



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 152

July/August, 2004

You Know You're a Naturalist When....

by Eddie Reese

Have you ever been awakened very early in the morning by the dawn chorus, when the birds have been roused and are all singing at the same time and it's barely light outside? That's my spring alarm clock. One morning I was lying there, still in a fog of semi-consciousness, when without realizing it, I was identifying the birds I could hear. After a few minutes, when I became more fully awake, it occurred to me that what I was doing was probably unusual. After all, what kind of person would automatically start identifying bird calls while still basically unconscious? Or, who cares about bird calls anyway?

So I started pondering this. Most people I come in contact with look at the world a lot differently. Take my neighbor for example. He once asked me about those weeds in my front yard. "Weeds! Where?", I thought. I immediately turned to that patch of bermuda grass I had been trying to eliminate. I thought it might be coming back to life again. It tends to do that it seems. But no, by weeds he meant the big bluestem, milkweed, black-eyed susan, and other wild flowers I let grow in my yard. My neighbor held a pretty typical belief. If it's not bermuda or fescue, and you can't buy it at a plant nursery, it's a weed.

Or, you may be one of people who fit the pattern I was seeing emerge. We are naturalists of course! And I realized that being a naturalist isn't necessarily a job title or a scientist in a jungle somewhere. It's folks like you and me who still have that child-like fascination with the natural world around us. We are more intrigued by a spider web wet with morning dew, with a rainbow streaked across it, than we are a shopping mall.

So I started wondering what other things naturalists do that identify them as such. Well, you know you're a naturalist if your vacation photos cut off a family member in order to center the adjacent flower, snake, or rock formation. You know you're a naturalist if your vacation destinations are national forests or parks instead of cities which must be avoided if at all possible. Or how about this one? You know you're a naturalist if your freezer contents include a roadkill you picked up for the nature center's study skin

collection. Do you brake for box turtles and move them off the road? You might be a naturalist. We could all take a look at ourselves and the things we do. There are a lot of naturalists reading this article right now. Are you one?

Notice: To renew your membership please note our change of address:

Oxley Nature Center
P.O. Box 35812
Tulsa, OK 74153-0812



Nature Center Happenings

**Redbud Valley and Oxley
Nature Center will be
closed for the following holiday:
Sunday, July 4.**



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 7:00 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>".

Volunteer Awards

Volunteers, staff, family, and friends celebrated the spring season with an awards dinner on May 14. We gathered to honor our volunteers, and to eat barbecue (provided by ONCA) and pot-luck. Several volunteers reached significant milestones:

Karen Bryan and Julianna Monnot -- 3 year award

Chloeen Oney -- 5 year award

Bob Aggas, Vendia Coder, Judy LaFrance, and Arlene Seebech -- 10 year award



Our volunteers serve in many different capacities and are the backbone of our organization. With their dedication and enthusiasm we are able to reach a greater number of people. Many thanks to all our wonderful volunteers!

Oxley Nature Center's 4th Annual Butterfly Count -- Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Butterfly watchers needed! The 30th annual North American Butterfly Association (NABA) *4th of July Butterfly Count* tracks butterfly populations in Canada, the United States and Mexico. For the 4th year we will census populations within 7.5 miles of Oxley Nature Center. Help us spot and count butterflies anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on July 6. Please call to sign up. The \$3 fee will be waived if you sign up before 4:30 p.m. on July 3. You may also contribute by counting butterflies in your own yard.

Perseid Meteor Watch

The best time to view the Perseid meteor shower is after 2:00 a.m., and you will see more "shooting stars" if you find a good dark site 30 miles from city lights. You can start your meteor watch with us, though, at Hunter Park. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Moonset is 5:53 p.m. and sunset is 8:19 p.m.

When: Wednesday, August 11

Time: 9:00-10:30 p.m.


Where: Hunter Park (91st street between Sheridan and Yale).

Fee: \$2 for non-members, members are free.


Ages: All ♿ **Sign-up:** begins August 1.

Programs and Special Events


July

3 "Saturday Morning Birding" Ages: All  **Free**
8:00-9:45 a.m.
registration not required


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

10 "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All  **Free**
10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
registration not required

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

11 "Potions, Lotions and Salves" Ages: 16 & up  **Free**
1:00-2:30 p.m.
\$3 for members


Make and take--come learn herbal recipes for making homemade salves and liniments. Meet at Oxley.
Sign-up begins June 27.

17 "Wildlife Painting" Ages: 16 & up  **Free**
10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
\$8 for members


Learn to paint wildlife using acrylic paint. Materials will be provided. Bring your own brushes if you like. Meet at Oxley.
Sign-up begins July 5.

24 "Wildflower Walk"  Ages: All **Free**
9:00-10:30 a.m.
registration not required

Meet at Redbud Valley for a wildflower walk.

25 "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All  **Free**
9:00-10:30 a.m.
registration not required

Meet at Oxley for a wildflower walk.

31 "Create a Critter" Ages: All  **Free**
10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
free for members

With your own "sack of stuff" you'll have everything you need to make a model of one of the nature center's common animals. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins July 18.

Welcome Summer Seasonals

This summer we are happy to welcome back **Ramona Jackson, Chris McFarland, and Brett Patterson**. With their help doing trail work, summer groups, maintenance, and the visitor center we will be able to serve more people, gather and scatter more seed, and keep our natural resources in better shape. Stop by and say hello!


August

7 "Saturday Morning Birding" Ages: All  **Free**
8:00-9:45 a.m.
registration not required

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

14 "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All  **Free**
10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
registration not required

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


15 "Atlatl--Primitive Weapon of the Stone Age" Ages: 12 & up  **Free**
1:30-3:00 p.m.
free for members

In the cool shade of an ancient bluff we will construct this primitive tool. Near the spring, evidence of ancient occupation exists. Could those people have built the same tool in the same place thousands of years ago?


Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign-up begins August 1.

21 "Turtle Tales"  Ages: All **Free**
10:30-11:30 a.m.
free for members

What is swimming and basking at the pond? Come find out more about the turtles that make this area their home.
Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins August 8.

28 "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All  **Free**
9:00-10:30 p.m.
registration not required

Meet at Oxley for a wildflower walk.

29 "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All  **Free**
9:00-10:30 a.m.
registration not required

Join us as we search for the wildflowers at Redbud Valley.

Full Moon Walks at Redbud Valley

"Blue Moon": Friday, July 30, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

It's not really "once in a blue moon" that you get to walk at Redbud Valley in the evening, but you can on this evening of July's Blue Moon.

"Sturgeon Moon": Saturday, August 28,
7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Dog Days of August are gone. Some use earlier sunsets to cast fishing lines. We'll use the twilight to catch moonrise at Redbud Valley.

Registration required, \$2 for general public,
free for members

Summer Art Classes with Brenda Knapp

Saturday, July 24

10:30-12:00 noon

Drawing Wildflowers in Colored Pencil at Redbud Valley

Skill level: all

Ages: 13 through adult

Cost: \$9.50 for non-members, \$7.50 for members

Enjoy learning to capture the jewel-like colors of wildflowers in colored pencil. You will learn sketching and color mixing techniques and discuss ways to make the drawing appear more dimensional.



Saturday, August 7

10:00-12:00 noon

Wild Birds in Watercolors

Skill level: beginning through intermediate

Ages: 14 through adult

Cost: \$12 for non-members and \$10.00 for members

Use the fluid, blendable properties of translucent watercolors to give motion and life to your bird artwork. You will learn sketch transfer, wet-on-wet, detailing, texturing, and contrast for emphasis.

Saturday, August 7, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Kids' Bird Painting at Oxley

Skill Level: all, **Ages:** 7-13

Cost: \$9.50 for non-members, \$7.50 for members

Have fun drawing and painting birds, feathers, and eggs. Students will learn to draw what they see from the Oxley Nature Center's collection, then add color with watercolors.

Saturday, August 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Butterflies in Pastels at Oxley

Skill level: mid-beginning through advanced

Ages: 14 through adult

Cost: \$12 for non-members, \$10 for members

Butterflies offer a wide range of tones and hues to the pastel artist. Learn to draw and blend with chalk pastels, and how to match colors and give the illusion of detail with only a few shapes and lines.

Saturday, August 14, 3:15-4:30 p.m.

Kids' Bug Drawing

Skill level: all, **Ages:** 7-13

Cost: \$9.00 for non-members, \$7 for members

Students will learn what a true bug is, about their habits and their distinguishing features while drawing them in pencil. You will learn how to draw from life, how to shade, add textures, and use contrast effectively.

Preregistration is required for all classes. A supply list will be provided at that time. Fee must accompany registration.