



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 37, Number 2 Summer 2022

INSIDE THIS EDITION

ONPS Board Members	2
President's Message	2
Chapter News	3
Welcome New Members	3
Proposed By-Laws Changes	3
Wildflowers in Your Yard.....	4-5
Discoveries at Prairie Acres	6
Color Oklahoma News	6
ONPS Annual Meeting Registration	7-8
Doug Tallamy	9
Spring Field Trips and WOW.....	10-12
Musings from Joe	13
Contributions	13
Report of the Nominating Committee	13
Meet the Members: Lynn Michael	14
Membership/Renewal Form	15
Talents Survey	15

Oklahoma State Symbols

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



Furbearer

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

The raccoon was named the state furbearer in 1989 (SCR25, 1989).

Drawing by Lynn Michael

Upcoming Events/Activities

(check the ONPS website or Facebook for more details)

June 20-26 - Pollinator Week, plant some wildflowers.

June 17 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below)

July 15 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below)

Aug 12 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays. Special date due to Doug Tallamy on the 3rd Friday, 5:30 pm at Panera Bread, 5601 E 41st Street, Tulsa.

Aug 19 - Doug Tallamy "Nature's Best Hope" - Jenks (see Page 9 for details).

Aug 20 - Doug Tallamy "Nature's Best Hope" - Edmond (see Page 9 for details).

Aug 21 - Doug Tallamy "Nature's Best Hope" - Norman (see Page 9 for details).

Sept 1 - Central Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and 7 pm program at OCU Dawson-Loeffler Building.

Sept 12 - NE Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and 7 pm program at the Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa.

Sept 16 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below)

Sept 23-24 - ONPS Annual Meeting, at Lake Murray State Park (for complete details and registration form see Pages 7-8). You must call for reservations and use Group Code 2445. Rooms must be booked by August 22.

Central Chapter, 6:30 pm socializing and 7:00 pm meeting at Oklahoma City University in the Dawson-Loeffler Science Center, Room 208.

NE Chapter, 6:30 pm socializing and 7:00 pm meeting at Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S Peoria Ave, Tulsa

Fabulous Wildflower Fridays, 3rd Friday monthly, 5:30 pm, casual, at 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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President	Patrick Bell
Vice-president	Shalini Chitturi
Secretary	Debbie Drinko
Treasurer	Mary Korthase
Past-President	Bill Farris

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2023: Jim Elder and Connie Murray
2024: Dennis Martin and Ric Brown

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Kathy Doss Northeast
Micah Friedman Central
Nancy Hamill Mycology

Committee Chairs:
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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
Gaillardia Editor Lynn Michael
Color Oklahoma Pearl Garrison

Conservation Committee and statewide Tulsa Garden
Center Liaison positions retired.

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Golden Alexanders,
Zizia aurea,
Photo by Shalini Chitturi

President's Message

By Patrick Bell, ONPS President

Summer, 2022

The bountiful blooms of spring, appreciated by those that took time to notice, have now given way to the vibrant green growth of early summer. The ONPS *Wonders of Wildflowers* weekend and the multiple spring fieldtrips were spectacular this year. If you weren't able to attend some, or all of these events, put it on your radar for future dates; you'll have the opportunity to enjoy the time out, immensely.

Moving into summer, we've rescheduled Dr. Tallamy's return to Oklahoma with 3 speaking events; Tulsa, Edmond, and Norman on August 19th-21st. Details are available in this *Gaillardia* and on the ONPS website (oknativeplants.org). Our annual meeting is scheduled for September 23rd-25th at Lake Murray. We're delighted that this year's gathering will be held in conjunction with the Oklahoma Academy of Science. Lots of talks, lots of field trips, lots of things to enjoy, and lots of comradery. Hope you'll set aside the time, register early, bring a friend and plan to join us; it should be a great meeting.

It is summer, enjoy it! And enjoy the unique seasonal variety that nature displays; it's always there, for those that take the time to notice...



ONPS Proposed Bylaw Revisions 5/1/2020

Proposed **revisions** of ONPS Bylaws by the Ad Hoc Committee of Ray Luth (chair), Debbie Drinko, Lynn Michael & Patrick Bell

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 2: Complimentary (**non-voting**) memberships may be granted to non-members who support the aims of the Society at the discretion of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII ELECTIONS

Section 4: Voting shall take place by ballot **of current members** unless there is one nominee for an office, in which a voice vote may be taken. The candidate receiving the most votes shall be certified as elected. In case of a tie vote, the members of the out-going Executive Board who are present at the meeting shall vote and the nominee receiving the majority shall be elected.

Section 5: The newly elected officers shall take office at the conclusion of the **board meeting following the annual meeting** during which they were elected.

Welcome New Members

2/4/2022 through 6/1/2022

Peggy Shelden, Laura Bullock,
Sadie Dansberry, Diana Farmer,
Bob Young & Shelley Martin-Young,
Elena Fiallo & Kaci Coffee, Elizabeth Sidler,
Janet & James Bavido, Gianni Cortese,
Loren Park, Debra Srite, Marisa Szubryt,
Lori Lyons, Monica & Roy Bartling,
Susan Jordan, Curtis Campbell,
Dianne & Lou Gasbarra,
Micah Stover, Alex Wallace,
Leslie Hulshizer, Antigone Burke,
Jessy & Jessica Poole,
Kristi Thompson, Karen Ross,
Miranda Bober, Kate Newton,
Amber Freudenberger-Cook & Brandon Cook,
Barbara Bannon, Kelly Dillow,
Debra Hunter & Andy Hebert,
Jennifer & Scott Booker,
LeAnne & Ron Roberts,
Doug Fletcher & Erica Parker,
Tammy, Chris & Michael Hermesch.

Northeast Chapter Update

Kathy Doss, Chair

The NE Chapter began our spring with a meeting March 7. Jay Pruett shared his beautiful photos in the program '*Beyond Bees and Monarchs - Non-traditional Pollinators*'.

Lynn Michael led field trips every Saturday in April, including overnight trips to Eufaula and Beaver's Bend. We had information booths at Tulsa Garden Center's Spring Fest and at the Tulsa Audubon Society's Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour.

NE Chapter planned this year's Wonders of Wildflower weekend, April 28-May 1. Our events started with Friday dinner at the I Don't Care Bar and Grill in Catoosa with Donna Horton discussing 'Gardening for Butterflies'. Saturday events were located at Redbud Valley Nature Preserve. We explored Redbud, and helped remove non-native plants. Sheila Strawn shared a lichen program, and Ashley Clouse taught us about wild-crafting.

Lynn Michael shared a program of spring wildflower photos from her field trips and the WOW weekend at our meeting on Monday, May 2.

Our summer and fall meeting speakers and field trips are still in the planning stages. We continue to enjoy our monthly Fabulous Wildflower Fridays at Panera. Our numbers are increasing and we are enjoying getting together to plan events and share plant info.

Central Chapter Update

Micah Friedman, Chair

The Central Chapter will be hosting the 2022 ONPS annual meeting from September 23 - 25. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Fall Field Meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science (OAS) at Lake Murray State Park.

The Central Chapter annual cookout and plant walk was held on June 5th, from 3 pm - 6 pm, at Bluff Creek trails in Oklahoma City.

The next Central Chapter program will be in September. Look for details on the ONPS website. Hope to see ya'll there!

Wildflowers in Your Yard: Summer Annuals

Article and photos by Marilyn Stewart

In the gardening world annuals sometimes get a bad rap, a lesser substitute for “good” plants that are perennial. Not sure if I buy this one or not, but I’ve heard it theorized that because roaming bison eating the annuals prevented them from reseeding led to there being more perennials than annuals native in our state.

So, are annuals less valuable or desirable? Absolutely not! Let’s start with what people may consider the biggest downside of annuals; they have to be replanted every year. But, most annuals will reseed on their own. Perhaps not in the perfect spot, but they can usually easily be moved.

Now that criticism is out of the way, let’s talk about some of these annuals and the positives. All of our native plants have a purpose in the ecosystem and these annuals are certainly no exception. There are of course too many to list here, but I’ll highlight a few favorites and the role they play:

Chamaecrista (formerly *Cassia*) *fasciculata*, Partridge Pea

This member of the Fabaceae family is called a “pioneer annual” because it readily moves into disturbed areas and is beneficial to the soil as it fixes nitrogen. It has cheery yellow blooms all summer and into the fall and in my yard seems to be a particular favorite of bumblebees. The seeds provide food to wildlife and it is a larval host plant for several Sulphur butterflies.

Gaillardia aestivalis, Summer Gaillardia (photo at right)

I’m pretty sold on this plant. I first saw it growing and blooming in extreme heat and dry conditions of mid-summer at Pontotoc Ridge Nature Preserve south of Ada. It has a fairly compact growth habit and yellow ray petals which surround a purplish maroon center. This one really performs when it is in good soil that is well-drained and in full sun. Pollinators love it and it will reseed a little, but not much.



Gaillardia pulchella, Indian Blanket (photo at left)

There’s a reason this was chosen as our state wildflower; it is colorful and distinctive. Maroon center with red ray petals tipped in yellow, what’s not to love? I start seeing the basal rosettes of these in winter and when the weather starts to warm up they begin to pop up and bloom. If you want them to reseed you must be patient and let the seed heads completely dry before scattering.



Centaurea americana, American Basketflower (photo at right)

My biggest complaint about this one is that it doesn’t bloom long enough, I wish it would go on for weeks and weeks, instead of only two or three. The lavender blooms and the plant height lead many people to mistake it for a thistle. It’s incredibly popular with all sorts of pollinators, and will reseed a little, but in my opinion not nearly as much as I’d like.

Verbesina enceloides, Golden Crownbeard (photo at right)

There are most likely a few people who dislike me for introducing them to this plant and I don't care! It reseeds like crazy, but they are easy to pull up. Flowers constantly from early summer until the first freeze and if I need a picture of an insect this is the first one I check and it's also a host plant for the Bordered Patch butterfly. A **top** plant for pollinators.

*Coreopsis tinctoria*, Plains Coreopsis

Another one that I wish would bloom a little longer, this one bursts on the scene in early summer and is sometimes planted along state highways. Same coloration as the Indian Blanket, but the plant is much taller and the leaves are more fern-like. Another common name for this is "Dyer's Coreopsis" because of its use in making several different colors of dye.

*Castilleja indivisia*, Indian Paintbrush (photo at left)

Indian Paintbrush has a well-deserved reputation for being difficult to establish and most agree that it does best when planted amongst native grasses. To successfully grow this I would recommend finding the seed from either one of the seed vendors listed on the ONPS website or from collecting a few seeds from an existing population (make sure you have permission and collect responsibly). It can take a little time for the seeds to fully mature and the seedheads must be brown and dry. Immediately scatter and lightly work the tiny seeds into the area where you are wanting them to establish. In my experience the appearance of the first paintbrush blooms signals the return of the hummingbirds. The plant is a larval host for the Buckeye butterfly.

Eryngium leavenworthii, Leavenworth's Eryngium

This annual always pops up several times on the ONPS Facebook page every September and no wonder; the fall color is a knock-out purple. The leaves and the flower head are prickly and getting it to consistently germinate can be a challenge. Best advice I can give on this one is to let it go to seed and scatter them in the same way you would the Indian Paintbrush. They tend to blend in with other foliage until it begins to change color. Another annual species of *Eryngium* is *E. hookerii* which is much smaller, a lighter purple, but just as prickly.

Rudbeckia hirta, Black-eyed Susan (photo at right)

The flower that immediately comes to mind when you think of a Black-eyed Susan has a brown center, and yellow, pointed ray petals. Like the Indian Blanket, this one begins to sprout in winter and it has a fairly long flowering time. It's a host for the Gorgone and Silvery Checkerspot butterflies and feeds a wide range of bees, butterflies and insects as well as providing food for birds.



Discoveries at Prairie Acres

Article and photos by Sandra Schwinn

In 2019, our son and daughter-in-law came to us with a proposal that we buy property that we could share. In late summer of 2020, we found 16.3 acres with a house on it. On the drive up to the house, green antelopehorn milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*) were blooming on the edges of a meadow. There was a good location for a second house, near the pond. We moved into the house in early October. There were asters, grasses, and lots and lots of goldenrod in bloom. Later that fall, we had the meadow mowed and baled.

Winter was cold and snowy. Shortly after moving in, a decision was made that we would split the property. We would build a house on the north 6 acres. Our son would purchase the existing house with the south 10 acres. We spent the winter deciding on house plans and finding a builder.



Trout lilies, *Erythronium mesochorium*

2021 was a time of discovery. I would get up and walk the property daily going over to the construction site. On the way I would be looking for new plants. It became obvious that the property was a remnant prairie. My first encounters included Caroline anemone (*Anemone caroliniana*) and prairie trout lilies (*Erythronium mesochorium*). Soon, I would find yellow star grass, prairie groundsel, fringed puccoon, Mead's sedge, prairie pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*), cream wild indigo, and much, much more. Each month revealed new plants, some that were almost microscopic, and others, like the Indian paintbrush that covered the landscape.

Monarchs showed up early in April and found the newly emerging sprouts of the milkweed popping up everywhere. Their presence lasted through the summer months, leaving eggs for each new generation. There were other butterflies, too. The false meadow garlic was a favorite of the small butterflies, as well as the pale poppy mallows (*Callirhoe alcaeoides*). The fall asters were magnets for all kinds of butterflies. We moved into our new house in late September. I am finding new plants here this spring. There is a short grass prairie area in front of the house which is revealing its secrets as the weather warms.



All is not a fairy tale. We have lots of alien species that were allowed to take over. We have a purpose to eliminate, restore, and encourage native beauty.

It truly is a good place to spend the rest of our lives.
(To view photos, you can go to https://pbase.com/bfmom/prairie_acres_2021)

Prairie Gentian, *Sabatia sp.*

Color Oklahoma

Color Oklahoma with Wildflowers needs your support. When you renew your license plate, keep your Color Oklahoma tag, and surrender your regular license plate at a tag agency we receive funds to plant wildflowers. Sales of the beautiful Color Oklahoma license plates are dropping. We believe this is due to a new state law that a vehicle shall have only one plate. In the past, a specialty license plate did not replace the regular one. The Color Oklahoma tag was proudly displayed on a vehicle and the regular tag was stored in the trunk. Now you will have only one plate—the Color Oklahoma one!

Color Oklahoma receives \$20 from every special license plate sale. That money pays for native wildflower seeds that are sown along state highways and turnpikes.

Oklahoma Native Plant Society

2022 Annual Meeting Lake Murray State Park & Lodge September 23-25

The 2022 ONPS Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Fall Field Meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science (OAS). All activities except for the annual business meeting and dinner on Saturday night will take place at Group Campground #1 (see map on back). Check the ONPS website (www.oknativeplants.org) for more details and updates as they become available.

Tentative Schedule of Events

Friday, September 23

4:00-9:00 PM Registration/Check In
6:30-7:30 Dinner
7:30-8:30 Guest Speaker (TBD)
8:30-9:00 Announcement of Saturday Field Trips

Saturday, September 24

6:30-7:30 AM Bird Walk
7:30-8:30 Breakfast
8:30-12:00 PM Morning Field Trips
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:00-4:30 Afternoon Field Trips
6:00-9:00 Dinner and Annual Business Meeting at Lake Murray Lodge

Sunday, September 25

9:00-11:00 ONPS Board Meeting (all are welcome)

detach registration information for each person attending and mail to address below **or** complete online registration at www.oknativeplants.org

Mail registration to: Joe Roberts, 8113 Cloverdale Way, Yukon, OK 73099, confirmation will be sent by email

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone (cell or home): _____

Check all that apply below: registration must be received by Wednesday, Sept. 14 if purchasing meals

_____ \$20.00 General Registration _____ \$15.00 Student Registration

registration must be paid by all attendees

_____ \$10.00 Tent Site

_____ \$10.00 Rustic Group Cabin (must bring linens)

For those that don't wish to stay in the Group Campground, reservations can be made separately at the Lake Murray Lodge and Cabins at www.travelok.com/state-parks/lake-murray-state-park

_____ \$13.00 Friday Dinner

_____ \$22.00 Saturday Dinner @ Lodge

_____ \$9.00 Saturday Breakfast

_____ \$9.00 Sunday Breakfast

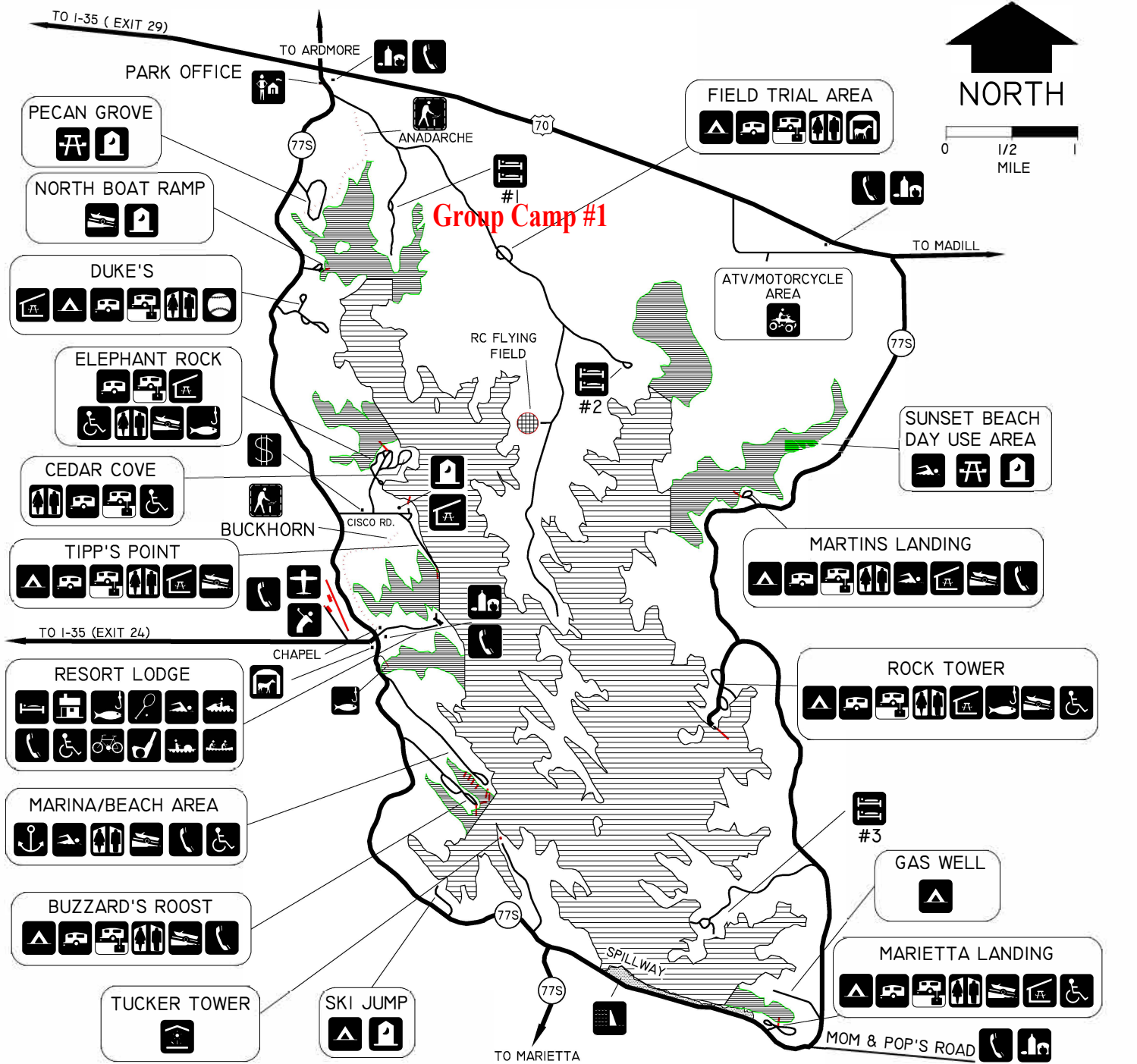
_____ \$11.00 Saturday Lunch

_____ **Vegetarian**

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Make check payable to **Oklahoma Native Plant Society**

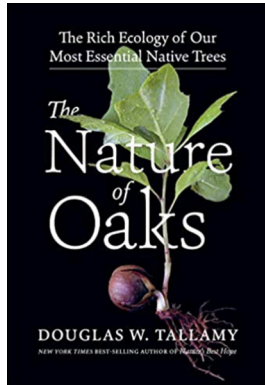
LAKE MURRAY STATE PARK



KEY TO SYMBOLS

	PARK OFFICE		RV CAMPING		BOAT RAMP		BIKE RENTAL		NATURE TRAIL
	STORE		RV DUMP STATION		FISHING PIER		JET SKI RENTAL		NATURE CENTER
	LODGE ROOMS		COMFORT STATION WITH SHOWERS		SWIMMING		CANOE RENTAL		PAY PHONE
	CABINS/COTTAGES		VAULT TOILETS		MARINA		TENNIS COURTS		DAM
	GROUP CAMP		PICNIC PAVILION		GOLF COURSE		BALL FIELD		AIRSTRIP
	TENT CAMPING		PICNIC AREA		MINIATURE GOLF		ATV/MOTORCYCLE AREA		HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
	DAY USE FEE REQUIRED		PADDLE BOATS		HORSE STABLES		NO SKI AREA		

Award Winning Author
Doug Tallamy
presents
“Nature’s Best Hope”



August 19th, Friday evening

Jenks High School Auditorium, Building 6, 205 E B Street, Jenks

Presentation 6:00 pm

Book signing 5:00-6:00 pm, 7:00-8:00 pm

August 20th, Saturday afternoon

University of Central Oklahoma

**University of Central Oklahoma, Nigh University Center's Constitution Hall,
Garland Godfrey Drive, Edmond**

Presentation 2:00 pm

Book signing 1:00-2:00 pm, 3:00-4:00 pm

August 21st, Sunday afternoon

Pioneer Library System,

Market Hall at The Well - Cleveland County Wellness Center, Norman

Presentation 2:00 pm

Book signing 3:30-4:00 pm

Free of Charge

Sponsored by:

Oklahoma Native Plant Society, Tulsa Audubon Society, Jenks High School,
University of Central Oklahoma, the Pioneer Library System, and Wild Care Oklahoma

oknativeplants.org | tulsaudubon.org | jenksps.org | uco.edu
pioneerlibrarysystem.org | wildcareoklahoma.org

Spring Field Trips and WOW

Article and Photos by Lynn Michael

The crazy weather in April greatly delayed the blooming of many of the normal April wildflowers. As a result, our field trips got off to a rocky start but ended with a Bang at the Wonders of Wildflowers event.

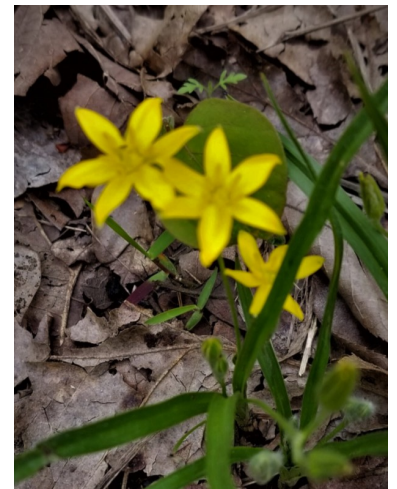
We began with a quick jaunt to the North Woods of Oxley Nature Center the last Saturday of March 2022. We were not disappointed as we saw several of the trout lilies, (*Erythronium albidum*) in bloom. Plums (*Prunus mexicana*) and ragwort (*Packera obovata*) were also blooming.



April 2 found us at Okmulgee State Park where we found ferns, lichens, violets, and serviceberry trees (*Amelanchier arborea*) in bloom. We also got to watch a Bald Eagle for some time as he flew into and posed in a nearby tree.

We headed north on April 9th to Skiatook Lake.

We visited the Healing Rock and saw cream false indigo (*Baptisia bracteata*), yellow star grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*) and more serviceberry before heading to a second location to look for Nuttall's death camas (*Toxicoscordion nuttallii*), which were not blooming.



Our next trip was to Bluestem Falls near Pawhuska. Unfortunately, there was no water! We did find pussytoes (*Antennaria sp.*), rough-leaf dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*) and spiderworts



(*Tradescantia ohioensis*)

blooming, as well as more serviceberry, and lots of rocks.



Photos clockwise from top left: (1) Fern at Okmulgee State Park. (2) Trout lilies, *Erythronium albidum*, at North Woods of Oxley Nature Center. (3) Yellow Star Grass, *Hypoxis hirsuta*, at Skiatook Lake. (4) ONPS members Patrick Bell, Joe Roberts and Juliette Hulen at Skiatook Lake. (5) Field trip to Bluestem Falls (standing where the water should be). (6) Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*, was blooming at several locations we visited. This photo from Okmulgee State Park.



Some locations are further away and almost necessitate an overnight trip. The scheduled trip to Eufaula Lake provided spaces for camping and some overnight guests on April 19 and 20. With extra effort comes extra rewards as we found morel mushrooms and had a tasty snack. Also lowland brittle ferns (*Cystopteris protrusa*) were everywhere, mayapples (*Podophyllum peltatum*), green dragons (*Arisaema dracontium*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), grape ferns (*Sceptridium biternatum*), ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), woodsia (*Woodsia obtusa*), and rattanvine (*Berchemia scandens*) were found, as well as the cream false indigo again finally in bloom.



Another reward was the saprophytic orchid, spring coralroot (*Corallorhiza wisteriana*), which we found at Eufaula and again at our next location.

As we ventured further away, the weather had improved to the point where we found many more native plants in bloom. The southeastern corner of our state is a very unique habitat and the plants are those rarely found. Many common ferns were found again like woodsia and ebony spleenwort, but resurrection fern (*Pleopeltis michauxiana*) is the dominant fern at Beaver's Bend State Park where we botanized on April 23 and 24. Long-leaf bluets (*Houstonia canadensis*), wild comfrey (*Andersonglossum virginianum*), fire pink (*Silene virginica*), and scorpionweed (*Phacelia sp.*) were



just a few. Bushes like shrubby St. John's wort (*Hypericum prolificum*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), and farkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*) filled the understory.

Some of the highlights included spring spiderlilies (*Hymenocallis liriosme*), yellow false indigo (*Baptisia sphaerocarpa*), and



jewelflower (*Streptanthus squamiformis*). A repeat visit to a prairie in Idabel filled our species list to the brim (See photo on Page 16).

Photos clockwise from top left: spring coralroot, *Corallorhiza wisteriana*; cream wild indigo, *Baptisia bracteata*; yellow wild indigo, *Baptisia sphaerocarpa*; jewelflower, *Streptanthus squamiformis*; morel mushroom; and spring spider lilies, *Hymenocallis liriosme* (Photo by Lisa Euchner).

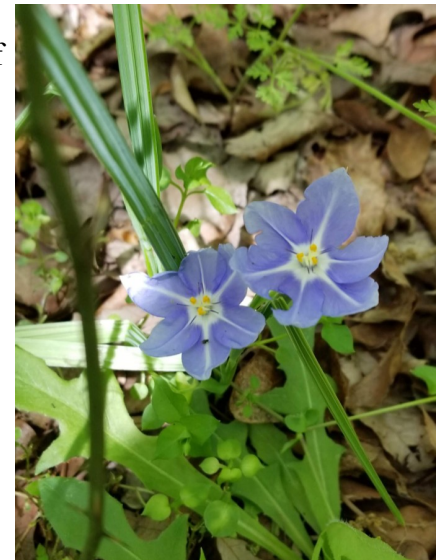


Our month of field rips concluded with the Wonders of Wildflowers event April 29 –30. A Friday evening get-together at the I Don't Care Café got us ready for a full day of botanizing and educational programs on Saturday at Redbud Valley Nature Preserve. Donna Horton gave an introduction to the topography of Redbud Valley and the remarkable habitats that are there that bring 200 miles of plants to one property. Here, land that is reminiscent of the Ozarks, allows



sugar maples, blue ash, bladdernuts and Dutchmen's Breeches. Towering limestone bluffs provide habitat for bats, ferns and columbine. Further up is the arid habitat of the limestone where smoketree, cactus and widow's cross sedum can be found.

The group split, and some went off on a walk and errand to find and mark the rare blue ash trees that would aid staffers to better manage this resource. Another task was to help eradicate some of the lespedeza that threatens the natural vegetation. The group was highly successful and also enjoyed finding Jack-in-the-pulpits, celestial lilies, columbine and bladdernuts along the way.



Another group remained at the shelter and received a most informative program on Lichens from Sheila Strawn. Her new book Lichen Field Guide for Oklahoma and Surrounding States is available now from BRIT press. It is a great tool for identifying the lichens-life forms with a symbiotic relationship between algae and fungi.

After a box lunch the group split again, with some walking a different part of the property and others enjoying a program on wildcrafting by Ashley Clouse of Restoration Farms, Peggs, Oklahoma. Ashley gave a very informative show and tell, passing around samples of common plants and sharing how they can be used. She encouraged everyone to feel, smell, or even taste some of the plants.

On Sunday, the board met at Oxley Nature Center for a meeting. We had time afterwards for a nature hike at Oxley and found the blooming Amsonia species as a rare treat. A fun-filled and educational weekend to be sure.



Photos clockwise from upper right: (1) Donna Horton welcoming participants at the covered shelter at Redbud Valley Nature Preserve. (2) Celestial lily, *Nemastylis geminiflora*, showing the twin flowers sometimes found on the plant and the "pleated" leaf for its other common name, prairie pleatleaf. (3) Bluestar, *Amsonia* sp. (4) Jack-in-the-pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum*.

Musings from Joe

By Joe Roberts

“I’ve never been lost, but I was mighty turned around for three days once.” – Daniel Boone

Daniel Boone was the ultimate male, and my personal hero. He hunted, fished, and relieved himself in the woods even more than the proverbial bear. He never asked for directions, and was never lost. We know this because he didn’t travel with his wife. Otherwise, she would have told *everybody* that he did get lost and did need to ask for directions. (“I told him to turn left at the Ohio River, but noooo. He had to go right. And we were two months late to my cousin’s wedding!”) For those folks who never took upper-level biology courses, males have the magical “Y” chromosome, which means we have no need to look at maps. Or ask directions. Or admit we are lost. And we never, ever, have to read the instructions.

And that is what I was smugly convinced of, right up to the moment the fire broke out.

There was this odd pause where I stared at the flames but did not react. The penny finally dropped. I frantically tried to put the fire out, but as it spread quickly to multiple places it became obvious I would never extinguish it myself. I don’t think I’ve screamed for help since childhood, but there’s a time for everything. “HELP!” I sprinted to the house where my family was. “HELP! HELP! HEELLLP!”

.....No response.

I am an ardent hater of all digital devices, especially those earbud things that my family stick in their ears so they can’t hear me say how much I hate those earbud things that they stick in their ears. Even in the midst of my panic, I swore that if they later confessed to having not heard me because they all were watching TikTok videos with earbuds in, I was starting over. New life, new wife, new children. No regrets.

Valuable time had been lost running back to the house, and I returned to try to put out the fire once again, but things had gotten very bad. The fire had spread to my dry compost heaps, the dormant yard grass was burning, and flames engulfed the shredder while the expanding gas tank made the gas cap hiss ominously. Once again, I screamed for all I was worth.

Fortunately, they heard me this time, and ran to hook up the hose. We were able to put out the fire before it spread to the neighbor’s house or ours. My face and clothes were black with soot, I was exhausted, and the new shredder I had purchased that morning to break down my substantial piles of yard waste had a melted air filter, hose, and gas cap.

If you ever purchase a shredder to break down your native plant yard waste into an easily compostable size, please read the instructions well. There on page 1, where it says IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION, pay attention to the part where it says to not operate around dry grass or flammable material. And to the part where it says to not let the dust/debris from the shredding pile up on the hot engine, which can cause a fire. Sometimes, fellas, it’s best to read instructions, or to ask directions. Even if you are Daniel Boone.

Contributions

Mar 16, 2022—May 10, 2022

General Fund

Pamela Allison, \$10.00

Anonymous, \$5.00

Lisa Weatherholt, \$10.00

Color Oklahoma

Barry L. Redlinger, \$250.00

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: Shalini Chitturi

Secretary: Debbie Drinko

Treasurer: Mary Korthase

Historian: Fran Stallings

Directors-at-Large: Nancy Truelove, Kathy Kuhns-Marino for 2025 class; Janet Thomas, replacement for Ric Brown remainder of 2024 class.

Meet the Members: Lynn Michael

Article by Fran Stallings

“I'd rather talk about the plants than myself any day,” says Lynn Michael, and it was hard to pin her down for an interview! But our intrepid leader of countless field trips finally agreed to share her journey to ONPS.

Lynn spent her early years in Tulsa, overseeing three younger siblings. A bookworm rather than an outdoorsy kid, she still enjoyed hikes with her father seeking arrowheads and learning to recognize wild edibles. When she was 7, her family bought a weekend cabin in the Cedar Crest Community on Spring Creek near Ft. Gibson Lake. She was proud to harvest some wild onions for her dad's dinner!

But the rustic cabin was a lot of work for her mother, and they sold it for a place in Eufaula where relatives on both sides were living. And by the time she was 11, Lynn's family moved from Tulsa to 5 acres in Broken Arrow where dry creek beds provided interesting hikes. She has fond memories of creating a 13th birthday scavenger hunt in the woods, and a backyard mulberry tree which filled pies for the family. Not so fond is the memory of two cases of poison ivy serious enough for doctor visits.

If you've been on her field trips, you'd think Lynn went straight into a career in biology! But a nasty run in with a novice high school biology teacher, who falsely accused her and her neighbor of cheating on an exam, soured her on further science courses at that small school which provided no alternate instructors. She made a very positive impression on her business skills teacher, however.

Graduating in 1973, Lynn did take a botany course at OU but after just three semesters a job offer from Tulsa County Superintendent of Schools lured her from that track – thanks to the high school business skills teacher!

After a stint in Colorado, where Lynn married and started a family, they moved back to Oklahoma and she did secretarial work for the Tulsa Philharmonic until, following gall bladder surgery and birth of second child, she decided to stay home for a while. In 1984, pregnant with their third child, she commuted to Tulsa for Master Gardener training and enjoyed giving volunteer talks to garden clubs although her heart already inclined toward native plants instead. Lynn attended a planning meeting for ONPS but did not become involved at that time, busy raising kids.

When her youngest was 6 years old, in 1995, Lynn got summer seasonal work at Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa. She would have liked to do more of that but openings were not available, so she became a rural mail carrier for USPS. “You just drove around and looked at wild flowers,” her husband teased.

After four years as a part-time carrier, which included Saturdays, she got a full-time position which allowed weekends off to attend the wildflower workshops she had heard about. She joined ONPS in autumn 2001 and began taking courses at RSU. They didn't offer botany but she entered their Environmental Conservation program and got her degree in 2019.

Lynn's career in ONPS includes three terms as president! The bylaws only permit two terms but were suspended when her leadership was really needed. However, she feels her greater impact has been as a field trip leader particularly her weekly tours in April, and involvement with Bioblitz. She has also reached countless hundreds of Tulsa area students through her spring/fall school tours at Oxley, where she continues as a volunteer naturalist. Volunteering was enabled by taking early retirement from the USPS. She says 22 years were enough of daily 3-4 hours of sorting and hefting mail, followed by 4-5 hours of delivery from her own vehicle (only got a USPS truck the last year!)

Although RSU courses provided a lot of background, Lynn says her plant ID knowledge is mostly self-taught through field studies and photos confirmed by her collection of books at home. “If there's ever a contest for who has the most field guides, I would probably win!”

ONPS is lucky that Lynn didn't let one bad high school experience extinguish her love of nature.



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<p>Chapter affiliation:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Central (OKC area)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Northeast (Tulsa area)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mycology (statewide)</p> <p>You may sign up for multiple chapters if you like, to receive field trip and meeting notices from that chapter.</p>

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CAN YOU HELP ONPS? SKILLS SURVEY

Oklahoma Native Plant Society is looking for some members whose special talents, skills, and interests could help us out. Take a look at the “jobs” listed below and see if there is one that fits YOU!!! You may let us know by indicating your talent on the form below and submitting to ONPS % Sue Amstutz, 4190 E. 46th Place, Tulsa OK 74135 or via email at d-s-amstutz@cox.net.

- | | | | | |
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Prairie at Idabel, Oklahoma April 24, 2022. Species include: magenta paintbrush, *Castilleja purpurea*; cloth-of-gold, *Physaria gracilis*; Nuttall's death camas, *Toxicoscordion nuttallii*; Cobaea beardtongue, *Penstemon cobaea*; prairie coreopsis, *Coreopsis palmata*; prairie pleatleaf, *Nemastylis geminiflora*; Eastern false aloe, *Manfreda virginica*; Comanche western daisy, *Astranthium ciliatum*; prairie larkspur, *Delphinium carolinianum virescens*; blue wild indigo, *Baptisia australis*; Texas paintbrush, *Castilleja indivisa*; flathead rabbit tobacco, *Diaperia prolifera*; star milkvine, *Matelea biflora*; Engelmann daisy, *Engelmannia persistenia*; and more!!!!