



# Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 147

September/October, 2020

## Changes by Lynda Fitts

We now know when she came here, it was always a given that she was a part of the Nature Center just as much as anyone or anything else. We knew many visitors noticed her immediately, others we weren't sure, but we always tell they had met her, if only indirectly.

She had that wonderful, special quality so hard to put a name to. It was how she spoke to you without words. It was how she touched you without reaching out. It was how she walked with you without steps. It was that mothering, mothering, yes, mothering! attitude she possessed. No, she didn't possess it, she created it. It came from every part of her very being.

One of the basic concepts we work to help children understand is the inter-connectedness of all living things. We explore food chains and webs and find examples of them. Sometimes we find forms of different kinds of animals. We also learn the importance of a good balance of plants and animals and the particular kind of space they all need. By going through steps like these, children understand how relationships are formed and sustained.

She had formed special relationships with so many. In no way will we ever be able to tally the number of lives she influenced. It's very possible you, and people you know were part of that number. It's also very possible that you'll notice the change in her the next time you visit the Nature Center.

The "Big One", as she was fondly known, has embarked on her final journey. You remember her now. She was just past the fence on the west side of the parking lot. She has passed over Bill's best friendhood and began a new process, that of decomposition. That's one of those words children have learned how to use and how to use many years ago.

It was her overall sense that first caught your eye. You may have been impressed by the size of her girls, too. Sometimes with our group we would guess how many of us it would take to form a circle around her. She formed a relationship with us. We were always excited to find new things understandable for ourselves, too. Many was the time we guessed who might use her as a home or place to raise a family, or a place to find food, or maybe just as a growing place. We would notice how her shade gave relief on a hot summer day. We saw her leaves cover the earth in autumn. Winter's snow sometimes covered her branches so how with the added weight just as she bent, and stayed in a spring storm, only to defy it all and burst back with new life.

Science tells us animals don't "take" things like humans do, but they certainly will notice the change in the "Big One". We will miss her, but celebrate her journey through the legacy she leaves. It is a legacy of being, giving and contributing to give through death and decay.



# Nature Center Happenings

**Ozley and Redbud Valley  
will be closed:  
Monday, September 1.  
Happy Holiday!**



## OSLEY AND REDBUD VALLEY

The gates at Ozley Nature Center are open daily, with the exception of near-day holidays, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. At Ozley, you may park outside the gates from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to walk the trails even when the gates are closed.

At Redbud Valley Nature Preserve, the gates are open Wednesdays through Sundays, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You may still log the trails whenever the Nature Preserve is closed, on Wednesdays or Sundays, on Day holidays, before 9:00 a.m., or after 5:00 p.m.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

Call 408-8244 to register or for more information about programs. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult, unless otherwise stated. Programs that are wheelchair accessible are designated with the ♣ symbol.

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

## Kat's Saturday Programs

\$5 for general public, \$5 for members, all ♣

### Discovery Club (Ages 5-8 years)

Each club accompanied by an adult, please.

#### September 12, 9:00-10:00 "Mystery Minerals"

We will learn about the minerals beneath our feet, go outside and look for them so they are their very own.

Sign-up begins Sunday, September 1.

#### October 6, 9:00-10:00 "A Long Antenna Hag"

Humans are said to have antenna to smell the air under water, the same thing, right? Sign-up begins October 1.

### Adventure Club (Ages 8-12)

Get your gear.

#### September 15, 9:00-10:00 "Shapes & Patterns"

There are patterns and shapes and stars and more shapes in nature. Let's go find them. Sign-up begins Sunday, September 1.

#### October 6, 9:00-10:00 "Notes in Minutes"

We will create a small stream of a natural melody to us. Tell us our memories. Sign-up begins Sunday, October 1.

## Astronomy Club of Tulsa & Ozley Nature Center Mars Watch 2003

On August 27, Mars will pass within 24 million miles of the earth which is its closest approach in 60,000 years. Join us to view Mars through a telescope and actually see surface features such as the polar caps. Several telescopes will be available for viewing. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this once in a lifetime event!

**Date of Event:** Friday and Saturday, September 5 and 6

**Location:** John Ozley Park Grounds at Mohawk Park (near shelter #)

**Time:** 8:30 p.m.-12:00 midnight, no registration required, free to public

# Programs and special events

## September

4 "Saturday Morning Dining" **Agnes: All** ■  
 Saturday 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
 Free registration not required



Meet in the Caley reading room (Rm. 211-212) at 9:50 a.m.  
 Bring your own if you have them.

6 "Planting Pretty Potatoes" **Agnes: 7-8** ■  
 Saturday 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
 \$10 for general public ■ free for members

Learn all about potatoes and their plant family, watermelon, and how to cook the potato in the Caley. Meet in Caley. See staff accompanying registration.

10 "Terrarium Through Deciduous" **Agnes: All** ■  
 Saturday 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
 Free registration not required



Subjects registration should be underway. Meet in Caley reading room (Rm. 211-212) at 9:50 a.m. Bring containers if you have them.

15 "Dormitory Cooks" **Agnes: 5 & up** ■  
 Saturday 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
 \$10 for general public ■ free for members

Learn how to cook your own dormitory food and how to organize a food service in a dormitory. Meet in Caley. See staff accompanying registration.

19 "Spiders' Secrets" **Agnes: All** ■  
 Sunday 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
 \$2 for general public ■ free for members



Learn about the secret lives of the spiders that make the Caley a little more scary. You'll be amazed at how many spiders there are. Meet in Caley. Sign-up begins August 15.

## "Autumn Stars"

Tuesday, October 14

7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Milky Way stretches across the night, and bright stars help point the way to interesting celestial targets. City observers can enjoy the brightest stars, but will we be able to find the Milky Way? Bring something to sit on at Tresson Park level of Memorial from the traffic light at 27th Street. Starts at 6:45 p.m. and finishes at 9:45 p.m. Sign-up begins October 5.

All ages welcome ■ with advance notice  
 \$2 for general public ■ free to members

## October

4 "Saturday Morning Dining" **Agnes: All** ■  
 Saturday 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
 Free registration not required

Meet in the Caley reading room (Rm. 211-212) at 9:50 a.m.

Bring your own if you have them.

5 "Survival Strategies: Cacti" **Agnes: All** ■  
 Sunday 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
 \$10 for general public ■ free for members



Learn about the survival of cacti in desert biomes. We will learn about their adaptations and discover how cacti are used in food. We will discuss some cacti using photographs.

Meet in Caley reading room (Rm. 211-212) at 9:50 a.m.

8 "Dormitory Cooks" **Agnes: All** ■  
 Saturday 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
 Free registration not required



Meet in Caley reading room (Rm. 211-212) at 9:50 a.m.

Bring your own if you have them.

9 "Outdoor Cooking Adventure" **Agnes: 8 & up** ■  
 Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
 \$10 for general public ■ free for members



Explore the joys of outdoor cooking with marshmallows, hot dogs, and other foods. You'll learn how to use a grill, roaster, and other outdoor cooking equipment. Meet in Caley. See staff accompanying registration.

11 "A Guaranteed Good Time" **Agnes: All** ■  
 Sunday 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
 \$10 for general public ■ free for members

The joys of water slide come alive in our indoor water slide. We'll have a water gun fight and a water gun contest. Meet in Caley reading room (Rm. 211-212) at 12:50 p.m.

15 "Gaming with Horror Names" **Agnes: 14 & up** ■  
 Sunday 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
 \$10 for general public ■ free for members

Learn the rules of board games with a horror theme. We'll play a board game with a horror theme. We'll also have a board game with a horror theme. Meet in Caley. See staff accompanying registration.



## Crescent Moon Night Walks



**Families and Individuals:** Tuesday, October 26, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sign-up begins October 18.  
**Groups of 8 or more:** Wednesday, October 28, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sign-up begins September 2.  
**Fee:** \$2 for non-members, members free.

Join us as we explore the nature center at night. We will learn to use all our senses as we encounter the night life at Oley, without the use of flashlights. Come prepared with us.

### Wanted- Junior Naturalists!

The Junior Naturalist program is for 2nd-5th graders with a keen interest in the outdoors. Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of every month, September through May. Join us for creative activities, nature hikes, and work projects. For more information or to register please call Oley at 660-6644.

### Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins

Join our dedicated team of volunteers who lead nature study walks, welcome and assist visitors, or help us keep up with the ever-growing task of maintaining our trail system. No previous experience is necessary. Participants must be 18 years or older. **Volunteer naturalist trail guides are required to attend a series of training sessions during September.** For more information please call Oley at 660-6644.



## Introduction to Gardening for Wildlife

Saturday, October 4, 2003

9:00 a.m.-4:00p.m.

Whether you live on a large acreage or a city lot, you can attract wildlife to your yard. Guest instructor for the workshop is Carol Kames, retired Education Curator at the Tulsa Zoo. She is still active in her passion for conservation.

In this workshop you will learn how to benefit wildlife while beautifying and enhancing your yard with native plants. We will guide you through the basics of designing, planting, and maintaining your wildlife garden. From the start, through a working lunch, ending with a field trip to an established garden, you'll go away with new ideas, assurance, and know-how.



Fee for the workshop is \$4 for OMCA members and \$5 for non-members. ■

Call the Nature Center, 669-6644, to register. Call soon, registration is limited. Bring a sack lunch and wear comfortable clothes and shoes. We'll provide snacks and lots of hand-outs. Class is sponsored by Ocky Nature Center Association (OMCA).

# Exploring Art in Nature with Brenda Knapp

Classes sponsored by Oley Nature Center Association

Fee must accompany registration. Send name, address, phone number and a check made out to ONCA and mail to: ONCA, PO Box 33612, Tulsa, OK 74155-0612

## Advanced Nature Drawing

**Date:** September 2-October 7

**Time:** 6:30-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Oley Nature Center

**Level:** low intermediate, advanced, professional

**Cost:** \$80 non-members, \$48 members

**Age:** 16 & up ■

This class goes beyond the basics to teach keen observation skills and drawing techniques. Subjects include: Drawing natural objects to scale, form, light and shadow, atmospheric perspective, contrasting textures, movement in wildlife, and adding drama to your landscapes.

## Fundamentals of Nature Drawing

**Date:** September 20-November 5

**Time:** 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Oley Nature Center

**Level:** beginning, intermediate

**Cost:** \$50 non-members, \$34 members

**Age:** 16 & up ■

This course is for the student who wants to understand the core concepts of drawing as it applies to natural art. Students will learn to draw sunlight and shadow.



## Field Sketching Workshop

**Date:** September 27

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Location:** Redbud Valley Preserve

**Level:** beginning, intermediate, advanced

**Cost:** \$45 non-members, \$12 members

**Age:** 16 & up

Put on your hiking shoes for this one! A great workshop for both the artist and naturalist. Students will walk the trails of Redbud to find subjects, will learn how to draw them on-location, will learn what to include in a field sketch, and discover how to use these sketches as reference for later artwork.

## Landscape Painting at Redbud Valley

**Date:** October 18

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Location:** Redbud Valley Preserve

**Level:** mid-beginning through advanced

**Cost:** \$15 non-members, \$12 members

**Age:** 16 & up

Landscapes offer ever-changing subjects that challenge the artists' palette and terrify the observer. Come relax and learn to paint the amazing scenery at Redbud Valley. Learn techniques that will bring depth to your painting and how to compose your painting to draw in the viewer. Acrylics will be the recommended medium for the class. Ideas will be there as applied, but students may choose to paint in oils if they are comfortable with that medium.