

Oxley Nature Center
Weekday Volunteer Naturalist Training
Autumn 2010

Part One: Orientation & Introduction (led by Donna Horton & Eddie Reese)

September 7th or 8th 9 a.m. to noon (inside/outside.) Meet at the Interpretive Building. Who are we? Who are you? What are we doing? and Why are we here? Also, how does it work? There will be a short guided walk emphasizing some interpretation methods & philosophies. Homework for next time: Look over the Training Manual.

Part Two: Leadership (led by Donna Horton)

September 9th or 10th 9 a.m. to noon (inside/outside.) Meet at the Interpretive Building. Review of the Training Manual. Discussion of emergency procedures. Guided walk emphasizes how to develop your own interpretive style & foster an atmosphere of co-operation & curiosity. Homework for next time: Look over the Riddle of the Woods material.

Part Three: Expectations (led by Eddie Reese)



September 14th or 15th 9 a.m. to noon (inside/outside.) Meet at the Interpretive Building, then we'll go to the Teaching Shelter parking lot. How are the students prepared for their field trip; what do they already know? Homework for next time: look over "Aquatic Life," and the Cheat Sheets.

Part Four: Wetlands! (led by Amy Morris)

September 16th or 17th 9 a.m. to noon (all outdoors.) Meet at the Teaching Shelter parking lot.



A guided trip to some of the Nature Center's wetlands will let us take a close look at animal life cycles and tracks, and will show opportunities to get the whole group involved and participating. Homework for next time: Look over "Communities, Succession, Reading the Landscape, Habitats & Niches."

September 21st – 24th 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. (all outdoors.) During the first school tours of the season, new recruits will be teamed up with veteran volunteer naturalists. New recruits are encouraged to observe both school tours if they wish. Be sure to let us know which tour(s) you will observe, so that we can advise you of any last minute schedule changes.

Part Five: Grasslands & Forest! (led by Vinnie Robinson)

September 28th or 29th 9 a.m. to noon (all outdoors.) Meet at the Teaching Shelter parking lot.



Today's tour will cover activities you can use in two more habitats. We'll also talk about leading your own group; each new volunteer naturalist will practice on the rest of the group by leading a part of this session. Be ready to take charge for a short while! Homework for next time: Look over the Games and Activities section of the Training Manual.

September 30th 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (all outdoors.) Autumn Butterfly Count. Beginners welcome. Free if you pre-register. \$3 for drop-ins.

Part Six: Games & Strategies (led by Donna Horton & all available staff)

Friday October 1st only 9 a.m. to noon (all outdoors.) Meet at the Teaching Shelter parking lot. By the end of today's session, you will have covered most of the Nature Center's trails and visited all three main habitats. Today, we'll focus on activities and games that teach as well as entertain. At the end, we will brainstorm some creative discipline techniques.