

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

> Volume 21, Number2 Summer 2006

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

Email: chadwick.cox@cox.net

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COPY AND ART DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS 15 August 2006

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.

June 3: NE Chapter field trip to Osage Hills State Park.

June 4: Crosstimbers Chapter, Dr. Ownby's field trip.

June 10: ONPS Board Meeting at Tulsa Garden Center.
June 17: Central Chapter field trip to Lexington Wildlife

Management Area. Page 10

June 17: NE Chapter Happy Hour. Page 9

June 19: NE Chapter field trip to Rogers State University Conservation educational Reserve

July 15: NE Chapter Happy Hour. Page 9

July 31: Central Chapter seminar on plants fo butterflies and moths. Page 10

August 19: NE Chapter Happy Hour. Page 9

Sept 15-16: BioBlitz 2006 at Quartz Mountain Nature Park starts 3 PM Friday, and ends 3 PM the next day. More information at www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitz. Oct 6-7: Annual Meeting at Sequoyah State Park. Page 2

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

ONPS THANKS THIS DONOR

Color Oklahoma Fund Barry L. Redlinger

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

Greetings!

Hope you had the opportunity to attend the Wildflower Workshop in early May in Grove. There were 130 gardeners and weed watchers who were variously edified, and entertained for the weekend. See the article in this issue for a review of all the festivities. Oklahoma weather was true to form - unpredictable and not very cooperative. While we were listening to presentations indoors on Friday, it was sunny and warm outside. While we were touring Lendonwood Gardens, it poured rain. But eastern Oklahoma has been so dry this winter and spring, most were cheerful in spite of the soggy conditions. Congratulations to all who organized the event and to presenters and vendors. Many thanks also to all who attended. It is your participation that makes this event happen so successfully, year after year.

Looking ahead, our next state wide event will be the Annual Meeting 2006. We will meet the first weekend in October, the 6th and 7th at Western Hills State Lodge in Sequoyah State Park. The August Gaillardia will contain a registration form. But I thought you could mark your calendars early and even make reservations, if you wish. (Unlike last year, this year you will make your room reservations and pay for them individually. Also, the room costs will be less than last year.) Check our Website for details or look for them in the next issue. Mark your calendars now!

See you in the woods and prairies around the state.

Connie Murray

MAKE OUR STATE MORE BEAUTIFUL: Marilyn Stewart

Save the state (and the taxpayer) money and cut down on pollution. How? By simply reducing the mowing on the interstates and highways to two swaths of the mower instead of the current fence to fence policy. To make a difference call or write to the following: Gary Ridley at 405-522-1800, gridley@odot.org or Governor Henry at 405-522-2342 or www.gov.ok.gov and scroll down to "contact"

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

Service Award Reminder The deadline for submission of nominations for the 2006 ONPS Service Award is August 31. 2006. Entries with documentation for the nominated individual should be mailed to Sue Amstutz, 4190 E. 46th Place, Tulsa OK 74135.

Nominations for the Anne Long Award are also sought, with the same deadline of August 31. Send nominations directly to the Chair: Pat Folley, 15100 Etowah Rd. Noble, OK 73068

Auction Action:

Kim Shannon reminds us that at last year's annual meeting at Quartz Mountain we had our first silent auction. We plan on doing that again this year when we have our get-together at Western Hills state lodge during the first weekend of October. So, keep the auction in mind as you travel this summer, reorganize a bookshelf or visit a garden or national park. Unique donations items will help us raise funds for ONPS this fall.

BOTANY BAY

Paul Buck

SCIENTIFIC NAMES:

While interacting with Public School students though the years I've heard the following question many times, "How can I improve my chances of being selected for admission to a College or University?" My standard response to that question is to encourage the student to take, if available, a course in Latin. I realize not all schools offer Latin but if it is available the students are indeed blessed. It has been my experience that University students with a year of Latin behind them consistently out-perform others on exams by anywhere from five to ten per-cent. I've been told I am wrong, any student motivated to take Latin is at an I.O. level above the rest of the class and would excel with or without the language class. Perhaps my critics are right but I still think otherwise. Every time that question comes up I think of the words of Winston Churchill when he said, "Naturally I am biased in favor of boys learning English and then I would let the clever ones learn Latin as an honour and Greek as a treat." The majority of our English words come from Latin or Greek and therein lies one of the secrets of success at a College or University. Word

meanings and derivations come easier for the

student with some familiarity with these languages. A dictionary is required less often and reading speed and comprehension is much better. No where is this advantage more evident than in the sciences, both natural and physical. Why do you suppose so many schools offer courses in medical terminology?

Many may be wondering what this has to do with Botany and Oklahoma plants. One botanical discipline we, in the O.N.P.S., have used frequently in both the field and various meetings is taxonomy. It has been defined as identification, classification and nomenclature, the latter being the assignment of scientific names.

We must keep in mind virtually all early botanical

work was carried out by physicians.

Pharmaceutical research was also an important contribution of early physicians, there were no drug stores available. Cultural and theological pressure of the era discouraged dissection of humans. Medical researchers were forced to work with plants or non-human animals .. For many that will help explain the use of animal reproductive terms in plants. Terms such as

embryo, ovary and placenta. But back to plant names. Early botanists used the polynomial system for scientific names, one in which a number of words, generally Latin were used for a plant name. An example might be Humularia major et various crenatus foliis, flora purpureao genello. This name would describe a wide spread plant, covering the soil, bearing leaves with variously crenate margins, flowers paired with pink to purple petals. A difficult approach today but effective at that time Think for a moment how difficult this system would be for assigning names to plants. First we would need to become skilled in Latin, and/or Greek, and secondly we would need to know much more about the plants. The end of the polynomial system came with the birth of the binomial system, which provides each organism with a two parted name, genus and species. It was agreed this system would be adopted as of 1753 with the publication of Species Plantarum, the work in which Carolus Linneaus introduced the binomial system. Yes, many carefully agreed upon changes have been made since the system was proposed and undoubtedly additional ones will follow. Many have been adopted at global meetings of those following the International

Although we recognize, the taxonomic discipline is constantly changing that should not be a problem for most of us. The names of our plants and families have been established by experts

Code of Botanical Nomenclature. Taxonomy is

clearly a dynamic discipline.

following specific guidelines. These names consist of two words, genus and specific epithet, such as Homo (genus and Greek prefix for alike) sapiens (specific epithet and Latin for "wise man"), Homo sapiens is the scientific name for modern man. True, there are many characters that differentiate us from other mammals but we need not get into that. I think we can accept the words selected by the specialists which adopted the name. An example of a native Oklahoma plant genus is Helianthus which many readers will quickly recognize as Helio-, Latin prefix for sun and -anthos, Latin for flower.

There are about fifteen species of the sunflower in our state such as Helianthus grosserratus (again Latin) commonly called sawthooth sunflower. What does the word sierra mean? Have you ever seen the word sierras? Why? Another Oklahoma sunflower is H. hirsutus. Notice, when a genus has been introduced in a discussion, subsequent species of that genus can be introduced with the capitalized first letter of the genus. What does the specific epithet tell us about the plant? A common and harmless snake native to Oklahoma is Heterodon platyrhinos. Most readers know enough about our language to break this scientific name down and learn something about the animal. Hetero-, different as in 'heterosexual' and -dont refers to teeth as in Orthodontist. Yes, the animal has two types of teeth. The specific epithet is platyrhinos, Platy- for the flattened rostral scale and -rhinos for nose, again, the rostral scale. Here is another scientific name to try. This is one of our beautiful native ferns, Ophioglosssum petiolatum. The genus name will be easy if you are an amateur herpetologist from the Bible Belt. Can you come up with the meanings of both genus and species? This introduction to scientific names should shed some light on the nomenclatural aspect of taxonomy Another interesting aspect of scientific names is the system applies to plants, animals and microorganisms, both extant and extinct. As time passes they will begin to mean more to you and after awhile tell you something about the organism in question. Pay more attention to the dinosaur articles in The National Geographic.

COLOR OKLAHOMA REPORT
By Kim Shannon

Well, the fruits or flowers more appropriately, of our labors are beginning to bloom all over the state. And with the beautiful blooms comes our villain, the mowers. I noticed about mid-April that four or five areas of Indian paintbrush

(Castilleja indivisa) were in bloom on the south end of the interdispersal loop of downtown Tulsa. Even without any significant rain, they were blooming and provided the drivers with a splash of spring color. Then we actually got some measurable rainfall here in Tulsa!

So, on one rainy Friday about noontime I am on my way to meet someone for lunch. I drive around the south end of the interdispersal loop and there they are, THE MOWERS!!! They are mowing down the Indian paintbrush, in the rain!!! They are even mowing around the Wildflower Plot signs to finish their evil task!!! I loudly exclaimed some choice words in the car. If I had been in something besides a work vehicle, I had seriously considered getting out of the car to confront the man on the monster. Instead, I called Joanne Orr at ODOT to let her know what is going on. She was at lunch so I left a message.

Later that day I spoke with Joan at ODOT and she tells me that it is the City of Tulsa that is responsible for the mowing at the sites around downtown Tulsa. So, that night at home, I sent an email to our new Mayor, Kathy Taylor via the Mayor's Action Line. I have included my email below. At the time of submission for this article, I resent the message once but I have not gotten a response from the Mayor's office.

Greetings Mayor Taylor,

Congrats on your new position in Tulsa. I look forward to your accomplishments in our lovely city! I am hoping I can bend your ear regarding an ongoing problem that isn't too serious to the average person, but is very important to me. I am the VP of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society and the Chair of our Color Oklahoma project. Www.coloroklahoma.org This project became part of the OK Native Plant Society about 4 years ago. The program's mission is to plant native wildflowers along our highways and to educate the public about their ecological benefits and to encourage their conservation. So, each year for the past 4 years we have raised funds to have native seeds planted all over the state, but there is typically at least 2 areas in Tulsa that get planted each fall too. Mainly because the majority of committee members and the founding members are from the Tulsa area. We now receive a majority of our funds through the sale of our specialty license tag; a big accomplishment for our little group! We work cooperatively with ODOT to plant native wildflower seeds from border to border. We even donated a new seeder/driller to ODOT for our cooperative

program when they could not afford to repair their machines, much less buy a new one! So, last fall we planted areas along the southeastern end of the downtown IDL. One of the plants in that area is Indian Paintbrush, a personal favorite. It was growing on the south facing slope of the IDL loop, just before you go under the Peoria bridge as you're headed east. I enjoyed the flowers for about one week, even pointed them out to my boss one day on the way to a meeting. Less than a week later they are gone!! MOWED down while in full bloom. To add insult to injury they were mowed while it was raining last Friday! I witnessed the unfortunate event just before noon last week. Boy, was I mad!!!

There are 2 major reasons for my ire. 1) these particular plants are annuals, they must reseed to survive year to year. 2) mowing before annuals have a chance to reseed is a waste of Color Oklahoma's funds and that hurts! Not to mention that they were in full bloom: at least 4 or 5 patches of 20+ plants each!! They are orange, you can't miss them! The Color Oklahoma team works hard to keep state and city maintenance teams up to date with our plantings so they can avoid mowing the flowers until we are sure they have reseeded. I know that our committee member from ODOT has communicated with the City of Tulsa about our plantings. Besides, why would someone mow down wildflowers in full bloom, mow around the "wildflower plot" signs to do it and IN THE RAIN!?!

It is bewildering to me. (I may put your action line phone number on speed-dial for the rest of the spring...)

Anyway, I am sure you understand my frustration. Is there something else that the Color Oklahoma committee can do, short of throwing ourselves in front of mowers (though I have considered it...), to keep our money and flowers from being mowed down at the inappropriate time?

I would greatly appreciate a response.

Thank you, Kim Shannon Chair, Color Oklahoma VP, Oklahoma Native Plant Society okpenstemon@cox.net

Since sending that email I have had the opportunity to talk about Color Oklahoma's Wildflower Grant on Ch. 8 here in Tulsa. Our local NPR station, KWGS, is also doing a PSA for us about the Grant! We are hopeful that we will

get some applicants before our June 23rd deadline. I have heard from the Union Public Schools and their Sixth & Seventh Grade Center is considering applying for our grant for a planting along Hwy 169.

License tag renewals are coming in each month and we grateful for the funding of our Wildflower Grant. If you or another group you are active with would like to apply for a Wildflower Grant, you can download an application form and instructions via the web at www.coloroklahoma.org or call Kim at 918-697-3488 to mail an application.

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CONSERVATION CORNER Chad Cox

What did you do for Earth Day, April 22? From reports across the country, Earth Day appears to be successful. Here in Norman there was an annual event that has a strong environmental message. The event was well attended. Now there is another National day that may increase public awareness of environmental concerns.

Did you have a great time celebrating Endangered Species Day? The U.S. Senate has declared May 11 to be Endangered Species Day. The resolution, passed unanimously on April 5 states that the purpose of the Day is to "encourage the people of the United States to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and the opportunity to promote species conservation worldwide."

The positive focus on the conservation successes of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is an answer to the legislative attempt of Congressman Richard Pombo of California to revise the 1973 law to create bigger roles for state and local governments, protect private property owners, and eliminate critical habitat designations. Pombo, a Republican who chairs the House Resources Committee, authored a bill that passed the House last September, to revise the ESA. Pombo and the bill's cosponsor California Congressman Dennis Cardoza, a Democrat, believe the ESA is increasingly driven by litigation, not science, and has become a burden on local economies and landowners. Pombo said in September that when their property is "taken" to protect endangered species landowners must be compensated, "as the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution requires." "Upholding this right and partnering with the landowner is the only way we are going to improve the ESA's failing results for recovery," Pombo said. (This is a misleading

statement in that his proposal would reward the owner for a supposed planned usage; how many might say they had planned a Disneyland like center.)

Conservationists support the act in its present form and point out the successes rather than the failures. Of the 1800 endangered species in the USA, 100 have been rescued successfully. Among them are the following:

- Black-footed ferret: Thought to be extinct, in 1980 there were 18 captured in Wyoming and from them, a captive breeding program has led to 400 ferrets being released in 6 states including Colorado, and 400 additionally still in breeding facilities.
- Gray wolf: From just about zero in the lower states in 1995, reintroductions in Idaho and Yellowstone brought the total back to almost 900 today.
- -- Whooping crane: One of the most endangered of all species, the total of 48 birds in 1967 has been nursed back to 317 today.
- Peregrine falcon: Suffering from DDT poisoning that caused egg-shell thinning, when treaties against the use of the poison were signed with Mexico and other countries, the population increased from 324 in 1975 to 1,700 today and the species was delisted in 1999.
- Grizzly bear: Habitat destruction and fragmentation still leaves the great bear in danger, but its numbers in Yellowstone have increased from 250 to 300 in 1975 to over 575 today.
- -- Bald eagle: Another victim of DDT, the nation's symbol has rebounded from about 415 in 1963 to more than 9,250 today and the birds are slated for removal from the list.

Not only is ESA under attack but some of these successes are being threatened. Saying the species is healthy now, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is acting on a 1999 proposal to remove the bald eagle from ESA protection. Once delisted from the Endangered Species Act, bald eagles will continue to be protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Both acts prohibit killing, selling or otherwise harming eagles, their nests or eggs. But others lack this protection after delisting. In November Interior Secretary Norton proposed to remove the greater Yellowstone population of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species List. The Fish and Wildlife Service plan calls for returning grizzly bear management in the Yellowstone area to the governments of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. Environmentalists say the population has recovered somewhat but not

enough. Some groups, such as the Natural Resources Defense Council, warn that the states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho all have plans to allow grizzly hunting when the bears are delisted. Gray wolf populations have increased in the Northern Rockies, Southwest, and Great Lakes until now delisting proposals are in process for several of these populations. Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced March 16 that gray wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan have recovered from the threat of extinction, prompting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to propose removing the wolves in this region from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. Wolves are hunted now in Alaska from aircraft. (This article was culled from a report from the Center of Biological Diversity.)

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BOX - BUILDING 101

Sue Amstutz

Have you ever wondered about those boxes which house each year's collection of ONPS Photo Contest Posters? The boxes are the handiwork of Dale Amstutz who has been fabricating them annually for nearly fifteen years. Dale begins by visiting the U-Haul Store where he purchases a mirror box, which is the basic material for each year's poster box. At home, he sets up large folding tables in the Amstutz den, gathers his cardboard cutter, Elmer;s glue (ONPS keeps the glue company in business during box-building time!), tape measure, clean concrete bricks (to be used as weights while the glued parts are setting), and most importantly, his drawn - from - scratch poster box plans which are kept safely on file from one year to the next. The work begins when the mirror box is cut to the size of our photo contest posters which measure 20" X 30". Dale has already ascertained from the Chair of the Photography Contest the number of posters in the new set so the box will be wide enough to accommodate the entire set. The sides, bottom and top flap are all measured and carefully glued to insure sturdiness. The various glued sections are then weighted with the bricks and allowed to harden to a firm solidity, a process usually taking up to twenty-four hours for each of the separately glued segments. The number of these glue applications required for each box adds up to about a week of the glue - set - dry procedure. After all the glue is dry, white poster board is cut to fit the insides of the new box. The poster board liner is then glued to the interior of the box. and is used to evidence the presence of any "creepycrawly" which might find its way into the box at a

future display location. Our displayers would not appreciate finding a brown recluse spider hiding in the box of ONPS photo contest posters which they are being kind enough to use. The white liner would make its presence more obvious so the unwelcome "hitch-hiker" can be appropriately dealt with. The nylon ropes we now use to close the boxes are the result of a number of unsuccessful trial - and - error attempts to arrive at a satisfactory closure mechanism. Early boxes were tied shut with clothesline ropes which could easily come untied or get lost. Another unsuccessful method of closing the boxes involved Velcro closures. This too proved unsatisfactory, for repeated closing and unclosing of the Velcro strips resulted in them eventually being pulled off the box Our boxes now use permanently tied ropes which have knots sealed with hot glue. These ropes cannot be untied. Instructions on top of the box direct the displayer to "Slide ropes over ends". The cut ends of the rope are dipped in either red or blue liquid plastic which when dried prevents fraying and unraveling of the rope. The finishing step is to prepare the poster board "title" for the box. Information included on the box title goes something like this: OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY PHOTO CONTEST POSTERS (DATE) Box and Contents are property of ONPS The number of posters in the set is also included on the box title so we can check to be certain all posters in a particular set have been returned and are safely inside the box before they leave a display location (library, nature center, university, etc.) Each side of the box has a title placard. The new box is finally complete. It is taken to the Wildflower Workshop where its photo contest poster "inhabitants" will be placed inside for their travels around the state. The sturdiness of the box, with normal use and care, will prevent damage to the posters and provide years of shelter for these important educational tools which our Society uses for display in many locations and will house our posters safely for many years to come.

ნუამუანუამუანუამუანუამუა 2006 ONPS PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS Tina Julich

The 2006 ONPS Photo Contest had 53 entries in four categories submitted by 10 photographers. The categories for submission are Beginners - for those who have never placed in one of our contests before. Amateur Close-Up - for photographers who have not placed in an ONPS contest before and the images should show subjects less than one foot across. Advanced

Close-Up - for those entrants who have placed in one of our previous contests, or who choose to enter as "advanced". The subject should also be less than 12" across, and Habitat, which is open to all photographers and may show one plant or a group of plants, with emphasis on the plant's community.

This years judges were Susan Chambers, Sheila Strawn, and Amy Buthold.

The winners for the 2006 contest are:

Place Category Winner First Place Advanced Closeup Tom Howard **Advanced Closeup** Second Place Tom McCreary Advanced Closeup Third Place Patricia Folley First Place **Amateur Closeup** Kim Shannon Second Place Amateur Closeup Kim Shannon Third Place Amateur Closeup Kim Shannon **First Place** Beginner Linda Schemmer Second Place Beginner Ellen Benson Third Place Beginner Julie Hull Habitat First Place Tom McCreary Second Place Habitat David Byland Third Place Habitat Lynn Michael

For more information on the 2007 photo contest please check the ONPS web site www.usao.edu/~onps or email Tina Julich, contest coordinator, at tjulich@hotmail.com.

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Joanna Orr

Wet and wonderful describes the recent 29th Wildflower Workshop held in Grove, Oklahoma, on May 5 and 6, 2006. And no, it was not a water amusement park, at least not exactly. Grove was a most welcoming community with lots of good restaurants and things to see. The day of the workshop was fine and the speakers, an eclectic mix, out-did themselves. Phillip Moore, Botanist from the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, described their wildflower program and wetland remediation.

Arkansas DOT even has a green house and performs rescues of wildflower colonies that are endangered by highway construction. They have a very enlightened and environmentally conscious Department.

Monica Macklin, Botanist, Northeastern State University, described how researchers go about their projects and made Vitamin K in poke, wild onion, watercress, and rudbeckia a fascinating subject. Edna Wiser and Brenda McCaskill from Sulphur told how the ladies from Sulphur raised \$5,000 for wildflowers on SH 7 between Sulphur and Davis. The Chickasaw Nation matched their funds, dollar for dollar. They also went to the third grade in schools to describe the project and send information home with the children in addition to approaching businesses and individuals.

David Wolf, Horticulture Technician with the Tulsa Parks gave a detailed survey of many plants that attract butterflies, and described their other characteristics, too. (Some you would want to plant in the back of your garden where it doesn't matter if they spread!) Mike Haddock, Author and Photographer of the new Field Guide: "Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas", did an excellent review of how to take wildflower photos. (For example, use a low angle to get sky behind the flower; i. e., stretch out on your tummy on the ground!) He also reviewed digital vs. film cameras and it was clear that digital is soon going to be the only option. Kodak has ceased making slide projectors.

Laurie Effinger, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, showed her Backyard Wildflower Garden that is the result of 15 years of design and planning. Russ Studebaker gave a dynamic talk on "Vines for Gardens and Wildlife" and presented a large "hearts a bursting" euonymus bush as a door prize.

On a rainy Saturday, Dr. Leonard Miller, founder of Lendonwood Gardens, led a soggy group around the gardens and later around Elk Ridge where his log home is located and some new gardens are being established. The visit to Lendonwood Gardens had an almost mystical atmosphere as the soft rain seemed appropriate to the Oriental Tea House and pond surrounded with rhododendron blooms and Japanese maples. The Tea House holds 50 people and was modeled after a samurai pavilion in Kyoto, Japan. Dr. Miller helped construct the Tea House and has personally selected and planted the three acre

botanical garden. He also pulled weeds for two weeks prior to our visit! Dr. Miller waived the entry fee for the Gardens although many did donate. He has hopes that the legislature or Department of Tourism will be persuaded someday to take over the Gardens on a permanent basis so they will be preserved for the future.

Saturday's schedule was changed as the rain became serious. The buses rushed to Elk Ridge just before lunch and Dr. Miller described his "new" venture into a more natural gardens. The buses narrowly escaped becoming stuck in the mud while turning around. By now, the hardy venturers voted to skip the trip to Bernice State Park for lunch and to return to the Grove Community Center where we set up tables and chairs. The group unloaded the picnic lunch and fell to! The hand dryers in the bathroom were helpful in drying hairdos, too.

Most field trippers headed home except for a few hardy souls who caravaned to Bernice State Park on the way home. They enjoyed a tour without rain but with the ranger and saw penstemon, a green dragon, an amsonnia, an indigo bush (amorpha fructicosa), and a Baltimore oriole. Many wildflowers were among the missing due to the drought which delayed blooming and then the rain which eliminated any sun during the recent days.

The Wildflower Workshop is sponsored by the State Garden Clubs of Oklahoma, the Native Plant Society and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. For 29 years, it has rotated around the state to different areas spreading the love of wildflowers and bringing educational opportunities to all. This year the Red Bud Garden Club of Welch arranged the centerpieces and the Lake Bloomers Garden Club from South Grand Lake collected wildflower specimens and also made seed packets for favors. The Lakeside Garden Club from Ketchum provided coffee and a breakfast spread in the morning.

The vendors filled the room and a marvelous selection of wild, native wildflowers, shrubs and trees was available. Kathy Milby nearly sold out of her gourds which she grew and decorated. The Color Oklahoma tee shirts almost sold out too, and they will be reordering. The Master Gardeners had a spectacular display of extra large plants. Many thanks to the vendors who faithfully follow the Workshop around the state year after year, Clear Creek Farm and Gardens and Wild Things Nursery.

The Friday dinner at the Moose Lodge featured J. P. Malocsay, recently returned to Miami from Connecticut where he created "Twiggeries", an innovative approach to gardens and the use of twigs, branches, and vines as garden features, fences, arbors, etc. He wowed the audience. Don't miss any opportunity to hear him speak!

The prestigious Bess Snodgrass Award was presented to Pearl Garrison of Tulsa who was a pioneering founder of Color Oklahoma. The original Color Oklahoma committee worked with the legislature to create the Color Oklahoma Wildflower Tag. Money from the tag goes to fund wildflower seed for planting on the highway. Color Oklahoma is now a project of the ONPS. The award is given by the sons of Bess Snodgrass who planted tickseed throughout the Arbuckles in the 1950's. It includes a framed wildflower photo and a one acre planting of wildflowers.

Next year the Wildflower Workshop will be in the northwest part of the state. See you then!

P. S. Speaker handouts for Twiggeries, and plant lists for Vines, Backyard Gardens, Butterflies, and Elk Ridge Natives are available from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Beautification Office, beauty@okladot.state.ok.us or, 405-521-4037.

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Northeast Chapter Sue Amstutz

Northeast Chapter has had a busy spring and looks forward to equally eventful months ahead. Our March Chapter meeting featured Bob Walshaw of Coweta, OK, who spoke to us about bluebirds and how to protect them from common house sparrows, the bluebirds' worst enemy. Our meeting in May gave us a chance to hear Clark Ovrebo, ONPS member, professor at the University of Central Oklahoma and authority on mycology. Clark's program on "Beginning Mushrooming" was most informative and well received. Both programs were highly educational and broadened our knowledge of two very different aspects of the natural world. We began our spring field trips on March 24 when nine of us visited Redbud Valley in Rogers County. Highlight of the trip was finding a sizeable number of Dutchman's breeches plants in bloom. April 8 found twenty-four members and friends exploring the lovely property of Beth and Martin

Rooney on Spring Creek near Peggs, OK. The Rooney property is largely undeveloped, with a primitive road, a picnic table, some lawn chairs and a grill being the only amenities, thereby allowing the plants, birds, butterflies and wildlife of this eastern Oklahoma gem to have full sway. We were most impressed with the Ozark spiderwort which we found nearing peak bloom; this plant is responsible for the Rooney's property being listed on the Oklahoma Natural History Inventory. Eleven chapter members observed Earth Day April 22 with a picnic lunch at Spavinaw State Park, followed by an afternoon of botanizing a lovely area on Lake Spavinaw known as Tag Hollow. Tag Hollow is located on land which is actually City of Tulsa property, since Lake Spavinaw is one of the city's prime water sources. The continued drought and extremely warm temperatures for so early in the season had drained much of the vigor from the plants of Tag Hollow, but we managed to see a few dogwoods still in bloom, as well as fine stands of oak and hickory so typical of eastern Oklahoma forests. On May 13 a field trip is planned for the Wagoner County property of Beth Walker, followed a week later on May 20 by a visit of the chapter to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Osage County. On June 3 we plan to explore Osage Hills State Park, and as a "bonus" field trip, return on June 19 to the Rogers State University Conservation Education Reserve in Claremore to continue exploration of this site first visited during the Indoor Outing of 2005, and revisited in June of 2005 by several Northeast Chapter members. The chapter has scheduled our monthly Happy Hour social times at Panera Bread on East 41st Street in Tulsa for the third Fridays of May, June, July, and August. We look forward to welcoming the ONPS State Board to Tulsa for its summer meeting at the Garden Center on June 10.

Crosstimbers Chapter Paul Richardson

OSUBS (OSU Botanical Society) and the Crosstimbers chapter cosponsored two talks this year. On Tuesday, March 2nd, Dr Jeff Nekola, Dept of Biology, University of New Mexico, presented "Introduction to Heirloom Plants with a focus on Tomatoes and Peppers." During the talk Dr. Nekola explained how he managed to pay for his entire ornamental Horticulture Program at Green Bay Wisconsin with a \$20,000 plant sale! Dr. Nekola showed pictures of some of the many heirloom tomatoes and peppers and discussed the relationships between different varieties. He also

discussed their characteristics and what purpose (slicing, sauce, seasoning, etc.) for which they were best suited. He promoted the work of Seed Savers in preserving heirloom plants.

Dr. Donald Falk delivered his talk, "Taking the Long View; Long-term Climate and Environmental Change as Seen through the Tree-Ring Record" on

Tuesday, March 21. Dr Falk is an eminent authority and is at the University of Arizona (Tempe) Institute of Climatological Research. He heads the Tree-Ring Research Program. The post oak, Quercus stellata, which occurs in the forested eastern part of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve is one of the oaks which survive the very destructive multi-hit lightning storms to which the old growth forest is prone. After these storms there is a low water availability cycle lasting years. Our whole

Western US water allocation program was based on a time of apparent high water availability which could never be sustained. We are now into a time of disastrous drying which is also to be expected. Several ONPS members were present, and there were several others who attended a later talk which I couldn't attend.

Our regular March potluck dinner was held on March 24. As usual we enjoyed many delicious dishes prepared by our members. Native plant food highlights were genus Opuntia (prickly pear) pickles and a native Oklahoma blackberry cobbler. After dinner, Ron Tyrl presented a slide show titled "Old Friends in New Places: A Taxonomist Visits Australia". Dr. Tyrl described his experiences while on sabbatical at the Royal Botanical Garden in Sydney. He talked about the gardens, the people, and the work space he was allotted. He also talked about how he was able to work on a book about native North American plants while there due to the large collection of American plants in the Garden's herbarium. Dr. Tyrl also compared the most common plant families in Australia and North America. Finally, he described the discovery of a plant thought to be extinct for millions of years in a canyon in Australia and the efforts to preserve and propagate it.

Dr. Ownby will host his native plant field trip on June 24. The rains after our last storm really brought out the surviving plants. Fortunately, most of them survived.

The Manning Prairie is no more. Dr. Tyrl has agreed to lead a trip in the fall, perhaps Sept 8, to

an unspecified locus. We are also looking for ideas for our November speaker at the Fall Pot Luck Dinner. Please call one of the officers if you have a suggestion.

Central Chapter Marilyn Stewart

The Pottawatomie County field trip was held on Sunday, April 9th. Nine members gathered at the field trip leader Bruce Smith's house at 1pm where we were served iced tea and cookies by our gracious hostess Sharon Smith before heading out. The first location we visited was the McLoud City Park. There, with plant list in-hand, we found examples of flora ranging from our native honevsuckle, Lonicera sempervirens to the beautifully blooming Viburnum rufidulum to the wicked Bristly Greenbrier, Smilax tamnoides. After having found the majority of the 75 plant species found there at the park we traveled a short way to see if we could find any of the native ferns that grow in Pott. county. We stopped in a couple of sites just outside of McLoud where we found the Ebony Spleenwort, Asplenium platyneuron. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot! Thanks again to Bruce Smith for his hospitality and hard work.

The Central Chapter of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society will be visiting the Lexington Wildlife Management Area on Saturday, June 17th. We will meet at the Lexington WMA at 9 a.m. Please bring adequate water, a hat, insect repellent, and walking shoes. You might also bring binoculars to help spot the many bird species living here. There are no nearby restaurants or fast food shops, so a brown bag lunch is encouraged.

Driving directions are as follows: Take I-35 south to Highway 9. Go east to Highway 77 and turn south. Go through Noble to the Slaughterville Road exit. There will be a sign for the Lexington WMA. Turn east and go 5 1/2 miles to the entrance on the south side of the road. There is a small campground at the entrance, where cars can be parked. For more information contact Lou Duke at 364-5630

July 31, 7:30 at the OSU/OKC campus on Portland. Linda Schemmer and Marilyn Stewart will present a program on how to attract

butterflies and moths by growing native plants for larval hosts and nectar. Lots of tips, practical ideas and, if nature cooperates, some caterpillars and chrysalises to see. A postcard will be sent to let members know where on the OSU campus we will be.

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 welcome.
 Pets are not.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

JaNell Collins, Sapulpa
Jennifer Gruse, Tulsa
Nancy Hamill, Jenks
Sarah and Mike Hansel, Tulsa
Jack W. Long, Tulsa
Joe A. Machado, Tulsa
Gala and William McBee, Tulsa
Doug and Nelda Sander, Stillwater
Diane Stevenson, Tahlequah
Carol Whitney, Gracemont

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2435 South Peoria Tulsa, OK 74114

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

Chad Cox 2241 Ravenwood Norman, OK 73071-7427 (405)-329-8860 Email: chadwick.cox@cox.net

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