



# Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 157

May/June, 2005

## Long Distance Monarch Recovered by Tom Clark

Monarch Watch, a program sponsored by the University of Kansas, is renowned for its work in tracking the annual spring and fall migrations of monarch butterflies, and reporting on their overwintering in the mountains of Mexico. Members of the Riverfield Country Day School's Roots and Shoots environmental club were ecstatic to receive a certificate informing them that one of the monarchs they tagged on October 4, 2003 at Oxley Nature Center in Mohawk Park was recovered 1,183 miles away on March 5, 2004 at Cerro Pelon, Mexico.



This individual monarch might have begun its journey from as far away as Canada, but its recovery in Mexico impressed upon the children how nature and environment are intertwined, and how something as seemingly insignificant as a butterfly can help prove the tremendous value of an urban park such as Mohawk as a valuable rest and refueling stop during an exhausting international migration. It also underscored the point that one doesn't have to be a trained scientist to make a contribution to scientific research, and that even they, as students, can make an impact in furthering the knowledge about monarchs and monarch conservation.

### Outdoor Skills Weekend June 11 and 12, 2005

Are you interested in learning new skills or improving existing ones, meeting new people and exploring ways to experience adventures outdoors? If you are 18 years or older, request a registration packet with course descriptions and fees.



#### Highlights



- \* Map and compass
  - \* Orienteering
  - \* Fly-fishing
  - \* Fly-tying
  - \* Backpacking Basics
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- \* Field Sketching
  - \* Edible Wild
  - \* Dutch Oven
  - \* Birding
  - \* Butterflies

For a registration packet please contact Oxley Nature Center at 918-669-6644 or visit [www.oxleynaturecenter.org](http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org).

### Welcome New Volunteers!

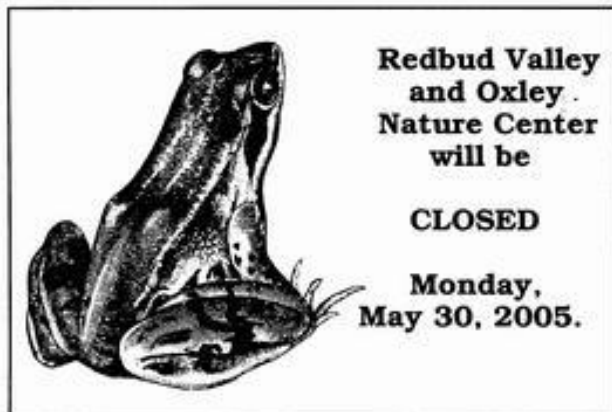
Congratulations to our new **volunteer naturalists** who graduated from the Spring training program and are eagerly leading school groups. Welcome to **Harry Bishline, Melanie Clay, Ursula Gould, Shannon Hall, and Niki Sittel.**

Our new **burn crew volunteers** were busy this Spring. Welcome to **Michael Biales, Harry Bishline, Mike Marler, Kristen Melton, Jack Nash, Valerie O'Brian, John Robinson, and Dawnell Terry.** The prairies look great!

**Kenneth B. Plants** and **Paul Shoun** are new volunteers doing trail work, and **Gwynn Bishline** has completed training as a visitor center volunteer. We're glad you're here!

**Thank you for your effort and support!**

# Nature Center Happenings



**Redbud Valley  
and Oxley  
Nature Center  
will be**

**CLOSED**

**Monday,  
May 30, 2005.**

A \$2 per car Mohawk Park fee will be charged weekends April through October. The west gate will be closed. Oxley members get in free.

## 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 7:00 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

\$2 for general public, free for members, all ♿



### Discovery Club (Ages 3-5 years)

Each child accompanied by an adult, please

May 21, 10:00-11:30 "From Egg to Butterfly"

Where does a butterfly come from? Let's find out how one tiny egg can become a beautiful butterfly. Sign-up begins Sunday, May 8.

### Adventure Club (Grades K-2nd)

Kids only, please

May 21, 10:00-11:30 "Butterflies on the Wing"

A butterfly is one of the most beautiful insects. Will we find one you've never seen before? Sign-up begins Sunday, May 8.

## Full Moon Walks

Registration required, \$2 for general public, free for members, all ages, ♿

Sunday, May 22, 7:45-9:00 p.m. "Flower Moon"

The spring rains have encouraged an abundance of flowers. We will walk at dusk and see if anyone is visiting the flowers in the early evening. Are the bees still awake?



Tuesday, June 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m. "Strawberry Moon"

This moon is named for the relatively short harvest season for strawberries. We will walk the Wildlife Study Trail in search of wild strawberries and signs of wildlife.

## Prairie Thunder in Pawhuska

**Where:** Pawhuska runway (west of town)

**When:** Saturday and Sunday, June 4 & 5

The Tulsa Rocket Club is hosting this 2-day event to launch 10-20 foot rockets with other rocket clubs from a 6-state area. The Astronomy Club of Tulsa will have a portable planetarium, displays, and activities for families on Saturday. Lou Mayo, planetary scientist from the Goddard Space Flight Center, will be attending. He worked on the Voyager and Cassini projects.

Saturday night, Oxley will be participating in a large star party, taking advantage of the dark, expansive skies of the area. Several telescopes will be available for viewing the night sky, where the Milky Way stretches from horizon to horizon. The Oklahoma City Astronomy Club will bring two 25-foot Dobsonian telescopes. For more information on this event go to <http://www.astrotulsa.com> or call Oxley Nature Center at 669-6644.

# Programs and Special Events

May

## 1 "Paper Sack Baskets"

Sunday  
\$2 for general public



Ages: All  
2:00-3:30 p.m.  
free for members

Today is May Day! We will create a May Day basket by recycling ordinary brown grocery sacks into strong, functional baskets. Add a new green seedling to your basket and have a gift perfect for giving. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up anytime.

## 7 "Saturday Morning Birding"

Saturday  
Free



Ages: All  
8:00-9:45 a.m.  
registration not required

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

## 14 "Butterfly Watching"

Saturday  
Free



Ages: All  
1:00-2:00 p.m.  
registration not required

Join us on our monthly butterfly walk. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at Oxley.

## 14 "Cedar Flute Making"

Saturday  
\$20 for general public



Ages: 16 & up  
10:00-2:00 p.m.  
\$15 for members

The American Indian flute and its music was an integral part of tribal culture, connected with courtship and entertainment. In this class you will build your own cedar flute. Supplies will be provided. Meet at Oxley. Class size is limited to 6 participants. Sign-up anytime.

## 15 "Loop String Bags & Catfish Needles"

Sunday  
\$5 for general public

Ages: 8 & up  
10:30-12:00 noon  
\$3 for members

This ancient technique for creating useful bags is found throughout much of the world. String is used in a variety of ways to make bags, hats and other items. We will make our own catfish bone needle and loop string bag. Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign up anytime.

## 21 "Noisemakers at Redbud"

Saturday  
\$2 for general public



Ages: All  
8:30-10:30 a.m.  
free for members

How many different calls, creaks, snaps, booms, sighs, and shrieks will we hear? Who or what is making this racket, and why? Meet at Redbud Valley to find out. Sign-up anytime.

May

## 22 "Back From the Argentine"

Sunday  
\$2 for general public



Ages: All  
1:00-2:30 p.m.  
free for members

In the past 60 days, more than 100 species of birds have arrived in Oklahoma. Where have they been? Why do they travel to Oklahoma? Maybe we can find a few. It is recommended that you read "Back From the Argentine" in "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold. Meet at Oxley. Sign up anytime.

## 28 "Wildflower Walk"

Saturday  
Free



Ages: All  
8:30-10:30 a.m.  
registration not required

Meet at Redbud Valley for a wildflower walk.

June

## 4 "Saturday Morning Birding"

Saturday  
Free



Ages: All  
8:00-9:45 a.m.  
registration not required

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

## 11 "Butterfly Watching"

Saturday  
Free

Ages: All  
1:00-2:00 p.m.  
registration not required

Join us on our monthly butterfly walk. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at Oxley.

## 18 "Simple Leaf Printing"

Saturday  
\$3 for general public



Ages: 14 & up  
10:30-12:00 noon  
\$1 for members

Using a simple dye technique (with non-toxic chemicals) and fresh plant material we'll create a unique nature print on fabric. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up anytime.

## 25 "Wildflower Walk"

Saturday  
Free



Ages: All  
8:30-10:30 a.m.  
registration not required

We will look for wildflowers on the trails at Oxley.

## 26 "Skippers for Beginners"

Sunday  
\$2 for general public

Ages: All  
1:00-3:00 p.m.  
free for members

Skippers are the little brown jobs of the butterfly world. How does one begin to tell them apart?! Conquer your "fear of skippers" once and for all! This class requires an interest in butterfly ID. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up anytime.

## Spring Art Classes at Oxley With Brenda Knapp

### Landscape Painting at Redbud Valley

**Date:** Saturday, May 14

**Time:** 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Ages:** 14 through adult

**Skill Level:** beginner through advanced

**Medium:** oils or acrylics on canvas

**Tuition:** \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members

Students may work in either oils or acrylics. We'll hike along the trails at Redbud Valley and paint the beautiful scenery. Instruction will emphasize working from general areas to detail, mixing, and matching colors, and capturing light and shadow. Supply list available with enrollment.



*Every child is an artist.  
The problem is how to  
remain an artist once  
he grows up.*

Pablo Picasso

### Kids' Landscape Painting at Redbud Valley

**Date:** Saturday, May 14

**Time:** 10:00-11:30 a.m.

**Ages:** 7 through 13

**Tuition:** \$7 for members, \$10 for non-members

Painting in the field really makes you feel like an artist! Students will paint what they see around them in tempera paint. Lessons will emphasize color mixing, layering, and composition. Supplies will be provided.

Preregistration is required for all art classes. Fee must accompany registration. Sponsored by ONCA.