



Oxley Nature Center

July/August, 2012

Volume 210

Sustainability: Every Day Choices by Donna Horton

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:

** **Wednesday, July 4**

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.

"Liberty, Equality, Fraternity."

"Patriotism." "Freedom." These simple words, loaded with big ideas and alive with emotion have accomplished great things. "Ecology." "Conservation."

"Environment." When I first met these words, I thought they were also simple words for crusaders and world-changers.

What a let-down it was (at first!) to find out that college classes on ecology and conservation and environmental science had more in common with statistics and economics than with cleaning up creeks and saving the world. It took a while to understand that things are not black or white, good or bad, my way or your way. Every choice may involve complex sets of issues with positive and negative consequences. I am not so sure any more that "compromise" is the filthy word I once thought it was.

Some college classes were dry as dust and others were full of new ideas that made me think and re-think. All taught me that activism without the foundations and continual input of science and research has no integrity. It becomes unsustainable.

This country's founders hoped for an informed people actively participating in their government. In a similar way, the twentieth century's environmental activists wanted to engage and involve the average citizen. The slogan was "Earth Day Every Day."

Did we make it? In some ways, I have to say, "No." Every year we see a greater percentage of visitors that have obviously spent more time sitting inside than they have running and playing outside. However, many of them like the idea of "nature," and would like to do something to help. For the most part, their experience tends to be more based on what they saw on television or a computer screen than on what they have actually done. That's a shame. We need to work on that.

In other ways, though, the environmental movement is very much a success. I remember life before the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act and before the Endangered Species Act. Believe me, it may not be perfect, but it is much, much better. We may not have made it, but we are getting there.

And now the big idea in a simple word is "Sustainability." How can we all live together in this world without stripping it bare? What level of lifestyle is sustainable for 7 (soon to be 8) billion people? Can the whole world live like Americans? What does it mean, "to live like an American?"

Each one of us must decide that for ourselves, every day. What will I do today? What will you do? It all adds up. It all counts.

"We are our choices."
-Jean-Paul Sartre

Nature Center Happenings

Volunteer Staff Awards Dinner and Celebration

Volunteer staff, families, friends, and Oxley staff celebrated the spring season with an awards dinner on May 24. We gathered together to honor all our volunteer staff and share a meal of barbecue (compliments of ONCA) and potluck dishes. We all enjoy this time to get together and visit with one another.

Several volunteers reached significant milestones:

3 Year Award: **Mary Coley, Bob Hooper, Judy Wallis**
25 Year Award: **Jacques LaFrance**
Outstanding Volunteer: **Susie Ruby**

5 Year Award: **Susan Carr**
30 Year Award: **Len Eames**

Our volunteer staff serves Oxley Nature in many capacities. With their dedication and enthusiasm, we are able to maintain our trails and acreage, reach a large public with programs, and so much more.

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Thank you so much!

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, July 14, 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-2:30 p.m.

"Insect Mania"

Insects play a critical role in the ecosystems at Oxley Nature Center. Insects live in every kind of habitat. We will go on a walk to observe them as they fly, crawl, and hop as they go about their business. We will then make an insect refrigerator magnet to help us remember how important insects are.

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

"Reduce, Recycle, Reuse"

What do you know about recycling? Make a terrarium from old soda bottles. Play with my favorite toys made with recycled materials. If you have a favorite toy please bring it. I will bring a racetrack/cars and rocket launcher. I will also supply a loom and loops for weaving.

***** 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, register in advance

Full Thunder Moon, Sunday, July 1, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Will we see thunder, lightening, and rain around the first part of July, as the moon rises in the sky?

Full Sturgeon Moon, Wednesday, August 1, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

This full moon is considered a time for successful fishing.

Full Blue Moon, Friday, August 31, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

What is a 'Blue Moon'? Why is it special? Come find out.

Project WILD

Project WILD is sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, and is an interdisciplinary, hands-on program that teaches wildlife principles to students pre-school through high school. The July 10 workshop begins at 10:00 and ends by 3:30 pm. The cost of the program is \$15 and each participant will receive, and work out of, two curriculum guides -- the regular WILD guide and an Aquatic guide. Facilitator and contact person (registration is required) for this **July 10** Project WILD workshop is **Deidra Wakeley-- 918-745-9264** or wakelde@tulsaschools.org.

Programs and Special Events

July

7 “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.

21 “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.



22 “Nature Drawing” **Ages: All**
Sunday **1:00-2:00 p.m.**
\$2 for general public **Free for members**

Learn how to quick sketch in the field and also how to shade and shadow. Bring your sketchbook and pencils. This class is for all skill levels. Meet at Oxley.

28 “Wildflower Walk” **Ages: All**
Saturday **1 0:30-12:00 noon**
Free **registration not required**

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

29 “Edible Wild Workshop, Part 2”
Ages: 12 to Adult
Sunday **1:00-4:00 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 Part 3 this fall. Meet at Oxley.

August

4 “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.

18 “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.

19 “Nature Printed Lunch Bags”
Ages: 6 to Adult
Sunday **1:30– 3:30 p.m.**
\$7 for general public **\$5 for members**

School starts soon! Would you like to carry your lunch in a creation of your own making? You will take an organic cotton lunch bag and design and print it using natural items. Meet at Oxley.

25 “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.

25 “Cattail Leaf Sandals” **Ages: 10 to Adult**
Saturday **10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**
\$5 for general public **\$3 for members**

Using a flint burin and a paleolithic drill we will make a weaving needle to weave a pair of cattail leaf sandals that you can wear home. Learn how the leaves were gathered and processed. 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

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!

Turtle Time

Monday, July 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Come learn about turtles that live at Oxley. We will touch and feel shells of both land and water turtles. Then we will feed the turtles that live in the pond. Our craft will be to make a turtle shell to wear home!

Insect Hunters

Monday, August 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

We will examine the insects in the Oxley collection and then explore the trails to see what insects are crawling, hopping or flying about. Using different materials, we will make our own insect to take home.

**** Ages: 1 through 5 years with caregiver**
**** \$2 for general public, free for members**
**** Please register in advance, spaces are limited.**

Volunteer Naturalists Training Begins!

Who is a Volunteer Naturalist? It is someone who enjoys being outdoors sharing the experience of nature with others. We offer two Volunteer Naturalist training programs.

Our **weekday session** runs September 4-28th, two days a week from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon. If **evening and weekend** training is more convenient for you, you may attend training two nights from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and four weekend days from 1-3:30 p.m. Please call for more details about the training schedules.

During training you will become familiar with our trail system as you explore our varied prairie, wetland, and forested areas. We have a lot of fun together and emphasize leadership skills and interpretation methods. Upon completion of training, you will join other naturalists each guiding a small group of visitors on weekday, evening or weekend tours. If you are 18 or older, call us for more information. Enthusiasm is a plus, and no previous experience necessary.

If leading tours is not your interest, ask us about our other volunteer staff opportunities: Visitor Center Host, gift store, trail work, Adopt a Trail, and more!

The Ponds - by Mary Oliver (House of Light — Beacon Press)

*Every Year
the lilies
are so perfect
I can hardly believe*

*their lapped light crowding
the black,
mid-summer ponds.
nobody could count all of them—*

*the muskrats swimming
among the pads and the grasses
can reach out
their muscular arms and touch*

*only so many, they are that
ripe and wild.
But what in this world
is perfect?*

*I bend closer and see
how this one is clearly lopsided—
and that one wears an orange blight—
and this one is a glossy cheek*

*half nibbled away—
and that one is a slumped purse
full of its own
unstoppable decay.*

*Still, what I want in my life
is to be willing
to be dazzled—
to cast aside the weight of facts*

*and maybe even
to float a little
above this difficult world.
I want to believe I am looking*

*into the white fire of a great mystery.
I want to believe that the imperfections are nothing—
that the light is everything—that it is more than the sum
of each flawed blossom rising and fading. And I do.*



American Lotus *Nelumbo lutea*

*You can find the American Lotus
blooming now at Blackbird Marsh
at Oxley Nature Center.*