



Oxley Nature Center

May/June, 2013

Volume 215

A Walk on the Wild Side by Amy Morris

Oxley Nature Center:

-There will be a \$2 fee per car entering Mohawk Park on weekends April through October **unless** you are a member of Oxley Nature Center or the Zoo.

-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. 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.

** Holiday Closings:

Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

** Monday, May 27.

Program information:

- 918-669-6644

- Oxley@cityoftulsa.org

- Website at "<http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org>".

*Register for classes 48 hours

in advance, some classes require supplies and have limited enrollment.

-Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult unless otherwise stated.

-Most programs are stroller/wheelchair accessible.

-Our new mailing address is: Box 150209, Tulsa, OK 74115

We often receive calls from the public asking "What do you have out there?" Oh, so many things! Our 'Red Book' is a record of sightings observed by staff and visitors throughout the year. I have compiled a list of some of our entries from May and June from the year 1990 through 1999. This is only a small sampling; a microcosm of what these unique ecosystems have to offer in terms of activity and biodiversity during these months of great transition.

- 1 May – Cape May Warbler and Blackpoll Warbler reported at RBV. Four nearly-fledged Carolina Chickadees in birdhouse by picnic tables at RBV. 1999
- 2 May – White-crowned Sparrows moving through. 1996
- 4 May – Bird Creek overflowed into Wildlife Study Area again, just a few inches over trail, scouring Yellow Warbler Trail. 1999
- 5 May – Downy Woodpecker family in hole in tree on west side of Coal Creek. 1993
- 7 May – Dickcissels in Meadowlark Prairie. 1994
- 8 May – At RBV on Prairie Fork Trail: hummingbird, Indigo Bunting, and Painted Bunting all perched in one tree while a Northern Oriole and Summer Tanager flew past! 1998
- 9 May – Big Flood! 1993
- 14 May -- Large pin oak with bee hive along Red Fox Trail fell overnight. Bees swarmed. 1991
- 14 May -- Lactating coyote observed in prairie. 1992
- 15 May – 2 Red-shouldered Hawk chicks in nest are still downy on heads and bodies. 1991
- 17 May – Mississippi Kite soaring over Meadowlark Prairie. 1994
- 19 May – Snapping turtle laying eggs on Green Dragon Trail near "swinging grapevine". 1992
- 21 May – Gar spawning in Coal Creek for about a week, carp spawning in BJ's Pond. 1991
- 23 May – Red-shouldered Hawk on ground, dragging/hopping with a large bullfrog! 1993
- 24 May – Least Terns fishing over west lagoon. 1994
- 25 May – Periodical cicadas singing in North Woods 1994
- 29 May – Male Blue Grosbeak at RBV 1995

- 1 June – Mulberries ripening. 1995
- 4 June – 11:00 a.m. CST, gray fox at Redbud Valley where prairie and woodland fork meet. Coyotes howling when whistle sounded at quarry. Barred Owl calling at 10:00 a.m. 1991
- 5 June – Wild Turkey seen in wildflower garden. 1991
- 5 June – 3:10 p.m., gray fox seen by picnic table at RBV, disappeared up the hillside 1999
- 12 June – First ripe blackberry 1995
- 13 June – Osprey @ North Woods 1995
- 14 June – Stormy day, doe with a very young fawn in prairie 30 yards from building. Fawn could only be seen when it jumped (top of ears) in 3' grass. 1992
- 14 June – Four young armadillos feeding outside building by birdfeeders. 1995
- 15 June – Eastern Phoebe fishing; caught a mosquito fish out of water. 1999
- 18 June – Summer Tanagers at RBV have 3 nestlings. 1993
- 18 June – Young crow being fed by parents @ RBV 1995
- 19 June – Woodchuck observed up in box elder tree outside observation deck. 1999
- 19 June -- Windstorm (NE, 60-100 mph), many trees broken or uprooted at Oxley. 1992
- 19 June – Injured muskrat by observation tower. 1996
- 22 June – Skunk with 2 kits living under rocks at RBV. Kentucky Warblers heard near the south junction of prairie and woodland forks at RBV. 8 Hexalectris orchids found along Woodland Trail at RBV. 1993
- 23 June – Prothonotary Warblers are nest building in pecan tree outside window. 1993
- 26 June – 4 mid-size juvenile raccoons in middle of road. 1991
- 29 June – Acadian Flycatchers observed feeding 4 young in nest near spring at RBV. 1999

What do we have out here? We have enough glorious life to inspire the wonder!
What will you see?

Nature Center Happenings

Welcome Volunteer Staff

Our new volunteer naturalists graduated from the spring training program and are now leading tours along our nature trails:

Johnna DuPlantis, Mason DuPlantis, Lena Harrison, Mary Kenkel, and Alex Ramsey.

Photographer **Bill Huggins** has joined us as a roving photographer and wizard of photograph organization. We also want to say hello to **Hannah Aure**, ORU intern and **Fisher Bradford**, an intern from Street School.

Congratulations and welcome!

National Pollinator Week Event

National Pollinator Week takes place on June 17-23. This annual pollinator-awareness campaign celebrates and promotes the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, moths, butterflies, bats, birds, and many other animals. Without these animals our lives would be very dull indeed (think food, flowers and medicine). Join us at Oxley Nature Center to celebrate our pollinators!

Saturday, June 22, 10:00-3:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. "Let's Find a Pollinator Walk!"

12:00 noon "Let's Find a Pollinator Walk!"

2:00 p.m. "Let's find a Pollinator Walk!"

Enjoy special exhibits, make pollinator masks, or build a solitary bee home for your garden.

Natural Babies, Natural World

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

Monday, May 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

"Are You My Baby?"

Monday, June 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**"Creepy Crawlies:
Exploring Life Under a Log."**

**Ages: 1 through 5 years with caregiver
\$2 for general public, free for members
Please register in advance *****

2nd Saturday Family Adventures at Oxley

Saturday, May 11, 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-2:30 p.m.

"Bird Migration"

The first robin of spring or a skein of geese may be as reliable as a calendar in indicating seasonal change. Join us as we celebrate **International Migratory Bird Day**. We will go for a hike and make some bird feeders for our feathered friends.

Saturday, June 8, 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-2:30 p.m.

"Wildflowers and Pollinators"

The prairie blooms, attracting many pollinators including bees, butterflies, and other insects. Let's plant wildflower seeds to take home to grow in a garden or container.

***** Free, all ages, registration not required. The same program will be offered morning and afternoon. *****

Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

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

Full Flower Moon

Friday, May 24, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

April showers and sunshine have brought a flush of wildflowers to the land. Join us for an evening walk.



Full Strawberry Moon

Friday, June 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

We will engage all our senses as we explore the trails this evening. Will we find wild strawberries?

Programs and Special Events

May

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

Birds are nesting and raising young. Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

12 "Naturalist's Choice" Ages: All
Sunday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
\$2 for general public free for members

Check our FB page or call a day or two in advance to see what Sunday afternoon might have in store. Some days are perfect for stomping through puddles, and some days are good for fire starting. What will this day bring? **Registration is required.**



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

Join us at Oxley for our butterfly walk. All ages and skill levels welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

19 "Geology Walk at RBV" Ages: 8 to Adult
Sunday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Free registration is required

The defining feature of Redbud Valley Nature Preserve is the limestone cliff separating two distinct habitats. We'll tour this rugged area. These trails are not wheelchair or stroller accessible. **Registration is required.**

25 "Botany Walk" Ages: All
Saturday 8:00-9:30 a.m.
Free registration not required

What will we find blooming along the trail?
Meet at Oxley.

****Please register 48 hours in advance of classes unless stated otherwise.
A minimum of 6 registrants is required.**

June

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

Will we see some fledglings while we are out and about? Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

15 "Beavers at Work" Ages: All
Saturday 10:00-12:00 noon
\$2 for general public free for members

Beavers are working on the night shift. Come out and learn about these aquatic mammals as we explore our waterways. Meet at Oxley.
Registration is required.

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

Join us at Oxley for our butterfly walk, a wonderful spring pastime. Bring binoculars if you have them.

16 "Geology Walk at RBV" Ages: 8 to Adult
Sunday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Free registration is required

Join us at Redbud Valley for a geology walk. This walk is not stroller or wheelchair accessible.

22 "Botany Walk" Ages: All
Saturday 8:00-9:30 a.m.
Free registration not required

What will we find blooming today at Oxley?
Join us to find out.

29 "Finding Water" Ages: All
Saturday 8:30-11:00 a.m.
\$2 for general public free for members

From rocky upland prairies to wooded Bird Creek terraces, the flow of water over, under, and through the landscape is one of the main factors determining what plants and animals can be found in each part of Redbud Valley. Bring 2 wire coat hangers, and make a pair of dowsing rods. We will walk the trail and do our best to locate water, paying attention to the evidence and effects of water and moisture. Meet at Redbud Valley. This trail is not stroller or handicap accessible.
Registration is required.

Project Learning Tree Workshop

Saturday, June 15, 9:00-3:00 p.m.

\$15 fee for curriculum

To register call Deidra Wakeley,

Science teacher and facilitator: 918-745-9264

K-12 public, private, and home school teachers, Boy and Girl Scouts, 4-H, and Campfire leaders will all learn to use strategies and techniques to teach topics such as forests, wildlife, water, community planning, and energy.

Through hands-on, interdisciplinary activities, PLT helps young people learn "how to think, not what to think", about complex environmental issues. Participants should bring a sack lunch and dress comfortably.

Questions or to pre-register with Deidra Wakeley please call @ 918-745-9264.

4th of July North American Butterfly Count

Join us at Oxley on Tuesday, July 2nd to spot, count, tally and identify butterflies. Information gathered will supplement the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) 4th of July 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, weather permitting. You are welcome to participate in all or part of the count. Please bring lunch, water, hat and binoculars if you have them.

Meet at the front desk at Oxley Nature Center. No experience is necessary. You'll work in teams with experienced naturalists counting in different areas.

Please call and register by June 27th so teams can be assembled and The Friends of Oxley will pay your \$3.

Make Your Yard Wildlife Friendly

You can attract all kinds of wildlife to your yard or balcony if you provide some basic necessities. Food, water and shelter are things all living things require to survive.

One of the most simple and rewarding ways to attract wildlife is to provide a source of water. It can be as simple as a tray of water, or as elaborate as a pond with recycled running water. Sit back and watch insects, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians come take advantage of this as they quench their thirst and splash and bathe.

Plant trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers that will support our native wildlife. Whenever possible, this means choosing native species. Your plantings may provide shelter, nectar, food as a host plant for herbivores, fruit for birds, mammals and reptiles, and natural beauty.

In May, Oxley Nature Center will have a booth at the 20th Annual Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour and Plant Sale sponsored by the Tulsa Audubon Society. Stop by and visit with Oxley Nature Center staff at one of the featured gardens. Bring any questions you may have about enticing birds, bees, bats, and butterflies to visit your garden. Learn what you should plant in sun or shade. What can you plant that will require less watering this summer? Come visit us and start your garden!

Native plant vendors will be featured at the gardens with their wonderful plants.

The tour dates are:

Saturday, May 18, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 19, 12 noon-5:00 p.m.

For garden tour map and information:
www.tulsaaudubon.org

