

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 3 Fall 2021

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Oklahoma State Symbols

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



Motto Labor omnia vincit "Work conquers all"

Meant to encourage Romans to become farmers with a "back to the land" policy

Liatris punctata Photo by Lynn Michael

Upcoming Events/Activities

(check the ONPS website or Facebook for more details)

- Sept 13 NE Chapter meeting, 6:30 pm at the Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa
- Sept 17 Fabulous Wildflower Fridays at Panera Bread, 41st Street, Tulsa, 5:30 pm
- Sept 25 ONPS Field Trip, Pawnee, OK (see page 3)
- Sept 25 ONPS Annual Meeting via Zoom (see page 3)
- Sept 26 ONPS Board Meeting via Zoom (see page 3)
- Oct 21* Central Chapter In person and Virtual program, 7:00 pm <u>oknativeplants.org</u>
- Oct 15 Fabulous Wildflower Fridays at Panera Bread, 41st Street, Tulsa, 5:30 pm
- Nov 11* Central Chapter in-person and Virtual program, 7:00 pm <u>oknativeplants.org</u>
- Nov 19 Fabulous Wildflower Fridays at Panera Bread, 41st Street, Tulsa, 5:30 pm
- Dec 6 NE Chapter meeting, 6:30 pm at the Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa
- Dec 17 Fabulous Wildflower Fridays at Panera Bread, 41st Street, Tulsa, 5:30 pm

*change from usual date

All regular scheduled Indoor meetings may resume.

See Page 12 for Field Trip Schedule

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 pm Social and 7:00 pm Meeting Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S Peoria Ave, Tulsa

Fabulous Wildflower Fridays, 3rd Friday monthly, 5:30 pm 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.

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Bill Farris Donna Horton Connie Murray Mary Korthase Bruce Smith

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

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

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Conservation Committee and statewide Tulsa Garden Center Liaison positions retired.

Fall Wildflowers in Oklahoma



A late-blooming basketflower, Plectocephalus americanus photo posted on Facebook August 25th by Therese Rudolph

Goldenrod, Solidago sp. photo posted on Facebook August 21st by Tisha Gossman



ONPS website: www.oknativeplants.org

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Gaillardia News email: **ONPSGaillardia**@gmail.com



COPY AND ART DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT **ISSUE IS NOV 5, 2021**

Bractless blazingstar, Mentzelia nuda (at left),

Photo by Lynn Michael



Cardinalflower, Lobelia cardinalis. photo posted on Facebook August 22nd by Lauren Montalbano

Annual Meeting Update

Due to the high community infection rate of COVID-19 and the current strain on our state's medical facilities, ONPS does not feel comfortable hosting a large indoor gathering as originally planned in Stillwater. While scaled down, we will continue with the plan to visit an area where a prescribed burn took place this spring just outside of Pawnee. It is a combination of private property and Pawnee tribal land. Participation for field trip is limited to 20 people. Emails will be sent to those that were the first to register for the trip. Limited field trip openings may be available, check with the coordinator. Please register for both the Annual Meeting and the Board meeting, at oknativeplants.org

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Saturday, September 25

8:45-9:00 am - Meet at field trip site.

9:00 am - Field trip begins promptly at 9.

Field trip schedule:

Intro - Welcoming; Staff; Safety Site History - Pawnee Tribe Speaker - Indigenous plants and education Speaker - Prescribed fire *Break* Speaker - Site overview; habitats & challenges of invasive plants

Walking options - Exploration on established trails Lunch (bring your own) More exploration Wrap-Up by around 2:00

7:00 pm Annual Business Meeting (virtual via Zoom)

Sunday, Sept. 26

9:00 am-12:00 pm - ONPS Board Meeting (virtual via Zoom)

Contact Event Coordinator:

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

For directions to C.R. Ledford property/Field trip site - (1620 OK-18, Pawnee, OK 74058) 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. See an interactive map at oknataiveplants.org

Elections will be held during the Annual meeting via a Zoom meeting which starts Saturday, Sept 25 at 7:00 pm. Nominations may be made from the floor, but also please consider the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee and found in this issue on Page 5. You must register in advance for these meetings. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meetings.

Passionflower, *Passiflora incarnata* photo posted on Facebook August 27th by Tim Baston



Central Chapter Update Patrick Bell, Chair

The ONPS is excited to sponsor Dr. Doug Tallamy back to Oklahoma on February 4th and 5th, 2022. He is the author of *Bringing Nature Home*, and multiple other books, highlighting the absolute and unequivocal need for planting and utilizing native plants around our homes, landscapes, and environment. Be sure to mark your calendar to save the dates; more information will be forthcoming and in the next issue (winter) of the Gaillardia.

As a prelude to the Tallamy talk, the Central Chapter is focusing a lecture series on native plant restoration or establishment.

Our August 19th talk was given by Brandon Baker, staff biologist, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC). Mr. Baker was charged with converting over 700 acres of formally Bermuda grass pasture, on the Cross Timbers Wildlife Management Unit, to a prairie of native forbes and grasses. He discussed how the successful conversion has proceeded and why it is so critical to wildlife.

Northeast Chapter Update

Kathy Doss, Chair

The NE Chapter of ONPS has resumed our Fabulous Wildflower Fridays at Panera on 41st St. every 3rd Friday at 5:30. This gives us an opportunity to discuss what is blooming, and upcoming events. We had fourteen people sharing plants and ideas at the July get-together. As a group we identified a plant brought by Donna Horton as Obi-Wan-Conobea

September 13th the NE Chapter will welcome Gabriael Parker from the Tulsa County Conservation District. She will be discussing *Yard by Yard*, a program which highlights community members who implement practices that promote water, land and ecology resiliency and positively impact their communities, one yard at a time.

Urban citizens do not always realize what a big difference they can make in our communities with the addition of even a few "earth friendly" practices.

The fall schedule:

September 2nd; Doug Schoeling, a fish and wildlife biologist with the USFWS, gave an overview of his agency's *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program*. He presented some of the Oklahoma native grassland restoration projects that have been completed, highlighted a few current ventures, and discussed some cost sharing opportunities for property owners/ managers wishing to restore land back to natives. Archived presentations can be accessed at oknativeplants.org.

October 21st; Jenna Messick, assistant professor of Biology and Herbarium Curator at the University of Central Oklahoma, will give a timely (think, just right for fall planting/ seed harvesting) talk on *Native Plant Seed Germination; What Works and Why*.

November 11th: Kyle Johnson, staff biologist, Oklahoma Department Wildlife Conservation, will give a presentation on a couple of award winning private lands native plant/ prairie restoration projects that merited best of the year recognition by the ODWC.

Our meetings are held at the OSU-OKC campus, room 196, Kirkpatrick Horticulture Building, 400 North Portland Ave, OKC. Doors open at 6:30 for socializing and seed swap (if you've got 'em); presentations begin at 7:00. For those that can't attend in person, this year we will offer a virtual option; simply go to the ONPS website (oknativeplants.org), a link to view the real time presentation will get you there.

We're all ready to shake off some of the pandemic doldrums and get back to a semblance of normality. Hope you'll plan to join us, as the ONPS resumes in person events and meetings.

Cross-Timbers Chapter News Elaine Lynch, Chair

Cross-Timbers is in need of a new Chair by December 31, 2021 or the chapter will be suspended. Please contact a board member for details.

Mycology Chapter

Nancy Hamill, Chair



with a double ring on the white stalk. The cap starts out egg shaped when young but opening to a plane dry surface with scales. The spore print is gravish olive to greenish.

It is poisonous!

It may be the most common cause of mushroom poisoning in the U.S.

Report from the Nominating Committee:

The following slate of officers is submitted for voting at the Annual Meeting this September:

President: Patrick Bell

Vice-President: Bobby Villines, Shalini Chitturi

Secretary: Debbie Drinko

Treasurer: Mary Korthase

Director-at-Large: Connie Murray, Dennis Martin, Jan Thomas, and Rick Brown

(We have two three-year terms and one two-year term. It is suggested that people vote for three candidates. The two with the highest number of votes will serve three years, the next highest will serve the two-year term. In the event of a tie, straws will be drawn.)

All nominees are current with their dues.

Donna Horton, Nominating Committee Chair

This is the "season" for the Green Spored Parasol (*Chlorophyllum molybdites*). It's hot July and it has rained at least an inch. These mushrooms can be seen often on

lawns and several in a group. I've seen them as large as dinner plates. The cap is white and gills white too, but then with a little age the gills turn a pale olive green. It is a large white fungi



Welcome New Members

Joyce and Keith Cheatham, Karen Fourkiller, Sally Hutchinson, Mandy Keef, Brian Martin, Lisa Oxford and Patrick McLaughlan, Jana Pirtle, Jamie and Lauren Rucker, Gina Swartwood, Debra Thiessen, Christine Abbott, Tara Chavis, Sarah Cross, Amanda Davidson, Aaron Parsons, Lisa Patel, Ben Pressman and Deborah Bright, Victoria Vaughn, Elia Woods and Allen Parlier, Tricia and Bobby Murray, Bonnie Carter, Anna Liberty, Susan Young, Jill Jefferson, Mary Seabourn, Chris Eckart



The Purple Passionflower

By Becky Emerson Carlberg

Thick leafy vines thread themselves up the front of two redcedar trees. Along the four vines hang green ovoid balls, but the eye-catching purple flowers say '*Passiflora incarnata*' –the purple passionflower.

Or wild apricot. Or Maypop, from the Powhatan word maracock. Powhatans were the Algonquin people of Virginia giving us other familiar words: opossum, hickory, terrapin, tomahawk and raccoon. Maypops do pop under foot when stepped on. Fully mature fruit is heavy, starting to shrivel and the bright green color takes on a yellowish tinge. Slice in half, scoop out and suck the pulp from the seeds. Ripe maypop has a flavor somewhere between apricot and guava. Overripe maypops fall off the vine. Seeds begin to ferment. Don't eat, but sow the seeds immediately where you want them to come up.

Most of the 550 or so species of passionflowers are neotropical, but two subtropical species grow wild in Oklahoma. The purple passionflower is one of the toughest of the passionflowers. This explains why it grows here in central Oklahoma but also spreads throughout the eastern US. Tennessee schoolchildren chose purple

passionflower as the Tennessee state flower in 1919. In 1933 the state legislature then adopted the iris as the state flower without rescinding the passionflower. Tennessee had 2 state flowers until 1973. The passionflower was declared the state wildflower and the iris the state 'cultivated' flower. Done. Not yet. In 2012, Tennessee Echinacea was added as a new state wildflower. Nine states have state wildflowers (Indian Blanket '*Gaillardia pulchella*' for OK). Tennessee has two.

The Tennessee Echinacea '*Echinacea tennesseensis*' was thought to have gone extinct in 1898, but in 1968 botanist Elsie Quarterman discovered a plant growing in a limestone based redcedar glade in the middle of Tennessee. A major campaign was launched to save the Tennessee Echinacea. Nature Conservancy purchased redcedar glades, nursery grown seedlings were planted while prescribed burns, brushhogging and goats were used to control competition from other plants.





The Tennessee Echinacea was the second plant listed under the Endangered Species

Act in 1979. The coneflower is still not plentiful, but strong colonies now exist in 3 counties. How's that for saving a plant!

Passionvine flower (at left), and fruit (above), *Passiflora incarnata* Photos by Becky Emerson Carlberg

("Passionflower" continued on Page 7)

("Passionflower" continued from Page 6)

The purple passionflower is a hardy perennial with deep roots that spread as far as 20 feet away from the mother plant. Leaves are three lobed and blooms begin appearing in July. Each 2 to 3 inch 'flower' has five prominent green sepals below supporting ten lavender, blue or white petals. Above the petals is a ring of colorful fringe called the corolla. The five male stamens rise above the fringe and fan out like spokes of a car wheel. The tallest structure in the middle is the allimportant ovary with three styles, each with a tacky stigma to receive pollen. The purple passionflower can be self-fertile, but needs humid days and pollinators since the pollen is heavy and sticky. Carpenter bees are more efficient pollinators than honey bees, but bumblebees, hummingbirds, wasps and even bats visit the flowers.



Passionvine flower, *Passiflora incarnata* (above) *Passiflora lutea* (below) Photos by Lynn Michael



The dark orange black-spined caterpillar of the Gulf Fritillary butterfly specifically eats only the leaves of the purple passionflower. It also hosts the Variegated Fritillary larva. Zebra longwing caterpillars, white with black dots and spines, not only eat passionflower, lantana and verbena leaves, but the pollen. This is the only butterfly species that eats pollen. Wild turkey munch passionflower tendrils while deer and rabbits eat the fruit.

The yellow passionflower '*Passiflora lutea*' is another species of passion flower that grows in Oklahoma. Less aggressive and half the size of purple, it blooms earlier from May to July. Not self-fertile nor showy, yellow passionflower



somewhat resembles the wild creeping cucumber '*Melothria pendula*.' The fruits distinguish the two vines apart. The cucumber vine fruit looks like teeny watermelons and smell like, wait for it, cucumber. They are edible when still just dark green with striping still evident. Ripe yellow passionflower fruits are large pea-sized dark blue balls. In the past the fruit was used to make ink.

Cool thing about the yellow passionflower—it has its own devoted small black bee, the passionflower bee. The solitary bee only collects pollen and nectar from the yellow passionflower to feed its larvae in its underground nest. The bee, however, seems to not pollinate the yellow flowers. That task belongs to other pollinators.

Passionflowers are considered grassland biome inhabitants. They grow in abandoned fields and thickets but not within forests or wet areas. Passionflowers can be



propagated from seeds or cuttings. Please wait 2 to 3 years before seeing flowers and fruit.

FYO: Passion fruit '*Passiflora edulis*' is a light purple South American passionflower. The passionfruit pulp, along with apricot, papaya and guava, flavor Hawaiian Punch!

Wild creeping cucumber, *Melothria pendula* Photos by Sandy Graue

A Foray to Camp

Article by Connie Murray Photos by Lynn Michael

On a warm and humid morning in mid-July Lynn Michael and I set out for Camp Egan to identify the local flora. We had been contacted by an aspiring young writer who wished to set a novel in a church camp. He had grown up going to Camp Egan, a Methodist Church Camp northeast of Tahlequah, a perfect fit for his novel. For some reason he wanted biological accuracy for his setting; hence, our foray.

We had first scheduled this encounter for the botanically more auspicious time of early June, but schedules, flood warnings and camp rules pushed the meeting into the hot and sticky Oklahoma summer. This unpleasantness was augmented by our being led in a circle by Mapquest, and thus we were late! Upon our arrival we were greeted most pleasantly by the young author and we set off across the camp, spouting plant names and ecological principles as we walked.



Joe Pye weed, *Eupatorium sp.* Photo by Lynn Michael

Camp Egan is set across a rivulet that is a tributary of Barren Fork Creek. That rivulet is a clear stream with a rocky chert creek bottom. We began at the entrance to the camp which was originally a secondary flood plain but now is largely a disturbed habitat, planted with red maple trees, shortleaf

pine and Bermuda grass. However, at the edges this graded into native forest where we found large rough-leaved dogwood, Carolina buckthorn and sassafras shading Joe-Pye-weed, American pokeweed, and woodland sunflower.

Heading down towards the creek we encountered a more native vegetation along the primary flood plain: large sycamores, bur oak, eastern black walnut and box elders shading fish-on-a-line (inland sea oats), hairy buttercup, common copperleaf, wingstem, yellow giant hyssop, blunt woodsia, brown-eyed susan, green poinsettia, beardtongue, southern dewberry, sensitive pea, Carolina horse nettle, slender yellow woodsorrel, flowering dogwood, and common blue violet.



In the actual creek there were young willows and sycamores in the clear stream trickling through water cress. Water striders walked on the water; beneath them swam darters.

We continued out to the Barren Fork and were met by more of the same vegetation but including a lot of poison ivy covered with fine silt from the recent flood as well as much organic debris deposited there by those waters. By then it was miserably hot and we were dripping wet. We retraced our steps, stopped for some water, and left.

We hope our morning hike left our young author with some useful information. We wish him well and every success in his writing.

Yellow wingstem, *Verbesina alternifolia* (above), Brown-eyed Susans, *Rudbeckia triloba* (below). Photos by Lynn Michael

Pollinator Protection Pledge

Xerces Society

The pollinator protection pledge is part of the Xerces Society's <u>Bring Back the Pollinators</u> campaign, which is based on four simple principles: Grow pollinator-friendly flowers, provide nest sites, avoid pesticides, and spread the word. With these core values, pollinator conservation can be adapted to any location, whether you tend an urban community garden or a suburban yard, work in a city park or on a farm.

Over ten thousand people have already signed the pledge to protect pollinators. Will you join them?

We make the commitment to you that we will work every day to protect pollinators and their habitat. Will you make a similar commitment to the pollinators?

Go to: https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/ pollinator-protection-pledge

(Content excerpted from the Xerces Society webpage)

Make Your Own Field Trip

It's easy to increase your knowledge of Oklahoma plants and also reduce your stress by visiting some of the great natural areas in Oklahoma.

Pick up an "Oklahoma Passport" book from any state park which lists all the state parks and has children's activities and stickers you can collect. See if you can visit all of them. Visit the website to get a parking pass before you go.

The Nature Conservancy has several properties in Oklahoma that are worthy of a whole day's trip. Head over to Pawhuska to see the Tall Grass Prairie. See the bison and the tall grasses, but also check out the species of milkweed. J.T. Nickel Preserve, near Tahlequah, is awash with liatris, sunflowers of many types and goldenrods.

BioBlitz—Statewide Oct 1--3, 2021

Like last year, BioBlitz will be held at parks across Oklahoma during BioBlitz! weekend. Experts will lead walks and talks about plants and pollinators, from inverts and mammals, and more! Several activities will be happening at Roman Nose State Park, as well as Norman, Tulsa, and other locations.

Social distancing and masks may be required by activity leader to participate. You must sign up with the activity leader to attend and spots are limited. Here's how you can participate:

- You have a whole weekend to explore Oklahoma's biodiversity Oct 1-3!
- Participate where ever you feel comfortable *online, backyard, local park, or travel to a natural area in the state*
- Record species observations online through iNaturalist and eBird
- Join our Facebook Live events that include virtual field trips
- Listen to our **Podcast**
- Attend small, in-person BioBlitz activities

Register as a participant: https://ousurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/ form/SV_9G0Q3IOpfKJh5Km

See the online schedule: <u>BioBlitz! OK 2021 - Oklahoma</u> <u>Biological Survey (ou.edu)</u>

Join the inaturalist project: https://www.inaturalist.org/ projects/bioblitz-ok-2021

Contributions

May 15, 2021—Aug 23, 2021

Color Oklahoma Fund

Stuart Garrett in Memory of Kenneth Hammonds Barry L Redlinger, for wildflowers on Oklahoma Highways

<u>General Fund</u>

Amazon Smile James Elder Lisa Castle

Musings from Joe

Two events coincided today in my head. Random ideas often do. I consider my head to be like a Large Hadron Collider (Google it) of thoughts, and myself as the guy in a white lab coat. Things collide, stuff comes out, I write it down. Science is so cool. First, I had downloaded a sheet of "Yellow Composites of the Midwest", printed it out, and was trying to study ID characteristics of those DYCs (darn yellow composites). The other was a video I was watching where a guy demonstrated a meditation breathing technique called the "4-7-8" technique. You breathe in through the nose for a count of 4, hold that breath for a count of 7, then exhale through the mouth for a count of 8.



The illegitimate result of the union of these thoughts is the world's first botanical relaxation technique. It's called the "Genus only" technique. I may not have invented it, but I named it, and that gives me legal authority to copyright it and collect a small fee whenever someone uses it.

DYC photos by Lynn Michael

Poor posture is the key here. Stand with a bent back over a small yellow flower in a nearby woods, field, or garden. You recognize it as some type of Blackeyed Susan, a *Rudbeckia*. Then the stress kicks in. Your arrhythmia flares up and your palms sweat. Your back is already hurting from stooping over and your mind races. "*Rudbeckia....triloba?hirsuta?....subtomentosa*?" "Which one had the leaves with sessile glands? Is that a glabrous cusp on the chaff? It's so hard to tell. Doggone it!" Time for some "Genus only" technique, compadre. Breathe in through your nose for 4 seconds, then slowly exhale and say "Genus. Only." There. Feel better? It's *Rudbeckia*. That's enough. You don't have to

by Joe Roberts

know any more. That's why we have thousands of poorly paid botanists in the world. Let them figure it out.

It works for trees as well. Go into the woods and find an oak tree. (Hint: they're the ones with acorns). Post oak, blackjack, Shumard, or bur oak? Tension rises. Now say the word "*Quercus*," and walk away. You've fulfilled every botanist's duty. You identified the genus, and you said a latin word that amateurs don't understand, thus asserting your expert status. Depending on the audience, you can also whip out a hand lens and pretend to look at a leaf or something. They don't know what you're looking for, and won't ask because they're afraid you'll speak more latin, so you're safe.

For the true beginner, take it up a notch. "Family only" is the gateway drug to "Genus only." What would you have done in our *Rudbeckia* example if you weren't familiar with the genus? That's right. "Family only." "Asteraceae." The stress you will avoid with the Asteraceae alone makes this very useful.

I traveled once in a country where the people's behavior was often very difficult to understand. A seasoned traveler I met there told me that the people of that country didn't always make decisions based on right, wrong, or otherwise. Rather, they often made decisions and acted in ways to preserve their peace of mind. Once I

understood this, it became easier to see the rationale for their actions. Hopefully the technique explained in this article will help you all as it did me, to preserve your peace of mind. And don't forget my fee.



For joining or renewing use this for

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Family (\$25)	Northeast (Tulsa area)	
Life Individual (\$300)	Crosstimbers (Stillwater area)	
Family Individual (\$350)	Mycology (statewide)	
Student (\$10) (free with faculty sponsor)	You may sign up for multiple chapters if you like, to receive field trip and meeting notices from that chapter.	
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Return Service Requested

Fall 2021 Issue DUES ARE OVERDUE. If your label does not show 2021, please pay your dues.

ONPS Fall Field Trips:

October 1-3 - see the BioBlitz information on Page 9 for details and sign up instructions. Attendance limited.

Oct. 9 - Okmulgee State Park, meet at the Visitor's Center at 10:00 am

Oct. 16 - Keystone State Park, meet at the Visitor's Center at 10:00 am

Oct. 23 - Oxley Nature Center, meet at the Visitor's Center at 10:00 am

Send email to Lynn Michael at: zebraweeds@sbcglobal.net to register



Liatris aspera photo posted on Facebook August 24th by Debbie Nicks

Euphorbia marginata, Snow-on-the-Mountain Photo by Lynn Michael Gaillardia articles, except those reprinted here with permission from other sources, may be reprinted at will. Please acknowledge source and author.

Send all mail, except Gaillardia material, to:

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