



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

**Volume 28, Number 2
Summer 2013**

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FOR NEXT ISSUE IS**

15 August 2013

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 1: ONPS Board Meeting at Tulsa Garden Center.
Contact Adam Ryburn.**

June 7-8: Annual Wildflower Workshop, Alva. You should have received a mailing, if not see website.

June 11: Clark Ovrebo will lecture on mushrooms at Myriad Botanical Gardens. Page 7

June 15: Clark Ovrebo will lead an ONPS field trip at Lake Thunderbird State. Park. Page 7

June 15: Central Chapter Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge trip. Page 7

Fabulous Wildflower Fridays, the 3rd Friday of each month, Page 8

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

ONPS THANKS THESE DONORS

H.G. Barclay Fund

Ron Tyrl

In Memory of Paul Buck and Lou Duke

Color Oklahoma

Barry L. Redlinger

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

Adam Ryburn

Where is Spring?

Like many of our members and readers, I perennially long for the arrival of warmer temperatures in the spring that bring about the abundance and diversity of wildflowers and wildlife of our fine state. If you are like me, you have been looking at the weekly weather forecasts of the last couple of months wondering if spring would ever come. We've been plagued by half week winters marked by freezing temperatures, ice storms, and even snow; not optimal conditions for the start of a growing season. Unlike the spring of 2012, which arrived about 3 weeks early compared to average, this year's spring is about a month late. Weather forecasters suggest that the cold weather spells are now behind us and weather normal of this time of year should resume. So get out there and botanize!

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

Nominations for Service and Long Awards needed

There is still time to submit a nomination for the 2013 ONPS Service Award. Deadline for receipt of entries is August 31, 2013. The nomination must include in writing sufficient documentation to support the nominee's qualifications for receiving the Service Award.

Nominations should be sent to Sue Amstutz, Chairman, ONPS Service Award Committee, at 4190 E. 46th Place, Tulsa OK 74135 or by email to d-s-amstutz@cox.net. The 2013 Service Award will be presented during the ONPS Annual Meeting this fall.

Previous recipients of the award have been Ruth Boyd., Dr. Paul Buck, Betty Kemm, Joanne Orr, Chad Cox, Patricia Folley, Tina Julich, Dr. Sheila Strawn, Mary Korthase, Lynn Michael, and Dr. Ron Tyrl.

2013 ANNE W. LONG AWARD for the Promotion of Native Plants

Please consider making a nomination for the Anne Long Award, which is given in remembrance and honor of one of the ONPS founders, and an early state leader in wildflower protection. The award

recognizes individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to the stated purpose of ONPS. Nominations must be in writing, and must include the complete names of the individual(s) making the nomination and the nominee(s); a contact person if the nominee is an organization or group; and documentation of the nominee's activities promoting native plants. For additional information, or to see a list of previous winners, please see the ONPS Awards page on the ONPS Website. The deadline for receipt of nominations is August 31, 2013.

Send or e-mail nominations directly to:

Gloria Caddell
Department of Biology
University of Central Oklahoma
Edmond, OK 73034
gcaddell@uco.edu



BOTANIST'S CORNER

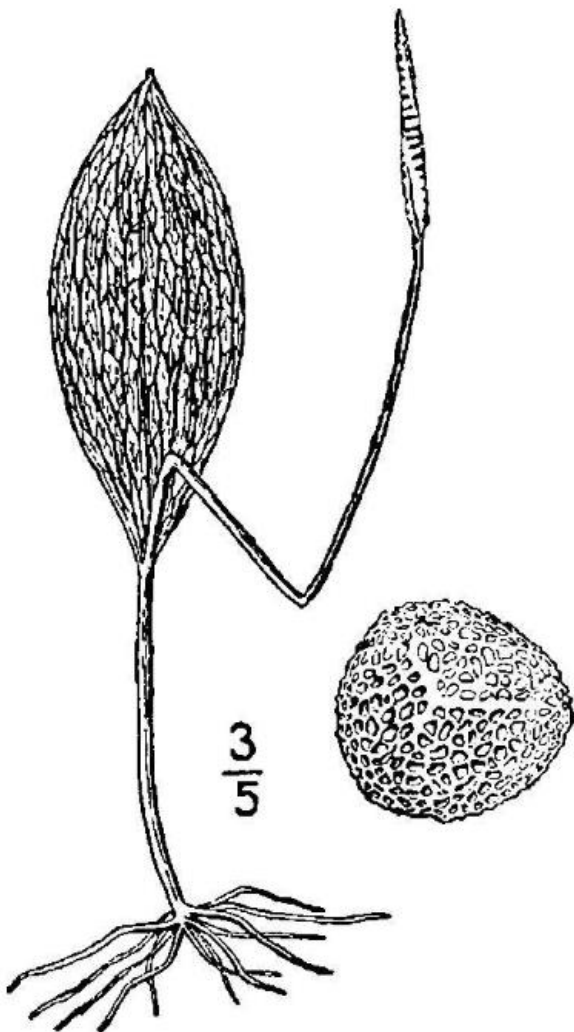
Marilyn Stewart

"If you do not know the names of things, the knowledge of them is lost too." Carl Linnaeus in *Philosophical Botanica*

I miss Lou Duke. For those who didn't know Lou, she was a long time ONPS member who passed away far too soon several years ago. Field trips with Lou were enlightening, while I would ooh and ah over Shooting Stars and Wild Indigo, Lou would be on her hands and knees plucking out some tiny smidgen of a plant, peering at it through a loupe and exclaim 'and what is *this*?'

In honor of Lou, this Botanist's Corner is a salute to a couple of those small, unnoticed and overlooked plants we walk on without even knowing they are there. You know the ones, the plants that will never make it to the garden centers. In our front yard/prairie there is a small plant, just a leaf really, that appears early in the spring and I always expect it to *do* something and then I forget as it's overtaken by Indian Blanket, Paintbrush and grasses. This year I finally put a name to it (knowing a plant's name certainly makes me appreciate it) and realized it is perhaps the most amazing plant I have.

What is this little gem? It's a fern called Adder's Tongue, *Ophioglossum*, and is unique in that it has more chromosomes than any other known living organism. A human has 46, a mosquito clocks in with 6, a cow has 60, a pea plant has 14, and this 3-4 inch single leaf with a spore stalk has an amazing 1,260. They have so many chromosomes through 'polyploidy' which means that the nucleus of the cell has more than two sets of complete chromosomes. These are ancient, primitive plants and it is thought that the adder's tongue may have gone through the polyploidy making process ten times. Some do not consider them true ferns and are now giving them their own taxonomic division, *Ophioglossophyta*.



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown.

The name for this—as Kim Shannon would say—tells us something about this plant, the Greek word *ophis* means snake and *glossa* means tongue. Growing in open prairies the fern sends up one

leaf and in the center of this shoots up a tongue-like spore stalk. Sometimes there is not a spore stalk and a leaf may not come up every year as the root lies dormant and is nourished by fungi in the soil. It thrives in harsh conditions and in our yard is in the thinnest, driest area.

There are about 25 species, five of which are in Oklahoma. All five are found in the extreme southeast part of the state and two of these, Bulbous Adder's-tongue (*O. crotalophoroides*) and Limestone Adder's-tongue (*O. engelmannii*) are found in central Oklahoma. To determine which I had I dug one up, the root on the *crotalophoroides* is bulb-like, but this one had fleshy roots which told me that it is the *engelmannii*. I like this, (and I know I'm chasing a rabbit here) as I had been reading about botanist Dr. George Engelmann, 1809-1884, who lived in St. Louis and explored much of Missouri, Arkansas and other points west. An expert on cacti and dodders, he was instrumental in the formation of the Shaw Gardens and MO Botanical gardens in St. Louis. He also had an important role in rescuing the French wine industry when he was able to prove that native American grapevines were resistant to Phylloxera and arranged to have more than a million slips and seeds sent to France. Who knows, maybe this is my official start of a collection of plants found by and/or named for Engelmann.

Adder's Tongue is considered rare in some regions of the U.S. and is on the endangered list in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

A plant closely related to Adder's Tongue is the diminutive Grape Fern, *Botrychium*. I had found this in our prairie several years ago when I noticed a twisted odd brownish colored spore stalk in early spring. It's extremely small, only about 5 or 6 inches with a couple of finely dissected leaves hugging the ground at the base. Because of the habitat (prairie) I believe it may be *B. lunarioides* which has the common name of Winter Grape Fern. 'Botry' means bunch of grapes and 'oides' refers to the sporangial clusters.



A question that I have about these plants, and really any plant I come across, is what does it do? What role does it play in the ecosystem? And in this I am stumped for these two plants. John Muir wrote, “When we try to pick out anything by itself we find that it is bound fast by a thousand invisible cords that cannot be broken, to everything in the universe.”

I’ll try to be content for now to know they have a place in the environment even though I don’t know what that is. Of course, I’d love to hear any thoughts as to what their role may be!

CONSERVATION CORNER Chad Cox

Waxing Weary with Weeds

Sometimes I know I am on a Quixote journey to do battle with weeds but I have kept going anyway. Something in me says it is unfair these weeds come here and overwhelm what’s here, as ironic as that is for me to think. Others have long since said it is hopeless and sit back to watch what happens. Most are oblivious to there is even a problem and probably would be unconcerned to hear of it. Realistically, we all will eventually just live with the weeds by bringing in their natural enemies to at least restrain them, somewhat euphemistically called biocontrol. I am not

bringing this up at this time out of frustration but actually with a bit of humor at my ambivalence as is true for others.

Katherine Darrow, a writer and botanist in Colorado, wrote “Making Peace with Daisies: Lessons in Non-Violent Conflict Resolution”, a three page description of a similar self-appraisal on her feelings about her battle with weeds, specifically in this case ox-eye daisies (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*). and scentless chamomile (*Matricaria perforat*). After spending a long, hot day clearing an area near Crested Butte, she noted with appall the plentiful supply of daisies along the way home but even more so that a mourner was planting an ox-eye daisy on a grave in a cemetery about a mile from where she was working. After listing the virtues of daisies, she ask can we make peace with daisies, rather than label them as botanical terrorists that must be destroyed? Is this “war on weeds” a battle we can even win? She ends her accounting with “Ultimately, I realize, as I slip peacefully into slumber after a long day in the hot sun, we will all be pushing, rather than pulling up daisies”. Clearly she thinks we cannot win but I am not sure if she is really ready to give up completely. See what you think:
http://weedsnetwork.com/traction?type=digest_html&proj=WeedsNews&sdate=20130415&edate=20130422

It is easier to think sympathetically when looking at a patch of ox-eye daisies due to be dispatched than Japanese honeysuckle covering all, even bushes. You don’t see the plants being overrun by the daisies but you can have sympathy for all those plants covered by the ivy. My problem is that I picture what both are doing.

She asked can we even win. If by winning we mean eliminating all ox-eye daisies here, then the answer is no, the opportunity for that to have been accomplished has long past. The same is true for most of the truly invasive plants here. If winning is saving cherished places full of native plants, that remains a possibility. Organizations like The Nature Conservancy are trying. Can we muster what it will take to maintain the effort? I, as do many others, have concern about our young never developing a connection to nature, unless it might come from an exciting video game. Without

that connection not much enthusiasm can be generated.

Even if all of those like me cannot protect cherished native sites, I will still know that I tried. You have to be a bit amused if you think you have a little Quixote in your soul.

COLOR OKLAHOMA

THE SOW INITIATIVE

Dr. Ron Tyrl and Pearl Garrison

Color Oklahoma's Save Oklahoma's Wildflowers Initiative aims to make the state more beautiful.

Please join us in transforming our roadsides into wildflower landscapes that stretch for miles.

First see what some other states are doing:

Iowa

Approximately 50,950 acres of Iowa's roadsides have been enhanced or revegetated with native grasses and wildflowers, with that number increasing by approximately 500 acres each year.

http://www.iowadot.gov/pdf_files/roadside_vegetation_q_and_a.pdf

North Carolina

A state-issued license plate provides \$250,000 annually for wildflower/roadside enhancement.

http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/wildflowerbook/

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ncdot/sets/72157633155499763/>

Texas

More than 5,000 species of wildflowers along with native grasses flourish along the state's roadsides, thanks to nature and attention from TxDOT.

<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/maintenance/wildflower-program.html>

Here is how you can help bring that to Oklahoma.

1. Buy a *Color Oklahoma* license plate. For each plate bought, we receive \$20 for buying seed,

developing education programs, and preserving our vast Oklahoma heritage.

2. Tell your state representative and senator that you want to see native wildflowers along our highways. Let them know if you see a crew mowing the flowers while they are in bloom. You can learn who your lawmakers are at <http://www.oklegislature.gov/FindMyLegislation.aspx>.
3. If you like or don't like what is happening to our roadsides, call Melody Johnson at the state Department of Transportation (405.521.4037) or Mike Cole at the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (405.425.3640). For each comment of praise or dismay, give them specific locations and times.
4. Contact us with your comments or questions at wildflowers@hotmail.com.
5. Apply for a grant from *Color Oklahoma* to add wildflowers in your area.
6. Take pictures of bloom sites and post them on our Facebook page.

Pearl Garrison

Color Oklahoma has a new card to help people identify native wildflowers. It is titled "What's That Wildflower?" A smartphone scan of one of the QR codes takes users to the Photo Gallery of coloroklahoma.org. The flowers are arranged by season; more images will be added. The other QR code takes users to the Color Oklahoma Facebook page.

The rack cards are being placed at state Tourism Welcome Centers, Oxley Nature Center, Will Rogers Park Exhibition, Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden, and Tulsa Garden Center. Ask for one at an ONPS chapter meeting and the Wildflower Workshop. If you are at a Welcome Center beginning in June, ask for the card if none are on display. Rack cards are on rotation for display so ours may not be on display during your visit.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Cross-Timbers Chapter
Mark Fishbein & Elaine Lynch

On Friday, April 12th, our chapter co-sponsored the annual OSU Botany-Library Lecture, the fifth in the series entitled "Plants, People, and

Beyond". Our speaker this year was Dr. Nicholas Money, Professor of Botany and Western Program Director at Miami University (of Ohio). His talk on "The Amoeba in the Room: Why Plants and Animals Don't Matter Very Much" was based on a book to be published next year that explores the incredible diversity of microscopic life that has only recently become appreciated using the detective techniques of molecular biology. Dr. Money disclosed that the vast majority of the diversity of living things, measured in terms of kinds of metabolism and differences in genome content, is found among little-known microscopic organisms. It is estimated that only a tiny fraction of these species have been described and named by biologists. Because of the great diversity among these organisms, it is hoped that they may hold potential solutions in their genomes to the global problems facing humans. Dr. Money also signed copies of his latest published book, "Mushroom", an exploration of the biology of fungi and their place in human culture and history.

That evening, our chapter co-hosted a potluck dinner and informal lecture by Dr. Money entitled, "Demystifying the Magic Mushroom". In this wide-ranging talk, we learned about the history and colorful lives of professional and amateur mycologists who have contributed to our knowledge of psychoactive mushrooms, particularly the fly-agaric mushroom, *Amanita muscaria*. Dr. Money confirmed some legends, such as the practice of drinking the urine of those who've ingested the mushrooms in order to achieve altered states, and dispelled others, such as the theory that religions may owe their origin to experiences stemming from the ingestion of mushrooms or psychoactive plants.

On April 6 a very small but dedicated contingent of chapter members hiked the trail around Lake Watonga in Roman Nose State Park. It was a beautiful warm spring day that would have been a worthwhile hike without seeing a single plant in flower due to the dramatic scenery of gypsum capped red hills. However, a few early spring plants were encountered, including large yellow patches of Gordon's bladderpod (*Physaria gordonii*), abundant yellow wild parsley (*Lomatium foeniculaceum*) scattered low verbena (*Glandularia pumila*), a large population of groundplum milkvetch (*Astragalus crassicaarpus*), flowering sand plum (*Prunus angustifolia*) and

Mexican plum (*Prunus mexicana*), and several other interesting species. We also saw large patches of Engelmann's adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum engelmannii*) emerging but not yet producing sporangial stalks.

ONPS (and OSU Botanical Society in spirit) participated in another plant survey at the OSU botanic garden's Cow Creek site on April 27. We recorded 105 species including both planted and spontaneously occurring species. About 50% of these were newly recorded this spring vs. repeated observations of species we found last fall. Many of the species newly seen were spring flowering annuals. The list of species occurring at the site now totals 221. There was only one really notable observation in terms of invasive species or those of conservation concern. We did find "bastard cabbage", *Rapistrum rugosum*. According to the Oklahoma Vascular Plant Database, this invasive weed has only been recorded in the state in Cotton County. However, it is a noxious weed in Texas—Mark Fishbein recently saw very large populations of this species along roadsides in the Fort Worth area. It's frightening to think of this getting established in Oklahoma. The obsessive highway mowing would provide unlimited habitat for this weed. It might be a good idea to remove this plant at Cow Creek. Mark removed the only plant that he saw. Presumably it was a seed contaminant. There are other flowering mustards at the site, but all are non-native so not much worry about pulling the wrong plant!

Central Chapter
Joe Roberts

The hoped-for rains still continue in central Oklahoma. Even Lake Hefner in Oklahoma City now has water in it (sorry to the folks around Canton Lake, though.) Last year, I promised I would never, ever, wish the rain to go away again, but I am starting to want just a little break. The Central chapter met March 25th to hear Clark Ovrebo give an interesting presentation on "Spring Mushrooms of Oklahoma" with a focus on the delicious (and surprisingly complex) morel mushroom. We followed that with a morel mushroom walk the next week, but the cold, dryer conditions were against us and we settled for a nice walk on a beautiful day.

On April 21st, Jona Tucker graciously hosted us at the Nature Conservancy's Pontotoc Ridge

Preserve. There was a good group, and the weather and flowers were kind to us. We even got to see some Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon*). Trip leader Kim Shannon took some very nice photos, which can be seen on the ONPS Facebook page. Thank you Kim for leading a very enjoyable outing. After the Pontotoc Ridge outing, we headed to the Nature Conservancy's new Oka' Yanahli Preserve on the Blue River, and even got to see the famous "bouncy bog", where several members cast all inhibitions away and got their groove on, which is not easy to do in muck up to your calves.

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.

Upcoming

Mark your calendars now for the June 15th trip to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge near Lawton, OK. We will meet up with members of the newly-formed SW Chapter of the ONPS. Please arrive at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center before 9am. We will be guided around the refuge by expert local guides, and will have a box lunch provided for those that request one. For those who wish to go early or stay late, there is camping on the refuge at Doris Campground, or there is lodging in Medicine Park, a picturesque town right at the gate of the refuge. We will adjust the length of our tour according to the weather (heat), and there will be

an opportunity to tour the native plant gardens at the new Medicine Park Aquarium and Natural Sciences Center.

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge website:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Wichita_Mountains/

Medicine Park website (lodging):

<http://www.medicinepark.com/>

Please contact Joe at (405) 820-6851 or email at joeroberts13@cox.net to reserve a space on this outing. We need to get an idea ahead of time as to how many people are coming, so we can give our SW Chapter hosts time to prepare. *All members from all chapters are welcome!* If we have enough interest in camping, we might even be able to reserve a group campground on the refuge.

Northeast Chapter

Alicia Nelson

To all *native plant* enthusiasts, I hope you have had the opportunity to appreciate our blooming native wildflowers this year by attending your chapter field trips or simply by driving our Oklahoma highways. Sometimes winding through the less traveled roads will yield a beautiful splash of color, as if an artist purposefully stopped at that location and painted a picture. The last two weekends have been an abundance of bright red indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*), blue toadflax (*Linaria canadensis*), yellow (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), and rose colored (*Verbena sp.*) to name a few. On our last field trip to Heyburn Lake we found *Penstemon oklahomensis* blooming in several, sunny open areas on the north and south side of the lake. What makes this native plant unique? It is indigenous only to Oklahoma. The tubular flower is white to pale yellow with an upper and lower lip that will distinctly appear to be somewhat closed. Other blooming species found were the mallows, phlox, ground cherry, larkspur and spiderwort.

Our chapter participated as an exhibitor for Ecofest – Conserving Oklahoma Conference & Festival in March at Tulsa Community College. It is family oriented, educational with noted speakers and is largely attended by the public. Clark and Connie, event coordinators for our chapter, hosted the exhibit, shared information, handed out seed packets and recruited new members.

Julie Minnot, Sr. Environmental Monitoring Tech and Stormwater Education Coordinator for the City of Tulsa spoke with our group at the May meeting. The new initiative, *Save Our Streams*, implemented by the City of Tulsa was the focus of her talk. She shared how gardening with native plants contributes to the City of Tulsa's water quality and conservation. We learned that the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality issues a permit to the city with guidelines on how to maintain the quality of the watershed. The city then implements requirements and monitors such, for construction contractors and industrial companies in Tulsa County. It is important for industry to comply with these requirements because it can affect storm water runoff. When it rains, have you ever wondered what the number one pollutant is in the storm water run-off? I assumed it would be fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. The answer is soil. It can alter the ecosystem of the watershed. Stream assessments of macro invertebrates, fish, water and habitat will determine the quality of the watershed.

To all who are new NE Chapter members, welcome! There are many ways to become involved and enjoy your interest in native plants. We have a social gathering "*Wildflower Friday's*" the third Friday of each month at Panera Bread on 41st and Hudson in Tulsa around 5:30 pm. Please join us, we would love to meet you! If you have questions, you may reach me at 918/599-0085 or aknlsn@att.net.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Rebecca Bennett, Stillwater
Sandy Dimmitt-Carroll, Bristow
Jeanne Fell, Norman
Cheryl Mihalko, Stillwater
Amy M. Shepherd, Tulsa
Leila Shultz, Logan, UT



May Apple at Pontotoc Ridge Field Trip (Page 7)



Shooting Stars



Blue Funnel Flower



Cow Creek Restoration Area



The Cow Creek Restoration was undertaken to protect the Oklahoma Garden area and facilities. From about the fence post to the stream bed was filled and contoured to what is pictured here. This project has another important function now as a research site to determine better ways to reconstruct stream banks.

ONPS' function in this project is to contribute to the inventory of plants at the site as reported by Mark Fishbein on Page 6.

Oklahoma Native Plant Record

Volume 12, December 1, 2012

Volume 12, the 2012 issue of the Oklahoma Native Plant Record, is being offered to members, non-members, libraries, colleges, and universities in print at the subscription rate of \$10.00 plus \$2.00 shipping. It is also available in electronic format on CD at \$10.00 for all twelve volumes. If you would like to receive the journal please return this notice with your payment to the address at the bottom of the page.

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