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Red eared Sliders | Bryan Tapp

Join us for an exciting evening Herpetology Walk with Greg Silva this Thursday, May 11th! With his eagle eyes and great experience you will be guided to see some of Oxley's most interesting creatures from turtles and frogs to snakes and skinks.



Woodland Phlox | Bryan Tapp



Naturalist's Notebook

By Karen Harris

THE SURPRISE BOX

Last week I had just finished tucking five Shooting Stars, *Dodecatheon media*, into a shady part of my native flower garden when my phone dinged to notify me that I had an email from the nursery telling me my order was on the way. What? What order? Did the plants arrive before the email did? Did I win some prize for ordering large quantities of native plants from them? Did someone send me a gift? No, this is the order I forgot I made for twelve Shooting Stars, along with several other plants. It is a problem my gardener friend and I have. We call it the "surprise box of plants we forgot we ordered."

Sarah Stein, author of *Noah's Garden*, wrote that, in order to turn a monoculture lawn or exotic flower bed into a thriving native habitat, we should not worry about fancy garden design but instead should JUST PLANT! Of course we still need to put the right plant in the right place. There is no need to make shade-loving plants suffer and die by planting them in full sun. And, for the most part orders should be made from local or regional sources so the plants are suitable for our climate. But Stein's point was, in a native habitat garden, there is no need to be fussy about the color wheel or matching just the right plant forms or heights, simply plant in swaths of the same plants so the the birds, bees, and the butterflies can efficiently forage. So see, seventeen shooting stars won't be too many after all.

The same day my new plants arrived a terrific group of hard-working folks from Williams Company came to Oxley to refurbish two native-plant gardens, the pollinator garden near Fawn Grove and the demonstration garden by the interpretive building. Flowers had been lost to deer and armadillo damage or outcompeted by frost flower and sedges. It was time to refurbish and replant. I truly enjoyed working side by side with these volunteers as they dug and cut, carried and tilled, being careful to save the Shining Blue Star, *Amsonia illustris*



Professor Justin Alexander's TCC class completing a plant Quadrat Sampling exercise in the prairie at Oxley April 5

Mary K. Oxley Nature Center - May Programs

Interpretive Center is open Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Sundays Noon – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, May 5th - **Full Flower Moon Walk**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.; All ages welcome; Registration required. (Registration FULL) ; Cost: \$3 ONCA members, \$5 non-members. Please bring exact change.

April showers and sunshine have brought a flush of wildflowers to the land. Join us for an evening walk along the trails. We will explore with all our senses! Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.

Saturday, May 6th - **Saturday Morning Birding**

8:00 - 9:45 a.m.; All ages welcome.; Free! Registration not required.

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

Saturday, May 6th - **Scientific Illustration Class**

2:00- 4:00 p.m.; Registration required. (Registration FULL); Cost: \$5 ONCA members, \$10 non-members.; Ages 16 and up.

Sign up today for a special scientific illustration class with Artist-in-Residence Kayla Anley. All skill levels welcome and supplies will be provided. Dress for the outdoors.

Tuesday, May 9th or May 23rd (2 session options) - **Oxley Seedlings**

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.; Ages: 1-5 + caregiver; Registration is required.; Free for ONCA members/ \$5 for non-members

In May, the sun's energy helps plants grow and flowers bloom. Bring your little seedling to explore the lush trails of Oxley and make a spring craft perfect for a sunny day.

Thursday, May 11th - **Evening Herpetology Walk**

6:30- 8:30 p.m.; All ages welcome.; Free! Registration not required.

Join local herpetology expert Greg Silva for an evening walk to learn more about some of the amphibians and reptiles who call Oxley home.

Saturday, May 20th - **Wildflower Walk**

10:30 a.m. - noon

All ages welcome.; Free! Registration not required.

Spring has unfolded with many flowers in bloom. What bright colors will we find among the new leaves?

Friday, May 26th - **All About Nature Book Club**

Ages: Adult

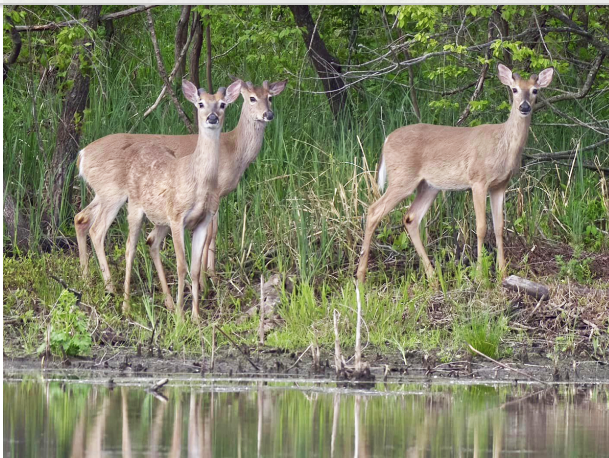
11:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Join us for a discussion of books related to nature, conservation, and the environment. May's selection: A Tour on the Prairies by Washington Irving. Please bring your own book (book club titles are also available for purchase in the nature center gift store). This Month, the book club will visit the Keystone Ancient Forest in Sand Springs!

Saturday, May 27th - **Butterfly Walk**

10:30 a.m. to Noon; All ages welcome.; Free! Registration not required.

As the weather warms up, we will be spotting not only more individual butterflies but also a greater abundance of species. No experience necessary. Bring binoculars if you have them.



White Tail Deer | Bryan Tapp

OXLEY NATURE CENTER HOURS

10-4:30PM Tuesday through Saturday

Noon - 4:30PM on Sunday



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