



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, Number 4
Winter 2006

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FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 February 2007**

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.

Dec 15: NE Chapter Happy Hour.
Jan 19: NE Chapter Happy Hour.
Feb 10: Indoor-Outing. Insert
Feb 16: NE Chapter Happy Hour.
Mar 9: Crosstimbers Potluck Dinner. Page 9
Apr 21: Crosstimbers Chapter Field Trip to Redbud Valley. Page 9

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

ONPS THANKS THESE DONORS

There were no donations to our various Funds for this last quarter. Donations were supplied to the Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting (See Page 6)

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

Sharon McCain, our Historian, said at the Annual Meeting that we had a paucity of material for our scrap books for the period 2000-2006. If you have materials, please contact Sharon, sdmccain@aol.com or 405-556-2341.

BOTANICAL TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What vascular plant Genus, in the family Lauraceae, is considered by some historians to be the one of main reasons for the establishment of the Jamestown Colony?
2. Who is considered to be America's first female botanist/scientist?
3. What country is considered the first to send an official botanist to America?
4. What father and son botany team discovered the tree *Franklinia alatamaha*?

Answers on page 9

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

Greetings ONPS Members & Friends,

I am excited to be President of this organization for the next two years and I have some goals for the society that I would like to share with you. First of all, I hope to increase our membership during my time as President. I have made it a personal quest and I ask you to find a new ONPS member (or 2) with me over the next two years. Invite a co-worker, neighbor, relative, friend, your kids, your students, your mail carrier, your local community officials, or members of other organizations to which you belong to join us for a chapter meeting or the upcoming Indoor Outing in Stillwater on Saturday, Feb. 10th. Surprise that person on your holiday shopping list who either has everything or is just difficult to shop for with an ONPS membership for Christmas!

To compliment this membership quest, I also plan on finding more and new outlets for ONPS information, including the ONPS calendar idea that has been discussed off and on. I would also like to hear any ideas that you may have that will help us spread the word about ONPS. Please email me anytime at okpenstemon@cox.net or give me a call on my cell at 918.697.3488.

I envision ONPS as a tree (native of course) with our members as branches and their many talents that they bring to the society as the leaves. As we make an effort to help ONPS branch out with new members, let's remember our strong, supportive trunk and roots provided by our founding and longtime members. I believe that with the advice, input, effort and ideas of current and new members, we can expect to see new projects flower in the upcoming years. The fruits of our labors will hopefully include an increased awareness of our abundant native flora, new and more native plant enthusiasts, and a new pride in Oklahoma.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday season!

Kim Shannon

BOTANIST'S CORNER

Sedges: The Cyperaceae
Patricia Folley

Sedges are the third-largest family in Oklahoma, just behind composites and grasses. So why aren't sedges on every tongue in the ONPS? It's as if the Designer intended them to be anonymous. First, they look a lot like grasses, though molecular research now claims that they are in fact not closely related. They are wind-pollinated for the most part, so the flowers need not be either colorful nor large. Then, there is size. Sedges are all herbs, some annual, some perennial by way of rhizomes. Without woody parts, they either die back to the ground in winter, or stay green and low.

For the taxonomist, they present a different problem: the flowers, such as they are, are very similar. To identify a sedge, you often must wait for it to produce seeds. Even then, the identification may require the use of a low-power microscope. For the taxonomist, they also represent a challenge: solve this mystery, and you have done something that few others can do. For an *amateur* taxonomist, they can be a life-long hobby, as they might have become for me, except that I didn't start on them until well into my 60's.

So, after a year or two on the Flora of Oklahoma board, when someone had to be forced to face the Sedges, in my ignorance I said "let me"! I'd toyed with them, and knew that it would take some real study and concentration. That part was certainly correct. Luckily, the Flora of North America analysis of North American species was already underway. I found a mentor, Anton Reznicek of Michigan University, who patiently answered all my questions for several years. This year, I finished the keys to the sedges of Oklahoma. You can find them in the "Keys and Descriptions for the Vascular Plants of Oklahoma" – the part of the Flora of Oklahoma that is finished enough to be in use in Oklahoma colleges and in a few high schools.

So, what is a sedge, anyway? It's true to say that they are grasslike herbs, that on the most part, they prefer wet to very wet habitats, and that they have almost no economic value. True, they are grazed by cattle and horses and deer when young, and the seeds are a source of food for many species of birds. But the only sedge you are likely to find in the grocery store is a Chinese species of

Eleocharis, known as water chestnut. You might know about the infamous “nutgrass”, properly known as *Cyperus esculentus*. Yes, it is edible, but no, you aren’t hungry enough. Nutgrass has a habit of making little underground bulblets that were consumed by native American and pioneer children during times when either hunger or boredom drove them to it. When a gardener pulls it up, the nuts are left behind to seed new plants.

Then, aside from the fact that native plant lovers want to know “everything” about the natives that share their lives, should you care about sedges? It has become increasingly obvious that *sedges are the plants that hold the world together*. These tough little plants, loving wet soils, grow in the beds of seasonal streams, along the margins of larger streams and lakes, and universally in bar-ditches. Everywhere that water runs, sedges are there to grasp tightly to their little bucket of soil. And keep it there. We have specimens of Eleocharis (spike rushes) in the herbarium that have been pressed and dried for 80 years, still grasping their cupful of sand. It’s almost impossible to get it out.

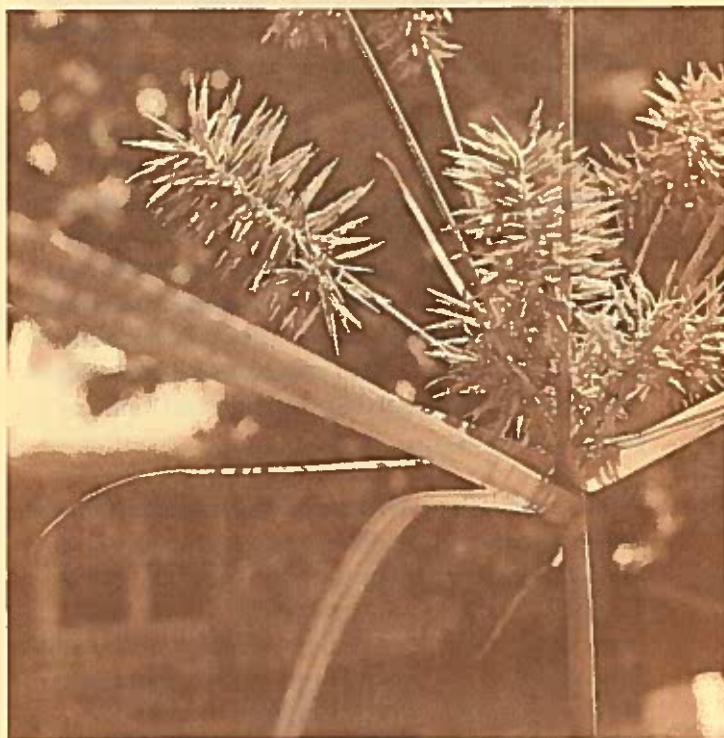
When you want to find sedges, just head for the nearest body of water. In most cases, they will be the grasslike plants growing in the water or next to it. They are found in all sizes, from one centimeter to two meters tall. Usually growing in tangled, multiple-species mats or thickets, they provide shelter to baby fish and ducklings and stability to the banks. A rainstorm is as welcome to a sedge plant as it is to us (hard to believe!).

Many of our native sedges are pretty additions to a garden, as well. I have *Carex lupulina*, a meter-tall plant with pretty inflated green flowers, and *Carex granularis*, a little evergreen plant that wants to be a shade-lawn, growing at my home. When I was collecting *Carex* plants all over the state, I pressed them on my front porch, sweeping the debris out the door. Now I have that shady *Carex* lawn. A bit patchy, but then it’s green all winter.

To recognize a sedge, look for a “grass” plant with a triangular stem, especially in a damp site. Then look for leaves that grow three-ranked around the stem. True grasses have leaves that grow two-ranked, one on each side of the stem. Like almost all monocots, the leaves start from sheaths that wrap the stem. Grasses have open sheaths, ones that will pull away easily without tearing. Sedge

sheaths are joined with a fragile seam that tears when pulled away. Have you heard the mnemonic “grasses are round and sedges have edges”? That’s a way to remind you that most grass stems are round, but most sedge stems are triangular.

The picture is of *Cyperus strigosus*



Editor's note: Botany Bay, Paul Buck's creation, has been retired. The column supplied by various botanists is now called Botanist's Corner.

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PAUL BUCK HONORED

Ron Tyr!l

On November 3rd, The Oklahoma Academy of Science, at its annual Technical Meeting, paid tribute to longtime ONPS member Paul Buck by bestowing upon him a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the advancement of science in the state. In addition, the Academy sponsored a symposium titled *The Natural History of Oklahoma: A Symposium Honoring Dr. Paul Buck*.

Paul was described as an individual who personifies each and every facet of the Academy's mission statement, which states that "*The purpose of Academy shall be to stimulate scientific research; to promote fraternal relationships among those*

engaged in scientific work in Oklahoma; to diffuse among the citizens of the State a knowledge of the various departments of science; and to investigate and make known the material, educational, and other resources of the State. His numerous contributions in both teaching and research were cited. ONPS members who have worked with him on various committees of the Society or followed him on field trips well understand how he has had such a profound influence on so many people.

Paul's ability as a teacher at the University of Tulsa and at The Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory at Gothic, Colorado was praised by several former students who returned to Oklahoma to attend the award presentation and symposium. Connie Murray, a former student of Paul's, delighted the symposium audience with her tale of a student field trip to Mexico and his resourcefulness in getting students and vehicles there and back.

Paul's research activities and contributions to our understanding of the flora and vegetation of Oklahoma were also outlined. His work with Estelle Levetin on allergenic plants in the state was cited, as was his classic book *Distribution and Identification of Woody Plants of Oklahoma in the Winter Condition*, which has been used by countless individuals becoming acquainted with the woody flora of the state. He had an influential role in the formation of the consortium of state taxonomists and ecologists to write a modern manual for identification of the state's vascular flora. He is one of the authors of *Keys & Descriptions for the Vascular Plants of Oklahoma*, which is the precursor to the *Flora of Oklahoma*.

As ONPS members are well aware, in addition to his traditional writing as a scientist, Paul has, for years, made botanical phenomena meaningful to all of us via his quarterly contributions titled "Botany Bay" in the *Gaillardia*. A perusal of some of his topic titles — *Latin & Scientific Names*, *Fall Color Change in Leaves*, *Medicinal Plants*, *Sex in Your Garden*, *The Tranquillity of Nature*, *Passion Flowers*, *Tropisms*, *The Apple*, and *Journey of Wonder* — reveals that some of his columns were whimsical, others more philosophical, but all were informative. Each of us likely has our favorite column.

Topics of papers presented at the symposium in Paul's honor were quite diverse. The symposium was moderated by Connie Murray. Charles Carpenter, Emeritus Professor of Zoology at the University of Oklahoma, outlined the origins of the Oklahoma Academy of Science and the beginnings of studies in natural history in the state. Bruce Hoagland, a familiar ONPS field trip leader, presented *From Mountains to Plains, Gradients in Oklahoma Vegetation*. Ron Tyrl gave a history of Oklahoma botanists. Professor George Diggs from Austin College in Sherman, Texas presented *The Cross Timbers: Natural History Provides Clues to the Past*. In a presentation titled *Cedar Pollen in Oklahoma: A 25 Year Perspective*, Estelle Levetin, Professor of Biology at University of Tulsa, described her collaborative research with Paul. The final speaker was Alan Prather, also a former student of Paul and now Director of the Michigan State University Herbarium. He described Paul's influence on his life, and presented a thought provoking talk titled *Plant Collecting, Our Dynamic Flora, and the Known Unknowns in the War on Terra*.

Our congratulations to Paul for being honored by the Oklahoma Academy of Science and our profound thanks to him for his many contributions to us all!

AWARDS

Anne Long Award
Patricia Folley, Committee Chair

The 2006 Anne Long Award was presented in absentia to Dr. Bruce Hoagland of the Oklahoma Biological Survey for his many contributions to our understanding and access to information of Oklahoma's wild-growing plants. Dr. Hoagland is the originator of the Atlas of Oklahoma plants, which is carried on-line by the Survey. In addition, he is responsible for the Oklahoma Woody Plants, an on-line book also carried by the Survey. He has been generous with his time and talents, leading field trips for the Wildflower Workshops and for area chapters of the ONPS. We finally caught up with Dr. Hoagland at the Bebb Herbarium on the University of Oklahoma campus, and submit the attached photograph as proof that he did receive the award.

**Service Award
Sue Amstutz, Chair**

Chad Cox received the 2006 Service Award at the ONPS Annual Meeting at Western Hills in Sequoyah State Park. The award, presented by Service Award Chair Sue Amstutz, was an acknowledgment of Chad's many accomplishments on behalf of ONPS.

Sue cited Chad's role in designing and maintaining the ONPS website, his editorship of the *Gaillardia* since 2000, his chairmanship of the Photo Contest Committee from 2003 - 2005, and his ongoing interest in Conservation issues as current Chair of the Conservation Committee. Noted also was Chad's service to the State Executive Board as Vice President from 2000-2002. Reference was made to the numerous articles, book reviews and other writings which Chad has contributed to the *Gaillardia*.

Chad received the traditional gaillardia-embossed glass plaque in recognition of the Service Award for 2006, along with words of appreciation from all in attendance at the presentation.

**OKLAHOMA CENTENNIAL BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

Pearl Garrison

Three ONPS members are identifying native plants for the Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden as it prepares for a centennial celebration Sept. 15 and 16 of next year.

Dr. Bruce Hoagland of the University of Oklahoma and coordinator of the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory, and Amy Buthod, a botanical specialist for the Oklahoma Biological Survey and collections manager for the Robert Bebb Herbarium, are identifying, collecting and inventorying plants. Bruce estimates there are more than 400 species on the 215-acre site, which is in the Osage Hills seven miles northwest of downtown Tulsa. They will file one specimen of each plant collected at OU's Bebb Herbarium, and provide the garden with a laminated set also.

Dr. Ron Tyrl, professor of botany & curator of the Herbarium at Oklahoma State University, will assist Bruce in charting two paths in the Garden's woodlands. The paths will lead about ¼ mile from Post Oak Lodge and Conference Center to a 17-acre site where the Garden's lake will be located. Ron and Bruce will identify significant plants

along the trails and assist placing identification markers. Ron also has volunteered to prepare a booklet with information about selected plants along the trails.

Ron serves on a committee of college and university educators developing a plan for credit and non-credit courses to be offered at the Garden.

Private and public fundraising has begun for the Garden. The \$40 million development will have 15 major theme gardens encompassing 60 smaller ones, including a wildflower garden. In addition to the lake, features will include a 3,000-seat amphitheater, interfaith chapel, visitor center, three-story observation tower, education building and conservatory. More information is available at www.oklahomacentennialbotanicalgarden.com.

BOOK REVIEW

Chad Cox

The good news is that the "Illustrated Flora of East Texas" is out; the bad news is that it is just the first volume of 3 volumes. The first volume introduces the area and then covers ferns and allied species, gymnosperms and monocots, a total of 1060 species. Volumes 2 and 3 will cover the dicots, according to the authors another 2342 species. Volume 1 is 1594 pages with 843 for plant identification, 81 for an index and a glossary of 36 pages. There are good line drawings for each species and county distribution maps for most.

In a comparison of this series of volumes on east Texas with "Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas", I think the latter is more useful for Oklahoma, at least for their respective areas. Although only the east Texas series alone has the county distribution maps, these maps will only be marginally useful in Oklahoma. The north central volume covers all 2223 species in one volume and the percentage of the same species in both central Texas and Oklahoma may be greater than in the eastern parts of these states.

Somewhat as a test of the overlap in species, I selected 39 species from the Taylors' annotated list that they say are found only in southeast Oklahoma. Of those, 4 were not listed in the east Texas volume. The national database confirmed 3 were only in Oklahoma but these 3 are orchids which can be very localized. According to the

You will need to weigh the convenience of a personal copy of these volumes. The first volume is roughly \$90, the same as the north central volume and the price for the 2 additional volumes has not been set.

Kim Shannon

In anticipation of the 2007 cycle of grant applications and awards, Color Oklahoma has designed and will soon be printing a new brochure. Featuring many native wildflowers, this colorful brochure has information about Color Oklahoma's specialty license tag and the grant program it funds. A deadline of May 1st has been set for submission of grant applications; awards will be announced about July 1st.

Conservation policies have had a rough go for the last few years. In this column in the past, I have listed some hopeful signs of better days to come. Even before the recent elections, there have been actual positive actions to fight global warming. Even more cities here and internationally have join the pledge to cut green house emissions. California has lead the states in this effort. California passed AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which has the goal of decreasing their emissions of greenhouse gasses by 25% by 2020. California is the fifth largest economy of the world and twelfth largest emitter of greenhouse gases. Other states have followed this lead. So while we still have no such national pledge, states and cities are at least setting goals to reduce emissions.

ONPS PHOTO CONTEST

What? You've never entered the ONPS Photo Contest? Well, it's too late for the 2007 Photo Contest but it's never too late to plan for the 2008 contest. Our prizes are great, ranging from \$15.00 up to \$50.00, in five categories. The photos entered are mounted on posters and displayed across the state at libraries, state parks, museums, and at ONPS events. Photos are also used in educational materials, as the cover photo for the ONPS membership directory, and in the Journal. Photos do not have to be taken in the year they are submitted for the contest, but must be taken in Oklahoma. So, keep the Photo Contest in mind

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Saturday night's meeting started with Russell Lawson, Associate Professor of History, Bacone College presenting an account Nuttall's travels in America based on his novel "The Land between the Rivers: Thomas Nuttall's Ascent of the Arkansas, 1819". The Business meeting followed with adoption of the changes to the by-laws and the election of the new officers. Pat Foley announced that the 2006 Anne Long Award recipient is Bruce Hoagland and Chadwick Cox was awarded the Service Award by Sue Amstutz (See Awards). A silent auction was held during the meeting and was very successful as outlined below.

SILENT AUCTION ACTION

I am happy to report that the second annual silent auction held in October during our annual membership meeting at Western Hills raised \$480.00 for the Oklahoma Native Plant Society! Auction items included beautiful handmade glass bead jewelry items from both Susan Chambers and Tina Julich, 2 pieces of original art from Ellen Shannon, a variety of beautiful photographs of our native flora from Amy Morris, a family membership to the Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa, many interesting books, a walking stick from

Our fall potluck dinner was Friday, November 10, on the OSU campus. Our speaker was Steve Owens, current host of *Oklahoma Gardening* and owner of Bustani Plant Farm. He talked on "A Few Natives to Know." Steve showed slides and

discussed some of his favorite native plants. Most slides showed the individual plants but some showed the natives in garden settings. Steve encouraged everyone to plant native plants in their gardens, especially native varieties of garden favorites such as Artemisias, Wisterias, Clematis, Delphiniums (larkspurs), Penstemons, and Hydrangeas. He emphasized that most native plants grow better in regular soil without amendments or supplemental watering.

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.

A short business meeting followed the potluck. Alice Richardson gave a report on the annual meeting and made a call for ideas for future programs. The membership voted to retain the

current officers through next year: Paul Richardson – chair, Olen Thomas – vice-chair, Elaine Lynch – secretary/treasurer.

The Crosstimbers Chapter is hosting the 2007 Indoor Outing. It will be held at the Oklahoma Botanical Garden and Arboretum in Stillwater on February 10. Our spring pot luck dinner will be held on March 9th, speaker to be determined. On April 21, we will make a field trip to Redbud Valley near Tulsa.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Julia K. Kristjansson, Owasso
Tim and Georgiana Mauldin, Norman

Answers to Botanical Trivia Quiz: Jim Elder

1. *Sassafras* - Captain John Smith established the colony on the James River, where there were extensive stands of *Sassafras*. He planned to ship *Sassafras* back to England to impress investors, officials, and potential future colonist.
2. Jane Colden (1724-1766) – was described by Asa Gray in 1843 as “first botanist of her sex in her country”. She collected and catalogued over 300 species from New York and the lower Hudson River. She was educated at home by her father in Linnaeus’ classification system. She corresponded with Linnaeus and many other naturalists from around the world. She was an accomplished illustrator and her flora of New York manuscript is held in the British Museum.
3. Sweden – Peter Kalm was sent to America in 1748 to collect and study useful plants that might be of benefit to Sweden. He became close friends with John Bartram. Linnaeus credits Kalm with the discovery of some 60 new species.
4. John and William Bartram – in 1765 they collected *F. alatanaha* in Georgia’s rugged mountains. Though the tree is currently widely cultivated and available from nurseries, it was never again found in the wild. Did the Bartram’s dig up all the specimens? Remember ONPS’ rule *Collecting any plant parts or materials at the site must be approved by the field trip leader.*

ONPS Announces the forthcoming publication of its sixth annual journal

Oklahoma Native Plant Record

Volume 6 Number 1, December 1, 2006

The 2006 issue is being offered to members, non-members, libraries, colleges, and universities at a subscription rate of \$9.00. It is also available in electronic format (CD) at \$9.00. Rates include shipping and handling. If you would like to receive the journal please return this notice with your payment. Journals will be shipped in December 2006.

Oklahoma Native Plant Record, Volume 6, 2006
Sheila Strawn, Managing Editor

Several years ago a small group of members of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, interested in fungi, initiated its Mycological Chapter. The debate which accompanied the chapter's formation naturally centered on the fact that fungi are just not plants, even if they had historically been studied by botanists. In the end most realized that if we did not include fungi in the Society that there would be insufficient peer support for their study. If we did not give the fledgling group a place, mycological studies in Oklahoma might forever continue to be inadequately addressed in the natural sciences.

For the past several years Dr. Clark Ovrebo has served as chair of that chapter and has contributed mycological articles regarding distribution of mushrooms, including one in this Volume as well. *The Oklahoma Native Plant Record* is proud to provide these articles to those who would study fungi in Oklahoma and to those whose interests in fungi might be stimulated toward further investigation.

In an effort to spawn more interest in this under-studied area, we present in this volume the first, and until recently the only, major study of lichen distribution in Oklahoma. Lichens, being a dual organism of a fungal base with algal and/or bacterial photobionts, offer the biologist a unique perspective on ecosystem dynamics and evolution. They deserve a more thorough study and Darwin Keck's historical article is the requisite for beginning their study in Oklahoma. Keck, who is a native Oklahoman, became interested in Oklahoma lichens while taking a course in lichenology at the University of Michigan Biological Station in the summer of 1958. The teacher, Dr. Howard Crum, pointed out that very little work had been done in Oklahoma and in most of the surrounding states, and encouraged him to pursue a study of this type. His purpose was to collect and identify lichens in an 11-county area of North Central Oklahoma. Secondary aims were to analyze ecological relationships and to establish a record of species distribution for each county. He encountered a lack of sufficient up-to-date literature and herbarium specimens. Since no herbarium specimens were available at Oklahoma State University at that time, he sent most of the foliose specimens to Mason E. Hale, Jr. at the Smithsonian Institution for verification. Keck's collection currently makes up the bulk of lichen specimens at OSU. The second largest known collection of Oklahoma specimens was done by D.B. Adams. His 1970 collection accounts for most of the approximately 100 lichen specimens deposited in the Bebb Herbarium.

A young researcher, Lacy Burgess, who is working with Bruce Hoagland on vascular plant distribution, has turned out an excellent article, "Vascular Flora of a Riparian Site on the Canadian River, Cleveland County, Oklahoma. This work describes flora on heavily disturbance impacted riparian areas such as a former landfill and a sand and gravel removal site. She describes a complex interaction of disturbances and environmental conditions that have had complex effects on species; natural, exotic, and invasive.

Bruce Hoagland and Amy Buthod have provided another species list, this time for a red sandstone hills site in Canadian County. Each year they have contributed floras that give us places to go and species to see on our field trips and we always appreciate their work. Their floras also provide future botanists with a place to begin; a challenge to research, work to be done. We think you will enjoy and use this volume and hope you will use the order form to be among the first to receive Volume 6 in December.

(P.S. The cover will surprise and intrigue you.)

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Add \$5.00 __ **to cover cost of copying and mailing a complete ONPS directory if desired.**

The Gaillardia

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Marilyn Stewart/Lou Duke/Kathy Webb Central
Paul Richardson Crosstimbers
Clark Ovrebo Mycology

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