

Oxley Nature Center

July/August, 2010

Volume 188

A \$2 fee per car (for nonmembers) is charged on weekends April - October to enter Mohawk Park.

Oxley Nature Center:

-The Interpretive Building will be open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon- 4:30 p.m. -Gate and parking lot is open daily, 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. except most City holidays. -Hiking trails are accessible during Mohawk Park hours, 7:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Redbud Valley Nature Preserve is closed:

all Mondays and Tuesdays.
-Open Wednesday through
Sunday, 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. only.
Hiking after these
hours is not allowed.
-Interpretive building is open
Wednesday through Sunday
11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
-Closed most City holidays.

***Closings for Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

Sunday, July 4 (holiday), Monday, July 5 (furlough day), Friday, Sept. 3 (furlough day) and Mon, Sept 5 (holiday).

Program information:

- 918-669-6644
- Oxley@cityoftulsa.org
- Website at "http://www. oxleynaturecenter.org".
- ** Please register for classes
 48 hours in advance unless
 otherwise stated. A class
 minimum of 6 is required.
 -Some classes require supplies
 and allow limited enrollment.
 -Children under 12 must be
 accompanied by an adult
 unless otherwise stated.
 -Most programs are stroller/
 wheelchair accessible.

Neighborhood Watch by Amy Morris

There is no printed sign up in this neighborhood. The boundaries are set none the less. The residents here have their own sense of place. This is where the drama of daily lives plays out.

As I pass through, my whereabouts are noticed by the locals. At certain points I receive various escorts. Up ahead, a dragonfly rises from his post along the prairie trail as I pass through his territory. Hovering aloft briefly on quivering wings, he darts ahead, alighting on a sturdy grass perch ahead of me, pacing me for a distance, then allowing me to pass on.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers chatter about my presence like gossiping women over laundry lines in a back yard. Their small forms are quick silver shadows lost in dancing limbs overhead. Blue Jays shriek that an unknown presence has entered the area and all should be on guard! Loud they are, these raucous residents!

Overhead, lazily circling Turkey Vultures appear non-plussed by this stranger strolling through. They weave patterns in the pale blue, dipping gently with the air currents. Do they see me? I am tempted to lay myself prone in the prairie's grasses, to see if they will glide in for a closer look, but think better of it.

Resuming my walk, my footfalls lift puffs of dust from the trail. Ahead, Summer Azure butterflies rise from coyote scat, then settle back down again to moisture and sustenance, little disturbed by my presence. A grasshopper, wings a flash of sulphur yellow, startles with it's raspy whir as it rockets past.

I hear a 'snort', a muffled thud -- close by. I look quickly to the trees immediately to my right, following the sound. Nothing but a play of shadow and light, leaves and branches swaying gently. I wait, listening. The bird song, the grasshoppers, the breeze all fade away.

Again the snort. A few degrees to the left, I see a flash of white through tangled dogwood, oak and pecan. Then another, then a third; the white flags rise and punctuate the shadows with their message -- danger! In seconds they are gone. The woods seem to close around them, the place where they disappeared, a wall of green, as if they never were. I feel a

calm settle over me.

This is a trail at Redbud Valley, but it could be a world away -- from the city, from the heat, from everyday stress. Why don't you come out, take a walk in our neighborhood, and meet some of the residents? You don't have to go far to feel the magic.

Nature Center Happenings

Volunteer Staff Awards Dinner

Volunteer staff, family and friends joined Oxley staff at our Appreciation Dinner to celebrate milestones achieved as well as good food and friendship on the evening of May 27.

How do we begin to estimate the value and worth of our volunteer staff to our organization? The reasons for their commitment may vary, but all are tied to our mission statement "Inspire the Wonder!" That they do!

Volunteers honored at this time include:

Kathy Huber: 25 years of service (Fall 1992-Summer 2010)

Wally Whaling: Outstanding Volunteer!

Helen Madden: 15 years of service Charles Champlin: 10 years of service Jacquie Young: 10 years of service Debbie-Smith-Berlin: 3 years of service

You inspire us all, thank you for all you do!

Bringing Nature Home

Do you realize you have the power to choose some of your neighbors? You can invite them to live on your doorstep, your balcony, or in your yard. The plants you choose will determine whether you attract butterflies, bees and birds to your habitat.

The Audubon Society and Oklahoma Native Plant Society are sponsoring Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife With Native Plants". He will speak on the subject of his book, which we carry in The Nature Store and highly recommend!

August 18, Oklahoma City August 19, Tulsa Garden Center

Visit www.tulsaaudubon.org for more information.

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins September 7Become a Volunteer Naturalist and share your love of nature with others! If you enjoy being outdoors sharing nature with others, join us for one of our training programs.

Our weekend/after school/evening Naturalist Training begins Friday September 17. If this would be convenient for you, we offer this training on three nights: Friday, Monday and Wednesday, September 17, 20 and 22 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, September 18, Saturday, September 22 and Sunday, September 26 from 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Our weekday 4-week session begins September 7 and ends October 1. Weekday training sessions take place two days a week from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon.

Training is fun, and will familiarize you with our trail system and its varied natural communities: forests, wetlands and prairies. We emphasize interpretation methods and leadership skills.

Following 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 us for more information. No previous experience is necessary.

Join our team now!



Plant some seeds of wonder this fall and watch them grow!

Evening Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

\$2 for general public, free for members, all ages. *** Please register in advance ***

Full Thunder Moon

Friday, July 23, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

We will explore the trails as dusk begins to lend a slight coolness to the day. A summer rain storm would be a welcome respite. Join us to see what we can find tonight.



Full Red Moon

Sunday, August 22, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Will a sultry day in August cause a haze to cast the moon in reddish glow? What will we find out and about on the trails as the heat of day slips toward evening?

Programs and Special Events July August

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

What birds will we find before the heat of the day quiets their voices? Join us at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

10 "Where the Ferns Grow" Ages: All Saturday 9:00-10:30 a.m. \$2 for general public Free for members

Come enjoy a cool shaded spot where a spring emerges from limestone bluffs to flow over moss covered rocks to a pond below. Bring a camera or sketch pad. Meet at Redbud Valley. This hike is not wheelchair accessible.

17 "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon Free registration not required

Meet at Oxley to see what butterflies are flying. Bring binoculars if you have them.

24 "Botany Walk" Ages: All Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon Free registration not required

Wildflowers are the summer stars! Come see what's in bloom. Meet at Oxley.

31 "Edible Wild" Ages: 12 to Adult Saturday 8:30-11:00 a.m. \$7 for general public \$5 for members

There may or may not be large quantities of edibles during the heat of summer. We will focus on methods of preparation. Meet at Oxley.

**Please register 48 hours in advance of classes unless stated otherwise. A minimum of 6 registrants is required. 7 "Saturday Morning Birding" Ages: All Saturday 8:00-9:45 a.m. Free registration not required

While the Purple Martins are gathering to move south, what are the other birds doing? Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

14 "Medicinal Wild" Ages: 10 to Adult Saturday 8:30-10:00 a.m. \$7 for general public \$5 for members



Explore the woods and prairies of the Nature Center and discover medicinal wild plants of Oklahoma. We'll return to the visitor center and make and take a little jar of 'itch' salve. Meet at Oxley.

21 "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon Free registration not required

Butterflies are very active this month. Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

22 "Nature Printed Tote" Ages: 9 to Adult Sunday 1:30-3:00 p.m. \$9 for general public \$7 for members

Design a recycled cotton bag (11" x 7" x 5") you can use to carry treasures or lunch in. We will use a variety of nature printing techniques. Bring your creativity and a sense of fun! Meet at Oxley.

28 "Botany Walk" Ages: All Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon Free registration not required

Who are the toughest of the summer plants? How do they meet the challenge of the heat? Join us at Oxley to find out.

Green - Wood Workshop

What is a **Kuksas?** Kuksas are traditional Swedish drinking cups. These wooden cups are perfect for hot liquids in cold climates and for use in the outdoors. Take one camping this winter to drink your coffee from!

You will use green wood and traditional hand tools to carve these cups. These are great for summer too.

Where: Oxley Nature Center Date: Saturday, August 21 Time: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Ages: 16 to Adult

Fee: \$12 for non-members, \$10 for members

Please call 669-6644 to register.

The Nature Store at Oxley Nature Center is one of Tulsa's best resources for nature related field guides and hard to find items. This shop is operated by ONCA and volunteer staff. **We need your help!**

If you can donate some time stocking, helping with retail design, display or maintenance, please contact us!

4th of July North American Butterfly Count You Can Be a Citizen Scientist!

Join us at Oxley on Tuesday, July 6th to spot, count, tally and identify butterflies. Information gathered is used to supplement the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Summer Butterfly Count held annually in June and July.

Citizen scientists participate in local counts, increase their own knowledge, raise public awareness and contribute valuable data about butterfly populations.

We will meet at **8:30 a.m**. and count until dusk. You are welcome to participate in all or part of the count. Bring a lunch, water, hat and binoculars if you have them. Meet at the picnic shelter at Oxley Nature Center.

No experience is necessary. You'll work in teams with experienced naturalists counting in different areas.

Please call and register in advance so teams can be assembled! The \$3 fee will be waived if you register by July 2.

The U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap in its federally-assisted programs and activities. If anyone believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with our department or the Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

