



Oxley Nature Center

March/April, 2014

Volume 220

Oxley Nature Center: New Hours!

- 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.

- Oxley Nature Center Interpretive Center will be open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

We will be closed on Sundays and Mondays.

- The gate and parking lot are open Tuesday through Saturday, 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.

** Closings:

Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

** Friday, April 18,

Program information:

- 918-669-6644

- Oxley@cityoftulsa.org

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

Mailing address:

Box 150209, Tulsa, OK 74115

***Register for classes 48 hours** in advance, some classes need supplies and have limited enrollment.

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

- Most programs are stroller/wheelchair accessible.

Growing Children by Amy Morris

It is spring. Every thing is fresh and new. What is the most important thing we can grow? Our children. Take them outdoors, expose them to sunshine and rain and soil. Introduce them to the world that supports them in their physical, mental, and spiritual growth.

I recently read of a video contest sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Environmental Education Foundation asking middle school students to express their views about climate change and what they are doing to reduce emissions or prepare for its impacts.

Have we prepared them properly for these disastrous scenarios; things such as climate change and rainforest destruction? Have we provided them with a solid foundation of their own place, a sense and understanding of their connection to natural history in their own backyards?

What about delight? What about the enrichment of their inner lives? Nature should be celebrated and experienced directly. Let them discover the magical landscapes, plants, and wildlife surrounding them. Allow them to connect with nature using all their senses and imaginations as they explore and discover the outdoors.

It is first through play and exploration that we come to know our world. It is

in seeing the diminutive beauty of fairy-sized flowers, smelling the wild musky scent marking of a fox, running small hands over the rough bark of a hackberry tree, tasting the sharp flavor of spring green onions, and hearing the throaty songs of frogs that we begin to fall in love.

It is these plants, wildlife, and landscapes that bind us, ground us, and seep deep into our souls. This is our land, our place, our nature. This is our place to love. The more we come to know it, the greater our love will be.

Take your children outside. Let them be nourished by their neighbors, great and small. Let them grow together with the life that abounds outdoors. Then perhaps there will be no question that they will come to support what they have come to know and love.

Such reverence will compel us to live well and responsibly. This relationship with nature will endure for a lifetime. Nourish those seeds. Grow those children well.



Nature Center Happenings

Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins

Spring is “in the air”. Splashes of color appear, relieving the winter grays and browns with a quiet flourish. Everything is in flux. Change steals over the landscape, as bird and frog songs fill the air. Sap rises in the trees as blood rises in our veins. It is time to get outside.

Morning is a good time to be out and about.

Sharing this adventure with children can increase your pleasure many times over. Explore forests where purple violets nod and wild onions demand to be tasted.



Tall prairie grasses and sculpted mud crayfish chimneys bespeak a mysterious world of enchantment for child and adult alike. Here the prairie vole follows his hidden trail only so far, to the edge of the tall grasses around the pond’s edge. Danger lurks here; the soaring hawk is watchful. There is so much to discover, come explore.

We need YOU

to help us share these stories with children.

Volunteer Naturalist training takes place March 4-27, 2 days a week from 9:00 a.m. –12 noon.

Training emphasizes interpretation methods and leadership skills. No previous experience is necessary, but you must be 18 or older. Enthusiasm for nature and children is a must.

Upon completing the free, six-part training sessions, volunteer naturalists work one morning each week during April and May, guiding small groups of students on adventures of discovery along Oxley’s varied trail system.

For some children this may be their first positive exposure to nature’s wonders. It’s an amazing opportunity! Contact us for more information about joining our dynamic team. Call 918-669-6644.

A Joy Shared is a Joy Doubled - Goethe

Join the Friends of Oxley Nature Center

We need your support! Members of Mary K. Oxley Nature Center Association help to support Tulsa’s natural treasures, the hidden jewels of the Tulsa park system. The ‘Friends’ are a non-profit group that support the activities and mission of Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve.

Members receive discounts on all programs and at The Nature Store, invitations to special members-only events (our annual Fall cookout and hayride) and programs, and free admission to Mohawk Park.

Most importantly, members aid in protecting the habitat and wildlife at Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve.

To join, visit our website or pick up a membership form at the Interpretive Center, or call 918-669-6644. We look forward to hearing from you!



Spring and Summer Butterfly Walks

Butterfly walks begin on the third Saturday in March and continue through October. Each week brings different species of butterflies to our fields and forests. During March, April, May, September, and October we will have our walks from 10:30-12 noon.

During the hotter months: June, July and August, we will have our walks from 9-10:30 a.m.

Certified Interpretive Host Training Workshop

When: March 15 and March 22, 2014, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

Where: Oxley Nature Center Instructor: Donna Horton

The National Association of Interpretation's Certified Interpretive Host program offers a professional certification designed for new hires, seasonals, volunteers, maintenance workers, receptionists, law enforcement or anyone who has public contact but does not present formal interpretive programs to the public. It covers the basics of interpretation, how to provide great customer service and hospitality, and how you can use informal interpretation to support your agency's mission as you interact with visitors. Must be 16 or older.

For more information or to download a registration form, go to: http://www.interpnet.com/nai/_certification/CIG_Workshops/CIH-2014-03-OK.aspx

Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop

When: April 2-5, 2014, 1-9 p.m. on Wednesday,
8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Where: Oxley Nature Center Instructor: Donna Horton

The National Association of Interpretation's Certified Interpretive Guide program offers a professional certification designed for anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public. From the theoretical foundations of the profession to practical, hands-on-training, we learn how to design and present programs that help audiences make connections. It is a busy and focused 32 hours, including an open-book exam, writing a themed outline, and making a 10-minute presentation. Must be 16 or older.

For more information or to download a registration form, go to: http://www.interpnet.com/nai/_certification/CIG_Workshops/CIG-2014-04-OK.aspx



“How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.”

- Annie Dillard