



Oxley Nature Center

September/October, 2014

Volume 223

My Bucket List by Vinnie Robinson

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:

Monday, September 1.

Program information:

- 918-669-6644

- Oxley@cityoftulsa.org

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

*Register for classes 48 hours in advance.

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

-Most programs are stroller/wheelchair accessible.

-Our new mailing address is: Box 150209, Tulsa, OK 74115

On June 5th, 2014, we embarked on a journey north across 3 states to reach Michigan, to learn the trade of coopering. The word *cooper* comes from *kuper*, a Lower Saxon word meaning "a tub", and was conferred on one who makes tubs, along with casks, barrels, buckets and similar items.

Our final destination was Tillers International, a farm outside of Kalamazoo where they teach old time crafts. My traveling companion was my good friend and our director at Oxley Nature Center, Eddie Reese. Eddie first got me interested in making buckets about a year ago when we cut some staves on a table saw and fitted them together. Those first buckets leaked like a sieve. We knew there had to be a way to make them without leaking, because people did it for hundreds of years without modern power tools. We learned a lot on our journey.

We stayed upstairs in one of the converted bedrooms of the farm house and ate lunch everyday family style around a large table with others who had traveled, some farther than us, to make buckets or learn blacksmithing or to make cheese.

We greeted the first morning with enthusiasm. I was ready to get my hands on some wood and start whittling it down. By the end of the afternoon, I had 14 beautiful pieces of redwood on their way to becoming staves. We used drawknives, scorps, inshaves and chisels to sculpt our buckets. It was easy to sleep after spending a day sitting on a shaving horse and pulling a drawknife. The nights were peaceful. Without television, the only thing to listen to was light rain falling.

On the second day, we began to put the pieces together. With some fitting, planing and refitting, a bucket began to take shape. After all the cracks disappeared and the edges were tight it was time to cut out the croes. A croes is the groove where the bottom fits in place. With that being completed we began to calculate the diameter of the bottom, again using very simple tools and very little mathematics, a truly amazing process. We cut out the bottoms, and using the drawknife we whittled the edge down to fit into the groove. It looked tight. We even made the metal bands, hand riveting them together. As we hammered the bands into place, the buckets became very solid and I could tell right away they were superior to any we had previously constructed back home.

I returned with a great respect for the coopers of old times. I'm happy with the outcome of my work but do not consider myself a cooper, not yet. I plan to make more buckets and teach others what I learned.

Nature Center Happenings

Volunteer Naturalists Training Begins!

It is not too late! If you would be interested in training to become a Volunteer Naturalist don't hesitate -- pick up that phone and give us a call. We would love to have you join our team! Volunteer Naturalists enjoy being outdoors sharing the experience of nature with others.

We offer two Volunteer Naturalist training programs:

Weekday sessions: September 2th-26th, two days a week from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon.

Evening and weekend sessions: nights from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and/or weekend days from 1-3:30 p.m.
Please call for more details about the training schedules. These schedules are flexible.

During training become familiar with our trail system. Explore our prairie, wetland, and forested areas. We have fun together and emphasize leadership skills and interpretation methods.

Upon completion of training, you'll join other naturalists each guiding a small group of visitors on weekday, evening or weekend tours.

If you are 18 or older, please call 918-669-6644 for more information. No previous experience is necessary.



Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

\$3 requested donation per person, all ages welcome ** Please register in advance **

Full Harvest Moon

Tuesday, September 9, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

What wonders will we glean as we explore the twilight trails tonight? Come harvest some memories.



Full Hunter's Moon

Thursday, October 9, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

There is change in the air. Will we feel it as we walk through forest and prairie among the 'Wild Things'?

Programs and Special Events

September

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.

13 "Spiders, Nature's Builders" Ages: All
Saturday 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

Spiders are one of nature's most elegant builders. During our walk we will explore the different types of webs that spiders build and discover some hidden places to find spiders. After our walk we will make our own webs to catch dreams.

20 "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All
Saturday 10:30 a.m.-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 "Create a Butterfly" Ages: All
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Free registration not required

Every butterfly is of a unique design, and they all have beautiful names. Join us to create your very own "flying flower"! This program is 'come and go'!

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. Registration is required.

27 "Botany Walk" Ages: All
Saturday 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

Note our new autumn hours for this walk! What will we find blooming along the trail? Meet at Oxley.

October

4 "Saturday Morning Birding at Redbud Valley"
Ages: All
Saturday 8:00-9:45 a.m.
Free registration not required

We will be meeting at Redbud Valley this morning. Bring binoculars if you have them. This trail is not stroller or wheelchair accessible.

11 "Silent Walk" Ages: 12 to Adult
Saturday 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

Slow down. Unplug from technology. Turn off the cell phone and listen to the sounds of nature as we walk in silence along the trail at Oxley.

11 "Crow Capers" Ages: All
Saturday 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Free registration not required

What is a 'murder of crows'? Let's delve into the mind and mystery of these amazing birds! Join us at Oxley to walk, talk and make a craft

18 "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All
Saturday 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

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

19 "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. Registration is required.

25 "Botany Walk" Ages: All
Saturday 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

Note our new autumn hours for this walk! What will we find blooming today at Oxley?

Project Learning Tree Education Workshop

When: Saturday, November 8, 2014, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Where: Oxley Nature Center Cost: \$20

Bring a sack lunch and drink; we will have a working lunch.

Project Learning Tree Workshop for Teachers is interdisciplinary, incorporating curriculum activities for most content areas and learning levels. Regular classroom teachers, Boy and Girl Scout Leaders, and homeschool teachers will learn to use this habitat-related/forest program with students age K-12. This award winning international environmental education curriculum is correlated with Oklahoma Curriculum standards.

Dress comfortably; prepared to do several activities outdoors, though much hands-on, fun, experiential learning will take place in the nature center classroom.

**To register contact facilitator Deidra Wakeley:
918-745-9264 or wakelde@tulsaschools.org**

Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop

When: October 21-24, 2014, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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:

<http://www.interpnet.com/docs/Cert-Courses/CIG-2014-10-OK.pdf>



**When one tugs at a single thing in nature,
he finds it attached to the rest of the world**

-John Muir