



Oxley Nature Center

July/August, 2009

Volume 182

Mohawk Park charges a \$2 fee per car on weekends April through October for non-members.

Oxley Nature Center:

-The Interpretive Building will be open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon- 4:30 p.m.

-Gate and parking lot is open daily, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. except most City holidays.
-Hiking trails are accessible during Mohawk Park hours, 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Redbud Valley Nature Preserve is closed:

all Mondays and Tuesdays.
-Open Wednesday through Sunday, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. only. Hiking after these hours is not allowed.
-Interpretive building is open Wednesday through Sunday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
-Closed most City holidays,

Holiday Closings for Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

Saturday, July 4.

Program information 918-669-6644

-Oxley@cityoftulsa.org
-Website at "http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org".

**** Please register for classes 48 hours in advance unless otherwise stated.**

-Some classes require supplies and allow limited enrollment.
-Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult unless otherwise stated.
-Most programs are stroller/wheelchair accessible.

Planting Seeds in Fertile Ground by Amy Morris

Any day you plant a seed is a good day.

It is dark, the night lit by the occasional firefly, as I water in the seeds I hope will grow into large bushel gourds. These in turn will become something else, perhaps an heirloom vessel to pass down to a great, great grandchild living in some future time; a connection to now, a connection to family and place.

Seeds are magical vessels containing life. They lie there, dormant, filled with a code, a message, a design for the future. They require proper conditions to break dormancy, to begin to unfurl, to reach for the light. Then, given proper nurturing and care, they grow.

There are seeds of many kinds. In June, teachers from several schools across the state, representing grades Pre-K through 9th, participated in activities funded by a grant from The National Science Foundation and Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education, procured by The University of Tulsa. Several non-profit organizations (Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa Community College, Oklahoma Aquarium, Oxley Nature Center, Tulsa Air and Space Museum, Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum, and TU University School) worked together to provide staff, facilities and supplies to "teach the teachers" about just how SENSE-sational science can be! State PASS standards were addressed in workshop programs.

This is the second year Oxley has participated in the teacher workshop. At our facility teachers were introduced to the concept of time and space through the use of sundials, journaling, map and compass, orienteering, solar system, and water quality using water testing and biotic index.

The goal was to provide teachers with fresh resources, references, and ideas they could take back to their classrooms and put to use with their students, colleagues, and administrators. Since teaching is often a two-way street, we also benefited from the plethora of ideas, like seeds with wings, dispersed by the energy in the room.

Sometimes idea/seeds are immediately apparent, pushing up through the consciousness as they settle on fertile ground. Sometimes they are planted more deeply, working their way to the surface when the time is right. In any case, they are truly magical, and any day you plant a seed, it is an investment in the future, and that makes it a good day!

Nature Center Happenings

4th of July North American Butterfly Count

You Can Be a Citizen Scientist!

Join us at Oxley July 7th to spot, count, tally, and identify butterflies. Information gathered will be used to supplement the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Summer Butterfly Count held annually in June and July.

We can all become citizen scientists by participating in local counts, thereby increasing our knowledge. This helps to raise public awareness and contributes valuable data about butterfly populations. Get involved!

Date: Tuesday, July 7

Time: 8:30 a.m. until dusk

(You may participate in all or part of the count)
Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and bug spray.

Please call and **register in advance. The \$3 fee will be waived if you register before July 2.
No experience is necessary. You'll work in teams with experienced naturalists counting in different areas.

Heritage Days at Oxley Nature Center

In August Oxley Nature center will be 35 years old, and **Tulsa Parks will celebrate its centennial!** It was August 1, 1974, when the Tulsa Park Board acted to set aside land to create a Nature Center in Mohawk Park.

Join us Saturday, August 8 and Sunday, August 9 as Oxley Nature Center hosts a series of special workshops featuring old-timey skills and fun from a hundred years ago. Do you have a family member who was growing up during those early years or know someone that remembers that time?

Some skills our ancestors had were necessary for day to day survival or thrift. Fashioning homemade tools using a shaving horse, spinning wool, making soap, and canning food were important everyday skills.

After schooling and chores children played all sorts of "pioneer games". Adults also found ways to have fun. Join us to experience first hand what happened in the not so distant past. Call 918-669-6644 for information.

Summer Astronomy Program "Jupiter"



Bring lawn chairs and binoculars if you have them and join us to take a tour of the night sky. The Nature Center's telescope will be aimed at the giant planet Jupiter.

Date: Thursday, August 27 (clouds permitting)

Time: 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Place: Wright Park, 437 S. 137 E. Ave.

\$ 2 fee for non members, free for members

** Please register in advance



Evening Full Moon Walks

\$2 general public, members free. Register in advance, all ages

Full Buck Moon

Thursday, July 9, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Bucks begin to grow new antlers at this time. Join us on the trails at Oxley and we'll see if we can find some of the new fawns born earlier this summer. What other creatures of the night can we find?



Full Grain Moon

Thursday, August 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Are the wild grains ready to harvest now? What animals eat at this table of plenty? Small mammals and birds rustle around in the tall grasses. Join us at Oxley to explore with all our senses.

Programs and Special Events

July

4 "Saturday Morning Birding" Ages: All
Saturday 8:00-9:45 a.m.
Free registration not required

Meet outside of Oxley's gate and bring binoculars if you have them. We will explore a new area in Mohawk Park for birds.

11 "A Day in the Life of a Beaver" Ages: All
Saturday 8:30-10:30 a.m.
\$2 for general public Free for members

What impact did the beaver have in the settling of the American West? We will learn how their natural history, food sources, and dam building energized early explorers. Meet at Oxley.

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

Join us at Oxley to see how many different kinds of butterflies we can find. Bring binoculars if you have them.

19 "Mud Bugs" Ages: 3-5 each accompanied by adult
Sunday 2:00-3:30 p.m.
\$2 for general public Free for members



We're going to explore a wetland with all our senses. Come prepared to get wet and muddy (bring a change of clothes along with you). Meet at Oxley.

25 "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

What flowers are blooming at Redbud Valley Nature Preserve? This walk is not wheelchair or stroller accessible.

26 "Felting for Fun" Ages: 16 to adult
Sunday 12:30-4:00 p.m.
\$20 for general public \$15 for members

Discover the joy of working with wool to felt a finished project you can embellish as you like. Bring your creativity and a sense of fun. We may be stomping on it barefoot to remove excess water! Meet at Oxley.

August

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

On a dog-day in August the birds will be active early. Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

8 & 9 "Heritage Days" Ages: All
Saturday and Sunday Oxley Nature Center

Visit our Website at "<http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org>". for more information or call 669-6644 to request a registration packet.

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

Join us at Oxley to see what the butterflies are nectaring on. Bring binoculars if you have them.

16 "Mud Bugs" Ages: 3-5 each accompanied by adult
Sunday 2:00-3:30 p.m.
\$2 for general public Free for members

We're going to explore a wetland with all our senses. Come prepared to get wet and muddy (bring a change of clothes along with you). Meet at Oxley.

22 "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

How is the plant life surviving the summer heat? We'll look at some adaptations plants have. Meet at Oxley.

23 "Backyard Wildlife" Ages: All
Sunday 1:00-2:30 p.m.
\$2 for general public Free for members

Learn how to attract wildlife to your yard. We will discuss the necessary components of cover, food and water. Meet at Oxley.

29 "Dragonflies at a Glance" Ages: All
Saturday 11:00-12:00 noon
\$2 for general public Free for members

Join us at Oxley to watch these predators in action as they patrol their territories with their amazing flying abilities.

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

Growing Pains

by Amy Morris

Snakes do it, taking it all off at one time and in one piece (eyelids included) like turning an old stocking inside out. Some terrestrial arthropods literally burst out of their old exoskeleton, or cuticle, through their thorax, leaving behind a ghostly skin grown too small for comfort.

Have you ever found remnant clues of growth: an old snake shed, or the molted shell of a Dog-day Cicada nymph clinging eerily beneath a leaf? What about the leggy remains of an eight-legged spider discarded in an old web? Signs of growth are everywhere!

Late in June sycamores line up along Bird Creek like an army of mottled white giants. Some of the trunks are five feet in diameter! Allow your gaze to follow a trunk way, way up into the canopy, where you'll see smaller secondary branches dressed in a flush of new green growth, burnished in the woodland light.

Here the limbs seem to stretch and flex, shedding their outer layers and littering the forest floor below with thin flakes of curled bark in unique colors, textures and shapes. Where they have fallen, one can imagine floating a boat-shaped piece downstream, or scratching secret messages onto the gently curved inner surface.

Mysterious things happen in a bottomland forest. Things change and grow and leave behind clues. Come out and watch the progression of the myriad little miracles of life. More answers lead to more questions, and before you know it, you'll have some wonderful growing pains yourself! Nothing could be sweeter than that.



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On May 21, 2009, Oxley Nature Center launched BioF.A.D., a new curriculum designed to give 6th -8th graders the opportunity of be **Biologists For A Day**. Here students are dip netting to determine biodiversity of the area. If you are interested in getting your students involved in this program, please call.

