



# Oxley Nature Center

September/October, 2016

Volume 235

## 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, September 5

#### 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**

## Changes by Bob Jennings

Yesterday there were hundreds of Monarch Butterflies in the air above the prairie. Last night there was rain and wind, and today I can hear Snow Geese high above. The seasons don't always change this rapidly, but they do change. Like the man said, "If there's one thing that's consistent, it's change."

I love to walk in the woods this time of year, to see the world around me shift and peel away, revealing new layers beneath. The field out front, where we are trying to get grasses established, is bright yellow with tickseed and goldenrod. Where we burned parts of it this spring, there are new shoots of bluestem and purple-top. Here the colors change even as we look at them, phasing with the angle of the sun and the shifting of the scudding clouds overhead.

In the woods, the late rains have brought mushrooms in abundance. They rise up overnight, some brown, some yellow, some scarlet red. The standing dead trees are peppered with soft white and hard brown and streaky gold. Look quickly, many will be gone tomorrow.

Rest for a moment beneath the trees. Today the sky is still hidden by the leaves above us, but there are crimson flares of Virginia Creeper, and the Poison Ivy has a reddish wash beneath the summer's green. A month from now there will be more leaves below us than above us, and the trails will rustle as we walk slowly through.

See the three deer easing into the shadows ahead? That's the doe with this year's set of twins, but the youngsters have grown and fattened on summer's grass and autumn's mast, so that we have to look carefully to separate mom from kids. Last week we saw a buck, each rack crowned with four strong points. How proud he looked, but before long the antlers will be lying shed on the forest floor, nothing more than minerals for mice and squirrels.

Change is all around us, always. Sometimes it rushes us along, pulling and shoving as we go, but today the changes are slow, mellow and full of the calm of another fall in the forest. Before too long the winter winds will come, harsher and more demanding than today's breezes, but not yet, not today. We will still have time to enjoy the gift of this day before the next change comes.

**From the Stump, Thoughts of a Naturalist**, is a collection of inspiring essays that was written by Bob Jennings, who was Director of Oxley Nature Center from 1977-2003. This beautiful collection is available in the Oxley Nature Store.

# Nature Center Happenings

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## Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins in September

Do you enjoy being outdoors sharing the experience of nature with others? We are offering Volunteer Naturalist training beginning September 1. 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 1st - September 27th, two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon.

**Evening and weekend sessions:** evenings and/or weekend days in September to be announced.

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### Natural Babies

Young children learn by contact with real objects, events and people. We will spend time on the trail to explore nature first hand. This will be a sensory experience!

**Monday, September 12 or 26, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

**“Helicopters, Slingshots, & Things That Ride the Wind”**

Seed dispersal: do plants have feet? Can they swim or fly? Come discover how plants move from place to place.

**Monday, October 10 or 24, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

**“Forest, Prairie, or Pond”**

Animal homes: Let’s pretend we are wild animals and determine which habitat best meets our needs for food, water and shelter.

**Ages: 1 through 5 years only, with caregiver**

**Call to register: \$2 for general public, free for members**

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### Junior Coyote Club

Saturdays, October 1st to December 3rd,  
Classes meet once a week over 8 weeks, 9:00-11:30 a.m.  
Ages: 8-12 (12 children accepted)

Where: Oxley Nature Center Cost: \$150

Registration begins September 1, call 918-596-9054

The children will enjoy stories, games, songs, and long walks in the woods; cultivating their love of nature and desire to learn. Over time they will gain experience in primitive fire-making, woodland shelter building, map compass navigation, wild-edible gathering and preparation, wildlife tracking sensory awareness , and bird language.

**Join us for an introduction to the program and a question and answer period on Saturday, September 24.**

### Fall Butterfly Count

**Join us Friday, September 23,** to spot, count and identify butterflies. Data will supplement the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) butterfly counts.

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. and count until dusk. You are welcome to participate in all or part of the count.

Meet at Oxley Nature Center. No experience is necessary. You’ll work in teams with experienced naturalists counting in different areas. Please bring lunch, water and binoculars if you have them.

**Call and register so teams can be assembled.**

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### Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop

When: October 17 –20 , 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Where: Oxley Nature Center, Instructor: Donna Horton

The National Association of Interpretation’s CIG 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=CIG101716H](https://www.interpnet.com/nai/nai/_events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=CIG101716H)**

For information contact: Donna Horton,  
DonnaHortonCIT@att.net, 918-587-0522.

# Programs and Special Events

## September

**3 "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.

**7 "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.

**16 "Full Corn Moon"**                              **Ages: All**  
**Friday**    **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 suggested.

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

Join us at Oxley for our butterfly walk. Please note time change! Beginning in September we'll begin an hour later than usual. All ages and skill levels welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

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

What will we find? Meet at Oxley. Please note time change! Beginning in September we'll begin an hour later than usual.

## October

**1 "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.

**5 "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.

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

Join us at Oxley for our butterfly walk. Please note time change! Beginning in September we'll begin an hour later than usual. All ages and skill levels welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

**16 "Full Hunter's Moon"**                              **Ages: All**  
**Sunday**    **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 suggested.

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

What will we find? Meet at Oxley. Please note time change! Beginning in September we'll go out an hour later than usual.

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**5 November "Rag Rug Making"**                      **Ages: Adult**  
**Saturday**    **10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.**  
**\$10 suggested donation**                      **registration is required**

Do you need a little warmth at your hearth this winter? Join us at Oxley to learn a new skill. When you call to sign up please leave your email address and we will send you a supply list.

## **Project WILD (Wildlife Integrated Learning Design)**

When: Saturday, October 8, 2016, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Where: Oxley Nature Center

Cost: \$20 (includes 2 activity guides)

Project WILD is a cross-curricular environmental workshop that concentrates on forest habitat with plant/animal interactions, through activities featuring science, math, language arts, social studies, and art. Participants include regular classroom teachers, boy and girl scout leaders, and homeschool teachers

Dress comfortably; prepared to do several activities outdoors. Hands-on, fun, experiential learning will also take place in the nature center classroom. Bring a sack lunch and drink; we will have a working lunch.

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

## **Project Learning Tree Education Workshop**

When: Saturday, November 5, 2016, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Where: Oxley Nature Center Cost: \$25 (includes activity guide)

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. Hands-on, fun, experiential learning will also take place in the nature center classroom. Bring a sack lunch and drink; we will have a working lunch.

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



**Photo by Bob Dunbar**

**There are only two ways to live your life.  
One is as though nothing is a miracle.  
The other is as if everything is.**

**-Albert Einstein**