



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

Volume 23, Number 4  
Winter 2008

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#### INSERT: INDOOR OUTING INFO

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FOR NEXT ISSUE IS  
15 February 2009**

# 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 1: NE Chapter Meeting with Loraine Richmond, Naturalist at Lake Eufaula SP. Page 9

Dec 6: Board Meeting. Contact Lynn Michaels

Feb 7: NE Chapter will host the Indoor Outing, Page 9

NE Chapter continues their Fabulous Wildflower Fridays on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of each month. Page 9

Various other programs are planned but not finalized as to date and time.

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

## ONPS THANKS THESE DONORS

### General Fund

Cleveland County Audubon Society

In Memory of Paul Buck

Irene McKee

In Memory of Lou Duke

Mary Korthase

Margaret Ryan

Marilyn Stewart

Sheila Strawn

## PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

Lynn Michaels

I love Oklahoma. I love that we have four seasons. Now, don't get me wrong, I don't like every day of each of those seasons. But, I like the variety. Just the plain fact that we have four seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Yes, I said autumn, not fall. I like autumn. I like everything about it, even the way it is spelled, with the m followed by an n. It's a nice warm m-m-m-m sound in your throat. I like the crisp air, shuffling through the fallen leaves with the nice crunchy swish that they make, and the beautiful burnished red, orange and yellow hues of the leaves. Spring is great, but it is a time of promise of things to come. Autumn is a time of harvest and therefore a season that represents accomplishment - a fullness of time that spring and summer can only wish for. It is said that you can't truly experience joy without sadness. The seasons give us the chance to relish the poignancy of blissful days by their fleeting joy and contrast them with less appealing days.

Marilyn Stewart asked me how it felt to be president and I responded that I felt a little like an imposter. The most recent presidents have all been professionals in botany or an environmental awareness field. I am a part-time student at Rogers State University right now. Thirty-five years ago I took Botany at OU and now I am finally picking up my Field Botany and hopefully a degree in Environmental Conservation in the next few years. So I am still learning. I am continually amazed by the breadth of information and intelligence, the competence and expertise of the people in this organization.

Therefore, I am thrilled and humbled to be your president for the next year. ONPS is a grand organization. The projects that we are involved in are truly impressive. The Journal is a highly valuable educational tool at the professional level. Color Oklahoma is continuing to plant wildflowers and the license plates increase our recognition and our funds. The photo contest brings awareness of the diversity in our state. I am particularly excited about the work that is being done with the state parks and nature centers of this state. Many naturalists have a broad knowledge of all the natural sciences. They may have an emphasis in their training more on mammals, or geography, or insects, or birds. We have been given an amazing opportunity to help at Tenkiller, Lake Stanley Draper and Alabaster Caverns State Park to identify the native plants for historical and educational purposes. From

these studies, three brochures are in the works that will be available at these parks to increase visitor appreciation and knowledge of the local wildflowers. I was a Naturalist for a summer at Oxley Nature Center and I know how valuable these brochures are as an aide to the guides and also as a reference to individuals who wish to wander the trails in solitude. The local meetings and field trips are informative, as well as fun and give us a chance to be around like-minded individuals. Our co-sponsorship of the Wildflower Workshop continues to be exciting and the web site brings news to members and potential members.

A preacher once told me that one of the women in his congregation was mad at him because he had not shaken her hand and said how glad he was to see her that particular morning. It begs the question: When are we givers and not takers? At what point in an organization is it time to impart what we know to others and not merely show up to learn or experience something new or interesting. To everything there is a season, right - spring, summer, fall, winter; a time of giving and a time for taking; a time of teaching and a time for learning. Make sure you can say you worked on one of these outstanding projects, and not just that you were a member of an organization that had magnificent projects.

You might gather by this time that I am a "silver lining" kinda gal - one who always sees the glass as half full, rather than half empty. I have seen *Spiranthes* everywhere lately. I read that it isn't uncommon, but it is easily overlooked. That must be true, because once I started seeing it, I see it everywhere. Don't overlook the *Spiranthes*. Look closely. We have amazing native plants in this state and fantastic members of ONPS. Go out and find a few of each and enjoy an Oklahoma autumn.

## BOTANIST'S CORNER

Pat Folley

### The CUSCUTA Family in Oklahoma

One of the smaller families in Oklahoma is that of the dodders, also called love-vine, angels' hair, tangle-gut, witches' shoelaces, devils's guts and strangle-vine. Botanists know them as the Cuscutaceae. We have only one genus, *Cuscuta*, and eleven species present in the state. All of them grow on other plants: herbs or small trees and shrubs.

This habit of growing on other plants is shared with all the other vines, but *Cuscuta* is something more: it is a complete parasite. Oh, the little seeds



fall to the earth in the fall and germinate in the spring like all other annuals, but as soon as the first green tendrils contact an appropriate host, the vines insert a kind of aerial root called *haustoria* into the stem of the host, and their contact with the soil withers away.



We believe that *Cuscuta* is closely related to the morning-glory family. Its seeds form by fours in capsules, just like morning-glories. It makes vines that stretch to form tangles like yellow or golden threads on other plants. But it has no leaves, though some species still bear little vestigial leaves like scales, here and there on the vines. When they bloom, they do it with profusion, for like all other annuals, each year's growth must produce the entire hope of the species for another season of life.

To identify a particular dodder plant to its species, you will need a copy of the Keys to the Flora of Oklahoma, a good magnifying glass, and patience. The flowers are tiny, most of them are white, and truth to tell, pretty much alike. You'll probably have to get out of your car and walk up close to the vines before the flowers become visible, like foam on a wave.

A good magnifier will reveal clusters of translucent, waxy-looking flowers shaped like little bells. Each flower is accompanied by one to several bracts made of the same material. Were they large enough to serve in flower arrangements, we would be growing them in our flower beds.

Instead, however, farmers worry about the loss of crops of alfalfa or flax. Those are two of *Cuscuta*'s favorite victims. It is amusing to scan the Web's lists of *Cuscuta* species: many of them are labeled both as "endangered" and as "noxious weeds" in the same state! It all depends, I guess, on your point of view.

When exploring the Oklahoma Ozarks or Ouachitas Mountain area, look for the "rope dodders", which form tight rope-like masses

around the stems of such shrubs as American hazelnut. Ours should be species *Cuscuta coryli*. The most common species in the state is *Cuscuta cuspidata*, which grows on ragweeds of all species and both genera. "Noxious weeds" indeed!

JIM NORMAN

Charles Schurch Lewallen

Jim Norman passed away Saturday October 11th. I have known Jim for at least 10 years and spent those years following him around eastern Oklahoma, learning, laughing and sometimes being aggravated as hell. I am sure that some who read this did not know Jim so I will try to explain why he was a special person.

When you went on a field trip with Jim, you were not just looking for wildflower or birds or bugs, you were looking for everything. I was driving with Jim on a dirt road just east of the Illinois river, when he said ,STOP HERE! he got out of the car went up into the woods and laid down on his belly. Here was a lichen called British Soldier, a lichen that grew on the ground. It has a gray green stem with a cardinal red top, about a half inch high. Now that is something I never would have found, if not for Jim. How long ago did he discover it, and how, we will never know.

For some reason when we first started, I followed Jim in my car. He drove an old pick-up which always had bald tires. In those days I was always following a cloud of dust. Some times the cloud of dust was a speck on the horizon. I always caught up because he would have stopped to look at something.

One time he told me he knew where we could see summer tanagers, so he got in his truck and took off. By the time I got to my car he was just a spot of dust in the distance. As I followed Him, I noticed that the road was getting rougher and there was grass growing down the middle, I saw a sign flash by that said "road ends". I found Jim parked at the end of the road looking around. Jim said "wrong road". Don't get the wrong impression, Jim always knew where he was going, and if he didn't, he always found something new.

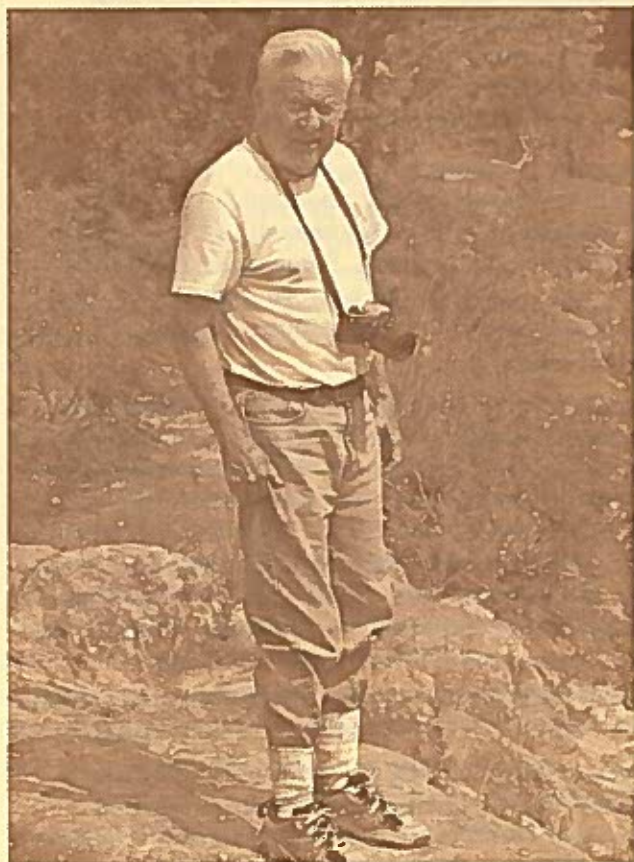
Once we were looking for the large yellow lady's slipper, that is much rarer than the small one. I had the directions given to me by Bruce Hoagland of the Oklahoma Biological Survey. We were walking east on a dry creek bed in the southeast part of the state, when I stepped up into the woods to look around. After walking a few yards, I felt something tugging at my pant leg.

Now knowing Jim, my first thought was that he



had snuck up behind me and was trying to scare the heck out of me. When I looked down I discovered a small water snake had struck my jeans and had its teeth caught in the fabric. When I saw Jim he was leaning against a tree laughing. As I think about this now it would not be above Jim to have found that snake and toss it in my direction. We did find the orchid. One amazing yellow flower blooming alone in the woods.

Jim then said that he knew where there was a large population of these orchids. By his directions it looked like it would take us back in the direction of Muskogee. It was late afternoon and I wanted to get Jim back home to Marion. Well when it came time to turn, Jim said east (west was toward home). We drove until the road turned to dirt, over each hill Jim said, this looks like it, just over the next hill. By this time we were well into Arkansas. I at last put my foot down (on the brake) and told a disappointed Jim that we had to head home. On the way back he said, "You know I have not been here for over 20 years, none of this looks familiar".



I related this story to Paul Buck and he said that this was why Jim was so good a discovering things, he was always willing to go down that unknown dirt road. Several times I tried to get our position on a topographical map but Jim was not interested in maps, and had little use for them.

Then there were the annual pilgrimages, the yellow lady's slippers, the yellow fringed orchid, the azaleas (native), and to that little plot of prairie near his home where the Oklahoma grass pink orchid grows. Then there is "Jim's Limestone Glade". Jim did not own the glade, but in his mind it was his. And to my mind I feel it will always be his.

Thoreau said "It is not what you look at that matters, it's what you see." Jim had that ability. To see something a thousand times and to see the beauty in it every time and also to see it anew each time.

I have of course not said everything that needs to be said or mentioned every place or detail. But for me and a few other close friends of Jim, there will always be Chewey.

#### LOU DUKE

Chad Cox

Lou Duke died after a long battle with lung cancer on October 17, 2008 in Norman. She served as an officer in the Central Chapter and as a board member for Color Oklahoma. Most of us did not know her well but those that attended her memorial service learned a lot more of her. The service was not conventional but concentrated on her life. Her psychiatrist, also a friend, and a coworker spoke about her life. The troubles she had early on she conquered only then to be diagnosed with cancer. We knew her primarily during her remission.

Lou was a botanists at heart and thoroughly into native wildflowers. Her yard was a testament to native plants and non natives plants were not welcome. Her garden must have been a true solace as ours are to us, just more so. We have lost an inveterate nativist of the good kind.

#### BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION: WHERE ART MEETS SCIENCE

Ron Tyrl

If the old adage that *A picture is worth a thousand words*. is true, then an illustration by Bellamy Parks Jansen is certainly worth a thousand botanical technical terms. Many of you are familiar with Bellamy's illustrations that appear in the *Field Guide to Oklahoma Plants, Keys & Descriptions for the Vascular Plants of Oklahoma, North American Range Plants*, and numerous other books and technical publications. Her postcards and watercolor paintings of wildflowers are also sold at ONPS functions.



As you have enjoyed the beauty of her illustrations, perhaps you have wondered how Bellamy creates such detailed, life-like renderings of plants. On Friday, February 20th, you will have an opportunity to find out. You are invited to attend an exhibition of her work, a lecture by her on the nature and art of scientific illustration, and a reception to meet her, beginning at 3:30 P.M. in the Peggy V Helmerich Browsing Room of the Edmund Low Library on the Oklahoma State University Stillwater campus. Visitor parking is available in the Student Union Parking Garage, just a short walk from the library.

Bellamy's visit to Oklahoma is being hosted by the Cross Timbers Chapter, the OSU Botanical Society, the OSU Library, and the OSU Departments of Botany and Natural Resource Ecology and Management. In the evening, members of the CT chapter and OSUBS are hosting a pot-luck dinner beginning at 6:00 P.M. for those of you from out-of-town. The dinner will be held in Room 110 of the Life Sciences Building, immediately adjacent to the library.

The title of Bellamy's exhibition and presentation is *Botanical Illustration: Where Art Meets Science*. It is most appropriate because it reflects her interest in both art and botany as an undergraduate at Chadron State University in Nebraska. Following her graduation from Chadron, she took additional courses botany and art history at the University of Nebraska. While at NU, she became a staff illustrator in the Department of Agronomy and began work on illustrations that subsequently appeared in *North American Range Plants* and numerous other publications. In the late 1980s she began collaborating with me and my coauthors on the first edition of the *Field Guide* and *The Flora of Oklahoma* project. Even though she has not botanized in Oklahoma, she is intimately acquainted with more than 300 of our species because of her work.

The exhibition comprises more than 50 framed prints of Bellamy's illustrations that have appeared in many different publications, as well as her observational notes and preliminary pencil sketches. In addition, a set of prints illustrates the development of flowers and fruits of *Penstemon haydenii*, blowout beardtongue — the results of an independent study she conducted as an undergraduate student.

Please join us in welcoming Bellamy to Oklahoma on Friday, February 20th.

OKLAHOMA CENTENNIAL BOTANICAL  
GARDEN

## Pearl Garrison

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society has begun a survey of wildflowers, grasses and other plants at the Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden, which is being developed seven miles northwest of downtown Tulsa.

Although turnout September 13 was lower than expected because of a rain forecast, Dale and Sue Amstutz, Lynn Michael, Mary Korthase and guest Richard Johnson were excited about their discoveries.

Additional surveys will be conducted next year. With information from ONPS, the Garden will create a brochure about the main native plants on the site. A complete list will be on the Garden website, [www.ocbg.org](http://www.ocbg.org).

The Botanical Garden site is 240 acres in southeastern Osage County just seven miles northwest of downtown Tulsa. Sixty of the acres will be developed into gardens and buildings and the remaining 180 acres of forest and prairie will remain a conservation and research area.

When completed, the \$40 million project will have 15 major theme gardens, 60 specialty gardens, seven-acre lake with a fountain and island of Oriental gardens, 3,000-seat amphitheater, visitor center, education building, conservatory, interfaith chapel and more.

A temporary visitor center, which overlooks the lake, and a new walking trail are open Saturday Nov. 1 from 10-4 and every Tuesday in October and November from 10-2. Contact Pearl Garrison, [pearl@botanicalgardentulsa.com](mailto:pearl@botanicalgardentulsa.com) or 918 728-2707 to visit by appointment.

## Sue Amstutz

Oklahoma Native Plant Society members identified 62 wildflowers, grasses, and trees during an expedition to the Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden site near Tulsa in September.





They were Dale and Sue Amstutz, Mary Korthase, Lynn Michael and Pearl Garrison. Joining them was Richard Johnson.

Sue and Lynn provided the following list of plants found: croton, aster, white eupatorium, spiral ladies-tresses, buckwheat, slender mountain-mint, eriogonum, nothoscordum, water pepper, gumweed, broomweed, partridge-pea, sneezeweed, three species of goldenrod, buffalobur, agalina, soil-loving lotus, autumn oxalis, slender bushclover, thistle, fire-on-the-mountain, small leaved tick-trefoil, ironweed, buttonweed, camphorweed, aster, azure salvia, ruellia, gray-leaved nightshade, green milkweed and western ragweed.

Also big bluestem, wild rye, foxtail, Indian grass, purple top, Johnson grass, Bermuda grass, persimmon, nightshade, honey locust, buckbrush, rough-leaf dogwood, deciduous holly, climbing rose, red cedar, winged elm, various oaks, hawthorn, redbud, winged sumac, blackberry, passionvine, smilax, baptisia, echinacea, mare's tail, dodder, ratibirda, invasive lespedeza..

#### ONPS DRAPER NATURE AREA UPDATE

Sheila Strawn

The Central Chapter of ONPS has been helping Oklahoma City's Department of Parks and Recreation inventory plants at Lake Stanley Draper. The first inventory was done on November 11, 2007. Seven volunteers hacked their way through the thick underbrush to identify as many as possible before the first frost. With Dr. Bruce Smith making most of the final decisions on species, volunteers identified 103 species that Sunday. Since then the Central Chapter has had four more hikes. On March 9 and May 10 we added perhaps another 100 species to that list. We inventoried again in September and October. Those species are still being verified by the Oklahoma Biological Survey.

Bruce Smith served as our expert-in-the-field once again in September. When I realized I had packed the presses without newspapers Susan Tillery, a newcomer and possible new member, donated a box of newsprint she "just happened to have" in the back of her car. Two other possible new members, Jamie Brown and Mark Clevenger, also joined Tina Julich, Chad Cox, Steven Strawn, Barbara Klein, Linda and Keith Schemmer that day. Thank you all so much.



In October three experienced ONPS members, Marilyn Stewart, Tina Julich and Lynn Michaels, collected late summer/early fall species. Since the plant press blotters and boards weren't back from the Survey yet, the University of Central Oklahoma loaned us 3 dozen sets to use. The October inventory was the last one scheduled for 2008. The Parks & Recreation Department is going to try again this fall to conduct a control burn. Next year we will be able to make comparisons of species before and after the fire.

We have been lucky to have such great cooperation from all the organizations, institutions, and individuals involved. Botanists from the Oklahoma Biological Survey have been verifying the identification of plant vouchers we have collected and have collected additional species as well. Several individual members have stepped forward to advise us in our field methods and preservation techniques, and we always have the tools, bags, and water we need. Thank you all so much.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Draper Nature Area Project next spring contact me and we'll make sure you know what we'll be doing and where.

Dr. Sheila A. Strawn, DNA Project Leader  
(405)733-0864/sastrawn@hotmail.com.

#### JULIA JORDAN: PLAINS APACHE ETHNOBOTANY

Residents of the Great Plains since the early 1500s, the Apache people were well acquainted with the native flora of the region. In *Plains Apache Ethnobotany*, Julia A. Jordan documents more than 110 plant species valued by the Plains Apache and preserves a wealth of detail concerning traditional Apache collection, preparation, and use of these plant species for food, medicine, ritual, and material culture.

The traditional Apache economy centered on hunting, gathering, and trading with other tribes. Throughout their long history the Apache lived in



or traveled to many different parts of the plains, gaining an intimate knowledge of a wide variety of plant resources. Part of this traditional knowledge, especially that pertaining to plants of Oklahoma, has been captured here by Jordan's fieldwork, conducted with elders of the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma in the mid-1960s, a time when much traditional knowledge was being lost.

*Plains Apache Ethnobotany* is the most comprehensive ethnobotanical study of a southern plains tribe. Handsomely illustrated, this book is a valuable resource for ethnobotanists, anthropologists, historians, and anyone interested in American Indian use of native plants.

Available from [oupres.com](http://oupres.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

### UOBS SUMMER COURSES

Bruce Smith will present a summer course at the Biological Station entitled Vascular Aquatic Plants. This course will study the forms and life histories of the less familiar non-flowering plants. Class discussions will include variation in non-flowering plant reproduction, ecological interactions, morphological adaptations and the importance of each to man and his environment. Numerous field trips will facilitate study of non-flowering plants and their habitats.

Other interesting courses are available but not on botany. For more information see [www.ou.edu/uobs](http://www.ou.edu/uobs).

### INDOOR OUTING

Sue Amstutz

"Birds, Butterflies, Bees, Blankets, and Beautiful Oklahoma" will be the theme when Northeast Chapter invites all ONPS members to attend the 2009 Indoor Outing to be held Saturday, February 7, at the Tulsa Garden Center. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with presentations to start slightly after 9:00 a.m. The day-long event will close at 3:00 p.m.

An outstanding array of speakers have agreed to make presentations. Highlight speaker will be Mike Klemme, official photographer for the 2007 Oklahoma Centennial and photographer / author of the beautiful "Celebrating Oklahoma", a 288-page coffee table book which was a best-seller in our state during the Centennial year and was nominated for an Oklahoma Book Award in the design / illustration category. Mr. Klemme is a regular contributor on the "Discover Oklahoma" television program.

Other speakers will include Tulsa Zoo's head veterinarian, Dr. Kay Backues, speaking on her hobby, bees and bee-keeping. James Thayer who

has recently been involved in tabulating species of butterflies at the site of the new Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden northwest of Tulsa will feature his expertise of Oklahoma butterflies for his presentation. Dan Reinking of the Sutton Avian Research facility in Bartlesville will present a lively discussion on Oklahoma's wintering eagles and how Sutton is tracking bird populations in the state. Linda Harkey, Gilcrease Museum docent and member of Tulsa Herb Society, will describe how wild plants and herbs are used by Native American populations for coloring the blankets woven by the women of various tribes, with Ms. Harkey's specialty, the Navajo people, emphasized.

Following the presentations, Indoor Outing participants will have a choice of several "tours" within walking distance of the Garden Center. These will include the Tulsa Arboretum, the Tulsa Rose Garden, the Linneaus Teaching Garden, and Woodward Park. For those who prefer to stay indoors, a hands-on weaving demonstration by Gina Levesque of Across Generations in Wagoner will fill the final hour of the scheduled events.

A SILENT AUCTION will take place during the day, and several vendors will have plants, ONPS merchandise, books, and other wares for sale. Lunch catered by Camille's Sidewalk Cafe will be served on site at the Garden Center. Selections for the brown bag noon meal will be listed on the reverse side of the registration form (found elsewhere in this edition of the *Gaillardia*). ONPS members planning to attend the Indoor Outing should not forget to make their lunch selections so that we will know your preferences for lunch.

Northeast Chapter members making arrangements for the February 7 Indoor Outing include Sue Amstutz, Mary Korthase, Irene McKee, Kim Shannon, and State President Lynn Michael. Questions regarding the event may be directed to any one of these committee members

### 2009 PHOTO CONTEST

Kim Shannon

19 photos were entered in the 2008 Special Category, and we hope that the special photo category for 2009, which will be "Ferns," will generate as much interest.

The deadline for submission to the photo contest has been changed to February 15, 2009. The winners will be announced and the awards will be presented at the Wildflower Workshop to be held in May 2009, and winners will also be listed in the summer issue of the *Gaillardia*.



The Special Category for 2010 will be "Fruits". This will give you a chance to take photos of fruits or fruiting bodies for the 2010 contest.

For more information on the 2009 photo contest please check the ONPS web site <http://www.usao.edu/~onps> or email Kim Shannon, contest coordinator, at [okpenstemon@cox.net](mailto:okpenstemon@cox.net).

### COLOR OKLAHOMA

Tina Julich

**Wildflower Grants:** The Color Oklahoma committee is in the planning stage for the 2009 Wildflower grants. ODOT has complicated the issue of planting of wildflowers within city limits so this issue will have to be resolved before the 2009 Grant Application is ready for distribution.

**Let ODOT Know:** It is vital that ONPSians let ODOT know that we appreciate the wildflowers along Oklahoma highways. For every compliment they receive they receive a complaint about the 'weeds' along the roadsides. Please take the time to call, write, or email ODOT and state officials when you see the roadside in bloom and let them know it is appreciated. Also let them know when wildflowers are mowed and not allowed to go to seed. The ONLY way we will be able to get mowing reduced and wildflowers increased is to SPEAK UP.

Some numbers to call:

Melody Johnson, Beautification Branch  
Coordinator – (405) 521-4037

Gary Evans, Assistant Chief Engineer, Director of  
Operations – (405) 521-46765

Don't forget to call, write, or email your state representative and senator, too!

**Wildflower Site Surveys:** Earlier this year Color Oklahoma agreed to work with ODOT to survey the existing wildflower plots that have been planted over the last 20 or so years along Oklahoma roadsides. The response to our request for ONPS members to conduct these surveys for 2008 was not as enthusiastic as we had hoped, so we are discussing whether to continue with the surveys as we had originally planned. We, perhaps, will modify the way the surveys are conducted by reducing the number of times a site is visited, or the need to actually stop at the roadside to take pictures and verify the plant varieties. If you would like to help with the survey, should we continue it, next spring please email Tina Julich at [tjulich@valornet.com](mailto:tjulich@valornet.com).

**Need volunteer for CO committee:** The Color Oklahoma team is still in need of a volunteer to

join the CO committee. We usually meet in various locations around the state, most recently at Stroud. We are trying to schedule our meetings on Saturdays to allow more people to get involved with the committee, and our next meeting will be January 17, 2009 at the Stroud City Hall. What does the Color Oklahoma Committee do? We oversee the matching grant program; deciding what organizations will receive a matching grant, coordinate the ordering of wildflower seeds planted around the state, man information tables at festivals to give out information on Color Oklahoma and our wildflower planting programs. If you would like to help with this great and rewarding job, contact Lynn Michael or Tina Julich.

**Car tags:** the state Tax Commission and cost just \$35 plus a \$2 mailing Show your support for Oklahoma wildflowers by ordering a new Color Oklahoma special vehicle license plate. The tags are issued by fee, with \$20 of each tag going to our wildflowers. See [www.ColorOklahoma.org](http://www.ColorOklahoma.org),

### WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

Pat Folley

Betty Culpepper and I attended the Wildflower Workshop, held in Idabel, McCurtain County for the first time this year, and in the fall for the first time, too. There were not so many attending as in the past, and the wildflowers were not so plentiful as they had been just a week before, but the Idabel and Broken Bow folks did a great job of planning, with speakers all day Friday and an outing by way of a huge Broken Bow school bus on Saturday. We got to see lots of swamp sunflowers. Those are unusual in any other part of Oklahoma, and in the TIAK forest we saw sweet everlasting and Hercules' Club trees. The black gums were beginning to turn their beautiful deep red.



And we were happy to see Joanne Orr, still with us after her retirement, who presented the Sara



Snodgrass award to her former right-hand-lady, Laurie Stillings.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### Northeast Chapter Sue Amstutz

Northeast Chapter's next meeting will occur on Monday, December 1, at the Tulsa Garden Center. We will begin as usual with a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. followed at 7:00 p.m. by election of chapter officers for 2009 and our quarterly business meeting. The evening's program, "So What Do Our State Parks Naturalists Really Do?" will be presented by Loraine Richmond, Naturalist at Lake Eufaula State Park. Loraine and Park Manager Sue Hughart are longtime friends and supporters of ONPS, since Photo Contest Posters have been utilized at the Lake Eufaula Nature Center annually since 1996. ONPS members will recall our Annual Meeting being held at Lake Eufaula in 2004, at which time many of us took time to visit the Nature Center. The December 1 Northeast Chapter meeting with Loraine Richmond's presentation will provide an opportunity to relive that special weekend four years ago.

The Chapter has enjoyed three field trips this fall. On September 13 the new Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden northwest of downtown Tulsa was site of a plant survey conducted by four NE chapter members, an OCBG staff member, and one guest. On October 11, four members and a guest explored Osage Hills State Park, and on November 8, Walnut Creek State Park was the site of our final field excursion of 2008.

The Chapter plans to continue the Fabulous Wildflower Friday social times at Panera in 2009. These fun events will take place each month on the third Friday. FWF participants enjoy sharing books, identifying wild plants usually brought to Panera by Lynn Michael, and planning future chapter events.

Northeast Chapter will host the 2009 Indoor Outing. The event will take place at the Tulsa Garden Center on Saturday, February 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (For additional information, see the article in this edition of the *Gaillardia*. The Registration Form for the Indoor Outing is also included in this issue.)

We are saddened to report the passing of longtime Northeast Chapter member Jimmy Norman who departed this life on October 11. Wildflowers and wildflower photography were passions of Jimmy's, and many ONPS members recall fondly field trips under his expert leadership into places

in eastern Oklahoma to which Jimmy was especially drawn.

### Cross-Timbers Chapter Elaine Lynch

We took a field trip to the Teal Ridge Wetlands Area, located in south Stillwater, on Saturday, September 20. Our guide was Will Jessie, Teal Ridge Project intern and OSU graduate student. Teal Ridge is a 23 acre wetland demonstration site within the Stillwater Creek floodplain. Mr. Jessie discussed how they are managing the wetland through water-level adjustment, planting desired species and removing undesirable ones. Interestingly, they do not stick to natives when choosing plants but select new species based on their value to the wetlands wildlife. For example, this summer they seeded several areas with Japanese millet for bird food. Hard surface and mown paths offer easy access to all areas of the wetlands. A blind structure gives visitors a place to observe without disturbing wildlife in the wetland.

Dr. Julie F. Barcelona spoke to us at our November 14<sup>th</sup> potluck dinner. Her talk was titled "Too many species, so little forests, too little time: challenges in the study and conservation of Philippine Rafflesia." Dr. Barcelona is Curator of Ferns at the Philippine National Herbarium in Manila and currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor at OSU. She earned her Ph.D. degree in Botany at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Rafflesia are parasitic flowering plants endemic to southeast Asia. They are often called "corpse flower" or "meat flower" because the flowers smell like rotting meat and are pollinated by bottle or carrion flies. They produce the largest single flower in the world. Eight new species of Rafflesia have been discovered in the Philippines since 2002. The recent discoveries have stirred renewed interest in botanical exploration and research, conservation programs, and ecotourism prospects. However they are threatened by the population of nearly 90 million stripping lowland forests for shelter and food. Dr. Barcelona talked about these exciting discoveries and the reproductive biology that makes Rafflesias naturally rare. She also discussed what is not known about Rafflesia biology and the difficulties biologists have had in getting cooperation with the local population in preserving Rafflesia ecosystems. Dr. Barcelona has made her career in studying ferns and Rafflesia diversity. She is currently working with botanists from ISU and Harvard University on the evolutionary history of Philippine Rafflesia and with the Philippine



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staff in drafting conservation action plans. She is also working with the Philippine Tourism offices in establishing 'responsible' ecotourism programs. Plus, she is working with local teachers and students in making small experiments and scientific observations of *Rafflesia* in their natural habitats, and with local communities in protecting the remaining lowland forests by taking pride in their biological diversity.

After our potluck dinner, we held a short business meeting to elect 2009 officers and discuss other matters. Dale Chlouber gave us an update on the efforts to designate part of the Cimarron River in Payne and Creek counties as a Scenic River. Representative Lee Denney will bring the matter to the State Legislature and members were encouraged to contact her to let her know of our support of this proposal. Dale will let us know when hearings are scheduled to discuss the proposed legislation. There were no nominations for officers from the floor and those in attendance voted to retain Paul Richardson as chapter chair and Elaine Lynch as chapter secretary/treasurer. As yet no one has offered to serve as chapter vice-chair. We are concerned that this position has remained unfilled for the past year. It would be very helpful to have someone available to serve in the absence of the chair and to provide for coordinating the plans for programs and field trips. We would welcome any offers or suggestions as to how to solve this dilemma. Alice Richardson reported that Ron Tyrl was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, but that he called with an item to discuss. OSU is going to sponsor a presentation by Bellamy Parks-Jansen, a free-lance botanical illustrator who has worked with Ron and others in the past. She will be coming to Stillwater in February and Ron suggested that our chapter might wish to co-sponsor her visit. Those in attendance agreed to that suggestion. Ron will have an article with more information elsewhere in this issue.

Our March 2009 potluck speaker will be John McClenny, director of Stillwater Parks, Events and Recreation. He will speak about plans to create designated natural areas in low-use areas of some 5 or 6 Stillwater parks. The goals are to reduce natural resource consumption, maintenance costs, and pollution, and to promote reestablishment of wildlife and native plants. The exact date of the potluck has not yet been set.

## Central Chapter Report

Marilyn Stewart

Our inventory of Lake Stanley Draper continued through October 17 with a grand total of 124+ plants identified. We will resume the survey in early spring.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> we met at Pontotoc Ridge and spent the morning walking through the trails of the preserve in the beautiful fall weather. After lunch, we joined the Nature Conservancy on a drive to Coffee Pot Spring and then a hike to the highest point of Pontotoc. This was an area many of us had never seen and the view and variety of plant life was quite striking. Saw rosettes of Standing Cypress, *Gilia rubra*, and Old Plainsman, *Hymenopappus*, and many other forbs that were already beginning to set in their roots for the coming spring. One highlight was the discovery of Native American spear point by eagle-eyed ONPS and Nature Conservancy member Martin Rooney.

Our next event scheduled is for November 17 at OSU/OKC when Elia Woods will speak about native plant dyes, we will also have a plant/seed exchange.

Congratulations to Judy Jordan on the publishing of her book, Plains Apache Ethnobotany! She will be speaking to us in January or February.

Jeannie Coley will be Program Chair for this coming year and we will certainly be more organized with our schedule. At our meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> we will be planning our events and will notify CC members by email and postcards.

Finally, a personal note about our dear friend and 'botanist at heart', Lou Duke. Her wonderment and exclamations of joy over what seemed like every single plant she saw made a walk with her a richer experience. She is truly missed.

## WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Kelly Cope, Oklahoma City  
Dr. Bruce Dunn, Stillwater  
Russell Gaines, Oklahoma City  
Barbara A. Kern, Tulsa  
Ken O'Dell, Paola, KS  
Louise Ray, Idabel  
Susan Thompson, Amarillo, TX



# OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT RECORD

Looking forward to getting your copy of the Oklahoma Native Plant Record, Volume 8 ?

We are anxious to get it out. There's still lots of work to do on it, but this is what we've got planned:

Susan Barber has provided our historic article for 2008. Her thesis, "A Floristic Study of the Vascular Plants of the Gypsum Hills and Redbed Plains Area of Southwestern Oklahoma", is long overdue to be published . She researched the relationships between soil and vegetation types; just one of the underlying causes for the great biodiversity in Oklahoma, but her thorough work provides much more to the reader than the title reveals. We know you'll enjoy it.

"Current Status of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Herbarium Collections", has been submitted by Keith Carter, Pablo Rodriguez and Michael Dunn. The Herbarium at Cameron University [CAMU] will be housing the Refuge's plant specimens, thanks to a grant and a lot of work by faculty and staff at Cameron University. This is the first effort to update information regarding species at the refuge since we published Paul Buck's 1977 checklist of the flora in 2002. Hopefully, it will spur interest in keeping the Refuge list up-to-date and bring recognition to a very deserving state institution's herbarium. We also hope that this will mark the beginning of a cooperative relationship between the Society and our state institutions' herbaria. This type of relationship is what Wayne Elisens' article, "Benefits of a Cooperative Between Herbaria and Native Plant Societies" is all about. We fortuitously accepted it before we knew about the Carter, et al. paper. One of the main goals of the *Record* is the initiation of new sources of data for biodiversity research in Oklahoma and these two papers are evidence that we are reaching that goal.

It's been several years since we've published Clark Ovrebo's paper about lawn mushrooms. "Spring Mushrooms of Oklahoma", by Ovrebo and Nancy Weber is a new enlightening and enjoyable article with colorful photos from which we can learn a great deal more about the intriguing kingdom of Fungi. We've also been waiting several years for the "Checklist of Ferns in Oklahoma", by Bruce Smith to be submitted. It's finally here with photos to help you identify them. We know you're anticipating this article, too.

Finally, we'll have a Memorial to Paul Buck, long-time Board Member and promoter of the Society. Constance Murray will provide us with a look at what it was like to have a personal and professional relationship with someone so many of us have known and respected.

This has been a very busy year for our authors and reviewers, so bear with us. There may be title change or other changes, and even though we know it will be worth waiting for, we still hope to get it out on time. Be sure to order your copy soon.

Sheila Strawn, Managing Editor, Oklahoma Native Plant Record

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