

[View this email in your browser](#)*Red-spotted Purple | Greg Silva*

Volunteering is Fun but don't eat the Beaver castoreum! by Claire Harkness

It's the time of year that Oxley Nature Center Staff invites Tulsans to become volunteers. On Thursday, August 12th (that's 11 days away!) you will have two opportunities to learn about ways that you can join the naturalists at Oxley in preserving and enhancing our cherished preserves. The experience of being a volunteer at Oxley is really a unique one, and I thought I'd lift the curtain a little in hopes of peaking your interest.

First, you will never experience as in-depth and enjoyable a training period for a volunteer position ever. Ever. The wonderful staff at Oxley spends weeks with you and your cohort of newbies. You will meet twice a week for three weeks for training sessions. At each session one of the Naturalist Staff will take you on a mini-adventure which will involve learning about a focus topic and then hiking select trails of the preserve, being gently guided to observe in ways you may never have before. That tree with the funny lumpy bark? It's a hackberry! The staff : Eddie, Amy, Judy, Josh and Mary, will infect you with their enthusiasm for the natural world. That mysterious dark substance on the side of the marsh? We were encouraged to lean down and sniff since our guide told us it was material left by one of the park's resident beavers – and we did, trying to smell vanilla. Noses had to get dangerously close and one unlucky cohort got a little on her lip and accidentally licked it. Not bad, but not recommended.

Of course the best part of learning to be a volunteer Naturalist out at Oxley is actually getting to do the work: helping out at the front desk greeting visitors and advising them on trails, and answering questions (yes! You'll be able to do that!); taking groups of 3rd graders on tours of the park (it's easy and fun!), helping Josh and Eddie maintain the trails and keep the park clean, these are all activities that will enhance your life and inform you. Join up as a volunteer. You will enjoy it. But don't eat the beaver castoreum.

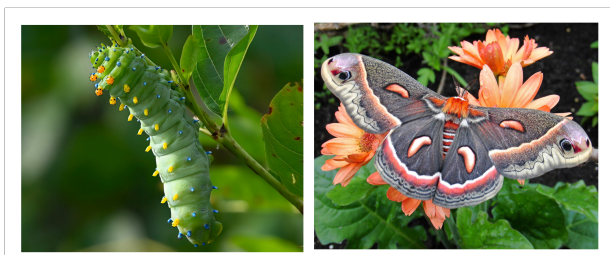
*Along the Marsh Trail | Claire Harkness*

Become a Volunteer at Tulsa's Premier Nature Preserve!

Would you like to take part in helping us continue to make Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley the most beautiful nature preserves in the Tulsa area? We need the gift of your time.

Join us for our Volunteer Rendezvous August 12 to find out more. Please call 918-596-9054 to register for the morning or evening informational meeting. We would love to visit with you!

Join us morning OR evening to learn about volunteer opportunities as volunteer naturalists, visitor center hosts, trail and habitat upkeep, marketing and fundraising, and more. Training is provided and no experience is necessary.



Glen Smith photographed this amazing caterpillar at Oxley, munching on buttonbush. This

Mary K. Oxley Nature Center - August Programs

Call 918-596-9054 for information or to register if required (please register 48 hours in advance). We will practice social distancing.

7 August "Saturday Morning Birding" Ages: All

Saturday, 8:00-9:45 a.m. Free, registration not required.

Join us for birding at Oxley. All skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

12 August "Volunteer Rendezvous" Ages: 18 and up

Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-noon or 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free, register for a session by calling 918-596-9054 or email oxley@cityoftulsa.org

Have you been wondering about volunteer opportunities at Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley Nature Preserve? We offer training and flexible schedules for visitor center hosts, volunteer naturalists, trail work, marketing and fundraising, and more. Come to a session, learn more, enjoy a snack, go for a short hike, meet some great people, and ask some questions. We would love to meet you!

21 August "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All

Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-noon Free, registration not required.

Join us for our butterfly walk. What different species will we encounter today? Bring binoculars if you have them. All skill levels are welcome.

22 August "Full Sturgeon Moon" Ages: All

Sunday 7:00-8:30 p.m. \$3 members, \$5 non-members.

Please bring exact change (cash). Registration required by Friday, August 20 at 4:30 p.m.

Call 918-596-9054 to pre-register.

This moon is named for the Sturgeon, a rare primitive fish labeled a "Species of Special Concern" in Oklahoma that lives in the Arkansas River. We won't see a sturgeon tonight. What will we see, hear, and smell?

28 August "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All

Saturday, 10:30-noon Free, registration not required.

Fall is approaching. There is a slight cooling in the air. Join us for a wildflower adventure today to see how this change is affecting our flora.



young tree frog | Amy Morris

OXLEY NATURE CENTER HOURS

The Interpretive Building will be open Monday through Thursday, and Saturday 10:00 a.m. -

4:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon - 4:30 p.m. We are closed on Fridays.

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 HOURS

Redbud Valley Nature Preserve is open Saturday and Sunday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The visitor center is open from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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