



Prothonotary Warbler | Photograph Bryan Tapp

Mary K. Oxley Nature Center

May - June 2019 Newsletter

Once the little flashes of bright yellow can be seen in our trees we know Spring is here! Prothonotary Warblers are one of the very exciting Spring visitors we welcome at Oxley Nature Center. We've also spotted our first-of-the-season Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds and Yellowthroat warblers, just to name a couple. What will you see when you visit?



Red Eared Slider | Photograph Greg Silva

Species Spotlight: Red Eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*)

The most abundant turtle in Oklahoma, the Red Eared Slider, is easy to spot because of the dramatic red markings on either side of its head. This basking turtle spends warm days, often in groups, sunbathing on logs in the water of ponds, creeks and lakes. Like other reptiles, the Red Eared Slider has temperature dependent sex determination. The males of this species have extra long claws on their front feet which they use in courting females. They use the claws to tap gently on the female turtles head. The Red Eared Slider's Latin name "scripta elegans" refers to the elegant scriptlike markings on the turtles scutes. You can see many Red Eared Sliders in BJ's Pond right outside of Oxley's Interpretive Center.



Mayapple Blossom | Photograph Bryan Tapp

Please welcome our volunteers who completed volunteer naturalist training in March: Windsor Aniol, Diana Hartzmann, Shana Futsher, Janet Roden and Bryan Tapp!

Our volunteer staff is our greatest resource. They enable us to maintain trails, fight invasive species, greet our guests, lead interpretive tours, provide outreach and so much more. We thank them for their dedication and enthusiasm!

No Dogs, Please!

Why "No dogs" at Oxley Nature Center or Redbud Valley Nature Preserve? The simple answer is nature, and the plants and wildlife that live here. These parks are for the deer and the birds, the skinks and the squirrels. A dog makes wildlife disappear faster than the sound of gunshots.

These places are meant to be sanctuaries for wildlife and for the people who come seeking a chance encounter with the wild things that make it their home. Add a predator, which a dog is, and it immediately changes the dynamics. Wildlife; seeing, hearing, smelling and yes, even being chased by a dog or dogs, is apt to react with fear and heightened cortisol levels.

If you are a great pet owner, have your dog trained, on a leash, up to date on shots, and pick up after it, you would be in the minority. And even well-trained dogs on a leash will alter animal behavior and reduce the chances for you and other visitors to observe wildlife.

If you want to walk your dog and it is on a leash, it is allowed in other areas of Mohawk Park. Dogs are also welcome at many other parks, stores, restaurants and throughout neighborhoods everywhere.

It is wildlife that have few places to be. There are few habitats so rich in flora and fauna that are so accessible to people seeking an opportunity to quietly explore and possibly view native wildlife close to Tulsa as are Oxley and Redbud Parks. These places are for them, and you.

Please, leave your dog at home!

Mary K. Oxley Nature Center - Programs in May

4 May "Saturday Morning Birding"

Ages: All; Saturday, 8:00-9:45 a.m. Free, Registration not required

Join us for birding at Oxley. All skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

6 & 20 May "Natural Babies: "Barefoot Walk!"

Ages: 1-5 + caregiver; Monday, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Registration is required; Free for Members, Non-members \$5 per child.

We will take off our shoes and socks and take a walk outside to discover how nature feels on our feet. We will walk on different substrates and talk about our experience. Back inside we will make a painting with our feet!

11 May "Junior Naturalists"

Ages: 8-12 years; Saturday, 10:00-12:30 p.m. Registration is required; Free for Members, Non-members \$5 per child; Meet at the Fawn Grove at Oxley.

Come join the Junior Naturalists at Oxley Nature Center for a morning of adventure and nature connection! Guided by the changing seasons and our own curiosity, we will hike, journal, tell stories, play games, craft, learn wilderness skills, and practice good park stewardship. Come to all meetings or the one that fits your schedule.

11 May "International Migratory Bird Day"

Ages: All ; Saturday, 9:00-4:00 p.m. Free, Registration not required

Come celebrate birds with us. From 9:00-11:00 a.m. we will have a bird walk with activities. Bring binoculars if you have them. From 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. you may make a mask of your favorite bird, color, study birds at the feeders, explore field guides, and more.

18 May "Butterfly Walk"

Ages: All; Saturday, 10:30-noon; Free, Registration not required

The butterflies are out and about! What will we see today? All skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

18 May "Full Flower Moon Walk"

Ages: All; Saturday, 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Registration is required; \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members

This has been a wonderful year for wildflowers. Will we see and smell them as the evening fades into darkness? Follow the fireflies! Join us for a night walk along the trails.

20 May "Natural Babies: "Barefoot Walk!"

Ages: 1-5 + caregiver; Monday, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Registration is required; Free for Members, Non-members \$5 per child.

This is the same class that was offered on May 6. We will take off our shoes and socks and take a walk outside to discover how nature feels on our feet. We will walk on different substrates and talk about our experience. Back inside we will make a painting with our feet!

25 May "Flowers and Trees and All Things Green Walk"

Ages: All; Saturday, 10:30-noon; Free, Registration not required

What a spring this has been. Wildflowers have been abundant. Join us on our walk to explore the trails and immerse ourselves in the burgeoning life!

Mary K. Oxley Nature Center - Programs in June

1 June "Saturday Morning Birding"

Ages: All; Saturday, 8:00-9:45 a.m. Free, Registration not required

Join us for birding at Oxley. All skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

8 June "Audubon Birding for Kids"

Ages: 8-18; Saturday, 8:30-10:30 a.m.; Free, Registration not required

Join Audubon for birding at Oxley. All skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

8 June "Junior Naturalists"

Ages: 8-12 years; Saturday, 10:00-12:30 p.m. Registration is required; Free for Members, Non-members \$5 per child; Meet at the Fawn Grove at Oxley.

Come join the Junior Naturalists at Oxley Nature Center for a morning of adventure and nature connection! Guided by the changing seasons and our own curiosity, we will hike, journal, tell stories, play games, craft, learn wilderness skills, and practice good park stewardship. Come to all meetings or the one that fits your schedule.

15 June "Butterfly Walk"

Ages: All; Saturday, 10:30-noon ; Free, Registration not required

Butterflies of all colors and sizes are out and about! Who will we see today? All skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

17 June "Full Strawberry Moon Walk"

Ages: All; Monday, 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Registration is required; \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members

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

22 June "Flowers and Trees and All Things Green Walk"

Ages: All; Saturday, 10:30-noon; Free, Registration not required

Summer is upon us. New wildflowers are coming into bloom. Trees are fully leafed out and the canopies have filled in. Join us on our walk to explore the trails.

Mary K. Oxley Nature Center Hours

It costs \$2 per car from April through October to enter Mohawk Park on weekends unless you are a member of Oxley Nature Center or the Tulsa Zoo.

Please note: Oxley Nature Center will be closed Monday, May 27

The Interpretive Building will be open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 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.



Copyright © 2019 Mary K. Oxley Nature Center Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

