



Oxley Nature Center

May/June, 2010

Volume 187

A \$2 fee per car (for non-members) is charged on weekends April - October to enter Mohawk Park.

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, 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.

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

Monday, May 31.

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.

The Butterfly Connection by Eddie Reese

The results are in for the 2009 North American Butterfly Associations annual butterfly count. North America in this survey includes Mexico, United States and Canada. Hundreds of people, mostly volunteers who paid a small fee, participated in this huge undertaking.

Tulsa, Oklahoma did very well in the event. We had the highest number of observers of all the sites with 41 in the spring count. That is the second highest of any count, ever! We had the highest number of species of all of North America in the spring count with 37 species.

There is actually more than one count per year. There are three seasonal counts, one in spring, summer and fall. The summer count is the biggest one and takes place on or near the 4th of July. This is worth mentioning when you consider that there were 434 counts all across the continent with Florida having 55 different counts and Texas and California in second and third.

Oklahoma had 9 counts yet Tulsa had the most counters and we documented more species counted than Florida, California or Texas. Ramsey Canyon, Arizona wins the jackpot with 95 species documented. Tulsa had 65 species which puts us in third place for the summer count. We also far outpaced other Oklahoma sites like Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge, Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and Great Plains State Park.

Tulsa also tied for the highest number of species counted for a spring count and 7th highest for any count. Does this sound like a competition? You bet it does. We have bragging rights over Texas in something else besides college sports. But boasting aside, why should we bother to count in the first place?

Butterflies are indicators of environmental health. They are sensitive to pollutants like insecticides and herbicides. Spraying for mosquitoes is a sure way to reduce the

butterfly population in an area. Herbicides remove the plants that they feed on.

Each butterfly species is tied to a particular plant or plant group. For example, the Monarch butterfly larvae must have milkweed plants to feed on. The Bell's Roadside Skipper's larval food is only a couple of species of grasses. Those wild violets in your yard determine whether or not we will have fritillary butterflies. If you lose the plant you lose the species.

Don't forget about nectar plants. Butterflies need an abundant source of nectar all season long to survive. Some plants bloom in spring, some in summer and some during fall. We need them all. And there are other insects that depend on those nectar sources. Remember hummingbirds and all the other pollinators.

The higher the diversity of plants you have in an area the more likely you will have a high diversity of butterflies. A high diversity of butterflies tells us that we are relatively low in pollutants and high in plant diversity. The diversity of other wildlife will be higher too because they depend on a rich and healthy habitat to live.

In 2009 Oklahoma had 144 counters in all 3 seasonal counts combined. That is a really important number. Compared to California, Texas and Florida our percentage of observers is higher than the more densely populated states that have warmer climates with more species to count in the first place. Comparatively, we have a smaller population yet Tulsa had the highest number of counters in 2009 and regularly ranks very high in that category. What does this mean?

Could this mean we have higher percentage of people in the Tulsa area that care about their environment? That we want clean air and water? That we appreciate and want to conserve our wild places? We like to think it does. We want to deserve to be called Green Country. Now that's bragging rights!

Nature Center Happenings

21 New Volunteer Staff Join Oxley Team!

Ten Volunteer Naturalists Graduate from Training Program

Our new weekday Volunteer Naturalists finished their training program and began leading 'Riddle of the Woods', General Discovery and BioF.A.D. school tours for area school children. They have been exploring the wetlands, grasslands and forests at Oxley, sharing wonderful new discoveries!

We would like to welcome:

Jeannie Graham, April Marcangeli, Tara McCall, Cyndi Park and Judy Wallis.

Our new weekend and evening Volunteer Naturalists are guiding tours for scout groups, birthday parties and night walks, as well as acting as roving naturalists. Say hello to:

Jasmine Davis, Brad Dishman, Gail Farmer, Mike Lessard, April Marcangeli and Marie Roach.

Thank you for joining our team! We hope the rewards you reap will be as plentiful and boundless as nature.

Our new Nature Store Coordinators are **Susie Ruby** and **Paula Schumann**. They have been busy training staff and volunteers on the new cash register as well as stocking the store and managing the monthly report.

Kurtis Keener is our new Visitor Center Host and **Laurie Ribitzki** is our grant writer and gardener. Volunteers **Carol Eames, Rusty Grimpe** and **Jim Thayer** have been working on a plan for the new Pollinator Garden. Former staff member **Julie Monnot** has been helping out in various capacities. **Ann Burney** has taken on the large task as coordinator of Oxley's Traveling Exhibit.

Eight Tulsa Area Geocachers joined our Trail work crew when they adopted the North Woods Trail. This crew has added new geocaches, built a bridge, and improved the trail. Thank you to:

Dorothy Beckwell, Ann Burney, Debbie Chavez, Ashlee Jeffers, Robbie Mathes, Jeff Penn and Lynn and Keith Richardson!

We could NOT do this without YOU!

Family Adventures and Discoveries Programs

\$2 fee for general public, free for members, *** Please register in advance. Meet at Oxley.

Family Adventures: "The Hole Story"

Saturday, May 8, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

What can we know without going inside? Up in the trees or down in the ground, holes are mysterious. Let's check some out!

Family Discoveries: "Are You My Mother?"

Sunday, May 9, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

What can we learn about different animal families? Some mothers lay their eggs in soil and some lay eggs in water or nests. Some don't lay eggs at all! Let's find out about different types of mothers.

Family Adventures: "Let's Go Fishing"

Saturday, June 12, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

--not with hooks -- with nets! What creatures might be lurking in our water? We will find what swims, squirms and wiggles about!

Family Discoveries: "Flower Bookmarks"

Sunday, June 13, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Have you ever pressed flowers? We will take a wildflower walk to see what's in bloom and select a few special blossoms to put in our flower press. Then we'll use some already dried flowers to create a beautiful bookmark.

Evening Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

\$2 for general public, free for members, all ages. *** Please register in advance ***

Full Mother's Moon

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

The longer days of late spring and summer will find us prowling the trails at dusk. This is a time of growth and renewal. Will mothers be out and about with their young? Let's make tracks and find out.



Full Honey Moon

Friday, June 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Plentiful rain and sun results in an abundance of wildflowers. Honeybees and other pollinators are busy this time of year. Who is busy in the evening as the moon begins to rise?

Programs and Special Events

May

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

May brings sightings of Summer Tanagers, Indigo Buntings and a wonderful variety of warblers! Join us at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

15 “Butterfly Walk” Ages: All
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

What will be flying today? It could be a day of Great Spangled Fritillaries, Monarchs and Red-Spotted Purples! Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

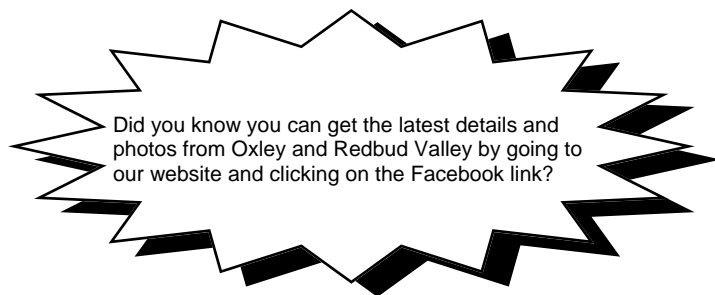
22 “Botany Walk” Ages: All
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

The fragrant Common Milkweed may be blooming in the prairie. Butterflies, bees and other pollinators are attracted to it and other flowers now blooming. Come see all the activity occurring with this burst of growth. Meet at Oxley.

29 “Afternoon in the North Woods” Ages: All
Saturday 4:30-7:30 p.m.
\$2 for general public Free for members

The North Woods is one of the wildest parts of the Nature Center. Be prepared to walk about 2 miles. This trail is not handicap or stroller accessible. Meet at the North Woods trailhead.

➔ Oxley Nature Center is now on Facebook!



****Please register 48 hours in advance of classes unless stated otherwise. A minimum of 6 registrants is required.**

June

4 “Traditional Tanning” Ages: 16 to Adult
Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
\$25 for general public \$20 for members

This hands on demonstration covers brain tanning method using natural materials. The method can be used for hair on or off for buckskin. Bring a lunch and meet at Oxley.

5 “Saturday Morning Birding” Ages: All
Saturday 8:00-9:45 a.m.
Free registration not required

What will we find this fine June morning? Many of the courting songs have quieted as birds have gone to nesting. Let's explore at Oxley. Bring binoculars if you have them.

5 “Songs of Nature” Ages: All
Saturday 9:00-11:00 a.m.
\$2 for general public Free for members

Come hike and listen to nature's varied songs by frogs, birds and everything else. Meet at Redbud Valley. This hike is not wheelchair accessible.

19 “Butterfly Walk” Ages: All
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

As the weather warms up, so does the butterfly activity! Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

26 “Botany Walk” Ages: All
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

Where would our wildflowers and fruiting trees and shrubs be without pollinators to help spread their pollen? Come along let's check out the buzz of activity at Oxley.

26 “Pollinator Party!” Ages: All
Saturday 10:30-4:00 p.m.
Most events are free registration not required

Join us to celebrate National Pollinator Week! Come dressed as your favorite pollinator and win a prize. Make a take-home bee habitat for your garden. See some samples of the many foods we depend on pollinators for. Find out what kind of plants you can grow to attract pollinators to your garden! Check our website or facebook or call for more information!

Our Future Flies on the Wings of Pollinators

Join us at Oxley to celebrate National Pollinator Week, June 21-27. During this week we'll have special exhibits and handouts available. Drop in and visit our gardens and meet some pollinators.

Special Scheduled Events include:

Friday, June 25, Full Honey Moon Walk, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

You must pre-register, Fee is \$2 per person for non-members.

Friday, June 25, Black Lighting for Moths and Beetles
8:30-10:30 p.m. On the deck at Oxley.

Saturday, June 26: Best Costume Contest! Come dressed as your favorite bee, beetle, bat or butterfly! Prizes will be awarded in each different age category.

Make and Take Bee Habitat: Make a simple wooden solitary bee habitat for your garden; improve your harvest!

Important Bites: Find out the **foods** we depend on our pollinators for. Where would we be without nuts, chocolate, coffee, spices, vegetables and fruits? ... Hungry!

Face Painting! Add a butterfly to your cheek! Here's a question — what colors attract different pollinators?

For further details please call or check our website or facebook page!

4th of July North American Butterfly Count

You Can Be a Citizen Scientist!

Join us at Oxley on Tuesday, July 6th to spot, count, tally and identify butterflies. Information gathered is used to supplement the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Summer Butterfly Count held annually in June and July.

Citizen scientists participate in local counts, increase their own knowledge, raise public awareness and contribute valuable data about butterfly populations.

We will meet at **8:30 a.m.** and count until dusk. You are welcome to participate in all or part of the count. Bring a lunch, water, hat and binoculars if you have them. Meet at the picnic shelter at Oxley Nature Center.

No experience is necessary. You'll work in teams with experienced naturalists counting in different areas.

Please call and register in advance so teams can be assembled! The \$3 fee will be waived if you register by July 2.

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