



# Oxley Nature Center

July/August, 2017

Volume 240

## Change Happens by Eddie Reece

### 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:

#### \*\* Tuesday, July 4

#### Program information:

- 918-596-9054  
- Oxley@cityoftulsa.org  
- Website at <http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org>.

**\*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.

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

Change happens. Sometimes change isn't welcome. Heaven knows there are things I wish would stay the same but at the same time there are lots of changes that are welcome.

On that note there is change coming soon that concerns this newsletter. For some it will be no big deal. For others it will be a significant change. So here goes. This is the last mail out newsletter you will receive.

However, the information about events, classes and walks will still be available. It will go something like this: The Friends of Oxley has a new website. It is more user friendly in many ways than the old one, (which was top of the line in its day) and as it matures it will get better.

The information that was in the newsletter will be posted on the new website under the heading **News/Events**. By clicking on that heading there is another heading called **Activities**. Everything you want to know will be there, even a calendar. The **Newsletter** heading will still be there but it will have mostly past newsletters.

In the future there will be special postings of articles and such that will fall under that heading. By the way, the address for the new website is the same as the old one. Now see, some things do stay the same. Also, that same information on upcoming events will be posted on Facebook.

So, to be clear, there will no longer be a newsletter as you have come to know it. It will not be mailed out in paper form, which saves time, paper, and money all of which are in short supply these days. And it will not be sent out electronically. I don't know of a shortage of electrons but definitely the time saved will be spent judiciously.

# Nature Center Happenings

## Volunteer Roundup

Have you got some time to share? Oxley Nature Center is sponsoring a volunteer roundup on:

**Thursday, August 10th,  
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.

We will have question and answer sessions, staff and volunteers to visit with, and refreshments. Afterward we'll go on a short trail hike. Please call 918-596-9054 to register. We look forward to hearing from you!

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## Volunteer Staff Awards Dinner and Celebration

Volunteer staff, families, friends and Oxley staff celebrated the spring season with an awards dinner June 20. We gathered together to honor all our volunteer staff and share a meal of barbecue (complements of ONCA) and potluck dishes. We all enjoy this time to get together and visit with one another.

**Several volunteers reached significant milestones:**

3 Year Award: **Pat Davenport, Don Gardner, Helen Hickey, Mack Hickey, Donna Horton, Peggy McMath, Kent Powers, and Pat Vawter**

30 Year Award: **Wally Whaling**

Volunteers of the Season Award: **Michelle Allen and Susan McCollum**

Our volunteer staff serves Oxley Nature in many capacities. With their dedication and enthusiasm, we are able to maintain our trails and acreage, reach a large public with programs, and so much more.

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## 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 5th. 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 5th through September 28th 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 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.

# Programs and Special Events

## July

**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.

**8 "4th of July North American Butterfly Count"**  
**Ages: All**  
**Saturday**    **8:30-dusk**  
**Free**    **registration is required**

Join us **Saturday, July 8th** to spot, count and identify butterflies. Information gathered will supplement the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) 4th of July Butterfly Count.

Citizen scientists participate in local counts, increase personal knowledge, and raise public awareness. You will be contributing to 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 a lunch, water, hat and binoculars if you have them.

You must call to register in advance. No experience is necessary. You'll work in teams with experienced naturalists counting in different areas. Call 918-596-9054 with questions or to register.

**9 "Full Buck Moon"**                                      **Ages: All**  
**Sunday**    **7:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Free (\$3 donation requested)**  
**Registration is required**

Join us for an evening walk along the trails. Will we see or hear any deer?

**15 "Butterfly Walk"**                                      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**    **9:30-11:00 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.

**22 "Botany Walk"**                                      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**    **9:30-11:00 a.m.**  
**Free**    **registration not required**

Join us at Oxley to find out what plants are in bloom. How do plants adjust to high temperatures?

## August

**5 "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.

**7 "Full Thunder Moon"**                              **Ages: All**  
**Monday**    **7:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Free (\$3 donation requested)**  
**Registration is required**

We will engage all our senses as we explore the trails evening. Bring your sense of adventure!

**19 "Butterfly Walk"**                                      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**    **9:30-11:00 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.



**26 "Botany Walk"**                                      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**    **9:30-11:00 a.m.**  
**Free**    **registration not required**

As heat intensifies, where will we find the most green? Let's follow pollinators to find flowers. Meet at Oxley.

## Certified Interpretive Host Training Workshop

When: August 30 & 31, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Where: Oxley Nature Center Instructor: Donna Horton

The National Association of Interpretation's CIH program offers a professional certification designed for new hires, seasonals, volunteers, 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 interpretation to support your agency's mission as you interact with visitors. Must be 16 or older.

For information contact: Donna Horton, Trainer

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

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter"

— Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*



"It is said that we are made up of everything we've ever seen, thought, felt, spoken or done, and on the subconscious level, all of this becomes a permanent part of us, engraved on our gray cells forever. If this experience takes place in nature, we are much more than we were before, and the better for it. Each place on earth has its insects, birds, animals, plants, fossils, and characteristic weather patterns. My small town-park is special to me for what I can learn and experience, and for the peace it brings. My small-town park is a microcosm—a world in miniature—that represents all.

Go outdoors and open your eyes. Look. See. Take notes: write your own personal field guide. A lifetime would not be too long to spend."

*As Henry David Thoreau said:*

*"In wildness is the preservation of the world."*

—Clare Walker Leslie