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Winter Stillness | Bryan Tapp

Come out and walk this month at Oxley! You'll be surprised at all the signs of Winter you will see. Deer have filled out with their winter coats, and fawns have lost their spots. Armadillos abound and are surprisingly easy to spot, snuffling along in the underbrush. And all the different types of sparrows! Winter is the season when this plain, everyday bird becomes something special as we see many immigrant species that we don't normally spot.



This fawn has lost it's spots and is growing it's winter coat | Bryan Tapp

Book Review Corner

from the *All About Nature Oxley Book Club*

WINTER WORLD by BERND HEINRICH

What a wonderful read for the month of December! The Oxley Nature Book Club selection, Winter World fit the season perfectly. Author Heinrich begins by thanking "the keen observers...those who have cared enough about nature to ask questions, explore, experiment, think..." He reports discoveries made by others in the field of physiological ecology and combines them with his own research done from a cabin in the Maine woods. He explains in layman's terms how animals from moths to grizzly bears deal with the cold and a diminished food supply during the winter months. Heinrich teaches about the roles of torpor, true hibernation, antifreeze, dehydration, insulation, huddling, and various other adaptations nature has selected.

Two of the many examples that I found wondrous were Golden-crowned Kinglets and Wood Frogs. A huge surface to volume ratio should cause Golden-crowned Kinglets to lose body heat extremely fast making them ill-adapted to northern winters. Yet these tiniest of winter birds are active dawn to dusk on the coldest days. How do they survive? Wood frogs actually freeze solid and yet become active again when they warm up. How can they possibly do THAT? Do they "die" and come back to life? Those are the phenomena that excite the curiosity of a naturalist.

Heinrich says "...the wonders of nature dwell in the minds of sentient beings who are receptive to them." The Oxford dictionary defines wonder as 1. Noun a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable. 2. Verb desire or be curious to know something.

Read Winter World to "Inspire the Wonder" in you. Then come take a walk at Oxley. You might just discover examples for yourself.

Oxley's Bur Oak Nature Store is presently sold out of Winter World. Please contact our good friends at Magic City Books to order a copy for yourself. Phone 918-602-4452.



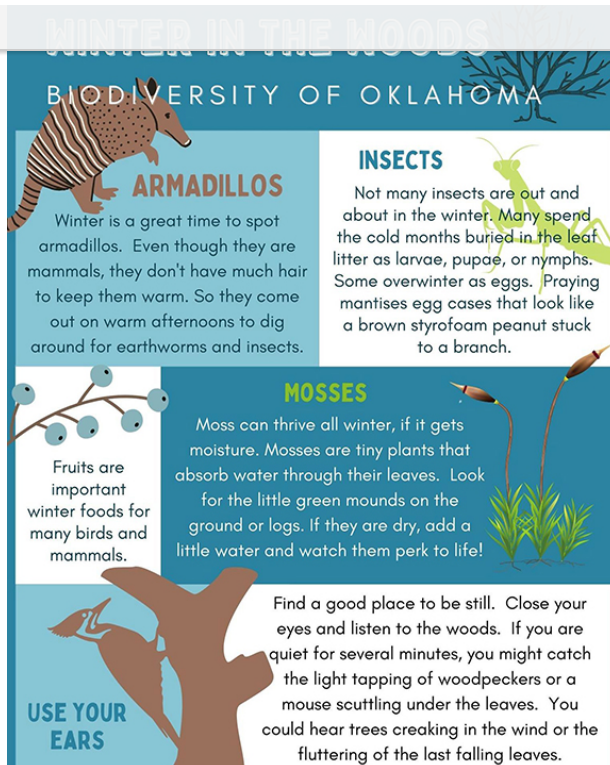
Winter Wren | Bryan Tapp

North Woods Reverie

In the stillness of the night
my mind begins again
to explore and discover a longing that never ends.
I search and search and still cannot find,
that pathway to comfort, a place to ease my mind.
Am I crazy, I don't know, to long for the purity
of a moonlit snow.
Do I really know my thoughts, my feelings, my dreams?
Is nature really as beautiful as it seems?
Like leaves in the fall my thoughts turn again,
Back to the north from where it began.
Long before my birth I sensed a oneness with that ground
Where only moose or lynx or wolf may lie down.
Within that land of pines, rocks and azure lakes
where solitude is lord and only aspen quake.
On osprey's wings I'm carried along
Returned – home again where I belong.
Primal its voice, haunting its tune
journey complete, at peace with the loon.

By Ron Hull





Mary K. Oxley Nature Center - January Programs

The Interpretive Building will be closed on January 1st, 2nd, & 16th for City Holidays but the trails will still be accessible.

January 6th - Full Wolf Moon Walk

Ages: All; Friday, 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Registration required and is now open. Registration ends Wednesday, January 4th at 4:00 p.m.; Please bring exact change or check made out to City of Tulsa.

\$3 ONCA members, \$5 non-members.

The moon will begin its climb into the sky at 3:33 p.m. If it is cold and still, we may hear coyotes howling as they communicate with their pack or potential competitors during the beginning of this breeding season. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes!

January 7th - 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.

January 9th - New! Oxley Seedlings

Ages: 1-5 + caregiver; Monday, 10:00-11:00am Registration is required Free for ONCA members/ \$5 for nonmembers. Registration ends Saturday, January 7th.

Bring your little seedling to learn about signs of animal activity in the winter and make a special animal track to take home.

January 21st - Explore the Flora

Ages: All; Saturday, 10:30 a.m.- noon Free! Registration not required

Plant life is in winter mode now. There are different ways during this time of year that allow for identification. Would you like to learn how to know trees in winter?

January 27th - All About Nature Book Club

Ages: Adult Friday, 11:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Free! Registration required

Join us for a discussion of books related to nature, conservation, and the environment. January's selection: [Talking to the Moon: Wildlife adventures on the plains and prairies of Osage country](#) by John Joseph Mathews. Please bring your own book.

OXLEY NATURE CENTER HOURS

The Interpretive Building will be closed on January 1st, 2nd and 16th for City

Holidays but the trails will still be accessible.

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