



Oxley Nature Center

March/April, 2015

Volume 226

Spring Musings

by Eddie Reese

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 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.

** Please Note Closings:

Oxley Nature Center

-Sunday, March 1 through Thursday, March 5 and Friday, April 3

Redbud Valley Nature Preserve is closed:

-Wednesday, March 4 through Thursday, March 5 and Friday, April 3

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

"....For him the recurring seasons, not the consuls, mark the year; he knows autumn by his fruits and spring by her flowers."

Claudian, *Carmina Minora*

I thought I was the only oddball who thought that way, and then I read this excerpt from a poem written by the Roman poet Claudian over 1600 years ago. We just celebrated the New Year a couple of months ago and as usual I was not impressed by the end of one year and the beginning of another by our accepted calendar. Although, I have to admit I enjoy the day off. Usually December 31 looks just like January 1 and nothing much has changed. And around this part of the world nothing changes much until late February. But it is those early changes that I look forward to. It is the new beginning of spring and new signs of life are making it seem like a new year is starting.

One of the first signs of spring I look for are bluebirds. They are here year round but in January the unattached males start singing to attract a mate and couples start looking for nesting sites. In February I look forward to seeing forsythia and jonquils blooming. Buds on the trees fatten and prepare to burst open. March can be frustrating. Some days are like spring and some are like winter...warm, cold, warm, cold. Eventually, winter gets tired of hanging around and disappears and all the while signs of spring are all around.

Bluets, Johnny jump ups, and spring beauties are some of the wildflowers that make their appearances in early spring. Those who don't make war on weeds in their lawns get to enjoy these tiny floral wonders. Then redbuds get their faint tinge of pink as their buds swell. Suddenly, one day it seems there are redbuds everywhere, in places unremembered. Don't forget to look for skeins of geese and ducks and pelicans making their way north. There are even kettles of hawks moving north. I was lucky enough to experience one of these last year. It was incredible, hundreds of hawks circling, riding the rising current of air up almost out of sight, then sailing north to the next rising column of warm air. It's one of those things you never forget.

And then April arrives, warm and friendly...well usually. She has her fits of storms and tornadoes but mostly she is nice to have around. That's when spring comes with urgency. I listen for the first warbler to sing in the tree tops, and look for the first indigo bunting and the first hummingbird. Really it is a time of firsts.

There are other spring "firsts" unmentioned, but I mark them all. Each one is a herald of hope, a harbinger of pleasant times, like a homecoming. By the way, if you didn't know, this noticing the changing of flora and fauna has a name. They call it phenology.

Maybe we come by this phenology thing naturally. It is useful after all. It tells me when to plant my vegetable garden, when to hunt for morels, and many other duties; which reminds me, I need to see if my lawn mower will start.

Nature Center Happenings

Spring Equinox Celebration

Friday, March 20 from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

This event is for all ages, bring your friends and family.

Free with a donation of a food item for the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

The Vernal Equinox marks the beginning of Spring, a season that brings an increase in both daylight and temperature. We celebrate the 'rebirth' of our flora and fauna. The word *equinox* is derived from Latin words meaning "equal night." What will you do with your 12 hours of daylight? Why don't you plan to spend some time outside.

Explore our native landscape at Oxley. We will have guided hikes, or you may hike on your own and complete a scavenger hunt for a small prize. Come inside, enjoy our exhibits, make a mask, color, make a wreath or crown from invasive vines, create a leaf rubbing and more!

This is a come and go event. Greet Spring by joining our festivities. We look forward to seeing you!

Basket Guild

Join us **Wednesday, April 1**, for a basket-making class that meets once a month at Oxley. We are experimenting with different techniques and materials. This is for all skill levels. You may join us for one class or more.

Ages: 13 to Adult

We meet from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Free, registration is required (918-669-6644)

Rag Rug Class

Would you like to learn to make a rag rug? Join us **Saturday, April 18**, for a rag rug class at Oxley. Class size is limited. Please register by April 13. A materials list will be provided.

Ages: Adult

We meet from 11:00- 2:00 p.m. Please bring a sack lunch.

Free, registration is required (918-669-6644)

Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins

Do you enjoy being outdoors sharing the experience of nature with others? We are offering Volunteer Naturalist training beginning March 10. We are looking for weekend, evening and weekday volunteer staff.

Training sessions will take place throughout March. You will become familiar with our trail system as you explore the varied prairie, wetland and forested areas. We emphasize leadership skills and interpretation methods.

Upon completion of training, join other naturalists, each guiding a small group of visitors on weekday, evening or weekend tours. If you are 18 or older, please call for more details about the training schedules. No previous experience is necessary.

Weekday sessions: March 10th-31st, two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) 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.

Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

\$3 requested donation per person, all ages welcome

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

Full Worm Moon

Thursday March 5, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Temperatures warm and soils thaw.
Worms make their way to the surface.
Join us to search for signs of Spring!



Full Pink Moon

Saturday, April 4, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Some of our earliest wildflowers are pink. This is the time for many new beginnings. Come explore the trails with us!

Programs and Special Events

March

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

Migrants are arriving! Join us for birding at Oxley. Bring binoculars if you have them.

15 “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.

21 “Flying Flowers” **Ages: All**
Saturday **10:00-12:30 p.m.**
Free **registration not required**

Butterflies have been called flying flowers. We will make a unique craft on this day of our first butterfly walk of the season. All ages are welcome. This project is ‘come and go’.



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

They are back! Join us at Oxley for our first butterfly walk of the season. We will be offering these walks the 3rd Saturday of the month March through October. Start a new family or personal hobby! Please note, times will vary based on weather:
March-April - 10:30-12 noon
May-August— 9:30-11:00 a.m.
September-October—10:30-12 noon
All ages and skill levels welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

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

What early wildflowers and blooming trees will we find? Meet at Oxley.

April

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

Courtship is in full swing! Join us for birding at Oxley. Bring binoculars if you have them.

5 “Spring Hatching” **Ages: All**
Saturday **1:00-3:00 p.m.**
Free **registration not required**

Spring brings new signs of life to the nature center, when many animals are laying eggs. A variety of animals hatch from eggs, and they aren't rabbits! Join us at Oxley for stories and to see what an egg is made of.

11 “Treasure That Trash” **Ages: All**
Saturday **10:00-2:00 p.m.**
Free **registration not required**

It is almost Earth Day. We'll have some earth friendly activities for you to do. Bring an empty plastic bottle from home and your creative spirit. This is a come and go adventure at Oxley.

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 welcome. Bring 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.



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

Join us at Oxley to find flowers reaching to take in the sun's energy.

An Interpreter's Book Club

When: Sunday, March 15, 12:30–4:30 p.m.
Where: Oxley Nature Center

Instructor: Donna Horton Fee: \$25

This optional pre-workshop is offered in tandem with the Certified Interpretive Guide workshop that begins the next day, but is not required. You will become familiar with four books and six authors who have written in the field of Interpretation. The books used are: *Interpretation: Making A Difference on Purpose*, by Sam Ham; *Interpreting Our Heritage*, by Freeman Tilden; *The Gifts of Interpretation*, by Larry Beck and Ted Cable; and *Personal Interpretation*, by Lisa Brochu and Tim Merriman. Must be 16 or older.

For more information contact: Donna Horton, Trainer
DonnaHortonCIT@att.net, 918-587-0522.

Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop

When: March 16-19, 2015, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily
Where: Oxley Nature Center Instructor: Donna Horton

The National Association of Interpretation's Certified Interpretive Guide program offers professional certification designed for anyone who delivers Interpretive programs to the public. From the theoretical foundations of the profession to practical, hands-on training, 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. Participants must be 16 or older.

For more information or to download a registration form:
http://www.interpnet.com/nai/nai/_certification/CIG_Workshops/CIG-2015-03-OK.aspx

For information contact: Donna Horton, Trainer
DonnaHortonCIT@att.net, 918-587-0522.



“Unseen Buds”

Unseen buds, infinite, hidden well,
Under the snow and ice, under the darkness, in
every square or cubic inch,
Germinal, exquisite, in delicate lace, microscopic,
unborn,
Like babes in wombs, latent, folded, compact,
sleeping;
Billions of billions, and trillions and trillions of them
waiting,
(On earth and in the sea — the universe —
the stars there in the heavens,)
Urging slowly, surely forward, forming endless,
And waiting ever more, forever more behind.

- Walt Whitman

The Cost of a Hardcopy Newsletter:

Do you wish to continue receiving the Oxley Newsletter?

If you are not a member of Oxley Nature Center but would like to continue receiving our bi-monthly newsletter in the mail, please notify us by **April 15, 2015**.

To continue receiving your newsletter:

Call: 918-669-6644 or write: Oxley Nature Center, Box 150209. Tulsa, OK 74115.

**To reduce the amount of paper (hence trees) inks, energy and postage; please consider getting your newsletter online at: <http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org>.

To get a link to the newsletter when a new issue is posted, E-mail: oxley@cityoftulsa.org and we will send you an email reminder. Thank you!

What If ...

Think back. What was one of your first memories of engaging with the natural world? Who was your mentor? How much time and freedom did you have to spend outdoors? What was one of your most memorable moments? How did being out in nature make you feel?

It is a busy world today. Do you have time to take a moment in the outdoors for yourself? Do you have time to share your love for nature with another? Do you really have time not to?

What if ...

this Spring, you take some time; from somewhere, somehow, however much you can manage. Step out your front door and gaze up at the stars in the night sky, or at clouds scuttling across a midday sky. Plunge your hands into fragrant soil and plant a seed. Take care of it, watch it grow, maybe eat it! Observe the changes in the trees as they bloom and leaf out, notice the different colors and shapes of the leaves. Watch the flowers and the birds and insects all around you. Listen to the wind.

What if you reconnect and at the same time, help someone else connect? What if ...