



Oxley Nature Center

March/April, 2017

Volume 238

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 are 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 at Redbud Valley 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.

** Please note closings:

Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

-April 14, Good Friday

Program information:

- 918-596-9054

- Oxley@cityoftulsa.org

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

-Our mailing address is:

Box 150209, Tulsa, OK 74115

***Register for classes 48 hours in advance.**

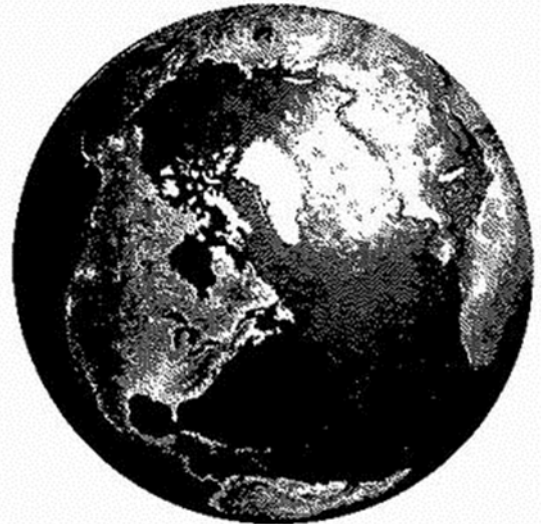
-Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult unless otherwise stated.

-Most programs are stroller/wheelchair accessible.

This is a reprint from the Oxley Nature Center Newsletter in April, 2005. It is especially important today to take steps to do our part, our small acts of love for our earth. Earth Day is April 22, 2017. To find current information go to: earthday.org

"What is the value of preserving and strengthening this sense of awe and wonder, this recognition of something beyond the boundaries of human existence?...Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of tides, the folded bud ready for the spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

-Rachel Carson



Celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day, April 22, marks the 35th anniversary of this environmental movement that began in 1970. That first Earth Day mobilized citizens and led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act. It has become an international event that rallies all people to come together to actively pursue a more sustainable future for our planet. **How can you celebrate Earth Day?** Start some new traditions.

1. Volunteer to pick up trash, in your neighborhood, at a local park, at Oxley, anywhere!
2. Recycle: newspapers, office paper, aluminum, glass, plastics, telephone books, catalogs, and corrugated cardboard. Contact the City of Tulsa Utilities Department (596-9511) or the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (M.e.t) at www.metrecycle.com or 584-0584.
3. Stop junk mail. Try (www.obviously.com/junkmail/) for more information.
4. Replace standard incandescent bulbs with new compact fluorescent lights.
5. Reduce your purchases of disposable and overpackaged items, and buy in bulk when possible.
6. Make conscious, informed decisions to lead an environmentally friendly lifestyle.
7. Take a walk in the woods.

A good resource for ideas is The Earthworks Group, who publish guides such as *"50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save The Earth"* by Earthworks Press.

You can make a difference, celebrate Earth Day every day!

Nature Center Happenings

11th Annual Early Spring Butterfly Count

Calling all citizen scientists!

Join us on **Saturday, April 15** for a spring day in the great outdoors in pursuit of butterflies. Information gathered on the spring count is used to supplement the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Summer Butterfly Count held annually in July.

No experience is necessary. You will be placed in a group with an experienced guide to spot, count, tally, and/or identify butterflies in a specific count area.

We will be meeting from **8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.** and you are welcome to participate in all or part of the count.

Bring a lunch, water and binoculars if you have them. Meet at Oxley Nature Center.

You must call and register in advance so groups can be assembled! You may join the count at 8:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. as we will be out in the field the rest of the time.

*“If a child is to keep alive
his inborn sense of wonder ...
he needs companionship
of at least one adult
who can share it,
rediscovering with him
the joy, excitement and
mystery of the world
we live in.”*



Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins in March

Do you enjoy being outdoors sharing the experience of nature with others? We are offering Volunteer Naturalist training beginning March 2nd. We are looking for weekend, evening, and weekday volunteer staff. Training sessions will take place throughout March. 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 school children 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: March 2nd-30th, two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon.

Evening and weekend sessions: Schedules are more varied, but will begin Thursday evening, March 2, from 6-7:30 p.m. Please call for more details: 918-596-9054.

Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

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

Full Worm Moon

Sunday, March 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

Temperatures warm and soils thaw. Worms make their way to the surface. Join us to search for signs of Spring!



Full Pink Moon

Tuesday, April 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

Some of our earliest wildflowers are pink. This is the time for many new beginnings. Come explore the trails with us!

Programs and Special Events

March

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

Join us for birding at Oxley.
Bring binoculars if you have them.

13 & 27 "Natural Babies: The Trees Are Awakening"
Ages: 1-5 years with caregiver
Monday **10:30-11:30 a.m.**
Free **registration is required**

Spring is just around the corner, with some mild days. Days where you know Spring is coming ... you can feel it – and smell it! We will talk about how the trees were asleep (dormant) during the winter and how the tiny buds on the branches are the first sign of the tree waking up. We will make our own spring tree.



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

They are back! Join us at Oxley for our first butterfly walk of the season. We will be offering these walks the 3rd Saturday of the month March through October. Start a new family or personal hobby! Please note, times vary based on the month:

March-April - 10:30-12 noon; May-August- 9:30-11:00 a.m.
September-October—10:30-12 noon. All ages/skill levels welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

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

Meet at Oxley for an early spring botany walk.

April

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

Join us for birding at Oxley.
Bring binoculars if you have them.

10 & 24 "Natural Babies: "Watching Spiders Spin Webs" **Ages: 1-5 years with caregiver**
Monday **10:30-11:30 a.m.**
Free **registration is required**

We will discuss the insects at Oxley and try to find spiders spinning webs. We will discuss why the spider spins the web and talk about difference between a spider and an insect. We will make our own web from small twigs and weave in our own nature findings.

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

Meet at Oxley to search for spring butterflies.



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

Join us at Oxley for a spring botany walk.

Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop

When: March 14-17, 2016, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily

Where: Oxley Nature Center Instructor: Donna Horton, CIT

The National Association of Interpretation's Certified Interpretive Guide program offers 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 contact:

Donna Horton, Trainer @

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



Certified Interpretive Host Training Workshop

When: March 26 & April 2, 2016, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

Where: Oxley Nature Center Instructor: Donna Horton, CIT

The National Association of Interpretation's Certified Interpretive Host program offers a two day professional certification designed for new hires, seasonals, volunteers, maintenance workers, receptionists, law enforcement or anyone who has public contact but does not present formal interpretive programs to the public. It covers the basics of interpretation, how to provide great customer service and hospitality, and how you can use informal interpretation to support your agency's mission as you interact with visitors. Must be 16 or older.

Looking for Opportunities by Amy Morris

There they are; under our noses, over our heads, and between the sidewalk cracks under our feet! Nature's treasures are everywhere, just waiting to be noticed.

Nature is as close as your own backyard, roadside, school playground, or downtown urban site. It is where a tree grows, a bird flies, or a bit of soil forms in a sidewalk crack. It is the clouds and the rain that falls.

This is where you can challenge children to open themselves up to a world so mysterious, so marvelous, so enchanting, that they just may set down the remote control. Together you can begin a new adventure.

Take that tree for instance. It may be the only one for a block around. That only makes it more special. There is more there than meets the casual eye. Look at the tree as a home for a multitude of tenants: lichens, mosses, galls, beetles, caterpillars, squirrels, and birds are only a few.

Does it flower, and if it does, what color are they? Are the flowers fragrant, who visits them, and why? What about the leaves? What shape are they? Can you press some or do a leaf rubbing? Why do the leaves change color in autumn and then fall off? Is the tree dead?

Answers are an important element of learning. But questions! Questions and curiosity, that is what makes the wheels begin to turn, the world to spin in the universe of a child's inner mind. You don't need to know all the answers. Take the opportunity to guide someone's gaze toward stars in the night sky. You can send sparks flying chewing wintergreen lifesavers in the dark!



Spring has arrived. There are a myriad of magical things to turn our hearts and minds to. Get outside and open yourself to that world of wonder.