



# Oxley Nature Center

May/June, 2017

Volume 239

## The Nest

### Oxley Nature Center:

It costs \$2 per car from April through October to enter Mohawk Park on weekends unless you are a member of Oxley Nature Center or the Tulsa 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, May 29

### 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.

Spring is a flurry of activity; courting, nesting and egg laying. Some birds have already created a nursery for their young, while others have just begun. These nests are works of art with varying degrees of complexity. They cradle the future generation of our feathered friends

Approximately a third of our bird species use cavities while others have little or no nest at all, except perhaps on a cliff ledge. Baltimore Orioles build elaborate woven pendulous nests, while Mourning Doves are content with a sloppy bed of twigs for their eggs and young. Dove and wren nests may even be built on your front porch! Bald Eagles can build a nest weighing over a ton, and may reuse the same nest from year to year. What about the little Killdeer, a shorebird that can be found in fields, driveways, and even on rooftops! A mated pair will perform a ritual where they scratch a shallow depression on the ground with their feet, to which they may later add some nesting materials such as small rocks.

Nest materials are varied, and can be anything from twigs, mud, grass, string, horse hair, fishing line, snakeskin, roots, bark, and stones. These items can be used to create the nest. Other materials can be used to cushion and insulate the nest, such as thistle down or feathers. Many hawk species use green leaves in their nests which have properties that repel parasites. Hummingbirds use the incredible strength of spider silk to help hold their nest together and secure it to a limb. It is approximately one inch by one inch, lined with plant down and bud scales. If you don't see the hummingbird move to or from its nest, you might not see it, because the outside of the nest is beautifully camouflaged with lichen, which also helps to repel water.

It rained hard last night and the winds blew with a vengeance, announcing the storm. It is spring in Oklahoma. The birds and their nurseries of delicate eggs and fledglings were at risk, at the mercy of the weather. The trees flexed and bowed, bent and groaned. The better made nests held tight to their supports. Others were tossed to the ground, or were caught in rising water. Some birds that lost nests, eggs or fledglings may have an opportunity at a second clutch, while others might repair nests and continue to brood eggs or feed fledglings. Some will have to wait until next year.

This morning dawned calm and clear with a chorus of birdsong filling the morning air. Our feathered friends are back at work.

# Nature Center Happenings

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## Volunteer Naturalists Graduate

Our volunteer training was great fun this season! We had 13 weekday and 5 weekend volunteer naturalists graduate. Please give a big welcome to:

**Evelyn Alsup, Linda Barry, Karen Bode, Luke Cedoz, Karla Conner, Harry Dandelles, Bill Jantz, Katherine Kirk, Dan Martan, Lynn Michael, Don McMath, Constance Murray, April Olinghouse, Cindy Parsons, Calvin Roberts, David Rumfeldt, Mariah Thompson, Mary Whitney.**

Our new visitor center volunteers are: **Kathleen Hope, Celia Stuart-Powles, Sandy Schuster, Tina Smith, and Iona Wigger.**

In addition to our volunteer naturalists and visitor center hosts we have had other volunteer staff join our team to assist as rovers, trail work volunteers and marketing committee members. Our volunteer staff are our greatest resource. They enable us to maintain trails, fight invasive species, greet our guests, lead interpretive tours, provide outreach 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 numbers and diversity of pollinators by enhancing important habitat. Providing for your neighbors will ensure a better fruit and seed set for your plants, giving you hours of entertainment. You can 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 host plants such as milkweed for Monarch butterflies.
- Provide artificial nest boxes for solitary bees.
- Check out : <http://www.pollinator.org>

### "Natural Babies:

#### Mini-Beasts of the Forest Floor"

**Monday, May 8th or 22nd**

**Ages: 1-5 years with caregiver**

**Monday**

**10:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Members free, Non-members \$3 donation suggested**

**Registration is required**

Let us explore the forest floor as we go on a mini-beast scavenger hunt. We will then create a miniature habitat in a terrarium to take home.



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## Full Moon Walks at Oxley Nature Center

**\$3 requested donation per person, all ages welcome**

**\*\* Please register in advance \*\***

### Full Flower Moon

**Wednesday, May 10, 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 9, 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

**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. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

**20 "Butterfly Walk"**                                      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**    **9:30-11:00 a.m.**  
**Free**    **registration not required**

Join us at Oxley for our butterfly walk. Please note, the time has changed for the warmer seasons: May-August, 9:30-11:00 a.m. All ages and skill levels welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

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

Join us at Oxley to explore. We may find flowers among the growing leaves.

### MACRO-PHOTOGRAPHY: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

**Session 1 – May 20, 2017: Introduction to Macro-photography, 9:00 a.m. to noon**

**Session 2 – June 3, 2017: Advanced Macro-photography, 9:00 a.m. to noon**

Oxley Nature Center is pleased to partner with Thomas Shahan to offer 2 macro-photography sessions that will expose you to flora and fauna like you have never seen it before. Mr. Shahan is a macro-photography specialist from Tulsa with a passion for entomology and whose work includes a spread on Oklahoma jumping spiders for the National Geographic.

You can pick which session works best for you. Each session will consist of classroom instruction, Q & A, and field demonstrations at the Oxley Nature Center.

**Fees:** Friends of Oxley members - \$20/person per session. Non-members - \$40 for the first session you attend, which includes a one year individual membership to the Oxley Nature Center Association, and \$20/person for the second session.

**Registration:** To register, go to [oxleynaturecenter.org](http://oxleynaturecenter.org) under News/Events or call 918-596-9054

## June

**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. All ages and skill levels are welcome.



**17 "Butterfly Walk"**                                      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**    **9:30-11:00 a.m.**  
**Free**    **registration not required**

Join us at Oxley for our butterfly walk. Please note the time: 9:30-11:00 a.m. All ages and skill levels welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

**24 "Botany Walk"**                                      **Ages: All**  
**Saturday**    **9:30-11:00 a.m.**  
**Free**    **registration not required**

Come with us to see how spring becomes summer, with all its fullness. Please note our time change. During the warmer months of June through August, we will meet 9:30-11:00 a.m.

## Celebrate Pollinators!



**National Pollinator Week: June 20-26**

## Project WILD Workshop

Wednesday, June 21: Project WILD

Time: 9:00-3:00 p.m.

\$20 fee for 2 curriculum activity guides

K-12 public, private and home school teachers, Boy and Girl Scouts, 4-H and Campfire leaders will all learn to use strategies and techniques to teach about wildlife and habitat integration.

Through hands-on, interdisciplinary activities, Project WILD helps young people learn “how to think, not what to think”, about complex environmental issues. Participants should bring a sack lunch and dress comfortably.

Questions or to pre-register call Deidra Wakeley, Science teacher and facilitator: 918-745-9264

Email [wakelde@tulsaschools.org](mailto:wakelde@tulsaschools.org) before June 1 or [Deidrawakeley@gmail.com](mailto:Deidrawakeley@gmail.com) after June 1.

## 4th of July North American Butterfly Count

Join us Saturday, July 8th to spot, count and identify butterflies. Information gathered will supplement the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) 4th of July Butterfly Count. Citizen scientists participate in local counts, increase personal knowledge and raise public awareness. You will be contributing to valuable data about butterfly populations.

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. and count until dusk, 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.

You must call to register in advance. No experience is necessary. You'll work in teams with experienced naturalists counting in different areas. Call 918-596-9054 with questions or to register.

*“A nest is a cup of space,  
a swinging cradle, an anchored platform  
a wedge between boulders, a pocket in bark or dirt,  
a scrape on rock, a dent in sand.  
It represents the still point in a birds fast paced life,  
The place where past and future meet.  
The nest is the place where the wingbeat of the hummingbird -  
vibrating at twenty to eighty times per second – is quieted;  
where the California Condors’s soaring flight  
to 15,000 feet is brought down to earth . It’s where  
the Red-tail Hawk’s shrill whistle falls silent,  
its thick talons folding softly over white eggs.”*

--Gretel Ehrlich