



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

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Thoughts to Ponder by Deana Horton

It came up in discussion the other day: what is it that makes us "human" as opposed to "animal"? We give humanistic awards to people who not only are generous to humanity, but might be considered to be extraordinarily human: Is it their generosity that makes them especially good humans? Or is there some other requirement? What are the standards? It is unlikely that each one of us will get to parade onto a stage on national television to accept a humanistic award, but we can still make this world a better place by each of us working to become the best human being possible.

So how do we do it? One of our school groups decided upon a new safety rule one day: be kind to every living thing. That seems like a pretty good starting place. But when you think about it, kindness is not limited to humans. Remember the child who fell from a tree about several years ago? Harshed volunteers reported the gorilla to kill or even to kill the accidental intruder. Instead, the gorilla carefully and gently held the frightened child until he could be rescued from the treetops. There are many stories of animals acting compassionately for members of their own species and of reaching out to help others as well.

Some people argue that humans are the only animals that are self-aware. Others claim that only humans have a sense of humor, or that only humans can grieve. Those of us who have pets would be able to describe examples that would prove all of these theories wrong. Intelligence? By that standard, some animals would qualify as humans, while some of our best people would not.

I would like to propose that humans are the animals with the greatest capacity to give for

the long-term future in a conscious way. And, as we point out in the Nature Center's Fables of the Woods books, humans also hold the greatest capacity to change the conditions of life on our planet.

Over the past few months, I've had the opportunity to think about people who have acted to make positive long-term changes to our community. In the mid-1970s, Dick Sherry and Philip Nelson not only came up with the idea to create a Nature Center for Tulsa, they helped form a group that made it possible. The members of that group, mostly from the Tulsa Audubon Society, are great humans who should be applauded for working to better the interlocking natural and social environments of our community. My late, long-dead Oxley Nature Center's Director Emeritus Bob Arrington for his positive impact, through the years, and for helping give a shape to the early dreams that will not be decades to come.

There are few humans still here in our small part of the world; the current Nature



Center will, including the wonderful volunteers. And the all-volunteer Executive Board of the Friends of Oxley. And the good people who support the Nature Center with their memberships and

donations and oral or written comments to budget administrators who have to draw the checkbook full together this year.

This is an important time to think about doing all we can to be good stewards, long-term planners and kind, generous humans.

Nature Center Happenings

We will be closed for the following holidays:

Monday, November 11
Thursday & Friday,
November 28 & 29
and Sunday &
Wednesday,
December 24 & 25.

Happy Holidays!!



OLEY AND BERRY WALKS

The guides at Oley Nature Center are specially trained with the expertise of local City Guides. From 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Oley, you may join outside the gates from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. To walk the trails and within the gates are closed.

At Redwood Valley Nature Preserve, the gates are open Wednesdays through Sundays, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. You may not step the fence above the Nature Preserve is closed on Mondays or Tuesdays, on City holidays, before 10:00 a.m., or after 1:00 p.m.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Call: 609-884-4141 to register or for more information about programs. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise noted. Programs that are wheelchair accessible are designated with the ♿ symbol.

Visit our Website at: <http://www.oleynaturecenter.org>

Kid's Saturday Programs

50 general public, free to members, all ♿

Decorating Oak Maple 1-3 year old
Each child accompanied by an adult parent.

November 6, 10:00-11:00 "Halloween Story"
Four 40 different stories told their houses!
All will collect a treat for home residents.

Sign-up begins October 27,
November 3, 10:00-11:00 "Leafy, Foliage"
Four 40 stories around the world!
Each child takes home their own!
Sign-up begins December 5.



Advanced Oak Maple Craft
For 4-6 year olds

November 6, 10:00-11:00 "Halloween Fall Crafts"
Each will use the student's library to make poems
recycled! Bring an adult to help you.

Sign-up begins October 27,
December 3, 10:00-11:00 "Winter Observance"
All will use student's library to create
winter's observance.
Sign-up begins December 5.



"Star Beasts"

**Friday, November 22,
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Meet at Lake Tules**

A great moon, a mighty night, a
wilded forest flying up out of the
woods, a sea monster pursuing a
pirates and perhaps a pair of
leaves: the sky is full of Canada
and their stories. Bring something
to eat on. Storytellers of a tale
may be useful. Sunset, 5:12 p.m.
and Moonset, 7:08 p.m. Meet on
the east side of Lake Tules
above the circle drive.
Sign-up begins November 15.

Star Programs

50 general public
free to members

All ages welcome

♿ with advance notice

"Winter Stars"

**Saturday, December 26,
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Meet at Oley Nature Center**

Cold clear nights were beautiful,
brilliant stars. We will use the
telescope to estimate the height
of "stars" of various sizes.
Leave warmly and bring
December if you wish.
Moonset, 1:08 p.m. and
Sunset, 5:17 p.m.
Sign-up begins December 20.

Programs and special events

November

1 "Saturday Morning Dining" **Agnes 11** ■

Agnes 11 11:00-12:00 am
suggested not required



Meet in the Caley parking lot promptly at 10:55 am.
Sign-up/checkout you will be there.

1 "Fall Colors Walk" **Agnes 11**

Agnes 11 9:00 - 11:00 am
fee to members



Let's walk the loop of the Dutchman's trail to enjoy the beauty of
fall. Nature walk in the forest, fields and ground covers.
Map of the trail is available. Sign-up/checkout October 25.

25 "Maga. Continued Walk" **Agnes 11** ■

Agnes 11 1:00 - 2:00 pm
fee to members



The colorful landscape is a beautiful view. We will take
a walk for the Maga. continued. Meet at Caley.
Sign-up/checkout November 15.

30 "North Woods Revival" **Agnes 11**

Agnes 11 1:00 - 2:00 pm
fee to members

Was your last "dinner" walk a good one? If not, we will walk
around the North Woods to enjoy the most beautiful
scenery in the area of nature. Meet at the bank at 1:00 in the
park corner of the golf course. Sign-up/checkout November 17.

December

1 "Saturday Morning Dining" **Agnes 11** ■

Agnes 11 11:00-12:00 am
suggested not required



Meet in the Caley parking lot promptly at 10:55 am.
Sign-up/checkout you will be there.

1 "Lighter Tea" **Agnes 11** ■

Agnes 11 10:00-11:00 am
fee to members



Meet with us when there's a good reason to have a lighter
tea. Meet at the Caley parking lot promptly at 10:00 am.
Sign-up/checkout you will be there. Meet at Caley.
Sign-up/checkout November 25.

18 "Daddy-Daughter Walk" **Agnes 11**

Agnes 11 1:00 - 2:00 pm
fee to members



If you're looking for a good reason to have a walk with your
daughter, meet at the Caley parking lot promptly at 1:00 pm.
Sign-up/checkout you will be there. Meet at Caley.
Sign-up/checkout November 15.

Join us Saturday, November 9 for two special programs

For ages 18 & up. Must prepay to enroll in these classes; space is limited.

Dutch Oven Cooking

Taught by Debi Green and Su Gault

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$25.00 (non-members), \$10.00 (members).

Join us in learning Dutch oven cooking techniques and
how to select, care for, and store these versatile cast
iron pots. Great for car camping and the backyard. We
will prepare meats, breads, vegetables, desserts and
some made root beer!

Wear comfortable shoes and clothes for the outdoors.
Bring your own pot if you like. Come hungry!

Edible Wild and Herbal Tea

Taught by Donna Herber

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20.00 (non-members), \$15.00 (members)

Edible-style wild greens, sourdough bread, wild herb tea,
sourdough bread, wild herb tea...
The afternoon session will focus on ingredients that
can be collected from a variety of habitats. We'll
discuss safety and conservation issues. Weather
permitting, we'll go out to collect items, learning the
basics of identification. If it's storming we'll use items
collected ahead of time. Finally, we'll try out a
variety of preparation techniques and sample our
making. Bring your own pot if you like.

Congratulations New Volunteers

The following people successfully completed volunteer orientation training:

Sharon Chastain and Linda Wells



We welcome you and look forward to having you on our team!

This Time Last Year...

- A bobcat at water feature outside library window.
- Aurora borealis across N.E. Oklahoma several evenings the first week in November.
- An awesome nightwalk with a sighting of raccoon and opossum and hearing coyotes, Barred Owls and a fox.
- An 8-point buck chasing a doe behind the visitor center.
- A Gray Fox crossing the prairie at 8:00 a.m. being followed by a buck sniffing and scent marking along his trail.
- Butterflies still nectaring (Black Swallowtails, Red Admirals, Whites and Sulphurs, Variegated Fritillary, Common Buckeyes and Fainted Ladies).
- Seeing a Rock Wren, Towhees, winter sparrows and juncos.

Join us for this years discoveries!