

# the Gaillardia

OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Society mailing address: 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114

Editor---Luann Sewell Waters, Box 457, Wynnewood, OK 73098

Volume 3, Number 1

**Happy New Year and Happy  
First Birthday to ONPS.**

There's been lots going on this past year for such a new organization! See Betty Kemm's president's letter for just how much we have done...

With the start of a new year, it's time to also remind you that "dues are due". Any of you that didn't join until after September 1987, though, are paid through next year (88). Please complete the form at the end of the newsletter and send in your renewal now.

We continue to grow!! There are now 170 members in ONPS.

The officers for '88 are the same except for secretary--**Nora Jones** is now in that office. Welcome!!! Her address is 3727 S. Jamestown Ave., Tulsa, OK 74135. She has an article on the Oyster Mushroom in this issue of The Gaillardia. Also in this issue, a new column by Larry Magrath called "Conservation Corner".  
And much more...

January 1988

**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A BOTANICAL  
KIND--All you wanted to know  
about flowers and fungi but were  
afraid to ask**

Saturday, January 16 in Stillwater (see map) at OSU's Life Sciences East building from 1 to 5 p.m.

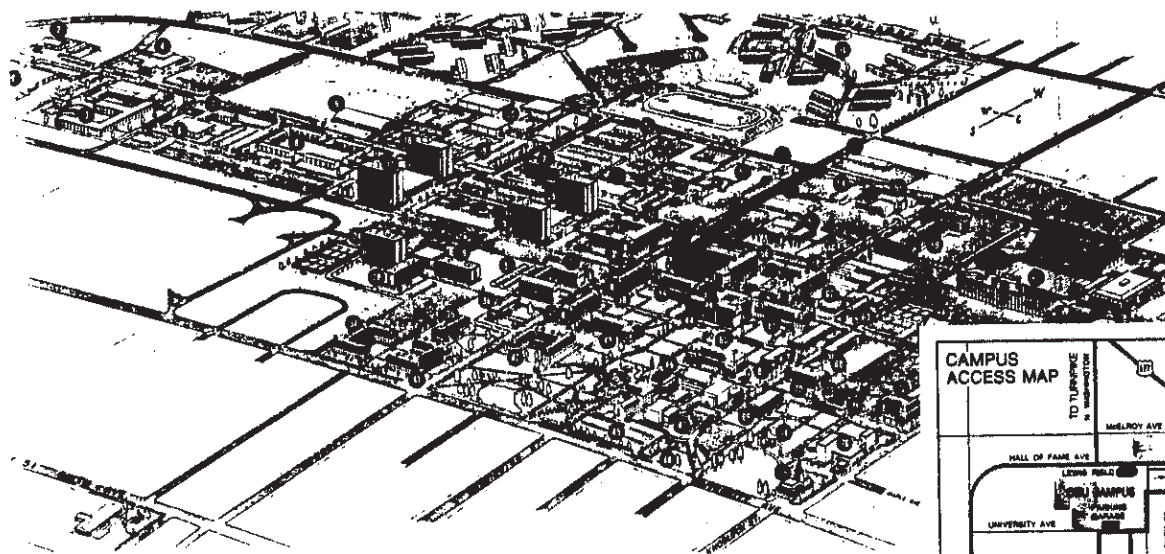
An afternoon's program on flower structure and common Oklahoma fungi is planned. Activities will be "hands-on" with use of microscope to dissect and observe various parts of flowers and fungi. It will be an opportunity to gain a different perspective of the intricate organization and beauty of plants.

Besides these activities in the laboratories, there will be informal tours and introductions to research programs in the Departments of Botany and Plant Pathology.

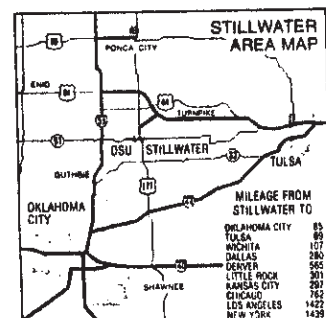
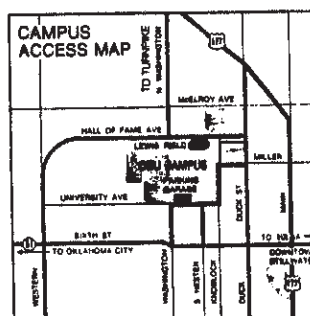
Life Sciences East building is immediately west of the Library in the center of campus. Parking is available immediately north of the building.

The Student Union Food Mart will be open for lunch and numerous fast-food restaurants can be found along 6th Street (OK Hwy 51). Stillwater also has several excellent restaurants including Mexico Joe's, The Ancestor, Stillwater Bay and Bobo's.

If you need more details, contact Ron Tyrl, work # 405-624-5559.



Oklahoma State University campus--  
Life Sciences East is building number 39 on map.



## BULLETIN

### MEETING UPDATE

Charter bus from Tulsa to Stillwater on January 16. Leave from the Tulsa Garden Center parking lot at 10:30, return by 6:30. Cost, based on 30 passengers, is \$7.50. For reservations call Betty Kemm (742-4351). Deadline: Wednesday, January 13.

Still need a 1988 calendar? If so, consider ordering the endangered wildflowers calendar from the American Horticultural Society. The price is \$6.95 and features full color photos of 16 American wildflowers that are threatened or endangered. The address is: P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121. (Thanks to the Native Plant Society of Oregon bulletin for this notice.)

# CALENDAR

**Jan. 16--**ONPS winter meeting

**Jan. 28--**Oklahoma Horticulture Society Show, Tulsa Assembly Center. Evening speakers incl.: Russell Stuebaker-ornamental grasses, Doyle McCoy-Okla. wildflowers & plants, Evelyn Connors-wildflowers for cultivation.

**March 12-** Wildflower Day- Tulsa Garden Center.

**March 20-26-** National Wildlife Week--"There's more to a Forest than Trees"

**April 23-**Arkansas Native Plant Society meeting in Mena, AR

**May 20-** Oklahoma Wildflower Workshop in Norman.

**June 7-** start of Tour of Wildflowers and Gardens of England

sponsored by National Wildflower Research Center. Contact them for more info.--2600 FM 973 N, Austin, TX 78725.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Best wishes to all of you for the coming year! The Oklahoma Native Plant Society is finishing its first year. It has been very exciting watching the organization take shape and programs develop. And we still have dreams for the future.

The newsletter is our most important communication and education effort. Luann Sewell Waters has done an excellent job of collecting information from a variety of sources, including contributions from members. We have mailed four issues this year, plus several meeting notices. I encourage all of you to send her information about meetings in your part of the state and items about your special interests.

We have had field trips in five parts of the state: the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge with Larry Magrath, Ron Tyrl and Paul Buck; Rich Mountain and the Talimena Drive with Bruce and Lana Ewing; Redbud Valley and Oologah Lake with Paul Buck and Gary Schaum (part of the Wildflower Workshop); Idabel area with Doyle McCoy and the Osage prairies with Ron Tyrl and Paul Buck. Doyle McCoy is coordinating our field trips. Send him a date and location, we will publicize it and send an expert if you don't have one.

Last year we had three general meetings, plus the Wildflower Workshop: in January at Tulsa Junior College, Dr. Harriet Barclay on her lifetime botanical travels; in July, Linda Rosser on pioneer cookery, at the Myriad Garden in Oklahoma City, with plants by Betty Burns and Mary Francis; and in Tulsa in October, Dr. Ron Tyrl on the Oklahoma Prairies.

Dr. Tyrl is assembling a list of speakers and their topics for your use.

We now have 170 memberships which include botany professors, conservationists, naturalists, horticulture professionals, photographers, science teachers, garden club members and many of us who just love nature.

We have cooperated with a number of organizations and agencies, including the Highway Department's wildflower program, with a big thanks to our board member Aileen Roads Carter, who was its inspiration. We hope to work with more groups in the future.

This year is off to a big start. In January we will peek inside the Botany Department at OSU and inside flowers (via microscopes). Later in the month we will have two speakers at the Okla. Horticulture Society Show and meeting in Tulsa. In May we will sponsor a photography contest as part of the Wildflower Workshop. Several field trips are already being planned, but no definite dates yet.

This year we want to meet in many other parts of the state and plan to develop educational materials. We will begin an awards program from the Anne Long Memorial Fund.

A reminder - it is time to renew your membership if you joined before September. Hope to see you all in Stillwater January 16.

Betty Kemm

# Inhofe Offers 'Lukewarm' Support

12-19-87 Tulsa World

By ROB MARTINDALE  
World Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON — Legislation introduced Friday in the Senate and House to create a Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Oklahoma has an ironic political twist.

Of the four major figures behind the legislation, Rep. Jim Inhofe was the most passive, but his district stands to gain the most from a projected economic windfall.

Only 10 percent of the proposed preserve's land area would be in Inhofe's district, but his district would receive 90 percent of any economic windfall, his office reported Friday.

The Inhofe district includes Pawhuska, the county seat of Osage

County where the 49,000-acre preserve would be located.

It is estimated that a tallgrass preserve would pour \$9.5 million annually into the economy and produce about 300 new jobs.

The legislation includes a one-time, lump sum payment of \$1.5 million to compensate local governments and school districts for lost tax revenues, a spokesman said.

On the eve of the introduction of the legislation, Inhofe said he wouldn't be an "obstructionist" and would go along with the wishes of the bill's key supporters, Sens. Don Nickles and David Boren and Rep. Mickey Edwards. Inhofe joined them in introducing

the legislation.

Inhofe had a conflicting appointment and didn't join Nickles, Boren and Edwards at a Friday press conference to discuss the legislation, a spokesman said.

Inhofe, who said his support for the legislation was "lukewarm," said he isn't convinced that the preserve would have the economic impact predicted by the Indian Nations Council of Governments.

He said he isn't convinced at this point that all the land is available from willing sellers and that the proposal wouldn't have a major impact on government spending. Proponents have suggested selling surplus government lands to purchase the land





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## for Preserve

for the preserve.

Nickles started the latest effort for a tallgrass preserve but the focal point of the two-year negotiations has been Edwards.

Nickles said the legislation specifies that all land be purchased from willing sellers and that the mineral interests of the Osage Tribe be protected. The tribe has been a major opponent of the proposition.

Nickles said it is estimated that no more than 3 percent of the nation's prairie lands remain "untouched by the plow." He said establishment of a tallgrass prairie preserve has been under consideration by the U.S. Park Department since the 1930s.

**BOOKS OF INTEREST:** Pods--Wildflowers and Weeds in Their Final Beauty by Jane Embertson, \$14.95, Charles Scribner's Sons Publ.

Kansas Prairie Wildflowers by Clinton E. Owensby, KSU, Publ. by Iowa State U., Ames, \$9.95. Both books are in paperback.



**Conservation Corner by  
Larry Magrath**

Readers are invited to share their comments, thoughts, and ideas with Dr. Larry Magrath who will be the principle author of this column and/or the editor of Gaillardia. Some comments and ideas from reader's letters may be published in future articles, so writers are asked specifically to indicate if they do NOT want to have portions of their letters quoted.

**Should We Clear Cut on Public Land in Oklahoma?**

The following resolution was presented, generated much heated debate, and was ultimately tabled at the November 1987 general business meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science.

"Whereas mixed pine-hardwood forests in southeastern Oklahoma are a major tourist attraction along scenic drives such as the Talimena Drive, and the Holsum Valley Road, and

whereas, mixed pine-hardwood forests support a wide diversity of plant, animal and fungal life, and

whereas intact mixed pine-hardwood forests provide excellent ground cover that prevents soil erosion and allows for the slow release of rainfall water into area streams,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Oklahoma Academy of Science requests that the United States Forest Service immediately cease allowing clear-cutting of mixed pine-hardwood forest on the publically owned lands of the Ouachita National Forest."

The President of the OAS, Bud Patterson, then appointed a committee to look into the situation and make a committee report to the OAS Executive Council. Dr. Mike Mather, University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma, was appointed a member of this committee.

Dr. Mather has been kind enough to share a rough draft of his committee report with me. This report basically make the case that there should be no clear-cutting on public forest lands in Oklahoma. It details numerous problems and potential problems, such as reduction in the diversity of plants and animals, soil erosion, use of herbicides, potential danger to rare and endangered species--both plant and animal, siltation and eutrophication of reservoirs, soil compaction, loss of colorful fall foliage (pine tree plantations being green the year round), which may have a negative impact on the developing tourist industry, etc.

Very little can be said on the positive side about clear-cutting that doesn't have to be qualified. If I may quote from the committee report:

"Clear-cutting forests as a management tool can be justified for only a few reasons. Ease of harvest and cost-saving are certainly valid, if not short-sighted, reasons....I do not believe that our National Forests were meant to be tree farms. I do believe that they were meant to be managed for multipurpose uses. Among those uses, harvest of trees is certainly included, but there are many ways of harvesting trees without clear-cutting.

Another argument for clear-cutting is that it 'increases productivity of wildlife.' This is true, at least in a temporary way, for a few popular game animals such as whitetail deer, turkey, and bobwhite....Little thought is given to all of the other species of organisms that formerly lived in the mature or mixed forest. Their specialized requirements have been destroyed and along with that, their lives. In short, the argument for clear-cutting for a few game species is both short-sighted (because of the temporary nature of the 'benefits') and narrow-minded (because only the thought of favored game species are involved.)"

There is also an article in the December 1987 issue of Outdoor News, the official publication of the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation, entitled "Time for Listening Past" which also deals with the issue of clear-cutting and public policy about the uses to which our national forests are put. I would like to urge each one of you to take the time to think about this issue. If you feel strongly about it, make your feelings known to your state and federal Congressional representatives and to the Oklahoma and United States Forest Service.



According to Herb Beattie, The Oklahoma Nature Conservancy (TONC) is proposing a change in Oklahoma's existing real estate transfer tax (known as "documentary stamp tax"). The reason for wanting a change is to establish a fund to be used for the purchase and management of natural areas by the state. (Areas such as those identified by the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory as needing protection.) TONC is suggesting an increase in the tax from \$150 per \$100,000 of real estate sold, to \$225 per \$100,000. This would cause the revenues from this tax to increase from about \$8 million to approximately \$12 million per year. The bulk of the increase then could be used for acquiring and maintaining areas.

(This means was selected as the logical choice to create the fund since when real estate is sold, it frequently is for development.) Be ready to call and write state legislators when the time comes to help insure a future for natural areas preservation in the state! Thanks, Herb for bringing this to our attention....



#### **The Oyster Mushroom: Bonus from a Winter Walk** by Nora Jones

(Illus. by Joe John Nurre)

Mild December and January days are perfect for collecting Pleurotus ostreatus, commonly known as the Oyster Mushroom, from Oklahoma woods, roadsides and backyards. Although the mushroom may be found year round, it flourishes in the cooler temperatures and is often found in better condition because of decreased insect activity during winter months.

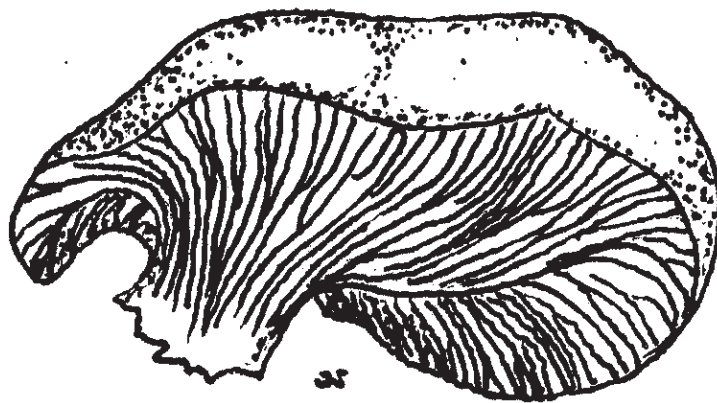
The Oyster Mushroom is a decomposer fungus that we most commonly find in shelving masses on downed or dying oak, willow and elm trees, although it has been reported on other hardwoods. Occasionally, it is found on the

ground, presumably growing from buried wood. We have found it sprouting from fence posts along roadsides. The mushroom will produce crops for several years any time conditions are favorable.

The fleshy-textured mushroom's cap is oyster or fan-shaped and 2-15 centimeters (1.5-6 inches) or more in width. The cap color ranges from pure white, to tan, to grayish brown to dark brown. Generally, the cap arises from a thick lateral stalk. White, sharp-edged gills that often run part-way down the stalk are found under the cap. The mushroom has a mild odor and flavor.

The Oyster Mushroom, like other fleshy fungi, should be collected in waxed paper or brown paper bags (not plastic) and refrigerated as soon as possible.

Make a spore print to help confirm identification by placing the cap, gills down, on white paper. Cover the mushroom with a glass tumbler or similar object and leave for several hours or overnight. When the cap is removed, white to pale lilac spore dust should be visible on the paper. If possible, check the size of the spores with a microscope. The spores should be clear, smooth and oblong (7-9 to 3-4 microns).



**CAUTION:** The Oyster Mushroom is a delicious edible, but no mushroom should be eaten without absolute, positive identification. Once identified, however, the Oyster Mushroom is easily recognized. Two books are helpful references for Oklahoma fungi: The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms by Gary H. Lincoff and A Field Guide to Southern Mushrooms by Nancy Smith Weber and Alexander H. Smith.

Check local libraries for these and other field guides.

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(Clip and mail to: Oklahoma Native Plant Society, c/o Mary Byrd, Treasurer, 5819 S. Evanston, Tulsa, OK 74105)

Please enroll me as a member of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society. My dues payment is enclosed for the category checked: (Make check payable to Oklahoma Native Plant Society.)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Student; \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Individual; \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Family; \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Please check if renewal \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Please print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home telephone) (Business phone)

There is a push by state botanists to write and publish a Flora of Oklahoma manual for plant identification. There is a real need for such a manual. So far, there are 32 volunteers helping with the effort and funding is being sought to ensure a timely completion of the work.

If you would like additional information, let me know and I'll pass along your inquiries to the group working on this project.

**Did you realize????** Oklahoma ranks second among all states in the number of plant families. (The state has plants in 154 families, some 824 genera, and over 2,600 species.)

#### **Sources of Native Seeds and Plants** ---a revised edition of

this publication has been released by the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Copies of the 36-page booklet are available for \$3.00

(\$2.50 for orders of 10 or more), postpaid, form SWCS, 7515 NE Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, Iowa 50021--9764.

This edition contains names, addresses and phone numbers of nearly 250 growers and suppliers of native vegetation. It is organized by state and country (incl. Mexico and Canada as well as 38 states of U.S.). In addition, it indicates each grower's specialty.



Oklahoma Native Plant Society  
c/o Tulsa Garden Center  
2435 South Peoria  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114