The EnvironMentor

Hello March

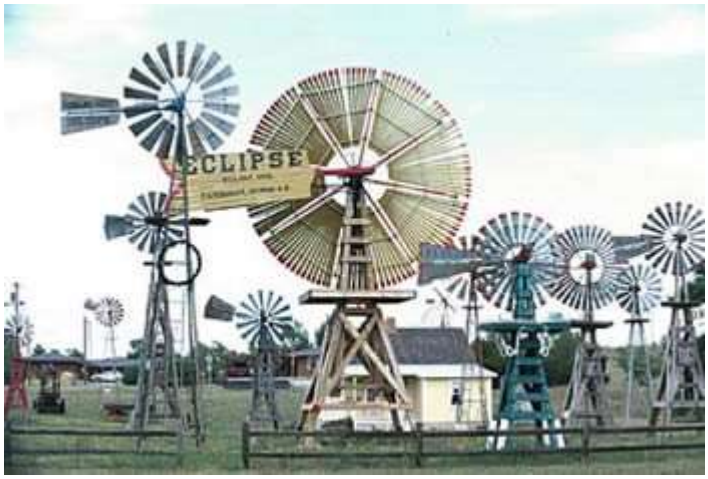
May the early spring
Awaken your soul and
Remind you to
Celebrate the season with the
Hope and Joy it brings

OurMindfulLife.com

Vol. 11, No. 4. The Internet Site for Environmental Information in Oklahoma February 2023 — March 2023

Shattuck Windmill Museum and Park

Recently featured on an episode of "How Curious," the Shattuck Windmill Museum and Park is a well-worth-it destination in Oklahoma. Founded in 1994 by Phillis Ballew, this is an all volunteer organization. Shirley Lorenz writes, "When the pioneers came here, this was extremely flat land. There was no vertical relief. The windmill provided that." To read the entire article by Rachel Hopkin, click here. For your next trip, find the particulars below.



Address:	120 East 11th Street Shattuck, OK
Directions:	Junction of Highway 15 and US Highway 283 at 11th Street
Hours:	Daily sunrise to sunset. Call for a special tour. (Call to verify) Local health policies may affect hours and access.
Phone:	580-938-5291
Admission:	**FREE**

In this issue ...

Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council Watch List	Cover
Editorial Page	2
Quiz!! Quiz!! Quiz!!	2
Butterflies, Birds, and Bees, Oh! My!	3
Environmental Education Summit	4
Blue Thumb Volunteer Training Tahlequah	5
“We Need Dark Skies: A Folktale”	6-8
Certified Oklahoma Biodiversity Steward	8
Big Spring Clean	9
Volunteers Needed	10
First Americans Mudeum TEK Fest	11
Yard by Yard Spring Workshops	12
Tulsa Audubon Society Calendar	13
Gardening Questions?	13
Prairie Chicken Festival	13
The Great Backyard Bird Count	14
Enviro Expo 2023	14
Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watershed Association Conference	15
Oklahoma Native Plant Society Events	15
New Experience Passes	15
OCLWA Call for Papers	16
OCLWA Call for Posters	17
Project Learning Tree Spring Workshops	18
Project WILD Workshops	19
Sequoyah State Park Nature Center	19
Shinnery Oaks & Sage Brush Field Day	19
Blue Thumb Regional Trip	20
Water Appreciation Day	20
Full Moon Hike in Oliver’s Woods	20
The Future is Renewable	21
Not an Endorsement, but …	21
Riverology 201 Educator Workshop	22
Wing It!	23
Become a Xerces Kid	23
Oklahoma Science Olympiad	23
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Shutter Slam Challenge	24
The EnvironMentor on Facebook	25

Quiz!! Quiz!! Quiz!!

In the northeastern part of the state, if you are out for a walk a while after a rainy sunset, you may see the creature below. During the day you may have to lift leaves, rocks, or logs, but be careful.

Take a guess and then go to Page 8 for more information and pictures.

An environmental education newsletter for the citizens of Oklahoma sponsored by the Department of Biology at Oklahoma City University. Items appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions or endorsement of the sponsoring organization.

Editor: Beth Landon
blandon@okcu.edu

Please send any submissions to The EnvironMentor Newsletter or The Calendar to: Environmentor@okcu.edu

Published bimonthly each year.
The next deadline is March 20, 2023.

If you wish to receive an email announcing when a new issue has been uploaded, please send an email to Environmentor@okcu.edu.

Download your EnvironMentor Newsletter in pdf form from:
http://www.okcu.edu/environmentor

Visit The EnvironMentor Calendar at
http://www.okcu.edu/environmentor/
Regularly updated as information becomes available.

A Workshop to…

- Start you on the path to have a “nature friendly” yard
- Introduce native plants, wildflowers, and pollinator patches
- Provide seed to create starter plants
- Apply for help to create your own Pollinator Patch
- Meet the Yard by Yard Community Resiliency Project
- Learn about the Crow Creek Watershed
- Understand functional landscapes

Workshop is free but advance registration is required.

TO REGISTER:

Email brief message, name and phone number totulsaccd@conservation.ok.gov.

Deadline to sign up is 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 21.

This workshop is a cooperative effort among Oklahoma Sierra Club and the Crow Creek Community!

Location
Schusterman Benson Library
3333 East 32nd Place
Tulsa, OK

Environmental Education Summit

Saturday, February 25, 2023, 9a-4p

OU's Oklahoma Memorial Union

ecoRise

Who should sign up?
Any educator who wants free resources and curriculum to teach about environmental education with their students.

How much does it cost?
Thanks to an EPA grant, this summit is free! Lunch will be provided and all attendees will receive up to $100 in materials! You just have to pay a $20 deposit to hold your spot.

KidWind® PROJECT

What will I learn?
You will be able to choose two workshops from our four excellent programs from around the state, and will network with other environmental educators!

OKLAHOMA Green Schools

How do I sign up?
bit.ly/EES23
or use the QR code

SCAN ME

PROJECT LEARNING TREE® OKLAHOMA

TAHLEQUAH

What: Blue Thumb Volunteer Training

When: Saturday, March 4, 2023 - Sunday, March 5, 2023
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Where: Tahlequah Municipal Armory, 100 North Water Avenue,
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Registration: $25, www.bluethumbok.com. For more information,
contact Candice Miller
Candice.Miller@conservation.ok.gov

Stream Protection Through Education

Give Oklahoma's Water a Hand, Volunteer Today!

Citizen Science at its best!

From Starwalk: Space

Long ago, the Yoruba people say, there was only Day. Animals and people worked, hunted, or fed at any time and slept when they were tired. They sometimes worked too long at a time, exhausting themselves. But there was no easy way to judge when it was time to rest, because the skies were always bright.

They all rejoiced when their king married the daughter of a powerful queen who lived under the sea. The young queen was happy in her new, bright land; but after a while she complained to her husband, "I can't rest with the bright sun hurting my eyes all the time! I miss the cool, soothing Night of my undersea home."

Her husband didn't really understand what she was describing, never having experienced Night himself. But he wanted to please her, so he sent his helpers Crocodile and Hippo to bring some Night from her mother under the sea.

The animals faithfully dived into the ocean and brought the request to the sea queen, who gladly packed a sack full of Night for them to take. "But be very careful not to open it on the way back. Only my daughter can control all the elements of Night!" They agreed, and headed home.

As Crocodile and Hippo traveled, they began to hear mysterious noises from the sack, sounds they had never heard before! Hippo worried, "What if we're bringing back something dangerous?" But Crocodile wasn't afraid. "Just to reassure you, let's peek in and see what's making these sounds." They opened the sack just a bit – and out flew the night birds, the night-flying insects, the animals that forage and hunt at night! Out flew darkness and stars! Hippo and Crocodile were terrified!

Meanwhile the young queen was waiting to receive her mother's gift. Suddenly she heard the familiar sounds of the Night creatures with whom she had grown up, and she felt cool as shades of Night took the place of bright hot Day. She fell into a soothing sleep along with many of the tired people and creatures in the land.

When she awoke, refreshed, she commanded Night to take turns with Day. There would be a time to rest, and a time to work. And to let her people know when each Night would be ending, she commanded the birds to sing a dawn chorus of welcome to each new Day.

From The Earthteller,

Fran Stallings

Fact Tale:

"Omigosh!!" I exclaimed as I peaked out of our tent on the first night we camped in Arches National Park. "Utah has so many more stars than we do back in Cleveland!"

We both laughed, because of course everyone lives under the same sky. But it doesn't look the same everywhere at night. Back in northeast Ohio, city sky glow had obscured our view of all but the brightest stars, while at Arches the stars were so thick that I couldn't recognize a single constellation!

Our ancestors knew that we need Night as well as Day. Not only does Night allow a time of cool rest for diurnal (*associated with Day*) creatures such as ourselves, it also provides a time for nocturnal (*associated with Night*) creatures' activities.

(Continued on Page 7)

From Ken Cheung in Pexels

(Continued from Page 6)

Astronomers have been complaining for decades that artificial lighting in cities and along roads has made it difficult to see the stars. Some city dwellers never see constellations, much less the beautiful but dim Milky Way!

When we look at satellite images of Earth at night, cities spangled with light may impress us with their beauty. But that light is a kind of pollution for animals that evolved to feed and hunt and mate under natural starlight and moonlight. Plants, too, respond to the length of dark hours as a signal of changing seasons telling them when to grow, bloom, or go dormant. Astronomers aren't the only ones affected!

Recent efforts to save energy by replacing old lighting with efficient LEDs have made matters worse. The cheaper LEDs tempt cities and businesses and home owners to install even more lighting than before. Meanwhile, it has been difficult to measure the increases in global sky brightness because many LEDs emit a lot of bluish light, which is not measured by the satellites that have been monitoring light levels from Earth.

A "citizen science" project called The Globe at Night recruited over 5000 observers worldwide to make naked-eye comparisons between what they could see for themselves, and an assortment of star maps that showed stars of different brightness levels. It's no surprise that a majority of volunteers were in highly developed cities and nations – but those are the areas most afflicted by artificial lighting. Using data from 2011 to 2022, they found that night sky brightness was increasing by an average of 10% a year.

Astronomical observatories have been fleeing built-up areas for decades, but city sprawl creeps after them. What can we do if we can't flee? What can we do for the plants and creatures?

There are now 38 "Dark Sky Communities" in the world, which zealously protect their skies by limiting outdoor lights and requiring down-facing lamps, preferably in yellow or orange tints. Homeowners can protect mating fireflies and night-migrating birds by doing likewise, and using timers or movement sensors.

We all need Night as well as Day. And maybe some night we'll be able to see the Milky Way again, even in Cleveland.

Globe at Night

You can volunteer with this project as soon as now!.

There are "Six Easy Star Hunting Steps."

See how by clicking here.

Related phone apps

Globe at Night is pleased that two native smartphone apps have become available that integrate well with [their] campaigns. The Loss of the Night app is a free app available for Android & iOS. And if you have an iPhone that can run iOS 10 or later, take a look at the Dark Sky Meter app, just $1.99 in the App Store.

Folktale sources:

The Coming of Night:
A Yoruba Creation Myth
from West Africa
Retold by James Riordan
2000 (Frances Lincoln Ltd)

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued from Page 7)

"How Night Came"
in *Fairytales from Brazil: How and Why Tales from Brazilian Folklore*
Collected and retold by Elsie Spicer Eells,
1917 (Dodd, Mead and Company, Inc.)

It's no surprise that a Yoruba tale was collected in Brazil. During the 18th and 19th centuries, many thousands of Yoruba people were enslaved and transported to work in the plantations of Brazil. They brought their stories with them.

Fact sources:

"Citizen scientists report global rapid reductions in the visibility of stars rom 2011 to 2022."
Science magazine January 20, 2023.

https://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2022/1221/In-Texas- Hill-Country-darkness- enlightens-and-inspires

Answer to
Quiz!! Quiz!! Quiz!!

The Oklahoma Salamander
Eurycea tynerensis

This species is considered vulnerable and has a restricted distribution on the Ozark Plateau. These amphibians require clean water and are being supplanted by siltation. They eat aquatic isopods and larval dipterans and ephemeropterans (mayflies). The skin of this organism is poisonous.

From the Missouri Department of Conservation

From reddit

Certified Oklahoma BioDiversity Steward

An educational and outreach project of the Oklahoma Biological Survey.

Oklahoma BioDiversity Steward Program is a science-based education and conservation program that includes hands-on learning, volunteer, and services opportunities. Participants in the program will gain a broad understanding of the biodiversity in the state and be catalyzed for an action-oriented approach through a variety of formats that fit the schedule and lifestyle of the participant.

For more information and to signup, click here.

Saturday March 4, 2023

BIG Spring CLEAN

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Southwest Corner of The Fairgrounds
(West of The Golden Driller)

Bags

Batteries

Cardboard

Shredding

E-Waste*

Tires

Fire Extinguishers

Ammunition

Medication

Sharps (in sealed hard container)

Questions? Contact The M.e.t.

918-584-0584

met@metrecycle.com

* Processing Fee:
TV $26, CRT $10

Natural Evolution, Inc.
An Electronics Recycling Company

AMERICAN DOCUMENT SHREDDING & DISINFECTING

CMG COX MEDIA GROUP

ONEOK

NeW Solutions

The Met
The Metropolitan Environmental Trust
One West Third Street, Suite 110 | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103 | 918-584-0584 | *MetRecycle.com*

BIG Spring CLEAN

March 4th, 2023 9AM-2PM,
Tulsa Fairgrounds

Volunteers Needed!

Join us for a day of service, benefitting our local environment and economy by collecting hard-to-dispose items such as tires & e-waste.

Your assistance will give Tulsa area neighbors and residents an opportunity to responsibly dispose of materials not accepted in traditional curbside service.

Contact : met@metrecycle.com or 918-584-0584. Register to volunteer online through the QR code below or at www.metrecycle.com

The Met
The Metropolitan Environmental Trust

First Americans Museum

TEK Fest

TEK Fest

Saturday, Mar. 4, 2023 | 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Free | No Tickets Required

Celebrate the arrival of spring at FAM TEK Fest. This FREE, family friendly event explores Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) through stories, songs, hands-on activities and more!

K-12 Youth Poster Contest

First Round will be announced on February 25th.

Winners will be announced during TEK Fest on Saturday, March 4, 2023

BOEING

Scan or visit famok.tekfest to learn more

Yard by Yard

Spring Workshops

Join us in OKC to learn tips and tricks for sustainable and functional landscaping from local experts!

More info: Facebook.com/yardbyyardoklahoma

Backyard Food Production

Getting Started and Leveling Up

Saturday, Mar. 4th • 1:00-4:00 • Science Museum Oklahoma

Join us for a workshop at the Science Museum Gardens to learn all about growing your own food at home! The workshop is free and open to the public, but **museum admission is required**. Come learn from local farmers and gardeners and meet the people and organizations available to help you with all of your garden needs!

Schedule:

1:00 - 2:00 Introductions, meet-and-greet with local farmers and master gardeners, come-and-go activity (up-cycled seed starters)

2:00 -3:45 Garden Lessons (gardening basics, best veggies for beginners, backyard beekeeping basics, backyard chickens basics)

3:45 Optional garden tour and meet-and-greet with speakers

FREE ADMISSION for the first 30 to register here

yardbyyardproject@gmail.com

okconservation.com/yardbyyard

Virtual Birding Calendar

Looking for a Virtual Birding Meeting/Event?
Ron Huebner is maintaining this calendar of free virtual birding events nationwide, offered by bird clubs, Audubon societies, nature centers, etc. The calendar can be viewed on the TAS website at www.tulsaaudubon.org/virtual

In-Person Meeting
"Update on the Non-Game Wildlife Management from ODWC"
with Mark Howery

Tuesday, March 21, 2023,
7:00 — 9:00 P.M.
Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria Avenue
Tulsa, OK
Mark Howery is Senior Non-Game Biologist with the
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC)
These meetings are free and open to the public.

Tuesday Morning Birders!!

The Birders meet at 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. every Tuesday at LaFortune Park at the north end of the parking lot near the entrance at the traffic light on Yale. Any birder level is welcome. For more information contact Jana Singleterry 918-808-5554 or Jo Loyd 918-835-2946.

Saturday Morning Birders

Anyone who would like to bird with us (whatever your skill level!) is welcome to meet every Saturday 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.. Meet at the monument at Lake Yahola at 8:00 a.m. in Mohawk Park, 3730 Mohawk Blvd (just north of the water plant). For more information contact leader Terry Mitchell at 918-697-3198
https://www.tulsaaudubon.org/calendar

Click the button below to email your gardening questions to the Oklahoma County OSU Extension Master Gardeners, or you can email them

directly at okmganswers@gmail.com. The Master Gardeners are also available Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm, in the Call Center where you can reach them by phone at 405.713.1125. These wonderful volunteers use research based information to help the public with all things gardening!

From our neighbors to the north:

KANSAS RURAL CENTER

Kansas Lek Treks Prairie-Chicken Festival

April 13-16, 2023

Hays, Kansas

The banquet speaker is
Tiffany Kersten.
"Birdie Big Year:
Elevating Women Birders"

For the main website, click here
For the schedule, click here

"Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days we invite people to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them to us during the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations.

The GBBC is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world. "

Click here to go to the website.

Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association (OCLWA) provides a forum for scientists, citizens, and professionals to exchange ideas, receive education and form partnerships to foster sound management and protection of lakes for today and tomorrow.

OCLWA supports the development of research and standards for lake and watershed management by hosting an annual technical symposium and supporting national lake and watershed management meetings.

Oklahoma Clean Lakes & Watersheds Association

OCLWA's 29th Annual Conference

April 4-5, 2023

Wes Watkins Center, Stillwater, OK

Register Now!
Registering for the conference is easy.
Go to https://OCLWA2023.eventbrite.com
and check it out today!
STUDENT REGISTRATION IS FREE!

"Metro Library customers now have the opportunity to experience the Oklahoma City metro area in a new way using their Metro Library account. Customers can visit a local library to check out an Experience Pass to one of three museum experiences including Oklahoma City Museum of Art (OKCMOA), the Oklahoma History Center and Skeletons: Museum of Osteology.
Each library has one experience pass for each of the three locations available to loan for up to seven days. Only one pass per family at a time can be checked out. Each pass includes the following:"

Oklahoma Museum of Art
Oklahoma History Center
Skeletons: Museum of Osteology

Become a member!
There is always
a lot going on.

www.oknativeplants.org/

Where else can you meet people with such an abiding interest and great photographs!

Goldenrod and blue mist flower (*Solidago nemoralis* & *Conocloti-um coelestinum)* October 8th above and rusty blackhaw (*Viburnum rufidulum)* November 9th to the right, by Garrett Riggs near Sallisaw.

Northeast Chapter:

Fabulous Wildflower Fridays
at Panera Bread, 41st Street, Tulsa, 5:30 PM
Third Friday monthly, 5:30 pm, casual
Friday, February 17, 2023
Friday, March 17, 2023

The next chapter meeting will be
the first Monday in March, the 6th,
with a 6:30 PM Social and 7:00 PM Meeting
at the Tulsa Garden Center, Ballroom,
2435 South Peoria Avenue, Tulsa

Central Chapter:

The next chapter meeting will be
the first Thursday in March, the 2nd,
with a 6:30 PM Social and 7:00 PM Meeting
in Room 208 of the Dawson-Loeffler Building
at Oklahoma City University
See the Winter Gaillardia for more information!

Click here to watch the livestream of the
Central Chapter Meeting of February 2, 2023
featuring Jacob DeVecchio
from Oklahoma Fungi Company presenting
on local fungi and fungi and plant relationships

29th Annual Conference
CALL FOR PAPERS

Water Quality Professionals, Scientists, Engineers, and Students:

Please consider presenting your important work and research in aquatic resource science and management at the annual Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association conference April 4-5, 2023 at the Wes Watkins Center in Stillwater, OK. The OCLWA continues to expand the conference with concurrent presentation tracks dedicated to your interests. To do this, we need your papers! OCLWA supports a variety of topics including but not limited to:

- Lakes, Streams, and other Limnological Studies
- Non-Point Source Pollution Management
- Watershed Science and Management
- Wetland Science and Management
- Water Quality Modeling
- Fisheries Science and Management
- State and Regional Water Quality Monitoring Programs
- Regional Water Quality Issues
- Invasive Aquatic Species
- Groundwater Science and Management

Student Presenters: OCLWA is planning for an oral presentation contest. Stay tuned!

Presenters must complete this form and submit an abstract of their proposed presentation. Abstracts must be 200 words or less, single spaced, formatted in Calibri 11 point font, and must include title in all caps followed by author(s), and affiliation.

Submit this form along with abstract to oclwatalks@gmail.com.

Completed submissions for oral papers are due by March 17, 2023!

Name

Affiliation/Agency

Email Address

Phone Number Okay to post presentation after conference?

Presentation Title

You must be registered at the time of the conference to make a presentation.
STUDENT REGISTRATIONS ARE FREE!

A skeleton agenda is anticipated on the OCLWA website early March, 2023.
Early submission of your abstract is appreciated!

29th Annual Conference
CALL FOR POSTERS

Water Quality Professionals, Scientists, Engineers, and Students:

Please consider presenting your work and research in aquatic resource science and management through a professional poster display at the annual Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association conference April 4-5, 2023 at the Wes Watkins Center in Stillwater, OK. Currently enrolled student presenters from accredited colleges and universities will be automatically entered in the **16th Annual Dale Toetz Student Poster Competition** to compete for cash prizes for top three posters in both graduate and undergraduate categories!

Posters must:

- Include a basic format of title, author(s), affiliation(s), introduction, methods, results, and conclusion.
- Velcro to a 36" H X 48" W foam board (no clips or tacks)
- Present in adequately sized and legible font
- Be submitted in pdf format by close of business, March 17, 2023

Presenters will be required to stand by their posters during a prescribed viewing and judging period TBD. All posters will be accommodated for display throughout the meeting.

Presenters must complete this form and submit an abstract of their proposed presentation. Abstracts must be 200 words or less, single spaced, formatted in Calibri 11 point font, and must include title in all caps followed by author(s), and affiliation.

Submit this form along with abstract to oclwaposters@gmail.com.

Completed submissions for posters are due by March 17, 2023!

Name (Indicate competition author if more than one is listed)

Affiliation/Agency

Email Address Phone Number

Poster Category (Indicate one on line above: Undergraduate, Graduate, Post Doc, Professional)

Presentation Title

You must be registered at the time of the conference to make a presentation.
STUDENT REGISTRATIONS ARE FREE!

A skeleton agenda is anticipated on the OCLWA website early March, 2023.
Early submission of your abstract is appreciated!

Spring workshops!

FREE TO ALL EDUCATORS

VIRTUAL

1 hour mini-workshops with activities to teach about topics such as green jobs, environmental justice, spring buds, and more!

K-8

Bring the outdoors inside with PLT's K-8 Activity Guide! Easy-to-use and includes connections to state standards!

PROJECT LEARNING TREE®
OKLAHOMA

EARLY EDUCATION

Trees & Me is PLT's newest guide designed to teach the environment to kids aged 1-6.

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP AT AG.OK.GOV/CALENDAR

Project WILD

All workshops are at the UCO Boathouse at Arcadia Lake

February 4
Project WILD
9 am to 3 pm

February 11
WILD about READING
9 am to 3 pm

Growing Up WILD

February 18
Growing Up WILD
9 am to 3 pm

General Workshop Information

- **You must pre-register for all workshops. See contact information below.**
- The workshop fee is **$20 per person**.
- Workshops are designed to be interactive and hands-on. Please be prepared to participate in the activities.
- An* after the time indicates a working lunch, where participants bring lunch and work on assignments as they eat. You will need to bring a sack lunch as you will not have time to go out and get lunch.
- Dress casually, comfortably and appropriately for the outdoors. Some activities may be conducted outdoors, even if it is hot, cold or wet.
- Workshops involve moderate physical activity. Special arrangements can be made for persons with disabilities. Please call (405) 990-1292 two weeks in advance if special arrangements need to be made.
- Participants in college credit workshops must also pay for the college credit in addition to the workshop fee. Contact the university or college listed for costs on credit classes.

If there isn't a workshop scheduled near you, check back at a later date or schedule a workshop for your area.

Contact Lisa Anderson: email okprojectwild@uco.edu to register.
7100 East 2nd Street, Edmond, OK
Turn south at Midwest Boulevard
and drive all the way to end of the road
near the shore of Lake Arcadia.

Sequoyah State Park

NATURE CENTER HOURS

10A - 5P

CLOSED MONDAYS

ANIMAL CORRIDOR IS OPEN FOR 30 MINUTES AT
11A, 1P, & 3P BY REQUEST.

NO DOGS OR PETS ARE ALLOWED
NEAR OR AROUND OUR ANIMAL AMBASSADORS.

YOU MAY WALK AROUND THE PENS, DAWN TO DUSK.

CURRENT ANIMAL AMBASSADORS:

BIXBY Y. BEAVER	PRETTY GIRL, BARRED OWL	INSIDE THE NC:
HARRY P. OTTER	RUBY TAYLOR RED FOX	SNAKES
WILEY COYOTE	ROXIE RED FOX	AND MORE

From the Oklahoma Biological Survey

The current Break O'Day Farm is a biologically diverse track of 640 acres on the western edge of Oklahoma. This homestead was claimed by the family of the nationally acclaimed, self-taught artist, Augusta Metcalfe.

This field day will include a walking tour of the property and tour of the art museum.

Registration will open in March.

For more information on Field Days, click here!

Blue Thumb Regional Trip

Please join us for our second regional trip of 2023! We will spend Earth Day together at the Great Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge Birding and Crystal Digging Festival.

Great Salt Plains Refuge for Crystal Digging and Birding
Saturday, April 22, 2023

Timing: Start at 10:00am
Bring your own sack lunch.

Location:
66003 Garvin Road, Cherokee, Oklahoma 73728
This is the address for the gate to the digging area. Enter the area and meet at the observation deck near the restrooms.

This is a FREE event. To register click here.

Water Appreciation Day will be hosted by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board on March 30, 2023, in the State Capitol's 2nd floor rotunda. Water agency and organization displays will be featured from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is held to demonstrate the importance of Oklahoma's water resources and provide information on water management, conservation, protection, and educational programs. For more information, contact Robby Short at 405-530-8800 or Robby.short@owrb.ok.gov.

"Explore Oliver's Woods with us during the full moon!
We will walk the 1.3 mile loop trail at Oliver's Woods on OU's south campus.
All lights will be OFF during the walk, but you can bring a headlamp or flashlight for after the walk. Red lights are encouraged.
Bring a walking stick if you like. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.
We will have hot chocolate, tea, and cookies after the walk.
Families are welcome, but no pets.

Location:

Southwest corner of Hwy 9 and Jenkins. If traveling south on Jenkins, cross Hwy 9 and turn right before the fence and drive west on the grass along the fence. There will be a blue "Field Day" sign at the turn. You can park on the grass along the fence."

FREE Curriculum: Participants will receive STEAM lesson plans for teaching about renewable energy and sustainability.

FREE Supplies include solar & wind energy education kits, supplies for starting a pollinator garden, and a $50 stipend.

Topics: Multimeter Tutorial, Hydropower, Pollinator Garden Project, Solar, Sustainability, Wind Energy, Readers & Coloring Pages Booklets, Glossary

Signup Plus More Information: oreep.org

Contact us at oreepforteachers@gmail.com

Not an Endorsement , but ...

You can begin with a free TED Talk, "Nature's Internet: how trees talk to each other in a healthy forest" by Suzanne Simard on YouTube.

There are many other snippets on YouTube, but there is a longer podcast which can only be accessed with a subscription to Music:Amazon: "Finding the Mother Tree: How To Academy Podcast.

The Mother Tree PROJECT

The Mother Tree Project explores some of the following research questions:

- What role do Mother Trees play in forest regeneration?
- How does the size, number and distribution of trees retained (left uncut) at a harvesting site impact forest regeneration?
- How is biodiversity (animals, plants, fungi, bacteria) affected by various harvesting and regeneration treatments?

What are the ecological processes that drive these responses? Click here for the website.

You asked, We listened!

Riverology 201 Educator Workshop

EXTENSION GRDA

JULY 11-13, 2023

GRDA Ecosystems and Education Center
420 OK Hwy 28
Langley, OK 74350

Join us for three days of learning all things water!

Enhance what you have already learned by discovering new tools; more in-depth information on water quality; how to make it specific to your area.

To register visit https://bit.ly/3JtZdBD or scan the QR code then scroll down to select Riverology.

Early Bird Registration (ends May 31) - $75
Registration after May 31 - $100
Registration Ends June 15
Registration is limited to 20 people

Registration includes lodging, meals, Illinois River float trip, t-shirt, Grand Lake watershed specific curriculum and other educational materials.
24 hours of Professional Development.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER
GRDA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

"WING-IT (Wildlife In Need Group – In Tulsa) is a part of the Tulsa Audubon Society dedicated to the rehabilitation of orphaned, sick, injured or otherwise displaced wildlife with the ultimate goal of releasing them back into the wild. The organization allows rehabbers to assist and support each other in the demanding commitment of rehabilitating wildlife. It also provides a basis for educating the public regarding assisting wildlife in need and recruiting additional volunteers to work as licensed rehabilitators."

Be sure to like them on WING-IT's Facebook page to follow the latest news and events and visit their website www.wingintulsa.org for more info.

The program was created for kids from 3rd to 5th grade but all are welcome to participate. This program can be done by individuals or used in a group setting such as a classroom, camp, or afterschool program.
Tip: This should be completed when the weather is warm enough to be outside and observe a variety of invertebrates.

1. Download the activities.
2. Complete the activities
3. Submit your pledge to get your X-Kid's Badge.

This is a Free activity.
Click here to read and download.

OKSciOly 2023 What's this?

Oklahoma Science Olympiad 2023

The season officially started
September 6th

The FREE Rules manuals
are available for download at
https://www.soinc.org/rules-2023.

Jenks High School Invitational
December 3, 2022
https://scilympiad.com/ok-uco/Reg

State Tournament on April 1st.

This year the
Science Olympiad National Tournament
will be held at Wichita State University.

Shutter Slams

Are you feeling birdy? - Or are you more of a budding naturalist? Take the ODWC Shutter Slam Challenge and get a limited edition all-weather sticker! Amateur and professional work is accepted, and all entries will receive a sticker from their respective Slam. Take the challenge and start your Shutter Slam sticker collection today! Submissions for 2022 are now being accepted. http://ow.ly/wQK350FCwr4

Submit your Birdy photos here!

This slam is all about Oklahoma's incredible native bird community. Complete the slam by submitting photos of at least one Neotropical songbird (a bird that nests in Oklahoma but does not winter in our state; like barn swallows, or scissor-tailed flycatchers), one Oklahoma resident bird, one wetland obligate bird, and at least one bird nerd in action. This slam has an optional bonus shot: a photo of a bird that only migrates through Oklahoma.

Submit your Explorer photos here!

This slam features naturalists enjoying Outdoor Oklahoma. Complete the slam by submitting photos of at least one naturalist actively watching wildlife, building habitat for wildlife (examples: bird house, toad hole, native pollinator garden, brush pile, etc.), exploring a Wildlife Management Area, and a photo that helps reflect the diversity of Oklahoma's naturalist community. This slam has an optional bonus shot: a photo of at least one naturalist sharing Outdoor Oklahoma with someone new to the outdoors.

Submit your Herptile photos here!

This slam features Oklahoma's native amphibians and reptiles. Complete the slam by submitting photos of at least one snake, one turtle, one frog, and one lizard. This slam has an optional bonus shot: a photo of a juvenile Oklahoma native herptile. (If animal is handled to get the shot, a valid hunting or fishing license is required, unless exempt. Species with a closed season may not be handled to get the shot.)

Submit your Naturalist photos here!

This slam is for photographers 16 and under! Complete the slam by submitting three photos of native Oklahoma animals and two photos of native landscapes or plants. This slam has an optional bonus shot: a person (or people) in nature.

On February 23, 2013 The EnvironMentor dipped a toe into social media. We made this decision because, at this time, there are two to three months between issues of the Newsletter. During this past gap an important event had an application deadline of April 1st so an announcement went out from Facebook. We won't bother you with anything trivial, so …

"Like" The Environmentor on Facebook!!

QUIKList Oklahoma

Leopold Education Project
http://www.aldoleopold.org/Programs/lep.shtml
Type in Oklahoma

Oklahoma Blue Thumb
http://bluethumbok.com/

Oklahoma Blue Thumb Association
ok.bluethumb.association@gmail.com

Oklahoma Envirothon
http://www.oklaenvirothon.org/

Oklahoma Green Schools
http://www.okgreenschools.org/

Oklahoma Master Naturalists
https://okmasternaturalist.wixsite.com/website

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
http://oknativeplants.org/

Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA)
http://www.recycleok.org/okra/

MUSEUM OF OSTEOLOGY
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

10301 South Sunnylane Road
405-814-0006
http://www.museumofosteology.org/
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Project Learning Tree (PLT)
http://www.plt.org/
http://www.forestry.ok.gov/project-learning-tree

Project WET
(Water Education for Teachers)
http://www.bluethumbok.com/project-wet.html

Project WILD
http://www.projectwild.org/

As with all hyperlinks in The EnvironMentor Newsletter, these are clickable.

Do you know an environmental group in Oklahoma that should be listed. Send that information to:
environmentor@okcu.edu