



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 147

September/October, 2003

Changes by Lynda Fritts

No one knows when she came here. It was always a given that she was a part of the Nature Center, just as much as anyone or anything else. We knew many visitors noticed her immediately; others we weren't sure, but we always felt they had met her, if only indirectly.

She had that wonderful, special quality so hard to put a name to. It was how she spoke to you without words. It was how she touched you without reaching out. It was how she walked with you without steps. It was that nurturing, mothering, yes, mothering! attribute she possessed. No, she didn't possess it; she exuded it. It oozed from every part of her very being.

One of the basic concepts we work to help children understand is the inter-connectedness of all living things. We explore food chains and webs and find examples of them. Sometimes we find homes of different kinds of animals. We also learn the importance of a good balance of plants and animals and the particular kind of space they all need. By going through steps like these, children understand how relationships are formed and sustained.

She had formed special relationships with so many. In no way will we ever be able to tally the number of lives she influenced. It's very possible you and people you know were part of that number. It's also very probable that you'll notice the change in her the next time you visit the Nature Center.

The "Big Elm", as she was fondly known, has embarked on her final journey. You remember her now. She was just past the fence on the west side of the parking lot. She has passed over life's last threshold and begun a new process, that of decomposition. That's one of those words children have learned first-hand out here for many years now.

It was her overall mass that first caught your eye. You may have been impressed by the size of her girth, too. Sometimes with our group we would guess how many of us it would take to form a circle around her. She formed a relationship with us. We were always excited to find new things underneath her branches, too. Many was the time we guessed who might use her as a home or place to raise a family, or a place to find food, or maybe just as a resting place. We would notice how her shade gave relief on a hot summer day. We saw her leaves cover the earth in autumn. Winter's snow sometimes forced her branches to bow with the added weight just as she bent and swayed in a spring storm, only to defy it all and burst forth with new life.

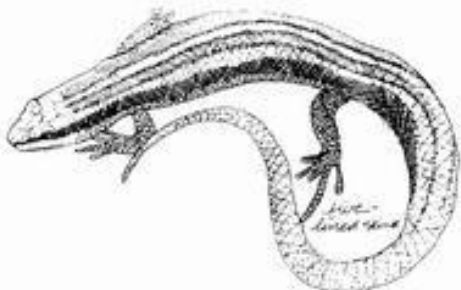
Science tells us animals don't "miss" things like humans do, but they certainly will notice the change in the "Big Elm". We will miss her, but celebrate her memory through the legacy she leaves. It is a legacy of living, giving and continuing to give through death and decay.



Nature Center Happenings

Oxley and Redbud Valley will be closed:

**Monday, September 1.
Happy Holiday!**



OXLEY AND REDBUD HOURS:

The gates at Oxley Nature Center are open daily, with the exception of most City holidays, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. At Oxley, you may park outside the gates from 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. to walk the trails even when the gates are closed.

At Redbud Valley Nature Preserve, the gates are open Wednesdays through Sundays, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You may **not** hop the fence when the Nature Preserve is closed: on Mondays or Tuesdays, on City holidays, before 8:00 a.m., or after 5:00 p.m.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Call: 669-6644 to register or for more information about programs. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise stated. Programs that are wheelchair accessible are designated with the ♿ symbol.

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

Kid's Saturday Programs

\$5 for general public, \$3 for members, all ♿

Discovery Club (Ages 3-5 years)

Each child accompanied by an adult, please

September 20, 10:00-11:30 "Migrating Monarchs"

We will learn about the monarch butterfly and go outside and look for them as they wing their way south.

Sign-up begins Sunday, September 7.

October 18, 10:00-11:30 "A Long Winters Nap"

Hibernation is used by many animals to survive the cold winter months. Who sleeps through winter? Sign-up begins October 5.

Adventure Club (Grades K-2nd)

Kid's only, please

September 20, 10:00-11:30 "Shapes & Patterns"

There are diamonds and hearts and stars and more shapes in nature. Let's go find them.

Sign-up begins Sunday, September 7.

October 18, 10:00-11:30 "Nature in Miniature"

We will create a small version of a natural ecosystem as we build our own terrariums.

Sign-up begins Sunday, October 5.

Astronomy Club of Tulsa & Oxley Nature Center Mars Watch 2003

On August 27, Mars will pass within 34 million miles of the earth which is its closest approach in 50,000 years. Join us to view Mars through a telescope and actually see surface features such as the polar caps. Several telescopes will be available for viewing. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this once in a lifetime event!


Date of Event: Friday and Saturday, September 5 and 6

Location: John Oxley Polo Grounds at Mohawk Park (near shelter 4)


Time: 8:30 p.m.-12:00 midnight, no registration required, free to public

Programs and special events

September

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


Meet in the Oxley parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m.
 Bring binoculars if you have them.

6 "Painting Pretty Posies" Ages: 7-12 
 Saturday 1:00-3:00 p.m.
 \$10 for general public \$8 for members

Learn to paint wildflowers and other plant life in watercolors while learning about the plants' life cycles.
 Meet at Oxley. Fee must accompany registration.

13 "Butterflies Through Binoculars" Ages: All 
 Saturday 10:00-11:30 a.m.
 Free registration not required

Butterfly migration should be underway. Meet in Oxley parking lot promptly at 10:00 a.m. Bring binoculars if you have them.

13 "Butterfly Books" Ages: 8 & up 
 Saturday 2:00-4:00 p.m.
 \$10 for general public \$8 for members


Learn how to make your own butterfly-shaped book and how to illustrate it with pictures of butterflies.
 Meet at Oxley. Fee must accompany registration.

14 "Spiders' Secrets" Ages: All 
 Sunday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
 \$2 for general public free to members


Come explore the secret lives of the spiders that make the nature center their home. You'll be amazed at the variety!
 Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins August 31.

"Autumn Stars" Tuesday, October 14 7:30-9:00 p.m.

The Milky Way stretches across the zenith, and bright stars help point the way to interesting telescope targets. City observers can enjoy the brighter stars, but will we be able to find the Milky Way? Bring something to sit on at Terrace Park (west of Memorial from the traffic light at 27th street). Sunset is 6:49 p.m. and Moonrise is 9:21 p.m. Sign-up begins October 5.

All ages welcome  with advance notice
 \$2 for general public free to members

October

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

Meet in the Oxley parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m.
 Bring binoculars if you have them.

5 "Survival Strategies: Cacti" Ages: All 
 Sunday 10:00-11:30 a.m.
 \$2 for general public free to members

Two species of cacti live at Redbud Valley. We will search out these survival specialists and discover their preferred habitats. We will discuss cactus rustling and propagation.
 Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign-up begins September 21.

11 "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All 
 Saturday 10:00-11:30 a.m.
 Free Registration not required

Meet in Oxley parking lot promptly at 10:00 a.m.
 Bring binoculars if you have them.

11 "Outdoor Cooking Adventure" Ages: 18 & up 
 Saturday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 \$20 for general public \$15 for members

Explore the fun of outdoor cooking from wood fires to camp stoves. Learn what to take, how to pack it, ideas for menus, recipes, and safety and sanitation. Lunch is provided.
 Meet at Oxley. Fee must accompany registration.

12 "A Guaranteed Good Time" Ages: All 
 Sunday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
 \$2 for general public free to members

The signs of cooler days come alive as we explore on a leisurely woodland walk. Will the trees still hold their leaves or will they have created a carpet on the forest floor? Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign-up begins September 28.

19 "Quilting With Mother Nature" Ages: 14 & up 
 Sunday 2:00-4:00 p.m.
 \$10 for general public \$8 for members

Learn the basics of hand applique with a choice of patterns inspired by autumn. Get ideas on how to finish your quilt block for a larger project. Basic sewing skills necessary.
 Meet at Oxley. Fee must accompany registration.



Crescent Moon Night Walks



Families and Individuals: Tuesday, October 28, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sign-up begins October 19.
Groups of 6 or more: Wednesday, October 29, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sign-up begins September 2.
Fee: \$2 for non-members, members free.

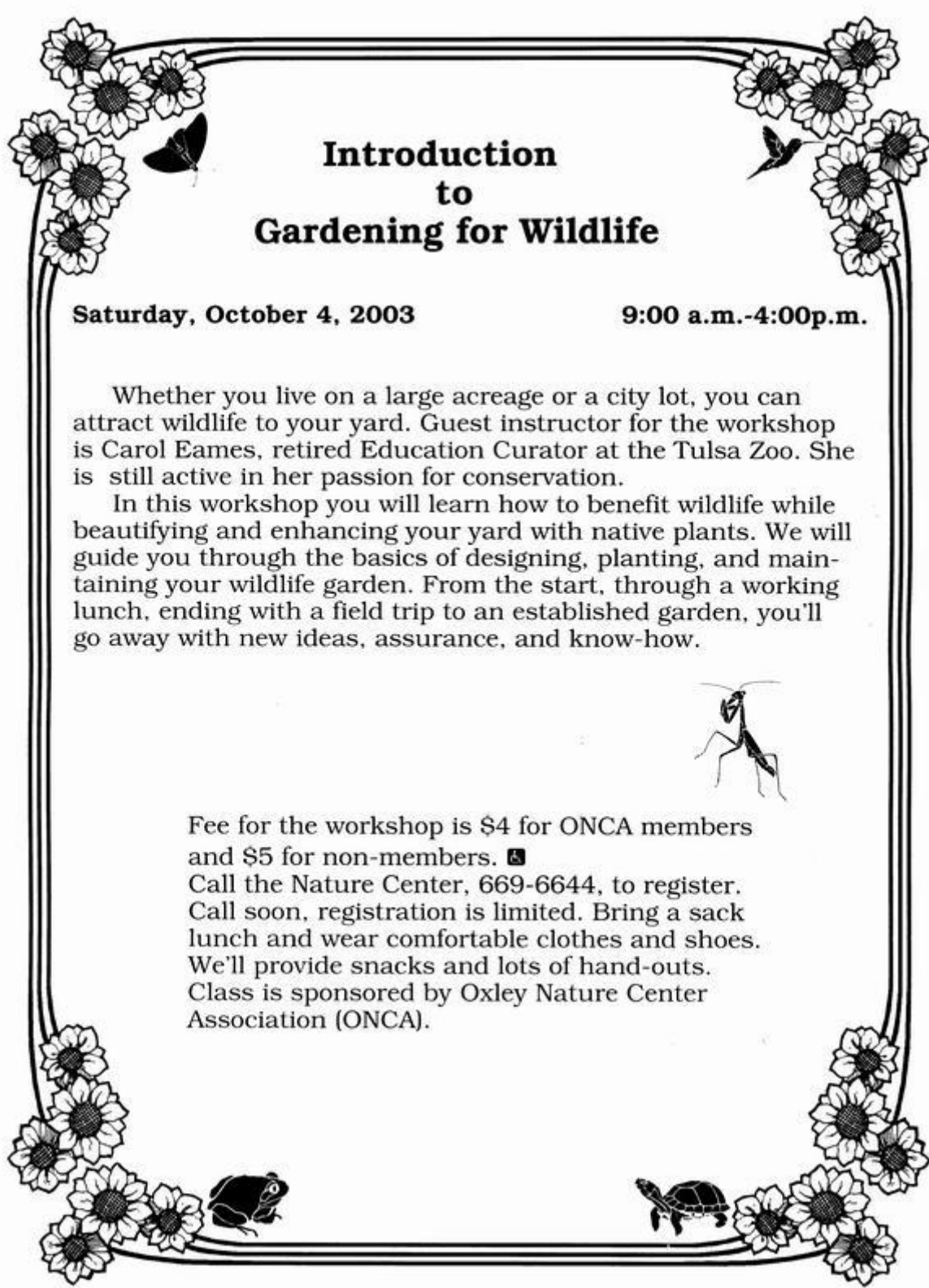
Join us as we explore the nature center at night. We will learn to use all our senses as we encounter the night life at Oxley, without the use of flashlights. Come prowl with us.

Wanted-- Junior Naturalists!!

The Junior Naturalist program is for 3rd-5th graders with a keen interest in the outdoors. Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of every month, September through May. Join us for creative activities, nature hikes, and work projects. For more information or to register please call Oxley at 669-6644.

Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins

Join our dedicated team of volunteers who lead nature study walks, welcome and assist visitors, or help us keep up with the never-ending task of maintaining our trail system. No previous experience is necessary. Participants must be 18 years or older. **Volunteer naturalist trail guides are required to attend a series of training sessions during September.** For more information please call Oxley at 669-6644.



Introduction to Gardening for Wildlife

Saturday, October 4, 2003

9:00 a.m.-4:00p.m.

Whether you live on a large acreage or a city lot, you can attract wildlife to your yard. Guest instructor for the workshop is Carol Eames, retired Education Curator at the Tulsa Zoo. She is still active in her passion for conservation.

In this workshop you will learn how to benefit wildlife while beautifying and enhancing your yard with native plants. We will guide you through the basics of designing, planting, and maintaining your wildlife garden. From the start, through a working lunch, ending with a field trip to an established garden, you'll go away with new ideas, assurance, and know-how.



Fee for the workshop is \$4 for ONCA members and \$5 for non-members. ■

Call the Nature Center, 669-6644, to register. Call soon, registration is limited. Bring a sack lunch and wear comfortable clothes and shoes. We'll provide snacks and lots of hand-outs. Class is sponsored by Oxley Nature Center Association (ONCA).



Exploring Art in Nature with Brenda Knapp

Classes sponsored by Oxley Nature Center Association

Fees must accompany registration. Send name, address, phone number and a check made out to ONCA and mail to: ONCA, PO Box 35812, Tulsa. OK. 74153-0812

Advanced Nature Drawing

Date: September 2-October 7

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Oxley Nature Center

Level: late intermediate, advanced, professional

Cost: \$60 non-members, \$48 members

Ages: 16 & up

This class goes beyond the basics to teach keen observation skills and drawing techniques. Subjects include: Drawing natural objects to scale, forest light and shadow, atmospheric perspective, contrasting textures, movement in wildlife, and adding drama to your landscapes.

FUNDamentals of Nature Drawing

Date: September 20-November 8

Time: 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Location: Oxley Nature Center

Level: beginning, intermediate

Cost: \$80 non-members, \$64 members

Ages: 16 & up

This series is for the student who wants to understand the core concepts of drawing as it applies to natural art. Students will learn to draw sunlight and shadow.



Field Sketching Workshop

Date: September 27

Time: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Location: Redbud Valley Preserve

Level: beginning, intermediate, advanced

Cost: \$15 non-members, \$12 members

Ages: 18 & up

Put on your hiking shoes for this one! A great workshop for both the artist and naturalist. Students will walk the trails of Redbud to find subjects, will learn how to draw them on-location, will learn what to include in a field sketch, and discover how to use these sketches as reference for later artwork.

Landscape Painting at Redbud Valley

Date: October 18

Time: 9:00a.m.-12:00 noon

Location: Redbud Valley Preserve

Level: mid-beginning through advanced

Cost: \$15 non-members, \$12 members

Ages: 18 & up

Landscapes offer ever-changing subjects that challenge the artists' palettes and intrigue the observer. Come relax and learn to paint the amazing scenery at Redbud Valley. Learn techniques that will bring depth to your painting and how to compose your painting to draw in the viewer. Acrylics will be the recommended medium for the class (demos will be done in acrylics), but students may choose to paint in oils if they are comfortable with that medium.

