



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 151

May/June, 2004

Friends of the Oxley Nature Center

Imagine it's early fall. The late afternoon eases into evening, cooling the air. The sixty or so kerosene lanterns hanging in the trees begin to glow warmly. There are large boulders in a ring around the campfire. People are gathered there. It's a convenient place to sit and talk. There is laughter. Presently everyone gathers at the shelter. It's time to eat: grilled chicken hotdogs and potluck. Get a cup of hot chocolate or apple cider. Pick a table among the tall pin oaks and eat under the glow of lantern light. Hang around because there is story telling at the campfire. Make a s'more. Climb on the hay wagon and go for a ride into the woods and across the prairie. Who knows what might happen? Maybe the stars will be bright or maybe owls will call one another or maybe we'll even see deer staring back at us in the dusk.

This is an opportunity for members of Friends of Oxley Nature Center. This event is held each autumn.

Other member benefits include:

- No charge or reduced rate enrollment in nature center programs and workshops.
- A discount in "The Nature Store".
- Year-round free admission to Mohawk Park.
- Invitations to special "Members Only" events.
- Importantly, by becoming a member you will be supporting our educational mission and aid us in protecting the habitat and wildlife of Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Preserve.
- You automatically receive the newsletter.



If you are not a member of the Friends of the Nature Center, and you wish to continue to receive the newsletter, we ask that you notify us yearly to keep you on the mailing list.

To continue to receive these courtesy mailings, please contact us by June 1st. You may email us at Oxley@ci.Tulsa.Ok.US, call 669-6644, fax us at 669-6653, or write us at the return address on the newsletter.

To save paper resources, the newsletter is offered online at oxleynaturecenter.org. Remember this is your nature center. Help conserve it, participate in using it.

Nature Center Happenings

**Redbud Valley and Oxley Nature Center will be closed for the following holiday:
Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day.**



A \$2 parking fee per car (for the general public) will be charged on weekends from April through October when entering Mohawk Park. Members of Oxley get in free. The west gate will be closed on weekends April -October.

OXLEY AND REDBUD HOURS:

The gates at Oxley Nature Center are open daily, with the exception of most City holidays, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. At Oxley, you may park outside the gates from 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 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 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You may **not** hop the fence when the Nature Preserve is closed: on Mondays or Tuesdays, on City holidays, before 8:00 a.m., or after 5:00 p.m.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Call: 669-6644 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. Programs with insufficient registration may be cancelled 48 hours prior to program.

Visit our website at "<http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org>".

Kid's Saturday Programs

\$5 for general public, \$3 for members, all ♿

Discovery Club (Ages 3-5 years)

Each child accompanied by an adult, please.

May 15, 10:00-11:30 "What's Under Your Feet?"

Come explore the forest floor to see what you'll find beneath your feet.

Sign-up begins Sunday, May 2.

Adventure Club (Grades K-2nd)

Kid's only, please

May 15, 10:00-11:30 "Explorer's Hike"

Where does that deer trail go? Let's go for an explorer's hike!

Sign-up begins Sunday, May 2.

Congratulations New Volunteers

This Spring training session resulted in the graduation of four new volunteer naturalists: **Rob Bowe, Daniel Crowley, Linda Hall** and **Mike Morris**. Welcome to our team! We look forward to working with you this season. **Don Bright** has joined our Adopt-a-Trail program and will be walking the Wildlife Study Trail. Thank you to all our volunteers. We couldn't do it without your positive energy and dedication!

Tulsa Spring Comet/Planet Watch 2004

The Astronomy Club of Tulsa and Oxley Nature Center Association invite you for an evening of viewing the planets, crescent moon, stars, and "Comet Q4 Neat". Several telescopes will be available for an up close view of the night sky. They will be aimed at a dazzling conjunction of planets, the crescent moon, and possibly a bright comet.

Dates: Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22.

Time: 8:30-11:30 p.m.

Where: Polo field in Mohawk Park, (follow the signs from the park entrance).

Suggested donation is \$2 per adult and \$1 per child. Donations will benefit the Astronomy Club of Tulsa and ONCA.

Programs and Special Events

May

1 "Saturday Morning Birding"

Saturday
Free



Meet in the Oxley parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m.
Bring binoculars if you have them.

Ages: All

8:00-9:45 a.m.
registration not required

2 "Reptile Ramble"

Sunday
\$2 for general public

What is a reptile? We will walk the trails at Oxley in search of some of the reptiles that make this their home. Join us to learn more about these animals. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins April 18.



Ages: All

1:00-2:30 p.m.
free for members

8 "Birding by Ear"

Saturday
\$2 for general public

Sometimes ears are better than eyes. There are several species that can be identified only by their vocalizations. This class will help you get started on learning bird songs and calls.

Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins April 25.

Ages: All

8:30-9:45 a.m.
free for members

8 "Butterfly Walk"

Saturday
Free



Meet in the Oxley parking lot for our butterfly walk. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Ages: All

1:30-3:00 p.m.
registration not required

16 "Dogwood Arrows"

Sunday
\$10 for general public

Learn to select raw shafts for arrows. Straighten and fletch cured shafts with turkey feathers and elk sinew. Tip arrows with bone or field points. Join us to learn this primitive skill. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins May 2.

Ages: 12 & up

12:30-4:00 p.m.
\$8 for members

22 "Wildflower Walk"

Saturday
Free

Meet at the northwest corner of Mohawk Golf Course to hike in the North Woods for a wildflower walk.

Ages: All

1:30-3:00 p.m.
registration not required

23 "Wildflower Walk"

Sunday
Free

Meet at Redbud Valley for a wildflower walk.

Ages: All

9:30-11:00 a.m.
registration not required

29 "Prairie Grasses"

Saturday
\$2 for general public

We will take a walk and observe some of the native grasses of the tall and short grass prairies. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins May 16.



Ages: All

8:30-10:00 a.m.
free for members

June

5 "Saturday Morning Birding"

Saturday
Free

Meet in the Oxley parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m.
Bring binoculars if you have them.

Ages: All

8:00-9:45 a.m.
registration not required

12 "Butterfly Walk"

Saturday
Free

Meet in the Oxley parking lot for our butterfly walk. Bring binoculars if you have them.



Ages: All

10:30-12:00 noon
registration not required

13 "Degrees of Difference"

Sunday
\$2 for general public

We'll start on the high trail, return on the low one, and check temperatures along the way, including inside one of the caves. Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign-up begins May 30.

Ages: All

12:00-1:30 p.m.
free for members

19 "Summer Acrobats"

Saturday
\$3 for general public

What is diving through the air over the pond and fields? Dragonflies! We will explore these summer acrobats with a craft and a hike to watch their air show. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins anytime.



Ages: All

10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
\$1 for members

26 "Wildflower Walk"

Saturday
Free

Meet at Oxley for a wildflower walk.

Ages: All

10:30-12:00 noon
registration not required

27 "Wildflower Walk"

Sunday
Free

Join us as we search for the wildflowers at Bales Prairie. Call Oxley for directions.



Ages: All

1:00-2:30 p.m.
registration not required

Full Moon Walks

"Flower Moon": Tuesday, May 4,

7:30-9:00 p.m.

Fragrant and colorful wildflowers will attract moths as well as us on this spring evening stroll at Oxley.

"Strawberry Moon": Tuesday, June 1,

7:30-9:00 p.m.

Shaded by Redbud Valley's bluffs, sunset comes early, enabling us to see the strawberry moon rise. Meet at Redbud Valley.

\$2 for general public

free for members

Outdoor Skills Weekend

Have you ever wished you were good at outdoor skills, like camping, hiking, fishing, bird-watching, and nature study, but didn't know how to get started? An Outdoor Skills Weekend is a great way to begin! It is designed especially for anyone 18 years or older who wants to: learn new skills, improve existing ones, and learn more about enjoying and being comfortable in the outdoors. Course descriptions and fees are listed in registration packet.

Highlights

- Map and Compass
- Orienteering
- Geocaching and GPS units
- Fly-fishing
- Fly-tying
- Taiji
- Outdoor Cooking
- A Day in the Life of a Pioneer woman



- Backpacking Basics
- Journaling Your Outdoor Experiences
- Clay Bird Houses
- Mosaic Bird Bath
- Harness Driving
- Practical Outdoor Knots
- Basic Rescue and Retrieval Knots



For a registration packet please contact Oxley Nature Center at 918-669-6644 or visit www.oxleynaturecenter.org

Dates: Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23

Time: 8:30-4:00 p.m.