



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 158

July/August, 2005

Why Journal? by Susie Ruby

Journals can be a playground for the mind. They are a way to record events in nature, family events, or just day-to-day events.

I do not journal every day. I just take short notes about what I observe, how my garden is growing, when I see the first hummingbird or hear the first frog of spring. All are a way of preserving a snapshot of our lives. To record the first time you hear or see an animal or plant, or when the first junco arrives in the fall, is the study of phenology.

Your family can start a phenology record of your yard. After a few years you will see patterns develop of the comings and goings of nature.

I like to record the year, date, time, temperature, weather conditions, and even sunrise/sunset, moon rise/moon set times. Try a few sketches too. You can use a spiral notebook or purchase acid free journals with lined or blank pages. Try it! It is very rewarding.

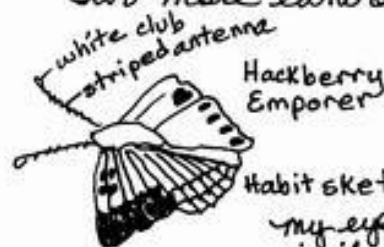
2003

28 August Saw a tarantula along the roadside on the way to Redbud Valley around 8:00 a.m. C.D.T.

29 August .9 inches rain

30 August I walked the trail around the pond at 3 p.m. Oxley Nature Center. Thistle in flower. 98% RH Saw: Spicebush Swallowtails, ♂ Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, calm Dion Skipper, Eastern-tailed Blue, small cloudy Variegated Fritillaries.

A Hackberry Emperor is feeding on my cheek. It is an incredibly ticklish sensation. I have to fight the urge to brush it away. Two more land on my journal.



Habit sketch

Skippers:
Delaware
Sachem
Monarch

I finally brush the one by my eye away. Close to the eye it felt irritating.

I now have 3 Hackberry Emperors on my hand & arm & one in my hair. Oh wait! Two of them are Tawny Emperors. Now there are 2 Hackberry & 2 Tawny. Now 5. I am a feeding station. A Green Heron flies low across the pond. Pipevine Swallowtail. Teensy frog hopping. Now 8! (3 Hackberry, 5 Tawny) Oh & one in my hair. A Toad just popped up on the pond.

proboscis



An excerpt from Susie Ruby's 2003 journal

Nature Center Happenings

**Oxley Nature Center
and Redbud Valley
will be closed
Monday, July 4, 2005.**



Happy Holiday!

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>".

Volunteer Awards Celebration

Volunteers, staff, family, and friends closed a successful spring season with a potluck and barbecue dinner on Thursday, June 2. We gathered to honor our volunteers and present awards for milestones reached.

Three volunteers were eligible for their 3-year pins: **Shannon Chatwin, Julie Monnot, and Dee Mounce.** Three year pins were also presented to ONCA board members in attendance: **Mike Alying, Paul Buck, and John Kennington** (who despite their years in service had not received a 3-year pin).

Thank you to all our volunteers for your time, energy, and enthusiasm. You are awesome!

"Do not try to satisfy your vanity by teaching a great many things. Awaken people's curiosity. It is enough to open minds; do not overload them. Put there just a spark. If there is some good inflammable stuff, it will catch fire." Anatole France

Full Moon Walks

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



Wednesday, July 20, 7:30-8:45 p.m. **"Buck Moon"**

The velvet antlers of buck deer appear on their foreheads this month. We may see some deer as we quietly explore the trails, listening for their snorts and watching for their white tails to go up in warning.

Thursday, August 18, 7:30-8:45 p.m. **"Red Moon"**

This moon is named for the sultry reddish haze the moon often has as it rises this time of year. Let's find out if it casts a magical glow over the trails as we explore.

Volunteer Roundup

Oxley Nature Center is sponsoring a volunteer roundup on **Thursday, August 13, from 10:00-12:00 noon or 7:00-9:00 p.m.** Join us to learn about the many different volunteer opportunities we have to offer.

Have you got some time to share? Please call 918-669-6644 to register. We look forward to hearing from you!

A joy shared is a joy doubled -Goethe

We will have question and answer sessions, staff and volunteers to visit with, and refreshments. Afterward we'll go on a short trail hike.

Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins in September

Do you enjoy being outdoors sharing the experience of nature with others? We are offering Volunteer Naturalist training beginning September 1. We are looking for weekend, evening and weekday volunteer staff. Training sessions will take place throughout September.

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, you will 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: September 1st through October 1st, two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon.

Evening and weekend sessions: evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and/or weekend days from 9:00-11:00 a.m. These dates/times are subject to change.

All new volunteer naturalists and visitor center hosts are encouraged to participate in the Certified Interpretive Host Workshop (see page 4 for details). Oxley will provide the cost of basic CIH training. Certification or NAI membership is the responsibility of the participant.