



The purpose of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society is to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma's native plants.

Volume 16, Number 2
Summer 2001

LOOK INSIDE FOR

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH	2
NOMINATION FOR SERVICE AWARD	2
BOTANY BAY	2
BOOK REVIEW: NATURE'S REVENGE	4
BIOBLITZ	5
WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP	6
ONPS ANNUAL MEETING	8
CHAPTER ACTIVITIES	9
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	10
PHOTO CONTESTS WINNERS	11
MEMBERSHIP FORM.....	11

INSERTS:

PHOTO CONTEST APPLICATION
ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE
REGISTRATION FORM FOR ANNUAL
MEETING

Printed on recycled paper

COPY AND ART DEADLINE
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 August 2001

Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

CALENDAR

Note: the events dated below are identified by either a page number where the event is fuller described or the name of the contact person for that event.

June 2: Central Chapter, Cleveland County Garden Tour: Gardens of Coley, Skeeter-Cruz, and Bergey, Page 9.

June 2: Cross-Timbers Chapter Meeting. Field trip to the Manning Prairie near Cushing, parking lot between Life Sciences East and Physical Sciences Building, OSU campus at 1:00 p.m., Ron TyrI

June 9: Charles Lewallen's backroads trip, Henryetta, contact Charles at 918-652-3003

June 23: Rocky Ford Park, Tahlequah, contact Charles Lewallen at 918-652-3003. Be prepared to get your feet wet, bring boots.

June 23*: Central Chapter, Wichita Mountains Visitor Center and botanizing in the immediate area, Page 9.

June 30: Oklahoma Native Plant Society Board Meeting, Tulsa Garden Center, Pat Folley

July 14; Central Chapter field trip, Chambers' Home, Page 9

August 11. Central Chapter field trip, Selmon Bat Cave, Page 10

September 15: Cross-Timbers Chapter Meeting. Local field trip in search of fall wildflowers. parking lot between Life Sciences East and Physical Sciences Building, OSU campus at 10:00 a.m., Ron TyrI

October 19-21: ONPS Annual Meeting, Stillwater, Page 8

November 10: Cross-Timbers Chapter Meeting, Potluck dinner and slide presentation, site to be announced, at 6:30 p.m., Ron TyrI

* Date changed since the *Gaillardia* Spring issue

Note: all members are invited to all chapter field trips and meetings, including board meetings, and are encouraged to bring guests.

ONPS website: <http://www.usao.edu/~onps/>

Email: onps@www.usao.edu

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

First, an update on an earlier thought: the "trunk", or display kit, I asked for a couple of issues ago has been enhanced by Charles Lewallen's gift of the pictures for a 3' by 4' display board including 16 of my favorite views of native Oklahoma Plants. After it gets protection by a Mylar covering, it will be the backbone of a portable show-and-tell unit. Our most pressing need now is for living plants that will be maintained by members and loaned for this use while in bloom and therefore attractive to passers-by. I have a couple, but am handicapped by lack of skill in pot-plant maintenance.

The native plant question that has been plaguing me for a few weeks now is whether my instinct to counter the very hot summers of late by bringing in plants from more southerly locales is really sound. This winter, "normal" in the judgment of local experts, really struck the Folley Farm hard. Because we don't get the waste-heat effect that keeps town gardens a few degrees above the local average, we lost all the little desert willows (*Chilopsis linearis*) and the young *Sassafras albidus* too, but not the well-grown one. On the other hand, a wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) given me by Pat Heck from McCurtain Co. last year got through with just a few pinched leaves. And the *Lantanas*, more than ten years old and grown into large shrubs, died altogether. The two late freezes, coming after leaves had already unfolded on the pipevine and trumpet creeper, set them back drastically. As I write this, a pipevine swallowtail is laying eggs on the poor devastated plant outside the window. Nature has no mercy! And where did her grandmothers lay eggs before I planted those vines in an area where they are not native? How do they find us? So many questions, so few answers. If there were any job security for botanists, there would be a lot of work left to do, as there are so few opportunities for anyone to study the lives of plants. Of course, that leaves plenty of work for us amateurs. Native Plant society members who have benefited from the guidance of Paul Buck, Connie Taylor, Jim Norman and others in the past are hereby put on notice that it is high time for us to generate a new corps of field-trip leaders and program presenters. Even those old heads were once young, insecure, and full of the concern that they might get caught without an answer. If you know about a good place for a field

trip, take advantage of the resources ONPS now has and learn the names, blooming seasons, and other details about your special place, then volunteer to lead a field trip there, or bring your pictures in to a chapter meeting and tell us about them. There is no time like the present: it is all we have.

Pat Folley
President, ONPS

~~~~~

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR SERVICE AWARD

One year ago, during the Summer meeting of the Executive Board of ONPS, a new and prestigious award was inaugurated, the Oklahoma Native Plant Society Service Award. The first presentation of the Service Award was made to Ruth Boyd at the Fall Annual meeting of the Society.

It is now time to be considering nominations for the 2001 recipient of the Service Award. The deadline for nominations being submitted for consideration is August 31, 2001. Individuals who wish to make a recommendation for the 2001 Service Award should refer to the Autumn, 2000, edition of *The Gaillardia* for reviewing of the guidelines pertinent to the award. Copies of the guidelines are also available from the Service Awards Committee Chair, Sue Amstutz. Address your request for the guidelines to Sue at 4190 E. 46th Place, Tulsa OK, 74135. Nominations for the award to be presented at the Annual Meeting in October should also be mailed to Sue before August 31.

~~~~~

BOTANY BAY
Paul buck

Member's Thoughts:

It is time for another Botany Bay article. What an enjoyable exercise. I slip away to an isolated, private spot to write and watch nature - or is it watch nature and write?

At the moment it is early morning in spring and I'm settled on the porch with a cup of hot coffee. In the

distance a vehicle left out overnight, is covered with a dusting of sulfur yellow. The many oaks in the area bear countless pendulous masses of flowers releasing (apologies to Carl Sagan) billions of pollen grains. If the amount of pollen is any indication of reproductive effort there should be an abundant supply of acorns next winter for the local squirrels.

Of course the birds are very active. The single robin foraging for worms may be the victor of yesterday's multi-hour confrontation for territory. In any event, the winner will control this area where a female regularly builds a nest. Later I'll see the pair escorting fledglings across the lawn in search of food. A male house sparrow is all puffed up and strutting importantly before a seemingly indifferent female. It was Voltaire who said; 'Love is a canvas furnished by Nature and embroidered by imagination.'

This contribution is a follow up on that of the spring issue in which members were invited to share some of their personal memories with Nature. Let me pass along some of the responses. No doubt many readers will relate to them as keenly as I have.

The first submission was from Charles Lewallen, our photographer *par excellence*. How many of you have a similar vision tucked away in the depths of your memory. I do. Thank you, Charles.

It seems that these moments when we connect with Nature are all too fleeting. Last year when I was returning from a field trip, I was driving west on I-40 on my way home. The sun had set and the sky was orange. Up ahead of me on the left a flock of blackbirds rose like smoke and swirled around against the orange sky, then settled on the right side of the highway. I am sure that took less than a minute, but for that short time I felt as though I was part of a jigsaw puzzle that had just been put in its proper place.

Marcie Goad takes us to what certainly is a very personal moment in her life. How I wish I was an accomplished artist. I'd like to show Marcie the vision her words conjure in my mind. If I had that talent the painting would be somewhat like a Wyeth.

A few years ago I lived in a house with a crabapple tree in front of the window. For several weeks in spring that tree turned white with flowers. Even during its petal-fall the wind blew the petals in a whirlwind of blossoms. It was my delight to stand inside the whiteness of its branches and let it absorb me.

One February day, we had an unexpected thaw. The fruits on the tree became soft and edible and were discovered by a flock of goldfinch. A mass of gray and yellow descended on the tree. How they tugged and scratched and gulped and gobbled. By evening the fruit was all gone, but I had a whole day with a tree of goldfinches.

Chad Cox invites us to join he and his wife on Lake Thunderbird.

Pat and I had anchored in a cove on Lake Thunderbird for the night. We dined on various goodies watching a gorgeous sunset. As light faded, all the motor boats departed leaving the cove to us and the starry night without the obstruction of town light as at home. After a nightcap or two, we retired at about 10. We were lulled to sleep by insect and frog lullabies.

The next morning, we were up with the sun. Wispy mist rose from parts of the lake and added to a quietude only broken by the calls of crows and a heron and a gentle lapping of water about the boat. While making coffee, I heard a splash nearby and turned to see an osprey about eight feet off the water clutching a fish still raining down drops. The osprey was struggling to gain altitude under the load, even losing a little while gaining speed. In a long arc gradually increasing in height, it swung over the trees lining the bank of a bend in the cove, finally disappearing behind those trees. What a great addition to an already marvelous time

Thank you so very much, Chad. I'll always wonder if that bird was the osprey that joined me at dawn at Foss Lake.

Each of us having spent time in the Colorado

Rockies will have special memories hidden in some obscure corner of our mind. Many will involuntarily surface while reading Aline Romero's contribution. There is something sacred, holy if you prefer, about the blue Colorado columbine.

Our family camped in Colorado often during July and August at North Clear Creek Falls. Our daughter and son-in-law from New York joined us one year and he rented a jeep so he could see what was on the other side of the mountain we faced. I was invited along. We hit the jeep trail mid morning with a map he had been given and our lunch and water aboard. The road grew continuously rougher but only the driver had to watch it so my daughter and I marveled at the flowers growing on the hillsides. She wanted to know each by name and often called to have the jeep stop to let her smell and feel them. As we neared the summit covered with snow we saw the first display of Colorado columbines nodding in the breeze. We both cried STOP at the same time and started exiting the jeep before it was fully stopped. Barbara was so fascinated by the fragile flowers so beautiful against the background of snow and mountain grasses that she lay down beside them and talked to them for several minutes before I promised to take a picture she could take home and frame, for Silverton was still a long way ahead. Even yet when I see artificial columbines in Colorado color in craft stores it brings back this memory and the tingly feeling it gave me then.

Yes, Aline, there is something special about the blue Colorado columbine. There is a singular beauty in our Oklahoma red columbine but when the Colorado species is combined with the mountain skies, subalpine grasses and snowy, rocky ridges it is special.

Take a moment and reread the foregoing contributions by your co-members. They differ, but each will, in its way, evoke memories of times past. If you get just one half the pleasure from these as I have this exercise will have been well worth it. How fortunate we are to be members of the ONPS.

BOOK REVIEW

Pat Folley

Nature's Revenge, The Secrets of Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, Poison Sumac, and their Remedies by Susan Carol Hauser. Published by Lyons & Burford, New York

What a find this little book is! Susan Hauser is an award-winning writer and a commentator on Minnesota Public Radio for ten years. Not only does she cover the subject of the love-to-hate-them *Toxicodendron* genus, but she does it with wit and style and a thoroughness that would do justice to a textbook. All in 103 pages with illustrations and plus a bibliography.

Let's look at the chapter titles to get an idea what the author is about: "The Toxic Trio: Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac". Where they grow, how they are identified, and the nature of urushiol. "War Stories and Old Wives' Tales", on the history and lore of the poisoned three, and a look at home remedies. "Chicken Little and the FDA" covers the official quandary over treatment of the rash and the plants, plus some really good inside stuff on how the human body contributes to the problem. "You're Gonna Need an Ocean of Cal-o-mine Lotion", on the secrets of avoiding exposure and treating reactions, and "Foreign Lands and Farmer Birds", to put the poison ivy problem into a world-wide geographic frame.

Ms. Hauser writes with sensitivity and humor about the source of many people's most poignant experience with a natural item. Most of us will never suffer an attack by a bear or wolf, but most of us will at some time have reason to believe that poison ivy is as painful, and quite as good an excuse to stick to city streets. In side-boxes throughout, the book carries quotations from sufferers of some really classic cases of poison-ivy poisoning. Now I know why only people seem to be affected by it, and how the insidious oil can attack from "afar". As she says, "urushiol can lie in wait for years on the handle of a rake and still bond to human skin within five or ten minutes". It is also a staple in the diets of deer and small birds in the thrush family, and makes excellent honey.

Unfortunately, in the American publishing industry's mad rush to oblivion, I found this little book in a

remainder catalog, from Edward R. Hamilton. Amazon.com. lists it for \$11.16. Hamilton no longer lists it, and is presumably sold out, but if you really love to read, order their catalog anyway. I haven't been so excited about an author new to me since Sara Stein came out with *Noah's Garden*.

~~~~~

## BioBlitz!

The first annual BioBlitz was held in the George Sutton Urban Wilderness Area in Norman starting at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 27, and on through that night until 10 a.m. Saturday, April 28. The goal was to count as many species in this 24 hour period as possible and 485 were identified while others collected but requiring additional investigation for identification will be added to the list. Park habitats in the nearly 160 acre tract shelter a wide array of plants and animals beyond those few species that most visitors see. A total of 35 biologists and volunteers from central Oklahoma and from as far away as Tulsa combed the park by day. Biologists also sought out two ponds in the park, wading in with nets and even diving to inventory aquatic insects, mussels and fish. The tally of species to date includes:

Algae: 14  
Amphibians: 5  
Birds: 56  
Fish: 8  
Fungi: 4  
Invertebrates: 178 ( includes aquatic invertebrates, and still counting)  
Mammals: 10 (not including humans)  
Mosses: 10  
Plants: 183 (herbaceous and woody species)  
Reptiles: 17 (includes an unexpected Texas horned lizard)

Before the 1930s, the land today occupied by the park was gently rolling tall- and mid-grass grassland with an intermittent creek running through it. During this time, Central State Hospital managed the quarter section (160 acres) as pasture as a part of its farm operation. Some portions of the area now in the park were under cultivation, as evidenced by contours seen today that were established to impede soil erosion. During the 1930s or later, hospital staff and patients dammed the creek for a pond, built

stone bridges, a roadway around the large pond and constructed several concrete picnic tables to overlook the water. Many of the trees found in the park were planted at that time. A cemetery, now unused, was located in the far northeast corner of the quarter section. While popular with many long-time Norman residents, the park probably is at least as well known because of its association with the late ornithologist, George Miksch Sutton, who frequented the area alone or with students until his death in 1982.

The BioBlitz! was primarily the creation of the Oklahoma Biological Survey but was also sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Thanks are due to the Norman Parks and Recreation Department and to the George Miksch Sutton Urban Wilderness Area Advisory Committee for allowing this event to take place at the park. Participating organizations were Oklahoma Biological Survey; George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center, Bartlesville, Oklahoma; Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History; Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Biologists and students from schools and universities in central Oklahoma, including the University of Oklahoma, University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City Community College. Although ONPS had no official role, members participating were Bruce Hoagland, Pat Folley, Mark Howery, Sheila Strawn and your editor (mainly an observer).

The BioBlitz was invented in 1996 by scientists from the National Parks Service and inaugurated in Washington, D.C., by scientists from the NPS, National Botanical Garden, and Smithsonian Institution. Biodiversity surveys of varying types have since been conducted in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, Texas, North Carolina, North Dakota and other states. The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at UConn is hosting it's fourth annual BioBlitz this June. BioBlitz! was the Oklahoma Biological Survey's first of the kind. It will become an annual scientific and family event and will be held each year in a different part of the state.

For more information contact Ian Butler, Biological Data Coordinator, Oklahoma Biological Survey, The University of Oklahoma, 111 East Chesapeake St.



Norman, Oklahoma 73019. Phone (405) 325 1985 or e-mail: [ibutler@ou.edu](mailto:ibutler@ou.edu) The entire list will be available at the website [www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitz.html](http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitz.html)

Editorial comment: During the period that I have visited the park, Japanese honeysuckle and privet have greatly expanded the areas they occupy and patches of vinca and garlic are much larger. Most of the species that I noticed that were not on an earlier list of plants in the park are introduced species. The park is becoming more a lab on the problem of invasive species than a place to view native wilderness.

~~~~~

WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

Joanne Orr

The sun shown and the flowers bloomed during the 24th Annual Wildflower Workshop held in Durant on May 11 and 12. Predicted storms arrived with appropriate thunder and lightning but nicely timed so they occurred during the Friday night dinner held at the Signature Steak House.

More than 100 attended the Friday Workshop at the Bryan County Community Center. Speakers covered topics ranging from fire ants to wildflowers in your yard.

Dorothy Thetford of Denton, Texas opened the workshop with a talk about wildflowers - "Roadside to Homeside." The audience for her remarks included 37 third graders from Calera Elementary School who came for the first session and then retreated to the kitchen to work on wildflower related projects for another hour. Their teachers attending were June Hughes and Vicki Anderson.

Susan Chambers of Rose Rock Landscape Design in Midwest City, reviewed three books of interest to wildflower aficionados. These are *The Wildlife Sanctuary Garden* by Carol Buchanan, *The Landscape Revolution: Garden with Mother Nature, Not Against Her* by Andy Wasowski with Sally Wasowski and *Earth on Her Hands: The American Woman in Her Garden* by Starr Ockenga.

Steve Hill, a landscape designer from Norman, gave

a well-prepared talk with a myriad of ideas for using natives in the home landscape.

The topic Backyard Wildlife Habitat was one of interest to many as Mark Howery, substituting for Julian Hilliard, both from the Wildlife Conservation Department, presented a new view of habitats and fielded many questions.

Dr. Joe Mabry, retired archaeology professor at SEOSU in Durant, explained his volunteer work at Ft. Washita and what was to be visited during the Saturday field trip. His enthusiasm was contagious.

Connie Taylor's "Testifying for the Environment" during congressional hearings gave new insight into the workings of Congress and the necessary and effective strategies and tactics to get your viewpoint heard. Her handout on how to write/call/contact legislators included addresses and a list of current issues and was in demand. She is a retired professor of Biology at SEOSU.

The Oklahoma winter ice disaster of 2000 was the subject of Mark Bays' talk and his pruning tips were valuable to all. Dr. Stanley Rice, assistant professor of Biological Sciences at SEOSU, intrigued everyone with his talk, "Fire Ants and Wildflowers." Their advance to the north is deterred only by low temperatures, apparently. They have an extremely rapid response time when an intruder (people!) appears.

Dr. Bruce Hoaglund of the Natural Heritage Inventory at the University of Oklahoma filled in for Paul Buck, who was out of state. He gave an excellent description of the wildflowers of south central Oklahoma to be seen on the Saturday field trip.

The always popular display area included two extensive arrays of live wildflowers for sale from the Clear Creek Farms, near Peggs and Newberry Creek Garden Center, west of Durant. Books from Waldenbooks in Sherman, Texas were selling well as were the new Native Plant Society shirts, cups and other logo items. Larry McGrath managed the NPS sales tables.

Other displays included the Department of Transportation, the State Garden Clubs, Johnston Seed Company, Dorothy Thetford's photographs

and stationery, plus a specimen table of wildflowers collected in the Durant area.

The Southeast District Garden Clubs provided a dozen geraniums and four baskets for door prizes, including one enormous basket that included garden tools and boots amongst the flowers. They also provided coffee and goodies during the early morning part of the Friday workshop.

The Friday dinner at the Signature Steak house attracted 96 people to view the Garden Club wildflower poster winners and watch the winners of the NPS Photography Contest receive their prizes. The Tenth Annual Snodgrass award was presented to Sherrel Jones of Enid for her years of work raising funds, planting wildflowers in the area, visiting schools with free wildflower seeds, lobbying the legislators and founding the "Bloomer" wildflower support group. Recently, she started work on establishing a wildflower foundation to help with educating school children and the public about wildflowers. The foundation is in memory of her mother, Bonnie Stephens of Ardmore. Jones also was the president of the Junior Welfare League of Enid, and chair of the popular cookbook, "Stirrups." She has a regular food column in the Daily Oklahoman and frequently does articles and photographs for them on food.

Dr. George Diggs, professor of Biology at Austin College, Sherman Texas, kept everyone glued to their seats, despite the thunder and lightning outside, as he described "Crosstimbers Across Time." He made us all appreciate the treasure that Oklahoma has. He encouraged everyone to read the book about the Crosstimbers, titled *The Cast Iron Forest* by Richard V. Francaviglia. The term was first used by Washington Irving during his journeys in the area.

The Saturday field trip folks enjoyed a glorious day, with flowers fresh and vibrant after the Friday night storm. Tour guides, Connie Taylor, Stanley Rice, Larry McGrath, Bruce Hoaglund and Ron Tyrl, were kept busy as 95 participants roamed the prairies.

First stop was a four acre meadow behind Scotty's No. 1 convenience store between South Highway 78 and the Blue River site of Texoma Wildlife Management Area. A profusion of flowers



Sherrel Jones receiving the Snodgrass Award

characteristic of a loam soil included Barbara's button, sandwort, coreopsis, etc., with butterflies to match. The second stop at the Blue River low water crossing featured the mystery of the seaside alders, a species found only three places in the USA; Delaware, Georgia and Oklahoma - and nowhere in between!

Lunch was enjoyed at Fort Washita with time to browse through local meadows and General Douglas Cooper's log cabin dating from the Civil War era. Last stop was a black land prairie with such treasures a wild hyacinth and celestial lilies. The early bus returned at 2:15 pm and the regular bus at 3:45 pm. An impromptu group continued on in private cars to stop at Carpenter's Meadow west of Durant on SH 70 to check on the grass pink orchids.

The Workshop is sponsored jointly by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma State Garden Clubs. The SE District of the State Garden Clubs

also were sponsors this year. Next year will be the 25th Annual Wildflower Workshop (a quarter of a century). Not many states can match that. The location is to be announced, but the Chickasaw National Recreation Area near Sulphur has been suggested. See you next year!

~~~~~

## ANNUAL MEETING OF ONPS

Ron Tyr!

Enclosed as inserts in this issue of the *Gaillardia* is information about the annual meeting of the society scheduled for October 19-21 in Stillwater. As is apparent, this meeting differs in several respects from past annual meetings. Most importantly, ONPS will be meeting jointly with three other societies—the Oklahoma Section of the Society for Range Management, the Oklahoma Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. It might seem strange for these four groups to meet together; but all share the goal of understanding and describing the flora and fauna of Oklahoma. There will be a diverse mix of participants, and it is the hope of the organizers that you will gain a new perspective of Oklahoma's native plants and the habitats they occupy.

As you look at the schedule of events, you will see that the traditional activities of an ONPS annual meeting—Friday night dinner and speaker, field trips, Saturday night banquet and speaker—are still present. You can participate in only these activities if you want. We are hoping, however, that you also will attend the technical paper sessions on Friday and/or go on the birding trips.

For those of you who have never attended a traditional scientific meeting, the technical paper sessions scheduled on Friday comprise a series of 15-minute talks by students and scientists who present the results of their research endeavors. Because four societies are represented, there will be a variety of talks on birds, mammals, plants, vegetation, wildlife management, ecology, and range management; thus opportunities to become acquainted with many different topics. When you register, you will receive a program giving the titles of these talks, the speakers giving them, and the times of their presentation. One typically selects the talks of

interest and moves from room to room to listen to them. You do not have to listen to every talk nor stay in a room for an entire session. Neither do you have to be a scientist to give a presentation. If you have observations and/or slides that you think would be of interest to the other participants, please consider giving a talk. The call for papers form is enclosed, and if you have questions do not hesitate to call me at (405)744-9558 or rjyrl@okstate.edu.

Our Friday evening speaker, Bruce Hoagland, is a dynamic lecturer who is familiar to many ONPS members. In keeping with the theme of the meeting, he will describe the changes that we have wrought in the vegetation of Oklahoma. On Saturday evening, our speaker will be Douglas Hale, a historian who will bring to life the travels and botanical work of Ferdinand Lindheimer, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century botanist who, although he is referred to as the "Father of Texas Botany", had a profound influence on our knowledge of Oklahoma plants.

Our field trips on Saturday also will be slightly different from those in the past. On them, we will, of course, renew our acquaintances with fall wildflowers, but we also will have an opportunity to see a research endeavor in progress. Range scientists from OSU will show us research plots where fire is being used to restore the tallgrass prairie. We also will visit the beautiful and floristically interesting Horse Thief Canyon. It is a narrow canyon in the sandstone bluffs of the Cimarron River that is home to many eastern species, including perhaps the western most population of Jack-in-the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) in Oklahoma. Because access to both sites is difficult and parking is limited, transportation will be only via commercial buses. Seating is limited to 94 on a first-come basis; thus if you want to go on the field trips, be sure to submit your registration form early.

The organizers of each participating society are excited about this joint meeting. We envision it as an opportunity to learn something about other disciplines, as well as opportunity to acquaint others with what we do. We look forward to seeing you in October.



## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### NE Chapter Jim Elder

Charles Lewallen and Jim Elder gave a talk about the ONPS to the nonprofit group *A New Leaf, Inc.* in Broken Arrow, OK. Charles was interviewed by Tulsa's channel 6. They showed some of his website wildflower pictures and he talked about Oklahoma's plant diversity.

Charles, Clare & Buddy Miller, and Jim Elder toured the TNC's Cross Timbers preserve near Lake Keystone last March.

We are having our Pontotoc Ridge outing this Saturday (5/19). Charles has a Henryetta "backroads outing" planned for June 9th. He also has an outing planned for Rocky Ford Park, near Tahlequah on June 23.

Our group happy hours our going great, with the next one scheduled for this Friday (5/18). We plan to some more planning on outings and work on a packet that can be sent to anyone requesting information on Oklahoma wildflowers. The packet would contain information about ONPS membership, location for wildflower seeds, and a list of potential speakers and slide programs. This is in response to several request I have received from schools, organizations, and other interested individuals. Charles gave a presentation of his wildflower pictures at our last Tulsa chapter meeting (5/7). I was out of town and missed the meeting, but Connie Murray volunteered to fill in Chairperson since Jim was not there. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 10th, program to be announced.

### Central Chapter Susan Chambers and Judy Jordan

Our March 31st field trip was to an unplowed prairie southeast of Norman. We were to meet at the parking lot at the Lloyd Noble at 9 a.m. and caravan out to a piece of land that's been in Mark Howery's family for generations. Things did not go as planned. The whole south part of the Lloyd Noble had been cordoned off and was being guarded by city and county police in preparation for a marathon being run that day. There were also student volunteers meeting there that day for another event. Needless to say, not very many of us actually got through to meet with Mark. Approximately 20

people made it through and stood in the cold and wind and we finally left for the prairie about 10 a.m. When we got there, it was really worth the struggle. We saw lots of very early spring blooming wildflowers and a fern named 'adder's tongue' that Mark had never seen there before. It was all over! Once we got on the east side of a windbreak, it was very pleasant hiking. We saw ducks of several different species on the pond, and sand plum in bloom on the banks. We found out that the bluff on the property had been the origin of much of the sandstone used on the Duck Pond bridge on the OU campus. Towards the end of the hike, we all realized that we had been hiking downhill all this time, and now it was time to hike back up! The fence was a lot easier to go through on the way out than it was on the way back.

Now, for the program at OSU-OKC on March 26th, with Adam Ryburn speaking on The History of Echinacea. Adam spoke in detail of the medicinal uses of a few of the different species of echinacea and how they compared. He spoke of how the native Americans had used the genus, and of what has befallen the plants in present day with the craze for 'natural' products. It was a very informative program on how not to believe everything you read or see about native plants being the cure-all. Adam even mentioned the current trend towards 'farming' the plants to produce the chemicals that people want in natural products.

The Central Chapter has several field trips scheduled for the summer.

June 2, 2001. There will be a Central Chapter garden and acreage tour to the properties of Jeannie Coley, Martha Skeeters, and Karl Bergey, all located southwest of Norman. Although Patricia Bergey passed away April 11, her husband, Karl, was very happy for the group to visit the property as scheduled.

June 23, 2001. There will be a Central Chapter field trip to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Area. We will meet at the Visitor's Center but the time will be announced later in reminder cards. Susan Chambers and Paul Reimer are arranging this trip.

July 14, 2001. Another field trip—this time to the home of Wayne and Susan Chambers in Midwest City to see their new house and their reorganized



landscape of native and other plants. Reminder cards with more details will be mailed later.

**August 11.** A field trip to visit the Selmon Bat Cave in northwestern Oklahoma. This trip will require advance reservations and an \$18 fee and the number of participants will be limited. Contact Susan Chambers if interested.

**September 24, 2001.** The first regular meeting of the fall will feature Terry Fisher giving a program on bluebirds. The meeting will probably be held at the Kirkpatrick Horticultural Center, but check your reminder cards on the exact place.

#### **Cross-Timbers Chapter Ron Tyrl**

If you thought to yourself, "This doesn't make sense." when you read the report of the Cross Timbers Chapter in the last issue of the *Gaillardia*, you were right. My apologies for the snafu in which e-mail files were inadvertently switched. To bring you up-to-date, the following synopsis of chapter activities is offered.

In January, approximately 20 members of the chapter and their guests braved uncertain weather to explore the Keystone ancient cross-timbers forest, which contains the world's oldest known post oak (400 years old) and the state's oldest recorded eastern red cedar (500 years old), as well as more than 260 different plant species. Overlooking Lake Keystone, the 1,365-acre site is being protected by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy. Field trip leaders were Shane Feirer, Conservation Specialist with The Nature Conservancy, and ONPS member Paul Buck, well-known author of the widely used *Distribution and Identification of Woody Plants of Oklahoma in the Winter Condition*. Although gloomy, cold, and drizzling at times, the weather was bearable and the trip successful. Trekking across the somewhat rugged terrain kept everyone warm. Naturally the sun appeared on our trip home. Thanks to our leaders for sharing their expertise with us.

In March, members convened at the home of Ivol Hane in Stillwater for a potluck dinner and slide presentation. Once again, good food was the norm, with sun-chokes (*Helianthus tuberosus*) and

nasturtium (*Tropaeolum* sp.) flowers appearing in a salad prepared by Paul and Alice Richardson. The evening's highlight was an informative and humorous slide presentation by ONPS members Susan and Wayne Chambers on the use of native plants in landscaping. Prior to their presentation, a short business meeting was held to elect officers for the coming year. Ron Tyrl and Olen Thomas will serve a second term as chair and vice-chair. They will be joined by Carolyn Gonzales who will serve as secretary-treasurer. She replaces Jeanette Sciara, whose efforts made the chapter's first year so successful. Jeanette, a special thanks to you! Carolyn has already been involved in chapter activities; she has been preparing the news releases about our meetings. Thanks also are due Ivol and Jeanette for making the arrangements and hosting the potluck.

The chapter's next outing is a field trip on Saturday afternoon, June 2, to the botanically exciting Manning Prairie near Cushing. We will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot between the Life Sciences East and Physical Sciences buildings on the OSU campus to car-pool and caravan to the site. Unfortunately, the infamous botany bus has traveled its last mile and is no longer available, thus we will have to rely on individuals willing to drive.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS**

Bill Farris, Noble  
Edwin A. Thompson, Norman  
Ken Hobson, Norman  
Diane Strickler Oklahoma City  
Cyndie Browning, Tulsa  
Raelene Crandall, Stillwater  
John McGraw, Norman



## 2001 Photo Contest Report

The judges for the 2001 Photo Contest have made their decisions, and the awards were made at the Wildflower Workshop in Durant on May 12. Judging were David Gill of Lawton, a professional photographer; Ginny O'Leary, Lawton, an artist; and Jane Bechtold, Indianahoma, naturalist at Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

And the winners are:

**Beginners** (those who have not won in our contest before): First, Mike Mazzo of Lawton for a picture of an *Armillaria fungus*. Second: Mike Mazzo for a picture of *Echinocereus riechanbachii*. Third: Chad Cox of Norman, for *Rhexia mariana*. Honorable Mention: Lynn Allen of Edmond for *Echinacea purpurea*.

**Amateur close-up:** First: Mike Mazzo for a bud of *Nelumbo lutea*. Second: Christina Lindsey of Duncan for a *Tradescantia ohiensis*; Third, Judy Hamlin of Fletcher for an *Echinocereus baileyi*; and Honorable Mention to Judy Hamlin for acorns of *Quercus macrocarpus*.

**Habitat:** First, Dick Clapp of Noble, for *Sedum nuttallianum*; Second, Leslie Cole-Jackson of Edmond for *Nelumbo Lutea*; Third Jeri McMahon of Ft. Gibson for a riparian scene; Honorable Mention to Dick Clapp for *Delphiniums* and *Gaillardia pulchellum*.

### Advanced Close-Up

First, to Barbara Tarbutton, Noble, for *Campsis radicans* and a hummingbird; Second, Dick Clapp, Noble, for *Echinocereus baileyi*, Third, Patricia Folley of Noble for *Rosa carolina*, and Honorable Mention, Dick Clapp for *Opuntia compressa*.

**Special awards for:** Best Botanical, Barbara Tarbutton, for *Centaurea americana*

**Best of Show:** Mike Mazzo for *Nelumbo Lutea*

### FOR JOINING OR RENEWAL, USE THE FORM BELOW:

Fill out this form or supply the same information. Make checks payable to Oklahoma Native Plant Society and mail to Oklahoma Native Plant Society, 2435 South Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114. Dues include subscription to *Gaillardia*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: (School, Business, or Avocation) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please do not list my phone ☐

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Annual Membership Choice: ☐ \$10 Individual, ☐ \$15 Family, ☐ \$5 Student

Life Membership Choice: ☐ \$200 Individual, ☐ \$300 Family

Add \$2.50 ☐ to cover cost of copying and mailing a complete ONPS directory if desired.



### *The Gaillardia*

Published quarterly by the  
Oklahoma Native Plant Society  
2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa OK 74114

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| President      | Pat Folley      |
| Vice President | Chad Cox        |
| Secretary      | Maurita Nations |
| Treasurer      | Mary Korthase   |
| Historian      | Lynn Allen      |

Boardmembers-at-Large  
2001: Berlin Heck and Iris McPherson  
2002: Sue Amstutz and Jim Elder  
2003: Paul Reimer and Larry Magrath

Edited by Chad Cox  
Copy to: 2241 Ravenwood  
Norman, OK 73071  
Phone (405) 329-8860  
e-mail [cox.chadwick@worldnet.att.net](mailto:cox.chadwick@worldnet.att.net)

*Gaillardia articles may be reprinted at will.  
Please acknowledge source and author.*

### A word about addresses

*ONPS has a business address:*  
Oklahoma Native Plant Society  
c/o Tulsa Garden Center  
2435 South Peoria  
Tulsa, OK 74114

Membership, changes of address, and general correspondence of all kinds except newsletter material should be sent to the Tulsa address.

*For Gaillardia material only, use the editor's address:*

Chad Cox  
2241 Ravenwood  
Norman, OK 73071-7427

The Gaillardia can accept material by disk (ASCII, rtf or Word format), e-mail to [cox.chadwick@worldnet.att.net](mailto:cox.chadwick@worldnet.att.net).

Members who wish to receive information by e-mail from ONPS may send their on-line address to [cox.chadwick@worldnet.att.net](mailto:cox.chadwick@worldnet.att.net).

Oklahoma Native Plant Society  
c/o Tulsa Garden Center  
2435 South Peoria  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

Non-Profit  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Permit No. 357

### RENEWAL TIME?

Please look at your expiration date on the mailing label and if it's not 2000 or later, remit your dues. We don't want to lose you!