Imagine it’s early fall. The late afternoon eases into evening, cooling the air. The sixty or so kerosene lanterns hanging in the trees begin to glow warmly. There are large boulders in a ring around the campfire. People are gathered there. It’s a convenient place to sit and talk. There is laughter. Presently everyone gathers at the shelter. It’s time to eat: grilled chicken hotdogs and potluck. Get a cup of hot chocolate or apple cider. Pick a table among the tall pin oaks and eat under the glow of lantern light. Hang around because there is story telling at the campfire. Make a s’more. Climb on the hay wagon and go for a ride into the woods and across the prairie. Who knows what might happen? Maybe the stars will be bright or maybe owls will call one another or maybe we’ll even see deer staring back at us in the dusk.

This is an opportunity for members of Friends of Oxley Nature Center. This event is held each autumn.

Other member benefits include:

* No charge or reduced rate enrollment in nature center programs and workshops.
* A discount in “The Nature Store”.
* Year-round free admission to Mohawk Park.
* Invitations to special “Members Only” events.
* Importantly, by becoming a member you will be supporting our educational mission and aid us in protecting the habitat and wildlife of Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Preserve.
* You automatically receive the newsletter.

If you are not a member of the Friends of the Nature Center, and you wish to continue to receive the newsletter, we ask that you notify us yearly to keep you on the mailing list.

To continue to receive these courtesy mailings, please contact us by June 1st. You may email us at Oxley@ci.Tulsa.Ok.US, call 669-6644, fax us at 669-6653, or write us at the return address on the newsletter.

To save paper resources, the newsletter is offered online at oxleynaturecenter.org. Remember this is your nature center. Help conserve it, participate in using it.
Nature Center Happenings

Redbud Valley and Oxley Nature Center will be closed for the following holiday:
Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day.

A $2 parking fee per car (for the general public) will be charged on weekends from April through October when entering Mohawk Park. Members of Oxley get in free. The west gate will be closed on weekends April -October.

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. Programs with insufficient registration may be cancelled 48 hours prior to program.
Visit our website at “http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org”.

Kid’s Saturday Programs

$5 for general public, $3 for members, all 8

Discovery Club (Ages 3-5 years)
Each child accompanied by an adult, please

May 15, 10:00-11:30 “What’s Under Your Feet?”
Come explore the forest floor to see what you’ll find beneath your feet.
Sign-up begins Sunday, May 2.

Adventure Club (Grades K-2nd)

May 15, 10:00-11:30 Explorer’s Hike! Where does that deer trail go? Let’s go for an explorer’s hike!
Sign-up begins Sunday, May 2.

Congratulations New Volunteers

This Spring training session resulted in the graduation of four new volunteer naturalists: Rob Bowe, Daniel Crowley, Linda Hall and Mike Morris. Welcome to our team! We look forward to working with you this season. Don Bright has joined our Adopt-a-Trail program and will be walking the Wildlife Study Trail. Thank you to all our volunteers. We couldn’t do it without your positive energy and dedication!

Tulsa Spring Comet/Planet Watch 2004

The Astronomy Club of Tulsa and Oxley Nature Center Association invite you for an evening of viewing the planets, crescent moon, stars, and “Comet Q4 Neat”. Several telescopes will be available for an up close view of the night sky. They will be aimed at a dazzling conjunction of planets, the crescent moon, and possibly a bright comet.

Dates: Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22.
Time: 8:30-11:30 p.m.
Where: Polo field in Mohawk Park, (follow the signs from the park entrance).
Suggested donation is $2 per adult and $1 per child. Donations will benefit the Astronomy Club of Tulsa and ONCA.
Programs and Special Events

May

1. "Saturday Morning Birding"  Ages: All  Free
   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.

2. "Reptile Ramble."  Ages: All  Fee
   Sunday  1:00-2:30 p.m.
   $2 for general public
   free for members
   Meet in the Oxley parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m.
   Bring binoculars if you have them.

3. "Birding by Ear."  Ages: All  Free
   Saturday  8:00-9:45 a.m.
   $2 for general public
   free for members
   Sometimes ears are better than eyes. There are several
   species that can be identified only by their vocalizations.
   This class will help you get started on learning bird
   songs and calls.
   Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins April 18.

4. "Butterfly Walk."  Ages: All  Free
   Saturday  1:30-3:00 p.m.
   $2 for general public
   free for members
   Meet in the Oxley parking lot for our butterfly walk.
   Bring binoculars if you have them.

6. "Dogwood Arrows."  Ages: All  $8 for members
   Sunday  12:30-4:00 p.m.
   $10 for general public
   free for members
   Learn to select raw shafts for arrows. Straighten and
   fletch cured shafts with turkey feathers and elk sinew.
   Tip arrows with bone or field points. Join us to learn
   this primitive skill.
   Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins May 2.

7. "Wildflower Walk."  Ages: All  Free
   Saturday  1:30-3:00 p.m.
   registration not required
   Meet at the northwest corner of Mohawk Golf Course to hike
   in the North Woods for a wildflower walk.

8. "Wildflower Walk."  Ages: All  Free
   Sunday  9:30-11:00 a.m.
   registration not required
   Meet at Redbud Valley for a wildflower walk.

   Saturday  8:30-10:00 a.m.
   $2 for general public
   free for members
   We will take a walk and observe some of the native grasses
   of the tall and short grass prairies.
   Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins May 16.

June

5. "Saturday Morning Birding"  Ages: All  Free
   Saturday  8:00-9:45 a.m.
   registration not required
   Meet in the Oxley parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m.
   Bring binoculars if you have them.

12. "Butterfly Walk."  Ages: All  Free
    Saturday  10:30-12:00 noon
    registration not required
    Meet in the Oxley parking lot for our butterfly walk.
    Bring binoculars if you have them.

    Sunday  12:00-1:30 p.m.
    $2 for general public
    free for members
    We'll start on the high trail, return on the low one,
    and check temperatures along the way, including
    inside one of the caves. Meet at Redbud Valley.
    Sign-up begins May 30.

19. "Summer Acrobat."  Ages: All  $1 for members
    Saturday  10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
    $3 for general public
    free for members
    What is diving through the air over the pond and fields
    Dragonfly! We will explore these summer acrobats with a
    craft and a hike to watch their air show.
    Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins anytime.

    Saturday  10:30-12:00 noon
    registration not required
    Meet at Oxley for a wildflower walk.

27. "Wildflower Walk."  Ages: All  Free
    Sunday  1:00-2:30 p.m.
    registration not required
    Join us as we search for the wildflowers at Bales Prairie.
    Call Oxley for directions.

Full Moon Walks

"Flower Moon": Tuesday, May 4,
7:30-9:00 p.m.
Fragrant and colorful wildflowers will attract moths
as well as us on this spring evening stroll at Oxley.

"Strawberry Moon": Tuesday, June 1,
7:30-9:00 p.m.
Shaded by Redbud Valley's bluffs, sunset comes
early, enabling us to see the strawberry moon rise.
Meet at Redbud Valley.

$2 for general public  free for members
Outdoor Skills Weekend

Have you ever wished you were good at outdoor skills, like camping, hiking, fishing, bird-watching, and nature study, but didn’t know how to get started? An Outdoor Skills Weekend is a great way to begin! It is designed especially for anyone 18 years or older who wants to: learn new skills, improve existing ones, and learn more about enjoying and being comfortable in the outdoors. Course descriptions and fees are listed in registration packet.

Highlights

- Map and Compass
- Orienteering
- Geocaching and GPS units
- Fly-fishing
- Fly-tying
- Taiji
- Outdoor Cooking
- A Day in the Life of a Pioneer woman
- Backpacking Basics
- Journaling Your Outdoor Experiences
- Clay Bird Houses
- Mosaic Bird Bath
- Harness Driving
- Practical Outdoor Knots
- Basic Rescue and Retrieval Knots

For a registration packet please contact Oxley Nature Center at 918-669-6644 or visit www.oxleynaturecenter.org

Dates: Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23  
Time: 8:30-4:00 p.m.