

**Oxley Nature Center**  
**Weekday Volunteer Naturalist Training**  
Spring 2012

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

**March 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> 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)

**March 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

We take a week off for spring break.

**Part Three: Expectations** (led by Eddie Reese)



**March 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> 9 to 9:45 a.m.** (inside.) Meet at the Interpretive Building. 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.

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**March 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.** (all outdoors.) During the first school tour of the season, new recruits will be teamed up with veteran volunteer naturalists. New recruits are encouraged to continue to observe additional school tours throughout the season. Be sure to let us know which tour(s) you will observe, so that we can advise you of any last minute schedule changes.  
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**Part Four: Wetlands!** (led by Vinnie Robinson)

**March 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> 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."

**Part Five: Grasslands & Forest!** (led by Amy Morris)

**March 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**March 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Oxley Nature Center**  
**Weekend/After School/Evening Volunteer Naturalist Training**  
Spring 2012

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

**Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:30 to 3:00 pm** (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? Discussion of emergency procedures. There will be a short guided walk emphasizing some interpretation methods & strategies.  
Homework for next time: Look through the Training Manual, especially the parts on "Interpretation" and "Communication."

**Part Two: Interpretation** (led by Eddie Reese)

**Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30 to 8:30 pm** (inside/outside.) Meet at the Interpretive Building.



By now, you should be getting a general idea of how a guided tour goes. Tonight we'll hike another set of trails and focus on how we use the fine art of interpretation to connect with visitors. It may be in a guided tour, or it may be as a roving interpretive naturalist.  
Homework for next time: Look over the sections on "Night Walks and Full Moon Walks."

**Part Three: Full Moon Walks** (led by Vinnie Robinson) (moonrise 7:10 p.m.)

**Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30 to 8:30 pm** (all outdoors.) Meet at the Interpretive Building.



This evening's tour will cover one of the nature center's most popular programs- walking at night without a flashlight. Homework for next time: Look through the Training Manual, especially "General Discovery Tours and Pathfinder Tours."

**Part Four: Pathfinder Tours & Naturalist Badges** (led by Judy LaFrance)

**Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 3:30 pm** (all outdoors.) Meet at the Interpretive Building.

This afternoon's tour will cover some of the specialized tours requested by groups. We hope we will have a real tour led by veteran volunteer naturalists for you to observe. If we do not, Judy will take you on a pathfinder tour. Homework for next time: Look through the Training Manual, especially "Biotic Index, Communities, Succession, Reading the Landscape, Habitats & Niches."



**Part Five: Wetlands, Grasslands, & Forest!** (led by Amy Morris)

**Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 3:30 pm** (all outdoors.) Meet at the Interpretive Building.

A guided trip to some of the Nature Center's wetlands will let us take a close look at animal life cycles and tracks. 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.



**Part Six: Games & Strategies** (led by Donna Horton)

**Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 3:30 pm** (all outdoors.) Meet at the Interpretive Building.



By the end of this evening'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.