



# Oxley Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 149

September/October, 2005



You are invited to **Biodiversity**, a celebration of biodiversity at Mohawk Park, on September 9 and 10, 2005.

The **Biodiversity** is a rapid inventory of biological diversity done once each year at a select site in Oklahoma. It is an exciting scramble to find out how many different kinds of plants, animals, and other living things can be found in the target area during 24 consecutive hours. It serves as a one-time "snapshot", a brief but revealing view of how many different kinds of living things share the part of our world with us (right on the edge of the city) this year. The target area is one of the largest municipal parks in the US—Mohawk Park.

**Biodiversity** is hosted by the Oklahoma Biological Survey and conducted by volunteers from around the state. Teams of biologists search for and identify mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, plants, and more—*as many living things as possible*. A running tally is displayed at the base camp, and final results are announced at the **Biodiversity** grand finale.

This is an exceptional opportunity for everyone to meet with scientists, learn about field techniques, see some secretive and unusual critters, and enhance awareness of the importance of ground us in the meadows, forests, waters, and even along the coastlines. Prepare to be amazed!

Join Oxley Nature Center and Tulsa Zoo staff and volunteers on Friday evening and Saturday for some special activities and presentations. See enclosed insert for details. We hope to see you there!



## Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins

How do you get "time to share"? Do you enjoy nature and being outdoors? Becoming a volunteer naturalist offers you the opportunity to experience and share the mystery and wonder of nature with local area school children.

Volunteer naturalists are required to attend a series of basic training sessions during September. No previous experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love for children and nature. Participants must be 18 years or older. Please call for more information.



## Junior Naturalists

The Junior Naturalist program for 3rd-5th graders begins in September. Meetings are held the 2nd Saturdays of every month through July. If your child enjoys making discoveries about nature, and being with other young naturalists, call us for enrollment information. The program includes nature files, exploration, adventure, and creative activities. Come experience the mysteries of nature (and yours) for the first!



# Nature Center Happenings

Culley Nature  
Center  
& Bedford Valley  
will be closed  
Monday.

September 5, 2005.



Happy Holiday!



A \$2 per car Midweek Park fee will be charged worldwide night through October. The next gate will be closed. Culley members get in free.

## OPEN AND MONDAY CLOSURE

The gates at Culley Nature Center are open daily, with the exception of most City holidays, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. At Culley, you may park outside the gates from 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to walk the trails even when the gates are closed.

At Bedford Valley Nature Preserve, the gates are open Wednesday through Sunday, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You may see how the trees along the stream streamer in closed on Mondays or Tuesdays, on City holidays, before 9:00 a.m., or after 5:00 p.m.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Call 408-634-1234 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 limited registration may be cancelled at 48 hours prior to program.

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



## Astronomy Programs



♿ for general public, fee to members, ♿ to all ages, please register in advance

Full programs meet at the circle above east of Lake Yuba (not easily accessible to wheelchairs) ♿

Saturday, September 3, "Bright Planets" 7:30-9:00 p.m. Have you been watching the bright planet Jupiter and the even brighter planet Venus drawing closer and closer to each other in the western sky at sunset? Weather permitting, we'll peak at them through the telescopes tonight (bring binoculars if you have them, and perhaps a cool or blanket to sit on).

Wednesday, October 19, "Autumn Sky" 7:30-9:00 p.m. We'll learn how to collect patterns of stars to find specific figures in the night sky. We'll see a preview of our neighbor Mars, which will glow very bright in our sky this month. Bring binoculars if you have them, and something to sit on.

Coming in November: "Star Watcher" will take place (date and location, November 11-12 at the Palo Verde in Miravos Park. Come and witness the event with the Astronomy Club of San Jose. Telescopes will be available to view occultation events and they will talk with you on the significance of them. Watch for more information.

## Full Moon Walks

Registration required, ♿ for general public, fee to members, of ages. ♿



Friday, September 16, 7:30-8:30 p.m. "Harvest Moon"

With the long, hot days behind us, we may now reap the benefits of the season's bounty. Let's walk the trail of Culey on the full moon to see the changed flora and fauna during this special, cool night.

Monday, October 17, 7:00-8:30 p.m. "Hunter's Moon"

Leaves are falling, and birds and beasts are being plucked of their bounty by all kinds of "hunters." But more Culey than home. Let's see how our first sign of the October is preparation for winter nights.

# Programs and Special Events

## September

- 1 "Saturday Morning Dining" **Agnes Al** ■  
Saturday 8:00-11:00 a.m.  
Free registration not required

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

- 3 "Butterfly Walk" **Agnes Al** ■  
Saturday 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Free registration not required

Join us on our monthly butterfly walk, see the monarchs beginning to migrate! Bring binoculars if you have them.  
Meet at Odey.

- 7 & 10 "Doctors" **Agnes Al** ■  
Friday 8:00-10:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.  
Free registration not required

Join us for this very special event in Meadow Park. Society is a cooperation of biologists and artists, having members of the societies at the Free County of Walker ID in Meadow Park and at Odey Nature Center.  
Please see details on Page 1.

- 17 "Tea & Stargazing" **Agnes Al**  
Saturday 8:00-10:00 p.m.  
ID for general public, free for members

Bring a dish of good sandwiches to eat in the woods.  
Switch hats, scarves, gloves, and even boots! Meet at Redoubt Valley. Please register in advance.

- 24 "Wildflower Walk" **Agnes Al**  
Saturday 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Free registration not required

Will we find goldenrod, yellow, and brown-eyed susans?  
Sunset! Wild about susans! See instructions in Sun!  
Meet at Redoubt Valley for a wildflower walk.

- 25 "Walk at Blackfoot Marsh" **Agnes Al** ■  
Sunday 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
ID for general public, free for members

We will walk to Blackfoot Marsh to find out what wetlands are going to be and which ones are getting up.  
Meet at Odey. Please register in advance.

## October

- 1 "Saturday Morning Dining" **Agnes Al** ■  
Saturday 8:00-11:00 a.m.  
Free registration not required

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

- 3 "Butterfly Walk" **Agnes Al** ■  
Saturday 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Free registration not required

Join us on our fall butterfly walk of the season. Bring binoculars. If you have them. Meet at Odey.

- 7 "Clear-the-Fall Preview Show" **Agnes Al**  
Sunday 8:00-4:00 p.m.  
ID for general public, free for members

If you like walk for much fall color, but it's impossible to find the Clear-the-Fall before the show begins! Clearing is not normally permitted, but children participants may take home a few leaf specimens borrowed from the trail by the volunteer. Meet at Redoubt Valley. Please register in advance.

- 14 "Silken Secrets" **Agnes Al**  
Sunday 8:00-10:00 a.m.  
ID for general public, free for members

What's the meaning that snowflake used by the various spiders who weave it? A fall morning is a great time to see spider webs of all kinds. Meet at Redoubt Valley. Please register in advance.

- 21 "Wildflower Walk" **Agnes Al** ■  
Saturday 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Free registration not required

We will look for fall colors in the wildflowers in the wildflower walk of the season. Meet at Odey.

- 27 "Living Sunset" **Agnes Al** ■  
Saturday 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
ID for general public, free for members

What do your favorite wildflowers look like after they've been "fried" (cooked) by the hot sun and from how to see in photographs them for you "wildflower gallery". Meet at Odey. Please register in advance.

## Wonders Never Cease by Tony Morris

I was looking through "The Red Book" the other day. This simple, college-sized, 2-colored notebook contains documentation of significant sightings recorded by small naturalists over the past 40 years. The entries are interesting, and dependent on both individual perspective and collective agreement. What is noteworthy, and to whom?

Many times, some bird, written in pencil in an apparent rush, others printed with obvious confidence, accuracy, and detail, lay quietly in the pages of this handsome notebook.

They may offer insight into a piece of the puzzle that makes up something as grand as migration in nature.

"Sept. 28, 2000—Common nuthatch (1st year) Mowbray migration on its peak. White-faced, ... east of the working water parking lot, a year (estimated) with numerous?"

Or they may speak to someone's experience of joy in their discovery of a remarkable sight.

"Apr. 2000 (Several) Redwing sightings near the interpretive building ... one was seen watching a rabbit and walking with it, with it ... and with and 2 others (one was drinking at the north end of the pond ..."

They may point to the emergence of possible patterns. In September and October, numerous flocks of towhees, and other birds are heading south, while various species of sparrows, juncos, and towhees are coming from the north to spend the winter with us. Ravens, woodchuck, weasels, coyotes, bobcat, and squirrel have appeared near the bird houses to share in with their presence. The window here have changed the direction of the flow to die. The animal kingdom is very busy now.

Great change is in the air. Years of journal entries speak of "severe freezing first snow drought in July and August". This only to be followed with "Sept. 22, 2000—Finally a RAINY!" Years of September entries mention "cold fronts" dropping the daytime temperatures into the low 70's. October days offer lively mornings, and "December 8, 2001—First freeze, 20-degree", promises cold from summer heat.



So what is noteworthy? Why do it? You come out, and decide for yourself. I guarantee you will see something new. Here the rest of the summer classes of towhees, find and watch the change in the air. Let the child "in you" or with you witness the moment



# BioBlitz Schedule



Friday, September 9th

**3:00 p.m. BioBlitz begins!**

There will be many activities in which you and your family may take part. For more information about any of the programs, please call Oley Nature Center at 7459 689-8644 or visit [www.oleynaturecenter.org](http://www.oleynaturecenter.org).

## Activities at Oley Nature Center

- Indoor live animal presentations by Tulsa Zoo
- Outdoor walks with Oley naturalists

	Indoors:	Outdoors:
6:00 p.m.	Bats Up Close	Evening Walk
7:00 p.m.	Creepy Crawlies	Evening Walk
8:00 p.m.	Bats Up Close	Night Walk
9:00 p.m.	Creepy Crawlies	Night Walk

## Activities at Base Camp

(located at Shelter #2)

- View samples of what has been found
- Visit with a biologist
- Come to the **Base Camp Amphitheater** for a program with live animals presented by the Tulsa Zoo.

6:00 p.m.	Owls
7:00 p.m.	Things That Go Bump— Sneak-Need in the Night
8:00 p.m.	Owls
9:00 p.m.	Things That Go Bump— Sneak-Need in the Night

Saturday, September 10th

## Activities at Oley Nature Center

- **8:00 a.m. Birding**  
Bring binoculars if you have them, for a hike to look at birds.
- **9:00 a.m. Plant Personalities**  
Walk through prairie and forest and look for green dragons, passion vine, dog face, or grass as high as an elephant's eye.
- **10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Indoors with live animal presentations by the Tulsa Zoo and outdoors with Oley naturalists.

	Indoors:	Outdoors:
10:00 a.m.	Food Life	Dip Netting
11:00 a.m.	Mammals	Tracking
12 noon	Food Life	Dip Netting
1:00 p.m.	Mammals	Tracking

## Activities at Base Camp

(located at Shelter #2)

- View samples of what has been found
- Visit with a biologist
- Come to the **Base Camp Amphitheater** for a program with live animals presented by the Tulsa Zoo.

10:00 a.m.	Reptiles
11:00 a.m.	Birds of Prey
12 noon	Reptiles
1:00 p.m.	Birds of Prey

## 3:00 p.m. Grand Finale

BioBlitz ends with a summary presented by the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Staff.

# Fall Art Classes at Odey Nature Center

## Nature Art I

Date: Thursdays, Sept. 1 through Nov. 12  
Time: 1:00-2:30pm

Age: 5-8 ■

Tuition: \$65 for members, \$75 for non-members  
Instructor: Heidi Conners

This afternoon art class is a great opportunity for home school students. Students will be using pencil, crayons, pastels and waxy clay.

## Nature Art II

Date: Tuesdays, Sept. 1 through Nov. 10  
Time: 3:30-4:00pm

Age: 7 and up ■

Tuition: \$65 for members, \$75 for non-members  
Instructor: Heidi Conners

This afternoon class is an opportunity for home school students to explore the world of nature through drawing with pencil, charcoal, pen, pastels, and waxy clay.



## Fundamentals of Nature Art

Date: Wednesdays, Sept. 7-25  
Time: 8:00-9:00pm

Age: 14 to adults ■

Tuition: \$65 for members, \$75 for non-members  
Instructor: Brenda Knapp

This class is for the student who wants to understand the core concepts of drawing and applies to nature art. Students will learn to draw sunlight and shadow, textures found in nature, botanical illustrations, and landscape in perspective.



Registration is required for all classes. A supply list will be provided. Fee must accompany registration.

## Kids' Butterfly Books

Date: Saturdays, Sept. 24  
Time: 10:00-11:30 am

Age: 10-12 ■

Tuition: \$8 for members, \$15 for non-members  
Instructor: Brenda Knapp



Learn how to make your own butterfly-shaped book and how to illustrate it with pictures of butterflies.

## Watercolor Butterflies

Date: Saturdays, Sept. 24  
Time: 1:00-2:00pm

Age: 14 to adults ■

Tuition: \$8 for members, \$15 for non-members  
Instructor: Brenda Knapp



Come explore the beauty of butterflies through the medium of water color.

## Kids' Painting Fall Leaves

Date: (for ages), October 22  
Time: 1:00-1:30pm

Age: 7-10 ■

Tuition: \$5 for members, \$6 for non-members  
Instructor: Brenda Knapp



Learn to achieve a natural look using color mixing, strokes, and fine watercolor. We'll gather colorful fall leaves and paint pictures of them in tempera.

## Black Walnut Ink Workshop

Date: Saturday, Oct. 29  
Time: 1:00-3:00pm

Age: 14 to adult ■

Tuition: \$15 for members,  
\$18 for non-members



The Old Masters knew the secret of the rich, warm-colored ink. Black Walnut ink color ranges from coffee brown to a deep chocolate brown. Students will learn how to make their own ink from walnuts, and will do a drawing using ink washes. Bring a small sealable plastic jar if you'd like to take some ink home. Other supplies are provided.