



# Oxley Nature Center

September/October, 2010

Volume 189

**A \$2 fee per car (for non-members) is charged on weekends April - October to enter Mohawk Park.**

## **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, 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 6 (holiday)
- Monday, October 11 (furlough).

## **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. A class minimum of 6 is required.
- 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.

## **A Home For Every Thing** by Amy Morris

It has been, by all accounts, a hot, dry summer. The earth is spinning through space to keep its daily appointments with the sun. Fall equinox, September 22, could become your target date for planting that first seed in creating a refuge for our struggling wildlife.

Now is the time to consider how you might make a contribution to your very own neighborhood. You can begin with small steps that will lead to huge dividends over time. Let's call it interest, in a variety of forms.

Plant a native tree or shrub. Fall is the perfect time. Plant one (or more) in your yard. If you don't have your own yard, encourage your apartment complex owners, park managers, or friends to plant native species.

Plant what is suited to where you are. Keep in mind traditional considerations: size, placement, and purpose. Native species are adapted to survive in the places where they evolved. Properly placed, once established, they will thrive with a minimum of care. They won't need extra fertilizer and water. They belong.

Why plant a native tree or shrub? You can create a landscape that will produce food and shelter for our wildlife, a place to raise young and call home. The more native plants you put in, including grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees, the greater our biodiversity will be.

As we turn our urban and suburban 'deserts' into complex communities of balanced ecosystems, amazing things begin to happen. We can create our human habitats in such a way as to share them with a greater diversity of other species. If you plant it, 'they will come'.

This process starts with plants, those oxygen producing life forms that make

up the first trophic level. The energy they capture through photosynthesis makes the food that sustains life. Perhaps you begin with a magnificent white oak that will provide nesting cavities, shelter, acorns for vertebrates and green leaves for hundreds of insect herbivores. Don't forget the swing for the kids! The scene is set.

Beneath this canopy, an 'understory', or shrub layer, may be planted. Oh, the choices you have! Do you want blossoms (spring, summer, fall)? What about fruit -- nuts or berries or plums perhaps? Are you interested in attracting birds? Or those other flying marvels, the butterflies?

As you begin to share your space, you must be willing to allow for some 'imperfection' in your garden. Native arthropods evolved along with our native plants, and use them as a food source. Are you willing to tolerate some insect damage, where caterpillars and leaf-cutter bees 'take a bite' out of your plants?

It is these very animals that are food for other insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. You will be rewarded many times over as you watch your new neighbors come and go during their daily activities. A complex ecosystem will develop, an intricate web of intrigue, growth, life and death. Your garden becomes a stage filled with characters!

Plant a native tree or shrub. Tune in to local life in your neighborhood. Join your human neighbors in making corridors of habitat for our stressed wildlife. Celebrate our biological heritage. You can make a difference, become a land steward, share your space with local natives.

Then look, listen, and marvel at what you have helped to create — life at its most intimate, entire life cycles to be discovered. National Geographic theatre at your own address, no modern technology required!

# Nature Center Happenings

## It's Not Too Late!

### Sign Up For Volunteer Training Now.

Become a Volunteer Naturalist and share your love of nature with others! If you enjoy being outdoors sharing nature with others, join us for one of our training programs.

Training is fun, and will familiarize you with our trail system and its varied natural communities: forests, wetlands and prairies. We emphasize interpretation methods and leadership skills.

Following training, you'll join other naturalists, each guiding a group of visitors on weekday, evening or weekend tours.

**Weekday volunteer naturalists** attend a six part training that begins Sept. 7 or 8 and ends October 1. After training, they work one morning per week until November 19.

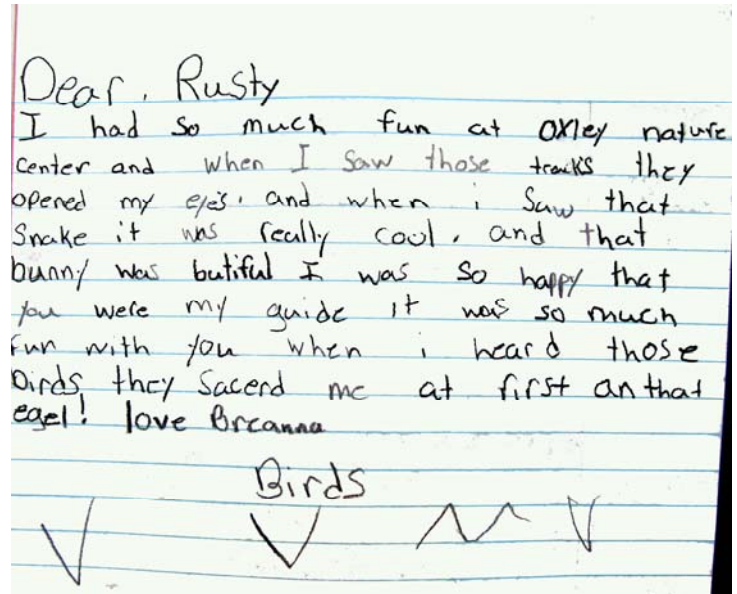
**Weekend/after school/evening volunteer naturalists** also attend a six part training. It begins Friday, September 17, and ends the afternoon of Sunday, September 26. After training, they choose 8 tour dates over the next 5 months.

Schedules may be found on Oxley Nature Center's website.

If you are 18 or older, please call us for more information. No previous experience is necessary.

**Join our team now!**

## One example of our volunteer 'paychecks' ...



"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in". — Rachel Carson

## Second Saturday Family Adventure Program

**\$2 fee for general public, free for members. Come and go at Oxley anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**

Join us for our new 'Second Saturday of the Month Family Adventure Programs'. Each month will highlight a different topic that will appeal to families and all ages. Several activities will be available and you may come and go anytime between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

### Family Adventures: "What's That Tree?"

Saturday, September 11, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Come inside to do leaf rubbings and other activities and then take a tree 'key' outside in search of different trees growing near the Nature Center.

### Family Adventures: "Wildlife at Oxley"

Saturday, October 9, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Do you know all the types of animals that make their homes at the Nature Center? You may choose from different activities to learn more about some of our many inhabitants.

## Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

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

### Full Harvest Moon

**Wednesday, September 22, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Tonight is the Autumnal Equinox. This is the time when main food staples were ready for gathering. Join us to harvest a collection of evening smells, sights and sounds to add to your memory of early fall.



### Full Hunter's Moon

**Friday, October 22, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

The leaves are falling and the deer are fattened. Animals come out to glean from the fields. What will we find as we explore under this Hunter's Moon?

# Programs and Special Events

## September

**4 “Saturday Morning Birding”**      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**      **8:00-9:45 a.m.**  
**Free**      **registration not required**

From Oxley’s ‘Redbook, 2008’: found a migrant Wilson’s Warbler, also a Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, Acadian Flycatcher, Semipalmated and Pectoral Sandpipers and a Least Tern. Join us at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

**12 “Family Discoveries: “What’s That Tree?”**  
**Ages: All**      **Please register in advance**  
**Sunday**      **2:00-3:30 p.m.**  
**\$2 for general public**      **Free for members**

Come learn the basics of tree identification using fun, hands on activities. Meet at Oxley.

**18 “Butterfly Walk”**      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**      **10:30-12:00 noon**  
**Free**      **registration not required**

This is a wonderful time of year for watching butterflies! Meet at Oxley to see who we can find. Bring binoculars if you have them.

**18 “Songs of Redbud Valley”**      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**      **9:00-11:30 a.m.**  
**\$2 for general public**      **Free for members**

Come early, walk the trail and listen to nature. See if you can identify some birds, insects and frogs from their calls. Meet at Redbud Valley. This hike is not wheelchair accessible.

**25 “Botany Walk”**      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**      **10:30-12:00 noon**  
**Free**      **registration not required**

Goldenrod, asters and other fall bloomers provide butterflies, bees and hummingbirds with nectar! Come see what’s in bloom. Meet at Redbud Valley. This hike is not wheelchair accessible.

**\*\*Please register 48 hours in advance of classes unless stated otherwise. A minimum of 6 registrants is required.**

## October

**2 “Saturday Morning Birding”**      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**      **8:00-9:45 a.m.**  
**Free**      **registration not required**

Are winter migrants arriving? Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

**2 “Edible Wild”**      **Ages: 12 to Adult**  
**Saturday**      **1:00-3:30 p.m.**  
**\$7 for general public**      **\$5 for members**

There may or may not be large quantities of edibles available. We will see what we can find and focus on methods of preparation. Meet at Oxley.

**10 “Family Discoveries: “Wildlife at Oxley”**  
**Ages: All**      **Please register in advance**  
**Sunday**      **2:00-3:30 p.m.**  
**\$2 for general public**      **Free for members**

The woods, prairie, and wetlands of the Nature Center are home to a variety of animals. Let’s see how many we can identify. Meet at Oxley.

**16 “Butterfly Walk”**      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**      **10:30-12:00 noon**  
**Free**      **registration not required**

The last Monarch migrants may be passing through. Other butterflies also nectar on the late fall flowers. Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

**23 “Botany Walk”**      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**      **10:30-12:00 noon**  
**Free**      **registration not required**

Even as asters and other late wildflowers bloom, a multitude of leaves are changing color. Join us at Oxley to enjoy this seasonal change.

**30 “Making a Primitive Clay Pot”**  
**Ages: 5 to Adult**  
**Saturday**      **10:00-12:00 noon**  
**\$5 for general public**      **\$2 for members**

We will use clay dug from the Arkansas River and learn how to process it. We will make a small coiled or pinched pot much like our ancestors did. Meet at Oxley.

## Swedish Spoon Carving

We will utilize shaving horses, chisels, spoke shaves and other hand tools to carve spoons out of locally reclaimed wood. These spoons will have a traditional Swedish influence. We'll work outside if weather permits.

**Where:** Oxley Nature Center

**Date:** Saturday, October 2 **Time:** 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Ages:** 16 to Adult

**Fee:** \$15 for non-members, \$12 for members

\*\*\* Please call 669-6644 to register. Space is limited.

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## Marsh Madness — Evening Time!

What is so unique about the marsh environment? Who lives here and how are they adapted to life in a wetland? Join us at Blackbird Marsh to explore this special area. Bring rubber boots and clothes that can get muddy if you really want to 'get in the thick of things'!

**Where:** Oxley Nature Center — Teaching Shelter

**Date:** Saturday, October 16 **Time:** 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Ages:** All **Fee:** \$4 for non-members, \$2 for members

\*\*\* Please call 669-6644 to register.

## Fall Butterfly Count

**Join us at Oxley on Thursday, September 30** from 8:30 a.m. until dusk to spot, count, and identify butterflies.

Information gathered will be used to supplement data collected in April during our Spring Count and in July during the annual NABA Summer Butterfly Count.

With each successive count we are raising public awareness and increasing both participation in counts and local interest in butterflies. Each count teaches us more about these beautiful insects and the habitats they occupy.

You may participate in all or part of the count. No experience is necessary. You will work in teams with experienced naturalists counting in different target areas. We need many sets of eyes and pointer fingers. Join us to learn and have fun!

**Please call and register in advance so teams can be assembled! The \$3 fee will be waived if you register by September 24.**

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## Crossing the Bridge at Coal Creek



## Cattails at Blackbird Marsh

