



# 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 35, Number 2 Summer 2020

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### Oklahoma State Symbols



#### Grass

Indian Grass,  
*Sorghastrum  
nutans*

### Upcoming Events/Activities

(check the ONPS website for more details)

**June - all month - Support your local native plant vendor since festivals and markets closed.**

**June - Central Chapter, OSU/OKC Horticulture Building CANCELLED.**

**June 5 (OKC) & 6 (Tulsa) - Douglas Tallamy - CANCELLED.**

**June 19 - Fabulous Fridays at Panera Bread, Tulsa.**

**July 17 - Fabulous Fridays at Panera Bread, Tulsa**

**August 6 - Central Chapter, OSU/OKC Horticulture Bldg. CANCELLED.**

**August 21 - Fabulous Fridays at Panera Bread, Tulsa**

**Sept. 3 - Central Chapter, OSU/OKC Horticulture Bldg**

**Sept. 14 - Northeast Chapter, Tulsa Garden Center**

**Sept. 12-13 - Audubon Backyard Habitat Tour, homes in the Tulsa Area, Northeast Chapter info booth**

**Sept. 18 - Fabulous Fridays, Panera Bread, Tulsa**

**Sept. 25-26 - ONPS Annual Meeting at Robbers Cave State Park, Board meeting on Sunday the 27th.**

**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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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2021: Ray Luth and Janet Thomas

2022: Kathy Doss and Joe Roberts

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Patrick Bell	Central
Elaine Lynch	Cross-Timbers
Nancy Hamill	Mycology

**Committee Chairs:**

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Publicity and Merchandise	Barbara Klein
Betty Kemm Award	Sue Amstutz
Awards	Connie Murray
Membership Database	Sandy Graue
Membership Database Editor	Tina Julich
Mailings/Printings	Sandy Graue
Native Plant Record	Gloria Caddell
Webmaster	Adam Ryburn
Web Editors	Joe Roberts, Sandy Graue
<i>Gaillardia</i> Editor	Lynn Michael
Color Oklahoma	Alicia Nelson

Conservation Committee and statewide Tulsa Garden Center  
Liaison positions retired.

Howdy folks,

I sincerely hope this issue of the *Gaillardia* finds you and yours safe and well. My, what a spring it has been! With shelter in place orders and cancellation of, not only meetings, but festivals and farmers markets. It has been a challenging time for many of the small farmers and nursery growers who depend on these events for their livelihood. Fortunately, plant nurseries and their employees are considered essential and are open.

Hopefully, you have been able to enjoy this time at home by working in your gardens, planting natives and perusing plant catalogs. If there can be a silver lining to circumstances such as these maybe, it is my observation, that many parents, grandparents and teachers are using the time at home to teach kids how to garden for food and how and what to plant for butterflies and pollinators.

At this writing the state is beginning to slowly open up, but we don't know what the future holds. ONPS will advise members of any future meetings or events as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

Stay safe and well. Sincerely,

Bill Farris, President ONPS

***COLOR OKLAHOMA***

*How can you help Color Oklahoma?*

*Purchase or Renew a Wildflower*

*License Plate*

*Make a tax-deductible donation*

*Be a Wildflower Spotter*

*Participate in our Grant Program*

*Details can be found at  
[www.coloroklahoma.org](http://www.coloroklahoma.org)*

*Call Alicia at 918-814-5455 if you have  
questions on the Grant Program*

*Sow Some Wild Seeds!*

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



Spiderwort, Lynn Michael

## Welcome Our New Members

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society grew with 50 new memberships so far this year. Welcome, and thank you for joining in the society's mission to promote an appreciation of native plants in Oklahoma!

Some of you joined at the winter Indoor Outing. Many of you joined as part of the lecture series at the Tulsa Garden Center. Maybe you were inspired to join by the busy ONPS Facebook page this spring. Perhaps you took part in the Virtual BioBlitz events. More new members would have signed up at events like the Tulsa Audubon Society's Backyard Habitat Tour or the Wonders of Wildflowers spring statewide meeting, but all of our face-to-face activities have been postponed, because this has not been an ordinary year.

In an ordinary year, you would have had all kinds of opportunities to meet other ONPS members at meetings and field trips and special events. The organization is learning to navigate the new "normal." Until we get back to scheduled activities, it is more important than ever that we all share with our families and friends our appreciation for the spectacular beauty and amazing diversity of Oklahoma's native trees, mosses, ferns, algae, lichens, liverworts and other primitive plants, shrubs, wildflowers, vines, fungi, and grasses.

Meanwhile, the ONPS Facebook page continues to serve as a virtual community of people who love nature. You may still be lurking quietly in the background, admiring the photos, reading the discussions, learning all kinds of identification and gardening tips, and taking what you learned into your own back yard. We welcome you to post your own stories and photos, to ask your own questions about, and share your observations of the native plants of Oklahoma. The large ONPS Facebook community is very supportive of newcomers.

We're glad to have you!

-Donna Horton, Vice-President

## February

Jacqueline and Clay Brewer \* Cathy Peters \* Barbara Rupert \* Jean Coonrod \* Alan and Melissa Reed \* Lisa Castle \* Galt Ormiston

## March

Barbara Van Hanken \* Mark Merideth \* Nancy Meyer \* Pete and Karen Watkins \* Scott and Cameron Weathington \* Shirley Elliott and Steve Liggett \* Gala McBee \* Kathie and Steve McMillan \* Jan Marie First \* Trudy Bowers \* Kyle Jenkins \* Jack Unger \* Barbara Marshall and Christina Smith \* Megan Huntley \* Cecil and Polly Carter \* TJ Bannon \* Pam Snodgrass \* Michelle Barnett \* Chase Couch \* Andy Fusco \* Kristin Pickard \* Shirley Blaschke \* Susan Grady \* Sammie Clark \* Jacob M. Odle \* Anna Charlene Wells \* Reuben and Sandra Fredricks \* Thomas Shank

## April

Donna and Doyle Orrell \* Jill and Freddie Karcher \* Chase Moxley \* Christopher Simon \* Eric and Dafne Higgins \* Kayla Morrison \* Gayla Finley

## May

Chantry and Matthew Sipress-Banks \* Gail Storey \* Kimberly Chain and Paul Mahan \* Lynn Rivers \* Yana and R. C. Livesay

\*used solely as a divider.

While all new memberships have tried to be accurately included, please email additions or corrections to [ONPSinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ONPSinfo@gmail.com).



ONPS Members at Wonders of Wildflowers  
May 2019, Lake Wister



## Virtual Bioblitz

by Lynn Michael



Beaked Trout Lily by Lynn Michael

Even though the field trips were scheduled for Saturdays, when April 1st rolled around we were too anxious to start, so an unscheduled trip to Lucky Springs was squeezed in. The wonderful things at this location are all the Spring ephemerals that quickly bloom and disappear. Highlights were Bloodroot, Wild Ginger, Toothwort, Beaked and White Trout Lilies, Trilliums, Dutchman's Breeches and ferns galore.

Saturday, April 4 was a visit to Arrowhead area of Eufaula State Park. It was a cold and drizzly day, but the brave were rewarded with sights of Texas Star



Shooting Stars by Lynn Michael

Grass, Flowering Dogwoods, Mayapples, Adder's Tongues, Standing Cypress, Sassafras and Rose Vervain. Our next stop was Keystone State Park on Saturday, April 11th. There is usually something about every field trip that makes the whole trip worthwhile. At Keystone this was the awesome sight of the Shooting Stars in their magnificent magenta glory. Once you've seen that showstopper on each field trip, you're set. The other species seen at this location were Texas Paintbrush, Texas Toadflax, Rusty Blackhaw, Carolina Anemone, Early Blue Violet and Texas Saxifrage.

(Continued on Page 5)

The Field Trips that Northeast chapter had planned for every Saturday in April were another casualty of the Covid-19 dilemma. Even though carpooling, caravanning and mingling were discouraged, being out-of-doors was still encouraged. So this meant that each person had to travel in their own car and stay six feet apart on the trails. The Virtual Bioblitz was in conjunction with the inaturalist.org app which lets citizen scientists add to the whereabouts of all living things. Bioblitz observers came through with a record number of species. There were 1,149 observers, 1,127 identifiers, 26,736 total observations and a record total of 2,934 different species. Hopefully, many of our ONPS members were able to register at inaturalist.org and are included in these totals.



Coral Honeysuckle by Amy Buthod

The third week was Okmulgee and Dripping Springs Park. I have heard for many years about the breathtaking beauty of one of our native honeysuckles, but I was unprepared to fall so completely in love as I did with the Yellow Honeysuckle, *Lonicera flava*, in bloom. It's one of those things that you take a picture, and it's a good picture. But you see another one and you have to take another picture because this one might be better, and better,



Yellow Honeysuckle by Lynn Michael



(Virtual Bioblitz continued from Page 4)



Blue False Indigo by Donna Horton

Saturday, April 25th was our last scheduled trip to Bernice area of Grand Lake State Park. Bernice has a beautiful Nature Center, but of course it was closed. No matter. We were immediately rewarded for our trip with the sighting of Prothonotary Warblers. Yes, I know, not a plant, but still a part of the Virtual Bioblitz inventory. There were many glorious things here like the Butterweed, *Packera glabella*, Bluestar Amsonnia, *Amsonnia tabernaemontana*, Gray's Sedge, and River Cane. The star of the trip was a rather unremarkable plant. We have all seen cornsalad, it is everywhere. Well, apparently there is one species of it that is a new state

record and we found this at Bernice. Common cornsalad, *Valerianella locusta* was a new species, according to Amy Buthod at the Oklahoma Biological Station and Bebb Herbarium at University of Oklahoma.

But ONPS members didn't stop there. For example, member Aaron Gooding submitted sightings from the Bartlesville and Red Slough areas. Donna and Robert Horton were at Pawnee Lake and assorted sites. Esther Key was near OKC, Amy Buthod around Norman, Sandy Graue added sightings from Sand Springs area and Lynn Michael travelled to places around Tulsa and Claremore where another record was submitted. The Smooth Yellow False Foxglove is another record for our state. The *Aureolaria flava* has popped over from Arkansas. And a species that

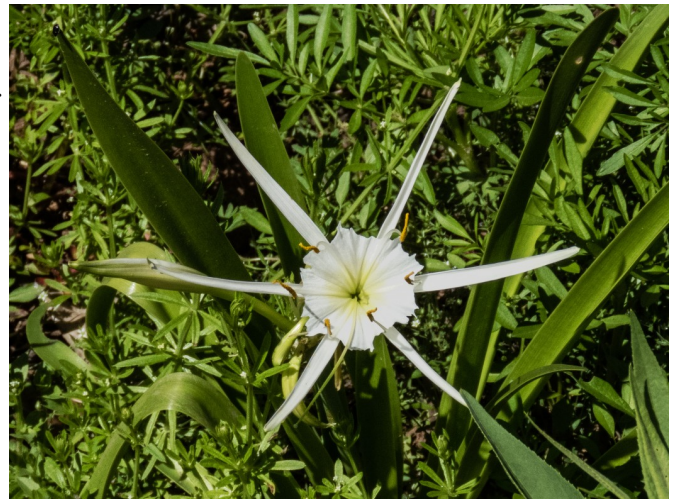
is tracked as somewhat rare in our state is the Spring Coralroot, *Corallorhiza wisteriana*. It was found near the end of its peak bloom time.

It's not too late to get out and have your own Bioblitz!



Dwarf Palmetto by Aaron Gooding

Smooth Yellow False Foxglove and Spring Coralroot, by Lynn Michael



Spider Lily by Esther Key



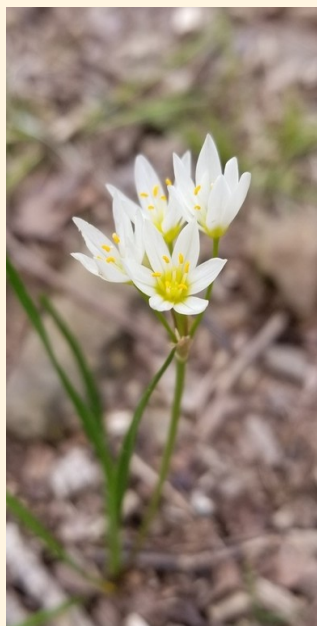
Common Cornsalad by Sandy Graue





## Wildflower Quiz

Test your knowledge of the following Oklahoma wildflowers. See Page 9 For answers. Want to play more? Go to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower center page at <https://www.wildflower.org/collections/quiz.php>



1



2



3



4



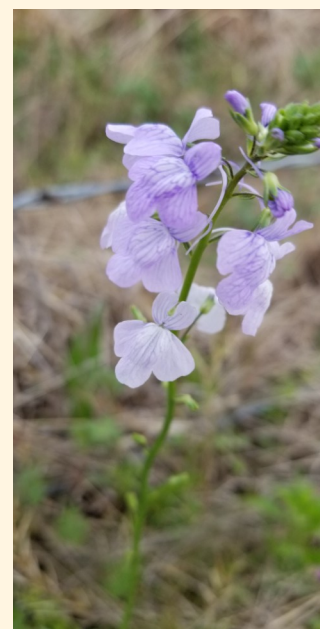
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6



7



8

## History of the Betty Kemm Service Award

by Sue Amstutz, Betty Kemm Service Award Chair

Revised and updated from an article which appeared in the February, 2014 *Gaillardia*.

One of the most highly prized awards which is presented by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society is the annual Betty Kemm Service Award.

Prior to 2000, ONPS was presenting only two awards, the Harriet Barclay Award given to a student in conjunction with the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science, and the Anne Long Award, named for one of founders of ONPS. The Anne Long, in those early days, was the only award with which Society members could be honored. Also, the Anne Long Guidelines stipulated that NON-members or even groups, could receive the award, as long as those receiving the award could meet the provisions of the ONPS goals and purposes. Thus, the first Anne Long Award (1988) went to the Science Club at Ninnekah High School, the 1991 award was presented to the Oklahoma Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and the 1993 Anne Long Award went to Sydney Dobson, the Executive Director of Oklahoma Beautiful, Inc.

During the Society's 1999 Annual Meeting which was being held on October 15 -17 at the old lodge in now-defunct Lake Texoma State Park, the seeds of an idea to present an award to a member of ONPS worthy of special recognition appeared on the agenda of the State Board Meeting. Discussion of the idea included the desire to recognize the recipient with a special plaque and possible Life Membership in ONPS.

Those seeds began to germinate at the 1999 Winter Board meeting in Norman, when board members discussed the need for immediate action in forming a set of guidelines which would be used in directing the awarding of this honor. The new award would be called the Oklahoma Native Plant Society Service Award. Sue Amstutz agreed to have a proposed set of guidelines drawn up in time for the next meeting of the Board which was scheduled for June, 2000, in Tulsa. At the same time, Sue was appointed Chairman of the Service Award Committee.

In June, 2000, the Board approved the submitted guidelines without alteration. Those Guidelines remain in effect today for use in determining the recipient of the award. In brief, the Guidelines determine that the awardee shall have been a member of ONPS for a minimum of five years, shall have demonstrated service to the Society above and beyond expected levels of activity; shall be in good financial standing; the award shall be given annually providing nomination(s) have been submitted; the awardee shall be nominated by written documentation which highlights the nominee's qualifications; and the recipient shall receive the award during the Society's Annual Meeting.

At that June, 2000, Board meeting, the role of Awards Committee fell to the Board itself which then selected the first recipient. At the same time, funding for the plaque and Life Membership (if applicable) was approved by the Board. The Chairman was directed to begin the process of readying the plaque which would then be presented at the Fall 2000 Annual Meeting.

ONPS member, Clare Miller, knew of a craftsman who owned Glassspecialties, Inc. of Tulsa. Working with "Chip", the committee designed a clear glass plaque, sized 8" by 11" and 1/2" thick, on which the name of the recipient, year of the award, and the Society's logo, the gaillardia, would be sandblasted into the glass.

On Saturday, October 14, during the 2000 Annual Meeting, Ruth Boyd received the inaugural Service Award, the first of twenty ONPS members to have been so honored. Seeds of an idea sowed in 1999, propagated in 2000, bore flowers later that year when a surprised Ruth Boyd received the first Oklahoma Native Plant Society Service Award. Since that year, the Service Award (and/or the Betty Kemm Service Award) has been presented annually except in 2004 when there were no nominations.

So, when did the Service Award become the Betty Kemm Service Award? In February of 2014, then ONPS State President Adam Ryburn emailed Chairman Sue with the following proposal:

"Sue, I've been thinking of proposing a possible addition to the name of the Service Award. As you know, all of our ONPS awards, except the Service Award, are named in honor of great botanists and seminal leaders of our Society. What do you think of changing the name of the Service Award to the 'Betty Kemm Service Award'? I haven't proposed this to anyone else yet and wanted to get your input first since you are so intimately acquainted with the award. Thoughts? Adam."

Sue responded, "I think that is a lovely idea. I should have thought of it myself! Betty was a very special lady, and to honor her by naming the Service Award in her memory would be very special....I say, let's proceed."

The next step was an email sent by President Ryburn to the members of the Executive Board with a request to respond

(Continued on page 8)



## History of the Betty Kemm Service Award (continued from page 7)

as quickly as possible. The email replies came thick and fast, all in the affirmative and many bearing Board members' own thoughts about the appropriateness and impact of honoring Betty's memory is this way. The outpouring of heartfelt comments made Sue and Adam more sure than ever that what had been proposed was about to happen! The Service Award henceforth would be titled the Betty Kemm Service Award. In a follow-up email, Adam announced the change and thanked the Board members for their expeditious replies.

There was still one hurdle to overcome. Until 2010, the glass plaque presented to the award's recipient had been crafted by Glassspecialties Inc.; but when the company went out of business, the need to locate another craftsman who would continue to produce the plaque became urgent. (The Service Awards chairman did not even know of the demise of Glassspecialties until it was time to order the 2010 plaque.) Fortunately, a lovely piece of work for another organization of which Chairman Sue was aware, allowed ONPS's Service Award Plaque to continue being crafted as before. Taking the original 2000 design, plus a photo of one of the finished plaques, to Custom Crafts and Engraving of Tulsa made it possible to continue the creation of the unique Service Award plaque uninterrupted, even with the very short notice given the company in 2010.

After the vote to change the name of the award to the Betty Kemm Service Award, Sue still had another important step in order to make the change more apparent. In email conversations with the owner of Custom Crafts and Engraving, Terry Lilly, Sue described the change which would need to be incorporated into the plaque and if, indeed, the addition of Betty's name to the plaque could be accomplished without altering other aspects of its design.

Terry's reply was a welcome one-sentence assurance: "Absolutely we can, no problem at all." Thus, the recipients from 2014 to the most recent winners have received their plaques with the heading, BETTY KEMM SERVICE AWARD. Terry has proven to be a true friend of ONPS; his workmanship in preparing the plaques dated 2010 through 2019 is appreciated by all.

After Ruth Boyd received the first Service Award in 2000, the following individuals were honored: Dr. Paul Buck (2001), Betty Kemm (2002), Patricia Folley (2003), Joanne Orr (2005), Chad Cox (2006), Tina Julich (2007), Dr. Sheila Strawn (2008), Mary Korthase (2009), Lynn Michael (2010), Gloria Caddell (2011), Dr. Ron Tyrll (2012), and Alicia Nelson (2013). Those honored since the Betty Kemm Service Award came into being include Elaine Lynch (2014), Karen Hayworth (2015), Paula Shryock (2016), Joe Roberts (2017), Sandy Graue and Sue Amstutz (2018), and Patrick Bell (2019).

Seven recipients have been affiliated with Northeast Chapter, eleven are or have been members of Central Chapter, and two belong to Crosstimbers Chapter. Of interest is the fact that of the twenty recipients, fifteen have been nominated through letters penned by former recipients of the award themselves.

In addition to chairing the Betty Kemm Service Award committee, the current chairman, Sue Amstutz, prepares and submits annual *Gaillardia* newsletter information regarding the August 31 deadline for submission of the current year's nominations, a follow-up article for the newsletter (usually with photos) of the presentation of that year's award during the most recent Annual Meeting, and reports at each meeting of the State Executive Board and an annual report to the membership at the Society's Annual Meeting each autumn.

### 2020 Betty Kemm Service Award

There is still time to submit a nomination for the 2020 Betty Kemm Service Award.

Named for the first state president and founding member of the Society, the Award recognizes members of ONPS who have demonstrated service over and above that normally associated with expected levels of activity. Deadline for receipt of nominations is August 31, 2020. The nomination must include in writing sufficient documentation to support the nominee's qualifications for receiving the Betty Kemm Service Award.

Previous recipients have included Ruth Boyd, Dr. Paul Buck, Betty Kemm, Patricia Folley, Joanne Orr, Chadwick Cox, Tina Julich, Dr. Sheila Strawn, Mary Korthase, Lynn Michael, Gloria Caddell, Dr. Ron Tyrll, Alicia Nelson, Elaine Lynch, Karen Haworth, Paula Shryock, Joe Roberts, Sandy Graue, Sue Amstutz and Patrick Bell.

Send nominations directly to the Betty Kemm Service Awards Chairman:

Sue Amstutz  
4190 E. 46th Place  
Tulsa, OK 74135  
[d-s-amstutz@cox.net](mailto:d-s-amstutz@cox.net)



## Certification in Native Plants

The Tulsa Garden Center has introduced a series of courses which leads to Certification in Native Plants. In January and February 2020 they offered the first one – An Introduction to Native Plants. It was taught by Constance Murray, a botanist retired from Tulsa Community College and charter member of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society.

The cost was \$75. Topics covered were: What is a Native Plant? Why Plant Natives? Botanical Terms, Oklahoma BioGeography, Invasive Plants, Growing Natives and Landscaping with Natives. The class met 3 Saturdays at the Garden Center, one of which included the 2020 ONPS Indoor Outing. Meetings were moderately informal and participants were encouraged to share their own experiences gardening with natives. The students included a range of ages, previous gardening experience, geography and goals.

Future classes include: Introduction to Plant Ecology; Pollinator Gardening; and Oklahoma Soils. The Tulsa Garden Center is currently closed because of COVID-19. For more information contact Meredith Jones, Education Coordinator at the Tulsa Garden Center.



Indian Pink by Lynn Michael

## Musings from Joe

Summertime, Janis Joplin. I bet it will start playing in your head as soon as you read those words. Ok, maybe for some of us the 1936 Billie Holiday version. If you were rocking it in 1936, I tip my hat to you.

One thing Gershwin, Billie, and Janis apparently didn't do was garden. If they had, they would have been far too busy to sit around catching the jumping fish and admiring the high cotton. I too thought all I had to do to enjoy my beautifully manicured Southern Living feature garden was come home, mix a mint julep, plop down in my teak lounge and read a book. Instead, my Walmart chair has a hole in the seat, there's no fresh mint or bourbon in the house, and the weeds obscure the view of my sole Mexican Petunia. How'd we get here so fast? Nothing's growing and then "boom" – jungle. Fortunately I have kids doing online school. A readily accessible labor force.

Speaking of kids, I have a funny story. Like many of you, I have a very cool and hip Color Oklahoma license plate with our ONPS *Gaillardia* symbol on it. The other day we were all driving, and the car in front of us had one too. I pointed it out. My kids said "I bet the driver is old". As we passed them, the octogenarian driver gave us a wave, and my kids busted out laughing.

I made them listen to Billie Holiday sing "Summertime" on a loop until we got home.

## Meet the Founders

By Fran Stallings

### Helen Hodges

Helen Hodges grew up in the Tulsa family home where she still lives. Her father started in the 1920s enlarging the house and garden to include fruit trees, strawberries, a big vegetable garden, chickens, and even a cow in the garage. Her mother canned apricots and sweet pickles in big heavy crocks. Helen learned to make chow chow from their homegrown cucumbers. Because both parents worked, Helen's sister kept house while Helen tended the yard – outdoor training that paid off during her years as an educator.

Helen got her first Education degree from Benedictine nuns at a convent in Guthrie which had a big farm and many pear trees. Graduates became nuns, teachers and nurses. Starting before 1960, Helen taught many years at catholic schools: St Francis, Madeline, Monte Casino, St. Katherines, summer school in Guthrie. After she continued her training at TU, she taught in Tulsa public elementary schools such as Sequoya and Whittier.

Helen has fond memories of the original Whittier Elementary School, where she taught first graders and specialized in a self-contained classroom that had its own bathrooms (no scary hall passes for young children), sinks for science experiments and artwork, and lots of storage space. Her fondest memories are of bringing nature to those children. She built enclosures for Gulf fritillary caterpillars she brought from the passion vines on her own back fence. The children fed them passion vine foliage, then watched them form chrysalis and emerge as bright orange butterflies in just a few weeks.

Wanting to expand the students' outdoor experience beyond the asphalt school yard, Helen got help from Anna Brewer and Betty Kemm to make an outdoor learning center at Whittier with a pond (frogs, tadpoles): a shade garden under a tree; and sunflowers taller than she was. Parents helped haul dirt and rocks for the “desert” area in their sunniest spot. Their vegetable garden produced huge sweet potatoes. It wasn't the first outdoor classroom in Tulsa – that was at Carver Middle School, built by a teacher who helped with the Whittier design. But it may have been the second one in the city.

Unfortunately when the city replaced Whittier and Kendall Elementary schools with Kendall-Whittier at a new site, both old campuses were razed destroying this garden. But generations of children in that at-risk area had benefitted.



Passionvine by Lynn Michael

Helen doesn't remember when she got fascinated with wild flowers. Like many early ONPS members, she went on many field trips with Paul Buck to sites of unusual interest, studying plants on different kinds of soils.

Retired from teaching in 1990, she has tried to landscape her home garden with natives especially butterfly hosts and nectar plants such as milkweed, parsley, dill, and bronze fennel. She regrets that despite chicken wire enclosures, something rabbits(?) ate most of the dill and fennel last year so there wasn't enough for the swallowtail caterpillars. Although spinal problems now limit her gardening to what she can accomplish from a lawn chair, and she can no longer attend ONPS meetings or field trips, she is ready to plant dill for this year's caterpillars!

### 2020 Anne Long Award

Please consider nominating an individual or group for the 2020 Anne Long Award. The Award recognizes individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to the stated purposes of ONPS. The Award is given at the Society's Annual Meeting in warm remembrance and honor of one of the ONPS founders, and an early advocate for wildflower protection. The first recipient was the Ninnekah High School Science Club in 1989 and the most recent Connie Murray 2017. Nominations are being accepted for the Award from now through August 31, 2020. Include the complete names and addresses of both the individual(s) making the nomination and the nominee (s); a contact person if the nominee is an organization; and supportive documentation for evaluation by the Awards Committee. Contact person is Connie Murray: [murrayconstance4882@gmail.com](mailto:murrayconstance4882@gmail.com)



## Wildflowers in Your Garden *Asclepias* ssp. Milkweeds

By Marilyn Stewart

Orange, yellow, green, white, pink or purple blooms, tall, short, vining, wide leaves or narrow leaves, drought-loving, aquatic, sun or shade-loving. I am not a botanist, but in my experience the Milkweed family has more variety of colors, textures, growth habits, and habitats than any other plant family. I admit I may be biased in my love of milkweeds because they support some of my favorite animals—insects.



Swamp Milkweed,  
Lynn Michael

Oklahoma is fortunate to be the native habitat for at least 33 species in the *Asclepiadaceae* Family, all of them perennial. They range from the flashy Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) with its bright orange or yellow blooms atop sturdy stalks with narrow hirsute leaves to Bluevine (*Cynanchum laeve*), which can climb to at least 20 feet and has thin, heart shaped leaves and delicate scented blooms. Bluevine is undoubtedly the least beautiful, but one of the most valuable milkweeds for Monarchs. Possibly the most familiar is the low growing Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*) which is seen on the side of just about every Oklahoma highway in May and June.

So, what makes milkweed special? Unless you have been living in a cave the past few years with no outside contact, milkweeds and the importance of planting them have been the subject of a deluge of articles and podcasts promoting its planting in an effort to save the iconic Monarch butterfly.

Butterflies, like many insects, are specific feeders and can only oviposit their eggs on particular plants specific to the particular needs of their larvae. For example; Black Swallowtail butterflies lay their eggs on members of the Parsley (*Apiaceae*) Family, the Sleepy Orange butterfly lays its eggs on members of the Pea (*Fabaceae*) Family and Monarch larvae can **only** utilize milkweed. Oklahoma is

in the center of the migrating flyway of the Monarch butterfly. **If we don't have milkweed, we don't have Monarchs.**

Most milkweeds have a latex type of sap (Bluevine is an exception) and a toxic alkaloid chemical called cardiac glycoside. Some insects and mammals avoid milkweeds for this reason, but other insects have adapted to utilize the toxicity as a means of protection from predators. Pollen of milkweed is spread a little differently than other types of flowers, instead of pollen that is dust-like, the pollen of milkweed is transferred in waxy packets (1) which stick to the proboscises and legs of the pollinators. Each bloom has five sepals and five petals which fall back to reveal a star shaped pattern.

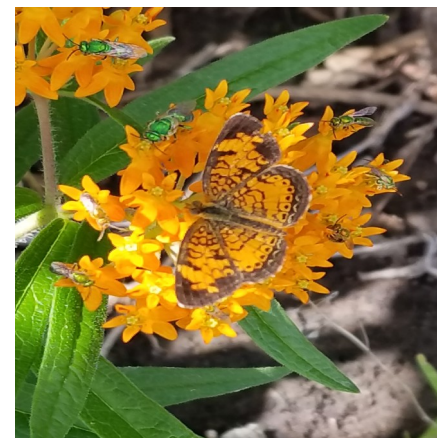
The seedpods of milkweed are another thing that each species has in common. Successfully pollinated flowers usually produce one to two pods which are shaped somewhat like an elongated egg. When ripe they split open to reveal brown seeds attached to white tufts that fly easily away in the wind—or house-- if like me you decide to harvest the seeds indoors. Trying to catch the seeds as they fly through the air is a great deal like trying to catch a chicken, possible, but not pretty to watch.

The community of animal life supported by milkweed is dazzling, hummingbirds, beetles, the larvae of several moths, flies, wasps, and of course the predators such as spiders and parasitic insects that feed on what the milkweed is attracting.

If you want to help out the Monarch butterfly and the rest of the milkweed community how do you establish it in your yard? I wish I could tell you that growing it is easy, unfortunately it is sometimes not as it can take several years to fully mature. The most important consideration is the need to determine which milkweeds do well in your part of the state. Then, evaluate the soil, light exposure, and water you have. Like all plants, native or introduced, proper siting is critical. But, with 33 of the 101 *Asclepias* species native to North America thriving here in Oklahoma, I guarantee there are some that will do great in your garden.



Bluevine, Marilyn Stewart



Butterflyweed, Lynn Michael



Green Antelope Horn,  
Lynn Michael

(1) Milkweed, Monarchs and More by Ba Rea, Karen Oberhauser, Michael Quinn

### Farewell for now?

The Editorial Team hopes this is not your last issue of the *Gaillardia*. To find out when your membership expires, just look on your mailing label. ONPS sent out an email reminder to pay dues, but perhaps you missed it. And if it is indeed farewell, for whatever reason, we hope to see you return when you can.

Not getting email notices?

Well, there are not very many. If you feel you are missing out though, please contact the Editorial Team at [ONPSactivities@gmail.com](mailto:ONPSactivities@gmail.com). The most common reason you stop getting emails is if you check the “unsubscribe” option at the bottom of every email we send out. The Oklahoma Native Plant Society does not share or sell its membership list.

Email or paper copy?

The *Gaillardia* is a beautiful publication. A large part of your dues goes into its printing and mailing. We are pleased to keep mailing you your own paper copy. However, if you would like to dedicate more of your dues to supporting the mission of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society in other ways, or if you would like to save paper and ink, you could request an email notice of when The *Gaillardia* is posted on the website. Your request for an “email notice only” should go to the Editorial Team at [ONPSactivities@gmail.com](mailto:ONPSactivities@gmail.com).

Still want your complimentary/exchange copy of The *Gaillardia*?

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society exchanges newsletters with a number of other native plant organizations. The *Gaillardia* also goes to libraries and schools around the state. And we appreciate our friends in the media who help us share news about native plants. But addresses and names change, and we’d like to hear from you if something at your end has changed. Please send us an “update status” email to the Editorial Team at [ONPSactivities@gmail.com](mailto:ONPSactivities@gmail.com)

2019 Annual Meeting at Quartz Mountain Lodge



### NE Chapter News

Teresa Blue, *Chair*

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> I was elected as the new chair and I have to say the position has been a piece of cake so far as The Tulsa Garden Center has been temporarily closed and will re-open the end of May. All activities were canceled due to Covid-19. I hope all of you have been able to get out and do some exciting field trips of your own and have had plenty of time to improve home gardens.

The speaker for the **September 14th** meeting at the Tulsa Garden Center is to be announced at a later date.

The annual Audubon Wildlife Habitat Tour has been rescheduled for **Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00 to 5:00, and Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 5:00**. The vendors will be there with plants as usual. We need volunteers for an ONPS information table. Please contact me either by email at [teresa@bluelawpc.com](mailto:teresa@bluelawpc.com), or telephone at 918-504-0441 if you are interested in volunteering.

Doug Tallamy’s presentation will be rescheduled at a future date to be determined.

The Fabulous Wildflower Fridays meet on the third Friday of each month, **5:30 p.m.** at the Panera Bread, 5601 E 41<sup>st</sup> street in Tulsa. Panera Bread is currently open for walk-in traffic only. Meetings will continue when they fully reopen.

### Central Chapter Update

Patrick Bell, *Chair*

There will be no meeting in July or August. For September, John Weir is *tentatively* scheduled to give a talk on the beneficial response of native plants to controlled burns. That meeting is dependent on resumption of a safe and open meeting environment at the OSU-OKC campus.

Updates will be posted on the ONPS web site and emailed to members as we get closer to September and have a clearer picture of how the covid-19 response is progressing.



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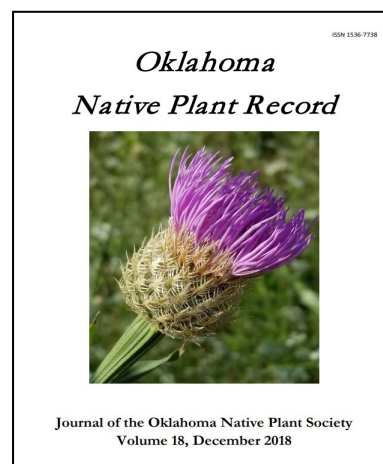
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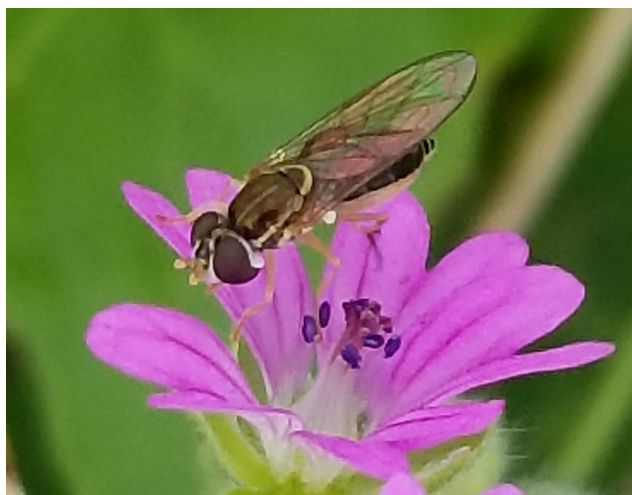
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Margined Calligrapher on Dove's-foot Crane's-Bill,  
Mohawk Park, by Lynn Michael

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