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Oxley Annual Cook Out and Hayride

November News

November is the month of our Annual Cook Out and Hayride! We are looking forward to welcoming volunteers, ONCA members and special guests to this popular event. This year we are also hosting what we hope will be an annual event: a Book Sale, proceeds of which will support Oxley and our Tulsa community. Our Book Sale starts at 5:30 and goes until 8PM. The Cook Out and Hayride begins at 6:00 and goes until 8PM. Come one, come all!

Here's your Fungi Puzzler for November!



Can you name all four of these? If you can, and if you email your answers in to us and you are the very FIRST to get them all correct you win bragging rights AND your very own copy of "Grazing the Trail" Oxley's very own staff assembled cookbook!

Email your answers to: oxleync@gmail.com

Play

Karen Harris

On one of those windy October days we had at Oxley, I watched a crow soar and flap and dive and soar again. I thought to myself - that looks like a lot of fun. Turns out, according to recent research, it probably is. Outwardly, play like that seems to serve no purpose and can be hazardous by exposing the inattentive animal to a threat. It also expends a lot of energy for no apparent payoff. The traditional explanation for why animals play is that it serves as practice for life skill. But it might be more complicated than that. We have known for a long time that one characteristic of playful animals is a relatively large brain for body size. Do animals play to develop intelligence or do their bigger brains induce them to play? Maybe both? In Jennifer Ackerman's newest book *The Bird Way*, she mentions that young ravens pick up an object and play with it by tossing it in the air and catching it or passing it from beak to foot and back again. In another chapter she explains that New Caledonian crows make and use hooked sticks to fish out invertebrates from tree holes. I wonder if the first crow to do that might have discovered the usefulness of poking sticks into holes while simply playing with a stick. Free play coupled with curiosity may lead to learning and a more complex brain (Parents take note!). What about the other way? How could a brain

same thing occurs in birds. So what I observed the other day may have been a soaring crow exhibiting, in scientific terms, "locomotor play" resulting in production of dopamine. Or, in other words, the crow was having fun. How delightful to think of that!



Beavers in their Lodge at Oxley | BC Howe

Oxley visitor and member BC Howe has been visiting the large beaver lodge on Blue Heron trail and captured some amazing shots of the beaver family inside of their home! Notice their stunning orange teeth!



Mary K. Oxley Nature Center - November Programs

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

6 November "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.

19 November "Full Beaver Moon" Ages: All
Friday 7:00-8:30 p.m. \$3 members, \$5 non-members.
Please bring exact change (cash or check).
Registration required by Thursday, November 17 at 4:30 p.m.
Call 918-596-9054.

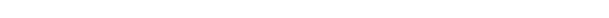
This moon rises at 5:31 p.m. The beavers are out gathering branches for food storage or to add to their lodge; so it may be possible to hear, see or even smell them as they prepare for winter's longer nights. This is a Micromoon, when the Full Moon is orbiting farthest from the Earth, at its' apogee. Join us while the moon is a little less bright. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

20 November "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 Monday, November 1 at 10:00 a.m. and closes Thursday, November 18 at 4:30 p.m.
Call 918-596-9054 to pre-register. This class fills quickly!

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.

23 November "Explore the Flora" Ages: All
Saturday, 10:30-noon Free, registration not required.

Most plant life is prepared for shorter days and colder temperatures. They have also provided for the next generation. What fruits and seeds are providing food for wildlife? Learn to identify some that we can eat, too!



OXLEY NATURE CENTER HOURS

We will be CLOSED Thursday, November 11 and Thursday and Friday, Nov 25 and 26. The Interpretive Center is closed but you may hike on the trails at Oxley when Mohawk Park is open from 7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. The parking lot is open 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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

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Hiking trails are accessible during Mohawk Park hours, 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.



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