



# 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 40, Number 1  
Spring 2025**

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Sideoats  
Grama Grass,  
*Bouteloua  
curtipendula.*  
  
Photo by  
Lynn Michael

### Upcoming Events/Activities

(check the ONPS website or Facebook for more details)

- Feb 21 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below)**
  - Mar 3 - NE Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and program at 7 pm, Tulsa Garden Center.**
  - Mar 6 - Central Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and 7 pm program at OCU Dawson-Loeffler Building**
  - Mar 21 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below)**
  - Mar 29 - Spring Field Trip Season starts. Watch for details at [OKnativeplants.org](http://OKnativeplants.org) and in the spring newsletter and chapter news on page 4.**
  - Apr 10 - Central Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and 7 pm program at OCU Dawson-Loeffler Building**
  - Apr 12 - Save the Date. Norman STASH event. ONPN**
  - Apr 18 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below)**
  - May 1 - Central Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and 7 pm program at OCU Dawson-Loeffler Building**
  - May 2-3 - Wonders of Wildflowers (see insert).**
  - May 5 - NE Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and program at 7 pm, Tulsa Garden Center.**
  - May 16 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below)**
  - May 24 - T.O.N.Y. See page 5 for details.**
  - Jun 7 - Central Chapter Field trip (see page 4).**
  - Jun 20 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below)**
  - July 12 - Central Chapter Field trip (see page 4).**
- 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, Helmerich Building, 2435 S Peoria Ave, Tulsa**
- Fabulous Wildflower Fridays, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

*Gaillardia*

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President	Shalini Chitturi
Vice-president	Juliette Hulen
Secretary	Debbie Drinko
Treasurer	Mary Korthase
Past-President	Patrick Bell

## Directors at Large:

2025: Nancy Truelove and Kathy Kuhns-Marino  
2026: Andrea Schultz-Farriester & Joe Roberts  
2027: Donna Horton and Jamie Rucker

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Theresa Turner	Northeast
Micah Friedman	Central

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Publicity and Merchandise	Barbara Klein
Betty Kemm Award	Sue Amstutz
Awards	Constance Murray
Mailings/Printings	Sandy Graue
Membership	Sandy Graue
Native Plant Record	Gloria Caddell
Webmaster	Chris Schafer
<i>Gaillardia</i> Editor	Lynn Michael
Color Oklahoma	Monica Bartling
OK Native Plant Network	Marilyn Stewart

Conservation Committee and statewide Tulsa Garden  
Center Liaison positions retired.

ONPS website:

[www.oknativeplants.org](http://www.oknativeplants.org)

ONPS email:

[ONPSinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ONPSinfo@gmail.com)

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**President's Message**

By Shalini Chitturi, ONPS President

How much we crave....

As fall was slowly transcending into winter, I noticed a slight hint of fall colors in my backyard. The yellows and the rusted red tones from the happily growing sycamores, bald cypress and Osage oranges highlighted the chilly evenings.

The festivities of Thanksgiving and Christmas filled my days with special moments with friends, as we were getting ready for the India trip. After reaching India and recovering from jet lag, we became busy visiting and hanging out with our families. After a few days, I noticed that I was missing something and I felt restless. I couldn't tell what it was. Amongst the posh homes and the surrounding high rise views, my heart craved something. I didn't realize what it was, until I opened the balcony door one morning. The few birds and their chatter soothed my heart. I felt at ease. The defaulted landscape tree, assigned for each house, created a small haven for these birds and butterflies. I was not even sure if they were native trees, but I was happy to have that little bit of respite from the surrounding concrete buildings!

It's interesting how things work out when your mind seeks something in it's purest form. We received a suggestion about a park called "Forest Trek" closer to our community. Not expecting much of it, Ram and I went to check it out. The park was well organized, with paved paths and well marked directions. Initially it was quite a typical park with kids play area, some curated gardens, small ponds, playful objects, etc. But as we kept walking, we found ourselves in a vast arena, surrounded by huge native trees and their dappled canopies. The area was filled with all kinds of bird songs, and some butterflies that were floating across. I could not have been more happy.

We came across an area, designated to propagate native tree samplings. We crossed a couple of natural ponds that were left unaltered. A few bird enthusiasts were quietly observing birds through their binoculars. It was like a secret hideout, amongst the tall apartment complexes. Before we realized, we completed 3 miles just exploring one side of the park.

(President's Message continued on page 3)



(President’s Message continued from page 2)

We went back to Forest Trek every day after that. We walked on many unpaved paths beside open pastures. We also ended up hiking decent sized hills, ramping up our heart rates. From the top of these hills, one realizes its vastness. I couldn’t stop admiring the commendable efforts of the local Forest Reserve, in protecting this fragile native habitat, right in the middle of the powerful real estate empires.

In our walks, we learnt about many native giant trees, and pollinator friendly plants buzzing with butterflies and huge bumble bees. The Merlin bird app helped us identify some of the stunning local birds. We compared our walks to the ones in Ruby Grant Park in Norman and ONPS field trips! My heart was happy to savor these gifted walks, even in India.



As I learnt about how a dumping yard was changed to this amazing green habitat of Forest Trek right in the center of a bustling urban city, I realized the importance of protecting nature, wherever we are—whether it is in India or in Oklahoma. I also felt a sense of pride in how we, as a team of ONPS, constantly steer our goals in doing something similar right here, in protecting and propagating our own bio habitats, in our Oklahoma urban backyards as well.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Color Oklahoma Donations**

11/22/2024 Twentieth Century Club  
Color Oklahoma Donations

**Contributions to General Fund**

12/26/2024 Kim & Jymmie Stanton  
12/26/2024 Anonymous  
12/31/2024 Andrew Barton -  
In honor of Darah Aldridge  
12/31/2024 Robin Hutchings



Spring Beauty,  
*Claytonia virginica* is one of the first signs of spring for many. Photo by Lynn Michael  
Look for these in March.

**Welcome New Members**

Added 11/8/2024 thru 2/5/2025

- Mike, Sharon, Jarin & Turner Burnett
- Patti & Hank Benson
- Rick Wicker
- Cheyenne Morgan & John Wagle
- Laura Hood
- Anne Tarbel & Chuck Harrington
- Carla Goble
- John Frees
- Libby Galvin
- Emilea Galvin
- Jennifer Galvin
- Sarah Terry
- David Noble
- Dylan Bergey & Emily Davis
- Cailyn Prather
- Natasha Cottrell
- Will Harges & Family
- Kimberly Pryor

**Life Memberships**

Tiane Christy

## CENTRAL CHAPTER EVENTS WINTER - SPRING - SUMMER 2025

**March 6** Hear from the Urban Conservation and Resource Program team (sponsored by the Oklahoma County Conservation District) about their current projects supporting urban farmers, connecting with grassroots conservation organizations, and providing native plant seeds to the OKC community.

**April 10** Oklahoma artist, Katherine Hair Eagle, will present her work which utilizes native plants as inspiration, imagery, and even medium. From paintings and prints to site specific installations, her artwork is grounded in the native flora and fauna that she grew up with.

**May 1** Dr. Emily Geest, conservation scientist at the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden, will present about grassland butterfly conservation in prairies, gardens, and zoos. Dr. Geest will also speak about the Milkweed Headstart Lab and other ongoing conservation projects at the OKC Zoo.

**May 24** Tour Oklahoma Native Yards (TONY) & Plant Sale:

A tour of NW OKC yards and vendors showcasing Oklahoma native plants. Sign up at: [OKNativeplants.org](http://OKNativeplants.org). 9am-2pm.

**June 7** Plant Walk: Oklahoma River Botany

Join us for a plant walk along the Oklahoma River near downtown OKC. We will meet at 8:45 am at Culture Coffee, 1029 NE 6th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73117. At 9 am, we will caravan to the river to botanize!

**July 12** Plant Walk: Plants of Arcadia Lake

We will meet at 9:00 am at the Outdoor Education and Training Center, 7401-8489 E 33rd St, Edmond, OK 73013 (located on the south side of Arcadia Lake).

**Indoor events:** Start at 7 pm

**Location:** Oklahoma City University, 2501 N Blackwelder Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73106 I Room 208 in the Dawson-Loeffler Science Center (near NW 27th St and N Indiana Ave).

**Outdoor events:** Bring water and hiking clothes

**Info and updates:** [OKNativePlants.org](http://OKNativePlants.org)

### Northeast Chapter Update

*Theresa Turner, Northeast Chapter Chair*

I am excited to announce that we will have speakers from Okies for Monarchs, Timber Bluff, Save Our Streams, and more this year! ONPS is doing more outreach this year and we need volunteers. Also, we are asking our members with any saved seeds (marked with botanical and common names) and plants to donate them to add to our booths. If anyone would like to volunteer to sort the seeds, label the packets or plants, or be an information angel, please contact me directly at [nativeplantlove@gmail.com](mailto:nativeplantlove@gmail.com). We also need donations of new, empty seed packets, potting soil, and nursery pots.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Clare and Buddy Miller for hosting our refreshments for many, many years. Sadly, they can no longer host refreshments so we are needing a new member to host our refreshments.

In addition, watch for ONPS informational booths at spring events and festivals like Tulsa Garden Center's SpringFest, April 11th and 12th. Mar 29 field trip to Lucky Springs, register at [jennmichael54@gmail.com](mailto:jennmichael54@gmail.com) for map and information. Additional Field trips will be posted on the website.



### Messages

*“Can you listen...  
to her vital lullabies,  
as she fuels the slumbering lattices  
under the crunchy icicles?”*

*Written by Shalini on 2/24/22*



# T.O.N.Y. TOUR OKC NATIVE YARDS TOUR

**MAY 24 2025  
9AM - 3PM**



The Oklahoma Native Plant Society presents the Tour of OKC Native Yards (T.O.N.Y.) and Plant Sale

The T.O.N.Y. Tour includes 5 residential landscapes in NW OKC that showcase and encourage the use of local native plants. Nurseries will be at each home, and the central location at Rollingwood Park will include additional vendors, bathrooms and food trucks.

Get inspired to incorporate the spectrum of native plants you see and shop the vendors selling these hard to find species!

Tickets and additional information available at

[oknativeplants.org](http://oknativeplants.org)

Advance tickets are \$8 or \$10 the day of the event



## The Shawnee Wildflower Arc

By Becky Emerson Carlberg

In the spring of 2020, the Wildflower Arc, outside the Japanese Garden, was planted in 114 milkweeds of three different species: Orange Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*) and Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*). The plants were from Monarch Watch in Lawrence Kansas and are participants in the Monarch Restoration Habitat program.

Shovels and the Pro Plugger lawn tool were used to dig in the less than hospitable nutrient poor soil where an airport used to exist. Groups of three milkweeds of the same species were planted three feet apart throughout the Arc area. Milkweeds were also installed in the Deep Fork Prairie Restoration site. Both native plant gardens are part of the Plant Restoration and Garden Renovation Project (Coordinates 35.349745, -96.936194). The milkweeds were interspersed with the native grasses and wildflowers, mulched and watered. Butterfly milkweed works in semi-dry environments. The shy Whorled blends in with the grasses and is one of the last milkweeds to lose its leaves. Green antelope horn, very common from Kansas to Texas, emerges early in spring. This robust milkweed is somewhat shorter, with strong stems and large blooms.



It's been a fight. Extreme temperatures, lengthy droughts and isolated bouts of heavy rains have plagued the area. The milkweeds have struggled to maintain their toehold in the native plant gardens. Last autumn the seeds of Tall Thistle (*Cirsium altissimum*), Sand/Clasping Milkweed (*Asclepias amplexicaulis*), Honeyvine milkweed (*Cynanchum laeve*), Ironweed (*Vernonia sp*) and Gaura (*Gaura sp*) all were thrown to the wind over the Arc. Not the Osage Orange fruits (*Maclura pomifera*). They had begun to disintegrate on my front porch. No longer a beautiful light green, the rough-textured balls the size of grapefruits had turned a deep sepia color with orange tones and a very distinctive resinous odor. Thick, gummy masses of Osage orange tissue were plopped or scraped off the shovel along the perimeter of the Arc. High winds but no rain followed the seeding episode. The lighter native plant seeds may well have germinated in Kansas,

but not the Osage Oranges. This spring was miserable, to say the least. From March to the end of April little rain fell, then three inches. May was peppered with small amounts. Early June over four inches and nothing until over five inches in July. August (1.80"), Sept (2.11") and October (0.64") were brutal, with high winds and temperatures. There are still native plants in the gardens. The Maximilian sunflowers rose to the occasion in the Deep Fork Prairie. Not sure about many of the milkweeds.

Native prairie plants may take years to become well-established, but during that time they contribute to the natural landscape tapestry. As autumn transitions into winter, plants, like people in slumber, look a bit rough, unkempt and tatty, but during the winter they provide homes for larvae, eggs, insects and wildlife protection. Many of those gorgeous butterflies you see in spring overwintered in leaves, stems and other parts of native plants left to their own devices. Many plants simply blanketed the soil, allowing the earth to rest and naturally rejuvenate. Many native plants are lost to fastidious lawn maintenance, but the general public is catching on to the fact that native plants are much more adaptable to adverse weather conditions and come with benefits. Their deeper roots cut maintenance costs and water usage. The plants provide a stunning and rugged beauty, offer nutrition and protection to native fauna. Most hybrid plants just don't attract the native pollinators.

Native plants want to come home to all those places where they used to grow! It doesn't matter how large or small, create a native garden this spring. Fingers crossed the wildflowers come alive in the Wildflower Arc!



## ONPN Plants for the Year

by Marilyn Stewart, Wild Things Nursery

Each year, ONPN members vote on a selection of plants which will be highlighted by growers in the network and sold with an **ONPN plant tag**. This year, the plants chosen include: Sideoats Grama Grass, *Bouteloua curtipendula*; Whorled Milkweed, *Asclepias verticillata*; Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*; Blue Sage, *Salvia azurea*; and Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*. Two of those spring flowering plants with full descriptions are highlighted here.

### Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*

In the spring, some trees start blooming white and when that happens my blood pressure begins to rise because way too many of them are the dreaded, overused, invasive, stinky, horrid Callery (aka Bradford) Pear. It seems like every neighborhood—and sadly many fields—are overrun with them. This is too bad, because Oklahoma has several spring blooming trees that not only feed a multitude of pollinators but also provide fruit for wildlife and humans.

The Oklahoma Native Plant Network has chosen one of these native spring bloomers as a plant to highlight and promote for 2025; Common Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*. It is native to most states east of Oklahoma and into Canada. While most of the east coast refers to this tree as Shadbush, the name used around our area is Sarvis tree or Downy Serviceberry.



Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea* photos by Lynn Michael



It's a lovely little multi-trunked tree found in the eastern third of Oklahoma, tops out at around 30 feet, has a grayish bark, and ovate leaves that will often turn a nice yellow or red in the fall. The blooms, unlike Callery Pear, appear before the leaves emerge, have slender petals and are clustered at the terminal end of branches. It bears a small pome fruit—it's a member of the Rosaceae family—that starts out a soft red and then ripens to a deep purple. It's usually found on the edge of woods, but I have seen it growing in full sun. It prefers to be in well-drained soil and not too wet.

*Amelanchier* are considered a keystone genus. The blooms provide nectar for an incredible number of pollinators, shelter for wildlife, and in my yard Bluebirds beat me to the fruit just about every time. If you can taste some of the fruit you'll find it is sweet with a taste of blueberries and was used by indigenous people in making a dried fruit leather. Viceroy and Red Spotted butterflies use it as a larval host plant as well as many species of moths. The wood is quite hard and has been used to make handles for tools.

So do a favor for your neighborhood, wildlife, and those of us who seethe when spotting Callery Pears - plant a Serviceberry.



## Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*

Zooming down the highway, it can be pretty hard to identify flowers down to the species. But not so with Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*. We have six *Echinacea* species native to Oklahoma, but I've always admired this one for the long, narrow, lavender to white petals that fall elegantly from the deep red bristly cone. Those petals are so distinctive that none of the other species can be confused with this one. The Oklahoma Native Plant Network has previously chosen one of our other native *Echinacea* (*Echinacea purpurea*) to highlight and this year is the time for this underappreciated one to shine.

All our native *Echinacea* are tough plants but of them all, *E. pallida* may be the toughest. It is found in about half of Oklahoma counties, prefers the full sun of prairies and hillsides, and is very drought tolerant. The bloom stalk is usually around 3 feet tall and very sturdy, leaves are coarse and mainly basal.



Pale purple coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*, photos by Lynn Michael.



It works well in a flower garden and is lovely mixed in with one of our native grasses. Transplanting an established plant is rarely successful because of the deep taproot but is easily propagated from seed.

It blooms once in the late spring or early summer and is visited by pollinators of all sorts, especially butterflies and native bees. It is a larval host plant for the Silvery Checkerspot butterfly and the Wavy-lined Emerald moth. The seedhead turns a rich brown-black and feeds birds through the summer and into late fall and winter. Several years ago in Oklahoma there was a craze where people were digging these up and selling the roots to entrepreneurs who used them to make medicine and as a



result many once thick fields were decimated. Given time, many of those fields at least partially recovered. There is a long history of medicinal uses for this plant by indigenous peoples to treat everything from snakebites to toothaches to colds. Even though I don't use the plant in a medicinal way, I appreciate the connection this plant gives me with the ecosystem and those who lived here in the past. More information is available in Kelly Kindscher's book, [Medicinal Plants of the Prairie](#).





## Color Oklahoma Update

*Article and Photos by Monica Bartling,  
Color Oklahoma Chair*

Color Oklahoma had a busy 2024 and finally wrapped up our fall wildflower plantings this past week in Cheyenne, Oklahoma. The Cheyenne planting ended a robust planting season with 10 sites and more than 517 lbs. of seeds planted with matching grants from Color Oklahoma and an additional 60 pounds of seeds donated by Color Oklahoma Board Member, Craig Williams.

Wildflower planting sites for 2024-2025 supported by Color Oklahoma were US-81 and US-70 in Waurika; US-81 in Terral at the Red River Bridge; SH-79 in Waurika at the Red River Bridge; North side of the I-40 Access Road and the I-40

West on-ramp in Okemah; SH-47 West of Cheyenne; SH-20 east of Pryor; US-81 North of Plato Road in Duncan; Intersection of SH-17 and US-81 in Rush Springs and SH-99 South of Stroud in front of the Sac & Fox Nation. You also funded plantings at a Bristow park and on the Creek Turnpike. Pictures and stories of all the plantings are posted to the [coloroklahoma.com](http://coloroklahoma.com) website under the CO Updates Tab. We had at least one Color Oklahoma Board Member at each planting. Three Board members attended the Pryor planting. Plantings have been featured in news stories in newspapers in Waurika, Okemah, Rush Springs, Chickasha, Duncan, and Pryor as well as features on the Color Oklahoma website.

This January we added a “Wildflower of the Day” post on the Color Oklahoma Facebook and Instagram pages. Please follow us on both those sites if you use them. We boosted a post and targeted people across the state with an interest in the environment on Facebook and added 300 followers in 2 days. We are experimenting with boosting posts on Instagram as well as adding blog posts on that platform to boost our Search Engine Optimization (SEO). Both Facebook and Instagram posts link back to the Color Oklahoma website and our hits and opens on that page have increased, as well. Our goal is to boost brand awareness and get more license plates on the roadways which increases our revenue.

Color Oklahoma works with ODOT Divisions 3, 5, 7, and 8 and have an application in hand for 2025 from Division 2. Our 2024 total seed investment was \$17,970.25 with \$4,574 coming from applicant matches, \$5,000 donated by CO Board Member, Pearl Garrison and \$8,396.25 in Color Oklahoma funds.

We have a vacancy on our board with the resignation of Dennis Martin. Dennis and his deep experience with weed management and knowledge of best native planting practices will be missed.



We are investing in more of the larger highway signs with the Color Oklahoma Gaillardia flower and have more riders coming that promote our local sponsors. We look forward to 2025 and have set our meeting dates for the year. Meeting dates for 2025 are posted on [coloroklahoma.com](http://coloroklahoma.com). Meeting agendas are posted no later than 48 business hours from the meeting day and time. We hope you “Sow Some Wild Seeds” in 2025!

Photos from Monica Bartling: Duncan Planting just south of the OK-7 and US Hwy 81 Intersections north of Duncan. Representatives of Duncan Philomathic Club, ODOT and Color Oklahoma. Late December planting.

## MEET THE MEMBERS: Debbie Drinko

*By Fran Stallings, Historian*

How did a Midwestern girl end up in Oklahoma? Debbie Drinko was born and raised in northern Illinois until age 13, when her dad moved the family of six to a cattle farm in the flatlands of Indiana. Always chasing the American dream, her father relocated the family again to a cattle farm in the Appalachian foothills of Ohio. There she met her future husband and in 1976 they moved to the plains of Nebraska for a year before returning to Ohio where they managed the family's purebred Charolais ranch for 20 years. As their 3 children entered their teen years, Debbie landed her dream job working for the National Reining Horse Association, located in Coshocton, Ohio. When the association announced their relocation to Oklahoma in 1998, she agreed to make the big move with them. It was a complete restart after her divorce, moving 1100 miles away with her youngest daughter, two horses, two dogs, two goats and a cat, it was "like entering the witness protection program." But Oklahoma "felt like home" from the first day she set foot here.



Growing up on farms and ranches, Debbie was always interested in nature and plants, perhaps inspired by a grandmother who was an amateur plant photographer. When Debbie's kids were in Ohio schools they did plant identification (trillium, Dutchman's britches) so she had hiked the hills of Ohio in search of specimens. In 2018, stressing about her mare that was due to have a foal, as she was brush-hogging yet again, she half-jokingly told herself "I should just raise bees and butterflies, it would be a lot less stressful." The figurative seed was planted. September 2018 she took her granddaughter to see the "Flight Of The Butterflies" movie on the big screen at Myriad gardens. She got some seeds from the ONPS booth. Now that figurative seed was beginning to sprout! She sold all but 2 horses and took them off one pasture that she designated as her "Butterfly Pasture". The following spring was wet and beautiful. After 17 years of too many horses on her 9 acres, overgrazing and over-mowing, the native plants had not given up!!

She found the ONPS' Facebook page and posted frequently for identification help. She knew she had some milkweed, as she had mowed around a "few" pretty orange butterfly weeds for all those years. She flagged 20 milkweed plants and discovered that she had several species. Ultimately, she had marked 700 milkweed plants on the whole property! She began flagging other plants of interest with different colored flags, waiting until they bloomed so she could post them on the ONPS Facebook page for ID help. Now she has identified many wildflowers and grasses in her pastures.

The 2019 ONPS annual meeting at Quartz Mountain was her first in-person meeting and she knew she found "her people". She began attending Central Chapter meetings and as many ONPS outings as possible. And when she was asked to serve as secretary of ONPS, she agreed. Her experience serving as the liaison for multiple committees within the National Reining Horse Association for 11 years had prepared her for the role.

She is still trying to figure out the best mowing protocol, beyond paths to walk through. It's "my piece of prairie. My little heaven." Stressful work days are forgotten when she takes a "prairie booze cruise," walking the paths through her pastures, looking for nature's treasures and witnessing the stunning Oklahoma sunsets. She doesn't mow in autumn because the tall grass holds the snow, and provides shelter and seeds for birds. It also hides the coyotes that she used to see and the rabbit population has increased due to the cover of the grasses. Also armadillos. And the birds... meadowlarks, bluebirds, scissor tail flycatchers, roadrunners, wild turkeys and hawks all find food and shelter there. Always learning and trying new practices, she'll try mowing in spring to keep the grasses from choking out the milkweeds. She is considering a control burn, but because of neighbors' houses, she isn't sure that is an option. "I guess I need a couple of bison." She turns down offers to buy and develop her land. "I'm just trying to do my part to be the best steward of my little piece of the prairie while I'm here."

She has few trees: two lacebark elms, a hackberry, two big cottonwoods, and a hickory sapling. Red cedars are cut back to a few in the fence. Sumac, persimmons and sand plums are spreading from the back fence line. Blackberries are cut back, but Virginia creeper is left on the house because its berries feed birds. Passion flower vine, which she planted for privacy around her outdoor solar shower, hosts fritillary caterpillars.

She remains active in the horse industry and is owner of Double D Equine Services, providing office support for horse ranches, breeders, and owners from her home office. The little free time she has, she fills with camping, hiking, and time with family and friends. It has been an amazing journey!



**For joining or renewing use this form**

Fill out this form or supply the same information. Make checks payable to Oklahoma Native Plant Society and mail to: Oklahoma Native Plant Society, PO Box 14274, Tulsa, OK 74159.

Membership is for Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 of current year and dues include subscription to *Gaillardia*.

(Please Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER (All dues are tax deductible)

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Work: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (Please don't list my phone in the directory: \_\_\_\_)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Levels:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$20)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$25)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Life Individual (\$300)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family Individual (\$350)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Student (\$10) (free with faculty sponsor)

Chapter affiliation:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Central (OKC area)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Northeast (Tulsa area)  
 You may sign up for both chapters if you like, to receive field trip and meeting notices from each chapter.

Need more details email: [ONPSinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ONPSinfo@gmail.com)

ONPS *Gaillardia* newsletter delivery options:  
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Native Plant Record***



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<https://ojs.library.okstate.edu/osu/index.php/ONPR/issue/view/924>

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Spring 2025 Issue  
2025 Dues are past due.

COPY AND ART  
DEADLINE  
FOR THE NEXT  
ISSUE IS May 5, 2025



Blue Sage, *Salvia azurea*, Photo by Lynn Michael.

ONPN Plants of the Year  
(see Page 7)  
Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*,  
Photo by Ron & Linda Tyrl. Check out the  
Color Oklahoma Facebook page for this photo  
and others as Plant of the Day selections.



Whorled Milkweed, *Asclepias verticillata*, Photo by Lynn Michael.





# Oklahoma Native Plant Society Wonders of Wildflowers

May 2 - 4, 2025

University of Central Oklahoma's Selman Living Lab

UCO's Selman Living Lab is located in the Cimarron Gypsum Hills of Northwestern Oklahoma. It is a biological field station composed of a 320-acre natural area of mixed-grass prairie with gypsum outcrops, riparian areas, cave entrances, and sandsage grassland. **Weather permitting, we will be eating meals outside at the facilities site. Bring lawn chairs if possible.**

## Friday, May 2nd

4:00 - 7:00 PM Social - Time  
Dinner on your own

7:00 PM - 12:00 AM Gypsum Hills flora slide  
show - Gloria Caddell  
Astronomy activities -  
*Starcreek Astronomical  
Society*

## Saturday May 3rd

7:00 - 8:00 AM Breakfast

8:30 - 11:30 AM SLL Natural Area Field  
Trip

12:00 - 1:30 PM Box Lunch

2:00 - 5:00 PM Alabaster Caverns State  
Park Field Trip (cave  
tour adults \$10, seniors \$8)

5:00 - 6:30 PM Dinner

6:30 - 9:00 PM 6:30-9:00pm TBD.  
Socializing, perhaps  
evening activity.

## Sunday May 4th

7:30 - 8:30 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM ONPS Board Meeting

### Lodging Options :

**1. Camp at the SLL facilities site for free.** You will need to bring a sleeping bag and pillow, towels, etc. You can also camp at the SLL if you wish. **If you wish to stay at the SLL, please email Joe Roberts at [Joeroberts13@cox.net](mailto:Joeroberts13@cox.net) as early as possible. Reservations for accommodations there will be first come-first served.**

**2. Bunk at the SLL Bunkhouses.** The two bunkhouses are segregated male/female (university policy), and each sleeps 8 people. First come first serve. You must email Joe at [joeroberts13@cox.net](mailto:joeroberts13@cox.net) if you wish to reserve a bunk space.

**3. Camp at Alabaster Caverns State Park,** located about 8 miles from the SLL. Book a campsite through their website on [Travelok.com](http://Travelok.com) or call (580) 254-6085.

**4. The Stables Lodge** is a very nice large (with just a few rooms) at the entrance to Alabaster Cavern State Park. Check availability by calling (580) 621-3491.

**5. Woodward,** about 30 miles from the SLL, has many motels, including: Northwest inn, Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Days Inn, La Quinta, Candlewood Suites.

Everyone is encouraged to read Gloria Caddell's article about the Gypsum Hills vegetation in the Spring 2020 Gaillardia <https://oknativeplants.org/gaillardia> More information and a plant list at the end of the article is available here: <https://ojs.library.okstate.edu/osu/index.php/ONPR/article/view/734>

**Contact Person:** If you have a questions about the meeting, contact Joe Roberts at [joeroberts13@cox.net](mailto:joeroberts13@cox.net) or (405)820-6851.

**Directions:** The SLL is located in Woodward County, southwest of Freedom and west of Alabaster Caverns State Park. On highway 50, go one (1) mile north of the entrance to Alabaster Caverns State Park. Turn left (west) on Road EW - this is a paved road. Proceed along this road about 6 miles (be very careful, the road turns into a gypsum-covered road with some potholes.) You will cross a concrete bridge and go up a hill on which the road bends to the south and then back to the west. At the top of the hill, in the distance, you will see a white house on the right and just past that house is another house on the left (about 1/4 mile) - This was Betty Selman's house. Just past her house turn right (north) on the section road. About 250 feet north is the entrance to the Selman Living Lab - white fence, trailer, buildings, domes, etc. See the map provided below. The SLL has no street address but can be found using Google Maps.



**Map to the Selman Living Lab - 1 Mile North, then 6 miles West of Alabaster Caverns State Park.**

### Registration

Register online at the ONPS website [www.oknativeplants.org](http://www.oknativeplants.org) OR mail registration to:  
 Joe Roberts, 8113 Cloverdale Way, Yukon, OK 73099-8866  
*Make checks payable to: Oklahoma Native Plant Society*

#### PLEASE REGISTER EARLY

You must register by **April 20th** to get meals. After that you can still register, but not receive meals.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration Fee (Mandatory)

- \_\_\_\_\_ ONPS Member \$10
- \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member \$12
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$5

**\*\*\*Please bring your own mess kit, cutlery, drinks or water bottle\*\*\***

Napkins will be provided.

#### Meal Options

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday Breakfast \$6.00** Eggs, bacon, pancakes, cereal & beverage
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday Lunch \$12** Sandwich, chips, cookie
  - \_\_\_ Ham & Turkey Club \_\_\_ Chicken, bacon, ranch wrap \_\_\_ Veggie Sandwich
  - \_\_\_ Check for Gluten Free Bread
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday Dinner \$14.00** Entree, green salad, dessert
  - \_\_\_ Meat Lasagna \_\_\_ Veggie lasagna \_\_\_ Tuscan chicken casserole
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Sunday Breakfast \$6.00** eggs, bacon, pancakes, cereal and beverage

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** Amount Enclosed

Questions? Contact Joe at (405) 820-6851. Leave a message. Or email at [joeroberts13@cox.net](mailto:joeroberts13@cox.net).