Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

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 4
Winter 2001

LOOK INSIDE FOR

INSERT: Registation for Indoor-Outing

Printed on recycled paper

COPY AND ART DEADLINE
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 February 2001

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

Email: onps@www.usao.edu

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.

Jan. 12, 2002: "Eagle Watch" field trip at 1pm at the Nature Center at the Clear Bay area of Lake Thunderbird led by Julie Tarver, Park Naturalist. Page 11.

Jan. 19: Cross Timbers Chapter Field Trip to Cross Timbers exhibit at The Washington Irving Trail Museum. Meet in parking lot between Life Sciences East and Physical Sciences buildings, OSU campus at 1:00 p.m. Page 11.

Jan. 31-Feb. 3: Oklahoma Garden Festival at the Myriad Center, OKC. ONPS will participate. Larry Magrath.

Feb. 9: Indoor Outing; See page 2 & insert.

Mar. 11: NE first meeting in 2002, David Stahle will be presenting a program on the Cross Timbers. Page 10.

Mar. 16: Field trip to Witchita Mts. to find the Stemless daisy. Contact Charles Lewallen 918 652 3003

May 4: Field trip to Pontotoc Ridge. Charles Lewallen

May 25: Field trip to Yorktown Bottoms. Charles Lewallen

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

ONPS THANKS THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS

Anne W. Long Fund
Ruth Boyd
Chad Cox
Larry Magrath

Harriet G. Barclay Fund
John & Janet Slater
Ruth Boyd
Chad Cox
Larry Magrath

General Fund
Make Every Home a Wildlife Habitat, Volunteers
Ken & Marilyn Stewart
Dick Pope

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

First, my thanks to all of you who expressed concern about my health after the Annual Meeting. It seems to be an unusually severe allergy, but resulted in a mild case of pneumonia, for which treatment is available. So, I'm at home taking medicine instead of being out in the wilds enjoying the best Indian Summer in years. And the moral of that is: enjoy the wild world while you can. You may get old someday!

And speaking of growing old, I hope there are several ONPS members who are considering taking a more active role in the organization. Next October, we must elect a new President (unless I am relieved of the duty before then), and some other officers as well. When I first joined ONPS, the Board had doubts about my qualifications as conservation chairman, but, surprise! I grew. And there is no better way to grow with an interest than to jump in and get your knees muddy. Some of us who have been carrying the leadership jobs for ten or more years have passed the retirement age long ago, and are not as spry (nor as interesting) as we used to be. LOTS of room at the top. Just put your name in the ring and see what develops. This organization is not hard to manage if everyone carries a bit of the load. Next year's nominating committee chairman is Paula Shryok of Stillwater. Let her know you are interested.

If you have been waiting...and waiting for a new membership directory, take heart. The new edition will be out by December 1. Those who ordered one and have not received it yet will get the new edition. Many thanks to Tina Julich, Judy Jordan, Chad Cox and Maurita Nations who all contributed materially to an engineered solution to our database problem. Considering the amount of trouble we've had, you would think we were the Federal Government! That old database was out of date when I got it in 1990, but I had an old computer, so was able to run it. But, oh boy, how things have changed in the last ten years! Now Tina has the whole thing on a program, Access 2000, that I can't even run. Luckily, I don't have to.

Enough of this business stuff. We had a pretty good summer, considering the past three or four years of heat and drought. I have been looking for a fresh specimen of Kuhnia eupatorioides for a friend at OU for the past three years. And it has not bloomed. All the Eupatorium species here in central Oklahoma have reacted to the hot dry weather by either not blooming or not coming up at all. Even though they are perennial, they may have short life-spans. Who knows? It's not a genus of great commercial value, so it has not been studied much. But we care, who have taken all of the natural bounty of this green state as a hobby, and the first step to responsible conservation is to be aware of what is going on.

What have you noticed that is different this year from the same time in 1997 or –8? Are there more sunflowers and fewer gerardias? Or is it the other way around? Records like that can be shared with other members and may in the long run make a difference in the survival of those species. One of my duties for the Flora of Oklahoma project is to determine the growing seasons. I have thirty years of data for the plants in Cleveland County, but that leaves at least 1,000 species of Oklahoma plants for someone else to know about. So you can tell me about yours. I am eager to know. It's so easy to drop an e-mail to pfolley7@juno.com, but any means that suits you is fine with me.

Enjoy the winter to come. Rest up, read a few good books, and be ready for the Indoor Outing in Edmond on February 9.

Pat Folley
President, ONPS

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

YOUR 2002 DUES ARE DUE NOW!

The Oklahoma Native Plant Record, our new journal, is scheduled to be mailed in December. Members should mail their requests for free copy to the Society's business address as soon as possible:
Oklahoma Native Plant Society
c/o Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES FOR 2002

PRESIDENT: Patricia Folley
VICE-PRESIDENT: Chad Cox
SECRETARY: Maurita Nations & Tina Julich
TREASURER: Mary Korthase
HISTORIAN Open, please volunteer
PAST PRESIDENT: Dr. Sheila Strawn

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE
Dr. Paul Reimer & Dr.Larry Magrath
Jim Elder & Sue Amstutz
Dr. Paul Buck & Dr. Constance Murray

STANDING COMMITTEES
Harriet Barclay Award Dr. Connie Taylor, Chm
Anne Long Award Paul Reimer, Chm.

CHAPTER LIASONS
Northeast Chapter Jim Elder
Central Chapter Judy Jordan
Crosstimbers Chapter Dr. Ron Tyrl

CONSERVATION Open: please volunteer!
PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST Paul Reimer
CURATORS OF PHOTO POSTERS
Sue Amstutz & Leslie Cole-Jackson

FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE
Connie Taylor & Charles Lewallen

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Paula Shryok
LIBRARIAN Bonnie Winchester
MAILING COMMITTEE Karen Haworth
PUBLICITY COMMITTEE
Ruth Boyd & Betty Culpepper

WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP
Larry Magrath & Joanne Orr

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE
Patricia Folley, Connie Taylor, Sheila Strawn & Paul Buck

Editor, *The Gaillardia* Chad Cox

SERVICE AWARD WINNER

Dr. Paul Buck is the very deserving 2001 winner of the Service Award. After Sue Amstutz finished reading off all his contributions to ONPS someone suggested that he stand at the door where we could all kiss his ring when leaving.

ANNE LONG AWARD WINNER

Sue Amstutz was presented with the Anne Long Award for her contributions to ONPS, especially her years of photo poster distribution across the state. Dale was also recognized for driving Sue to many of the sites where the posters are on display.

HARRIET BARCLAY AWARDS

Every year a group of exciting and science oriented youngsters exhibit their research at the State Science Fair. In conjunction with the Fair, the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science sponsors research paper presentations. The ONPS currently awards an outstanding Senior High Presentation and outstanding Junior High (Middle School) presentation. The awards are given from the Harriet Barclay Award Fund.

The Senior High Award went to John Story II, of McLoud High School. Title of his research was "Pleopleltis polypodioides (L.) E. B. Anderews & Windham" This is a tree fern found in Southeastern Oklahoma. During dry weather, this epiphyte shrivels up and looks dead, but rain quickly revives it. John is a student of Dr. Bruce Smith, whose students are frequent winners of the ONPS Senior High Award.

The Junior High (Middle School) Award went to Brandon Fimple, a student in Ewing Halsell Middle School in Vinita Public Schools. His paper is entitled "Battle of the Space Invaders: the Science of Allelopathy". Allelopathy is a study of how bacteria and fungi inhibit the germination or growth of flowering plants by secretion of toxic chemicals into the soil.

OJAS chooses several of the better written papers to publish on the web. Simply do a search for the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science to see their Web Page and learn more about the activities of many bright young Oklahomans.

BOTONY BAY

Paul Buck

CROSS TIMBERS

Here we are again. Settled down at the picnic table out back, with a cup of hot coffee and enjoying a variety of native Oklahoma wildflowers. Thank you Loretta Bowers and Pat Folley.

In January, under the leadership of Ron Tyrl, the Cross-Timbers Chapter visited a native Cross Timbers habitat near Lake Keystone. I was fortunate to be able to join them. I'm sorry every member of the organization could not have been there, It was another of our interesting and informative field trips.

The site visited is one known to many ONPS members, the Frank Tract just north of the Keystone Expressway (highways 4 12/64) and on the east side of the Cimarron River. The site is a steep west facing bluff overlooking the river and has recently been used for grazing. It also shows evidence of oil exploration and extraction.

The vegetation is typical of such Cross Timbers, consisting primarily of Quercus stellata (post oak), Q. marilandica (blackjack oak), Carya spp. (hickories) and Juniperus virginiana (Eastern red cedar). Protected through the years from major impacts of humans, many of the post oaks along the top of the bluff and red cedars on the slope are mature, even called ancient by some workers. We have heard of this area from Dr. David Stahie of the Tree-Ring Laboratory at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Stahle has cored numerous specimens at the site and reports some of the post oaks as 400+ years old and the red cedars as seedlings about 1500, shortly after Columbus arrived in the New World.

Once on the bluff high above the lake we could look to the west bank and locate the small inlet the Corps of Engineers has named Washington Irving Cove. Prior to impoundment it was called Bear's Glen and was a favorite field trip site for University of Tulsa botany classes. It was here Washington Irving and his group spent the stressful night of October 15, 1832 (I encourage you to read, or reread, Irving's 'A Tour on the Prairies'). Just what do you think was the origin of the term Cross Timbers? No doubt there would be a variety of definitions and I suspect no one has a completely acceptable one.

I recall my first introduction to the term was as an undergraduate in one of Harriet Barclay's plant ecology courses. The author of one of our assigned readings suggested the term was initially applied by westbound migrants in reference to the unexpected band of dense vegetation, in locations virtually impenetrable with oxen and wagons. Comments of ONPS member Bruce Hoagland of the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory support that idea. Bruce describes the band as '...from five to several miles in width...' and '.. .extending from southeastern Kansas through central Oklahoma and into Texas.' Clearly a physical barrier to westward pioneers.

Another suggestion is the term originated with the early use of post oak for railroad crossties (perhaps a reader can tell us where and when). Some even propose the shape of the leaves of post oak, sometimes called cross oak, as the origin. Look at the leaf. It is lobed with the primary lobes on each side giving it a cross-like shape. I've given you several possible sources for the term Cross Timbers. Take your choice or come up with another.

What of the environmental factors that produce Cross Timbers habitat? We know that Oklahoma encompasses a portion of the ecotone, or boundary, between the Eastern Deciduous Forest and the Grasslands, which extend to the Rockies. That boundary is not clear cut but ragged with eastern woodland species occurring westward along river valleys and on sandstone ridges while native prairies often project to the east where geology and soil types are favorable. The overlap is significant. Walk the bottomland forests of Boiling Springs State Park in Woodward County of western Oklahoma and you will find abundant Menispermum canadensis (moonseed), a common vine of the deciduous forests ranging from Virginia and Georgia to the west. On the other hand visit the untouched native prairies (if any can be found) of our northeastern-most county, Ottawa, and notice the absence of woody species and the presence of grasses, many of which are common across the state.

Cross Timbers occur naturally where just a bit more moisture is available, enough to support woody vegetation rather than grasses. In that part of Oklahoma where the forests yield to grasslands soils derived from sandstone provide enough available water to support trees while limestone derived soil has less, but enough for grasses. The next time you travel highway 75 between Tulsa and Bartlesville consider the vegetation. To the west is the beautiful upland forest of the Osage country, virtually a solid stand of oak-hickory. To the east is the prairie typical of the Collinsville-Oologah-Talala region. The former is primarily on sandstone and the latter limestone. Of course the effects of fire through the years have forced these contacts back and forth

The Cross Timbers sites have been significantly altered by human intervention. In some cases vegetational associations are being modified by overzealous fire suppression, occasionally permitting invasion by Rhus spp. (sumac), Cornus drummondii (roughleafed dogwood) and Diospyros virginiana (persimmon). Trees have been cleared in areas without large boulders near the surface converting the land to agriculture or grazing. Areas on rocky bluffs such as the Frank tract are impacted less by fire since they are subjected to grazing and the fuel base has been reduced.

It is simple to visit both types of Cross-Timbers. The steep, rocky bluff of the Frank tract will let you relive some of the difficulties experienced by the Irving group in 1832. To see the dense '.. . forests of cast iron...' described by Irving in the Keystone area but since eliminated, I suggest a visit to the Western Wall Primitive Area of the Osage Wildlife Management Area west of Bigheart in Osage County. ONPS groups have visited both but contact your Field Trip Chairs. if you want to go again.

ℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓℓ

THE PRAIRIE STATE

By Neil Diboll

Concluding part of this article selected by Susan Chambers and reprinted here with permission, *American Nurseryman*, April 15, 2001, Vol. 193, No. 8. is continued from the Autumn *Gaillardia*.

When it comes to planting prairie seed, it can be done with a variety of methods. A no-till seeder can be used for multiacre plantings, as can a broadcast seeder. Seed can also be hand-broadcasted for small areas of 1 acre or less. No-till plantings minimize soil disturbance and typically produce fewer weeds.

Brillion seeders, manufactured by Brillion Iron Works in Brillion, WI, require soil tillage prior to planting but provide excellent seed-to-soil contact. Put fluffy prairie grass seed in the larger forward seedbox. Nonfluffy, small flower seeds can be placed in the rear legume box. An annual rye nurse crop can be premixed and loaded with the grass seed.

Erosion-prone sites should be planted with a nurse crop and covered with a weed-free straw mulch to prevent seed and soil loss. Winter wheat is the best choice because it has the lowest amount of weed seed associated with it. Furthermore, winter wheat is planted in fall when few weeds germinate. Spring-seeded nurse crops that produce straw as a byproduct, such as oats, typically have much higher weed densities.

Additionally, steep slopes and areas subject to water flow should be protected with erosion blankets selected to match the expected water volumes and velocities. Fall planting on erosion-prone sites should be completed by Sept. 15 in order to encourage sufficient growth of nurse crops to stabilize the soil.

Hydroseeding is *not* recommended. Native wildflowers and prairie grasses require firm contact with the soil for good germination. Attempts to establish prairie meadows using hydroseeding have typically ended in poor results.

POST-PLANTING MANAGEMENT. Although prairies are typically low maintenance, they are not "no maintenance." However, a few simple procedures are all that is usually required to maintain a beautiful prairie meadow. During the first two years, annual and biennial weeds grow much faster than the slow-growing perennial native plants. But by the third year, wildflowers and grasses should begin to win out over the weeds. Many flowers and grasses mature in their third growing season.

Patience is a virtue with prairie establishment. In the first year, the slow-growing prairie seedlings reach only a few inches tall. Weeds should be kept mowed to a height of *4* inches to 6 inches. Do not wait to mow until weeds are taller than 1 foot, as the mowed material will smother the small prairie seedlings. Never mow when the soil or plants are wet. Use a flail-type mower if possible because it shreds vegetation and prevents clumping, as often occurs with rotary mowers. On small plantings, string trimmers are excellent for keeping weeds mowed back. Expect to mow three times during the first year.

Also beware of pulling weeds during the first year. The small prairie seedlings are easily disturbed and are often pulled up along with weeds. If you can distinguish the prairie seedlings from the weed seedlings, you can pull weeds when they are young. However, be careful not to disturb the young prairie plants during the critical first growing season. Annual weeds seldom present a problem to the long-term health of the prairie when kept under control using mowing in the first year. However, it can be worthwhile to pull perennial weeds as they germinate, provided you can tell them apart from the native plant seedlings. Unfortunately, on large areas, this is not an efficient weed-management technique.

Throughout the second year, annual weeds continue to be abundant, and biennial weeds likely appear as well. These may include such common biennials as sweet clover, burdock, wild parsnip and Queen Anne's lace. The young prairie plants grow taller during their second year than their first, so weeds can be mowed to a height of about 1 foot in the second growing season.

Biennial weeds should be mowed when in full bloom but before setting seed, which is usually in mid- to late June. This helps break the cycle of biennial weeds by preventing seed formation. Two mowings may be required in the second year. Mow biennial weeds when they bloom. At this point, most problem biennial weeds are 3 feet to 6 feet tall. They should be mowed to a height of 1 foot, leaving the stems. It is not uncommon for more biennial weeds to appear during the third and fourth years from dormant seed left in the soil. These plants will have to be pulled or cut back before setting seed on a case-by-case basis.

If problem perennial weeds appear, they must be controlled immediately before they have an opportunity to become established. Young perennial weeds often can be carefully pulled during the second growing season since the native plants are better established. Be careful not to disturb any adjacent prairie plants, however.

Rhizomatous weeds such as Canada thistle and Canada goldenrod can be hand-treated with herbicide using a cotton glove placed on the outside of a protective rubber glove. Soak the cotton glove in an herbicide such as Roundup and apply to the leaves and stems of the weed without touching adjacent prairie plants. This is best done on a calm, cool day so the herbicide does not volatilize and drift onto nearby flowers. Never spray weeds in a prairie. The drift from the spray can kill large patches of desirable plants. Once the prairie plants are dead, weeds can move into these open areas, changing your beautiful prairie back into a weed patch.

The secret to success with prairie meadows is to establish native plants across the entire area so they colonize the soil completely. Once the prairie sod is established, usually by the fourth or fifth year, there should be no openings for weeds to invade. So let the prairie plants do the work for you.

At the beginning of the third season, the young prairie meadow should be burned off in midspring. If burning is not possible due to local restrictions or lack of dead grass to carry a fire, the planting can be mowed closely to the ground. The mowed material should be removed from the site to expose the soil directly to the warming rays of the sun. Exposing the soil surface by burning or mowing and raking helps encourage rapid soil warming in the spring. This favors the native warm-season prairie plants over cool-season weeds such as quack grass. The best time to burn or mow is when the buds of sugar maples are just breaking open in spring. Most prairie plants are still dormant or just beginning to grow and are unharmed by burning or mowing. However, cool-season weeds are actively growing at this time and are significantly damaged. The advantage goes to the prairie plants.

Establishing a native prairie meadow is not a simple process. However, a prairie lives on year after year and serves as a living legacy of the person who plants it. The intrinsic natural beauty, ecological value and significant maintenance savings make prairie meadows an attractive landscape option.

By carefully following the five steps outlined in this article, anybody can create a breathtaking prairie

meadow. There is no mystery or luck involved. Simply follow these procedures, complete each step carefully and *never* rush the process. All too often, people don't want to take the time to do it right. But remember, it is always cheaper — and better — to do it right the first time around.

Neil Diboll is president of Prairie Nursery Inc. in Westfield, WI. The company can be reached at (800) 476-9453 or at www.prairienursery.com.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Pat Folley

An article clipped from the Utne Reader for May-June 2000 has been lying on my desk, waiting until time permitted "doing something" with it. While I can't quote the whole article here, some of the statistics will perhaps give us ammunition for an argument that we can win:

The story line involves an organization called "Tree People" in Los Angeles. Begun in 1968 by a 15-year-old boy named Andy Lipkis, Tree People has, with the cooperation of local leaders, been responsible for training 700 volunteers, who care for 1800 trees in communities and on school campuses. They started by arming themselves with the facts.

Fact 1 is that the demand for electricity in Los Angeles rises 2 percent for every degree in rise of the maximum daily temperature. That costs local governments and citizens over $100,000 per year (before the recent rise in cost of electricity). Tree People began a campaign to get people to plant more trees, *care for the trees during their critical first few years*, and clear the heat-building asphalt pavement used on school grounds in favor of green ground-covers.

They built little groups of Citizen Foresters who were responsible for planting just 25 trees in their own neighborhoods. Tree People volunteers went door-to-door to raise the $100 per tree cost of planting. Scout groups, who earn merit badges for conservation work, were enlisted to help. In the first neighborhood selected, 60 of 62 households participated in the plan. Later, they gathered on the lawn of the local organizer for a potluck dinner. Planting the trees gave those neighbors more interest in their neighborhood and in each other.

A related program was called "Cool Schools". Using the same local, everybody-helps approach, one school planted 250 trees. The 100 parents, teachers and kids who participated were not overwhelmed by that amount of work, and the result is a cooler, more attractive school, lush green play-spaces, and reduced exposure to direct sunlight. Since that school had had a problem with flooding, the trees were placed to absorb floodwaters, too. Now, the effort has resulted in removal of 20 million square feet of asphalt with trees and other plants. The school building is being retrofitted to be even more energy-efficient.

Tree People and the Citizen Foresters are now planning to retrofit an entire watershed with conservation plantings. They have the interest and confidence of the community and a proven program to take to nearby cities which have shown an interest. Says Tree People's Jim Summers "There's not much one school, one community, or even one city can do to stop global warming by itself, but we can make our little corner of the world healthier and hope other cities will follow." See website at www.eren.doe.gov /consumerinfo/energy_savers/Landscaping.html.

P.S. I thought a lot about this article last Sunday, when I was privileged to witness an Eagle Court ceremony honoring four new Eagle Scouts, all of whom had done conservation projects as part of their qualification. Does ONPS possess the expertise to act in an advisory capacity for such an effort in Oklahoma?

LAWNS

Suggested by Mary Korthase

GOD: St. Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the USA? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it, sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, sir -- just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stoke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You'd better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber," Lord. It's a real stupid movie about ...

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

Editor's note: I have seen this as attachments to emails several times with no attributes to anyone. It is published here with the assumption that it is not copyrighted.

2001 ANNUAL MEETING

Pat Folley

On Friday, October 19, 2001, the joint meeting of four Oklahoma conservation organizations convened in the Watkins Center on the OSU campus, one of the primary purposes being to examine the changing ecology of Oklahoma. Various activities were held throughout the day, including registration, presentations of technical papers, business meetings of the Oklahoma Wildlife Society and Oklahoma Society for Range Management, barbecue dinner buffet, lectures, and Oklahoma Ornithological Society (OOS) Board Meeting. Approximately 75 ONPS members and guests had registered for the Annual Joint Meeting.

Saturday, October 20 morning activities began with a birding trip at 7:15 a.m. led by members of Oklahoma Ornithological Society, followed by a field trip to a prairie restoration site in Payne County. Botanizing efforts produced at least one orchid: Spiranthes magnicamporum, one of the white ladies' tresses. This species is very fragrant.

After lunch, members boarded two commercial buses for another field trip to Horse Thief Canyon, a landmark along the south side of the Cimarron River. Located on the northern edge of the former Iowa Indian Reservation established in 1883, it is currently midway between the towns of Perkins and Coyle and privately owned. Hikers divided into three groups, with botanists Paul Buck, Connie Taylor and Ron Tyrl as leaders, to descend 50 ft. into the V-shaped canyon carved by tributary waters through the red shale clay bluffs

That evening, both ONPS and OOS conducted business meetings which followed their respective banquets held in the Student Union. Following the business meetings, the groups proceeded to one of the lecture rooms in the Student Union. Douglas Hale, Professor Emeritus of History, OSU, and storyteller extraordinaire, presented a lecture, "Ferdinand Lindheimer: Father of Texas Botany." Motivated by the State of Texas' bicentennial anniversary celebration of Lindheimer's arrival in Texas, Hale presented a biographical outline of chain of events in Lindheimer's personal life and career that led him, as a disillusioned college student and advocate of American-style liberty-

unity, away from Frankfurt on the Rhine in the early 1830s during a time of attempted revolution fueled by attempts for German unification, to St. Louis, to Veracruz, Mexico, and finally to Texas. Hale's vivid portrayal of Lindheimer's long journey and his many professions as teacher, soldier, editor, and wilderness guide before finally achieving his life-long dream of working as a botanist, quickly transformed the audience into transfixed listeners with a story that was as entertaining as it was informative. One of the many surprising sidelines to the notable botanist's achievements was his scouting for suitable land for approximately 7,500 German settlers who migrated to Texas, where land was plentiful and scarcely populated, following its war with Mexico. Today, the Texas Hill Country with its towns such as Fredericksburg and New Braunfels (where Lindheimer became editor of the first newspaper published in the German language in Texas and where his home is preserved as a museum) are a legacy to this phase in his career.

Hale's remarks were taken from one section of a biography he has written about the Texas botanist whom he considers to be a unique and versatile man, because he possessed the rare capabilities requisite for an objective, analytical researcher, while also exemplifying spiritual and aesthetic characteristics. The book is under review for publication by the University of Oklahoma Press at the current time.

A question and answer session followed the lecture which concluded the day's scheduled events.

On Sunday, the last scheduled event of the Joint Annual Meeting was a birding trip to Sooner Lake led by members of OOS. Participants gathered at the Watkins center parking lot at 7:15 a.m. and returned approximately at noon. All officers and board members of ONPS gathered in the Botany building on the OSU campus for a business session and to introduce the new members.

INDOOR OUTING

The winter Indoor Outing for 2002 will be held at the University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, on February 9. This year's meeting will feature some of our "lower" plant friends as well as fungi. The area of botany that includes fungi, lichens and mosses is often referred to as Cryptogamic Botany. "Crypt" from the Greek means hidden or concealed, denoting the relatively small size of these organisms. Clark Ovrebo from UCO and perhaps another speaker or two will speak on fungi, and Sue McAlister from OSU will lead a discussion on mosses. We will also hold an organizational meeting for a Mycological Chapter of ONPS. If there is enough interest we will begin the necessary steps to form a chapter. The chapter would be devoted to the appreciation and study of the mushroom-type fungi of Oklahoma.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NE Chapter
Jim Elder

The Northeast chapter has had an active year. We have started a monthly happy hour, meeting on the 3rd Friday of the month. This has been very successful, especially in planning outings and other activities. During the year we have had outings to Pontotoc Ridge, one of the best wildflower sites in the state, The Tall Grass Prairie preserve near Pawhuska, Cross-Timbers oldgrowth near lake Keystone, Charles Lewallen's back roads trip near Henryetta, Natural Falls state park and the surrounding area, Rocky Ford Park, an orchid trip in southeast Oklahoma to see the Yellow Fringed Orchid, and the Prairie State Park in Missouri to see the Downy Gentian. Other outings scheduled for the remaining year include another trip to the Cross-Timbers old growth area near Lake Keystone and a fall foliage loop through eastern Oklahoma and northwest Arkansas.

Our quarterly meetings at the Tulsa Garden Center continue to be a success. Each one started with a potluck dinner followed by a program. We have had some excellent speakers this year they have included a program on Fungi of Oklahoma by Dr. Esteile Levetin from the University of Tulsa, a program by Charles Lewallen on his digital wildflower photos, and a program by Donna Horton, Oxley Nature Center, on Native Plants and Butterflies. Pat Folley, President of ONPS, wiil present a program on plant families at our next meeting in December. Other meeting activities have included giving away door prizes and offering ONPS articles, shirts, cups, etc. for sale.

The group continues to receive emails, letters, and phone calls from area citizens wanting to know more about growing native plants. We are fortunate to have many knowledgeable members to help answer these questions.

The chapter has also been active in helping a group in Bartlesville preserve a section of natural prairie near one of the city parks. Several Tulsa ONPS

members conducted a research trip to this area and produced a species list and a report with our recommendations.

Central Chapter
Judy Jordan

The Central Chapter has scheduled three regular meetings for September, October, and November of 2001. We have also scheduled an "Eagle Watch" field trip for January 12, 2001.

September 24, 2001. The first regular meeting of the fall was held in the President's Suite of the Student Center at the Oklahoma City OSU campus. A program on "Winter Care of Bluebirds" was presented by Terry Fisher who for many years has experimented with providing habitat, food, and appropriate "houses" for bluebirds. He showed several models of successful bluebird houses, and discussed the planting of native plants for winter food.

October 29, 2001. The October regular meeting was also held at the Student Center of the OKC OSU campus. Dr. Deborah Dalton, Landscape Architect and Professor of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma presented a slide programs on "Incorporating Native Plants into the Modern Landscape." Living in a suburban neighborhood bordering on lands still in pasture and prairie, she derived her inspiration for landscaping her own property from the colors and textures of the adjacent prairie. She has installed a buffalo grass lawn in her front yard, along with beds for shrubs and perennials. In back she utilized a variety of native grasses such as little bluestem, blue grama, and Indian grass both in beds and interspersed in "planting holes" within her patio area.

November 26, 2001. The November meeting will be held in the same place, and will be presented by wildlife biologist, Mark Howery, of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Mark will speak on "What is the Wildlife Diversity Program and Why Do I Need to Know About It?" We are grateful to Mark for agreeing on short notice to talk to our group on this very timely subject. We hope that Frank Carl, originally scheduled for November, will be able to present his outstanding slide program on butterflies at one of our spring meetings. Officers will be elected at this meeting, and the names of the new officers will be announced in the next Gaillardia.

January 12, 2002. Susan and Wayne Chambers have arranged an "Eagle Watch" Field trip for Saturday, January 12. Participant are to meet at 1pm at the Nature Center at the Clear Bay area of Lake Thunderbird. Julie Tarver, Park Naturalist, will present the program and lead the tour. All members of ONPS are invited and we hope for good weather and successful sightings of bald eagles on that day.

There will be no regular meetings in December or January.

Cross-Timbers Chapter
Ron Tyrl

The chapter continues its schedule of field trips and potlucks. On Saturday afternoon, June 2, approximately 20 members and their guests visited the Manning Prairie near Cushing for a two-hour foray. Once again this floristically exciting prairie did not disappoint its visitors! For those who had visited during the 1999 Wildflower Workshop, many botanical acquaintances were seen again. The appearance of the prairie, however, was quite different from two years ago because of changes in the relative abundance of some species and the appearance of additional taxa. *Echinacea pallida*, pale purple coneflower; *Amorpha canescens*, leadplant; *Polytaenia nuttallii*, prairie parsley; and *Psoralea tenuiflora*, few-flowered scurf-pea, dominated the landscape. Especially brilliant in color, *Gaillardia pulchella*, Indian blanket, once again carpeted the ground along the northern edge of the prairie. Also in abundance, but hidden among the grasses, were *Krameria lanceolata*, prairie bur, and *Polygala incarnata*, pink milkwort. With the aid of a hand lens, participants were able to appreciate and enjoy the beauty of numerous flowering grasses and sedges such as *Coelorachis cylindrica*, rattail grass; *Panicum sphaerocarpon*, roundseed panicum; *Eleocharis* sp., spikerush; and *Fimbristylis* sp., fimbry. A special thanks once again to Carla and Joe Manning for their willingness to allow ONPS members to enjoy their prairie.

Undeterred by a misting rain, 15 chapter members and their guests searched for fall wildflowers at the Sanborn Lake prairie hidden in the center of Stillwater on Saturday, September 15th. Although moisture on their hand lenses made it troublesome to count lemma nerves or determine spikelet compression, the group became acquainted with the beauty of the dominant grasses present, including *Andropogon gerardii*, big bluestem; *Schizachyrium scoparium*, little bluestem; *Sorghastrum nutans*, Indiangrass; and *Panicum virgatum*, switchgrass. Fall composites were in

abundance and included: *Helianthus maximiliani*, Maximillian sunflower; *H. mollis*, ashy sunflower; *H. annuus*, annual sunflower; *Liatris aspera*, tall gayfeather; *L. punctata*, dotted gayfeather; *Solidago canadensis*, Canada goldenrod; *S. missouriensis*, Missouri goldenrod; *S. rigida*, stiff-leaf goldenrod; and *Aster ericoides*, heath aster. Members also became acquainted with the troublesome species of *Ambrosia*, the ragweeds. Upon reaching saturation points in both knowledge and moisture, participants luckily returned to their cars just before a downpour commenced.

As many of you know, in October the chapter hosted the annual meeting of the society in Stillwater. A description of the meeting activities appears elsewhere in this issue of the *Gaillardia*. Special recognition and thanks are due members Paula Shryock, Adam Ryburn, Lynda Tyrl, Elaine and Mike Lynch, and Kay Gafford for their helping with the organizational details of the meeting. Thanks also are extended to field trip leaders Sam Fuhlendorf, Mark Mosley, Bob Gillen, Paul Buck and Connie Taylor for sharing their expertise with trip participants.

On Friday evening, November 9, approximately 25 chapter members and guests gathered in one of the laboratories of the OSU Department of Botany for a potluck dinner and slide presentation. Once again, their ability to cook delicious and unusual dishes was in abundant evidence. Carla and Dale Chlouber treated the group to a wonderful tasting desert of *Diospyros virginiana* and *Carya illinoensis* (native persimmon and pecan bread). Following dinner, Dr. Becky Johnson, Professor and Head of Botany at OSU, presented her ethnobotanical research on the use of *Tephrosia virginiana*, goat's rue, by Native Americans to catch fish.

The chapter's next activity on Saturday, January 19 will be a tour of the Cross Timbers Exhibit now housed in The Washington Irving Trail Museum near Mehan. Curators Carla and Dale Chlouber will host. A potluck dinner and presentation is scheduled for Friday, March 15. On Saturday, April 27, members will be in the field again.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Clinton & Beverly Dutcher, Tulsa
Lennie Ann Foster, Oklahoma City
Gloria A. Longino, Yukon
Merrily Schwartz, Tulsa
Suzanne Spears, Coyle
Joe Vaughan, Edmond, OK
Dr. Hal A. & Mary Jo Yocum, Edmond

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 & Tina Julich
Treasurer	Mary Korthase
Historian	OPEN

Boardmembers-at-Large
2002: Sue Amstutz and Jim Elder
2003: Paul Reimer and Larry Magrath
2004: Paul Buck & Constance Murray

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

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.

Members who wish to receive information by e-mail from ONPS may send their on-line address to 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

YOUR 2002 DUES ARE DUE NOW!

SEE FORM ON PAGE 11