



Oxley Nature Center

November/December, 2014

Volume 224

2011: Peak of Fall Foliage Color -by Donna Horton

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. 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.

** Holiday Closings:

Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve:

Tuesday, November 11, Thursday and Friday, November 27-28, Wednesday and Thursday, December 24-25, and Thursday, January 1.

Program information:

- 918-669-6644

- Oxley@cityoftulsa.org

- Website at <http://www.oxleynaturecenter.org>.

*Register for classes 48 hours in advance.

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

-Most programs are stroller/wheelchair accessible.

-Our new mailing address is: Box 150209, Tulsa, OK 74115

"November 2-10, 2011. Peak of fall foliage color. Redbud Valley's color peaked before Oxley's and Oxley's peaked before the urban Tulsa vegetation. The spectacular color was all the more amazing because everyone assumed the long drought and furnace-like summer meant the leaves would just turn brown and fall off this year. Well, they did a lot of that in August. Then it rained in September. New leaves came out. Old leaves perked up.

Most years, fall color begins in August with early splashes of red among the sumacs. Then in September the Virginia creeper shows blood-red among the green trees. Gradually, each week another wave of color rolls across the state like a slowly developing color Polaroid.

This year they all chose the first half of November to put out their best colors. We usually judge the peak of color when there are some trees still green and some trees already

bare. It was hard to say any one day this year was "the peak of color". Perhaps it was the sixth of November.

The peak would have lasted longer, but ferocious winds tore the

leaves from the trees again and again. The cold front that came roaring through during the hayride on November 19 was probably the beginning of the end.

Even so, there are isolated pockets of magnificent color here and there, even well into December."

This entry is from our Red Book, a compilation of staff and volunteer observations throughout the days, seasons and years at Redbud Valley Nature Preserve and Oxley Nature Center.



Nature Center Happenings

Volunteers Graduate

Congratulations to our new **Volunteer Naturalists** who graduated from the fall training program and are now leading school groups, night walks, pathfinder tours, and other tours:

Carrie Browne, Leslie Brucks, Scott Carmen, Debbie Denham, Don Gardner, Vanessa Goins, Helen Hickey, Mack Hickey, Matthew McAfee, Kent Powers and Ellen Stanley.

New marketing/PR committee Members: Jack Buckley, Tim Kuehnert, Peggy McMath, Kent Powers and J Diane Van Zandt.

Thank You and Welcome To our Team!

Winter Solstice Hike

Join us Sunday, December 21, at Oxley Nature Center from 1:30-3:30 p.m. to celebrate the changing of the season!

The winter solstice marks the shortest day of the year, and is followed by the day the sun begins to return to the Northern Hemisphere. This seasonal change is cause for great celebration. Join us for a walk through the winter woods. Then we will make some special treats for the birds (to take home and hang at Oxley) and enjoy some hot chocolate.

**Ages: All, \$5 for general public, free for members
Please register in advance.**



Fourth Annual New Year's Eve Celebration

Begin a new tradition!

For Oxley Nature Center Members Only

We'll take an evening walk to welcome in the New Year! Following our hike, we will warm up in front of a bonfire or fireplace to share stories. Hot chocolate, apple cider, and the fixings for s'mores will be available.

Wednesday, December 31, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

All ages are welcome. Please call and register in advance as spaces are limited.

Visit the Nature Store for last minute gifts for the naturalist!

Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

\$3 requested donation per person, all ages welcome ** Please register in advance **

Full Beaver Moon

Friday, November 7, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Beavers are preparing for winter. Will we see or hear any tonight? Join us to explore the trails.



Full Cold Moon

Sunday, December 7, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

There is change in the air. The nights are becoming long and dark. What will we discover under cover of darkness?

Programs and Special Events

November

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

Thousands of geese are migrating. There is a lot of activity now. Join us for birding at Oxley. Bring binoculars if you have them.

16 “Geology Walk at RBV” **Ages: 8 to Adult**
Sunday **1:30-3:00 p.m.**
Free **registration is required**

Join us at Redbud Valley for a geology walk. This walk is not stroller or wheelchair accessible. Registration is required.



22 “Botany Walk” **Ages: All**
Saturday **10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon**
Free **registration not required**

Many of our plants are changing color. Some trees are dressed in their finest fall wardrobes, while others have already lost their leaves. Let’s find what color changes are taking place at Oxley.

December

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

Our winter sparrows and other visitors have arrived. Join us for birding at Oxley. Bring binoculars if you have them.



21 “Winter Solstice Hike” **Ages: All**
Sunday **1:30-3:30 p.m.**
\$5 for general public **Free for members**
registration is required

The winter solstice marks the shortest day of the year, and is followed by the day the sun begins to return to the Northern Hemisphere. Join us for a walk through the winter woods. Then we will make some special treats for the birds (to take home and hang at Oxley) and enjoy some hot chocolate.

21 “Geology Walk at RBV” **Ages: 8 to Adult**
Sunday **1:30-3:00 p.m.**
Free **registration is required**

Join us at Redbud Valley for a geology walk. This walk is not stroller or wheelchair accessible. Registration is required.

27 “Botany Walk” **Ages: All**
Saturday **10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon**
Free **registration not required**

What will we find on the trail: bare bone branches and seed filled spent flower heads? Join us for a plant walk at Oxley to find out!

Project Learning Tree Education Workshop

When: Saturday, November 8, 2014, 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Where: Oxley Nature Center Cost: \$20

Bring a sack lunch and drink; we will have a working lunch.

Project Learning Tree Workshop for Teachers is interdisciplinary, incorporating curriculum activities for most content areas and learning levels. Regular classroom teachers, Boy and Girl Scout Leaders and homeschool teachers will learn to use this habitat-related/forest program with students age K-12. This award winning international environmental education curriculum is correlated with Oklahoma Curriculum standards.

Dress comfortably; prepared to do several activities outdoors, though much hands-on, fun, experiential learning will take place in the nature center classroom.

**To register contact facilitator Deidra Wakeley:
918-745-9264 or wakelde@tulsaschools.org**

Visitor Center Host Training Workshop

When: November 15, 2014, 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon

Where: Oxley Nature Center

We are looking for people who are interested in greeting and helping our visitors when they visit Oxley. Learn how to provide great customer service and how you can use informal interpretation to support our mission (Inspire the Wonder!) as you interact with visitors.

You will also learn about our Nature Store and how to make sales. This will involve some simple computer skills.

Must be 18 or older.

For more information and to register please call :
918-669-6644

Hidden Colors

What happens to the green leaves of spring and summer? When trees are growing and producing food, leaves come in all shades of green. As the seasons change and day length becomes shorter, chlorophyll production is reduced and other colors come to the forefront. Red, orange and yellow hues are there all along in certain leaves. Chemical compounds such as tannin, xanthophyll and carotene show themselves as the colors of autumn. Get outside and enjoy them before the trees release all the leaves to the wind!

