



# *Gaillardia*

## Oklahoma

## Native Plant Society

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

**Volume 34, Number 2**  
**Summer 2019**

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Oklahoma State Butterfly  
Black Swallowtail Butterfly

Learn more on page 6.

### **Upcoming Events/Activities**

(check the ONPS website for more details)

**Central Chapter** - 1st Thursday, 6:30 Social and 7:00 Meeting  
**OSU/OKC Horticulture Bldg, 400 N Portland, Room 196**

**NE Chapter** - 2019 September 9th and December 2nd,  
6:30 Social and 7:00 Meeting  
**Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S Peoria Ave, Tulsa**

**Fabulous Wildflower Fridays**, 3rd Friday, 5:30 casual  
**Panera Bread, 5601 E 41st Street, Tulsa**

**All members are invited to all meetings, including board meetings, and are encouraged to bring guests.**

### **ONPS Annual Meeting**

**Quartz Mountain Resort**  
**Arts and Conference Center**

**September 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**

See page 3 for details..

## *Gaillardia*

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P. O. Box 14274, Tulsa, OK 74159

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| President      | Bruce Smith   |
| Vice-president | Bill Farris   |
| Secretary      | Connie Murray |
| Treasurer      | Mary Korthase |

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2019: Kathy Supernaw and Maryhelen Hagge

2020: Rahmona Thompson and Alyssa Whiteman

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|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
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| Patrick Bell | Central       |
| Elaine Lynch | Cross-Timbers |

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|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
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| Publicity and Merchandise    | Alicia Nelson   |
| Conservation                 | Chadwick Cox    |
| TGC Liason                   | Maryhelen Hagge |
| Betty Kemm Award             | Sue Amstutz     |
| Awards                       | Connie Murray   |
| Membership Database, interim | Tina Julich     |
| Photo Contest                | Lynn Michael    |
| Mailings/Printings           | Sandy Graue     |
| Native Plant Record          | Gloria Caddell  |
| Website                      | Adam Ryburn     |



## President's Paragraph

Dear ONPS members:

We had a very productive board meeting in Tulsa June 15. The meeting was led by Bill Farris and Constance Murray with several board members in attendance. The group discussed plans for the fall and other business. I want to encourage everyone to be active members and to invite others to join ONPS.

God Bless

Bruce A. Smith  
cmwootoni1@gmail.com

ONPS website:

**[www.oknativeplants.org](http://www.oknativeplants.org)**

ONPS email:

**[oknativeplants@yahoo.com](mailto:oknativeplants@yahoo.com)**

Gaillardia New email:

**[ONPSGaillardia@gmail.com](mailto:ONPSGaillardia@gmail.com)**

### From the New Editor

I am very proud to have been selected as the Chief Editor of the Gaillardia. I will do my best to produce a Newsletter that all our Members can enjoy.

New Article Submission Deadlines:

February 1st  
May 1st  
August 1st  
November 1st

Forest L Chapman

**COPY & ART DEADLINE  
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS  
August 1st, 2019**

### **Botanist's Corner**

**(will return in the Fall issue of the Gaillardia)**

**"If all mankind were to disappear, the World would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse in to chaos.**

**E.O. Wilson— Biologist**

### **Poa arichnifera - Texas Bluegrass**

Texas Bluegrass or *Poa arichnifera* has been a surprise "hit" at Prairie Wind Nursery this spring. After learning of Texas Bluegrass last year, we brought in stock last fall and planted into one gallon pots to grow out with the intention of experimenting with it as a



shade tolerant turf grass. As the surprisingly showy flowers began to develop this spring, customers were quick to grab them on first sight. We had to quickly pull some pots from the retail area in order to have stock to propagate more.

*Poa arichnifera* - Texas Bluegrass is a dark green, cool season bluegrass native from New Mexico through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and eastward to the Carolinas. It is a drought tolerant sod forming grass growing from 6-12". It can be used in high traffic areas and grows in full sun to all but the shadiest of areas. The dark green foliage is soft, yet durable and feels good to bare feet, can be mowed for a more traditional lawn look or left uncut for a meadow look.

Since Texas Bluegrass is a cool season grass it will go dormant in summer without rainfall or some irrigation, once a week should be sufficient. It tolerates a wide range of soils is pest and disease free, unless it is overwatered, then growth can be stunted and rust can develop.

Texas Bluegrass is fair graze for wildlife, produces seeds for small mammals and birds and make good nesting material.

Once we get stock built back up we will be putting in test plots here at the nursery and will report our findings in the future.

Bill Farris

Prairie Wind Nursery

## **2019 ONPS Annual Meeting**

**September 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>**

### **"Save the Date"**

The ONPS annual meeting will be held September 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at the Quartz Mountain Resort Arts and Conference Center, Lone Wolf, Oklahoma. Friday evening, the park manager will be giving a presentation about the unique and interesting flora and fauna of the region. This years abundant rainfall has produced a spectacular display of wild flowers in the SW (and rest) of the state. The fall flowers will hopefully be as impressive. Additionally, the native grasses should be at their apex about the time of the meeting. Speakers and field trips are in the works. As we have more information, it will be posted on the ONPS website and emailed to members. Mark your calendars, bring a friend and plan to join us.

Patrick Bell

*Chair, Central Chapter, ONPS*



**Poa arichnifera - Texas Bluegrass**

Photo—www.wildflower.org

**October Field Trip**  
**to Bamberger Ranch Preserve and Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center**

Sign up will be on Eventbrite. Signup opens on July 20 at 10:00 am. On Eventbrite search Bamberger Ranch Tour, use password- **Selah**. There are 40 tickets available. It is first come first served. Two tickets are available per signup. The tentative itinerary is as follows: Thursday Oct. 24 - Make your own way to Marble Falls, TX for the night. There a number of hotels and price ranges available. I will check on a group rate at the Best Western after signup is complete. The cost of this event is only \$20.00 per person.

**Friday October 25th**

Breakfast -on your own.

7:45 am. Depart Marble Falls. It is a 45 minute drive to Bamberger Ranch Preserve. Tour members should arrive at the ranch by 8:30 am. (Note: Google Maps etc. do not function accurately once you enter the ranch.) I am available to lead a convoy for anyone who would prefer to travel as a group. The tour begins at 9:00 am. and concludes 12:30- 1:00pm.

After the tour we will make our way into Johnson City for lunch.

After lunch - Travel to Austin. Suggested afternoon activity: Tour The Natural Gardener Nursery.

Find lodging for the night. (Suggested hotels to be determined.)

Dinner and evening activities - On your own.

**Saturday October 26th**

Breakfast - On your own.

9:00am. - Meet at the entrance to Ladybird Johnson Wild Flower Center for a tour and exploration.

Noon-ish - Lunch at the LBJ Wildflower Center Café.

Saturday afternoon -

Suggested activities -

Visit Barton Springs Nursery and/or Vivero Nursery.

(The nurseries, including The Natural Gardener are relatively close to the Wildflower Center.)

Tour Zilker Park Botanical Gardens.

Saturday evening - On your own. Austin is well known for it's food, entertainment venues and cultural district or head for home if you choose.

**Sunday October 27th - Return Home**

For additional information on Bamberger Ranch Preserve and the tour go to [www.bambergerranch.org](http://www.bambergerranch.org).

This should be a great trip and a lot of fun.

Bill Farris



## ***Welcome New Members***

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society wants to welcome all the new members who joined our group over this past year. Information for field trips, Membership Annual Meeting, special events and speakers can be found on our website ([www.oknativeplants.org](http://www.oknativeplants.org)), our Facebook page (Oklahoma Native Plant Society), in the Gaillardia, and from emails. We look forward to seeing you at a meeting for your local chapter and become involved.

Laura Abert, Broken Arrow  
Laura Apblett, Stillwatwer  
Timothy Batson, Jenks  
Joseph Bennett, Edmond  
Deborah Blackburn, Oklahoma City  
Brian Blakley, Tuttle  
Tyler Bright, Sand Springs  
Elaine & Alvin Cearley, Norman  
City of Muskogee  
Shane Clark, Oklahoma City  
Heather Slutz & Joseph Coderre, Talala  
Sharon Conatser-New, Midwest City  
Alexander Connor, Tulsa  
Lisa Cook, Glencoe  
Carrie Dickason, Tulsa  
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Susan Evans, Newalla  
Samantha Fowler, Checotah  
Barry Fox, Oklahoma City  
Michael Friday, Noble  
Micah Friedman, Oklahoma City  
H. Geller, Oklahoma City  
Matthew George, Tulsa  
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Patrick Harger, Jones  
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Blayne Housh, Oklahoma City  
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Georgia Irion, Oklahoma City  
Barbara Johnson, Wilburton  
Meredith Jones, Tulsa  
David Korreect, Oklahoma City  
Phil & Vicki Lamb, Tulsa  
Amanda Lane, Oklahoma City  
Susie Lawrence, Braggs

Karen Marasco, Shawnee  
Dennis Martin, Stillwater  
Daniel Martin, Edmond  
Michele McIntosh, Edmond  
Kenneth & Andrea McMahon, Norman  
Claire Milligan, Oklahoma City  
Anita Mills, Tulsa  
Blake Mitchell, Oklahoma City  
Patrick & Trudy Morey, Tulsa  
Taylor Muller, Oklahoma City  
Brad & Rebeca Palmer, Mustang  
Claudia Parr, Tulsa  
Sharon Plescia, Broken Arrow  
Hollis Price, Jones  
Carol Puckett, Broken Arrow  
Suzanne Reinman, Stillwater  
Maggie Scott, Broken Arrow  
Genie Shannon, Tulsa  
Andrea Slusser, Oklahoma City  
Carol & Sam Smith, Piedmont  
Betty Sterling, Kansas City, KS  
Norma Stewart, Chickasha  
Henry Stowe, Oklahoma City  
Trudy Sudberry, Muskogee  
Michael Taber, Oklahoma City  
Edward Takamura, Edmond  
Kayley Thurber, Oklahoma City  
Donald Unruh, Bixby  
Allen Voyles, Oklahoma City  
Megan Watson, Edmond  
Susan & Mark Wegrzynski, Oklahoma City  
Benjamin & Kimberly Weiss, Oklahoma City  
Laurie Wickenkamp, Norman  
Scott Williams, Norman  
Mary Logan Wolf, Luther  
Alissa & Richard Woods, Red Oak  
Lynne Wright, Oklahoma City  
Bryan Yockers, Tulsa

## Meet Ethel Mae Brown

by Fran Stalling

**Ethel Mae Brown** says she was a “city kid: Cushing OK” but was always interested in flowers. She and her brother spent a week each summer on their aunt and uncle's farm, hiking through the woods to the adjoining farm that had belonged to her own family. Her two older siblings were born in the house there, which had burned. She and her brother enjoyed exploring the properties and investigating the plants.



Her aunt had a small wildflower book covering the whole U.S. Ethel found a few of those, and hoped to see the others. She says, “I remembered pipestem. I always wanted to see that, finally had a chance when I was in my 50s.”

Training as a pharmacist at OU, she says she was “on the cusp” between the days of medicinal botany and lab chemistry. Although the department had a greenhouse and one of their professors was keenly interested in medicinal plants, the students only studied them “on paper.” She worked as a hospital pharmacist for 43 years, now retired for 22.

Harriet Barclay's field trips rekindled her interest in wildflowers. “Oklahoma is two different places,” she notes, recalling that halfway across the state they'd have to switch guidebooks. She fondly recalls the field trip to Black Mesa, where she met Mary Korthase, and a trip to east Texas where they got special permission and a guide to go into a park and see tiny yellow flowers floating on water.

Ethel also saw those yellow flowers in South Africa! Dr Barclay led a trip there for a small group back in apartheid days: “We had the place to ourselves.”

“How could someone not be interested in flowers?” she asks. She had wildflowers in her Tulsa front yard until her sister-in-law replaced them with sod in deference to neighbors' tastes. She hopes they'll come back up this spring. The back yard, however, is “normal” with trout lilies (*Erythronium*) that she planted from bulbs, after admiring them in Redbud Valley.

Ethel used to visit Redbud Valley at least twice a year, but now does few outdoor things. She can still drive, and enjoys ONPS meetings when they don't conflict with her other commitments.



# Flora of Oklahoma Keys and Descriptions, 2nd edition

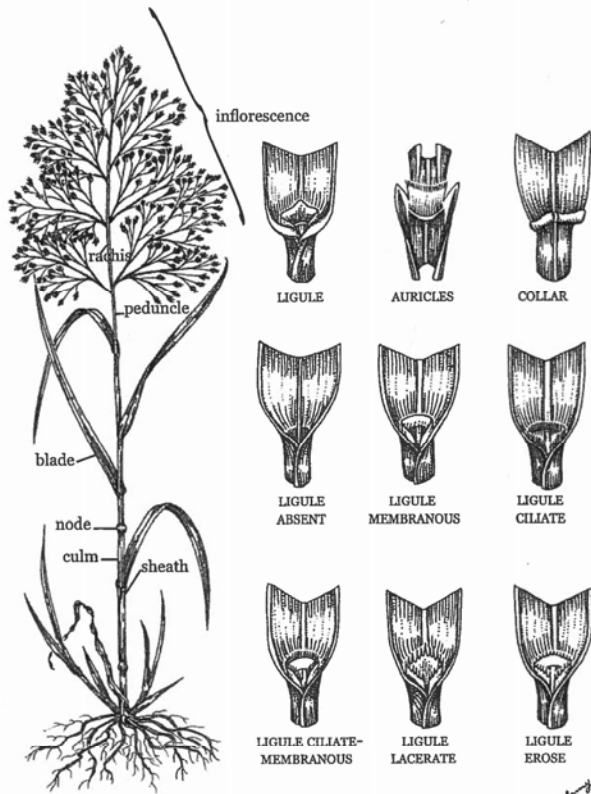


PLATE 31. POACEAE: VEGETATIVE MORPHOLOGY

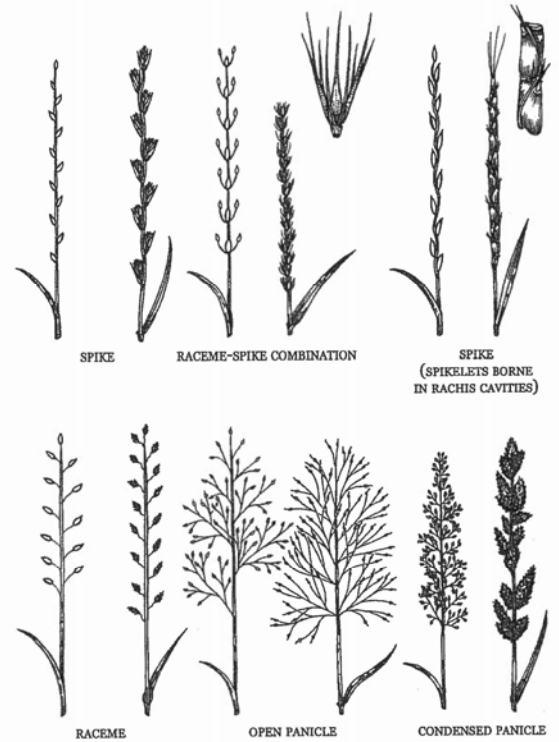


PLATE 32. POACEAE: INFLORESCENCE TYPES

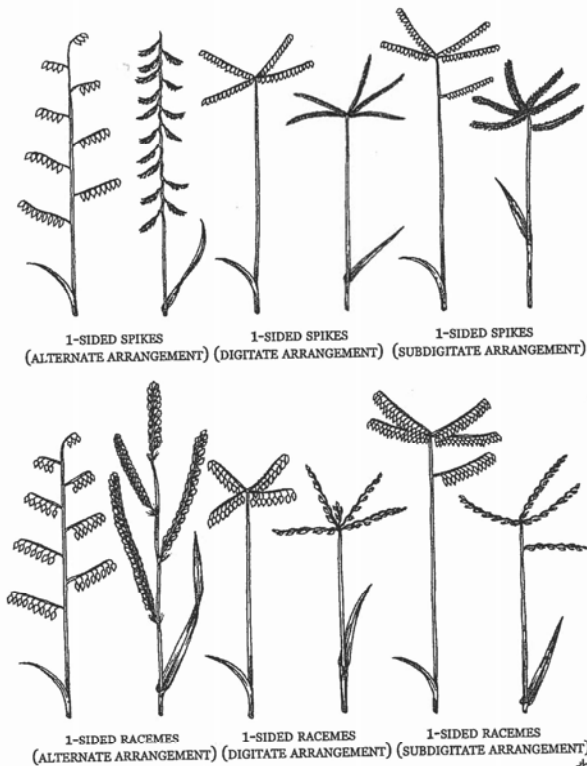


PLATE 33. POACEAE: INFLORESCENCE TYPES  
(continued)

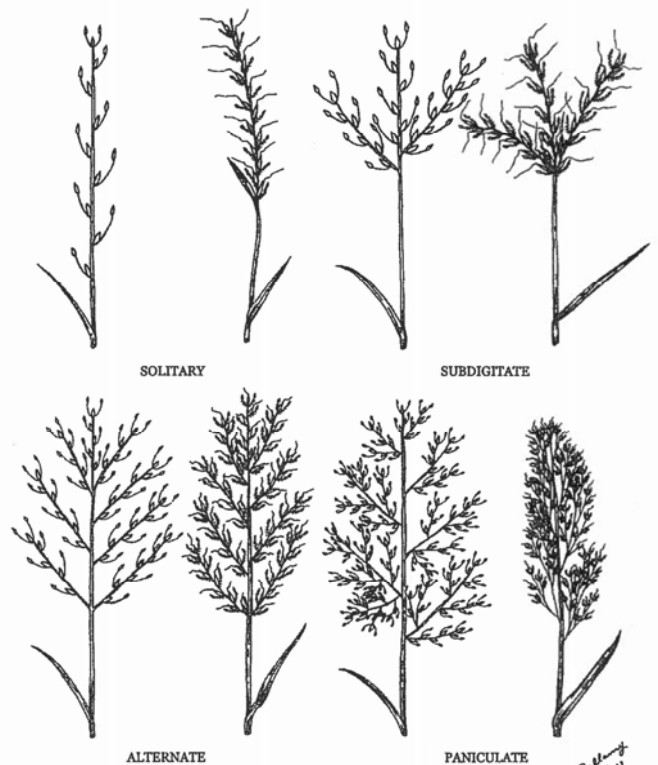


PLATE 34. POACEAE: RAME TYPES



## WOW at Lake Wister.

Despite forecasts for rain, the weather was terrific and the WOW weekend of 2019 was amazing! Friday evening, April 26 we gathered at the Group Camp Dining Hall at Victor's Landing of Wister Lake State Park. After a sumptuous meal of fajitas with all the trimmings, we had a program from Steve Patterson on the area and attributes of Lake Wister.



First thing Saturday morning we travelled by caravan to Runestone State Park in Heavener and were rewarded with lovely and infrequently seen wildflowers like Shooting Stars and American alum root, and a Black Vulture with her nest.



After lunch at Subway, we met at the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Director David Redhage gave us a tour and talk on the wildflowers planted there and acreages close by.



Wild quinine, yellow false indigo, Nuttall's Cornsalad, and purple larkspur were treats there.

We finished up at the Oxbow lake area where Thomas Nuttall passed by in 1819.



One surprise of the trip was that we happened upon an abandoned house in Heavener with an amazing display of wildflowers and a

posting to clean up the "weeds". The weeds included Spiderwort, Fringe tree, and Showy evening primrose. Sunday we finished up our trip around Lake Wister. We



saw Nuttall's Death Camas, Bird's-foot violets, Redring milkweed, penstemons and lots more on walks around the lake. Surprises are not unusual on our Oklahoma Native Plant Society trips and they always add an element of excitement and reward as we visit

the diverse native plants in our state. Come join us for our next surprise.





## **Black Swallowtail Butterfly** **Oklahoma State Butterfly**

*Black swallowtail butterfly (Papilio polyxenes), official state butterfly of Oklahoma.*

Oklahoma designated the black swallowtail butterfly as the official state butterfly symbol in 1996 (Oklahoma recognized a state insect in 1992).



*Photo by Mary Keim on Flickr (noncommercial use permitted with attribution / share alike).*

Oklahoma is home to a wide variety of colorful butterflies. The black swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*) is a migratory butterfly species indigenous to Oklahoma from May to October.

Quote from Oklahoma legislation: "The black swallowtail butterfly plays a vital role in the cross-pollination of plant life in Oklahoma, which is a necessary link in the chain which supports our ecology. In addition, the presence of the black swallowtail in Oklahoma not only adds color and beauty to our state but provides enjoyment for our citizens and an opportunity to study and understand the contributions this insect makes to our environment."

**Source:** Oklahoma State Symbols: OK Historical Society Symbols of Oklahoma: okhistory.org

## **Central Chapter News**

Patrick Bell, *Chair, Central Chapter*

Save the Date!!!

The ONPS annual meeting will be held September 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at the Quartz Mountain Resort Arts and Conference Center, Lone Wolf, Oklahoma. Friday evening, the park manager will be giving a presentation about the unique and interesting flora and fauna of the region. This years abundant rainfall has produced a spectacular display of wild flowers in the SW (and rest) of the state. The fall flowers will hopefully be as impressive. Additionally, the native grasses should be at their apex about the time of the meeting. Speakers and field trips are in the works. As we have more information, it will be posted on the ONPS website and emailed to members. Mark your calendars, bring a friend and plan to join us.

Central Chapter will be on Thursday, August 1st, 6:30pm, OSU-OKC Horticulture Bldg., rm 196, 400 N. Portland Ave

## **NE Chapter News**

Lynn Michael, *Chair, NE Chapter*



The garden is coming alive and every day brings new surprises! What I love about a wildflower garden is you never know what will just show up. NE Chapter had a busy spring as we had field trips every Saturday for the Virtual Bio-blitz in April.

The last weekend of April

was our WOW weekend to the Kerr properties and Wister Lake. We stood on ground where Thomas Nuttall first discovered some of our Oklahoma species exactly 200 years ago. In May we had a program by Cheryl Cheadle on the works of

Blue Thumb. Also in May, we participated with a booth at the Audubon Backyard Habitat Tour. Lots of people saw gardens presently planted with wildflowers and had the opportunity to purchase native plants at most of the tour homes.



We hosted the board meeting at the Tulsa Garden Center on June 15th. Our summers are spent in our wildflower gardens at our homes and around the countryside.

Our next meeting will be 6:30 p.m., September 9th at the Tulsa Garden Center when Jona Tucker will give us a program on Thomas Nuttall and his travels through the Arkansas territory. He is responsible for the

names and identification of many of our native plants. Our December meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd and we will hear about the native plantings at The Gathering Place in Tulsa.



Fall field trips will be posted on Facebook, and notifications by email. Come join us as seasoned naturalists, or beginners just learning to love native plants.



## Ponderings from the Annual Central Chapter Picnic and Social Gathering

Nestled within the ancient forests of the Cross Timbers, one will find several native plant enthusiasts



wandering the walking paths throughout Prairie Wind Nursery, eye-balling

their next must-have plant for their garden or landscape. On May 5th, 2019, Prairie Wind Nursery hosted the annual ONPS Central Chapter picnic and social gathering, with many of us native plant lovers unexpectedly finding ourselves in pure retail-therapy bliss, locating the perfect plant to add to our own personal gardens.

Bill Ferris, Owner of Prairie Wind Nursery, gave an informative and detailed tour throughout the greenhouses, while Patrick Bell, Chapter Chair for the ONPS Central Chapter, grilled burgers and hotdogs, throwing out witty comments that generated several good belly laughs, resonating throughout the nursery and into the surrounding forest.



The nursery was the perfect spot for ONPS members to gather together, talk about all-things-plants as well as their signature side dish they brought for everyone to enjoy. As I write this, I instantly feel full from all the wonderful food and drinks that were provided, as well as enjoying the plants that have a new forever home in my own personal garden. Looking forward to the next gathering!

By: Crystal L. Sizemore, ONPS Member

## *Oklahoma Native Plant Record*

I just wanted to let everyone know that the 2018 issue of the *Oklahoma Native Plant Record* is now online at:

<https://ojs.library.okstate.edu/osu/index.php/ONPR/article/view/7893/7285>

ISSN 1536-7738

### *Oklahoma Native Plant Record*



Journal of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society  
Volume 18, December 2018

Please take a look! Thanks to all the editorial staff (Chad King, Mark Fishbein, Paul Shryock, Sandy Graue, Erica Corbett) for all their help.

Gloria Caddell, Ph.D..

Associate Dean, College of Mathematics and Science  
Professor, Department of Biology  
Managing Editor, *Oklahoma Native Plant Record*  
Curator of Vascular Plants  
University of Central Oklahoma  
Edmond, OK 73034  
(405) 974-2722  
gcaddell@uco.edu

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- \_\_\_\_ Central (OKC area)
- \_\_\_\_ Northeast (Tulsa area)
- \_\_\_\_ Crosstimbers (Stillwater area)
- \_\_\_\_ Mycology (statewide)

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