-3:30 p.m.  
\$2 for general public      free for members

Do you ever wonder what kind of tree leaves grow at Oxley? Join a naturalist to test our new tree ID book.

**18 "Seasonal Sounds"**      Ages: All  
Sunday      3:00-4:30 p.m.  
\$2 for general public      free for members

The sounds we hear as we walk along the trail at Redbud Valley are changing along with the season. We'll listen for the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

**24 "Wildflowers"**      Ages: All  
Saturday      10:00-12:00 noon  
Free      no registration required

Redbuds, Dutchman's Britches, False Rue Anemone, and ragwort will be gracing the trails at Redbud Valley.

**25 "Spring Fever"**      Ages: All, &  
Sunday      2:00-3:30 p.m.  
\$2 for general public      free for members

Is it real and are you catching it? Let's see what else is "awakening" along the trails at Oxley.

## April

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

The Parula, Prothonotary, and Common Yellowthroated Warblers are arriving daily. Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

**14 "Butterflies"**      Ages: All, &  
Saturday      10:30-12:00 noon  
Free      registration not required

Eastern Tailed-blues, Red-banded Hairstreaks, and Pearl Crescents will be searching for nectar and host plants to lay their eggs on. Join us at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

**15 "Nature Printing"**      Ages: 14 to Adult, &  
Sunday      2:00-4:00 p.m.  
\$7 for general public      \$5 for members

Delve into the art of nature printing. We will gather material along the trail and use it to create designs on paper. We will then each make a book to take home. This project would make a great Mothers Day gift!

**28 "Wildflowers"**      Ages: All &  
Saturday      10:00-12:00 noon  
Free      no registration required

Spring rains will sprinkle the forests and prairie edge with wildflowers. Some of these are edible, some are very small, and some are very fragrant. Join us at Oxley to see these and perhaps even the elusive Green Dragon!



**29 "Touch-n-Feel"**      Ages: All, &  
Sunday      1:00-3:00 p.m.  
\$2 for general public      free for members

Bring your youngster to experience the wonders of nature through the sense of touch. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at Oxley.

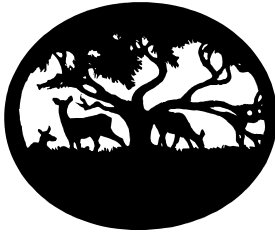
**Please register two days in advance of classes unless stated otherwise.**

**Spring is a time to celebrate renewal** and the beginning of a new cycle of growth. Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve offer a wonderful opportunity to explore nature in all its intricacies.

Experience the trails on a solitary walk, or share the discovery of the first Trout Lilies with your family or friends. Join us on a Full Moon Walk to hear the amorous songs of male frogs, or see the bats at dusk in their erratic flight snacking on insects.

Participate in some of our classes, which offer a range of different experiences. There is something for everyone.

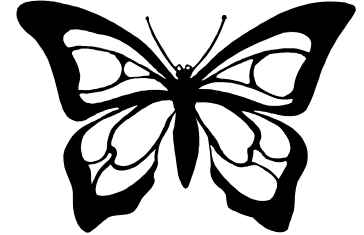
**We hope to see you this spring!**



## 2nd Annual Early Spring Butterfly Count

Become a citizen scientist! Join us at Oxley to spot, count, tally, and/or identify butterflies. Information from this spring count will be used to supplement the NABA Summer Butterfly Count held annually in July.

Last year 27 participants counted 1504 butterflies of 42 different species.



Date: Saturday, April 14

Time: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(Participate in all or part of the count)

Please call and register in advance. We will divide you into groups to count in different areas.

No experience is necessary. Learn as you spend a spring day in the outdoors. Bring binoculars if you have them.

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