



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

**Volume 18, Number 3
Autumn 2003**

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Insert: Annual Meeting Registration Form

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FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 November 2003**

Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

CALENDAR

Note: the events dated below are followed by either a page number for further descriptions or the contact person.

September 8: NE Chapter Meeting at Tulsa Garden Center, Pot luck at 6:00 p.m. Program at 7:15 - Suzanne McAlister, OSU. Contact: Constance Murray at cmurray@tulsa.cc.ok.us or (918) 664-2896.

September 19: , NE Happy Hour - Panera , 5601 E. 41st St., 5:30 p.m. Contact: Constance Murray

September 19-21: Oklahoma Academy of Science (OAS) Fall Field Meeting. Boiling Springs State Park. Field Trips all day Saturday Contact: Constance Murray

September 29: Central Chapter Meeting, campus of OSU-OKC, Leonard Ketchum will present *Native Grasses and the Birds That Make Them Their Home*. Page 9

October 4: NE Field Trip to Deep Fork Wildlife Refuge (near Henryetta). Meet at Tulsa Garden Center at 6:00 a.m. Charles Lewallen will lead the trip. Contact Charles Lewallen, granylil@mmind.net or (918) 652-3003.

October 17: NE Happy Hour at Panera , 5601 E. 41st St., 5:30 p.m. Contact: Constance Murray

October 24-26: Annual Meeting - OU Biological Station on Lake Texoma Contact Jim Elder, jfeok@aol.com or (918)747-0735.

October 27: Central Chapter. Kim Shannon will describe the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory. Page 9

November 24: Central Chapter, David Walker, OKC Zoo staff member, will give a program on native reptiles and amphibians. Page 9

December 7: Winter Board Meeting, Office of Biological Survey, OU campus, 10 AM.

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

ONPS THANKS THESE SPECIAL FUND DONATORS

Anne W. Long Fund

Larry Magrath

Harriet G. Barclay Fund

David Phillips

Larry Magrath

Color OK Fund on Page 7

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

It is almost time for our annual fall gathering. This years meeting will be held at the OU Biological Station at Lake Texoma on the weekend of October 24-26. Again we have the opportunity for great field trips, renewed acquaintances, education, good food, and, of course, cool autumn temperatures. Speaking of food, the station has a modern up-to-date kitchen and cafeteria with great menu selections. A registration flyer is included in the newsletter.

This area of Oklahoma and North Central Texas is an interesting mixture of prairie, cross-timbers, lakes, and riparian habitats. Recently, I returned from a trip to San Antonio, flying in and out of the Dallas area. From the air, the growth of Dallas is astonishing. Much of the area's prairie and cross-timbers habitats are being converted to suburbs and highways. Other communities in North Texas and South Central Oklahoma are also growing. Many individuals and organizations, both private and professional, have been active in trying to catalogue and preserve some of the regions biodiversity. The OU biological station and Austin College in Sherman, Texas have been two of the prominent players. Our speaker at Saturday's awards dinner will be Hugh Garnett from Austin College, who has been instrumental in restoring a local prairie habitat.

Your attendance at the annual meeting, will not only provide you with the benefits as previously mentioned, but will be our way showing appreciation to all of those who have worked for many years for Oklahoma and Texas biodiversity.

Hope to see you all there – remember good food and cooler weather!

Happy trails.

Jim Elder

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

At the Annual Meeting will be voting in our new officers. The Nomination Committee headed by Paula Shryock have concluded their deliberations and give us their list of candidates.

Proposed Slate of Officers – 2003-2004

President: Jim Elder

Vice President: Connie Murray

Secretary: Kim Shannon & Tina Julich

Treasurer: Mary Korthase

Historian: Carla & Dale Chlouber

Directors-at-Large:

Monica Macklin

Stan Rice

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## BOTANY BAY

Paul Buck

Native or Exotic?

In the 2002 Winter Botany Bay contribution I considered the origin and meaning of the plant name, wort. A member of the Society with a keen eye spotted an error and kindly pointed it out. Thank you, Roger Horn.

I listed a number of Oklahoma plants and called them 'native.' That was a thoughtless error. I should have said 'common' since many have been introduced. One example from the list is mullein (*Verbascum thapsis*). This species is common over much of North America but is not native. Roger recalls Dr. George Goodman making that point in a field botany class years ago. The plant was introduced from the Mediterranean region and the specific epithet, *thapsis*, refers to an ancient town on the Tunisian coast.

What is a native plant and how can you and I separate it from an introduced one? By definition a native species is one indigenous to a specific region and if restricted to that area is termed endemic. A native plant endemic to Oklahoma is *Echinocereus baileyi*, Wichita Pincushion, restricted to our Wichita Mountain system. An introduced species is one brought into an area and then becoming established. A classic example is the introduction of kudzu into North America to serve as a soil stabilizer. Some introduced plants are unable to survive in a new environment, perhaps due to climate, soils, predators, pathogens, the inability to out compete the native flora, etc. If it is successful it is considered naturalized and sometimes referred to as an exotic.

It is often difficult to ascertain if a given plant is native or introduced. Most of us would have to refer to a flora or manual containing detailed species descriptions. For example, the aforementioned mullein is included in the Illustrated Flora of North Texas by Diggs,



Lipscomb and O'Kennon (1999) and reported to be a 'native of Europe.' Gray's Manual of Botany, (1950) notes it is 'naturalized from Europe.'

The question of how and why a given species was brought to North America raises additional questions. First, was the introduction accidental or purposeful? For this discussion let us consider accidental introductions to be either natural or homogenic (homo = primate genus including modern man: -genic = suffix meaning producing). Accidental introductions are those which can result from wind or water currents or transport of fruit or seeds in the feathers of a bird or in the digestive tract of a creature and subsequently excreted far from its origin. Obviously such introductions are seldom documented.

Let us separate the unintentional homogenic introductions from the purposeful ones. Most recent purposeful introductions can be easily documented since they involve a species brought to the New World for a specific reason such as food (Carrot, *Daucus carota* and Turnip, *Brassica rapa*), medicine (St. John's Wort, *Hypericum perforatum* and Licorice, *Glycyrrhiza lepidota*), gardens and landscaping (Deptford Pink, *Dianthus armeria* and Star-of-Bethlehem, *Ornithogalum umbellatum*), economic value (Hemp, *Cannabis sativa* and Alfalfa, *Medicago sativa*) or perhaps sentimental and/or ritual use (Opium Poppy, *Papaver somniferum* and Jimsonweed, *Datura stramonium*). We are familiar with food plants brought over to the New World. A few are apples, dates, grapes, olives, lettuce, oats, coffee and okra.

Many unintentional homogenic introductions are speculative since little is known of the migrations of early man. These introductions are rarely noticed unless they produce an economic problem, cause a disease, serve as a pathogen vector or displace native biota and are perceived an invasive threat. No doubt each of us can think of an introduced organism fitting this category. Two examples are; the accidentally introduced Zebra mussel which is producing significant economic loss as it blocks intake pipes for hydroelectric generation and to domestic water purification facilities. Only recently the local paper voiced concern regarding the animal's adhering to boat hulls and producing significant drag. The second is the Asian Zebra mosquito and its role as a vector for the West Nile Virus.

Although many mechanisms for introduction exist one can never be quite certain what pathway was taken by many introduced species. For example, Shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*) is reported by Correll and Johnston in their Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas as an introduction. They indicate about five species of *Capsella* are native to Europe but we have no idea how or when that common weed arrived in North America

Several years ago I read an article appearing in an archaeology publication in which the authors were suggesting approaches by which Old World plant species were introduced into the New World. I suspect you and I would propose many of the same routes but then we would be obligated to gather evidence to support our hypotheses. The authors did just that. Hypotheses of this type are difficult to defend since we do not have the tools to trace a given species into the distant past (H.G. Wells' Time Machine does not exist). Look about you, many cases, legal and scientific, have been developed on the basis of circumstantial evidence.

The primary thrust of the published work was the migration of Europeans to Central and South America in the early 1500s. The authors examined muster lists (documenting individuals and possessions) and surmised paths of possible seed transport. They suggested the heavy ballast of rock, stone and soil, meant to stabilize the ship was contaminated with seed and fruit, that seed or fruit adhered to the hair of animals such as horses, cattle, goats and sheep, seeds for food or crops contained weed seed, they may have been held in an herbivore intestine for some time or even entangled in serapes, blankets or clothing. Goat Head (*Tribulus terrestris*) is from the Mediterranean region and may have reached the New World via one of these routes.

In the early 1500s the conquistadors traveled from the Incan Empire of Peru northwest into North America. I suspect they intentionally introduced European species as food or medicine and even brought some species along as a bit of home in the new world.

But that is enough for now. We are running out of time and space. My apologies for the earlier goof. However, it did provide the opportunity to raise interesting botanical questions. Which of our plant species have been introduced? From what location? When? How?



## Myrmemcochory Sequel:

Some readers will recall the Botany Bay article appearing in the Autumn 1999 issue of the *Gaillardia*. In it I reported an example of myrmemcochory occurring that spring. The dense mass of *Lamium amplexicaule* described at the base of a porch support pillar completed its life cycle and for some reason the colony of ants moved on leaving behind a trail of black footprints on the concrete and a small dark opening at the base of the pillar. Now, the next episode.

The *Lamium* was replaced the following year by another interesting organism. One day I noticed a darkening of the painted wood surface around the ant entrance hole. In a few days the discolored area erupted into a beautiful miniature forest of *Stemonitis* fruiting bodies releasing clouds of spores. Apparently the ants unintentionally inoculated their nest with *Stemonitis*. Perhaps a spore adhering to the body of a resident or to a seed or an elaiosome.



*Stemonitis*, a common Oklahoma slime mold apparently found the ant nest environment favorable. It immediately began ravaging the pillar base until the withering, wrinkling and splitting of the wood became obvious. It was also evident the pillar would have to be replaced. As that task progressed it was discovered significant destruction of much of the wood had taken place.

Although the repair has been completed, I suspect numerous spores remain in the pillar base but perhaps the use of an anti-fungal paint and sealing the openings with caulk will keep the organism in check. If not, I'll keep you up to date on the saga.

The 1999 Botany Bay closed with comments on the unusual botanical phenomena in our yards. My last words were: 'There are numerous other unique events and relationships out there. Start looking for them.' I was correct.

## Orchids in Precarious Places

By Kim Shannon

In preparation for the recent filming of an Oklahoma Gardening segment featuring Oklahoma's native orchids, I made many phone calls to landowners for permission to both access their property and to film on site. During one particular series of phone calls, it was brought to my attention that the landowner was in the process of selling a site where many orchid species and other rare state plants are found. Because the site is relatively small, this very large landowner, Weyerhaeuser, had been communicating with a developer for the past year.

Weyerhaeuser has been aware that rare plants occur on some of their forest lands in Oklahoma and other states. They are currently working to define and protect *globally* rare species on many of their properties via their Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI). Roger Griffin of Weyerhaeuser recently told me that "We first started this program with the transfer of information from organizations like the Oklahoma Biological Survey and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission to inventory the locations of the "Critically Imperiled" or "Imperiled" G1 or G2 species or communities that are located on Weyerhaeuser forest lands. The next steps include surveying sites to determine if the species or communities contain viable populations and what protection measures are needed in our protection plans". Roger added that, "One of the things that I have learned in this process is that there are a lot more undocumented locations of rare species than documented ones and by networking with other interested parties we will develop synergies to enhance all".

Meanwhile the *state* (S1/S2) rare plants that occur on Weyerhaeuser's property in northern McCurtain County were not being tracked by Weyerhaeuser because while they are rare to Oklahoma, they are not rare and are even abundant in other states. So, I forwarded information about the site to an area biologist and Roger Griffin. At the same time I also obtained permission to access the site and film the plants.

On the afternoon of the filming, the area ODWC biologist working with Weyerhaeuser met our group at the site in northern McCurtain County. While he knew there were a variety of rare plant species on the site, he was eager to see the orchids. Once we all assembled and the film crew geared up



we headed into the woods. We stepped over Partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*) and around Azaleas (*Rhododendron* sp.) and American holly (*Ilex opaca*), always looking for the elusive orchids. After about 20 minutes of snooping around we spotted the first orchid, *Platanthera clavellata*, the small green woodland orchid. Eventually we also found in bud and bloom respectively, the Three-birds orchid (*Triphora trianthophora*) and the Crane fly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*). We also came across some vegetative parts of the Southern lady's slipper (*Cypripedium kentuckiense*). During our walk through the woods, the ODWC biologist, Kyle Johnson, informed me that the contract to sell the property had fallen through after an evaluation of the property. What good news for the orchids!

The botany gods must have been smiling in late July and watching over their diminutive yet beautiful orchids. And with a bit of luck and some very timely phone calls, one of Oklahoma's most diverse orchid sites has been spared from development. With a bit more luck I am hopeful that Weyerhaeuser will consider voluntarily protecting the site (via the Oklahoma Natural Areas Registry) so the orchids and other rare plant species will continue to flourish there.

Since the filming of the TV segment, Roger Griffin and Kyle Johnson have been back to the site and they found even more orchids blooming than we did on the day of filming. One last note, while Weyerhaeuser has no immediate plans to sell the site mentioned above, they are interested in finding a conservation buyer for the site. If you are interested, know someone who might be, or want more information, please call Kim Shannon at (405) 325-7658 or email me at kimshannon@ou.edu.

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Listening to the Prairie: Farming in Nature's Image

ONPS members are invited to view a traveling exhibition created by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History as one aspect of its Forces of Change Program <http://www.mnh.so.edu/forces>. It will be on display September 5 - October 18, in the Browsing Room of the Edmon Low Library on the campus of Oklahoma State University.

Comprising photographs, memorabilia, interactive panels, and audiotapes, the focus of the exhibition is agriculture in the North American prairie and the forces of change that have turned the continent's vast grasslands into one of the most productive agricultural lands on earth. It reveals the relationship between prairie ecology and

alternative ways to grow food crops. The display is designed for visitors of all ages.

Aspects of the exhibition include presentations on: the fruitful prairie, the prairie ecosystem, from native grasses to cultivated grains, forces of change, alternative agricultural practices, and beyond the prairie...in your community.

The exhibitions' tour is coordinated by the American Library Association's Office of Public Programs <http://www.ala.org/publicprograms> and is supported in part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. A proposal by OSU's science librarians resulted in the university being selected as one of only six sites hosting the exhibit in 2003.

Listening to the Prairie can be viewed at any time during the library's regular hours, which are Monday - Thursday, 7:30 am - 2:00 am; Friday 7:30 am - 6:30 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sunday, noon - 2:00 am. Special lectures complementing the exhibit will be given by OSU faculty and state scientists at various times during the exhibition's stay. Contact Vicki Phillips, Head of the library's Sciences & Engineering Division (405-744-6309) for further information.

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#### Book Review: *Oaxaca Journal*, by Oliver Sacks Pat Folley

After reading *Uncle Tungsten*, *Memories of a Chemical Boyhood*, an autobiography of his first 12 years written by Oliver Sacks, I started ordering from the local library other books by this amazing and entertaining writer. Dr. Sacks usually writes about his patients in the practice of neurology. His patients are people most of us would consider 'defective', but Dr. Sacks finds them charming, talented, and lovable. Imagine my surprise when his latest book, *Oaxaca Journal*, turned out to be an actual journal of his botanical adventures in the Mexican state of Oaxaca with a tour of the American Fern Society. It is a book that all plant lovers, adventurers, and bibliophiles cannot help but enjoy.

A diverse gathering of educators, professional plantmen, amateur botanists, artists, photographers and one bird-watcher assemble in the city of Oaxaca for a guided tour of one of the world's richest stores of fern life. Oaxaca boasts about 700 species of ferns in a diverse landscape ranging from dry central plains at 5,000 feet to rain- and cloud- forests reaching above 10,000 feet. Through the days of travel and exploration, they are led by a guide who is a living history-book on



the people who live and have lived in the area. We are treated to the lively interchanges between this guide, who wants the visitors to understand the human meaning of Oaxaca, a birder who wants to stop for every little gray bird in the bush, several fern experts who want to stop for every non-flowering green frond, and a schedule that allows only ten days for it all to happen.

Sacks, in the role of recorder and observer, weaves a tapestry of these interchanges that never fails to enchant and amuse. Along the way, there are discourses on the value of Nostoc and Azolla as alternative sources of nitrogen-fixing services, the history and biogeography of chocolate, the manufacture and application of cochineal dye, and a visit to *El Gigante*, the world-record cypress tree in Tule, estimated to be 44M in circumference, 50M tall, and 4,000 years old. He greatly admires the botanists of his acquaintance for their enormous erudition and even more for their candor and generosity. In a culture in which Academia more often breeds rivalry than friendship, he finds these field biologists exceptionally willing to share knowledge, insights, and expertise.

In the end, you will find that you have been taken on a tour, not just of Oaxaca State, Mexico, but of the whole world of wonder.

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Color Oklahoma *Sow Some Wild Seeds!*

Color Oklahoma was approved as public awareness and outreach project of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society at the Board Meeting December 7, 2002.

Its goals are two: to plant wildflowers in conjunction with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oklahoma municipal highway departments, Oklahoma schools and/or such other public entities as the committee deems appropriate; and to support and promote the goals of ONPS. Procedures for the project are as follows:

- Color Oklahoma will be funded through donations and eventually, it is hoped through a specialty license plate.
- Color Oklahoma will be coordinated by a Standing Committee (5-7 members) composed of one Board Member, who is the Chair, volunteer members of ONPS who are interested in the project and who are representatives of various regions of the state and chapters of ONPS.

- Monies raised by the 'Color Oklahoma Project' will be accepted by the Treasurer of ONPS, and kept in a separate 'sub account'. The will be disbursed by the Color Oklahoma Committee to organizations, such as wild seed vendors, to purchase wildflower seeds for distribution and planting by state, local and private agencies, such as ODOT. These monies may also be used to further the other goals of the ONPS, such as education and raising awareness regarding the importance keeping native species in the landscape and along roadsides.

As a general idea, Color Oklahoma was conceived by Marcy Rabinowitz, Pearl Garrison and Joann Orr. It was presented to the ONPS at the Annual Meeting in October 2002. The ONPS president appointed a committee to formalize the Color Oklahoma Project: Constance Murray – Vice-President ONPS, Committee Chair and the committee of Paul Buck, Mary Korthase, Joanne Orr, Marcy Rabinowitz, and Jim Elder, *ex officio*.

The Color Oklahoma Committee has met four times since the December ONPS Board Meeting. The committee includes Constance Murray, Chair, Paul Buck, Pearl Garrison, Joanne Orr, Marcy Rabinowitz, Laurie Stillings and Jim Elder, *ex officio*. We have recently added Susan Chambers, Tina Julich and Kim Shannon to expand our regional representation. As a consequence of those meetings and a flurry of emails the Committee has designed stationery, and compiled a tentative budget, designed a tentative license plate. We have sent a letter to the Governor, jointly with the Oklahoma Garden Clubs, requesting that the state reinstate a more 'wildflower friendly' mowing policy that would also save money.

Thanks to the monumental efforts of Joanne Orr and Laurie Stillings, a Color Oklahoma license tag was proposed in the specialty license plate bill before the Oklahoma Legislature HB1292 (section 88) last session. For administrative reasons to which we are not privy, the legislature decided, on the last day of the session, not to vote on the bill. We will attempt again next session.

In response to articles in *The Tulsa World*, *Gaillardia*, and Tulsa Garden Center Newsletter to publicized this new project we have received \$529.69 (see contributors list.) The Seed Committee, Laurie Stillings - Chair, Susan Chambers and Marcy Rabinowitz is currently considering the species and locations for seeding this fall. We are poised to begin mailing requests for donations for 'seed money'.

Our next meeting is in mid-September.

Of you, ONPS Members and supporters we request the following:

1. Support the 'specialty license tag' bill next legislative session and encourage your state senators and representatives to vote for its passage.
2. Donate 'seed money' to Color Oklahoma. (Send checks to ONPS Treasurer. Be sure to note in the Memo line: Color Oklahoma). Donations are tax- deductible.
3. Send us your suggestions regarding local areas that would benefit from a 'Wildflower Plot'.

Contributors to *Color Oklahoma* as of 1 August 2003: Eva Bogart, Lisa A. Brown, Robert S. Doenges, A. Faye Hutcherson, Joe and Pearl Garrison in memory of Bob Whitworth, Caroline J. Johnson, James T. Murray in memory of John Rowan, Genevie Stell, Adelle Stults, Charles J. Transue, M. Visser, Wildflower Workshop '02, Jane P. Wiseman.

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OKC Beautiful

OKC Beautiful is another organization that has been interested in wildflower plantings. As does Color OK, they depend on ODOT to do their plantings. Not surprising given their name, they concentrate their plantings in the Oklahoma City area. To date they have planted a total of 738 acres. They have kept records of the success of the plantings so should be a resource for wildflower plantings.

One of their most successful plantings was on the center median on Airport Road from where it starts east of Portland to just west of MacArthur where it ends. The greatest show was in April and May when the crimson clover was blooming but also pretty with plains coreopsis and lemon monarda in June and July.

OKC Beautiful was also interested in possibly starting a flower photography contest but heard of ours. Shana Keith-Ward, after learning more about our contest, has decided to simply publicize our contest. We certainly welcome their help and hopefully their photos of wildflowers.

HERBS AND SPICES

Connie Taylor

Is it time for a pumpkin pie? Many recipes call for allspice, but I prefer mine with cinnamon cloves and nutmeg. This latter spice is from a tall evergreen tree native to the Moluccas and is cultivated in the tropics, particularly the West Indies. There are male and female trees. Both nutmeg and mace come from the fruit. The succulent yellow skin encloses a whitish flesh, with a heavy seed—the nutmeg. Around the seed is a bright red fleshy network that botanists call an aril, which when dried is mace. Trees are harvested several times a year and will bear fruit for 70 years.

Mace is stronger and more pungent, nutmeg sweetly spicy. Until the 17th century, mace was more popular than nutmeg. It was used in cakes, potted meat, fish, cheese, and savory preserves. At one time, a strong mace-flavored liquor was added to give relish to Stilton cheeses.

When sugar increased in availability and use, nutmeg became more popular. It blends well with other spices and can be used in cakes, puddings, cream cheese, souffles, apple pie, stewed fruits, and especially pumpkin pie.

It can be used as a mild sedative and is good for digestion. Grate into hot milk or take a teaspoon full of nutmeg brandy in hot milk as a digestive and nightcap. (Nutmeg brandy is made by grating 1 ½ nutmegs into 1 1/4 pints of brandy and leave for 2 to 3 weeks, shaking daily.)

Nutmeg quickly loses its strength when cut, so buy is small quantities and replace at least once a year, right before pumpkin pie time.

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CONSERVATION CORNER

Chad Cox

Here are 3 issues that I would like to have considered at the Annual Meeting.

Curt Jennings has proposed starting a Wildflower Rescue Team for Oklahoma. He lives in Mustang and graduated from OSU in 2001 with a Horticulture Degree. He was very active in the Horticulture Club and attended a few society meetings in Stillwater. He is very interested in native plants, believes that everyone should try to

landscape with native plants as much as possible to conserve water and keep native habitats. He "would love to form a team and get things going."

In response to an email about the possibility of establishing a rescue team, Fran Stalling, Gloria Caddell, Shawn L. Shirley, Lennie Foster, Clare Miller, and Marcy Robinowitz said they were interested. There were several good comments concerning a rescue team but more than needed here.

Curt also suggested that anyone interested in knowing more about what a rescue operation entails try the following article from a Rebeccas Garden show at the website: http://rg.console.net/articles/In-the-Garden/Plants_Flowers/274.html (still available as of 8-9-03). This page gives a detailed account of how to go about performing plant rescues.

The second issue would be joining the Native Plant Conservation Campaign, an organization whose mission is to form a coalition of state, national and international organizations to promote plant preservation. In an earlier Conservation Corner NPCC was introduced with the comment that I would monitor their progress. Several national organizations and many state native plant societies have joined the movement. In response to my asking what are the obligations of an organization joining the movement I received the following email from the Director, Emily Roberson:

The only obligations regard exchange of information. I send out alerts and news bulletins which we hope you will share with your members as appropriate to your local concerns. We also develop "toolkits" of information on key issues in law, policy and science affecting native plant conservation.

From your side, we need you to let us know what your needs and priorities are for the national organization. We have designed this to be a very collaborative effort, indeed we are working on setting up a meeting sometime next year so we can set priorities face to face.

As I wrote earlier, NPCC affiliates are not asked for financial support. They lend their names and prestige to the NPCC, share expertise and information, and work together to solve plant conservation problems.

For more information including a list of other member organizations and goals of the campaign visit <http://www.cnps.org/NPCC>

The final issue concerns support from our society for the State of Oklahoma to adopt the Federal list of invasive plants. The first effort of Oklahoma to control invasive plants was to ban three thistles at the urging of farmers and ranchers. Then the state adopted the Federal list for aquatic invasive plants because of the interest of the fisheries department. A bill of some form will include measures to attempt to control red cedar will be passed in the legislature largely resulting again from desires of ranchers. Unless someone comes forward to advocate that the Federal list be adopted nothing will be done. We certainly are the most prominent group with an interest in native plant preservation in Oklahoma.

Adoption of the Federal list by the State of Oklahoma will increase the awareness of the problem created by invasive plants only if some publicity of the adoption results. About the most that we could hope from the state would be a pamphlet similar to the one telling of the invasive aquatic plants, "Don't Free Lily!". Perhaps we can further publicize the harm created by invasive plants using the adoption to emphasize the significance of the problem.

The Federal list of invasive plants can be viewed at www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits/fnwsbycat-e.PDF You will need the Acrobat PDF reader to view the list. Other interesting items at the site can be access with just your internet browser

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## ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting will be October 24-26th, at the OU Biological station on Lake Texoma. The station has excellent accommodations with meeting rooms, labs, guest rooms, and dinning facilities. The guest rooms arrange all the way from small apartment type rooms, sleeping 3-5 individuals to larger dormitory rooms with several beds. The room assignments will be made on a first come first serve basis. Everyone staying at the station is responsible for supplying their own bedding and bath linens. The food plans are some of the best we have had. The station has an up-to-date kitchen and offers a variety of menu options.

This is a biology field station, so there certain rules



and precautions to consider:

- No mammalian pets are allowed
- No unsupervised children under 12 years of age.
- Bring your own bed and bath linens

for more specific conference guidelines check out [www.ou.edu/uobs/conference%20guidelines.pdf](http://www.ou.edu/uobs/conference%20guidelines.pdf). The stations website is [www.ou.edu/uobs](http://www.ou.edu/uobs).

Check-in will start Friday afternoon followed by dinner and an introductory program. Morning and afternoon field trips are planned for Saturday. The day ends with our awards dinner. Saturday evening's speaker will be Hugh Garnett from Austin College who has restored a tallgrass prairie in Montague County just across the Red River. He has spectacular slides of wildflowers. More specific information concerning fieldtrips will be announced at Friday night's dinner. The meeting will officially end Sunday morning following a short board meeting.

A list of nearby motels is provided in the newsletter for those who do not wish to stay at the station. The station is located just a few miles south of Kingston, Oklahoma via state highway 377/99. Kingston is in Marshall County and is 18 miles west of Durant. A map is also included in the newsletter. Signs will also be placed at key crossroads to assist you.

Please register as soon as possible. We have to cut off registration by October 17th so the kitchen staff will have some idea as to how much food to prepare. The cost is \$20.00 per day for room and \$20.00 per day for meals; includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner. See the registration form for more specific details.

Alternate lodging in the vicinity (list includes those that we had directions or an address):

Harbor Inn Bed & Breakfast, <http://www.harbor-inn.net> or 580-564-9700. Take a right on Main Street and go approximately 1 mile. In Kingston (approx. 12-15 miles from the Station)

Wysteria Bed & Breakfast, 580-795-9200. 301 West Burney Madill, OK 73446 Approx. 20 miles from the Station

Alexander Bed & Breakfast Acres, Inc., <http://www.alexanderbnb.com> or 903-564-7440 3692 County Road 201 Gainesville, TX 76240-

7819 Approx. 25-30 miles from the Station

B&B at Front 30 Ranch Guest House, <http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/bbc/p617436.asp> or 903-523-5982. 198 Cedar Mills Road Gordonville, TX 76245 Approx. 20 miles from the Station

Victoria Inns, 800-761-8111, 1013 W US 82 Hwy. Whitesboro, TX Approx. 18 miles from the Station

Lake Texoma Lodge, 580-564-2311, Hwy. 70 Kingston, OK 73439 Approx. 20 miles from the Station - east out of Kingston on Hwy. 70.

Lakeway Motel, 580-564-2411. Hwy. 70, Kingston, OK 73439. Approx. 12-15 miles from the Station

Kingston Lodge, 580-564-1495, Hwy. 70, Kingston, OK 73439 Approx. 12-15 miles from the Station

Diamond H Suites, <http://www.diamondhsuites.com> or 580-920-0994 appx 20 - 25 miles from UOBS

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### Central Chapter

#### Susan Chambers

May 24: The central chapter members and guests gathered just inside the gate of the OKC Zoo at 9 a.m. for a guided tour of the native plants on the zoo grounds. The zoo is composed of many acres of animal compounds and exhibits, each with it's own set of plantings to enhance the visit of the zoo visitors. Some of the trees are indigenous, some have been planted since the inception of the zoo. More has been done since the zoo was also designated as a botanical garden. Plantings include natives from across the state.

June 7: The usual crowd gathered at the Chamber's garden for one of Wayne's unique guided tours of the 2 ½ acres of garden, meadow and woods on the east side of Midwest City. The garden sits in the area known as the Crosstimbers, with shade provided by blackjack and post oaks, lots of Virginia creeper and grape vine, native grasses and early enough to see wildflowers (before the heat and drought).

July 12: Pontotoc Ridge is a wonderful place to visit in early summer, as all who made the hike can attest. We added several plants to our lists that



were new to some of us (centaury, tall sabatia, rattan vine). We also brought home visitors with us (lots of chiggers and little baby ticks!).

September 29: We will meet on the main campus of OSU-OKC for the fall semester, location to be designated. Our first program for the fall will be Leonard Ketchum, with a program on *Native Grasses and the Birds That Make Them Their Home*. This program was given to the Audubon Society last year and made quite an impression.

This is the meeting when we traditionally hold our seed and plant exchange also.

October 27: Kim Shannon, with the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory, will be presenting a program on just what the inventory is and how a piece of land qualifies to be registered.

November 24: David Walker, on staff with the education department of the OKC Zoo will give a program on native reptiles and amphibians.

We will also hold elections for officers for the coming year.

There will be no December or January meetings.

#### FIELD TRIP RULES

- Participation is at your own risk.
- Preregistration is required for all field trips.
- Field trip announcements will contain the name, address, and telephone number of the leader. If you have doubts about the terrain, difficulty, etc., ask.
- Collecting any plant parts or other materials at the site must be approved by the field trip leader.
- Field trips take place rain or shine. Hiking boots, long pants and a hat are essential.
- Bring water and lunch or a snack. Sunscreen and insect repellent are always in demand. Field guides, a camera and binoculars are nice.
- All ONPS field trips are open to the public at no charge, unless charges per-member are specified in the announcement. Visitors and newcomers are always welcome.
- Children old enough to keep up are welcomed; pets are not.

#### Northeast Chapter

##### Constance Murray

Northeast Chapter held its Winter Meeting Monday, December 6. Following a festive Potluck Supper, Constance Murray, vice-president, was elected president. She replaced Jim Elder who is the new state president of ONPS. Jim thought that two presidencies might be a bit much. Bruce Smith of McCloud High School and unofficial state expert on ferns presented a lively introduction to Oklahoma Ferns. It was an interesting change of pace from the usual 'tyranny of the angiosperms.'

Constance Murray helped man the ONPS booth at the Oklahoma Garden Festival in OKC February 1 and Clare Miller represented the ONPS at the Tulsa Garden Festival February 15. Paul and Sue Amstutz, Paul Buck, Jim Elder, Charles Lewallen, and Connie Murray enjoyed the Indoor Outing at Cameron University February 15.

Our Early Spring Meeting was March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Note the earlier time). Our speaker was Rebecca Johnson from OSU who took us into ethnobotany. She spoke on the Native American use of Plant Extracts, specifically from *Tephrosia*, to harvest fish.

April 6<sup>th</sup> following a thunderstorm, Paul Buck led seventeen of us over the limestone bluffs and along Bird Creek to see the Dutchman's Breeches at Red Bud Valley, and demonstrating why Red Bud Valley deserves its name. He also shared with us insights available only from someone who has been going to Red Bud Valley since it was first set aside as a public space.

April 18<sup>th</sup> twelve soggy souls went on a fern frolic to Natural Falls and to Buddy and Clare Miller's Place. We were soaked, but the ferns were out in full force. Under the skillful guidance of Bruce Smith we found 17 of the 18 fern species at Natural Falls, about seven also found at Buddy and Clare's.

About fifteen of us attended the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildflower Workshop May 2-3 in Sulfur. There we were pleased to applaud Marcy Rabinowitz as she received the Bess Snodgrass Award for all of her work raising funds to plant roadside wildflowers.



May 5<sup>th</sup> was our last Chapter meeting until fall. Kim Shannon came over from OU and introduced us to the work of the Oklahoma Biological Survey. She also came bearing copies of her great poster highlighting some of their work. She might share a poster with you too, if you call or write her. (She has several thousand to 'share'.) They are handsome, colorful and informative!

On May 31<sup>st</sup> we hiked the Prairie Earth Trail at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve near Pawhuska. There were nearly 20 of us, some actively hiking, some pausing to clarify the finer taxonomic points. The spring wildflowers bloomed quite late this year and many normally found in March were still in bloom! We were particularly pleased that members of both the Central and Crosstimbers Chapters trekked along.

Northeast chapter has been less active through the hot dry Oklahoma summer. Charles Lewallen led the 'annual' the August Orchid Field Trip and Sauna for about 14 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. (He claims this is

his last one. Please encourage him to at least lead it on alternating years...)

We continue our monthly 'Happy Hour' at Panera (E. 41<sup>st</sup> and S. Hudson, across from Binding Stevens.) the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 5:30 p.m. These are the planning meetings for field trips and future meetings. There are usually 6 to 12 of us there. Charles Lewallen is usually there with his most recent pictures of flowers and/or their attendant critters. If you have an idea for a field trip or a speaker or would just like a light supper with some like-minded folk, join us some Friday.

#### WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Ron Coleman, Tucson, AZ  
Amanda Mae Hess, Oologah  
Drs. Scott Holub and Julie Spears, Ada  
Katy Levings, Norman  
America Meredith, Oklahoma City  
Allen and Elia Woods, Oklahoma City

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2005: Kay Gafford and Melynda Hickman

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Susan Chambers      Central  
Sue McAlester      Crosstimbers  
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