Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

It is Time for Looking Back and a Time for Looking Forward by Ted Green

Thirty years ago, at the Fall of 1975, we were preparing the initial plans for a nature center that was proposed to the National Audubon Society’s Nature Center Planning Division. The year of 1975 was an exciting time for our organization. We incorporated as a non-profit and signed an agreement with the city that established our partnership role in developing an environmental nature center in Bidwell Park. In April, the plans from the National Audubon Society came to Tobin and confirmed the site necessary that was the cornerstone for the basis of the location and vision. While the plan was being developed, we were also raising funds from the Tobin community to pay National Audubon for the plan.

Now in 2020, we are involved in another major planning process for new facilities at the Oxley Nature Center. We have been working with Tobin Audubon since March and are reaching completion of the planning phase. The funding shortfall will bring the challenge of raising funds for the construction and installation of new buildings. When these are accomplished, they will greatly enhance the educational experience for students and for all of our visitors to the area. Our vision is to provide a unique educational experience that will inspire people to take pride and admiration in the programs and achievements of the park nearly years.

Park Board Members:

Mel Ashley (President), Doug Stahl (Vice President), Mike Dillingham (Secretary), Dave Gornicki (Treasurer), David Wolford (Vice President), Mark Henderson (Secretary), Mary Cusick (Treasurer), Terry Henson, Jim Collins, Glen Cargill, Mary Shoemaker, Jo Green, Paul Beck, and Robert Motson

Five Things Plan:

As we approach the task of fundraising for the new facilities, we first turn to the City of Tobin and the support of the community to make this happen. Private support is important in order to make the project a success. You can help by purchasing‘ a bird or a nature statue, a stone, or a look. These funds will be used to purchase’ the materials and labor for the project. We are working to secure the support of the community for this project.

One of the most exciting aspects of the project is the opportunity to upgrade and improve the facilities. We are currently working on a new, larger building that will accommodate more visitors and provide additional educational opportunities. We are also planning to add new trails and other facilities for visitors to enjoy.

We are excited about the future of the Oxley Nature Center and we thank you for your continued support.

It is going to be a beautiful thing to see all of it come together.
Winter Solstice Hike

Join us Tuesday, December 22, at Oxley Nature Center from 1:30-3:30 p.m. to celebrate the changing of the season!

The winter solstice marks the shortest day of the year, and is followed by the day the sun begins to return to the Northern Hemisphere. Seasonal change is cause for great celebration!

Let’s take a walk through the winter woods. Then we will warm up by the fire, watch the birds at the feeders and enjoy some hot chocolate.

All ages, $3 suggested donation
Please register in advance.

Natural Babies, Natural World

Young children learn by contact with real objects, events and people. We will spend time on the trail to explore nature first hand. This will be a sensory experience!

Monday, November 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

“What is Happening to the Plants and Trees?”
We will take a walk to see how fall is affecting the flowers and trees. How are they different, compared to summer? Why do the leaves and seeds fall, and what happens to them now?

Monday, December 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

“The Squirrels in Winter”
We will talk about squirrels and how they and other animals and birds survive the winter. What do we do in winter that we do differently in the other seasons? We will take a walk and collect some biofacts to make a winter sensory bottle.

Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

$3 requested donation per person, all ages welcome  ** Please register in advance **

**Full Beaver Moon**
Wednesday, November 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Beavers are preparing for winter. Will they make themselves known tonight? Join us for nocturnal explorations of the trails.

**Full Cold Moon**
Saturday, December 26, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Change is in the air. Nights are long and dark. What will we discover under cover of darkness as we explore the trails this evening?
## Programs and Special Events

### November

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<td>4 &quot;Basket Guild&quot;</td>
<td>Ages: 13 to Adult</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
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Join us for a basket-making class that meets once a month at Ovley. We are experimenting with different techniques and materials. This is for all skill levels.

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<td>Ages: All</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8:00-9:45 a.m.</td>
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Join us for birding at Ovley. Bring binoculars if you have them.

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We will take a walk to see how fall is affecting the flowers and trees. How are they different, compared to summer? Why do the leaves and seeds fall, and what happens to them now? Natural Babies, Natural World is a sensory experience!

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<td>14 “That’s What Scat Means—Seriously!”</td>
<td>Ages: All</td>
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Scat means more than get away from me. After discovering what scat looks like and what tracks we might find, we will take a walk around Ovley to see if we can find scat and track clues our woodland friends might have left the night before!

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Meet at Ovley to explore the varied landscape of prairie, forest and wetland. What will we discover today?

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Take a moment out of your busy December schedule to create a unique nature ornament and sip some hot chocolate.

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When: November 30-December 3, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Where: Oxley Nature Center  Instructor: Donna Horton

The National Association of Interpretation’s Certified Interpretive Guide program offers a professional certification designed for anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public. From the theoretical foundations of the profession to practical, hands-on-training, we learn how to design and present programs that help audiences make connections. Must be 16 or older.

For more information or to download a registration form:

Contact: DonnaHortonCIT@att.net, 918-587-0522.

Fourth Annual New Year’s Eve Celebration

For Oxley Nature Center Members Only

Begin a new tradition!

We’ll take an evening walk to welcome in the New Year! Following our hike, we will warm up in front of a bonfire or fireplace to share stories. Hot chocolate, apple cider, and the fixings for s’mores will be available.

Thursday, December 31, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Members Only! Please call and register in advance. Spaces are limited.
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