



Oxley Nature Center

July/August, 2013

Volume 216

Making Memories

By Donna Horton

Oxley Nature Center:

-There will be a \$2 fee per car entering Mohawk Park on weekends April through October **unless** you are a member of Oxley Nature Center or the Zoo.

-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 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:

Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

** Thursday, July 4 and Monday, September 2.

Program information:

- 918-669-6644

- Oxley@cityoftulsa.org

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

*Register for classes 48 hours

in advance, some classes require supplies and have limited enrollment.

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

-Most programs are stroller/wheelchair accessible.

-Our new mailing address is:

Where did all the years go? I must be middle aged: I find myself fussing at geezers and whippersnappers alike. Also, I do have many, many memories. Some of my earliest, my best, and my most vivid memories involve nature.

They begin with gardening. Nearly all are happy, with a glow of satisfaction to them. Soil and mud, worms, the miracle of flowers and food emerging from tiny



seeds... Parents- it's never too early and never too late to garden with your children. Adults, it's never too late to discover your inner child. Mid- to late-summer is a good time to plant a fall garden: beans, carrots, and fall flowers.

My parents had me gardening early. I am not sure I actually remember the very first spring, but there are photos of me at 7 months, crouching in a garden, intent and focused. I do remember from those early years the texture of the soil under my feet, and how my finger was just the right size to poke a little hole for a seed. I do not know how old I was as I followed my mother down a row in a garden, carefully picking up little round seeds and dropping them into holes. My memories tell me that the okra seeds were not much smaller than my fingers and I had to concentrate hard on picking them up, one by one.

Later I had my own small gardens at each of the houses we lived in. One had a "cave" of lilac bushes where I could hide out, screened from the world in a shady retreat all my own. I heard a story of a Tulsa child showing a friend a hidey-hole under a tree at Woodward Park, saying, "Here is a place where no human has ever been!" Thank goodness for gardens with places where children can still hide and dream!

Over the more than half-century that I've been building memories now, there have been many intense encounters with wildlife. Like the huge, newly emerged cecropia moth perched on the milk box by the front door early one summer morning. It was not a fake insect put there by some joker to scare me, as my smug 6-year-old self thought. IT WAS ALIVE AND RAISED ITS BIG RED HAIRY LEG AND DID SCARE THE WADDIN' OUT OF ME! Or the otters that looked in our canoe during our honeymoon, just as I realized I was out of film. I don't need photos to keep those memories alive.

If you have trouble remembering things, keep a journal or a blog. Take pictures or make sketches. Tell someone. Organizing your experience into a verbalized story helps to make it into a memory.

The thing is, you won't have any memories of your own if you wake up one day and realize much of your life has gone, and you spent it sitting in front of a computer screen or on the couch watching tv or reading. You need to get out there and experience your own adventures.

You are always welcome at Oxley.

Nature Center Happenings

Volunteer Awards Celebration

Volunteer staff, families, friends, and Oxley staff celebrated spring season with an awards dinner on June 13. We gathered together to honor all our volunteer staff and share a meal of barbecue (complements 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: **Sharon Day**

5 Year Award: **Jeannie Graham, Orman Landers,
Susan McCollum**

15 Year Award: **Jacquie Young**

20 Year Award: **Bob Pugh, Dot Schultze**

Outstanding Volunteer: **Roger Bey**

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

4th of July North American Butterfly Count

Join us at Oxley Tuesday, July 2nd to spot, count, tally and identify butterflies. Information gathered will supplement the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) 4th of July Butterfly Count held annually in June and July.

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. We will try to include larger groups if possible. Please bring lunch, water, hat and binoculars if you have them.

Meet at Oxley Nature Center. No experience is necessary. You'll work in teams with experienced naturalists counting in different areas.

Please call and register 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 13, 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-2:30 p.m.

"Wetlands"

The marsh is one of the most active places at Oxley. Come see the cattails and American lotus in bloom. Listen for birds and bullfrogs and count butterflies. We'll use dip nets to catch and study the water creatures living in the marsh. We'll also perform a simple test for water quality.

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

"Reduce, Recycle, Reuse"

Let's focus on **play** with some favorite toys made with recycled materials. We will have a race car/tracks and rocket launcher. We'll also have a loom and loops for weaving. If you have a favorite toy please bring it.

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

Natural Babies, Natural World

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

Monday, July 15, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

"Turtle Tales"

Monday, August 12, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

"Insect Hunters"

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

Project Wet Workshop

Saturday, July 27, 9:00-3:00 p.m.

\$15 fee for curriculum

To register (or ask questions): call Deidra Wakeley, science teacher and facilitator, 918-745-9264

K-12 public, private, and home school teachers, Boy and Girl Scouts, 4-H, and Campfire leaders will all learn to use strategies and techniques to teach topics such as forests, wildlife, water, community planning, and energy.

Participants should bring a lunch and dress comfortably.

Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

\$2 for general public, free for members, all ages.

***** Please register in advance *****

Full Buck Moon, Sunday, July 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

**Full Sturgeon Moon, Tuesday, August 20,
7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Programs and Special Events

July

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

Join us for some birding at Oxley. Bring binoculars if you have them.

20 “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 welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

20 “Dragons and Damsels” Ages: All
Saturday 1:30-2:30 p.m.
\$2 for general public free for members

If you set out to design a machine to destroy mosquitoes you'd have to work hard to do better than a dragonfly. **Registration is required.**

21 “Geology Walk at RBV” Ages: 8 to Adult
Sunday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Free registration is required

Join us at Redbud Valley for a geology walk. This walk is not stroller or wheelchair accessible.

22 “Ancient and Odd” Ages: All
Monday 7:00-8:30 p.m.
\$2 for general public free for members

Visit a tree that witnessed the Civil War and a tree that created a weapon so powerful it allowed the tribes of the southern plains to stall the advance of the U.S. frontier. Every tree has a story to tell and secrets to whisper. Be prepared to walk at least 2 miles. **Registration is required.**

27 “Botany Walk” Ages: All
Saturday 8:00-9:30 a.m.
Free registration not required

What will we find blooming along the trail?
Meet at Oxley.

27 “Moth Mysteries” Ages: All
Saturday 8:00-11:00 p.m.
Free registration not required

We will be baiting and night lighting for moths and other creatures of the night at Oxley. Join us!

August

3 “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.

10 “Redbud Valley Forest” Ages: All
Saturday 9:30-11:00 a.m.
\$2 for general public free for members

Learn to identify some of the forest trees unique to the Redbud Valley Nature Preserve. Meet the sugar maple, blue ash and smoke tree. This walk is not stroller or wheelchair accessible.

Registration is required.

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

Join us at Oxley for our butterfly walk. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them.

18 “Geology Walk at RBV” Ages: 8 to Adult
Sunday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Free registration is required

Join us at Redbud Valley for a geology walk. This walk is not stroller or wheelchair accessible.

24 “Botany Walk” Ages: All
Saturday 8:00-9:30 a.m.
Free registration not required

What will we find blooming today at Oxley?
Join us to find out.



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

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 3-27th, 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; exploring prairie, wetland, and forested areas. We have fun 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 is 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!

Join us August 15 for our Volunteer Roundup at 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. to learn more!



Summertime, and the living is easy,
Fish are jumping, and the cotton is high.

-George Gershwin, Porgy and Bess