



# Oxley Nature Center

January/February, 2007

Volume 167

**Program information**  
**918-669-6644**  
**-Oxley@ci.tulsa.ok.us**  
**-Website at "http:www.oxleynaturecenter.org".**

-Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult unless otherwise stated.  
-Wheelchair accessible programs designated by ♿  
-Please register 48 hours in advance unless otherwise stated.

## **Holiday Closings:**

Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve will be closed:  
Monday, January 1, and  
Monday, January 15.  
Happy Holidays!

## **Oxley Nature Center:**

-Open daily, except most City holidays (see above).  
-Oxley gate open from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
-Interpretive building open from 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 12 noon-4:30 p.m. Sunday.  
-Hiking trails are accessible during Mohawk Park hours 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

## **Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:**

-Open Wednesday through Sunday, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. only. Hiking after these hours is not allowed. Closed most City holidays.  
-Interpretive building will be open 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Come visit us!**

## **When the CCC Came To Town**

In 1915, conservationist George Maxwell proposed that young men be enrolled in a national construction corp to help in forests and plains conservation work. His ideas were not implemented until the Great Depression, when unemployment rose from 3% in 1929 to 25% in 1933.

On July 1, 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt accepted the Presidential nomination. Relief measures came in the form of New Deal remedies using federal programs in four general categories: Social Security, Reform, Recovery, and Relief.

In what became known as "The Hundred Days", Roosevelt created the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Act, more commonly known as the Civilian Conservation Corp. It required the cooperation of all branches of the federal government to mobilize men, material, and transportation. The Army, and Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Labor, all participated in the new CCC program under Director Robert Fechner. From FDR's inauguration on March 4, 1933, to the induction of the first enrollee on April 7, only 37 days had elapsed.

Roosevelt's administration recruited thousands of young men, enlisted them for a six-month "tour of duty" in a peacetime army, and employed them in a "battle against the destruction and erosion of our natural resources". Over 3.5 million young men participated in Roosevelt's "Tree Army" before it's termination in 1942.

Young men between the ages of 18 and 25 were provided training, clothing, housing, and meals in addition to \$30 a month. The recruit kept \$5 for spending while a mandatory \$25 went to his

family. Local communities and economies benefited. Nationally, improvements were made to millions of acres of federal and state park lands.

By the end of 1935, there were over 2,650 camps in operation in all states, performing over 100 kinds of work, and employing more than 600,000 persons. In the Eighth Corps Area (Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, and Oklahoma) 120 camps employed 24,000 men. Oklahoma had 16 camps.

## **What was happening in Tulsa County during those unstable years?**

Oklahoma's population in 1930 was 2,396,040. Between 1935 and 1940, nearly 309,000 Oklahomans moved out of the state in search of new opportunities. Small farms failed. In July of 1934, Tulsa County experienced a severe drought and dust storm. In 1936, the average summer temperature was 105.3. Driftwood in the Arkansas River caught fire because there was no water!

On October 30, 1934, the largest urban project in Oklahoma began in Mohawk Park. The National Park Service took over the planning of structures from the City Park Department. The CCC and WPA (Works Progress Administration, begun in 1935) were responsible for transforming Mohawk Park into a favored destination.

The CCC Camp in Mohawk Park was designated as: **SP-12** (number given by the state to the project and camp) and **1825 -V** (company number given by the Federal Government to each company). The "V" means the company was made up of veterans of World War One. However, other records say the CCC

# Nature Center Happenings

## Volunteer Awards Dinner

On Wednesday, December 13, Oxley Nature Center volunteers and staff gathered at the Tulsa Garden Center to celebrate with a potluck dinner and awards ceremony. Our volunteers make it possible for us to serve the recreational and educational needs of Tulsa and surrounding areas. The following volunteers received the following awards:

**Su Davis:** ONCA Board, 3 years service

**Ashley Emerson:** Volunteer Naturalist, 3 years service

**Art Browning:** Volunteer Naturalist, 5 years service

**Jacque Young:** Volunteer Naturalist, 5 years service

**Bob Pugh:** Volunteer Naturalist, 15 years service

**Bennie Wood:** Volunteer Naturalist, 15 years service

**Thank you to all our volunteers!**

\$2 for general public, free for members

## Kid's Saturday Programs

Please register in advance, all &

### Discovery Club (Ages 3-5)

Each child accompanied by an adult, please

### Adventure Club (Ages 6-8)

Kids only, please

#### January 20, 10:00-11:30 "Weed Seeds"

How do some plants get started? We'll collect some plant seed-heads to make a special arrangement.

#### January 20, 10:00-11:30 "Let's Rock"

Bring your favorite rock and we will look, feel, and listen to them. We will make music and have a *rock concert!*

#### February 17, 10:00-11:30 "Forest Treasures"

Everything has a job to do. We'll make a mobile of small treasures and learn about their different jobs.

#### February 17, 10:00-11:30 "Deer Valentine"

Could their heart-shaped footprints be valentines for us? Let's see what we can learn about the deer that live here.

\$2 for general public, free for members

## Full Moon Walks

Registration required, all ages, &

### "Full Wolf Moon"

Tuesday, January 2, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

This moon was named for the hungry wolf packs that howled in the deep cold of midwinter. The wolves are gone now, but maybe we'll hear coyote song carrying through the crisp air.

### "Full Snow Moon"

Friday, February 2, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

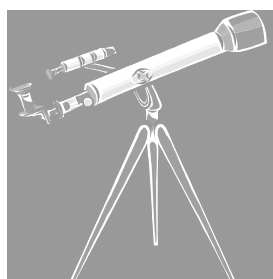
February is unpredictable, but often the heaviest snow falls during this month. Will our path be lit by the moon on a clear night, and our steps silenced by snow? If so, who will pass there before us?

## ★★★★★★ Astronomy Programs ★★★★★★

\$2 for general public, free to members, registration required, open to all ages, & with advance notice.

Dress warm, bring binoculars if you have them, and something to sit on.

Meet on the east side of Lake Yahola, above the circle drive.



Saturday, January 20, "Winter Constellations" 6:00-7:30 p.m.

After looking at Venus and the crescent moon, we'll see how many of the winter constellations we can find.

Thursday, February 8, "Planet Watch" 6:30-8:00 p.m.

We'll watch for Mercury setting and Saturn rising.

# Programs and Special Events

## January

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

Are you looking for a new hobby or family pastime? Birding is increasingly popular among those who want to be outdoors. Even in winter there is a lot of activity! Join us at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

**7 "Sky Watching"**      Ages: All, &  
Sunday      2:00-3:30 p.m.  
\$2 for general public      free for members

Learn to read the short-term clues all around us that indicate what the sky is telling us. Will it rain, will it be windy, what time of day is it? You don't need the TV weather show to tell you these things. Join us at Oxley.

**13 "Field Sketching"**      Ages: All, &  
Saturday      10:00-12:00 noon  
\$2 for general public      free for members

Learn to draw nature and document what you see. Bring paper or a sketch book and pencils to Oxley. All skill levels are welcome.

**14 "Touch-n-Feel"**      Ages: 1-5, &  
Sunday      2:00-2:45 p.m.  
\$2 for general public      free for members

Bring your youngster to experience the wonders of nature through the sense of touch. Each child must be accompanied by an adult.

**21 "Gourd Containers"**      Ages: 12 to adult, &  
Sunday      1:00-3:00 p.m.  
\$5 for general public      \$3 for members

Gourds can be made into decorative and useful containers. Use one of our gourds or bring your own. Please clean your gourds before you come, and meet at Oxley.

**27 "Walk on the Wild Side"**      Ages: All  
Saturday      1:00-3:00 p.m.  
\$2 for general public      free for members

What is happening in the woods and on the prairie where the animals make their own trails? Let's explore the places where the animals feed and rest in the cold of winter. Maybe we'll find a deer rub or a fox den. Dress warmly and meet at Oxley.

## February

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

The forest inhabitants; the titmouse, chickadee, wren, and nuthatch, visit the feeders and flit about in the trees along with the woodpeckers. Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

**4 "Wild Crafting"**      Ages: 15 to adult, &  
Sunday      1:00-3:00 p.m.  
\$5 for general public      \$3 for members

Are you feeling creative? Nature is full of things that seem quite ordinary, like grasses. We will take some of these and turn them into a unique and extraordinary arrangement or conversation piece. Please call for a materials list. Meet at Oxley.

**10 "Hand-Drill Fire Making"**      Ages: 10 to adult, &  
Saturday      10:00-12:00 noon  
\$5 for general public      \$3 for members

Hand-drill fire making was practiced by primitive people worldwide. This method is still effective in the hands of a proficient individual. Learn how to start your own campfire. Meet at Oxley.



**18 "Going Solar"**      Ages: All, &  
Sunday      1:00-4:00 p.m.  
\$20 for general public      \$15 for members

Join us to learn how to harness the energy of the sun to cook a solar meal. After cooking a meal, each participant will make their own solar oven. Please call to get a materials list. Meet at Oxley.



**24 "Deer Valentine"**      Ages: 12 & up, &  
Saturday      3:00-4:00 p.m.  
\$2 for general public      free for members

Did someone leave behind valentines for us to find? If the weather is right, we will look for the heart-shaped prints on the ground. What can we learn about the deer that make their homes here at Oxley?

camp in Mohawk Park was designated as a “mixed” camp, although races were strictly segregated, with separate barracks, toilets and dining schedules.

In 1934, approximately 200 men lived in the CCC camp, others walked to work. The men were supervised by 4 Reserve Army Officers. Nine project supervisors directed the actual work. Older local men (LEMS) were enrolled because of their experience to train and protect the unskilled.

A large drainage area became a lake complete with a boat house and lakeside facilities. Workers built bridges, roads, and shelters to blend in with the natural landscape. Two reinforced concrete footbridges were built across Coal Creek. Stone masons built shelters, tables, and other structures while laborers cleared bike, bridle, and nature trails.

When the camp was disbanded October 4, 1937, they left behind them a legacy that will endure for years to come. What these men created, during the time of the Great Depression, when the employment, economy, and people were in need of the basics of life as well as

affordable recreation, is indispensable even in these times. Perhaps even more so. Natural areas for our children are disappearing at an alarming rate. Mohawk Park and Oxley Nature Center in particular, offer a place to immerse yourself in nature. So come visit us, marvel at the handiwork the young men created 70 years ago, listen to the wind in the trees, and you may hear the whispers of their voices from the past, in amongst the bird song.



*“How we eat, how we plan, how we play, how we learn,  
how we care for the next generation builds the world we  
will live in tomorrow.”*

From the Tulsa Area Green Directory by Sustainable Tulsa.  
Visit their website at [www.SustainableTulsa.org](http://www.SustainableTulsa.org)

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