

From: Oxford Newcomers and Friends newcomers@oxfordms.com 
Subject: August 2021 ONC&F Newsletter
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To: rosie@oxfordms.com



OXFORD NEWCOMERS *and Friends*



August already -- students will be returning before you know it (but do check out the *Townie Takeover*)!! Hope you had a chance to enjoy the summer, perhaps with a getaway to the beach, the lake, or elsewhere cooler and relaxing. ONC&F offers a variety of its own August distractions; **OxWine** kicks off the month on Sunday, August 1st, and the week never stops! We're again doubling down on Rafters for **5 O'Clock Off the Square** and have some great books to explore with **Better Read Than Dead** and

Book Club One. Lots of morning coffee opportunities, plus **Bridge** and more! And be sure to check out the **August Gardening Tips!**

SEND A CARD - BRIGHTEN ANITA'S DAY!! Former ONC&F president Anita Kimery is experiencing a challenging road to recovery from heart issues suffered earlier this summer. She is currently in a long-term acute care hospital (LTACH) in Ohio following a stay at the Cleveland Clinic; husband David is staying nearby. Cards and letters of encouragement and support would be welcome, and can be sent to Anita Kimery, Home2 Suites by Hilton - Room 122, 3589 Park East Drive, Beachwood, Ohio 44122. Please keep Anita, David, and family in your thoughts and prayers.

ONC&F AUGUST 2021 CALENDAR

Saturday, July 31, 4:00 - 8:00 pm, **Townie Takeover**, Oxford Square
Sunday, August 1, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, **OxWine**, 903 Maplewood Cove
Monday, Aug 2, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon
Wednesday, Aug 4, 5:00 pm, **5 O'Clock Off the Square**, Rafters on the Water
Thursday, Aug 5, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon
Friday, Aug 6, 9:00 am, **Women's Coffee**, Panera
Monday, Aug 9, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon
Tuesday, Aug 10, 1:00 pm, **Mary Poole Bridge Club**, OU-Methodist
Wednesday, Aug 11, 10:00 am **Educational Program** (Zoom)
Thursday, Aug 12, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon
Monday, Aug 16, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon
Wednesday, Aug 18, 5:00 pm, **5 O'Clock Off the Square**, Rafters on the Water
Thursday, Aug 19, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon
Thursday, Aug 19, 2:00 pm **Book Club One** (Zoom)
Friday, Aug 20, 9:00 am, **Women's Coffee**, Panera
Tuesday, Aug 24, 11:30 am, **Lunch Bunch**, Newk's on Jackson
Tuesday, Aug 24, 1:00 pm, **Mary Poole Bridge Club**, OU-Methodist
Wednesday, Aug 25, 5:00 pm, **5 O'Clock Off the Square**, El Charro
Thursday, Aug 26, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon
Thursday, Aug 26, 2:00 pm, **Better Read than Dead**, Oxford Activity Center
Monday, Aug 30, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon

Questions? See below for program details and contact information.

PLEASE NOTE: ONC&F members and first-time visitors who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (at least two weeks past your final shot) are welcome to attend in-person ONC&F events and gatherings.

5 O'CLOCK OFF THE SQUARE: Join us at Rafters on the Water, 30117 Blackjack Rd., Sardis, on Wednesday, August 4th and again August 18th - covered seating makes weather less an issue. On Wednesday, August 25th, we'll also gather on the patio, *weather permitting*, at El Charro, 669 Sisk Ave. 5 O'Clock is when ONC&F members meet to mix and mingle over adult beverages of choice. The cocktail hour offers a great opportunity to say hello to old friends and meet new ones; many folks choose to stay for dinner afterwards. A great time for catching up!! Social director: Bonnie Siebert, bonnie1017@aol.com

BETTER READ THAN DEAD will meet at the new Oxford Activity Center, 396 Price St., on Thursday, August 26 at 2:00 pm. The book for discussion will be *The Husband's Secret* by Liane Moriarty. At the heart of this novel is a letter that's not meant to be read. *My darling Cecilia, if you're reading this letter, then I've died.* Imagine that your husband wrote you a letter to be opened

after his death. Imagine, too, that the letter contains his deepest, darkest secret -- something with the potential to destroy not just the life you built together, but the lives of others as well. A gripping, thought-provoking novel about how well it is really possible to know our spouses, and, ultimately, ourselves. All are welcome! Chair: Nancy Muller, maytarie@att.net

BOOK CHAT, the alternative to the traditional book club, is on hiatus until September, when participants will again gather on the last Tuesday of the month to share *whatever* they have recently read, or would like to suggest for others, be it fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or drama. All book lovers are invited to join us in the fall. Chair: Debra Guyton, debraguyton@bellsouth.net

BOOK CLUB ONE's August's book selection is *Summer's Lease* by John Mortimer. The novel tells the story of an English family renting a Tuscan villa for summer vacation and encountering not only great art and magnificent scenery but also a murder mystery that is both dangerous and beguiling. Book Club One will meet on Zoom on Thursday, August 19th (our customary third Thursday of the month) at 2:00 pm. Click [here](#) to join us, or go to <https://Zoom.us> and enter Meeting ID: 680 808 8404. All Newcomers and friends are welcome! Chair: Debra Guyton, debraguyton@bellsouth.net, (251) 490-6690

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM: To meet, or not to meet? That is the perennial August question. Watch this space for updates on a potential August program, with details including Zoom link to follow. Questions? Chair: Don Mason, dmason222@gmail.com

LUNCH BUNCH will meet on Tuesday, August 31st at 11:30 at Newk's. At 2305 Jackson Ave W, Suite 217, in the shopping center with Belk, Newk's offers a broad menu of salads, pizzas, sandwiches, and soups in a casual setting. Lunch Bunch is for singles and couples -- a fun time to visit with other ONC&F members over your midday meal. All are always welcome! Questions? Contact Buck Ladner, ladner2003@yahoo.com or (662) 801-1371

MARY POOLE BRIDGE CLUB offers the opportunity to get together and play bridge with other ONC&F card lovers every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month (August 10th and 24th) at 1:00 pm. Find us in Room 214 at Oxford University United Methodist Church, 424 S 10th St. This is a casual group that welcomes players of all skill levels -- we will help you learn if you are a beginner! You *must* be a member of ONC&F to participate. Contact Carol Rawlings at (731) 610-0251 or marypoolebridgeclub@gmail.com

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Men gather for breakfast every Monday and Thursday at 7:00 am at The Beacon, 1200 N. Lamar Blvd. Come when you can. All are welcome. Join us for fun and great fellowship. Questions? Contact Buck

Ladner, ladner2003@yahoo.com or (662) 801-1371

OXWINE: Please plan to join us on Sunday, August 1st from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at the home of Michelle and Don Harvey, 903 Maplewood Cove, (479) 685-1581. *Singles, duos, trios -- all are welcome; no RSVP required.* Our theme: Rosé wines. Produced from red wine grapes but with reduced grape skin contact, dry rosé is the standard now, rather than the once sweet flavor profile that scared off so many. Pink to golden hues and bright, crisp flavors make rosé the perfect wine for summer foods and fun. *What to bring:* your own wine glass, a snack to share, AND a bottle of chilled rosé. NOTE: this is a blind tasting; please wrap the bottle in foil, so it can stay covered while on ice. We'll taste and rate, then discover what was liked the best. Have a wine buddy? One bottle per two people is fine. Plates, napkins, and ice to chill the wines will be provided. Questions? Contact Michelle Harvey at (479) 685-1581 or mmautheharvey@att.net

READING FAULKNER continues on hiatus in August and will resume monthly meetings in September when our study and discussion of *The Snopes Trilogy* (Modern Library edition) will begin with *The Hamlet*. Participants should have completed the reading of the novel by our meeting on September 27th (note this one-time change from our usual third Monday). We will meet on Zoom at 4:00 pm. For information about the group, please contact Dianne Fergusson at (662) 236-4088 or sdsferg@bellsouth.net.

WOMEN'S COFFEE: Please join us for friendship and lots of conversation on first and third Fridays (August 6th and August 20th) at Panera Bread, 1902 Jackson Avenue W. Hope you will join us, as we need to do lots of catching up! Chair: Nellanne Davis, (318) 447-0038 or nellanned@aol.com

AUGUST GARDENING TIPS

Well, as my husband always says at this time of year, "We're in the dog days of summer," and I couldn't agree with him more! I must confess, this is my absolute least favorite time to be a gardener! It's difficult for me to watch the stress that my lovingly tended garden goes through during these awful spells of intense heat. It's also difficult to manage my garden chores during the heat. This is when I become the "vampire gardener," out before the sun in the morning and after it's set in the evening!

.....The one thing that seems to thrive in the searing heat -- and vexes me to no end -- are those pesky weeds. I'm currently at war with the weeds in my flower beds, and I'm reapplying weed preventative. Remember that this will not kill weeds that are already present, but will prevent new weeds from germinating. I've also found a recipe for an all-natural weed killer.

-1 Gallon white vinegar*
-1 Cup salt
-1 Tablespoon liquid dish soap

.....Combine in a spray bottle, and treat weeds during the sunniest part of the day. Spray the leaves of the targeted weeds and avoid soaking the soil or other plants nearby. The vinegar and salt will draw the moisture out of the leaves, and the soap is a surfactant that will cause the solution to bead on the leaves instead of being absorbed by the plant. Since this natural solution does not work its way into the root system, you may have to reapply to manage targeted weeds. **Most household vinegar has 5% acetic acid, but you can order vinegar online that has as much as 30-45% acetic acid.*

.....As if weeds and the summer heat weren't enough of a problem, Mississippi is also experiencing an outbreak of armyworms! If you notice brown spots suddenly appearing in your lawn, look closely to see if you have armyworms. They literally suck the chlorophyll out of your grass, and can quickly destroy an entire lawn. They are most commonly found in lawns sodded with Bermuda grass, and if you discover them in your lawn, it's best to seek professionals to eradicate these pests.

.....It's always important to keep your lawn and plants watered during the heat of summer, but it's also important to water deeply and less frequently to encourage a deep root system. Water in the mornings if at all possible. If you're relying on an automated irrigation system, you should have the time set to complete the cycle by 10:00 am. Pay closer attention to new plantings that will need more water in the first year before they've established adequate root systems, and also keep azaleas and camellias well-watered since they are forming flower buds for next year. You also need to be aware of acid loving plants such as azaleas, gardenias, and camellias; if they start showing signs of chlorosis (yellowing of their leaves), you'll need to treat with iron chelate.

.....August is also the time of year to divide irises, lilies, cannas, lirope, Shasta daisies, and ajuga. It's important to keep transplants well-watered to be successful. It's also time to plan beds for bulbs and order tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, narcissus, and amaryllis. For September blooms and fall color, now is the time to plant mums.

.....For bird lovers, remember that the heat is also tough for feathered friends. Please make sure to keep your feeders and birdbaths clean and full.

.....Remember, if you're having problems with your lawn or landscape, Master Gardeners provide home consults as a service to the community.

Happy Gardening! ~~ *Karen Travillo, Master Gardener Lafayette Co.*

Consider Serving on the ONC&F Board!

The ONC&F Board is the fun group of volunteers who keep the wheels turning for members and friends; a list of current Board members can be found at the end of this newsletter. The Oxford Chamber of Commerce is our supportive parent organization; the ONC&F Board meets once a month to check in, bounce ideas around, and make sure all is well. Please reach out to ONC&F president Jonell McGivern, jonell52@att.net, or any other Board members and let us know if you might be interested -- and say "Yes!" if asked!



Townie Takeover

Saturday 31 July 2021

4:00 to 8:00 pm

The Oxford Square

[Tickets on Sale Here!](#)

School's out for summer; the students are still away! Let's take back their bars! Yoknapatawpha Arts Council kicks off the fall series of events with an invitation to explore the parts of the Oxford Square often inhabited only by students. Spend this Saturday afternoon on the Square with an adult pub crawl! *Participating*

Locations: Harrison's, Tango's, Rooster's, and Roundtable -- Check in at Harrison's to claim your crawl card and swag. Participants will receive a free drink at each stop, concluding at Harrison's new outdoor space with a BBQ dinner from Southern Craft Stove and Tap and live music. You can also win prizes from YAC's local partners through the Townie Scavenger Hunt. Tickets: \$30 for YAC members/\$35 for nonmembers

QUICK BITES are free, informative programs held over Zoom on Thursdays from 12:00 – 1 pm. The best specialists and experts in Mississippi prepare a one-hour program on various topics such as gardening, horticulture, insect management, health, and cooking. *Click on the session name to register.*

Upcoming Quick Bites

Thursday, August 5th - 12:00 pm

- [Back to School: Design School!](#)

Lynette McDougald, Instructor, Plant and Soil Sciences

Emphasis on principles and elements of design, sanitation of containers and tools, and use of floral foods. These hot days of summer are a great time to review, prepare, and re-center design practices.

Thursday, August 12th - 12:00 pm

- [Blueberries and Climate Change](#)

Dr. Eric Stafne, Assoc. Extension Professor, Coastal Research & Extension Ctr.

Blueberries well-adapted to Mississippi; however, in recent years weather events such as the large and continuous rainfall, tropical storms, and freeze events have all led to challenges for growing quality blueberry fruit. We will

events have added to challenges for growing quality blueberry fruit. We will discuss the problems that we encountered due to the change in climate, and also ways to mitigate loss.

Thursday, August 26th - 12:00 pm

- **[Fall Flower & Garden Fest – Going LIVE Again](#)**

Dr. Rick Snyder, Extension Research Professor, Central MS R&E Center

The Fest has been the largest gardening show in the southeastern US for many years. Last year, due to COVID, we were totally virtual, but this year we're going live again. Come to Crystal Springs to see our 3 acre garden, listen to excellent speakers, take garden tours, and learn all about gardening and horticulture in Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE from the MS Dept of Health: All Mississippians aged 12 or older are now eligible for free vaccination, and may be vaccinated free of charge at MSDH drive-through sites; click here to [find a first-dose vaccination appointment](#). Look for second-dose scheduling information in your appointment confirmation e-mail. Second dose appointments should be made 3-5 weeks (for Pfizer vaccine) or 4-6 weeks (Moderna) from your first vaccination. *For help with drive-through vaccination appointments, call 877-978-6453.* If you are homebound and need assistance getting your COVID-19 vaccination, call 877-978-6453 or send an email to COVIDHomebound@msdh.ms.gov. Click on the following link to [find a pharmacy or health clinic near you offering vaccinations](#) After you are vaccinated, the MSDH asks that you please continue to observe social distancing, mask use, and other protective steps to help prevent the possible transmission of COVID-19 to those who have not yet been vaccinated. [Click here for more about vaccination providers and vaccination appointments](#)
[Click here for the Mississippi COVID-19 Vaccination Report](#)

Oxford Newcomers and Friends Executive Committee 2021

President: Jonell McGivern, jonell52@att.net

Vice President: VACANT

Communications: Michelle Harvey, mmautheharvey@att.net

Educational Programs: Don Mason, dmason222@gmail.com

Immediate Past President: Judy Owen, Sophieandme920@gmail.com

Membership: Nellanne Davis, nellanned@aol.com

Social Director: Bonnie Siebert, bonnie1017@aol.com

Treasurer: Richard Muller, frotscher60@att.net

Updates to share? Send to ONC&F Communications Chair
Michelle Harvey, mmautheharvey@att.net

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