



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 4
Winter 2019

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Oklahoma State Symbols



Crystal

Hourglass Selenite Crystal
Found only on the salt plains of Oklahoma,
a unique 11,000-acre geological area

Upcoming Events/Activities

(check the ONPS website for more details)

February 1 - Indoor Outing, Tulsa Garden Center

February 6 - Central Chapter, meetings resume, OSU/OKC Horticulture Building

March 2 - NE Chapter, Tulsa Garden Center

March 5 - Central Chapter, OSU/OKC Horticulture Building

April 2 - Central Chapter, OSU/OKC Horticulture Building

April 4 - Field Trip, Arrowhead State Park

April 10 & 11 - Springfest, at the Tulsa Garden Center

April 11 - Field Trip, Keystone State Park

April 18 - Field Trip, Okmulgee & Dripping Springs State Park

April 25 - Field Trip, Grand Lake State Park

May 3 - Central Chapter, OSU/OKC Horticulture Building

May 4 - NE Chapter, meeting Tulsa Garden Center

May 15 & 16 - Wonders of Wildflowers (WOW), the Selman Living Lab near Alva

June 5 (OKC), Douglas Tallamy - UCO campus, Constitution Hall, watch for details

June 6 (Tulsa), Douglas Tallamy - Tulsa Garden Center.

Central Chapter, 6:30 socializing and 7:00 meeting at the OSU/OKC Horticulture Bldg, 400 N Portland, Room 196.

NE Chapter, 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

Preview Chapter meeting topics inside. All members are invited to all meetings, including board meetings, and are encouraged to bring guests.

Gaillardia

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President	Bill Farris
Vice-president	Donna Horton
Secretary	Connie Murray
Treasurer	Mary Korthase
Past-President	Bruce Smith

Directors at Large:

2020: Rahmona Thompson and Alyssa Whiteman

2021: Ray Luth and Janet Thomas

2022: Kathy Doss and Joe Roberts

Chapter Chairs:

Lynn Michael	Northeast
Patrick Bell	Central
Elaine Lynch	Cross-Timbers

Committee Chairs:

Historian	Fran Stallings
Publicity and Merchandise	Barbara Klein
Betty Kemm Award	Sue Amstutz
Awards	Connie Murray
Membership Database	Sandy Graue
Mailings/Printings	Sandy Graue
Native Plant Record	Gloria Caddell
Website	position open
Gaillardia Editor	position open
Color Oklahoma	Alicia Nelson

Conservation Committee and statewide Tulsa Garden Center Liaison positions retired.



Fern at Redbud Valley by Sandy Graue

Welcome Our New Members

William Sheldon and Ana Hiott - Norman

Bradley and Tonya On-The-Hill - Fairland

Alan and Melissa Reed - Tulsa

Cathy Peters - Cleveland

Judi Hively - Hominy

Lisa Castle - Weatherford

ONPS website:

www.oknativeplants.org

ONPS email:

ONPSinfo@gmail.com

Gaillardia News email:

ONPSGaillardia@gmail.com

**COPY AND ART DEADLINE
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS
February 5, 2020**

From the Editor

It is with regret that I will no longer be able to carry on my duties as Editor.

ONPS needs someone that can dedicate the time and focus on the newsletter.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, it has been a great honor.

Forest L. Chapman





Oklahoma Native Plant Society

Indoor Outing 2020

Saturday February 1, 2020
Tulsa Garden Center, auditorium
2435 S. Peoria Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma



Jack-in-the-Pulpit at Redbud Valley by Sandy Graue

Natural Areas in Northeast Oklahoma

- Schedule of Events -

Fields Scene

- 8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Registration (foyer)
- 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Welcome and Introductions (auditorium)
- 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. **Lucky Springs** by Lynn Michael. A natural spring and dirt road side area in eastern Oklahoma with a plethora of native wildflowers.
- 10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. **Redbud Valley Nature Preserve** by Connie Murray, Volunteer Naturalist, Redbud Valley. Located in northeast Tulsa with trails through flood-plain forest, limestone bluffs and dry upland forest with lots of wildflowers.
- 11:45 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. **The J.T. Nickel Family Nature and Wildlife Preserve** by Sue and Dale Amstutz. A 17,000-acre preserve in the Cookson Hills overlooking the Illinois River. Spring-fed creeks, steep slopes, narrow valleys, oak-hickory forest to savanna shrubland, and prairie chock full of wildflowers.
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Gathering Place in Tulsa** by Stacie Martin, Director of Horticulture and Chris Gabbard, Certified Arborist. Imagine it, 16 acres of wildflowers. Stacie's presentation will be for the Gardens at the Gathering Place with focus on their wildflowers and native plantings. Chris will tell us about all the trees saved, planted, and the care given.

All are welcome to the Board meeting on January 31st. Contact a Board Member for time and location.

Event Coordinator Contact: Lynn Michael at 918-381-0219 or zebraweeds@sbcglobal.net

Register online at the ONPS website www.oknativeplants.org/indoor-outing.html

Please have registration received by **January 27, 2020**, to ensure your meal.



Redbud Valley photo by Sandy Graue



2019 Betty Kemm Service Award

Patrick Bell was named recipient of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society's Betty Kemm Service Award during the Society's Annual Member Meeting, September 21, 2019, at Quartz Mountain Resort in southwest Oklahoma.

Patrick, who chairs the Central Chapter in Oklahoma City, received the traditional gaillardia-embossed glass plaque, which was presented by Sue Amstutz, Chairman of the Betty Kemm Service Awards Committee. Patrick is the nineteenth member of the Society to have been recognized for their service to ONPS since the award's initial presentation in 2000.

In addition to keeping Central Chapter operating smoothly while organizing informative presentations for meetings and welcoming new members to ONPS, Patrick is a member of Okies for Monarchs and a board member of the Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma. He has also raised hundreds of Monarch butterflies from caterpillars.



Central Chapter Update

Patrick Bell, *Chair, Central Chapter*

The Central Chapter of the ONPS has a full agenda for the first half of the new year. Our monthly meetings will resume **February 6th** with John Weir (faculty OSU) giving an insightful talk on the ***Benefits of Prescribed Burns for range management, ecology and the favorable effects on native plant environments***. John is perhaps one of the most highly regarded experts in Oklahoma. He has a wealth of knowledge on the subject and is a very engaging speaker.

The **March 5th** presentation will be entitled: ***Flora and Biological Soil Crusts of the Selman Living Lab and Surrounding Gypsum Hills***.

In preparation for the ***Wonders of Wildflowers*** Weekend to be held in May at the University of Central Oklahoma's Selman Living Lab, Gloria Caddell (Associate Dean, College of Math & Science and Professor of Biology, University of Central Oklahoma) & Sheila Strawn (Retired Adjunct Professor of Biology, University of Central Oklahoma) will present a talk on the unique flora and biological soil crusts of the Cimarron Gypsum Hills.

On **April 2nd** Rahmona Thompson will give a presentation on the (October, 2019) ***ONPS field trip to the Selah Ranch***. The ranch is a phenomenal restoration success with thousands of acres of native grasslands, numerous springs with free flowing water year round (in a dry region of Texas) and even a "new" bat cave. Several ONPS members made the trip down to the hill country; all were impressed with the ranch.

May 3rd will be the Annual Central Chapter social outing/ picnic; time and location to be announced.

The Central Chapter will be hosting the annual ***Wonders of Wildflowers*** Weekend on **May 16th** at the UCO Selman Living Lab; see accompanying article.

And finally, ONPS will be hosting ***Douglas Tallamy*** on **June 5th** (OKC) and **June 6th** (Tulsa). The June 5th evening presentation will be at 7pm, Constitution Hall, UCO campus.

Central Chapter monthly meetings, first Thursday of the month. All ONPS events are open to the public, membership is not required to attend.

Lots of events and things to plan for. Mark your calendars, bring a friend and plan to join us. Should be a great year with ONPS.

Color Oklahoma - Sow Some Wild Seeds

UPDATE

Color Oklahoma news includes the addition of new committee members and a list of the fall 2019 wildflower plantings accomplished. All funding is provided by revenues from sales of the popular Color Oklahoma special license plate which depicts a colorful *Gaillardia pulchella*.

Monica Bartling, Waurika, and Rahmona Thompson, Norman, joined the committee in August. Lynn Michael, Claremore, became a member earlier this year.

Highway wildflower plantings were done by Oklahoma Turnpike and Transportation Department crews. Small demonstration sites were planted by staff at **10 state parks**. See following article.

For the first time, Color Oklahoma has sown on the **H.E. Bailey Turnpike**. 6.5 acres near the west end, Indian Paintbrush, Indian Blanket and Plains Coreopsis seeds were planted.

Cimarron Turnpike expanded a site at the Service Center, and enhanced sites at Exit 1, and the westbound spur north of Stillwater totaling 7 acres. Indian Paintbrush, Indian Blanket, and Plains Coreopsis were planted.

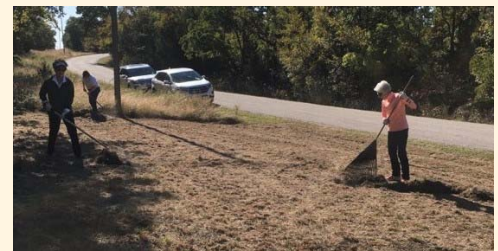
Intersection of **Highways 70 and 81 near Waurika**, 3 acres. Enhanced the site planted for the first-time last year. Waurika received CO grants this year and last year. Residents collected seeds from Indian Blanket, Lance-leaved Coreopsis, Showy Primrose, and Indian Paintbrush that was planted last year.

COLOR OKLAHOMA PARTNERSHIP WITH OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS

Lake Murray State Park



Members of the Ardmore Beautification Council volunteered to help plant seeds at Lake Murray State Park. Areas were planted along road to nature center and just north of the park office.



Lake Tenkiller State Park

Photo is of a small planting area behind the nature center, alongside a paved walking trail at Lake Tenkiller State Park. It is one of our four locations at this park.



Color Oklahoma - Sow Some Wild Seeds

COLOR OKLAHOMA PARTNERSHIP WITH OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS (con't)

A new partnership between Color Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State Parks has resulted in the establishment of small demonstration gardens located at ten state parks (see list below). Seeds purchased by the \$3,000 Color Oklahoma donation were planted by Park employees and volunteers.

At **Lake Murray State Park** three members of the Ardmore Beautification Council helped with the seeding.

The small plots are located near lodges, trail heads and nature centers and are designed to be seen by pedestrians rather than from the highway. The species were chosen with an emphasis on pollinators (which tend to be expensive).

Not all such species are easy to establish but the demo gardens will provide information about which ones should be emphasized in the future. One possible venture in the future would be planting a field of milkweed, for example, and harvesting the seeds.

The project blends several goals. A primary purpose is to aid the Monarch butterflies on their annual flights by establishing feeding areas of appropriate plants. A second important benefit is to provide education information to park visitors. Another is to provide opportunities for volunteers to help in planting and maintaining the gardens, thus encouraging them to plant wildflowers in their home areas.

As species get established Color Oklahoma plans to provide color photos and identification tips in a notebook for park naturalists to use. Members of ONPS may be asked to help supply some photographs of the less common species.

The ten State Parks participating this year, are ***Alabaster Caverns, Great Plains, Great Salt Plains, Lake Murray, Lake Tenkiller, Lake Wister, Little Sahara, Roman Nose, Sequoyah and Twin Bridges***.

Articles and Photographs provided by Joann Orr

Alabaster Cavern State Park



Mike Caywood, Alabaster Caverns State Park manager, sows wildflower seeds near main parking area. He plans to make this location part of a meditation and program presentation site.

Twin Bridges State Park

This is one of our two locations at Twin Bridges State Park. This site is alongside U.S. 60 Highway which intersects State Highway 137, at the park's entrance.



Wonders of Wildflowers

May 15th and 16th
University of Central Oklahoma's
biological field station, the Selman Living Lab

The Central Chapter of ONPS is proud to host this years Wonders of Wildflowers Weekend.

The Wonders of Wildflowers Weekend will be held May 15 and 16, 2020 at the University of Central Oklahoma's biological field station, the Selman Living Lab, located in the Cimarron Gypsum Hills in northwestern Oklahoma. The Selman Living Lab is located about 6 miles west of Alabaster Caverns State Park in Woodward County.

There will be places for up to about 25 people to sleep in the trailer and two bunkhouses, at no charge. There are quite a few hotels in Woodward and Alva, as well as the Stables Lodge at the entrance to Alabaster Caverns State Park. Camping is also available at the state park.

We can hike the Selman Living Lab's 320-acre natural area as well as the trails at Alabaster Caverns State Park. As a special bonus to ONPS members, arrangements have been made to view a Mexican free-tailed bat flight on Saturday evening. We also have astronomy facilities including a large telescope at the SLL. Between the spring flowers, the geology, the bats (if you haven't seen this, it's truly a memorable life experience) the stars and the comradery, this promises to be a fabulous weekend. Hope you can join us! Watch for more information in the Spring Gaillardia.

New Book for Native Plant Fans

review by Forest Chapman

More than three dozen native plants shape the setting of *The Cactus Plot: Murder in the High Desert*, a new mystery novel available this fall 2019. Although set in northwest New Mexico, *The Cactus Plot* is chock-full of references to native plants that occur in our region. The story's heroine is a botanist who solves murders with her knowledge of plant ecology. *The Cactus Plot* is an entertaining mystery novel, with the underlying theme of endangered plant protection on public lands.

Hired by the Bureau of Land Management and new to the west, Millie Whitehall seeks adventure, never expecting to become involved in a chaotic hunt for a ruthless killer. Driving treacherous roads and avoiding rattlesnakes become the least of her worries. She experiences the friction of working for the BLM through the characters she meets in the field. Some become allies, one ends up threatening her life. When autopsies reveal two seemingly unrelated deaths involving plants, Millie draws on her botanical skills as she races to investigate the murderer—before she becomes the next victim.

Author Vicky Ramakka grew up on a farm in upstate New York which sparked an early interest in plants and animals. She attended Oklahoma State University, and says, "During the years I lived in Stillwater, I found people in Oklahoma are the friendliest I've encountered anywhere." She currently lives near the Colorado-New Mexico border with her husband, and enjoys attending NPS events in both states and writing about interesting outdoor-oriented people. Her publications have won awards from the New Mexico Press Women and Southwest Writers.

Readers of *The Cactus Plot* almost always comment they enjoyed the native plant lore and anticipating how Millie would figure out the villain. *The Cactus Plot* is available from independent book stores and on-line booksellers. \$15.95, ebook \$3.99.

NE Chapter News

Lynn Michael
Chair, NE Chapter

The Northeast Chapter had a thrilling program in December as we learned all about *The Gathering Place in Tulsa*. It was a packed house that braved the cold for snacks and friendships and a very informative program.

Our next meeting **March 2**, at the Tulsa Garden Center will be Jona Tucker giving her program on Thomas Nuttall, whose book *A Journey of Travels into The Arkansas Territory* documents his travels 200 years ago in 1819. He was regarded as the foremost American botanist at that time. Many of our plants are named after his discoveries.

On **February 1st** we will host the *Indoor Outing* at the Tulsa Garden Center. In **April** we will have field trips every Saturday as we again participate in the Virtual Bioblitz at which all ONPS members are encouraged to join us. Anyone with an email included with their membership info will receive email reminders.

April 4 we will meet at **Arrowhead State Park**, **April 11** will be at **Keystone State Park**, **April 18** at **Okmulgee State Park** (Dripping Springs), and **April 25** we will go to **Grand Lake State Park-Bernice area**. Meet at the Park Office of each park at 10 a.m. (the Nature Center at Bernice). Maps can be found at travelok.com or stateparks.com (Okmulgee). Walks are approximately two hours, then eat a sack lunch together to talk about our finds.

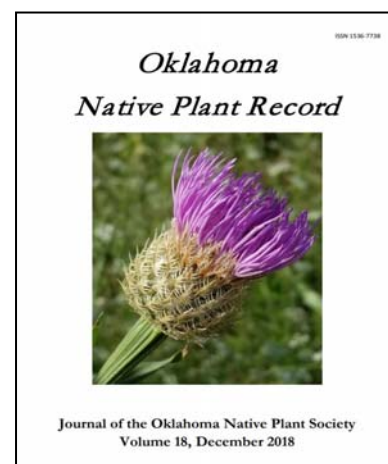
The **May 4th** meeting at Tulsa Garden Center will be *Rusty Grimpe*. He will share about his acreage near Skiatook and his participation in the *Oklahoma Natural Areas Registry* program.

Oklahoma Native Plant Record

2018 issue of the *Oklahoma Native Plant Record* is available online at:

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

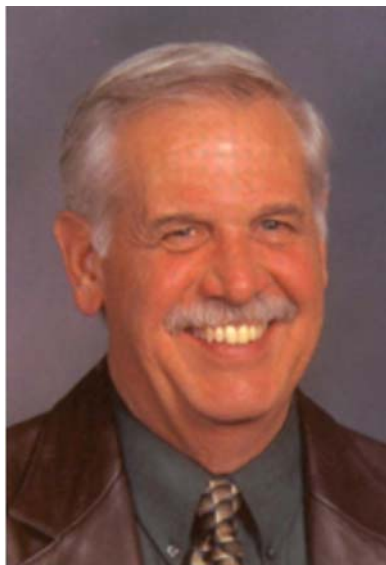
Gloria Caddell, Ph.D.



Meet the Founders

Ronald (Ron) J. Tyrll

When he began college, Ron Tyrll planned to major in business and eventually work for a big food corporation like Safeway (where he had clerked in high school and college) or Coca Cola (having driven a truck for them while teaching). However, when he took courses in accounting and macroeconomics at Park College in Missouri, he hated them; whereas he loved the courses in biology, botany, and other sciences his advisor, a plant taxonomist, recommended. A biology field trip to Florida between his sophomore and junior years, acquainted him with field work and most importantly with fellow biology major Lynda. Ron loved the plants and Lynda the animals. "She took all the zoology courses at Park," Ron says, "and I took all the botany."



Taking extra hours each semester and summer courses at Park College let Ron graduate in 3 ½ years (working several part-time jobs). Lynda finished in 3 and began working in a virus research lab at KU medical center. Marrying a month after Ron graduated, they left for Oregon State University in August 1965. Ron did his MS and PhD in systematic botany with minors in genetics and microbiology and worked in the herbarium while Lynda worked as a research technician on plant viruses, plant hormones, and carcinogenesis in aflatoxins.

In 1970, Ron returned to Park as an assistant professor and began teaching in the biology department. When fellow grad student at Oregon State Jim Estes, then at the University of Oklahoma, recommended applying at Oklahoma State University for Dr. U.T. Waterfall's position as herbarium curator and professor, Ron applied, got the job, and began teaching a variety of courses including plant taxonomy, agrostology, field botany, plant biology, aquatic plants, and plant diversity.

Although Ron had not been an outdoorsy kid, he found field biology increasingly attractive. In the middle 70s he taught extension courses in plant identification for the Army Corps of Engineers and US Fish & Wildlife personnel. Russell Studebaker was a student in one of these courses. He asked Ron to participate when ONPS was being formed. Ron recalls that first organizational meeting at the north campus of the Tulsa Community College, and being elected to the board of directors. He also fondly remembers working with Nora Jones, Harriet Barclay, Paul Buck, Betty Kemm, Aileen Carter, and others from those early days.

ONPS' Indoor Outings were Ron's idea as a way to bring members together in the middle of the winter. The first one was held in the botany department at OSU. The format is pretty much the same as now although it sometimes included short paper sessions. When ONPS started field trips, Ron served as a leader along with Paul Buck, Connie Taylor, Larry Magrath, and Paul Nighswonger. Ron quotes Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Many eyes go through a meadow but few see the flowers in it." He organized the Cross Timbers chapter. Its field trips and potlucks were scheduled to complement the NE chapter and statewide activities. When Color Oklahoma became affiliated with ONPS, he began serving on its board. He is encouraged that so many younger people are joining ONPS and keep it going.

With OSU co-sponsorship, Ron led Elderhostel (now called Road Scholar) courses on the wildflowers and grasses of Oklahoma. As you might expect, emphasis was on being in the field to look at plants "up close and personal". This format was taken abroad in 2000 when he began inviting ONPS members to join him and Kew taxonomist Tom Cope on wildflower tours in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland.

As participants have aged, the tours now tend to focus on botanic and private gardens at historic houses and castles as much as wildflowers in the hills. A visit to the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District of England is being planned in September of 2020.

Fran Stallings, ONPS Historian

Addition by co-Editor, taken from Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society biography website:

Tyrll has received the prestigious Oklahoma Medal for Excellence in College and Teaching from the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence: has mentored more than 30 graduate students in his career, many of whom have become college professors themselves: was president of the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences in 1998-1999 which awarded him its Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.

Tyrll's significant scholarly contributions include authorship or co-authorship of numerous books, journal articles, book chapters, and technical reports, including *Toxic Plants of North America*, *Dyes from American Native Plants*, *Field Guide to Oklahoma Plants*, and *Keys & Descriptions for the Vascular Plants of Oklahoma*. The last two books are the principal references for identification of the state's plants.



Tyrll's contributions to science education in Oklahoma at both the individual and organization levels are unparalleled among his academic peers. He has employed a variety of pedagogical approaches: formal lectures, field trips, mentoring, workshops, and public lectures. Tyrll is a true Oklahoma educational treasure!

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Membership is for Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 of current year and dues include subscription to *Gaillardia*.

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- ☐ Individual (\$20)
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☐ Family Individual (\$350)
☐ Student (\$10) (free with faculty sponsor)

Chapter affiliation:

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

You may sign up for multiple chapters if you like, to receive field trip and meeting notices from that chapter.

Need more details or a digital directory email: ONPSinfo@gmail.com

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Winter 2019 Issue

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Bloodroot at Lucky Spring by Sandy Graue

Submission Deadlines:

February 5th
May 5th
August 5th
November 5th

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