



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 36, Number 2
Summer 2021**

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Upcoming Events/Activities
(check the ONPS website or Facebook for more details)

June 18 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays at Panera Bread, 41st Street, Tulsa, 5:30 pm

July 16 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays at Panera Bread, 41st Street, Tulsa, 5:30 pm

Aug 5 - Central Chapter In person and Virtual program, 7 pm oknativeplants.org

Aug 20 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays at Panera Bread, 41st Street, Tulsa, 5:30 pm

Sept 2 - Central Chapter meeting TBA, 7 pm

Sept 13 - NE Chapter meeting, 5:30 at the Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa.

Sept - NO Fabulous Wildflower Friday due to Annual meeting.

Sept 24-26 - ONPS Annual Meeting, Payne County Expo Center, Stillwater, OK

All regular scheduled Indoor meetings may resume.

Central Chapter, 6:30 pm socializing and 7:00 pm 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.

Oklahoma State Symbols

<https://statesymbolsusa.org/states/united-states/oklahoma>



Wildflower

Indian Blanket
(*Gaillardia pulchella*)

Adopted in 1986

Photo by
Lynn Michael

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:

2021: Ray Luth and Janet Thomas
2022: Kathy Doss and Joe Roberts
2023: Rahmona Thompson and Jim Elder

Chapter Chairs:

Kathy Doss	Northeast
Patrick Bell	Central
Elaine Lynch	Cross-Timbers
Nancy Hamill	Mycology

Committee Chairs:

Historian	Fran Stallings
Publicity and Merchandise	Barbara Klein
Betty Kemm Award	Sue Amstutz
Awards	Connie Murray
Mailings/Printings	Sandy Graue
Native Plant Record	Gloria Caddell
Webmaster	Adam Ryburn
<i>Gaillardia</i> Editor	Lynn Michael
Color Oklahoma	Alicia Nelson

Conservation Committee and statewide Tulsa Garden
Center Liaison positions retired.

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 AUG 5, 2021**

Contributions

Feb 7, 2021—May 14, 2021

General Fund

Lynn Michael in Memory of
John Nicholas Shannon

Greetings, fellow native plant fans!

I don't know if you realize how fortunate the ONPS has been in its membership. It's a thriving organization with dedicated and active members. Some of us also participate in the busy chapters with interesting field trips and thought-provoking programs. Yes, we have also been lucky to have strong leaders, but even the best leaders cannot steer an apathetic membership. Every one of us is vital to the Society.

Please consider supporting your Society, not just with money (although it does help to keep up with your dues!), and not just by attending meetings and events and field trips, but by getting involved in the behind-the-scenes work that every organization requires. At our spring board meeting, we opened a discussion on how to safeguard the continuity of the ONPS by coming up with what a colleague likes to call our "Hit-By-a-Bus plans." We know how to back up files to safeguard important data in the event of an unexpected catastrophe. We also need to make sure we are not crippled by the loss of the only person who knows how to do a critical job.

We have elections coming up in the fall, so we have formed a nominating committee: myself, Connie Murray, and Joe Roberts. Think about putting your name in for vice-president or secretary or director-at-large. If you've served on the executive board, you're eligible to run for president of the ONPS.

In addition to nominees for elected positions, we are looking for people to fill appointed positions. We need someone with accounting skills we can appoint as assistant treasurer, so that more than one person knows how Mary handles the finances of this organization. We'd like to find someone with website admin skills to help with and understudy the tasks handled by our webmaster Adam Ryburn. Maybe you have proofreading skills, or database management skills, or artistic or graphic talents. Are you able and willing to present programs to groups? To help teachers and students with a school garden? Every chapter chair can use some help. To get started, contact one of us on the nominating committee.

Let's all take stock and look for more ways we can "encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma's native plants."
-Donna Horton

Cross-Timers Chapter News

Elaine Lynch, Chair

Cross-Timers is working on the details of the 2021 Annual Meeting. We are going on the assumption that it will be possible to meet in person by September, with proper precautions in place. The meeting will be held in the Stillwater area. See Pages 7-8 for more information.

Central Chapter Update

Patrick Bell, Chair

The Central Chapter of the ONPS has continued hosting monthly live, virtual informational talks, via the ONPS website, this spring. The March lecture; *Native Grasses and Flowering Plants Response to Prescribed Burns* was given by Dr. Laura Goodman, Assistant Professor and Rangeland Extension Specialist, OSU. Following the warm reception of the March talk, April's lecture featured Dr. Lara Souza, Academic Director for the Oklahoma Biological Survey and Associate Professor, Microbiology, and Plant Biology at OU. She discussed *Native Plant Responses to Global and Climatic Changes*. In May, the Central Chapter hosted the WOW (Wonders of Wildflowers) weekend at the Selman Learning Lab in the gypsum hills of northwestern Oklahoma. Great appreciation and shout-out to Gloria Caddell for orchestrating and allowing us to use that amazing facility.

The ONPS Board recently voted to allow resumption of in-person meetings. After the summer hiatus, plans are in the works to resume live meetings in August. There has been a wide audience and appreciation of our virtual format meetings (thank you pandemic, at least a few good things came from it). That said, we'll look into continuing to offer a virtual viewing option for those that can't attend in person.

And finally... mark your calanders... ONPS is excited to announce that we'll host Dr. Doug Tallamy's return to Oklahoma, February 4th-5th, 2022. Plans are in the very early stages, more to come latter.

Best wishes for shaking off the pandemic funk, enjoying the summer, and looking forward to "normalizing" again.

Northeast Chapter Update

Kathy Doss, Chair

Like the rest of the ONPS, the NE Chapter has not had any indoor meetings in over a year. We did have a series of field trips every Saturday in April. We got to see so many of the spring blooming flowers and enjoyed diverse locations.

The election for NE Chapter Chair was held in March. Members voted online at the ONPS website and Kathy Doss was elected chair.

An ONPS informational booth was manned at the home of Ray Luth and Mary Helen Hagge on the Audubon Backyard Habitat Tour May 15-16. People were enthusiastic about gardening with native plants and were very interested in ONPS.

Our Fabulous Wildflower Friday gathers will resume again in June, at 5:30 on the 3rd Friday. Join us to discuss our outings and gardens and compare what's blooming.

Our next scheduled meeting will be held Monday, September 13 at the Tulsa Garden Center. Come at 6:30 for social time and the 7:00 meeting. We will enjoy using the brand-new, quiet elevator to the ballroom in the basement.

Mycology Chapter

Nancy Hamill, Chair

Shaggy mane mushrooms were popping up in the pasture around my house so I went picking. Shaggy mane refers to the scales on the bullet-shaped cap. *Coprinus comatose* has a white cap and as the mushroom ages and spores mature the cap opens like an umbrella. The gills are white when young deepening to black. Deliquescencing (self-digestion) continues as the cap turns to inky liquid dripping down the stalk.

The spore print is Black! Indeed, this black liquid has been used as ink in times past. These fungi grow from buried wood or dead roots in soil or grass in cool wet weather. Collected when young (act quickly) while still white they can be eaten after cooking. I made a cream of mushroom soup with my collection.

Lucky Spring ONPS field trip

Article by Nancy Hamill, Photos by Jay Pruett

Our lucky day field trip to Lucky Springs organized and lead by Lynn Michael was indeed fortuitous. We found so many early spring ephemeral plants and flowers. On the caravan to 645 road near Peggs OK. Many clumps of Sand hill plums were spotted in full flower. Individual small flowering trees were probably American or Mexican plum. Our first stop before the spring area yielded lots of the spring ephemerals we were seeking.

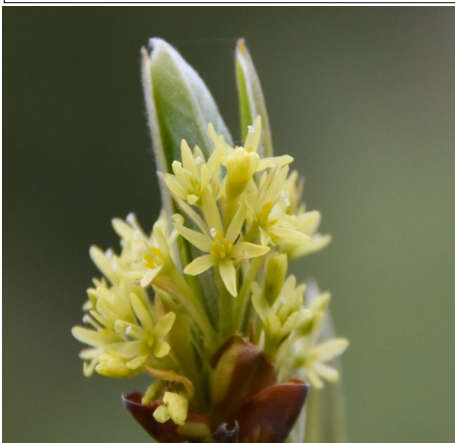
Only one bloom of Bloodroot but plenty of leaves showed that we must have been too late for more blooms of *Sanguinaria canadensis*. Yellow, blue, purple and white violets were everywhere. A lovely grouping of yellow Beaked trout lilies, *Erythronium rostratum*, was on a slight rise. Lots of blue phlox, Wild Sweet William, *Phlox divaricata*, and some Jacob's Ladder, *Polemonium reptans*. Buttercup, *Ranunculus sp.* abounded. Ozark green trillium, *Trillium viridescens*, were easily recognized. Wild Ginger, *Asarum canadensis*, was still showing maroon flowers very near the ground. It's interesting that ants get food from the fruit capsules and disperse the seeds.

There was plenty of blunt woodsia, *Woodsia obtusa*, in heavy shade as well as Smooth Soloman's seal, *Polygonatum biflorum*. The slightly pink hued Rue anemone, *Thalictrum thalictroides*, grows singularly whereas the false rue, *Enemion biternatum*, grows in colonies. Several plants of Ebony Spleenwort, *Asplenium platyneuron*, held to short cliffs. Huge fuzzy croziers of Christmas ferns could not be mistaken for anything else, *Polystichum acrostichoides*. At Lucky Spring water cress was in the pool above the spring outlet and in the ditch beside the road, both groups quite healthy. Across the road black elderberry, *Sambucus canadensis*, showed yellow-green leaves. Pussytoes, *Antennaria sp.*, is a host plant for the American Painted Lady butterfly. Also, across the road was *Sassafras albidum*. An invasive non-native mullein grew in several places. Another invasive yellow rocket was pointed out. A must see was Dutchman's breeches, *Dicentra cucullaria*, with its never to be forgotten flowers like the name sake Dutchman's pantaloons.

("Lucky" continued on Page 5)

Left: sassafras tree bloom, *Sassafras albidum*.

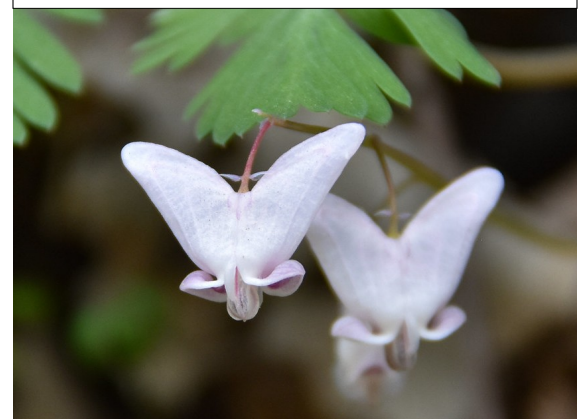
Right: bloom of Wild ginger, *Asarum canadensis*



Above, beaked trout lily, *Erythronium rostratum*.
Below, croziers of Christmas fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*



Above, Jacob's ladder, *Polemonium reptans*.
Below, Dutchman's breeches, *Dicentra cucullaria*



("Lucky" continued from Page 4)



Above, jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis*

Below, bud and flower of Ohio buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*



Common jewel weed, *Impatiens capensis*, is known as jewel weed because water beads up on the leaves and glistens like jewels. Wild hydrangea, *Hydrangea arborescens*, was just starting to leaf out. Cut leaved toothwort, *Cardamine concatenata*, was showing white flowers. Water leaf *Hydrophyllum virginica*, was not flowering. Northern Maidenhair fern, *Adiantum pedatum*, also named, Five-Finger Maidenhair since the stems appear to be fingers off the main stipe. The main stipes when young appear reddish in color, probably the fern referred to in the book "Where the Red Fern Grows", a story set in the Ozarks.

The two weeks of below freezing temps may have made us miss the yellow blooms of Ohio buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*, as we just saw buds. The many thorns of another invasive *Citrus trifoliata*, trifoliolate orange certainly stood out as a plant not to be trifled with. A few of white woodland trout lilies, *Erythronium albidum*, could be seen.

A wonderful odor given off a crushed leaf of Common dittany, *Cunila origanoides*, made me want it for my herb garden. American alum root, our native Coral Bells, *Heuchera americana*, was just ready to bloom. I want to revisit the area to see these in bloom as Coral Bells are a favorite in my garden.

Flowering dogwood was still a little green at that point but a week later they were in full bloom in the hollows and draws in the whole area. The flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*, was enchantingly beautiful.

Lynn showed us Blue Ridge Blueberries, *Vaccinium pallidum*, which grow just barely over the Arkansas border in far eastern Oklahoma. Groups of Mayapples, *Podophyllum peltatum*, were everywhere, they need two leaves to flower. Morel mushrooms appear at the same time, but didn't find any of those sought after fungi.

One week later, Ohio buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*, at left and flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*, at right, in full bloom.



Wonderful WOW Weekend 2021

Article by Constance Murray, Photos by Lynn Michael

Wonders of Wildflowers weekend was held May 14-16, 2021 at UCO's Selman Living Laboratory (SLL) under the direction of Gloria Caddell and Central Chapter. The location is in western Oklahoma on the rolling hills of the mixed grass plains between Mooreland and Freedom OK. While most of the weekend was overcast and there were sprinkles on Saturday morning, the 30 intrepid attendees were undaunted.



Above: lace cactus, *Echinocereus reichenbachii*

Below: lemon paintbrush, *Castilleja citrina*



Friday night Gloria gave us an overview of the SLL and the surrounding vegetation. A group from nearby Woodward talked about telescopes and how to read the night sky. Saturday morning, with the threat of rain, we walked around the prairie near the lab and identified wildflowers. While some were familiar from throughout Oklahoma prairies, Little Bluestem (*Schizachrium scoparium*), Prairie Larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*), Drummond's onion

(*Allium drummondii*), Small Soapweed (*Yucca glauca*), and Meadow Flax (*Linum pratense*), there were those specific to the western portion of the state,

notably Lemon Paintbrush (*Castilleja citrina*), Stickleaf (*Mentzelia oligosperma*), and Lace Cactus (*Echinocereus reichenbachii*), Hartweg's Sundrops (*Calylophus hartwegii*) and Woolly Paperflower (*Psilostrophe tagetina*) and the gypsum hills standout, Stevens' fiddleleaf (*Nama stevensii*.)

Saturday afternoon the group went to Alabaster Caverns and some of the adventurous toured the caves there.

Saturday evening there was a bat flight at a nearby cave in which thousands of bats roiled from the cave just past sunset.

Sunday morning there was a Board Meeting during which the Board recommended that ONPS chapters resume meeting in person and planned some of the events for the upcoming year. Many thanks to Central Chapter for sponsoring this event, Gloria Caddell for her botanical expertise and organizational skills, and to chefs extraordinaire Patrick Bell and Joe Roberts.



Hartweg's sundrops, *Calylophus hartwegii*

Grow Some Wild Seeds!



Oklahoma Native Plant Society 2021 Annual Meeting

September 24-26, 2021

Payne County Expo Center, 4518 Expo Cir E, Stillwater, OK

ONPS has been invited to visit an area where a prescribed burn took place this spring. It is a combination of private property and Pawnee tribal land. Speakers will discuss the history of the site, plants, and the use of prescribed burns.

Friday, Sept. 24

5:00-9:00 PM Early registration, drop-off Silent Auction donations, Socialize, Dinner on your own

Saturday, Sept. 25

7:30-8:25 AM Registration, Silent Auction bidding / Or meet us at field trip site

8:30-9:15 AM Carpool to C.R. Ledford's property in Pawnee for field trip

9:15 AM Meet at field trip site for program and botanizing.

Field trip schedule:

Intro-Welcoming; Staff; Safety

Site History-Pawnee Tribe

Speaker- Indigenous plants and education

Speaker-Prescribed fire

Break

Speaker-Site overview; habitats and challenges of invasive plants

Walking options: Exploration on established trails

Lunch

More exploration

Wrap-Up

2:00-ish PM Return to Expo Center

2:45-5:00 PM Unstructured time for Silent Auction bidding, plant bingo, plant discussions

6:00-7:00 PM. Dinner buffet catered by Hello! Catering

7:00-8:00 PM Membership meeting, Announcement of Silent Auction winners

Sunday, Sept. 26

9:00 AM-12:00 PM Board Meeting

Stillwater has many hotels at various costs. This is a partial list in alphabetical order.

The Atherton Hotel at OSU
H103 Student Union
405-744-6835

Best Western PLUS
Cimarron Hotel & Suites
315 N. Husband St.
405-372-2878

Fairfield by Marriott
418 E. Hall of Fame Dr.
405-372-6300

Hampton Inn & Suites
717 E. Hall of Fame Ave.
405-743-1306

Holiday Inn & Suites
Stillwater-University West
715 S. Country Club Road
405-372-2445

La Quinta by Wyndham
5285 W. 6th Ave.
405-564-0599

Microtel Inn & Suites
423 E. Hall of Fame Ave.
405-372-7100

Residence Inn by Marriott
800 S. Murphy St.
405-707-0588

Wyndham Garden Hotel
600 E. McElroy St.
405-377-7010

Directions:

Payne County Expo Center – From the junction of US-Hwy 177 (Perkins Road) and OK-Hwy 51 (6th St.) in Stillwater, go east on OK-Hwy 51 for 3.2 miles. Expo Center is on the north/left.

C.R. Ledford property/Field trip site - From the junction of US-Hwy 64 and OK-Hwy 18 in Pawnee, the site is appropriately one mile north on OK-Hwy 18 on east/right side. Look for signs.

Local places of interest:

Bustani Plant Farm, 1313 East 44th Ave, Stillwater, OK - Fall hours: Sept. 14-Oct. 2, Tues.-Sat. 9 AM to 6 PM

OSU Botanic Garden, 3300 W. 6th St., Stillwater, OK – 6 AM to 8 PM

OSU Native Plant Corridor, OSU-Stillwater campus. <https://fm.okstate.edu/about-us/landscape/oklahoma-native-plant-corridor.html>

Registration

Register online at the ONPS website www.oknativeplants.org OR mail registration to:

Elaine Lynch, 1502 E. Frontier Dr., Stillwater, OK 74075-7306

Make checks payable to: *Oklahoma Native Plant Society*

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____ Phone _____

You must register by Wednesday, Sept. 15 if you are purchasing meals. On-site registration, without meals, will be available.

_____ Registration fee \$14.00

_____ Student registration \$5.00

_____ Saturday lunch \$11.00 - sub sandwich (with lettuce, tomato, mayo unless noted), chips, pickle, and cookie. Tea or water. Please select from the following options:

_____ ham & cheese _____ roast beef _____ tuna salad (made with mayo) & cucumber

_____ turkey _____ veggie _____ salami, capicola, cheese, onion, oil & vinegar, oregano-basil (no mayo)

_____ Saturday dinner \$16.00 – buffet: grilled chicken, lasagna (vegetarian), vegetable medley, Strawberry-Spinach salad, tossed salad, crescent rolls, cobblers (peach and blackberry), tea, water, and coffee

_____ TOTAL Amount Enclosed

Questions: Contact Elaine Lynch at plantsxtimbers@yahoo.com or 405-624-1461

We are holding a Silent Auction that weekend. Contact Connie Murray, murrayconstance4882@gmail.com, by Monday, Sept. 20, if you want to donate something to the auction.

MEET THE FOUNDERS.....SUSAN CHAMBERS

By Fran Stallings

Native Oklahoman Susan Chambers contributed to the start of ONPS and continues to promote the use of native plants through her company Rose Rock Landscaping.

Susan grew up in Woodward OK with one older sibling, three younger, and many pets including a skunk, salamanders, doves. They lived on a corner lot that occupied most of the block and had an enormous vegetable garden in which all but the youngest sister helped: she says family punishment was weeding. They ate most of their produce fresh, having no root cellar. Susan still doesn't eat canned beets. The family went camping every summer. Susan loved walking in the woods, especially along creeks, which may have started her interest in native plants.

Susan began college as an art major but had to drop out after one semester due to financial straits. Four years later in 1975 she went back, wanting her own business in something she loved. At South Western University she got her BS in botany & ecology with professor Bill Seibert, who was very interested in the environment. He took groups of students botanizing, keying things out. She learned to appreciate Oklahoma's native plants.

At OSU Susan took her MS in horticulture and nursery production although at the time it was all about exotics: that's why she never joined the OK Horticulture Association. No one had heard of native landscaping, so she used exotic hollies and euonymus because that was what was available. When she found better, however, she did better. She especially liked to start with the "blank slate" of newly built homes.

Thirty-seven years ago she founded Rose Rock Landscaping with a focus on native plants wherever she could choose. Yaupon holly, deciduous holly, American holly, and Gaillardia she could usually get locally. Many perennial natives look wonderful in gardens: asters, ferns, evergreens. Customers didn't care as long as it looked good! She once put natives into another firm's landscape design, filling the same niches. Three times in 37 yrs she has had freedom to do all natives!

Susan says, "I didn't join ONPS, they joined me." In 1987 she helped start it with Pat Folley in OKC.

She chaired some Indoor Outings and did many programs, including one on poisonous plants for Valentine's Day... She did all she could until she had to drop out when care-taking elderly in-laws' property and a frail mother-in-law; then younger sister in Austin died; then husband's widowed uncle.

Susan lives east of OKC. Rose Rock Landscaping works from Seminole to Paul's Valley, as far west as Yukon, north to Edmond almost Guthrie. They currently keep busy with maintenance projects, which pay the bills while they wait for the reviving economy to provide new projects. They started a job in NE Moore last fall but completion awaits the supply of native plants. She uses permaculture-like ethos in planning landscapes and has yet to come across a garden that wouldn't support a native plant; you just have to know which is suitable for those conditions. On high dollar estates she likes to prune natives to a more formal appearance in the front yard, then can do "crazy things" in the back.

Susan's home garden has few vegetables, just lettuce and spinach in planters. Her love of art is now expressed in silversmithing and molten glass jewelry. She makes Christmas tree icicles and glass handles for desk sets and kitchen utensils (not suitable for tile floored kitchens).



Photo of her garden by Susan Chambers

The Story of this Tree Line

Article and photos by Shalini Chitturi



Mid- December - My nurse and I went to Oklahoma Forest Department and ordered 100 Bare roots of the Wild life package, that we both were planning to share. I was done staring at the lifeless, bald Bermuda lawn and wanted to grow some native trees that would become a home to birds and butterflies.

Mid-March - These sapling packages were delivered to our house, when I was on a vacation in India. My nurse picked up the

package and followed the instructions in keeping them moist. By the time I returned in April, we both were shocked to see that many bare roots turned dark brown and few others had whitish fungus on them.

April 8th- Not knowing what to do, we both took the packaged plants back to the Forest Department. The person in the office was quite upset at the state of the saplings. We apologized to him and told him that this was our first time dealing with the saplings. He acknowledged it and taught us about OFS commitment towards these saplings and importance of planting them right away. When I requested him to sell more saplings to us, he initially wasn't willing to give any. After some persuasion, he gave us each,100 bare roots of the Wildlife package, along with the strict instructions of putting

them in the ground in the next 1-2 days.



That day was a Monday and there was no weekend close by. So many plants, and I cannot lose them again. My husband and I started digging holes and planting them right away. It was truly a back breaking task, as we cleared the extensive roots of the Bermuda .The sun retired for the day by the time we were done planting about 20 of the bareroots.

April 9th-Tuesday gleamed bright that morning only to deceptively change into a severe thunderstorm by that evening. We called our lawn mower person, Jose to assist.

He told us that we needed a bigger tool to dig faster. So my husband rushed to the home depot and got the tools needed. They both started digging holes. As soon as I came back from work, I also started helping them . After a couple of hours into the evening, Jose said "that's it, can't do it no more". He dug around 60 holes by then. Jose couldn't believe that those brown twigs would become huge trees someday. I gave him some bare roots and told him to plant them the next day in his yard.

As me and my husband were busy planting the bareroots, we could see the greyish clouds hovering over us. It kept on becoming darker and colder as we completed our task. I made sure I mulched all the plants as there was also a freeze warning that very night. Our day ended in a dark chilly evening, with loud thunders applauding our efforts and heavy rain drenching us along with the vital bareroots.

("Tree Line" continued on Page 11)

(“Tree Line” continued from Page 10)

I remembered reading in a garden blog that the miracle of life happens once the bare roots are in the ground. I wasn't sure of that, although I promised myself to be patient. Mid May- after few more summer rains, lo behold! The miracle of life began. I noticed small green leaves sprouting happily from every twig that we planted. They grew larger and bigger over the next few springs. Some were lost over time to the ruthless blades of the lawn mowers. As we continued to learn how to protect them, they shaped themselves into a couple of beautiful tree lines. The lawn was filled with diverse canopies of Mulberries, Dogwoods, Chickasaw plum and Sumac.

That lifeless bald Bermuda lawn has now become a vibrant native stage filled with many life forms and conversations. The rustling leaves echo with the Oklahoma winds, spreading the dating sagas of the Red Admirals, Checkerspot and the cardinals. The territorial shrieks of the Blue Jays, Barn Owls and hummers adds to the nesting scenes. The tango of the Monarchs under the Osage Orange, the battalions of the Hackberry Emperors, and the tiny

hairstreaks on the amber soapberries, intrigue one with their subtlety. The yellow flashes of the goldfinches devour the mulberries as the robins keep watching. The white speckled Brown Thrasher sings many melodious tunes on a distant branch, as tiny birds play hide and seek in the dogwoods. The Tiger Swallowtail glides like a drone as the stunning Cedar Waxwing mavericks show off.



My senses are elated with this spectacle of Nature. And as I look closer, I realize that I am gifted with many new life forms throughout the year. These magical native tree lines surely became a dynamic habitat for wildlife, and continues to develop on its own.

Field Trip Photos



Clockwise from upper left: Lucky Springs-April 3, Ken Laubenstein's-April 17, Osage Hills-April 10, and J. T. Nickel Preserve-April 24.



Wildflowers in Your Garden: Native Groundcovers

Article by Marilyn Stewart,

Photos by Lynn Michael

If your heart skipped a beat when you read the title of this article then I apologize for getting your hopes up that I have a magic answer to a plea I know every plant grower hears, “I need a native groundcover for the sun/shade/wet area/dry area. Oh, and it needs to choke out the Bermuda”.

This plant does not exist.

However, what we *can* do with those areas that we may consider problem spots is better and more interesting than any monoculture such as Bermuda or Liriope. Over the past 100 years the perfectly cut, trimmed, and grass blown lawn has become an indicator of good citizenship, success, status, and American patriotism. Immense amounts of time, water, pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides and fossil fuels are spent maintaining these green, monotonous, non-native carpets.

The greatest impact we can have on our environment and the community of animals that depend on native plants is to widen our view of not only what is doable and sustainable, but beautiful.



Buffalo Grass, *Bouteloua dactyloides*

Let's focus first on the sunny spot that is most likely infested with Bermuda. Buffalo Grass (*Bouteloua dactyloides*) is often touted as a great alternative to Bermuda and it **is**, but having a solid lawn of this native grass requires preparation, patience, and perseverance. When replacing Bermuda grass every stolon and root must be removed before Buffalo Grass is planted. Once it is growing, you will need to continually scout the area for Bermuda which has either grown from a wayward root or from a seed blown there from a neighboring yard. An expanse of Buffalo grass is beautiful and requires little to no watering or mowing, but it does demand diligence in making sure no Bermuda or other unwanted introduced plants gain a foothold.

Another alternative is to look around at our natural, native areas. What do you see? Sometimes I have thrown a hula hoop out in our little prairie spot and attempted to identify the plants within the circle and I might come up with 10-20 species. *That* is a ground cover and is one that can eventually choke out Bermuda because not only is it not receiving supplemental water and fertilizer, the height of some of the plants shade it out. Planting a wide variety of species close together not only improves your odds for success, but also adds biodiversity. Native grasses such as Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Hairy Grama (*Bouteloua hirsuta*), Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Poverty Grass (*Danthonia spicata*) and Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepsis*) are just a few that will stay relatively low.

Interplanted with low growing wildflowers such as Winecups (*Callirhoe involucrata*), Missouri Primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*), *Phlox pilosum*, Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*), and Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium*), Violets, and Prairie Pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*) your groundcover will be beneficial to the environment, easy to maintain, and so much more enjoyable to look at. Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*) is another low growing native that is sometimes called “Matgrass” because it can be mown with no ill effect.



Winecups, *Callirhoe involucrata*

(Wildflowers, continued on Page 13)

(Wildflowers, continued from Page 12)

The best groundcover for the shady places is not something you can plant. The **best** covering under trees is leaf litter. Doug Tallamy, in his book The Nature of Oaks, states “It is not at all obvious, but there is far more life under our oak trees than on them...the diversity and abundance of the little creatures that reside in the leaf litter that accumulates beneath an oak tree is astounding and easily exceeds counts in the millions”. Tallamy is talking about oaks here, but it is safe to assume that all leaf litter has value to the soil, water quality, and animals. This is **not** to say nothing should be planted in the shade, but an encouragement to look at accumulating leaves as beneficial and not an eyesore.



Dwarf crested iris, *Iris cristata*

Oklahoma has many natives that thrive in shady conditions and in my experience many of those tend to go dormant in the summer and then begin to put on new leaves during the winter and bloom in the spring. Roundleaf Ragwort (*Packera obovatus*), Pussytoes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*), Dwarf Crested Iris (*Iris cristata*), Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), Woodland Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), Purple Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum dasycarpum*) and Violets (*Viola*) are a few shade loving plants that have done well in my woods. Native ferns are another option for the shade. Finally, although it's a shrub and not a groundcover, Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) is low growing and sends out runners to form a small thicket. The bright pink berries are particularly nice in the winter.



Wild geranium,
Geranium maculatum

Lastly, a group of plants I haven't mentioned are sedges or those in the genus *Carex*. There are dozens native to our state and range in height from a few inches to up to three feet, some with wide blades, and others with narrow. Sun, shade, wet area or dry, there is a sedge that will do well in that spot and make excellent groundcovers. Fortunately, plant growers are starting to recognize how valuable these can be for the landscape and they are therefore becoming more commercially available.



If you do replace part or all of your traditional lawn or shade garden, how do you make it look “controlled” or purposeful? The best way I have found is to frame it in some way by defining the space. Mowing an edge or constructing a low fence or rock corners lets the neighbors know this is intentional and who knows, maybe they will decide to mow less and support biodiversity.

Bird's foot violet, *Viola pedata*

Editor' Note: According to the Flora of Oklahoma, Keys and Descriptions© 2015, there are at least eleven species in the *Viola* Genus naturally occurring in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Native Plant Record

The 2020 issue of the Oklahoma Native Plant Record should be published by the end of May. I thank Chad King, the Manuscript Editor; Erica Corbett, Technical Advisor, and Sandy Graue, who has assumed the duties of the Production Editor in addition to the Electronic Production Editor. I sincerely appreciate all the hard work of the editorial board.

Chad King will be stepping down as Manuscript Editor, so I will need to find someone else to fill that role. This issue of the Oklahoma Native Plant Record contains reports of efforts to document the biological diversity of Oklahoma, including Amy Buthod and Bruce Hoagland's vascular plant surveys of two biologically diverse Nature Conservancy preserves in south-central Oklahoma: the Hottonia Bottoms Preserve (named for one of the wetland plants, *Hottonia inflata*, American featherfoil, pictured on the cover of Vol. 20), and the Oka'Yanahli Preserve. Audrey Whaley, Monika Kelley, and Allison Holdorf of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Project report their discovery of a population of *Palafoxia callosa* (small palafox) in Washita County, Oklahoma. Previously reported only from Caddo and Pontotoc counties several decades ago, this species had been listed as possibly extirpated from Oklahoma. In a time when we hear more often about the disappearance of species, it is heartening to hear of a discovery of a new population of a critically imperiled species in our state. Clark Ovrebo from the University of Central Oklahoma and Jay Justice from the Arkansas Mycological Society describe and illustrate twenty of the most frequently encountered species of *Amanita* in forests of Oklahoma. They explain the morphological characters that are most important in the identification and classification of the species of this charismatic genus of gilled mushrooms. Also included is a summary of an investigation by Kayleigh Clement and Priscilla Crawford that might lead us to question the wisdom of planting

Betty Kemm Award

There is still time to submit a nomination for the 2021 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, 2021. 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 KorthaseLynn Michael, Gloria Caddell, Dr. Ron Tyrl, Alicia Nelson, Elaine Lynch, Karen Haworth, Paula Shryock, Joe Roberts, Sandy Graue, Sue Amstutz, and Patrick Bell.

Send nominations directly to the Betty Kemm Award Chairman: Sue Amstutz, 4190 E. 46th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135 d-s-amstutz@cox.net

Anne Long Award

The Anne Long Award is given each year to someone who has furthered the mission of ONPS. The awardee may be a member of ONPS or not. The Anne Long Award has not been given for the last two years, once for lack of a nomination and once because of the pandemic. Please consider nominating a worthy candidate. Nominations for this year are due to Connie Murray by August 31st 2021.

non-native milkweeds as part of the conservation effort to protect monarch butterflies.

Please consider publishing your work in the Oklahoma Native Plant Record. It is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals, is abstracted by the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International, and can be accessed by researchers around the world.

Gloria Caddell,
Managing Editor



Time of the Rose

It is just over halfway between the first day of spring and the first day of summer, and the roses are about to bloom here. Perhaps they speak to you of love, beauty or the heady scent of spring unfolding. But did you know that they offer medicine both for the energetic heart, and the physical self? Cooling, astringent, and blood moving, roses are a cottage and field remedy of renown for thousands of years, throughout the world. Do not let their delicate demeanor deceive you. They offer reliable, effective medicine that anyone can use. In *Time of Roses* I reflect on their role as boundary guardians and guides, as well as practical, everyday uses for wounds, hot conditions, and more. And of course I include some tips from the apothecary.

View post at:

<https://www.brightcircleherbcraft.com/time-of-roses/>

Wishing you all the beauty of Spring,



Joan Cowden is a Clinical Herbalist, Writer and Educator in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She maintains a community for herbalists: Prairie Star Herbalist Connection, and you can find her on Facebook on her page: Bright Circle Herbcraft. To learn more about Joan or the Community, contact her through her web page at: www.brightcircleherbcraft.com

Joan is not a doctor, and does not diagnose or treat disease. The statements in this post have not been evaluated by the FDA, and are not intended to diagnose, treat or prevent any disease. This post is for informational purposes only, and is not a substitute for consulting with, or care by a medical provider.

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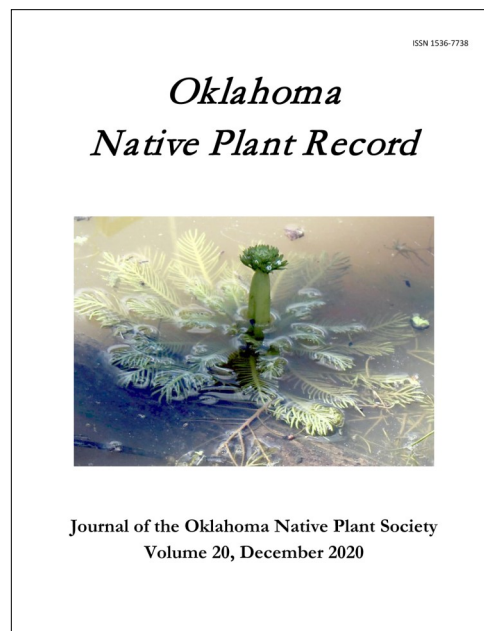
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Gloria Caddell, Ph.D.

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Silent Auction

At the ONPS Annual Meeting this year we will again be holding a Silent Auction. Please consider donating lightly used or new items. They may be botanical, horticultural, or not. Previous auction items have included colored botanical prints, needlework, hooked rugs, jewelry, crocheted hangers, and apparel in addition to books.

Items will be displayed at least by Saturday afternoon. The auction will close at the end of the Annual Meeting Saturday night. Please contact Connie Murray if you intend to donate something so that she may have sufficient bidding forms.

Welcome New Members

Ellen & David Baize, Sarah & Josh Pearson, Jana & Rick Slicker, Richard Lupia, Kevin Mink, Thonda Kelly, Frank Shea, Ric Brown, Sophia & Rick Morren, Teresa Wagner, Karen Gray, Tracy & Cody Pickering, Cheryl & Fred Mason, Laura Goodman, Donna Rogers, Melody Underwood, Christine & Danial Parker, Sue & Tim McCall, Emily Gardner, Vickie Martin, Madeline & Roger Benham, Bonnie Pride, Deanna Hotton, Monica Alexander, Kathy Crow, Sally Hutchinson, Claudia Robnett, Myles Coen, Ann Gordon, Stephanie & Bobby Villines, Kim & Mike Wolfenbarger, Therese Rudolph, Sarah Rivera, Debra Thiessen, Brian Martin