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CCC Bridge | Glen Smith

Good News!

Oxley Nature Center is open again on Fridays. The Interpretive Center will be open from 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Inaugural Book Sale Supporting Oxley, Nature, and Community

ONCA is hosting its first-ever book sale fundraiser, and we hope you'll join us!

When: Saturday, November 6 from 5:30-8:00 pm

Where: Oxley Nature Center building and classroom

Who: ONCA members and their guests

What: Loved, but still readable used books about science and nature

Why: Community building; Science and nature education; Environmentally-friendly book sharing; Raising funds to support Oxley's work and mission

If you have books you'd like to donate for the book sale, ONCA members can drop them off at the Nature Center anytime during the week. Your donations will share the love of science and nature with our community. All proceeds will go to ONCA. Some donated books may be used for education purposes and/or be added to the Oxley library.

This is our first book sale. We are excited but remind folks to be patient as we work out the kinks. In the spirit of conservation, please bring your own bag the night of the sale to take home your purchases. Books will be tentatively priced at \$3 for paperback, \$5 for hardcover, and varying prices for rare or special books. Cash is preferred, but credit cards will be accepted. We look forward to seeing you there soon, and thank you for your book donations!



Fall Birds



Osage Orange, an Evolutionary Mystery?

During Volunteer Training a couple of weeks ago, group leader Naturalist Mary Seaborne introduced us to the Osage Orange tree (*Maclura pomifera*) which grows at Oxley Nature Center. Its strange-looking, lumpy, pale, greenish, hard-as-a-softball fruit drops heavily to the ground this time of year, threatening unwary passersby. "Who do you think eats these?" Mary said, holding one up to show us. It turns out that very few do - not bird, deer, raccoon, cow or horse. How are it's seeds spread? How is this tree still in existence? Why hasn't it faded in evolutionary time?

It turns out that the Osage Orange may be what Connie Barlow in her book [The Ghosts of Evolution](#) call an "Ecological Anachronism". Mary suggested that ancient sloths may have eaten the Osage Orange. And yet the Osage Orange is still around. As Dan Janzen writes "If a tree evolved a trait in response to some pressure, and that trait is around later on despite that pressure having been lifted, then that trait is an anachronism." How wonderful! It turns out that the evolution and natural selection that we see all around us every day has strange and fascinating stories to tell.

Mary K. Oxley Nature Center - October Programs

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

2 October "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.

16 October "Junior Naturalist Adventures" Ages: 8 to 12
Saturday, 10:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Free for ONCA members, \$5 non-members.
Registration begins Friday, October 1
Call 918-596-9054 to pre-register. This program fills quickly and has limited spaces.

Join us for a morning of adventure and nature connection on the 3rd Saturday of every month, Program activities will include guided hikes, journaling, nature awareness, games, storytelling, and so much more. Dress for the outdoors and bring a sack lunch.

16 October "Butterfly Walk" Ages: All
Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-noon Free, registration not required.

Join us for our final butterfly walk of the year. What different species will we see today? Are Monarchs still migrating south? Bring binoculars if you have them. All skill levels are welcome.

20 October "Full Hunter Moon" Ages: All
Wednesday 7:00-8:30 p.m. \$3 members, \$5 non-members.
Please bring exact change (cash or check).
Registration required by Monday, October 18 at 4:30 p.m. Call 918-596-9054

This moon will be rising just as our walk begins. It is a time of hunting and gathering to prepare for the winter months to come. Let's explore the trails and see what we can discover! Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

23 October "Wildflower Walk" Ages: All
Saturday, 10:30-noon Free, registration not required.

Who are the late blooming plants that provide nectar and pollen in the autumn? What fruits and seeds are providing nutrition for wildlife? Join us to discover why this is such a special season.

OXLEY NATURE CENTER HOURS

The [Interpretive Building](#) will be open Monday through Friday, and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30

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p.m. and Sunday, noon - 4:30 p.m.

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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.



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