



# Oxley Nature Center

May/June, 2014

Volume 221

## Oxley Nature Center: New Hours! We will be OPEN on Sundays and Mondays.

- There will be a \$2 fee per car entering Mohawk Park on weekends April through October **unless** you are a member of Oxley Nature Center or the Zoo.

- Oxley Nature Center Interpretive Center will be open Sunday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
- The gate and parking lot are open Sunday through Saturday, 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.  
Hiking outside of these hours is not allowed.

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

- Closed most City holidays.

### \*\* Holiday Closings:

#### Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

\*\* Monday, May 26

#### Program information:

- 918-669-6644  
- [Oxley@cityoftulsa.org](mailto:Oxley@cityoftulsa.org)  
- Website at "<http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org>".

#### Mailing address:

Box 150209, Tulsa, OK 74115

\*Register for classes 48 hours in advance, some classes need supplies and have limited enrollment.

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

- Most programs are stroller/wheelchair accessible.

## To Whom Do We Owe This Pleasure? by Amy Morris

All of us love to eat, yet few of us recognize the pollination services that many animals provide us. Food and drink such as chocolate, vanilla, melons, peaches, apples, alfalfa, blueberries, squash, almonds and coffee are all possible due to the pollination of plants by bees, beetles, butterflies, flies, wasps, birds, bats, and other vertebrates.

June 16-22 is the 8th Annual National Pollinator Week. Our pollinators are a fragile link in our food chain. They are responsible for bringing us 1 out of 3 bites of the food we eat, allowing 90% of the world's flowering plants to reproduce, and pollinating over half the world's oilseed crops, food, fibers, beverages, spices and medicines.

Products produced by pollination in the U.S. annually amount to in excess of \$40 billion. The fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and even meat products (thank you alfalfa bees!) we eat are brought to us by a variety of insects and vertebrates.

Most pollinators visit flowers to collect nectar, which provides carbohydrates to power their flight. Pollen provides protein, oils and minerals, important for their young. In exchange, a flower's pollen is transferred to another flower of the same species. This leads to fertilization, and successful seed and fruit production. It is a win-win situation, and we benefit from the results!



Bees are our primary pollinators. Many people are familiar with the European honey bee, which was introduced to North America over 380 years ago. Due to serious decline in the populations of our honeybees in recent years, more attention has been focused on our native bees. We have over 4000 species of native bees in North America.

Large, fuzzy bumble bees are social insects similar to the honey bee in their colonial life style. They are extremely efficient pollinators, visiting only flowers that have not been pollinated and working even in low temperatures and light rain.

Most native bees are solitary species that may nest close together in a prime habitat. They have evolved with native plants and may be generalists or may pollinate specific plant species. Native solitary bees include leafcutters, ground nesters, cavity nesters and masons. Because these bees do not have a common nest to guard, they are not aggressive, and rarely sting.

Some of the world's top pollinators are flies, including some male mosquitoes that pollinate rare orchids by carrying the pollen grains on their eyes. If you love the smooth taste of chocolate, thank a midge, another type of fly! Who knew?

Fruit bats pollinate over 300 species of plants, mostly with fragrant, night blooming flowers. These plants include cloves, figs, mangos, papaya, dates and cashews.

To whom do we owe the pleasure: of succulent fruits, a steaming cup of coffee, a halloween jack-o-lantern, the whiff of exotic spices, a floral bouquet, the softness of cotton against our skin?

You tell me.

# Nature Center Happenings

## Volunteer Naturalists Graduate

Our volunteer training was great fun this season! We had 7 weekday and 4 weekend volunteer naturalists graduate. Please give a big welcome to:

Jason Anthony, Kelly Borycki, Patricia Davenport, Delores Hewitt, Dianna Hurst, Edgar Hellyer, Odes Huthinson, Peggy McMath, Candice Reese, Mary Seaborn, and Jay Stewart.

Five people have joined us as visitor center hosts. This is giving us invaluable help on weekdays. Welcome to:

Mollie Brower, Pat Davenport, Chris Evans, Janet O'Leary, and Pat Vawter.

Our volunteer staff are our greatest resource. They enable us to maintain trails, fight invasive species, greet and visit with our guests, lead our interpretive tours, and so much more. We thank them for their dedication and enthusiasm!

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### Forming a Pollinator Partnership

You have the ability to choose some of your neighbors. With some species having declined dramatically in the last decade, you can take steps to invite native pollinators to your yard. Backyard gardens can have a significant impact on the numbers and diversity of pollinators, providing important habitat. Providing for your neighbors will ensure a better fruit and seed set for your plants, give you hours of entertainment and allow you to make a difference.

- Don't use pesticides in your gardens, please.
- Grow flowering plant species with different colors, shapes, and blooming times to provide choices for different kinds of pollinators throughout the season.
- Plant in dense stands of native flowering plants. Some varieties of landscape cultivars have been selected for showy blooms at the expense of nectar and pollen production.
- Provide artificial nest boxes for solitary bees.

**You can make a difference!**

### Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour & Plant Sale

In May, Oxley Nature Center will have a booth at the 21st Annual Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour and Plant Sale sponsored by the Tulsa Audubon Society. Stop by and visit with Oxley Nature Center staff at one of the featured gardens.

Bring any questions you may have about enticing butterflies, birds, bees, and other creatures to your garden. Learn about the best plants to use.

Native plant vendors will be featured at the gardens with a variety of their wonderful plants. The tour dates are:

Saturday, May 17, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 18, 12 noon-5:00 p.m.

For Garden tour map and information:

[www.tulsaaudubon.org](http://www.tulsaaudubon.org)

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## Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

**\*New! \$3 requested donation per person, all ages. \*\* Please register in advance \*\***

### Full Flower Moon

**Friday, May 23, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

April showers and sunshine have brought a flush of wildflowers to the land. Join us for an evening walk along the trails.

### Full Strawberry Moon

**Friday, June 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

We will engage all our senses as we explore the trails this evening. Will we find wild strawberries?

# Programs and Special Events

## May

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

Join us for birding at Oxley. Birds are building nests and sitting on eggs. Bring binoculars if you have them.

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

Join us at Oxley for a butterfly walk. All ages and skill levels are welcome. What will we see today? Bring binoculars if you have them.

**18 "Geology Walk @ RBV"**                      **Ages: 8 to Adult**  
**Sunday**    **1:30-3:00 p.m.**  
**Free**    **registration is required**

The defining feature of Redbud Valley Nature Preserve is the limestone cliff separating two distinct habitats. We'll tour this rugged area. These trails are not wheelchair or stroller accessible. Please register in advance.

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

April showers bring on a flush of May flowers. Join us at Oxley for a refreshing botany walk.

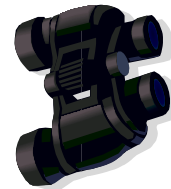
**31 "Turtles and Tortoises Have the Ultimate RV"**  
**Ages: All**  
**Saturday**    **10:30-12:30 p.m.**  
**Free**    **registration is required**

Explore the differences and similarities between these two while feeding the turtles, searching for them around the Oxley trails, making crafts and participating in activities. Spaces are limited, please register in advance.

## June

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

Join us for birding at Oxley. Are some birds starting a second clutch? Bring binoculars if you have them.



**15 "People Need Bees, Please!"**                      **Ages: All**  
**Sunday**    **1:00-3:00 p.m.**  
**Free**    **registration is required**

People need bees more than they realize. Come learn about bees, take a walk, play games, and make your own family bee hotel. Spaces are limited, please register in advance.

**21 "Butterfly Walk"**                                      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**    **9:00-10:30 a.m.**  
**Free**    **registration not required**

Please note time change! What butterflies are flying? Meet at Oxley and bring binoculars if you have them.

**22 "Geology Walk @ RBV"**                      **Ages: 8 to Adult**  
**Sunday**    **1:30-3:00 p.m.**  
**Free**    **registration is required**

The defining feature of Redbud Valley Nature Preserve is the limestone cliff separating two distinct habitats. We'll tour this rugged area. These trails are not wheelchair or stroller accessible. Please register in advance.

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

Trees are in their full glory now with a wide variety of greens. Wildflowers color the land. Join us at Oxley for a botany walk.

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



## Certified Interpretive Host Training Workshop

When: May 9 & 10, 2014, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. OR  
June 14 & 21, 2014, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m

Where: Oxley Nature Center Instructor: Donna Horton

The National Association of Interpretation's Certified Interpretive Host program offers a professional certification designed for new hires, seasonals, volunteers, maintenance workers, receptionists, law enforcement or anyone who has public contact but does not present formal interpretive programs to the public. It covers the basics of interpretation, how to provide great customer service and hospitality, and how you can use informal interpretation to support your agency's mission as you interact with visitors. Must be 16 or older.

For more information or to download a registration form, go to:  
[http://www.interpnet.com/nai/\\_certification/CIG\\_Workshops/CIH-2014-03-OK.aspx](http://www.interpnet.com/nai/_certification/CIG_Workshops/CIH-2014-03-OK.aspx)

## 4th of July North American Butterfly Count

Join us at Oxley on Tuesday, July 1st to spot, count, tally and identify butterflies. Information gathered is used to supplement the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) 4th of July Butterfly Count held annually in June and July.

Citizen scientists participate in local counts, increase their own knowledge, raise public awareness, and contribute data about butterfly populations. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. and count until 5:00 p.m., weather permitting. You are welcome to participate in all or part of the count. Please bring a lunch, water, hat, and binoculars if you have them.

No experience is necessary. You'll work in teams with experienced naturalists counting in different areas. Meet at Oxley Nature Center.

Call and register in advance so teams can be assembled! Friends of Oxley will pay your \$3 count fee if you register by June 25.



**Solitary Bee Habitat**

"I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can out-wit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority."

- E.B. White