



Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 153

September/October, 2004

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer: someone who offers his or her services freely.

Are you one of those people looking for somewhere special to share your interests?

Join our team of dedicated volunteers who lead nature study walks, welcome and assist visitors, or help us keep up with the never-ending task of maintaining our trail system. No previous experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love for nature. Participants must be 18 years or older.

Do you enjoy children? Learn how to lead school groups along our trail system during our fall season (September-November). Volunteer naturalists are required to attend a series of basic training sessions September 7-30. Our experienced volunteer naturalists are invited to participate in advanced training sessions of their choice during this time. Please call to sign-up for training.

Our visitor center volunteers assist us in the interpretive building by answering phones, making Nature Store sales, and greeting and helping visitors. Others help to get this newsletter sent out to you in a timely manner.

Would you appreciate the beauty of nature around you while working to maintain parts of our trail system? Or perhaps you would find the excitement of being on the "Burn Crew" more to your liking. If you have a special skill or interest you would like to share (anyone out there build natural log furniture?), please give us a call. We look forward to hearing from you.

Join Junior Naturalists

The Junior Naturalist program for 3rd-5th graders begins in September. Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of every month through May.

If your child enjoys making discoveries about nature, and being with other young naturalists, call Oxley for enrollment information. This program involves nature hikes, exploration, and adventure, a family cook-out, and creative activities. Come experience the mysteries of nature and join us for the fun!



FALL SALE

Do you have trouble finding just the right thing for the nature lover in your life? The Nature Store at Oxley Nature Center offers many items to please the discriminating naturalist of all ages. We have bird feeders, an amazing selection of field guides, adult and children's books, nature inspired jewelry, carry-all tote bags, and t-shirts. Stickers, tattoos, "bug boxes" and stuffed animals can also be found.

During the months of September and October select items will be on sale. Your purchases help support the Nature Center in achieving its mission.



Nature Center Happenings

**We will be closed Monday,
September 6 for Labor 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 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>".

Kid's Saturday Programs

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

Discovery Club (Ages 3-5 years)

Each child accompanied by an adult, please

September 18, 10:00-11:50 "Itty Bitty Scavenger Hunt" Come explore the world of tiny treasures. Sign-up begins Sunday, September 5.

October 16, 10:00-11:50 "Working the Night Shift" Let's learn about creatures that are awake while we are sleeping. Sign-up begins Sunday, October 3.

Adventure Club (Grades K-2nd)

Kid's only, please

September 18, 10:00-11:50 "Prairie Safan" Wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, and socks to explore Meadowlark Prairie! Sign-up begins Sunday, September 5.

October 16, 10:00-11:50 "Pumpkin Critters" We'll make our own pumpkin and gather natural materials to create a critter. Sign-up begins Sunday, October 3.



Astronomy Programs

♣\$ for general public, free to members, all ♣, open to all ages



Monday, September 27, "A Tour of the Moon" 7:30-8:30 p.m. Bring binoculars or look through the Nature Center's telescope of Earth's nearest neighbor. Meet at Oxley. Moonrise is 6:50 p.m. and sunset is 7:14 p.m. Sign-up begins September 19.

Wednesday, October 27, "Total Eclipse of the Moon" 8:00-11:00 p.m. The eclipse will peak at 10:04 p.m. To plan your own eclipse watch, go to <http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/OH/OH2004.html>. To join us, call Oxley for location details. Moonrise is 6:21 p.m. and sunset is 5:33 p.m.

Full Moon Walks

Saturday, September 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m. "Harvest Moon" The Harvest Moon ushers us into fall with the promise of cooler, shorter days as we gather the last of the growing season's bounty. Meet at Oxley. Registration is required. \$2 for general public, free for members. All ages. ♣

Tuesday, October 26, 6:30-8:00 p.m. "Hunter's Moon" Early hunters took advantage of the moon's light to provide meat for the table. We walk tonight in that same light. Meet at Redbud Valley. Registration is required. \$2 for general public, free for members.

Programs and Special Events

September

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



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

11 "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All ■
 Saturday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
 Free registration not required



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

12 "Unusual Creatures" Ages: All ■
 Sunday 1:00-2:30 p.m.
 \$2 for general public free for members



Let's learn more about some of the intriguing animals that live
 in our forests, prairie, and wet areas. Meet at Oxley.
 Sign-up begins August 29.

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



Meet at Redbud Valley
 for a wildflower walk.

26 "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All ■
 Sunday 9:00-10:30 a.m.
 Free registration not required

Meet at Oxley for a wildflower walk.

Autumn Twilight Night Walks

Join us as we explore the changing prairie
 and forests of Oxley in the autumn twilight.

- Wednesday, October 20, 7:30-8:45 p.m.
 Families and individuals only, please.
- Thursday, October 21, 7:30-8:45 p.m.
 For groups of six or more.

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

October

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



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

9 "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All ■
 Saturday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
 Free registration not required



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

17 "Natural History Tour" Ages: All
 Sunday 2:00-3:30 p.m.
 \$2 for general public free for members

What is unique about Redbud Valley? Join us as we learn
 more about the geology, history, wildlife, and plants of this
 area. Meet at Redbud. Sign-up begins October 3.

25 "Hike and Draw" Ages: 12 & up
 Saturday 10:00-11:30 a.m.
 \$2 for general public free for members

Take a walk and field sketch nature. Bring a pad and pencil.
 Meet at Redbud Valley. Sign-up begins October 10.

25 "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All
 Saturday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
 Free registration not required



Meet at Oxley to carpool to Osage Trail to look at wildflowers.
 This trip will require sturdy shoes for a two mile hike.

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

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

31 "New Year's Eve Walk" Ages: All ■
 Sunday 10:30-12:00 noon
 \$2 for general public free for members



Different calendar systems begin and end at different times.
 We'll search for plants and animals that are starting their year
 over right now. Meet at Oxley. Sign-up begins October 17.

Fall Art Classes with Brenda Knapp

Fundamentals of Nature Drawing

Date: September 11- October 2 (meets 4 Saturdays)

Time: 10:00-12:00 noon

Location: Ooley Nature Center

Skill level: beginning through intermediate

Age: 14 through adult

Cost: \$48.00 for non-members and \$40.00 for members

This class 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, landscapes in perspective, textures found in nature, and botanical illustrations.



Kid's Natural Art Series

Date: September 11-October 2
(meets 4 Saturdays)

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Ooley Nature Center

Age: 7-12

Cost: \$40.00 for non-members, \$32.00 for members

Supplies: included in fee

Students will learn to paint wildflowers, draw birds, sketch landscapes, and sculpt insects out of colored clay while learning about nature.

Fall Colors in Oils at Redbud Valley

Date: Saturday, October 30

Time: 9:00-12:00 noon

Location: Redbud Valley

Skill level: intermediate through advanced (some basic drawing experience recommended)

Age: 14 through adult

Cost: \$18.00 for non-members, \$15.00 for members

Gold, red, brown, and orange leaves glow with warmth on the hillsides of Redbud Valley each fall. Come learn to paint them in oils. Students will learn how to sketch with paints, lay down base colors, mix into colors, create the illusion of depth with a few strokes, and layer colors. We'll also discuss safe use and disposal of solvents and heavy-metal-based paints.



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