



# the Gaillardia

## OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

Volume 3, Number 3

Summer, 1988

### ***News and Comments from the President***

Luann Sewell Waters has resigned as newsletter editor, and we really miss her. She is now working as an education specialist for the Non-Game Program of the Oklahoma State Wildlife Conservation Department in Oklahoma City and commuting from her home in Wynnewood. She will continue to be a valuable contributor to *The Gaillardia*. This issue is an attempt at newsletter by committee.

Our Spring Meeting at Poteau was really a full weekend. Sixteen Oklahomans attended the Arkansas Native Plant Society meeting in Mena Friday night, April 22, and joined a variety of field trips with the Arkansas group on Saturday morning. More Oklahomans met us at the Kerr Ranch in Poteau Saturday afternoon for a tour of the ranch and a wildflower field trip. Teresa Maurer was a wonderful guide and had made all the arrangements for the evening ONPS meeting at the Kerr Conference Center. The weekend finished with a field trip along the Talimena Drive, led by George Bunkenhofer of the U. S. Forest Service. The weather and flowers were wonderful, too. Our total attendance was 30.

The following week, 16 people met Jim Norman in Tahlequah on April 30 for a super field trip along the Illinois River, sponsored by ONPS. We did see yellow lady slippers and wild azaleas, plus many other flowers.

Thirty ONPS members and guests in the Tulsa area met at the Tulsa Garden Center on May 23 for a program by Herb Beattie about the work of the Nature Conservancy in Oklahoma. I would like to see members in other parts of the state plan meetings or field trips for people in their areas. Remember that we have a speakers bureau and will help in any way with plans.

At the May ONPS board meeting, several topics were discussed:

We are considering holding the 1988 Annual Meeting in October at a state lodge, instead of in a city. Plans will be announced in the next newsletter.

We have hopes that there will be a first State Wildflower Day in Oklahoma next year. Senators Kelly Haney and Billie Floyd are hoping to present this to the Legislature. If it is official, we can plan special events that day as our part in the 89er Centennial Celebration.

The board also decided that we should set a good example and not permit any digging on an ONPS field trip unless special arrangements are made in advance.

Betty Kemm (918) 742-4351

## CONSERVATION CORNER by LARRY MAGRATH

--Share your comments and ideas for future columns with Dr. Magrath. Please indicate if portions of letters are not to be quoted in this publication.

### Protecting and Propagating our Native Wildflowers

Henbit and many other of our little weedy wildflowers are in no danger of being eliminated from our state list of wildflowers. That, however, is not true for Jack-in-the-pulpit, yellow lady's slippers, dutchman's breeches, trilliums, cardinal flowers, and many other wildflowers. They are in danger----oftentimes from the very people who care the most about them---US! We have all had the temptation to transplant a wildflower into our garden. (Be honest with yourself!) Some of us have done this and been successful, but how many failures did we have in order to achieve a success? Obviously, some wildflowers are very common and transplanting them will cause no problem to the native populations. Other flowers, such as the ones listed above, are really rather rare and have rather precise habitat requirements. Transplanting of those species should not be attempted.

Other plants, such as prairie cone flowers, the various Penstemons or beard-tongues, sabatias, prairie ragwort (Senecio spp.) are easily started from seed you can collect in the wild. Seedlings that you grow yourself from collected seed will grow and transplant far better than plants transplanted from the wild, and you will have the added enjoyment of having learned how to get the seeds to germinate. In the process, you'll learn more about the plant itself.

In the January/February issue of Garden magazine, there is an article by Faith Campbell entitled "Guest Column: Boycotting the Wild-Plant Trade." Ms. Campbell states that many wild plant dealers are anything but conservation minded. For example, the pink lady's-slippers offered for sale in catalogs are FIELD COLLECTED not GREENHOUSE GROWN. Massive numbers of these orchids and other rare plants are field collected for sale, a practice which should be unacceptable to all wildflower lovers. To me, field collecting is justifiable under only two conditions: 1) to obtain small numbers of plants to be grown in greenhouse conditions from which other GREENHOUSE GROWN plants can be propagated and 2) to rescue plants growing in an area in immediate danger of being destroyed by land development activities.

DON'T try to transplant wildflowers from the wild into your garden. DO collect seed and try to grow your own plants to transplant. DON'T buy field collected plants from nurseries or catalogs. DO buy greenhouse grown plants. If you are not sure of the source of the plants---ASK! DO try to raise wildflowers in your garden, but make certain that you are not endangering our native populations in the process.

A good source for listings of wildflower seeds and plants is a publication from the Soil and Water Conservation Society. To order, send \$3.00 to: Sources of Native Seeds and Plants; Soil and Water Conservation Society; 7515 NE Ankeny Road; Ankeny, Iowa 50021-9764.

## ONPS PLANS FIELD TRIPS

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society has planned the following field trips:

Saturday, June 4. Meet at the Visitors' Center in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge near Lawton at 10 a. m. for a field trip led by Dr. Larry Magrath. This is a wonderful area of granite mountains on a flat plain. There are good overnight accommodations in Chickasha and Lawton. Bring a sack lunch.

Sunday, June 12. Field trip to study mushrooms and other fungi led by Nora Jones. Meet at Redbud Valley parking lot at 12 noon. Redbud Valley is a nature preserve northeast of Tulsa. It is about four miles north of the 161st East Avenue exit of Interstate Highway 44.

Saturday, June 18. Tour of Red Rock Canyon State Park and other areas in Caddo County, led by Dr. Doyle McCoy. Meet at 10 a. m. at the picnic area closest to the park entrance. The park is about four miles south of Hinton, about 40 miles west of Oklahoma City on Interstate 40. Sack lunch recommended.

## Photography Contest Winners

ONPS sponsored its first annual Oklahoma Wildflower Photography Contest in association with the 11th annual Wildflower Workshop. All 25 entries were displayed at the workshop in Norman on May 20.

Winners were: First Place, \$40 -- Paul Buck, Tulsa, for a photo of a Gaillardia; Second Place, \$25 -- Mary Fellows, Hobart, for a landscape showing Yuccas; and Third Place, \$15 -- April Holman, Oklahoma City, for a Gaillardia photo. Each winner also received a framed certificate.

Mike Flanagan was chairman of the contest committee, and the photos were judged by Keith Hice of Tulsa. A selection of the photographs will be available for display throughout the next year.

## Nominating Committee Named

Dr. Harriet Barclay has been appointed chairman of the Nominating Committee to serve with members Aileen Roads Carter and Donna Hamilton Horton. Offices to be filled are: President, vice president, treasurer, historian, and three directors-at-large. Nominations will be announced in the September newsletter. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting of ONPS in October.

## Donation Made to Memorial Fund

The most recent donation to the Oklahoma Native Plant Society's Anne Long Memorial Fund has been made by the Home Economists in Homemaking, Tulsa.

## Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

Senate Bill 1987, introduced by Oklahoma Senators David Boren and Don Nickles is now in committee. If you would like to write a letter of support for this bill, which would establish a National Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Osage County, it should be addressed to: The Honorable Dale Bumpers, Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests, Washington, D. C. 20510.

## Backyard Wildlife Garden Developed for Governor's Mansion

A shady stone path winds among clumps of soapberry, chittamwood, holly and juniper trees and through sunny openings filled with native grasses and brightly colored flowers like butterfly weed, salvia and monarda. As the path continues past the small pool fed by water cascading over rocks, you notice that the nest boxes of various sizes and shapes placed in trees and on poles are constantly busy with the coming and going of the chickadees, titmice, sparrows and other area residents.

This is a description of a natural area at a state park, right? Maybe. But it also describes an area near downtown Oklahoma City. For the past few months, the nongame staff, in cooperation with OSU-Tech, Capital Parks and the Wildlife Federation, has been coordinating the development of a backyard wildlife garden plan at the

Governor's Mansion. The plan was dedicated during National Wildlife Week (March 20-26) and workers have already begun developing the garden, which is expected to take about a year and a half to complete. The area will not only serve as an urban oasis for wildlife, but will also demonstrate how the average homeowner can create a backyard attractive to both people and wildlife.

Oklahoma's native trees, shrubs, wild grasses and wildflowers are beautiful additions to any landscaped yard. And they offer the additional bonus of more songbirds, small mammals and butterflies.

Anyone wanting information on backyard habitat can write the Nongame Wildlife Program, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, 1801 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

ONPS members may be able to supply some of the native plants and trees for this garden. (Look for a list later.)

*Reprinted from  
Oklahoma Nongame News.*

## Nomination for Oklahoma Native Plant Society Anne W. Long Award

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society will recognize outstanding contributions to the Society via the Anne W. Long Award. This is the second and last call for nominations for the 1988 award.

Individuals, groups of individuals, scout troops, church groups, science or environmental organizations, businesses, etc. who have contributed to the purpose of the ONPS shall be eligible for the award. Recognition and presentation of the award will be made at the annual meeting of the society.

Nominations are to be made via the following form and submitted directly to the chair of the Awards Committee: Paul Buck, Biology Department, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104. The deadline for nominations is 1 September and all nominations will be treated in confidence.

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please use separate sheets to provide detailed information supporting the nomination. Such material is necessary for evaluation by the Awards Committee.

Nomination by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

All nominations must be received before 1 September but may be submitted at any time.

**THINK ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY!!** Is there a group or organization that deserves to be recognized?



## OTHER EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- June 11. If you want to see the Osage Prairie in bloom, join the Sierra Club's field trip beginning in Pawhuska. For information call Brett Hulsey at 918 747-1447.
- June 11. Missouri Prairie Day. This year at Prairie State Park in Barton County (between Pittsburg, Kansas, and Lamar, Missouri). Many activities, including the dedication of a new visitors' center.
- July 5-13. Crested Butte Wildflower Festival, Colorado. Workshops in plant identification (led by our Dr. Paul Buck), propagation, landscaping and photography, hikes, horseback rides. For registration form write: Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 1288, Crested Butte, CO 81224.
- August 7-11. Eleventh North America Prairie Conference at Lincoln, Nebraska. For information contact Department of Biology, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE 68182.
- September 23-25. ONPS is invited to attend the Oklahoma Academy of Science meeting at Black Mesa State Park. This will be a weekend of field trips in a unique portion of the state, one which contains pinyon pine, Rocky Mountain Juniper, porcupine, mule deer and many other representatives of the biota of the Rocky Mountain Foothills, almost 5,000 feet in elevation. If enough interest is shown, an effort will be made to charter buses for the trip to the west end of the Oklahoma Panhandle. For information, contact: Dr. Paul Buck, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Oklahoma Academy of Science, P. O. Box 4424, Tulsa, OK 74159-0424.

## Nature Conservancy Acquires Areas

Oklahoma Nature Conservancy has announced two new acquisitions. The organization has purchased 77 acres in Atoka County. Known as the Boehler Seeps and Sandhills, the site is possibly the best remaining, least disturbed example of a northern coastal plain sandhill community and the site of a rare hillside seep or bog.

The second area is six miles of abandoned railroad right-of-way between Tulsa and Sand Springs. The Conservancy purchased the land and will clear it of old ties. It will become part of Tulsa River Parks and eventually be a part of the jogging trail.

The Conservancy has also raised more than \$175,000 in private contributions for the newly legislated Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory.

## Natural Heritage Inventory Authorized

In March the Oklahoma House and Senate passed legislation to establish a statewide program to identify and purchase high quality natural areas. The Oklahoma Natural Heritage Commission will oversee an ongoing inventory of the state's plant and animal life and manage natural areas requiring protection. Oklahoma was one of only four states without such a program. Dr. Pat Mehlhop-Cifelli, Inventory biologist, is working with a list of more than 230 plants to determine their rarity in Oklahoma.

The address of the Natural Heritage Inventory is: Oklahoma Biological Survey, Sutton Hall, Room 303, 625 Elm Street, Norman, OK 73019.

## A Plant in the Wild is Worth Two in Your Yard

By Nora Jones

Illustration by: Donna Hamilton Horton

Careless use of herbicides, destruction of habitat by road and building construction, and stress from recreational activities all endanger our flora. But even if a person isn't spraying round-up on a windy day or riding a dirt bike over virgin prairie, she may be contributing to the impoverishment of our native plant heritage.

As an upright citizen she'd call a policeman if she saw a vandal digging a rosebush from a municipal park. But she feels no qualms about uprooting plants from their native habitats to install them in her garden.

It may seem innocent enough to dig a few pretty flowers, yet collection of plants from the wild by private individuals is one of the fifteen threats to plants and plant habitats cited by the Smithsonian and the World Wildlife Fund. The plant collector may also be guilty of illegal poaching of plants from state and federal lands and of trampling on nearby vegetation.

The only time to dig native plants is when they are in the path of a bulldozer and then only after obtaining permission from the property owner.

Gathering seed is another matter. Generally, seeds of perennials can be collected without damaging the populations but annual seeds should only be gathered in areas of high abundance. Dr. Northington of the Wildflower Research Center in Austin, Texas, recommends collecting no more than 1/3 of the available seed.

As wildflowers gain popularity, they are more widely available at garden centers. A well grown nursery plant will generally outperform its wild cousin in the garden.

Many ONPS members garden with wildflowers and are willing to share plant starts. With this newsletter issue, we initiate a classified section so members can swap plants, seeds and other pertinent information.

Because one of the purposes of ONPS is protection of native plants, in future, collection of wild plants will not be allowed on sponsored field trips. Instead, members should bring their cameras to capture the beauty of the wild plants. If a member wishes to propagate the plant, botanists leading the trip can give the scientific and/or common names so that the plant can later be obtained from other sources.



"I don't understand, folks!  
They grew thick here last year!"

## OKLAHOMA WILDFLOWER NEWS

ONPS member Dr. Chip Cooper was one of the originators of Bristow's first annual 5k Run this spring. They called it the Wildflower Run, as it went past beautiful native wildflowers around a lake west of Bristow. Chip also gave each of the 173 runners a package of Indian Blanket seed.

Oklahoma's First Lady Shirley Bellmon shares a mutual concern with ONPS members. She told ONPS President Betty Kemm recently that she would like to see a source of wildflower seeds grown in Oklahoma from our native plants. She believes this could become a source of agricultural income as farmers diversify. Such seeds would also be suited to our climatic conditions. The ONPS would like to know of any locally grown seed in Oklahoma and also any nurseries growing native trees and shrubs in the state.

At least two schools in Tulsa have wildflower plots or outdoor nature centers: Whittier Elementary and Nathan Hale High. Do other schools in Oklahoma have nature centers? If so, let us know about them....The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has planted 17 acres of wildflower seeds in different areas of the state. The seeds were donated by various organizations and individuals.... There are also a number of city park and commercial wildflower plantings around Oklahoma. Unfortunately, this has been the driest May on record....Please keep photo records of your plantings and dates of bloom. These will be valuable for future plans.

### Research Center Publications

The National Wildflower Research Center in Austin, Texas, has a new publication called Wildflower, the Journal of the National Wildflower Research Center. Its newsletter is named simply Wildflower.

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Have you paid your 1988 ONPS dues? The membership year runs from January through December. Your newsletter address label shows your type of membership, whether it was charter membership, and the renewal date. If you received a complimentary copy of the newsletter, please join ONPS to continue receiving copies in the future.

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

(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.)

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

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

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

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

(Check whether \_\_\_\_\_ renewal or \_\_\_\_\_ new membership.)

## CLASSIFIEDS

Oxley Nature Center, Mohawk Park in Tulsa, wants seeds of wild plants. Please drop them by the center.

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Wanted: Starts of prickly pear, cholla, mammalaria, sedum and other succulents, yucca. Nora Jones, 918 749-5859.

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If you'd like some horsetails (Equisetum), contact Betty Kemm at 918 742-4351.

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Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa needs some volunteers to pull weeds (ragweed, especially) from the wildflower plot. Please come by if you can help.

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Give to the Anne Long Memorial Fund as a memorial to a friend or family member.

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*Send us items for this FREE classified column, listing your wants, trades, and giveaways.*

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### **LeFlore County Proposal**

Conservationists, environmentalists and outdoorsmen would like for several areas of the National Forest in LeFlore County to be set aside and protected from clear-cutting. Some areas would be left as wilderness and others developed for camping and hiking, some allowing hunting and fishing. This would include part of the Winding Stair Mountain and the Talimena Drive as well as several river systems on the south. Congressman Wes Watkins has introduced a bill to establish the area.

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

#### A Reminder --

Sending you our newsletter is expensive. If you're not a member or your 1988 dues have not been paid, this could be your last issue. Please mail your check now -- we'd hate to lose you!