



Oxley Nature Center

September/October, 2009

Volume 183

Mohawk Park charges a \$2 fee per car on weekends April through October for non-members.

Oxley Nature Center:

- 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.

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,

****Closings for Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

- Monday, September 7.
- Furlough Day Closings:**
- Friday, September 4 and
- Monday, October 12.

Program information 918-669-6644

- 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.

Giving Back by Amy Morris

We are living through some tough economic times. Here in Tulsa and surrounding communities, someone you know may be struggling to make ends meet. Everywhere organizations are looking for ways to cut back, save money and work more efficiently.

City of Tulsa employees are taking 8 days of furlough, or unpaid leave. For those of us here at Oxley, this is certainly preferable to losing a position, a coworker, a part of our team. In spite of this, we hope to keep up the quality and quantity of our programs. **The goal;** to continue to provide the people of our community with a Nature Center we can all be proud of.

How do we do this? We turn to you.

This is not a new thing. Since its inception, Oxley Nature Center has been an organization that has grown and been supported by talented people willing to give of their time and unique abilities. These people have come from all walks of life, age groups, interests, and skill sets.

When the idea for Oxley Nature Center was first conceived by a group of birders (among them a Mr. Dick Sherry) in 1974, the Tulsa Audubon Society raised money to hire the National Audubon Society to develop a master plan, which was accepted by the City of Tulsa. The City could provide land, but had no money to fund positions or structural support.

In 1975 Mohawk Nature Center Development, Inc. was organized to raise money from private donors. John and Mary Oxley stepped forward with funding to make it possible to pay for advance planning of a headquarters building and hiring the first naturalist. Other organizations such as the Mabee Foundation accepted the challenge also.

The next step required some "ground work". The Junior League of Tulsa accepted the Nature Center as a project in 1977. Their challenge was to train as the first trail guides under the tutelage of Director Bob Jennings.

Using the new teaching shelter and four mile trail system laid out through the various habitats at Oxley, the intrepid volunteer naturalists welcomed the nature seekers that flocked to the new Center. It was just the beginning of a very good thing.

Fast forward 35 years and thousands of school children, families, and satisfied visitors from all over the state, country and world. Our goal remains the same, and our "Mission Statement" is short but packed with purpose:

INSPIRE THE WONDER!

How do we do this? We turn to you.

The Nature Center could not exist without it's volunteer staff. Their dedication and pride in service to their community provides a quality of environmental education, nature enquiry, and visitor interaction that is exemplary. With their help we keep our trails safe and well maintained. We are able to reach out to children who have never stepped foot in a forest or a wetland. Our volunteer staff helps to throw open the windows of wonder that nature has to offer.

If you have a love of nature, and a desire to serve, please consider joining our amazing volunteer team, many who have been with us for 20 or more seasons. We have a position that will suit your desires and skills; whether it is as a visitor center host, trail work volunteer, marketing/PR or outreach booth team member. Perhaps you have a special skill you can share with us.

To lead children on the trails, we invite you to participate in our volunteer naturalist training program September 8 - October 2. For 4 weeks you will spend 2 days a week from 9:00-12 noon learning about interpretation, our trail system, wetlands, forests, prairie, games and more.

Following training we ask that you act as a guide for a small group of school children one day a week from October into November. No previous experience is necessary, but you must be 18 or older. Take that step, and contact us for more information. It could make a huge difference in a child's life.... and quite possibly even yours!

Nature Center Happenings

New! Family Adventure and Discovery Programs

\$2 fee for non members, free for members, *** Please register in advance

Family Adventures: "Makin' Tracks"

Saturday, September 12, 2:00-3:30 p.m.



We'll experiment with our own tracks and those of animals too. Let's find out about the goings and doings of Oxley's critters. You'll make tracks to take home.

Family Discoveries: "Monarch Migration"

Sunday, September 13, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Gather your family and join us to find out why butterflies and other wildlife migrate. Each family will make a butterfly feeder to take home.

Family Adventures: "Slingshots, Parachutes, and Hitchhikers"

Saturday, October 10, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Why do seeds travel? Let's find out how they leave their parent plant and travel to a new place with everything they need to put down roots and start a new life.

Family Discoveries: "Hibernation"

Sunday, October 11, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

To sleep or not to sleep, what is hibernation and what are its benefits? Do animals here hibernate? Each family will make a 'Dreamcatcher' to take home.

New! Junior Naturalist Program

Are you an avid nature lover, or do you know someone who is? We are in the process of creating a whole new program for children and their families that will allow them to actively participate in a project they can choose with the guidance of Nature Center staff. Projects can be fun and challenging, and limited only by your imagination.



Please call us or check our website for further details on this exciting new program!

Astronomy Programs

\$2 fee for non members, free for members, *** Please register in advance, all ages

Bring lawn chairs and binoculars if you have them and join us to take a tour of the night sky with the Nature Center's telescope.



Saturday, September 19, "Telescope Targets" 8:30-9:30 p.m. Sunset: 7:26 p.m. Moonset: 7:40 p.m. Far away planets and even farther away stars will be our targets if clouds permit. We will hope for glimpses of Jupiter and its moons, tiny Uranus and dim blue-gray Neptune. Meet at Wright Park, 437 S. 137 E. Ave.

Thursday, October 8, "Early Rising Planets" 6:00-7:00 a.m. Sunrise: 7:24 a.m. Moonset: 12:11 p.m. We'll watch the planets that are currently on the morning side of the sun rise, as the morning stars fade with the dawn. Mercury, Venus and Saturn will be clustered above the eastern horizon and ruddy Mars will be farther up in the sky toward the Moon. Meet at Terrace Park, one block west of Memorial Drive on 27th Street.

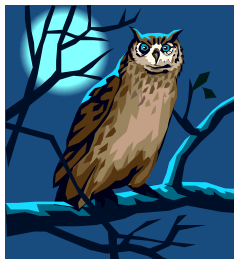
Evening Full Moon Walks

\$2 general public, free for members, *** Please register in advance, all ages

Full Corn Moon

Thursday, September 3, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

The time of this full Moon corresponds with the harvest of corn, barley and other grains. Join us on the trails to harvest some memories of evening sounds, smells and stories. Meet at Oxley and bring friends and family!



Full Harvest Moon

Sunday, October 4, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

This is the full Moon nearest the autumnal equinox. It should be bright enough to finish up harvest chores. Join us at Oxley to discover which critters are collecting a bountiful harvest.

Programs and Special Events

September

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

Purple Martins have been staging for their flight South. Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

19 "Butterflies" Ages: All
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

It is "Monarch Migration" time. We will look for them nectaring as they prepare for their journey. They may be roosting or flying way up high as they move south. Join us at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

20 "Carving a Wood Spoon" Ages: Adult
Sunday 12:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
\$15 for general public \$12 for members

Join us for this class in **Traditional Woodworking**. Using an old fashioned shaving horse, draw knives, and other hand tools, we will spend an afternoon carving a beautiful spoon from a chunk of raw wood. Call early to reserve a space. Bring your lunch and meet at Oxley. Please call for more details.

26 "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

Late bloomers attract a lot of wildlife to their blossoms. Join us at Oxley to see what is happening as autumn approaches.



26 "Soap Making" Ages: 18 to adult
Saturday 1:00-3:00 p.m.
\$20 for general public \$15 for members

Come experience soap making the old fashioned way. We will use fats and lye for the base. Each participant may customize their soap for their own purpose using essential oils and various additives. Call early to sign up, spaces are limited. Meet at Oxley.

****Please register two days in advance of classes unless stated otherwise.**

October

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

Sparrows and other migrants from the North are beginning to appear at Oxley. Join us and bring binoculars if you have them.

3 "You've Got Some Gall!" Ages: 8 to Adult
Saturday 8:30-11:00 a.m.
\$2 for general public Free for members

Have you ever wondered what those strange looking growths on leaves, twigs and various other tree and plant parts are? Join us at **Redbud Valley** to find an amazing variety of these structures. What are they, and who made them? This hike is not stroller or wheelchair accessible.

17 "Butterflies" Ages: All
Saturday 10:30-12:00 noon
Free registration not required

Join us at Oxley to see what butterflies are flying and feeding on fall flowers. Bring binoculars if you have them.

17 "Naturalist's Choice" Ages: All
Saturday 1:00-2:30 p.m.
\$2 for general public Free for members

What special thing will you discover today? Bring your family and join our staff naturalist for a new adventure. Meet at Oxley.

18 "Cedar Flute Making" Ages: 16 to Adult
Sunday 12:30-4:30 p.m.
\$25 for general public \$15 for members

Learn to make a traditional Native American Flute. You will go home with an instrument you can play and enjoy. Call early to register as spaces are limited. Meet at Oxley.

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

Join us at Redbud Valley to see the color changes that occur in the autumn when conditions are right. This walk is not stroller or wheelchair accessible.

31 "Wood Frame Bow Saws" Ages: Adult
Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
\$50 for general public \$45 for members

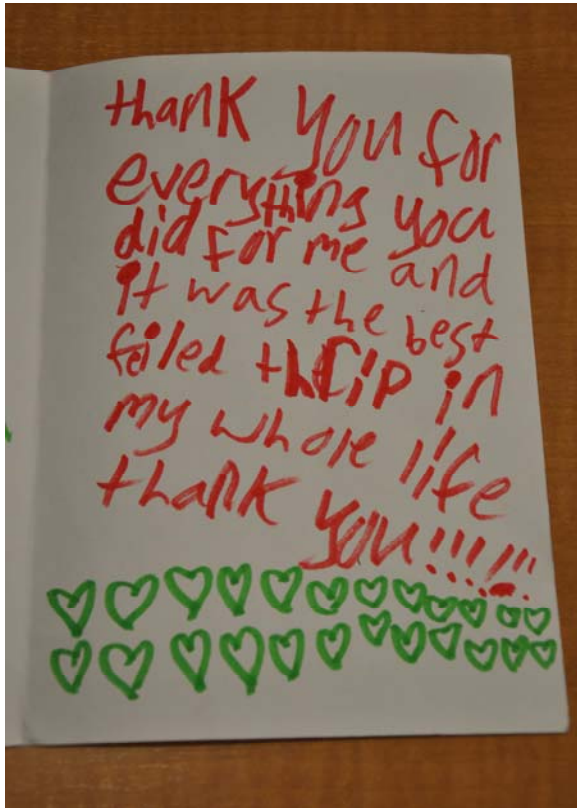
Join us for this class in **Traditional Woodworking**. Using an old fashioned shaving horse, draw knives, block planes and other hand tools, we will spend the day building a wood frame bow saw. Call early to reserve a space. Some experience is necessary. Bring your lunch and meet at Oxley. Please call for more details.

Volunteer Naturalist Paychecks

Our volunteer naturalists are often the recipients of delightful “thank you” mail from students that tour the Nature Center.

Many guides proudly treasure these one of a kind notes from children who have spent a part of their field trip day with them. It is obvious from many of the letters that a short time out in the natural world with a caring guide can have a big impact.

It is these notes that our guides consider their “paychecks”.



TULSA  PARKS

Fall Butterfly Count

Join us **Tuesday, September 30**, for a day counting butterflies. You will join a team with an experienced naturalist to spot, tally, and identify butterflies in a specific count area. No experience is necessary!



Information gathered will supplement data from our spring count as well as that collected nationwide during the annual July butterfly count held by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). NABA monitors populations and raises public awareness and local interest in butterflies.

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. and will count until dusk. You are welcome to participate in all or part of the count. Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, bug spray and binoculars if you have them. Meet at the picnic shelter at Oxley Nature Center.

*****Please call and register in advance so teams can be assembled!**

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.

Oxley Nature Center's First Annual Photo Contest Winners

“My Day at Oxley”

The following photos are the winners of our contest taken during our grand Opening Event June 26th and 27th.

“Best of Show”

Terry Mitchel

“Widow Skimmer”



Donna Nix, First Place
Category: Adult Professional



These three winners are a “Family Affair”!

Anthony Nix, First Place
Category: 8-12 years of age



Thank you to everyone who participated in our first photo contest! We hope to sponsor more in the future so have your cameras ready!

Julia Nix, First Place
Category: Up to 8 years of age



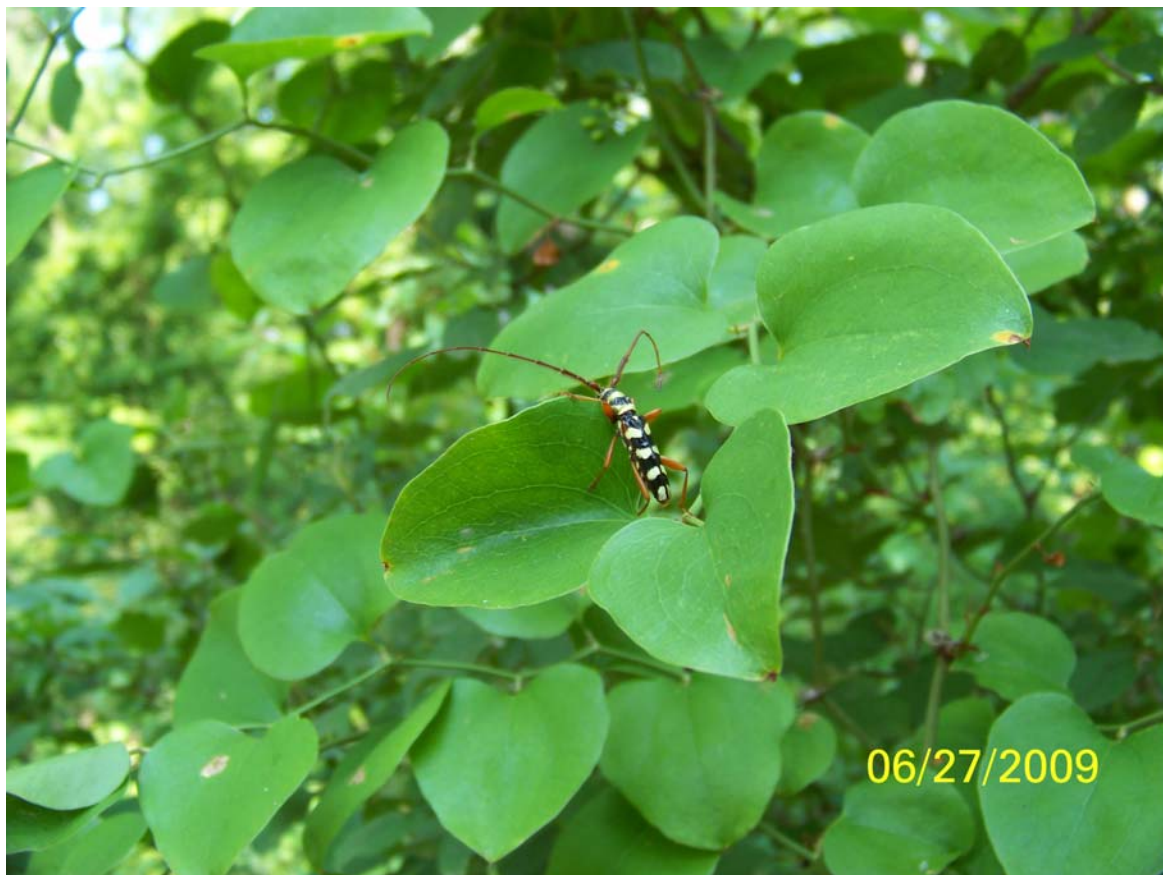
Bambie Murphy, Third Place
Category: Adult Amateur

“Child at BJ’S Pond”



Mary Lou McGilbra
First Place
Category: Adult Amateur

**“Long Horn Beetle
on Green Briar”**



Jacques LaFrance, Second Place
Category: Adult Amateur

“Reflections”

