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Oxley Meadow | Amy Morris

You'd be surprised how busy it is at Oxley Nature Center in the Winter months. You'll see many new bird species taking advantage of the rich ecosystem and relative safety that Oxley provides. Owl calls back and forth will signal blossoming relationships, White-tailed deer growing horns, birds with specialized feathers and mammals with thicker fur also hint at all of the changes taking place. Come and take a walk on a brisk day and see what you can add to these winter sightings.

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## Winter Sightings!



Photos | Bryan Tapp

## COME AND VISIT THE BUR OAK NATURE STORE AT OXLEY

*Check out our nice selection of gifts for the nature lover!*

- Field guides - bees, trees, rocks, stars, mushrooms, wildflowers, dragonflies, butterflies and more
- The best selection of nature writing you can find anywhere
- Beautiful notecards featuring birds and mammals found at Oxley
- Cuddly stuffed animals, puzzles, and children's books for the kids



- Stocking stuffers like Oxley pins, patches, and mugs
- Also Holiday decorations - nature themed, of course!



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## Naturalist's Notebook

By Karen Harris

Thanksgiving is past and the Winter Solstice is fast approaching. At Oxley there will be the usual programs, Seedlings, Junior Naturalists, Full Moon, Botany, and Bird Walks. In addition there are planned bird counts for Audubon and Project Feeder Watch, art projects like card making and bird feeder construction, Solstice celebration, Forest Bathing, and the volunteer luncheon. Whew! It will be a busy month.

It can also be a time for “wintering.” Wintering, as Katherine May writes, is a time for rest and retreat. That’s what the plants and animals are preparing to do. Tree leaves have

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	<p>roots, full of starch, are resting until spring when they will break down the starch to sugars, streaming them to wake those now dormant buds. The grasses in Meadowlark Prairie have that golden burnish so beautiful in the evening light. Their roots too are packed with food and keeping that slow metabolic burn awaiting the return of longer periods of daylight. As for the animals, fresh holes have appeared in the woods as new entrances to burrows were dug. On a recent walk along Coal Creek, I smiled as I watched a Gray Squirrel tripping and tumbling as she tugged and dragged a very long strand of grass through the leaves to her tree, making her den cozy. As birds flit from tree to tree, I imagine they are scoping out tree cavities and leafy twiggy branches in which they may roost.</p> <p>Oxley offers us space and time for quiet contemplation, organized like Pam Rogers’s Forest Bathing program, or unorganized like a saunter around Blue Heron Trail, a solitary walk among the big trees on Thrush Trail, a rest on one of the benches, or you can come inside the building. There will be a fire in the fireplace and a place to read, watch birds, or just sit and breathe. So I invite you to enjoy one or more of the many programs at Oxley but also take a cue from the natural world and spend some time wintering.</p> <p>Wishing you Joy and Peace.</p> <div data-bbox="289 856 1334 871"></div>		



TULSA PARKS

**FREE**



Oxley Nature Center Presents:

# *Holiday Collage Card Making*

All materials will be provided and no preregistration is required.

6700 Mohawk Blvd, Tulsa, OK 74115

December 2, 2023

12 - 4 p.m.



# FOREST BATHING

AT OXLEY NATURE CENTER

Forest Bathing is a research-backed practice that promotes health through immersing oneself in the natural world.



Pam Rogers, a certified guide through the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy, will host the sessions. She holds a Master's in Environmental Studies and Science Education and teaches science at Holland Hall.

SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 25  
2:00 - 4:30 P.M.

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 16  
2:00 - 4:30 P.M.

SATURDAY  
JANUARY 6  
2:00 - 4:30 P.M.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
\$10 NON-MEMBERS OR \$5 MEMBERS



Call (918) 596-9054 or email  
[oxley@cityoftulsa.org](mailto:oxley@cityoftulsa.org)



## Mary K. Oxley Nature Center - December Programs


The nature center will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for City Holidays but the trails will still be open and accessible.

Every Friday and Saturday in December—**Project Feederwatch**  
10:00—11:00 a.m.

Stay warm inside while helping collect community science data to submit to Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We will also have supplies for you to make a bird feeder to take home for your backyard birds! Bird watching and learning has never been so much fun! All ages welcome. No experience necessary.

Saturday, December 2—**Holiday Card Making**



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	<p data-bbox="289 155 1333 224">create a personalized, handmade card for yourself or a loved one. We will have a warm fire in the fireplace and all the card-making supplies needed. All ages welcome.</p> <p data-bbox="289 270 889 300">Saturday, December 2—<b>Saturday Morning Birding</b></p> <p data-bbox="289 310 477 338">8:00 – 9:45 a.m.</p> <p data-bbox="289 348 1305 417">Join us for our Saturday morning birding walk. All skill levels welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet in the parking lot.</p> <p data-bbox="289 464 980 493">Tuesday, December 12 or Friday, December 15—<b>Seedlings</b></p> <p data-bbox="289 504 501 531">10:00—11:00 a.m.</p> <p data-bbox="289 541 1325 688">This December, we'll discover what it means for the plants of Oxley to rest in the winter. Bring your little seedling to explore the trails, listen to a special story about seeds in winter, and create a sweet seed themed craft. Ages 1-5 + caregiver. Free for members/\$5 for non-members. Pre-registration is required.</p> <p data-bbox="289 735 854 764">Saturday, December 16—<b>Christmas Bird Count</b></p> <p data-bbox="289 774 1333 1035">The nation's longest-running community science bird project, the Christmas Bird Count is a great opportunity to learn more about both local and migrating birds. Participants will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Zoo parking lot. From there, we will spread out throughout Mohawk Park and Oxley Nature Center, counting all the birds we see. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars and a sack lunch. Check out this website for further details or call Oxley (918) 596-9054 for more information. <a href="https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count">https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count</a>. All ages welcome.</p> <p data-bbox="289 1081 799 1110">Saturday, December 16—<b>Explore the Flora</b></p> <p data-bbox="289 1121 449 1148">10:30—Noon.</p> <p data-bbox="289 1159 1276 1228">Tallgrasses, forbs, bushes and trees use different methods to survive the winter and/or ensure successors next year. Let's try to find out how they do it! All ages welcome.</p> <p data-bbox="289 1274 769 1304">Saturday, December 16—<b>Forest Bathing</b></p> <p data-bbox="289 1314 474 1341">2:00—4:30 p.m.</p> <p data-bbox="289 1352 1325 1499">Join Nature and Forest Therapy Guide Pam Rogers for a research-backed practice that promotes health through immersing oneself in the calming and restorative atmosphere of forest and other natural environments. Pre-registration is required for this special event. \$5 for members/\$10 for non-members.</p> <p data-bbox="289 1545 948 1575">Thursday, December 21—<b>Winter Solstice Lantern Walk</b></p> <p data-bbox="289 1585 474 1612">5:30—8:00 p.m.</p> <p data-bbox="289 1623 1308 1770">Come celebrate the longest night and the return to light. We will have the firepit going in Fawn Grove, hot cocoa, and supplies for creating lanterns to light your night walk. Please RSVP by calling the Nature Center or at this link: <a href="https://tulsaparks.recdesk.com/Community/Home">https://tulsaparks.recdesk.com/Community/Home</a></p> <p data-bbox="289 1816 873 1845">Wednesday, December 27—<b>Full Cold Moon Walk</b></p> <p data-bbox="289 1856 474 1883">7:00—8:30 p.m.</p> <p data-bbox="289 1894 1330 1963">The days are short, leading to frosty cold nights. If it is still, the sounds will carry on the air, across the prairie and through the rattling dry leaves of the red oaks. What experiences will</p>		

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## OXLEY NATURE CENTER HOURS

**10-4:30PM Tuesday through Saturday**

**Noon - 4:30PM on Sunday**



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