



Oxley Nature Center

September/October, 2007

Volume 171

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 ♿
-Register 48 hours in advance unless otherwise stated.

Mohawk Park Fee:

From April 1 to October 31, a \$2 fee per car will be charged on weekends between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Members of Oxley Nature Center and the Tulsa Zoo will get in free.

-Holiday Closing:

Monday, September 3.

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.

Come visit us!

Metamorphosis, Adaptation, Change, ...It's All Good by Eddie Reese

Over thirty years ago a group of Tulsans had a vision of the future. They saw a future need and went to work to make sure that need was met. That was the beginning of Oxley Nature Center. Since that time thousands of children have had guided interpretive nature tours. Thousands of people have walked the nature center trails, added new birds to their life list, saw their first deer track, or just enjoyed the solitude of a shady wooded trail. Others have learned a new hobby; such as making pine needle baskets or star watching or making a cedar flute. The list of "firsts" is long and varied.

Now it is time for another new "first. The Oxley-Yetter Interpretive Building will experience its first major renovation. Already the old rotten cedar siding has been replaced with new siding that will never rot. It is the first time anyone can remember that the roof has not leaked when it rained. We retired the stack of buckets we kept on hand all these years. This fall, the interior of the building will be renovated. For the first time there will be adequate office space.

The public spaces will be larger and more family friendly. The Oxley Nature Center Association is in the middle of a fund raising campaign to fill the exhibit hall with all new exhibits. The design plan is exciting and interactive. It is colorful and informative. It is going to be a lot of fun. We all have a lot to be thankful for and there are a lot of folks to thank. Without their efforts these improvements would not happen.



What does this mean to you?

We expect the **Oxley Interpretive Building** to be **closed** beginning November 1. It will remain closed for several months for renovations to take place. The **parking lot** will still be **open** from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily except city holidays. Trail maps and portajohns will be available.

Scheduled school tours will proceed as normal, as will Full Moon Walks, First Saturday Morning Birding, and other programs UNLESS stated otherwise in the newsletter. There will be no Kid's Saturday Program or Junior Naturalist in November. These will resume December-May at the Helmerich Discovery Center at the Tulsa Zoo.

Staff will office in the old Mohawk Park Store located northeast of the Zoo parking lot. The building is small and will not be open to the public, but we are close by! Please call us if you have any questions and be sure and check our website and your newsletter for current information. Thank you in advance for your patience in making this transition with us! We know the future is bringing us exciting new things.

Nature Center Happenings

Do You Enjoy Children and Nature? Sign Up For Our Volunteer Training Now!

Are you still curious about the marvelous wonders of nature? Do you enjoy being out of doors exploring in the forests and fields and wetlands. The oppressive heat of summer is tapering off, and the natural areas beckon.

Children have returned to their classrooms, but on special occasions, they are treated to a visit to Oxley. This may be their first exposure to raccoon tracks around the marsh, whirlygig beetles on the creek, whispering cottonwoods, and a fox den beneath the grapevines.

Are you willing to lead a group of them on this adventure? Together there will be many new and exciting things to discover! You can sign up for our fall training program.

This four week program begins September 4 or 5 and ends September 27 or 28. Training sessions are two days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Training will familiarize you with our varied trail system and its natural communities.

Following training, volunteer naturalists act as guides for a small group of children for an hour or two one day a week from October through November. No previous experience is necessary, just a sense of enthusiasm and a desire to share nature with children. If you are 18 years of age or older, contact us now!



\$2 for general public, free for members

Kid's Saturday Programs

Please register in advance, all &

September 8, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

October 13, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Discovery Club (Ages 3-5)

Each child accompanied by an adult, please

“Things With Wings” Do you ever wish you could fly? Birds, Bats, and insects have the right body parts to do it. Let’s find out more about these things with wings.

Adventure Club (Ages 6-8) Kid’s only, please

“Web Weavings” Who are some of the wonderful weavers of webs? Birds, spiders, and humans all have a talent for this useful art form.

Junior Naturalist (Ages 9-11) Kid’s only, please

“Gardening for Wildlife” We will explore our new habitat garden in its beginning stages. We will learn why habitat gardens are important and the role that we can play in helping to preserve native species.

Discovery Club (Ages 3-5)

Each child accompanied by an adult, please

“Changing Weather” Can we learn how to “read” changes in the weather by paying close attention to the living things around us?

Adventure Club (Ages 6-8) Kid’s only, please

“Spiders Spin” Do all spiders make webs? Let’s look along the trails and see how many different spiders and webs we can find.

Junior Naturalist (Ages 9-11) Kid’s only, please

“Feeding Birds” Birds are intriguing creatures to watch. We’ll identify some of our common feeder birds and learn how to make a feeding station to attract them to our homes for our enjoyment.



Astronomy Programs

\$2 for general public, free to members, registration required, open to all ages, &
Bring binoculars if you have them and meet at Oxley’s Interpretive Building

Sunday, September 2, **“Star Maps for Beginners”** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Sunset: 7:50 p.m. Moonrise: 10:56 p.m.
Make a star wheel that you can use as the sun sets a little earlier each week. You will have a few stars to find by the time the program ends.

Wednesday, October 17, **“Star Clocks”** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Sunset: 6:45 p.m. Moonrise: 10:58 p.m.
Do you get up in the middle of the night and wonder what time it is? We will make a star clock. Look out the window. Maybe the stars can tell you!

Programs and Special Events

September

1 "Saturday Morning Birding" **Ages: All, &**
Saturday **8:00-9:45 a.m.**
Free **registration not required**
Many birds are preparing for their move South. Others are feasting on fall fruits. Join us at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

1 "Search for Autumn" **Ages: All**
Saturday **8:30-10:30 a.m.**
\$2 for general public **Free for members**
We'll hike the trail at Redbud Valley looking for, listening to, smelling, and maybe even tasting the changing of the season.

8 "Butterflies" **Ages: All, &**
Saturday **10:30-12:00 noon**
Free **registration not required**
Monarchs are beginning to migrate. Swallowtails, hairstreaks and fritillaries are also abundant. Bring binoculars if you have them, and meet us at Oxley.

15 "Tree Leaf ID" **Ages: All, &**
Saturday **10:30-12:00 noon**
\$2 for general public **Free for members**
Do you ever wonder what kind of tree leaves grow at Oxley? Join us to try out our new Tree Leaf ID booklet.

16 "Amazing Invertebrates " **Ages: All, &**
Sunday **1:00-2:30 p.m.**
\$2 for general public **Free for members**
Meet at Oxley to discover some of the amazing adaptations invertebrates have developed to survive in their habitat.

22 "Wildflower Walk" **Ages: All, &**
Saturday **10:30-12:00 noon**
Free **no registration required**
Wildflowers brighten the prairie, attracting steady streams of butterflies to their nectar stores. Join us at Oxley to watch the flowers come alive.

23 "Natural Hangers" **Ages: 8 to Adult, &**
Sunday **2:00-3:00 p.m.**
\$4 for general public **\$2 for members**
We will use an old wire hanger and spice it up to give your closet something to be proud of. Meet at Oxley.

30 "Soap Making" **Ages: 18 to Adult, &**
Sunday **2:00-4:00 p.m.**
\$20 for general public **\$15 for members**
Come experience soap making the old fashioned way. We will use fats and lye for the base, and each participant may customize their soap for their own purpose. Meet at Oxley.

October

6 "Saturday Morning Birding" **Ages: All, &**
Saturday **8:00-9:45 a.m.**
Free **registration not required**
Along the Lake Trail alone were 25 Brown Thrashers and many Yellow-shafted Flickers. Two kettles of hawks were spotted overhead (Oxley Redbook, 1998). Meet at Oxley, bring binoculars if you have them, and we'll see what we find this year.

7 "Capturing Wild Sourdough Starter" **Ages: All, &**
Sunday **2:00-4:30 p.m.**
\$2 for general public **Free for members**
Learn to recognize a wild yeast. Find out how to use it to make a distinctively flavored bread. Bring a quart jar and lid or a stoneware crock with snap lid (we may have a limited number of crocks to purchase). Meet at Oxley.

13 "Butterflies" **Ages: All, &**
Saturday **10:30-12:00 noon**
Free **registration not required**
The prairie should be full of Painted Ladies, Anglewings, Sulphurs and Swallowtails. Join us to learn more and bring binoculars if you have them.

20 "Make a Bamboo Flute" **Ages: 10 to Adult, &**
Saturday **10:00-12:00 noon**
\$5 for general public **\$2 for members**
Would you like to make music on an instrument of your own making? Join us at Oxley to make a simple flute out of bamboo.

21 "Fun with Felting" **Ages: 16 to Adult, &**
Sunday **2:00-3:30 p.m.**
\$10 for general public **\$7 for members**
What do you get when you take very hot water, soap suds, and llama wool and work the fibers together vigorously? You will have a piece of felt that you can turn into a creative work of art. Join us at Oxley and bring your imagination.

27 "Wildflower Walk" **Ages: All, &**
Saturday **10:30-12:00 noon**
Free **no registration required**
The prairie grasses are taking on color. Along the edge, and in the forest, the red of Virginia Creeper stands out, while the red maroon-purple of the ash is more subtle. Join us at Oxley to enjoy the color.

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

Full Moon Walks

“Full Harvest Moon”

Wednesday, September 26, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Gather family and friends together to explore the trails at Oxley. This is the season to receive the rewards of summer. Harvest some new memories as we listen for owls, watch for bats, and discover the unexpected!



“Full Hunter’s Moon”

Friday, October 26, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

The Hunter’s Moon—a time to seek, to go in search of—a quest. What can we find if we move quietly along the trails as the moon rises. Are other things hunting at this time also? Join us at Oxley to find out.

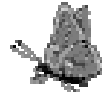
**Registration required,
general public \$2, free for members, all ages, &**

Fall Butterfly Count

Join us at Oxley on Saturday, September 29 to spot, count, tally, and/or identify butterflies. Information gathered will be used to supplement the data collected last April during our Spring Count and in July during the annual NABA Summer Butterfly Count.



With each successive count we are raising public awareness and increasing both participation in counts and local interest in butterflies. Each count teaches us a little bit more about these beautiful insects and the habitats they occupy.



Date: Saturday, September 29
(Participate in all or part of the count)

****Please call for times and to register in advance.** No experience is necessary. You will work in teams with experienced naturalists counting in different target areas. We need many sets of eyes and pointer fingers. Join us to learn and have fun!

The U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap in its federally-assisted programs and activities. If anyone believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with our department or the Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.
