



The purpose of the ONPS is to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma native plants.

Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

Off to good start and future, writes ONPS President

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society is off to a running start in 1990. Dr. James Estes, Curator of the Bebb Herbarium at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, and his staff put on an excellent indoor workshop Jan. 27 on the theme: The Herbarium and Nature. A welcome to workshop participants was extended by Leonard Beevers and Gary Schnell of the Oklahoma Biological Survey.

Topics included: "Herbaria: Reflections of Nature" by Dr. Ronald Tyrl; "From Soil to Specimen -- Collection of Specimens" by Rahmona Thompson and Patty Cruze; "From Soil to Specimen--Identification of Specimens" by Patricia Folley and Melynda Hickman; "The Future of the Environment in Oklahoma" by Brita Haugland-Cantrell, Assistant Attorney General for Environmental Affairs; "From Soil to Specimen--Preparation of Specimens I" by Patty Cruze and James Estes; "From Soil to Specimen--Preservation of Specimens II" by Cathy Sladewski and Rebecca Rudman; "Electron Microscopy of Plants" by Dr. John Skvarla; "The Bebb Herbarium" by Dr. James Estes; "Natives in the Garden and in the Landscape" by Dr. Edmund Hilliard, Assoc. Professor of Landscape Architecture.

All of this was followed by an "Evening in the Greenhouse." Dr. Magrath presented an original numbered black and white print of a native Oklahoma orchid (*Goodyera pubescens*) to Dr. Estes on behalf of the ONPS as a way of saying thank you for all of his efforts in putting the workshop together. There were 87 wildflower enthusiasts and friends who attended. (On pg. 9 is a review of the day at the herbarium.)

This last year the society has grown enough to have two local chapters -- the Central in Oklahoma City, and Northeastern in Tulsa. Perhaps other areas in the state will form local chapters in the future.

(Continued on page 3)

Native Plant events for your calendar

Date/Time	Event/Place	Contact/Phone
Mar. 10-11 Noon-4 p.m.	Everyman's Garden Fair ONPS booth at Tulsa Garden Center	
Mar. 14 7:00 p.m.	Northeast Chapter meeting Tulsa Garden Center	Gary Schaum (918) 743-1313 or Nora Jones (918) 749-5859
Mar. 20 8 a.m. - noon	Camp Christian field trip Meet at Tulsa Garden Center	John Miller (918) 245-6983
Mar. 26 7:30 p.m.	Early Spring Flowers/Central Chapter meeting; Myriad classroom	Mike Bush (405) 557-0133 or Susan Chambers (405) 769-7917
Apr. 1	Gaillardia deadline	Marilyn Bell (918) 496-2218
Apr. 20	Photo Contest Deadline	John Miller (918) 245-6983
Apr. 20-22	OAS Meeting/Lake Texoma	Paul Buck (918) 743-3397
Apr. 22	Earth Day	
Apr. 23	Earth Day celebrated at State Capitol	
Apr. 28	Photo Field Trip/Illinois River 9:30 a.m. at Eagle's Bluff or 7:45 a.m. meet at Tulsa Garden Ctr.	John Miller (918) 245-6983 Dorothy Norris (918) 492-5923 (see pg. 5 this issue)
May 4-5	Wildflower Workshop/Kerr Center near Poteau (See pg. 10)	Joanne Orr (405) 521-4037
May 13	Red Bud Valley field trip Donna Horton	(918) 832-8112
May 19	Wildflower Day	

Also in this issue

Home flower guide


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Earth Day on the way

Giant thistle invasion

 printed on recycled paper

Volume 5, Number 2
March / April, 1990

Central Oklahoma Chapter

Fourteen members met on January 29 at the Myriad Classroom, Oklahoma City, for a slide/talk by Dr. Doyle McCoy and group discussion on future Central Chapter field trips, etc.

Mike Bush, the chapter chairman, but called "Plant Czar" by colleagues, said he hoped to develop the new garden area south of the "tube" at Myriad into a native plant area for public education. Joanne Orr pointed out the "What's Growing in Horticulture" workshop sponsored by the OU Botanical Society in February, and, with Pat Folley, shared comments on the Bebb Herbarium day-long workshop they had attended. Joanne later informed the group that the State Department of Transportation, with which she is affiliated, had planted 170 acres of wildflowers in 1989 compared to 70 acres in 1988, amounting to almost \$28,000 worth of donated seed.

Neil Garrison of the Martin Nature Center introduced Dr. McCoy, whose slides included the state "floral emblem" and various wildflowers. He told how he became involved in wildflower photography, and later, fruits, trees and shrubs camera work. During discussion, the question posed was how long a plant has to have grown in Oklahoma before it is considered "native." Consensus was that if it was here when the white man settled in the area, it was native. Dr. McCoy said his rule of thumb was: does it survive on its own? He prefers "indigenous" or "naturalized" as descriptive of such plants.

Field trips are in the making, and it was suggested they might be arranged via "tree trip, aquatic trip, grasses, and mosses and lichens trips." As daylight hours increase, the group plans visits to outstanding native plant communities on the last Monday in each odd-numbered month. The next meeting will be March 26 (see below).

Program Directors for the Central Chapter are Neil Garrison and Pat Folley. Susan Chambers, secretary-treasurer, also provided this chapter report for *Gaillardia*. She and her husband, Wayne, are owners of Rose Rock Landscape & Design in Midwest City. Pat Folley, from Noble, is also a *Gaillardia* contributor, with a separate article, "On Making Collections and Identifications," elsewhere in this issue.

About the next meeting:

The Central Chapter will meet Monday, March 26, 7:30 p.m. in the Crystal Bridge classroom. Lighted, fenced parking is available on the south side entrance, entered from Reno. The program will be the appreciation and understanding of early spring flowers. Members are invited to bring samples of any early volunteers from lawns or waysides, and slides or pictures of others not yet in bloom. With the talent represented in this group, the exchange should be a valuable learning experience.

Northeast Oklahoma Chapter

About 25 ONPS members met at the Tulsa Garden Center on December 6 to hear Wilma Jenkins of Pride in Tulsa give a presentation on the "Pennies for Wildflowers" campaign to begin in the spring in Tulsa. The group also voted on the structure of a local chapter, and on December 9 the ONPS Board approved chapter status for the Northeastern Oklahoma Chapter of ONPS.

On January 10, Sydney Dobson of Oklahoma City Beautiful spoke about the very successful wildflower campaign she has spearheaded. The Wildflower Penny Roundup and Cannister Contest is now in its third year. Tulsa will pattern its penny campaign after Oklahoma City's so Sydney's advice and presentation are much appreciated.

The chapter also elected officers for 1990. Chapter Chair and representative on the Board is Gary Schaum, editor of *Green Country Gardener*. Gary may be reached at (918) 743-1313. Marcie Goad agreed to be Co-Chair, and has undertaken the responsibility for organizing field trips for the chapter. Dates/times and places will be in the newsletter for the information of all interested members. New member Carla Childs, the horticulturalist at Woolaroc in Bartlesville, was elected the chapter's recording secretary. She'll handle petty cash and report to the newsletter every issue. Welcome, Carla!

The Feb. 12 meeting, with 25 people on hand, featured Oxley Nature Center naturalist, Bob Jennings' slide-talk on Redbud Valley's wondrous assets, and Oxley's hopes to help manage the preserve. At this session, volunteers came forward for the Everyman's Garden Fair booth. Next meeting was set for March 14.

ONPS poster display requires volunteer displayers

ONPS photography committee chair, John Miller, is creating a new set of spring wildflower posters, and they are indeed stunning. These will be displayed at the Everyman's Garden Fair in Tulsa on March 10 and 11, and during April and May, will grace one of the Tulsa Central Library display windows, bringing attention to Earth Day and Wildflower Day. While the posters will remain the same for both months, books and other wildflower items will be changed to maintain interest.

If you're creative and would like to help set up and maintain the display, please contact Nora Jones, (918) 749-5859 or 596-7983.

The ONPS booth at Everyman's Garden Fair March 10-11 will be managed by Davida Phillips, Eleanor Rader, Betty Campbell and Nora Jones. This perennial popular event at the Tulsa Garden Center attracts hundreds of serious gardeners and nature-lovers. The hours both days are from noon until 4. Come by and say 'hi.'

Photo Notes by John Miller, Photography Committee Chair

We are excited about our third annual native plant photo contest. There are twice as many cash prizes this year, and you may have a maximum of six entries – three prints and three slides. Otherwise, the rules are about the same as last year.

Now is the time to get ready. Choose from photographs on hand or go out and take new ones. Wildflowers have already started blooming, but remember you don't have to photograph blooming plants – just native plants or plant habitat.



The deadline for entry is April 20, 1990. Maximum size for the unmounted color photographic prints is 5 x 7 inches. Contestants must attach a label with the following on the back of each print: contestant's name, address and phone number. Name and address should be written on the mount of each slide. Mail them to:

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
Photo Contest
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

The contest is open to the general public, but photos which placed last year may not be entered.

AWARDS ARE: First Prize - \$50; Second Prize - \$35; Third Prize, \$15. This is for both categories. Prizes will be awarded during the Wildflower Workshop, May 4-5 in Poteau. There is no entry fee, and all prints and slides entered become the property of ONPS to be used for displays or educational purposes. ONPS may duplicate or print from slides. We will attempt to give credit to the photographer when the prints or slides are used.

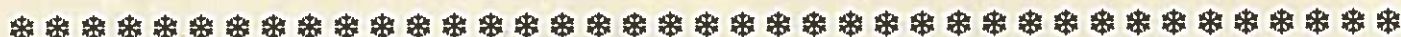


HELPFUL HINT: In taking pictures for the contest, keep in mind that the judges will be looking for sharp photographs with good composition.

To get the sharpness, the camera must be steady and/or the exposure very fast (using a high shutter speed or using a flash). Also, your focus must be sharp. Use a small f-stop, f/16 or f/22, to get good depth of field on close-ups. The lens should be clean.

To get good composition, an interesting subject should be well positioned and not be too "busy" or cluttered. Different angles and different lighting will change the composition, so experiment.

Whether you enter or not, why not encourage a friend to enter. We would like for this contest to be even better than last year's! Remember the deadline is April 20.



ONPS president

(continued from page 1)

If you take pictures of wildflowers, submit a picture or slide or two for the photo contest. This year it includes slides as well as prints. The number of awards has doubled as well. The society plans to be involved in Oklahoma Wildflower Day and in the Earth Day celebrations this year, as well as the Quartz Mountain Wildflower Festival. Jim Norman, our field trip coordinator, worked with field trip coordinators of local chapters to set up trips all over the state. (See calendar on pg. 1.)

I would ask all of you to get involved in the activities of the society, to bring your friends, and above all else, to get outside and enjoy our beautiful native wildflowers. After all, isn't the enjoyment of nature's beauty the main reason for belonging to an organization like this?

Last but not least, I would like to request your input to the officers, committee chairs and board members of things you would like to have your organization do. Also, the Gaillardia editor welcomes articles on local activities and field observations from you. Letters to the editor are definitely encouraged.

Larry Magrath

Celebrate spring with outing to Camp Christian

On Tuesday, March 20, this trip to the Ft. Gibson Lake area will be sponsored jointly by the ONPS Photography Committee and the Northeast Chapter. Leaders will be on hand to answer questions about both native plants and photography. Enjoy nature and/or take a prize-winning picture.

Camp Christian is on the west side of Ft. Gibson Lake between Chouteau and Wagoner. Those choosing this way to welcome spring can meet at the Tulsa Garden Center at 8 a.m. to check out car pool arrangements. Others may prefer to meet at the entrance of Camp Christian at 9 a.m. The tour should end about noon.

In forming a car pool, it is advised to consider whether you want to start back to Tulsa at noon or explore nature on your own during the afternoon. For more information, call John Miller, (918) 245-6983, who adds, "Rain, then no; sprinkles, we go." Call him for forecast.

On making collections and identifications by Pat Folley

If you love to roam the fields and forests and riversides of Oklahoma, you'll eventually run across a plant that is unfamiliar. Sometimes it won't even be in one of Dr. McCoy's picture books. Yes, there is help to be had, but you can give the experts some help by observing these rules for making a specimen:

Include as many of the following as possible: flower, fruit, leaves with a portion of the stem attached, roots. (Ideally, of course, a whole plant, in bloom and with some fruit developing.) If possible, include extra flowers for dissection.

While the plant is still fresh and unwilted, press it between sheets of newspaper and under enough weight to flatten it. Change the paper daily until it is quite dry.

Include with the sample the exact location of the place where it grew, the date you collected it, and the kind of environment it was in. If you can, describe the kind of soil that grew it.

Then, take or send the sample to a university botany

department or your county agriculture agent, unless you know someone who makes the identification of plants a hobby.

Want to learn to identify those plants for yourself? You'll need at least the minimum of this equipment: a good 10X magnifier, single-edge razor blade, short metric ruler, pointed forceps, and a "key" to the plants of your area.

Keys are difficult to use, at best, and most are tedious for the beginner, but practice and persistence will help. The general key for the state of Oklahoma is U.T. Waterfall's *Keys to the Flora of Oklahoma*. It is available through the OSU bookstore in the Student Union in Stillwater, and in most libraries. Other good references are *Flora of the Great Plains*, available through any bookstore, and Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri* or Correll and Johnston's *Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas*, which are out of print but generally available in libraries. Although they are very out-of-date, the three-volume set of Britton and Brown's *An Illustrated Flora of the United States and Canada* is in print from Dover Press, and the line-drawing illustrations are very helpful.

How do you attract butterflies? Naturalist seeks recommendations

Neil Garrison, naturalist at the Martin Park Nature Center in Oklahoma City, recommends planting three plants for a butterfly garden: butterfly milkweed (*Aesclepias tuberosa*), butterfly bush (*Buddleia sp.*) (a nonnative), and *Salvia coccinea*, a Texas native. Neil would like to increase the number of butterfly-attracting plants in his garden. Do members have recommendations, especially of Oklahoma native plants? Other readers would like to hear from you, and especially Neil. Phone him at (405) 755-0676, or write c/o Martin Park Nature Center, 5000 West Memorial Road, Oklahoma City 73142.



South Texas offers free wildflower tours through April

The Prairie Edge Museum in Eagle Lake, Texas is hosting the second annual "Drive-Yourself Tour" of the "world's largest wildflower production crops." Along the banks of Eagle Lake, and open to the public free of charge, you can view hundreds of acres of bluebonnets, phlox, corn poppies, etc.

Visitors are given tour maps and free tickets for a nostalgic wagon ride through the aromatic fields. Tour headquarters will be at the Prairie Edge Museum, 408 E. Main, Eagle Lake, open March 31; daily in April from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

New annotated list of Oklahoma plants is published by ONPS members

John Taylor and Connie Taylor, ONPS members (Connie is a board member) and faculty at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant have published *An Annotated List of the Ferns, Fern Allies, Gymnosperms and Flowering Plants of Oklahoma*. The list gives scientific and common names with an index to both names, as well as whether the plant is native or introduced; annual or biennial; perennial, tree, shrub or vine. The notes also show in which of the state's six regions the plant occurs. Included are 2,800+ Oklahoma plants and over 80,000 specimens.

The book is a must for amateur and professional botanists alike, and is a bargain at \$10 postpaid. Make check payable to SEOSU Herbarium, and mail your order to: Dr. C.E. Taylor, Biology Department, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK 74701.

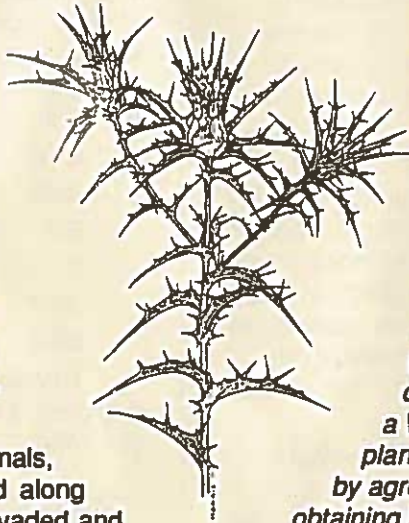
Giant Thistle invades Oklahoma by Connie Taylor

How strange it is we spend several billion dollars on a stealth bomber to prevent invasion, yet when a very seriously damaging invader from Europe and Asia does show up neither the federal nor state government finds it can do anything.

This has caused the exasperation of Dr. Ed Kessler, who found Distaff or Saffron Thistle, *Carthamus lanatus* L., had not only invaded his pastures but was set on invading Oklahoma. Ed has hacked and whacked the basal rosettes and tried to destroy any seed production, but has had as many as 100,000 plants. Last year there were about 8,000.

This tall stickery plant in Oklahoma is growing about a meter in height, but in Australia it can exceed two meters (over six feet) when growing conditions are favorable. Throughout its range in the Mediterranean, Russia, Australia, Tasmanian, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and elsewhere, this plant has caused significant yield losses, especially in wheat growing areas.

Its spines cause damage to grazing animals, and it thrives in pastures, wastelands and along roadsides. So many weedy plants have invaded and caused problems (Johnson Grass and Cheat Grass are two examples) that the State Departments of Agriculture in 1966 urged enactment of a Federal noxious weed control law and establishment of a fund to help deal with foreign unwanted plants.



In April, 1977 the Agriculture Handbook No. 498, by Dr. Clyde Reed ("Weedy Reedy") was published to help identify the world's really bad weeds. You guessed it, Distaff Thistle is listed. If you have a group looking for an energetic project that will be a STITCH IN TIME, then contact Edwin Kessler, Rt. 2, Box 137, Purcell, OK 73080. He needs your help.

"Too little, too late" is the sad lament in Australia when as early as 1887 (yes, that's 19th century, not 20th) legislation to control this weed was passed. But it is widespread. Wonder if us Okies will be singing the same song, second verse!

Editor's note:

Cyndy Harnett, Northeast Chapter, clipped an article from *Sunset Magazine* on subject of "Plant Bashing." Not a ritual practiced by a West Coast cult, but a practice of California plant society members who find areas invaded by aggressive, alien plant species, and, after obtaining landowner's permission, then "bash" the unwanted plants with picks and shovels. With the foreign competition removed, the native plants recolonize the area. A widescale "ONPS Troublesome Weed or Thistle Bash" is seriously in order. Contact Connie Taylor.

Free wildflower seeds offered with ONPS member's magazine

Gary Schaum, Northeast Chapter chair, and former OSU extension service horticulturist for Rogers County, is now in his second year as magazine publisher. His *Green Country Gardener*, issued six times a year, is a "reader written" publication with articles ranging from how to grow, well, peanuts, for example, to aquatic garden installation. There's a detailed Garden Planning Guide, too, useful to anyone wanting good advice on what, when, how and where to plant. The current issue advises on a vegetable garden.

Five free packets of wildflower seed are being offered with new and renewal subscriptions to *Green Country Gardener*. Cost for a year is \$9.97. The nice offer is on until April 10, 1990, and the seeds will be shipped on or about April 12.

You can subscribe by sending your check to:

Green Country Gardener
P.O. Box 249
Catoosa, OK 74015-0249.

Mistletoe hubbub helps Gaillardia

No matter what happens to the state flower, at least the recent brouhaha drew attention to the state wildflower. As you no doubt noticed, for some time there was rampant confusion over what flower served as what. When media people got it straight, they expressed the facts quite proudly -- "We have a state *wildflower*, the Gaillardia or Indian Blanket, as well as a state *flower*." Nora Jones' letter in the Jan. 23 *Tulsa World* pointed out there was little chance for changing the state flower considering the difficulties encountered in establishing the wildflower. She says the flap is absurd. (Do you disagree?)

Photo field trip set for Illinois River

On Saturday, April 28, Photography Committee chair John Miller will lead a photo safari in the Eagle's Bluff area north of Tahlequah. This excursion, to start at 9:30 a.m., is part of Earth Day activities sponsored by Northeastern State University and the Scenic River Association. A big tent will be headquarters for the day's activities which also include float trips and canoe safety talks. For car pool information, call Dorothy Norris, (918) 492-5923, ONPS photography committee.

1990s: Decade of Repair

While the 1960s decade was a time of raising environmental concerns, the 70s of environmental protection and regulation, the 80s of broad public awareness of problems, the 1990s will be a decade of regeneration and repair, according to Dr. David K. Northington, Executive Director of the National Wildflower Research Center in Austin. Here is an excerpt of the article from *Wildflower*, the NWRC newsletter:

"We have altered our native flora too extensively to simply step back, let nature take its course, and assume the end result will be natural revegetation and renewed stability of our ecosystems. Fully 90 percent of our arable land has been put into cultivation....

"Estimates are that every hour, over 200 acres of native vegetation are still being removed by agriculture, industry or urban development. Few, if any natural habitats still exist...Compounding the problem is the replacement of native plants with nonnatives...At best those plants merely take up space that could be occupied by native species. At worst, nonnative plants become overly successful, even aggressive, spreading rapidly and dominating other components of the ecosystem....

"The good news is that, unlike the flora of tropical rain forests, where removal of vegetation is even more rapid and little is known about what species are present, the flora of North America is well-known and ecosystem interactions are fairly well-understood. In addition, research on grasses, shrubs and trees is resulting in new information that enables us to reestablish native flora in planted landscapes. Parallel with this new information is a burgeoning interest among home and business owners, landscape architects, parks directors, highway staff and others in replanting native flora for environmental benefits.

"However, replanting native species provides benefits beyond ecological stability. Their colors, textures, seasonal changes and natural beauty cannot be duplicated. The monetary savings that can be realized through reduced needs for water, maintenances, fertilizer, and replanting are another compelling reason to plant natives in landscapes.

"Most importantly, the decade of environmental repair is something in which we can all participate. It is not enough to let government and advocacy groups institute protective measures. Inadvertently, we have all been part of the problems affecting our existence. It is now up to us all to be part of the solution. Planting even one native tree or shrub, or a patch of wildflowers and native grasses can be a part of the solution. There are so many ways to participate; waiting for the next generation to act is no longer an option."

To join the National Wildflower Research Center, send \$25 to NWRC, 2600 FM 973, Austin, TX 78725-4201.

"THE ENVIRONMENT: Focusing on Oklahoma "

You can get an overview of the environmental problems and possibilities in eastern Oklahoma by enrolling in this class offered by the Adult and Community Education program of Tulsa Public Schools. Led by ONPS member Tom Chilton, this expanded class includes slide shows and presentations by biologists, ecologists, naturalists, engineers, lawyers and politicians. The class meets each Thursday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 for six weeks starting April 19th. Topics for each session are:

- 4/19 *Natural History of Oklahoma*
- 4/26 *Biological Diversity*
- 5/3 *Air and Water Quality*
- 5/10 *Talking Trash - from litter to landfills*
- 5/17 *Environmental Law*
- 5/24 *Environmental Action*

The class meets at Byrd Community School and costs \$15. For more information or enrollment call 745-6287 between 9am and 3pm.

What can I do to Save the Earth?

The November/December, 1989 issue of *Utne Reader* offered "133 Ways...". Here are some of them:

- ✓ Plant deciduous shade trees that protect west windows from summer sun, but allow sunlight in during the winter.
- ✓ Consult your nursery about plants native to your environment or from similar climates that require little or no watering.
- ✓ Grow a garden rather than a lawn, saving water and energy.
- ✓ Plant fruit and nut trees.
- ✓ Support genetic diversity by planting rare and heirloom species of fruits and vegetables.
- ✓ For insects, use natural pest control products.
- ✓ Don't buy endangered plants, animals, or products made from overexploited species (furs, ivory, reptile skin, or tortoise shell).
- ✓ Avoid buying wood from the tropical rain forests unless you are sure it was propagated by sustainable tree farming methods.
- ✓ Plant and maintain trees.
- ✓ Appreciate all life forms rather than merely those considered beautiful, remarkable, or narrowly useful.



Conservation Corner by Paul Buck

The 22nd of April marks the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, 1970, a day that ushered in an all too brief period of ecological awareness in the United States. Concern over the ecological status of the earth was expressed by millions who made themselves heard through letters to legislators both local and national, to manufacturers and industries perceived as polluting or over exploiting global resources, as well as demonstrations, both peaceful and defiant, some of which involved violations of civil law.

The 1970s became known as the *Environmental Decade* and open respect for life, conservation and recycling became socially acceptable in most areas. Some of the gloomy predictions for the future of the earth and mankind began to pale under new air and water protection legislation, industries spending millions on pollution control, the promise of automobiles with engines producing a fraction of the pollution, the development of community recycling programs, the establishment of "Crisis Ecology" courses and programs in colleges and universities across the country and a flood of environmental information from the news media, movies, television and literature. For all but the most thoughtful and knowledgeable of ecological concepts the future did appear brighter.

But due to a multitude of factors, changes began to appear and the resolve of the people weakened. Some of the reasons for the change were national and global politics, economics, complacency as many problems appeared corrected or at least improved, and then certainly social evolution as new generations of young people appeared. Their focus was less on the world around them and more egocentric. As a result, the 1980s has been referred to as the *Me Decade* with young adults equating

success with the level of annual income. It led to the appearance of the "Yuppie Culture," individuals who might be described as hedonistic, oriented toward materialistic gain and with little or no thought to the environmental consequences. The positive side of this group was their decision to have fewer children, thus reducing the potential of heavy resource consumption. The end result is a world plagued with greater environmental problems than it faced 20 years ago.

Now the 90s! Let us hope and pray an era of environmental concern is in the immediate future, that new and appropriate legislation is passed, efforts are made to enforce existing laws and a ground swell of sincere concern for Mother Earth sweeps the country and globe. If this does not take place there is little chance life, as we know it, will survive past the middle of the next century and there are many unwilling to give us that length of time.

The obvious question is "What can I do?" and no doubt each reader can provide a number of viable suggestions. A few might be to reduce consumption of our natural resources, increase recycling to insure costly materials such as glass, paper and aluminum are not locked up in landfills, and to protect and improve the environment by reducing habitat destruction and planting trees to replace those which have died or been harvested. But probably the most important thing we can do as individuals is to BE an environmentally responsible person. Since each of us functions as a role model for children (like it or not), our actions serve to educate future generations in the proper care and respect of the world. Live your life with open respect and concern for Mother Earth--your actions and attitudes will be molding young minds.

Earth Day notes from all over

On April 22, the 20th anniversary of the original Earth Day (and week and month), so many activities are scheduled throughout the state and nation, and so much media attention is planned, one can pick up almost any publication and find a calendar. Just a sampling: annual clean-ups, tours, many tree plantings, workshops, network and cable specials, and on April 23 at the State Capitol, conservation groups, business and industry display booths on the second floor rotunda.

Outdoor News, the official publication of Oklahoma's affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, states Earth Day objectives: "More than 20 million people (in 1970) demonstrated their desire for stronger environmental laws and regulations, and a safer world in which to live during that first Earth Day. The political action which followed led directly to unprecedented conservation successes such as the Clean Air Act, Clean

Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and the creation of the U.S. Environmental Agency. We need the kind of environmental awareness campaign to begin the 1990's that we had in 1970."

The National Wildlife Federation has come up with a good theme slogan, "Earth Day Every Day -- You can make a difference." Their National Wildlife Week runs April 22-28. Teachers of grades K - 9 will be sent a Wildlife Week kit free, including activities, a poster showing 16 animals affected by human activity, an educational materials catalog and more. Write to Wildlife Federation, Dept. NW 90, 1400 Sixteenth St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

The Oklahoma Wildlife Federation offers teachers' kits and posters, available from: Jimmie Pigg, 401 Rock Place, Moore, OK 73160. Postage and self addressed gum labels are required. The 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. phone number for information: (405) 271-5240.

Native Flowers in our Home Garden by Raymond Kays

For many gardeners the selection of kinds of native and domesticated plants, their combinations as well as the design within the garden are uniquely personal. With this in mind, allow me to suggest some natives we have used in our yard that we utilize in combination with domesticated species and cultivars.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Duration	Bloom Period	Height (Inches)	Flower Color
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Annual	June-Oct.	12-20	YEL-BRONZE
Beard's Tongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Perennial	May-June	18	WH-LAV
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	P	June-Sept.	18-24	YEL-OR (1)
Colorado Columbine	<i>Aquilegia caerulea</i>	P	Apr.-May	18-30	PURPLE-LAV
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	P	Apr.-May	24-36	LT. ROSE-YEL
Cone Flower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	P	May-Aug.	30-48	LAV-ROSE
Four-Point	<i>Oenothera rhombipetala</i>	A	May-Sept.	20-42	YEL (2)
Eve Primrose					
Goldsturm Rudbeckia	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	P	July-Oct.	18-30	GOLDEN
Carolina Iris	<i>Iris carolina</i>	P	May-June	10-16	DK. PURPLE
Crested Iris	<i>Iris cristata</i>	P	Mar-Apr.	6-10	PURPLE
Large Flowered	<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	P	May-June	24-36	GOLDEN
Tick Seed					
Large Flowered	<i>Verbena canadensis</i>	P	Apr.-Oct.	14-24	LAV-ROSE
Verbena					
Ox-Eye Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	P	May-July	24-36	WHITE
Showy Eve. Primrose	<i>Oenothera speciosa</i>	P	Apr.-Oct.	14-24	ROSE (3)
Wooly Phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	P	Apr.-May	12-20	PURPLE

(1) Soil must be well drained or mound planted.

(2) Pinch flower stalk to induce branching.

(3) Tends to be invasive; may require edging barrier. A selection from Arizona with rose flowers and a longer blooming period.

These natives are grown with the following cultivated varieties:

Annuals: Begonia semperflorens, Dwarf Snapdragon Mix, Dusty Miller, Forget-me-not, Geranium P. zonale, Gloriosa Daisy, Heliotrope, Hollyhock, Larkspur Mix, Marigold, Pansy, Periwinkle, Rose Verbena

Biennials: Foxglove, Sweet William Mix

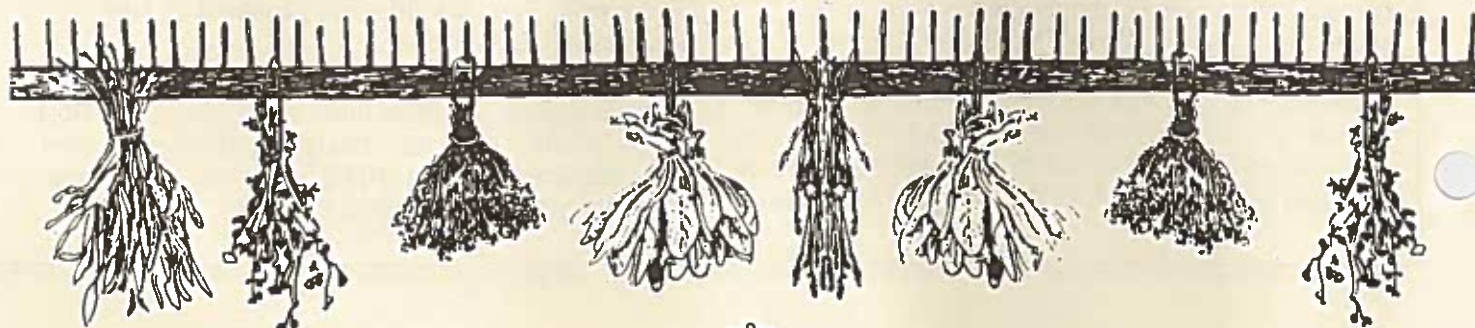
Perennials: Ajuga, Blue Flax, Blue *Salvia farinacea*

One may choose to select plant combinations of complimentary or contrasting colors, foliage textures or colors, flower or inflorescence type, etc. We use yellow or gold flowers with blues, lavenders or purples. White, pink, rose or red flowers would be equally pleasing with lavenders.

Purple verbenas are grouped with yellow or gold marigolds. Flower size and plant heights make a difference. The 4-point evening primrose is excellent with *Salvia farinacea*. Another combination is Sweet William and *Coreopsis grandiflora* randomly grouped since the height is relatively equal.

Plan to record time and duration of bloom, height, rebloom and other information needed to obtain the most enjoyable combination effect.

Make the most of Oklahoma gardening with its wealth and diversity of native plants.



Herbarium Indoor Outing is rated huge success -- a review

Over 80 people attended the day-long session at the Bebb Herbarium in Norman January 27. Jim Estes, curator of the Herbarium, deserves thanks for his hard work in getting the program off the ground on short notice and for the personal tour of the facility. ONPS Vice President Pat Mehlhop-Cifelli and Director Linda Watson put in overtime arranging for registration, refreshments, speakers and handouts. Pat's golden retriever puppy, Okra, even came in to entertain.

Ron Tyrl, one of ONPS' favorite speakers, started the program with a look at the history of plant collections from the earliest times to the present. Rahmona Thompson, Patty Cruze, Cathy Sladewski and Rebecca Rudman showed how to collect, prepare and preserve herbarium specimens. Pat Folley and Melynda Hickman not only did a segment on identification, but also prepared a half-hour slide show of Central Oklahoma native plants complete with music.

Brita Haugland-Cantrell, Assistant Attorney General for Environmental Affairs, emphasized the importance of wetlands preservation, since 85% of them have been destroyed, and only 7% are in good condition. John Skvarla revealed plants "up close and personal" with electron microscope photos of pollen, leaf surfaces and other structures. Edmund Hilliard, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, showed us more than native plants in the garden in his amusing around-the-world talk about human landscape. The evening rounded out with a tour of the greenhouse.

What a day full of wonderful revelations from the best botanists in the state!

Nora Jones

Barclay Scholarship Fund

In 1989, a \$25 scholarship in honor of Dr. Harriet Barclay was given to a deserving young botanist at the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science state meeting. A similar award will be given this year.

Paul Buck, Jack Jones and Irene McKee each donated \$25 to start the scholarship fund. About \$500 is needed to make the fund self-sustaining, if a \$25 honorarium is given each year, according to ONPS treasurer Herb Beattie. Friends and students of Dr. Barclay are challenged to send their tax-deductible donations earmarked for the Barclay scholarship so the fund can grow and be sustained. Please mail to ONPS, 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa 74114.



Wildflower linens

Have you checked out the new wildflower linens in J.C. Penney stores? "American Botanicals" are in Penney catalogs and stores. Part of the proceeds go to support the National Council of State Garden Clubs wildflower campaign.

Become an Oklahoma Native Plant Society member.

Please enroll me as a Member of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society. My dues payment is enclosed for the category checked. Make checks payable to Oklahoma Native Plant Society, and mail to:

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, OK 74114

_____ \$15.00 Family

_____ \$10.00 Individual

_____ \$ 5.00 Student

_____ \$ _____ contribution (All contributions are tax deductible.)

☐ Renewal

☐ New Membership

NAME : _____

HOME PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

About your *Gaillardia*, the newsletter

More and more ONPS members are contributing, as you no doubt noticed in this issue. This is happy news for all of us. The only major change, our view, for next issue is an earlier deadline: Please mark April 1 on your calendar, no joking. We want to get the May-June out early because of Wildflower Day(s) and Workshop, super field trips, etc. Grateful for your help.

Rarely should a newsletter carry items about its "staff," but this below seems warranted. We want you to know us and write to us.

We've enjoyed the original drawings by Elisabeth deBoor for many issues, and now have the page design talents of Tom Chilton, as well. Both of these gifted people were finalists in our logo contest last year. The final logo, by the way, the one chosen in the contest, was entered by your editor. The key person in collecting the content for *Gaillardia* (as well as handling the mailing) is Nora Jones, who gives ONPS many hours of dedicated attention, and serves as the secretary. Davida Phillips, Theresa Groshans, and Betty Kemm contribute faithfully in getting *Gaillardia* as folded, stuffed, stamped, stickered, banded and out the door.

Chapter secretaries are now expected to get chapter reports in by each deadline date, including meeting dates, field trips, etc., so that all members can participate if they wish. Of course, all ONPS members are invited to contribute to *Gaillardia*.

The newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper from Earth Care Paper, Inc., 100 South Baldwin St., Madison, Wisconsin 53703; phone (608) 256-5522. You can contact them for a nice collection of notecards, stationery, etc. (By the way, does anyone have an Oklahoma source for recycled paper?)

Thank you. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Marilyn Bell



Wild geranium

Wildflower Workshop & Field Trip

You should receive a special mailing in April about this May 4-5 workshop and field trip, but for now please note these special events being planned: Teresa Maurer of the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture is hosting at the Kerr Agriplex and the Kerr Museum; the main topic of the May 4 workshop is to be "Prairie Restoration;" Tallimena Drive is the main attraction for field trips.

The *Gaillardia*

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Next meeting:

