



Oxley Nature Center

July/August, 2016

Volume 234

Stop, Look, and Listen

by Kelly Boegemann

Oxley Nature Center:

-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.

-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:

** Monday, July 4

Program information:

- 918-596-9054
- 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
-Our new phone number is:
918-596-9054

As I venture into the woods, I enter a realm of shadows. One can still see in the woods by the fading twilight. A cool breeze blows. It is a welcome reprieve from the hot summer day.

A spider makes its web across the path hoping to catch its dinner in the darkness. I hear a rustling in the thick brush of the forest floor. It could be a fox, but they are sly. Perhaps it is an armadillo or skunk rooting around in the dirt for a grub or two. A black rat snake has been taking advantage of the warm rays on the branches of a nearby tree. Silently he slithers away, a long black rope wrapping around branches until he disappears. I see fireflies emerge in the woods, preparing for their nightly dance. As they enter the open prairie, they begin to flash their lights, coded signals meant to attract a mate,

As I approach the flowline, I stop. Cautiously, I look both ways. Deer are what I am seeking. Off in the distance I see one, but is it a fawn or a doe? It is hard to tell from this distance. I venture forward slowly.

A closer look brings me an answer to my question; it is a doe. She is browsing on grass. As I move forward, she raises her head, annoyed with me for interrupting her meal. She soon decides I have come too close for comfort, even though I am several yards away. With a series of leaps, she is safely in the shelter of the forest.

A night heron wings overhead, its long neck tucked in close to its body as it flies effortlessly on the evening air. In nature there are always animals all around us. We just have to learn to quiet our mind and become the careful observer. Their signs are everywhere if we only take a moment to stop, look, and listen.



Nature Center Happenings

Volunteer Staff Awards Dinner and Celebration

Volunteer staff, families, friends, and Oxley staff celebrated the spring season with an awards dinner June 7. We gathered together to honor all our volunteer staff and share a meal of barbecue (complements of ONCA) and potluck dishes. We all enjoy this time to get together and visit with one another.

Volunteer Dennis Hebert received our Volunteer of the Year Award for his outstanding service in maintaining our trail systems and keeping our tractor and other machines humming along in working order. Following a tornado March 31, Dennis was essential in getting trails cleared on the Bird Creek trail, North Woods Trail and Lake Trail where approximately 72 old growth cottonwoods, oaks, sycamores and more were wrenched from the climax forest.

Our volunteer staff serves Oxley Nature Center in many capacities. With their dedication and enthusiasm, we are able to maintain our trails and acreage, reach a large public with programs, and so much more. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Thank you for sharing your time with us!

Volunteer Roundup

Have you got some time to share? Do you like the outdoors? Oxley Nature Center manages over 1000 acres of forest, prairie, and wetlands (including a 70 acre lake, a marsh, 2 ponds, and 2 creeks). We maintain approximately 11 miles of trails. Our two sanctuaries; Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve, belong to you, the citizens., and we need your help.

Oxley is sponsoring a volunteer roundup on **Thursday, August 11, from 10:00-noon or 7:00-9:00 p.m.** Join us to learn about the many different volunteer opportunities we have to offer. We will have question and answer sessions, staff and volunteers to visit with, and refreshments. Afterward we'll go on a short trail hike.

Have you got some time to share?

Please call 918-596-9054 to register. We look forward to hearing from you!

A joy shared is a joy doubled -Goethe

Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins in September

Do you enjoy being outdoors sharing the experience of nature with others? Volunteer Naturalist training beginning September 6. We are looking for weekend, evening and weekday volunteer staff. Training sessions will take place throughout September.

You will become familiar with our trail system as you explore the varied prairie, wetland and forested areas. We emphasize leadership skills and interpretation methods.

Upon completion of training, you will join other naturalists, each guiding a small group of visitors on weekday, evening or weekend tours. If you are 18 or older, please call for more details about the training schedules. No previous experience is necessary .

Weekday sessions: September 6th through September 29th, two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) from 9:00 a.m.-noon.

Evening and weekend sessions: evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and/or weekend days from 9:00-11:00 a.m. These dates/times are subject to change.

All new volunteer naturalists and visitor center hosts are encouraged to participate in the Certified Interpretive Host Workshop, August 30 and 31 (see page 4 for details). Oxley will provide the cost of basic CIH training. Certification or NAI membership is the responsibility of the participant.

Programs and Special Events

July

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

Join us for birding at Oxley. Bring binoculars if you have them.

16 “Butterfly Walk” **Ages: All**
Saturday **9:30-11:00 noon**
Free **registration not required**

Join us at Oxley for our butterfly walk. All ages and skill levels welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

19 “Full Buck Moon” **Ages: All**
Tuesday **7:00-8:30 p.m.**
Free **registration is required**

Join us for an evening walk along the trails. Will we see or hear any deer? A \$3 donation is requested.

23 “Botany Walk” **Ages: All**
Saturday **9:30-11:00 a.m.**
Free **registration not required**

What will we find? Meet at Oxley. Please note time change! In July and August we'll go out an hour earlier than usual.

“Monarch Watch Patrol” **Ages: All**

Tuesday, July 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 8:00-10:00 a.m.
Saturday, July 9, 16, 23, and Friday, July 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Suggested Donation \$3 ONCA Members Free

What does a Monarch butterfly eat? What is the life cycle of a butterfly? What does a Monarch caterpillar look like? Where do Monarchs live? Come learn answers to these questions as we take an in-depth look into the life of a Monarch. Participants will also have the opportunity to become citizen scientists as we monitor areas of Oxley for Monarch activity. Data collected will be submitted to the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project. The goal of the project is to help scientists better understand Monarch populations, use of habitat, and to identify factors that affect Monarch populations. **Registration is required**

August

3 “Basket Guild” **Ages: 13 to Adult**
Wednesday **6:00-7:00 p.m.**
Free **registration is required**

Join us for a basket-making class that meets once a month at Oxley. This is for all skill levels.

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

Join us for birding at Oxley. Bring binoculars if you have them.

18 “Full Sturgeon Moon” **Ages: All**
Thursday **7:00-8:30 p.m.**
Free **registration is required**

We will engage all our senses as we explore the trails this evening. Bring your sense of adventure! A \$3 donation is requested.

20 “Butterfly Walk” **Ages: All**
Saturday **9:30-11:00 noon**
Free **registration not required**

Join us at Oxley for our butterfly walk. All ages and skill levels welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

27 “Botany Walk” **Ages: All**
Saturday **9:30-11:00 a.m.**
Free **registration not required**

What will we find? Meet at Oxley. Please note time change! In July and August we'll go out an hour earlier than usual.

July 1-31 “Monarch Nursery”

Each spring Monarchs make the miraculous journey north from Mexico. Many migrate as far north as Canada. Oklahoma is very special, as some Monarchs make this state their summer home. Monarch eggs, caterpillars in different instars, and chrysalises will be on display in Oxley's Monarch Nursery. Viewing will be available throughout all of July during normal business hours.



Certified Interpretive Host Training Workshop

When: August 30 & 31, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Where: Oxley Nature Center Instructor: Donna Horton

The National Association of Interpretation's CIH program offers a professional certification designed for new hires, seasonals, volunteers, 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 you're agency's mission as you interact with visitors. Must be 16 or older.

For more information or to download a registration form:

https://www.interpnet.com/nai/nai/_events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=CIH083016

For information contact: Donna Horton, donnahortoncit@att.net
Phone 918-582-0522



Monarch Festival

July 30

At Oxley:
Presentation: 10:00-11:00 am
*Planting for Butterflies-
 Designing a Monarch Waystation*
 by **Sandy Schwinn**
Hike: 11:15-12:00
 A short walk around the pond and meadow
 to look for butterflies and host plants
Kids' Zones: 11:00am-2:00pm
 Crafts, games, face painting,
 education stations,
 roving naturalists, shaved ice

Free Milkweed seed packet for each family
 Free Milkweed plant for each ONC membership

At TCC Metro Campus - Center for Creativity
Dr. Kristen Baum presents
Monarch Corridors and Stepping Stones
 7:00pm
 Plus+ Kids' Stories, Games

TCC Metro Campus - Center for Creativity
 910 South Boston Avenue

Thanks to our sponsor


Oxley Nature Center * 6700 Mohawk Blvd * 918-596-9054



Monarch Magic

Be sure to check out our Monarch nursery during the month of July. This will be your opportunity to see eggs, different stages of the Monarch caterpillars, and Monarch chrysalises. Watch for butterflies in our pollinator gardens! Bring a journal to record you observations.