

the Gaillandia

Oklahoma Native Plant Society

Society mailing address: 2435 S. Peoria - Tuisa, OK 74114 Volume 3, Number 4 Fall, 1988

Annual Meeting October 22-23 Roman Nose State Park

Plans are being made for an interesting and informative program at the Second Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 22 and 23, at Roman Nose State Park.

It will be an opportunity for a relaxed "getaway" weekend in a secluded setting. Roman Nose is a delightful state park in a gypsum canyon with a spring-fed lake, located just north of Watonga (northwest of Oklahoma City). The ONPS meeting will be in the lodge, which has 47 guest rooms. Also available are cottages, campgrounds, and RV hookups. We hope you will bring your spouse and family members and also encourage attendance by other interested persons.

The Saturday schedule will include:

11:00 to 1:00. Registration; lunch on your own in lodge dining room.

1:00 p. m. -- First session. USES OF NATIVE PLANTS. Speaker: Donna Hamilton Horton, Interpretive Naturalist, Oxley Nature Center, Tulsa.

2:00 p. m. -- Field trip.

4:30 p. m. -- Session 2. Panel: STATUS OF PLANT CONSERVATION IN OKLAHOMA.

6:30 p. m. -- Banquet. Presentation of Anne Long Memorial Awards.

Speaker: DIVERSITY OF ENVIRONMENTS IN OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS
by Vicki Mason, State Parks Naturalist.

Sunday's schedule will include:

Early morning bird walk, followed by breakfast on your own (lodge dining room).

9:00 a.m. -- Session 4. Discussion: WHAT IS IN THE FUTURE OF ONPS?
Panel: PLANS FOR THE FIRST STATE WILDFLOWER DAY.
Election of officers and directors.

10:30 a.m. -- Field trips. (More information on these will be provided later.)
Total cost for registration and the banquet will be \$12.50 per person. Advance registration is needed in order to provide a guarantee to the lodge. Be sure to fill in the attached form and mail it right away to let us know how many will attend.

Roman Nose Lodge will hold a block of rooms for us until <u>October 5</u>. <u>Please</u> make your own reservations with the <u>lodge</u>, mentioning ONPS. Rates vary from \$40 to \$50 for two persons. (The single rate is the same as the rate for two.) The lodge phone number is 405 623-7281. A toll-free phone is 800-522-8565.

BOOKS

Some interesting and colorful new books have been published recently about wildflowers and other native plants. They include:

A Grower's Guide to Wildflowers by Wildseed, Inc., P. O. Box 308, Eagle Lake Texas 77434.

Information on planting wildflowers for different situations and environments. Color pictures and planting information for 70 species, both native and naturalized. Charts, range maps. Price \$7.00.

- Landscaping for Wildlife by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

 \$6.95 plus \$1.50 postage from Minnesota Documents Division, 117 University Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55155.
- Photographing Wildflowers: Techniques for the Advanced Amateur and Professional. \$11.95 from Blacklock Photo Equipment, P. O. Box 560, Moose Lake, MN 55767.
- Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie, An Ethnobotanical Guide by Kelly Kindscher,
 University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045. Descriptions and
 uses of plants by plains Indians, some as staples, others only rarely.
- Toxic Plants of Oklahoma. Cooperative Extension Service, Division of Agriculture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. \$5.00. Dangers to livestock. Color photos, tables, charts.

OKLAHOMA WILDFLOWER NEWS

Oklahoma City, Beautiful, Inc., had a penny-collecting campaign for its Wildflower Program in May and collected \$11,000. Before the penny collection began, OCB held a cannister decoration contest for businesses and organizations.

The city of Oklahoma City has budgeted \$35,000 for wildflower plantings. The Department of Transportation will plant 60 acres with donated seed along Oklahoma City highways.

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful will provide Indian Blanket seeds for planting near Shawnee and Edmond.

Two Anne Long Memorial sites in Tulsa are being replanted.

Metropolitan Life has given the Tulsa Boys' Home a \$250 grant to buy wildflower seed to plant along Highway 51.

The W. Atlee Burpee Company is trying to ensure that plants that it offers for sale come from propagated sources. The company has been unable so far to find propagators who can supply sufficient quantities of woodland wildflowers and ferns, so Burpee has dropped these (profit-making) items from its fall 1987 catalog. With the help of The Nature Conservancy, Burpee will be offering wildflower seed mixes containing species/varieties native to the particular region of the country in which they will be planted. Burpee continues to look for propagated sources of plants; the staff is hopeful that sporegrown ferns can soon be advertised in its catalogues.

(Reprinted from Native Plant Society of Texas <u>NEWS</u>, July/August, 1988)

Conservation Corner: I. Drought and Survival II. Observing the Goldenrod by Larry Magrath

This has been a long hot dry summer for most of us, but we could always go turn on a water faucet for some water and raid the refrigerator for a few ice cubes. After all, who wants to drink warm water on a hot day? Many of us tried to water our lawns and/ or gardens—or both. However, depending on where you live, the decision of what to water and how much to water may have been influenced by the cost of water and/or by mandatory water rationing. Even so, I'm sure that we all had a few plants that we just couldn't stand to see wilt, wither, shrivel and then die. Then of course, in a few places in Oklahoma we seem to have had a double problem—first, not enough water, then too much water all at once.

You ask, what is all of this discussion of drought leading up to? Well, have you considered the plight of the poor native plants (and introduced weeds, too, for that matter)? They didn't have anyone looking out for them and making sure they had at least a little bit of water when things got truly desperate. No, our poor native plants have had to go it completely on their own.

In a very real sense this is one of those years which determines the most fit to survive. Survival of the fittest—remember your high school/college biology courses and Charles Darwin? This has been a year of extremes—and it is those kinds of extremes that do select for the most fit. So it might be expected that certain plants which have been common in some areas may be gone next year, or present only in rather modest numbers. We must always remember what the function of a flower really is—it is the ay the plant has of making more plants. Well, actually making seeds that will make ore plants.

Fortunately, most of the native wild flowers in Oklahoma are pretty sturdy plants in the first place. Some of the perennials have responded by either not growing as large as they normally would, or in some other cases, just remaining dormant for the season—that is what our native ladies' tresses (Spiranthes species) do. Some of the late flowering plants such as the asters will be able to make up for most of their lost time if we have a reasonable amount of rain during the fall season. Cardinal flowers (Lobelia cardinalis) usually grow in wet places such as the edge of lakes, and oxbows of streams, so hopefully will give us good fall bloom.

Some of the annual wild flowers like the Indian Blanket Flower (Gaillardia pulchella) have been trying to bloom all summer long, but only at 3-6 inches tall instead of their more usual 8-15 inches. Many other annuals have responded in like fashion by producing "mini" versions of themselves.

REMINDER

Have you paid your 1988 dues for your membership in the Oklahoma Native Plant Society? The membership year runs from January through December.

To encourage new memberships, our Bylaws offer this inducement: If you join for the first time after September 1, 1988, your dues will be paid up for the entire year of 1989.

On another note, we are entering the season of the beautiful goldenrods (Solidago species). If you have never looked closely at a goldenrod before, please make time to do so this fall. We have many different species native to Oklahoma—some that only grow about a foot tall, others that can easily reach 6 or 7 feet in height. If you are interested in insects such as butterflies and bees you will find goldenrods to be a treasure trove of these little creatures. As one of my zoologist friends once observed, butterflies are really just flowers with wings!

A word about raising goldenrods in your flower garden. Most species are beautiful in flower, but before you transplant them into your garden, first look at how they are growing in nature. Some of them form nice little clumps and don't seem to spread very rapidly. Other species like Solidago gigantea have a bad habit of sending out underground runners and trying to take over the garden, then the yard, then the world! Okay, so I exaggerate somewhat! It does pay though to look carefully at how a plant you might want to move does propagate itself in its native surroundings. Those that tend to have aggressive habits should be moved only into places that you are willing to have them take over - I know. I speak from experience.

Another thing about goldenrods—they DO NOT cause hay fever. They just have the problem of being one of the most showy flowers in bloom at the time that the real culprits are spreading their pollen to the four winds. The really important fall blooming hay fever plants are ragweeds (several species of the genus Ambrosia), marsh ivy (Iva species), marijuana (Cannabis) and several fall flowering grasses. Remember, most hay fever causing plants are wind pollenated, not insect pollenated like the goldenrods or Spanish nettles.

A parting thought—fall is when the sunflower family really comes into its own—goldenrods, asters, Spanish nettles, sunflowers, and many others are in full bloom, and well worth the time to stop and observe them for all of their beauty.

RESOLUTION AGAINST CLEARCUTTING IN THE PUBLICLY OWNED NATIONAL FORESTS IN SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA

The Executive Committee of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society has approved the following resolution and will present it to the membership at the Annual Meeting on October 22/23:

WHEREAS, mixed pine-hardwood forests in southeastern Oklahoma are a major tourist attraction along scenic drives, and

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

WHEREAS, intact mixed pine-hardwood forests provide excellent ground cover that prevents soil erosion and resultant damage to aquatic life, and

WHEREAS, intact mixed pine-hardwood forests increase the useful life of various reservoirs by allowing the slow release of rainfall water into various area streams.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society requests that the United States Forest Service give the highest priority to a consideration of the potential negative impact over long periods of time that may occur as a result of present clearcutting practices in the publicly owned forests in Oklahoma and that such present practices be reduced and eventually eliminated.

LeFlore County Proposal

The U.S. House of Representatives on August 8 approved the bill by Rep. Wes Watkins to create the Winding Stair National Recreation and Wilderness Area in LeFlore County. The legislation is now before the Senate, which scheduled a hearing for September 7. This bill will designate 48,000 acres for wilderness and recreation and an additional 48,000 acres as national scenic and wildlife areas.

Plant Grant

The Forest Service has entered into a cost share agreement with the Arkansas Nature Conservancy and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission to intensively survey and inventory natural plant communities and record plant species on the Ouachita National Forest, which extends into southeastern Oklahoma.

The Arkansas Nature Conservancy has stated the Ouachita Mountains are one of the most unexplored botanical regions in the Central United States. Four plants have been discovered in the area that are new to science and eight plants of the Ouachitas are being considered for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered or threatened.

(Reprinted from The Web, Oklahoma's Natural Resource Education Newsletter, May, 1988.)

EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- September 12. Tulsa Junior College class on OKLAHOMA FALL WILDFLOWERS begins. Taught by <u>Dr. Paul Buck</u>. Six Monday evenings at 6:00 p. m. For information, call (918) 834-5071.
- September 14. Oklahoma Native Plant Society Board Meeting. 6:30 p. m., Steer Inn, Stroud.
- September 17. FIELD TRIP. Tour Tulsa's Stormwater Management area between Admiral and 21st on Mingo Creek. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at 17th Street and 94th East Avenue. Enter from Memorial or 89th East Avenue.
- September 17. ADIOS GYPSY MART. Tulsa Garden Center's big sale.
- September 23-25. Oklahoma Academy of Science Fall Meeting.
 Group Camp, Black MESA State Park. For registration information write to Box 4424, Tulsa, OK 74159-0424.
- October 6. FIELD TRIP. Help U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service hunt for Spiranthes orchids at Osage Hills State Park. Meet at park headquarters at 9:00 a. m. Bring a sack lunch. For information call Allen Ratzlaff at (918) 581-7458.
- October 22-23. OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING. Roman Nose State Park. Put this on your calendar NOW and mail your registration.
- October 28-30. Mid-South Native Plant Conference on USING NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE. We have received information about this interesting conference to be held at Memphis State University. For further information write to: Lichterman Nature Center, 5992 Quince Rd., Memphis, TN 38119.
- Amateur mycologists interested in impromptu mushroom forays on fall weekends call Nora Jones at (918) 749-5859.

Area Meetings

Oklahoma Native Plant Society members and guests in the Tulsa area met for the third time on August 18. The program featured the use of native plants around and in the buildings of the North American Complex at the Tulsa Zoo. Members of ONPS will also start this fall to help restore the Nature Trail at Gilcrease Museum in cooperation with the Tulsa Audubon Society.

Oklahoma City area members of ONPS and other interested persons scheduled their first meeting on September 10 at the Martin Park Nature Center in Oklahoma City. Included on the agenda: a field trip at 8:30 a.m., led by <u>Dr. Susan</u> Barber of Oklahoma City University. Madeline Tower made the arrangements for the field trip and the 10:30 a.m. meeting that followed.

Area meetings of ONPS are open to everyone, as are field trips and other activities, including the Annual Meeting.

It is hoped that ONPS members in other areas will sponsor meetings, field trips, and other projects. We will print information about them in $\underline{\text{The Gaillardia}}$ if we have the details in time.

Wildflower Day: May 20, 1989

The first annual observance of <u>State Wildflower Day</u> in Oklahoma will take place on May 20, 1989, providing an opportunity for state and local organizations, communities, companies, and individuals to call attention to the importance and beauty of Oklahoma's wildflowers.

A resolution commemorating the state wildflower and proclaiming the third Saturday of May of each year as "State Wildflower Day" was approved by the Legislature during its regular session this year. Authors of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103 were Senators Kelly Haney and Billie Floyd and Representative Rick M. Littlefield. Dr. Doyle McCoy assisted with the resolution.

The text reads:

"WHEREAS, the Indian Blanket, a gorgeous multi-colored member of the Gaillardia family, was named as the official state wildflower by legislation signed into law in 1986; and

"WHEREAS, in two years' time the popularity of the Indian Blanket has flourished with many groups and individuals committed to increasing the beauty of the Great

State of Oklahoma; and

"WHEREAS, in honor of our state wildflower and to promote its popularity as well as promoting various statewide beautification projects the Oklahoma State Legislature hereby proclaims the third Saturday of May of each year to be 'State Wildflower Day'; and

"WHEREAS, it is our hope that on this day every year, various community organizations dedicated to beautifying the State of Oklahoma will gather together to promote the Indian Blanket, our state wildflower, and other beautification projects in each community of our great state,

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 41ST

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

"THAT the third Saturday of May of each year be proclaimed as 'State Wildflower Day'."

POSTERS

A new full-color poster, "Oklahoma's Natural Symbols," is now available from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. It depicts our official state symbols with a narrative about each on the back, and includes a description of programs and services available from the department. The 17×22 -inch poster can be picked up for \$1.00 at the department headquarters or is available by mail for \$3.00. The mailing address is: ODWC, 1801 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

The following posters, published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service, are also available. For information, contact Oklahoma Forest Division, 2800 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. The posters' identification numbers are:

87-CFFP-14 Wildflowers 84-CFFP-17 Leaves 87-CFFP-17 Stately Trees 85-CFFP-15 Butterflies 87-CFFP-20 Tracks 85-CFFP-17 Careful with the Future 87-CFFP-21 Lizards (animal with young) 87-NSF-FFPCP-23 Forest Foods 86-CFFP-18 Fish 88-NASF-FFPCP-20 Insects 87-CFFP-9 Snakes (No number) Birds 87-CFFP-13 Forest Products Gummi Bears 87-CFFP-7 Smokey's Friends

Yellow Eyes—Some Notes on our Common Sunflower by Nora Jones

For years we've been eating all manner of sprouts—alfalfa, adzuki, even lentil—but until last week had never seen a salad festooned with the sunflower's dark green, thumbnail-sized sprouts. Only a few added dash to the chicken and mango dish. Later we found a flat of the sunny seedlings in a whole foods market, right next to the mung beans.

Sunflower seeds—or more properly, achenes—were a staple food of native Americans long before Austin chefs discovered they could be served sprouted. Women planted sunflower seeds in hills first thing in the spring, harvested the heads in late summer when the phylaries turned yellow, then threshed out the seeds after a few days drying. Once hulled, the meats were eaten raw or roasted, and were made into pudding, bread and gravy. Warriors carried sunflower meal cakes into battle for sustenance, and Lewis and Clark reported enjoying similar fare on their expedition. Petals yielded a yellow dye, and the roots were used medicinally.



Native Americans no doubt helped to spread the plant throughout North America. Mile after mile of the yellow beauties line State Highway 69 between Stringtown and Kiowa. But you needn't leave town to see their brilliant flowers since every unmowed drainage ditch seems to sport a few. How did the plants get there? The seeds are heavy, and, if not devoured on the plant by cardinals and other birds, ripen and drop directly beneath the plant. The seeds might be blown a little further

down the pike by high speed traffic, but the sunflower's dispersal mechanism is by no means as efficient as the dandelion's, that other common composite.

In the early part of this century, our native plant traveled overseas and returned as the Mammoth Russian, with a single trophy-sized flower head per plant instead of the many smaller ones. The large-seeded cultivars are an important source of cooking oil. In earlier times, native Americans are said to have increased the size of the meats by 1,000 times by repeated selection of the larger heads.

Before flowering, the plants are phototropic, tracing the sun's east-to-west path across the sky. Once they flower though, the leaves stop moving and the heads usually end up facing east. Consider this when you sow them, or you may only see the back-side of this easy-to-grow and very rewarding native plant.

Book Note----By Nora Jones

Reading the Landscape of America by May Theilgaard Watts, 1975, MacMillan.

The original book is over 30 years old; the revision, more than ten. But Watts' entertaining style and cogent botanizing make Reading the Landscape of America required reading for amateur naturalists. During the 1950's Ms. Watts wrote about her travels across America by car, plane, canoe and train to bogs, dunes, mountains and pygmy forests. In the 1970's she revisited many of the same areas and marked the changes.

The essay on the tallgrass prairie is especially relevant to those of us wanting to save a bit of that endangered ecosystem. Watts reported on the Illinois prairie, where native plants only flourished in fence rows and neglected church yards, their former ranges usurped by aliens introduced on purpose or by accident.

In "Reading the Headlines Only," her account of a car trip from Chicago to Atlantic City, she decried the barren aspect of the interstate highway system. The situation could be remedied simply by doing nothing and allowing native plants to return to what Watts called a "strip of reality"---a "nationwide strip, changing from east to west...from pitch pine...to tallgrass prairie...to sagebrush...to mountain evergreens...to redwoods..." What a wonderful idea.

Watts' drawings are as charming as her writing. The book is still in print, and may be available at your library.

News and Comments from the President

As we approach the end of our second year as an organization I am happy to report that we have more than 200 memberships, many of them for families. This summer we received our non-profit letter from the Internal Revenue Service and now have a non-profit bulk mailing permit. The first two years have been busy. We have had some wonderful meetings and field trips and there are lots of exciting opportunities for the future.

Oklahoma is a great place to live. I hope we can make more people aware of the natural treasures this state has, so that they will see the need to preserve and protect them.

I hope you will plan to attend our second annual meeting in October. Roman Nose is a beautiful park and the weather should be great. We are planning some very interesting sessions. You can participate by bringing displays, slides, seeds to swap, and questions to ask.

I would like to see more members contributing to this newsletter, more organizations requesting speakers or program materials, and the encouragement of the production of Oklahoma-grown wildflower seeds and native trees and shrubs. I am especially excited about the state's first Wildflower Day. Our organization should be able to offer ideas and support to cities, schools and organizations for celebrations next May.

This issue of The Gaillardia is another one done by committee. We really miss Luann as editor. The new drawing on the masthead is by Tulsa artist Kay Yeandle. Marilyn Bell set the headlines and several of the articles. Nora Jones, our secretary, has kept the mailing list on her computer. Also behind the scenes are the volunteers who fold, stick, and stamp. Thanks, everyone.

As I approach the end of my term as president, I want to show my thanks for all the wonderful participation from officers, board members, and chairmen. I have met so many great people through this society, and have learned how much there is yet to learn. Thanks.

Betty Kemm (918) 742-4351

Dr. Peter Ravens, Missouri Botanical Garden, projects a worldwide loss of 750,000 species of plants and animals within the next few decades. He bases this estimate on a theory of island biogeography which estimates that a decrease of an area to one-tenth its original size will result in the loss of approximately half its species. (From Arbor Day, March, 1988.) We deplore the loss of even one species. Even from an economic standpoint we cannot afford to lose species. No one knows the potential use of any plant or animal. Two examples are:

An article in the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society newsletter reports on a new use for the Bloodroot, Sanguinaria canadensis. Sanguinarine, an extract, may be the most important discovery for dental care since fluoride. It interferes with bacteria's ability to convert carbohydrates into plaque and blocks the enzymes which destroy gum tissue. It is already being used in at least one toothpaste and mouthwash. Also from Arbor Day: The Pacific Yew, once considered a valueless understory tree, is considered one of the most promising sources of a cancer cell-destroying chemical, because its bark produces "taxol," which is being tested.

Be sure to fill in and return this advance registration form for the ONPS Annual Meeting right away. Room reservations should be made at Roman Nose State Park Lodge by calling 405-623-7281 or toll-free 800-522-8565.

OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM 1988 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday and Sunday, October 22-23, Roman Nose State Park

Name:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Telephone:			
The follow	ing will also attend	d:	
. Name:		Name:	
		Name:	
	REGISTRATION: \$12	2.50 per person (including b	anquet)
(Note: Ma have not October 2	paid will be billed	o the Oklahoma Native Plant after the meeting if they henclosed: \$	Society. "No-shows" whave not cancelled by
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CLASSIFIEDS

FREE Sawtooth Primrose plants. Irene Harshman 2152 S. Florence Place, Tulsa. (918) 749-6099

WANTED: Salable items and plants for ADIOS GYPSY MART, Tulsa Garden Center sale on Saturday, September 17. Donate items on September 12, 13, 14 at 2435 South Peoria, Tulsa.

WANTED: Native prairie plants and seed. Oxley Nature benter, Mohawk Park, Tulsa.

SEED LIST: Send for 1989 Wildflower Seed list. Enclose self-addressed business-size envelope with 45 cents postage to: New England Wild Flower Society, Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA 01701

Oklahoma Native Plant Society c/o Tulsa Garden Center 2435 South Peoria Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114 WANTED: Names of schools and communities with outdoor classrooms. Send information to:
 Luann Sewell Waters
 Project WILD
 Okla. Dept. of Wildlife Conservation 1801 North Lincoln
 Oklahoma City, OK 73105

FOR SALE: 10 gallons home-grown Gaillardia seed, by the pound or the cup. Call Edie Cappa in Wellston (405) 356-4021.

Give to the Anne Long Memorial Fund as a memorial to a friend or family member. Send your check to the ONPS.

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

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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!