



# Oxley Nature Center

January/February, 2009

Volume 179

## Oxley Nature Center:

**The Oxley Nature Center Interpretive Building will open in mid-January! Be sure to call first.**

-The Interpretive building will be open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon-4:30 p.m.

-Gate and parking lot is open daily, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. except most City holidays.

-Hiking trails are accessible during Mohawk Park hours, 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

## Holiday Closings for Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

Thursday, January 1,  
and Monday January 19.

## Redbud Valley Nature Preserve is closed:

all Mondays and Tuesdays.

-Open Wednesday through Sunday, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. only. Hiking after these hours is not allowed.

-Interpretive building is open Wednesday through Sunday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

-Closed most City holidays,

## Program information

918-669-6644

[Oxley@cityoftulsa.org](mailto:Oxley@cityoftulsa.org)

**Website at "<http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org>".**

**\*\* Please register for classes 48 hours in advance** unless otherwise stated.

-Some classes require supplies and allow limited enrollment.

-Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult unless otherwise stated.

-Most programs are stroller/wheelchair accessible.

## New Beginnings

by Eddie Reese

I recently read Volume I of the Oxley Nature Center Newsletter written by Bob Jennings. In his first article of "From the Stump" he talked about having a feeling of a new beginning. He listed several reasons for having that feeling. I realized after reading Bob's words written so long ago that I feel much the same way, and for many of the same reasons.

For example, he was beginning to feel like he could actually do this job. He had his doubts for a while. I had mine to be sure. Bob was beginning to see progress on projects such as a new interpretive building, new trails, new seasons coming around again.

We are experiencing a new beginning here. The interpretive building is practically rebuilt and brand new. We have beautiful interactive exhibits. We will have a unique native landscape around the nature center. The forests are beginning to re-grow after the devastating ice storm last year. The wildlife are adapting to the changes.

But one thing hasn't changed. Bob mentioned they were "beginning to reach the young ones". Here children can touch, smell, hear and taste all those things that they see on Animal Planet or The Discovery Channel. They learn the importance of wild places and wild things and that "spiders aren't for squashing".

For thirty years the staff and volunteer naturalists have guided thousands and thousands of children along the trails of the nature center. I have to wonder. Are we making a difference?

I have talked to adults who came to the nature center on a school tour when they were children and they are coming back with their children! I have seen letters written by children thirty years ago and letters written today and they say the same things; "This was the best day of my life." "You rock my world!" And from one in 1979, "I never knew some of that stuff was so

interesting." **I believe we are having an impact. Where else could "the young ones" be Inspired to Wonder?**



Projects like the interpretive center renovation and innovative exhibits and new landscaping don't just happen. Gratitude and credit go to many people. Mayor Kathy Taylor deserves thanks for making sure this project didn't get delayed.

The good folks of the Oxley Nature Center Association have worked hard to make this project become a reality. The Oxley Foundation and Family have donated time and funds. Others such as the Kaiser Foundation have helped as well. The Tulsa World has kept the public informed.

There are city employees that have worked diligently and passionately to see this project to completion. And you the citizens have shown that you care about your Nature Center. You have donated your time as volunteers and your money as well.

**Thanks to all of you and the part you played!**

# Nature Center Happenings

\$2 for general public, free for members

## Kid's Saturday Programs

Meet at Oxley Nature Center

**January 10, 10:00-11:00 a.m.**

Please register in advance

**February 14, 10:00-11:00**

### Discovery Club (Ages 3-5)

Each child must be accompanied by an adult.

**“Tree Talk”** Learn the story a tree has to tell by inspecting a cross-section of it's trunk. What mysteries are revealed?

### Adventure Club (Ages 6-8)

**“Winter Coats”** Different fur types and feathers help keep their owners warm. Let's get a close-up look and feel of different types of insulating fur and feathers.

### Discovery Club (Ages 3-5)

Each child must be accompanied by an adult.

**“Picture Me”** Discover and recognize similarities and differences among living and non-living worlds.

### Adventure Club (Ages 6-8)

**“Search for a Valentine”** Many things in nature inspire love, and the symbol is the heart. Let's search the trails for a heart shape that catches our eye: a redbud leaf, a vine, a cloud?

## Junior Naturalists

We are looking for **kids ages 9-11** that can meet together one Saturday a month, September—May, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.



Cultivate your curiosity, explore special interests, discover what you can do for “nature” and what it can do for you!

**January 10, 10:00-11:00 a.m. “What Bird is That?”** Learn about the birds that are visiting our feeders. We'll be able to hear the birds through our new speakers and begin to learn how to identify them by appearance, sound and behavior.

**February 14, 10:00-11:00 a.m. “Love is in the Air”** We will look at the courting rituals of many of the animals that will emerge in the spring. Bird songs change and frogs begin to sing.

## Astronomy Programs

\$2 for general public, free to members, registration required, open to all ages. Dress warmly and bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday, January 3, **“Telescope Targets”** 6:00-7:00 p.m. Sunset: 5:23 p.m. Moonrise: 11:17 a.m. We will find out what “bigger” and “brighter” really means!. Meet at the circle drive on the East side of Lake Yahola.

Saturday, February 21, **“Star Maps”** 6:30-8:00 p.m. Sunset: 6:12 p.m. Moonset: 2:52 p.m. Make a star map to take home, and if the sky is clear, try it out tonight! Dress in layers, as we'll be both inside and out at the Oxley Nature Center Interpretive building.

\$2 for general public, free for members

## Full Moon Walks

Registration required, all ages

### “Full Wolf Moon”

**Friday, January 9, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**



Although the wolf no longer roams the wilds of Oklahoma, it's hardy cousin the coyote is often out and active on a winter's night. Will we hear them lift their voices in song to the moon? Join us at Oxley to find out.

### “Full Snow Moon”

**Sunday, February 8, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

This can be a time of heavy snows, resulting in hunger for some of our wild residents, but it can also provide a warm blanket of insulation. Join us at Oxley to see how weather might affect activity around us as well as our own senses.

# Programs and Special Events

## January

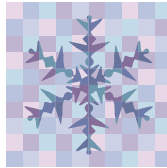
**3 "Saturday Morning Birding"** Ages: All  
Saturday 8:00-9:45 a.m.  
Free registration not required

Bluebirds at the bird bath, joined by a Hermit Thrush and a Winter Wren! Now it is especially important that birds have access to open water. Join us at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

**10 & 11 "Winter Bird Survey"** Ages: All  
Saturday and/or Sunday 2 hour time slots, call for times  
\$2 for general public Free for members

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is sponsoring it's 17th annual Backyard Bird Count. This provides a perfect opportunity to learn about birds that visit feeders as well as contribute to research as citizen scientists. Join us at Redbud Valley Interpretive Center to participate. Call 669-6644 to schedule a time. No previous experience is required.

**17 "Winter Woods"** Ages: All  
Saturday 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
\$2 for general public Free for members



See what animals are doing when it is really cold. We will search for tracks and other sign. Meet at Oxley.

**24 "Botany Walk"** Ages: All  
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon  
Free registration not required

Look carefully, down low. Are there some tiny bluets in bloom along with the dandelions? Is the sap starting to flow in the trees? Is that a Redbud blossom? Meet at Oxley to find out.

**25 "Wisdom Ways With Great Aunt Lettie"** Ages: All  
Sunday 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
\$2 for general public Free for members

Join us for an old fashioned fruit cake toss on the prairie, Accuracy and distance can win you a prize. The real winners will be the critters who "clean up" after we're gone! Meet at Oxley.

**31 "January Thaw"** Ages: All  
Saturday 1:00-2:30 p.m.  
\$2 for general public Free for members

Tired of the cold? We'll walk outdoors, then come inside by the fire to compare how people and critters keep warm. Meet at Oxley.

## February

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

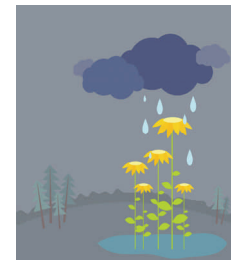
This is the time of year the owls are nesting. Some song-birds are beginning to sing their courtship songs. Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

**15 "Basic Map & Compass"** Ages: All  
Sunday 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
\$2 for general public Free for members

How long is a pace? What's a bearing? Which way do we go? Be ready to go outside and find out. Meet at Oxley.

**21 "What's That Cloud?"** Ages: All  
Saturday 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
\$2 for general public Free for members

We will look at the different kinds of clouds and learn what they can tell us about the weather. Meet at Oxley.



**22 "Wisdom Ways With Great Aunt Lettie"**  
Ages: All  
Sunday 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
\$2 for general public Free for members

February can be a month of snow and hunger. Join us at Oxley to weave wreaths from "invasive" vines. We'll turn these into bird feeders filled with peanut butter, lard, and seed to feed our neighbors.

**28 "Botany Walk"** Ages: All  
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon  
Free registration not required

If the weather has been favorable, some trees are budding out and wild plums may be blooming! Meet at Oxley.

**Classes are handicapped accessible unless stated otherwise. You must register 2 days in advance of classes.**

## "Stone Valentine Hearts"

Join us for a 'make-and-take event. Love is fleeting, stone is forever. Just in time for Valentine's Day you'll get a chance to learn how to chip a heart out of a rock. It's a technique similar to how Native Americans made arrowheads out of stone.

**Date:** Saturday, February 14  
**Times:** 10:30 a.m. or 2:30 p.m.  
**Ages:** 9-14  
**Where:** Oxley Nature Center

**Supplies:** Each participant is required to bring their own leather gloves, safety glasses and bandaids.  
**Registration:** Participants must be registered by Wednesday, February 11. Spots are limited!

Class is presented by: Neil Garrison, Naturalist  
Martin Park Nature Center  
Oklahoma City



## We are Looking for a Few Good Naturalists!

### Spring will soon be in the air! We Need YOU!

What better time to try something new? The trees will be bursting with buds. Forest violets will be peeking up above the leaf litter. Birds and frogs will be singing their courtship songs. Share this awakening with others.

If you enjoy being outdoors sharing nature with children, join us for our training program. Our 4 week session begins March 2 and ends March 25. Training sessions are two days a week from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon.

Training is fun, and will familiarize you with our trail system and its varied natural communities: forests, wetlands, and prairies.

Following training, you will join other naturalists, each guiding a small group of children, for an hour or two one morning a week from April through May.

If you are 18 or older, please call us for more information. No previous experience is necessary. [918-669-6644](tel:918-669-6644)

**Volunteer Naturalist Training -- Call Now for Information!**

---

The U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap in its federally-assisted programs and activities. If anyone believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with our department or the Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

---