



Oxley Nature Center

May/June, 2012

Volume 209

Botanical Survey by Amy Buthold

Mohawk Park Entry Fee:

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

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. Hiking outside of 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: Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

Monday, May 28

Program information:

- 918-669-6644

- Oxley@cityoftulsa.org

- Website at "http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org"

** Register for classes 48 hours in advance unless otherwise stated. A class minimum of 6 is required.

- Some classes require supplies and allow for limited enrollment.

-Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult unless otherwise stated.

-Most programs are stroller/wheelchair accessible.

In 2010 I was fortunate enough to conduct a survey of the plants at Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley. As a botanist at the University of Oklahoma's Biological Survey, I had long been aware of the unique plants at Redbud Valley through the work of the late Dr. Paul Buck. However, I had never visited this beautiful site. Oxley, on the other hand was extremely familiar; I spent many hours on the trails as a teenager, and the Biological Survey conducted its 2005 BioBlitz! in the surrounding Mohawk Park.

What does a plant survey entail? Typically, when I survey an area, I consult a map to determine which habitat types are present at the site. I will then try to visit each unique habitat at least once a month throughout the growing season (usually March through October). I will attempt to collect at least one specimen of each kind of plant I encounter. For this project, I tried to collect two specimens of each plant; one is deposited at the Robert Bebb Herbarium at OU, and the second was prepared for the Oxley teaching collection. After collecting is complete, the plants are identified with their Latin names and a species list is generated. The lists for Oxley and Redbud Valley are too lengthy for publication here, but a brief breakdown of the findings can be found in the table below.

I also act as Oklahoma's Heritage Botanist. Heritage Programs provide information on the location and status of at-risk species and ecosystems. The Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory (<http://www.oknaturalheritage.ou.edu/>) is a unit within the Oklahoma Biological Survey and maintains lists of these rare plants and animals. A rank is given to the organism based on its rarity, trends in population size or area, and potential threats. Rare plants found at the two areas include the fewflower ticktrefoil (*Desmodium pauciflorum*), brook cinquefoil (*Potentilla rivalis*), powdery false cloak fern (*Argyrochosma dealbata*), Wister's coralroot (*Corallorhiza wisteriana*), Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), American smoke-tree (*Cotinus obovatus*), and blue ash (*Fraxinus quadragnulata*). Both the ticktrefoil and the cinquefoil from Oxley were new records for Tulsa County.

The survey added approximately 50 new species to the Redbud Valley list. Among these are the black-stem spleenwort (*Asplenium resiliens*), blacksamson echinacea (*Echinacea purpurea*) and the longleaf buckwheat (*Eriogonum longifolium*). Unfortunately, I was not able to relocate many of the plants from the old list; Donna Horton and I agree that Dr. Buck probably collected beyond the Valley boundaries. However, I do not claim that my surveys were 100% complete. For instance, I failed to collect eastern red cedar or any ferns at Oxley, and I know they are there. I will have an excuse to visit again, and I am very grateful to the Oxley staff for allowing me to do so!

	Oxley Nature Center	Redbud Valley
Ferns and allies	0	8
Gymnosperms	0	1
Monocots	83	42
Dicots	250	179
Total number of taxa	333	230
Perennials	227	174
Annuals	104	56
Biennials	2	0
Exotics	59	28
Percentage of exotic flora	17.7%	12.2%

A breakdown of my findings from Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley

Nature Center Happenings

Welcome New Volunteer Naturalists!

Congratulations to our new Volunteer Naturalists who graduated from the spring training program and are now leading school groups as they explore our nature trails:

Sarah Bridgeman, Therese Mathews ('TJ'), and Jacob Moses.

Elizabeth Clark also completed Volunteer Naturalist training. **Shamik Raje** has been assisting as a new Volunteer Visitor Center Host.

Welcome to our team and thank you for your support!

National Pollinator Week!

Where would Farmers' Markets be without our pollinators? Virtually empty!

This year Oxley is celebrating National Pollinator Week with events at the Brookside Farmers' Market on Wednesday, June 20 from 8 to 12 noon, Pearl Farmers' Market, Thursday, June 21 at Centennial Park on 6th and Peoria from 4 to 7 p.m. and Cherry Street Farmers' Market, Saturday, June 23, from 7 to 11 a.m. Come visit us at the markets, we will have something fun for you!

4th of July North American Butterfly Count

Join us at Oxley on Tuesday, July 3rd to spot, count, tally and identify butterflies. Information gathered is used to supplement the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) 4th of July 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, weather permitting. You are welcome to participate in all or part of the count. Please bring a lunch, water, hat and binoculars if you have them.

Meet at the front desk 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 Friends of Oxley will pay your \$3 count fee if you register by June 27.

2nd Saturday Family Adventures at Oxley

Saturday, May 12, 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-2:30 p.m.

"Seasons Change"

How has the meadow and forest changed since winter? Can you see, smell, and hear the change? Are there any wildflowers yet? How many of the birds are building nests and starting families? How many different kinds of animal tracks can you find? Come find out on a hike at Oxley.

Saturday, June 9, 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-2:30 p.m.

"Monarch Butterflies"

Come observe Monarch butterflies as they travel through Oklahoma. Learn about the journey these migrating insects make each year. What are the elements necessary for a successful butterfly garden? We will plant seeds of a plant for you to take home and start your own butterfly garden.

***** Free, all ages, registration not required. The same program will be offered morning and afternoon. *****

Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

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

Full Mother's Moon

Friday, May 4, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

May is a time of birth and renewal. Longer days will have us exploring trails at dusk just as some animals are becoming active. Let's go out and see what we can find!



Full Honey Moon

Saturday, June 2, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Many spring blossoms are in full flower now, and the bees are busily gathering nectar for their hives. This is a time of great activity. Join us on an evening hike to explore the mysteries of the nature center!

Programs and Special Events

May

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

Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

13 “Feathered Friends” **Ages: All**
Sunday **1:00-2:30 p.m.**
\$3 for general public **\$1 for members**

We are celebrating **International Migratory Bird Day**. Bring your family and we will look at what adaptations make birds such unique and special animals. Then you will create a bird mask to take home. Meet at Oxley.



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

Join us at Oxley for our butterfly walk. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

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

What can we find blooming along the trail. Join us at Oxley.

27 “Edible Wild Workshop, Part 1”
Ages: 12 to Adult
Sunday **1:00-3:00 p.m.**
\$15 for general public **\$12 for members**

This workshop will cover safety and conservation issues. We will focus on one preparation method, depending on what is available to harvest on that date. You will learn how to identify a target species correctly and collect enough to learn how to prepare it properly. Be ready to go outside to collect edible materials. We plan to offer Parts 2 and 3 this summer and fall. Meet at Oxley.

June

2 “Saturday Morning Birding” **Ages: All**
Saturday **8:00-9:45 p.m.**
Free **registration not required**

Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

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

Join us at Oxley for our butterfly walk. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Bring along binoculars if you have them.

23 “Wildflower Walk” **Ages: All**
Saturday **10:30-12:00 noon**
Free **registration not required**

What is blooming today? Let’s see what we can find at Oxley.

23 “Tree Discovery” **Ages: All**
Saturday **1:00-3:00 p.m.**
\$5 for general public **\$3 for members**

Learn to identify many of the trees in NE Oklahoma right here at the nature center. We will make tree id flash cards and discuss some of the folklore and natural history of each species. Meet at Oxley.

30 “The Fruits of Summer” **Ages: All**
Saturday **12:30– 2:30 p.m.**
\$5 for general public **\$3 for members**

Can you imagine homemade tin can ice cream with wild blackberries on a hot June afternoon? Our blackberry shrubs should be fruiting. It would be perfect to pick berries to add to ice cream we make using this old fashioned method. We will eat the results! Meet at Oxley.

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

Natural Babies, Natural World -- New Program!

Young children learn by actual contact with real objects, events and people. We will have a story, craft, and time on the trail to experience nature first hand. This will be a sensory experience!

The Science of Mud

Monday, May 14, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Are there different colors and types of dirt? Let's take dip nets, tubs and paper to the pond's edge and create a mud painting. After they dry, we'll look at the difference between dry and wet soil, and see what we can find where water meets dirt.

What is a Flower For?

Monday, June 11, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

There are many different flowers and they all have similar parts, just like different people have similar parts. We'll look at flowers, collect a few, and bring them back to create a new plant. We'll cut our plants into different parts and reassemble them to create our own unique flower!

**** Ages: 1 through 5 years with caregiver**

**** \$2 for general public, free for members**

**** Please register in advance, spaces are limited.**

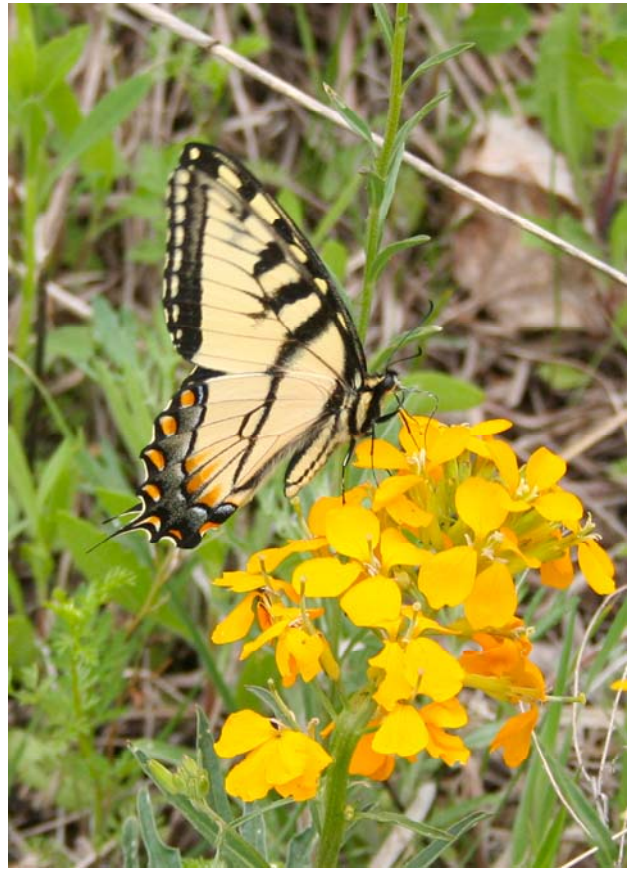


Photo by Amy Buthod, 2012

Making Your Yard Wildlife Friendly

You can attract all kinds of wildlife to your yard or balcony if you provide some basic necessities. Food, water and shelter are things all living things require to survive.

One of the most simple and rewarding ways to attract wildlife is to provide a source of water. It can be as simple as a tray of water, or as elaborate as a pond with recycled running water. Sit back and watch insects, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians come take advantage of this as they quench their thirst and splash and bathe.

Plant trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers that will support our native wildlife. Whenever possible, this means choosing native species. Your plantings may provide shelter, nectar, food as a host plant for herbivores, fruit for birds, mammals and reptiles, and natural beauty.

In May, Oxley Nature Center will have a booth at the 19th Annual Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour and Plant Sale sponsored by the Tulsa Audubon Society. Stop by and visit with Oxley Nature Center staff at one of the featured gardens. Bring any questions you may have about enticing birds, bees, bats and butterflies to visit your garden. Learn what you should plant in sun or shade. What can you plant that will require less watering this summer. Come visit us and start your garden! Native plant vendors will be featured at the gardens with their wonderful plants.

The tour dates are:

Saturday, May 19, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 20, 12 noon-5:00 p.m.

For Garden tour map and information: www.tulsaaudubon.org

