



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 3
Fall 2025

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Our state wildflower, Basketflower, *Gaillardia pulchella* putting on a real show at the WOW event. Photo by Sandy Graue

Upcoming Events/Activities

(check the ONPS website or Facebook for more details)

Sep 4 - Central Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and 7 pm program at OCU Dawson-Loeffler Building.

Sep 8 - NE Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and program at 7 pm at the Tulsa Garden Center.

Sep 13 - Monarch Butterfly Day at the Chickasaw Cultural Center. ONPS will be hosting a booth (see Pg. 12 for details or contact juliettehulen@gmail.com).

Sep 19 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below)

Sep 20 - Monarchs on the Mountain, Chandler Park, Tulsa, OK 9 a.m.—1 p.m. for more events go to okiesformonarchs.org/events/

Sep 27 - ONPN Fall Festival/Plant Sale at Mitch Park in Edmond, Oklahoma (see page 8 for details).

Sep 28 - Monarchs in the Park 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Legacy Park, Norman (contact juliettehulen@gmail.com).

Oct 3-5 - REGISTER NOW!!!!

ONPS Annual Meeting at Girl Scout Camp Wah-Shah-She (see insert for details).

Oct 11 - Pollinator Party (see Pg. 3 for details or contact juliettehulen@gmail.com to help at booth).

Oct 17 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below).

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

Nov 21 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below).

Dec 1 - NE Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and program at 7 pm at the Tulsa Garden Center.

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

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

Fabulous Wildflower Fridays, 3rd Friday monthly, 5:30 pm, casual, at Panera Bread, 5601 E 41st Street, Tulsa

Preview Chapter meeting topics inside. All members are invited to all meetings, including board meetings, and are encouraged to bring guests.

Gaillardia

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2027: Donna Horton and Jamie Rucker

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Micah Friedman	Central

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President's Message

By Shalini Chitturi, ONPS President

"Summer Sertralines"

I am sitting under a native mulberry tree beside the dried purplish walk way. It reminded me of the fruit wars and crushed leftovers of birds from early summer.

Scorching sun took a break all of a sudden, after many weeks, giving some respite to the wind. The clouds came out to socialize and critters just took on to their gossips. I sat there quietly taking it all in.

The bumble bees are busy jutting in and out of gorgeous white and rose blooms of the hibiscus, this grove comes alive in summer, under the swaying arches of the willows. The majestic sycamores stood opposite to the rogue Osage oranges, as I admired how fast those mere bare roots have taken shapes. I also could see how some of the seedlings of oaks are growing fast, thanks to the consistent spring rains that we've had.

The large patch of frogfruit filled the dried brook in whitish stars, in-between the growing bald cypresses. I was happy to see that a couple of cottonwoods also made it there.

I could see a couple of Monarchs swaying calmly around the milkweeds, the gorgeous swallow tails and sulphur butterflies showing off around. Many tiny spring azure, checkerspots and the jumpy red admirals also got my attention.

This afternoon is filled with mild breezes and a rhythmic cacophony of critters, and pollinators. I am lost in my thoughts, how fast these trees will grow bigger and I wonder what kind of wildlife would make it their home. And also, where should I put some more swamp milkweeds... This was interrupted by a sharp chirping of a bird, from a nearby hackberry branch. I looked up and smiled to myself, and said "How lucky am I to have these moments, on this lovely afternoon".

It is time to enjoy outdoors this summer and also for gardening. So that we can bring in some real native and Wildlife Dramas into our lives, far away from all those screen times!!

Central Chapter Events

Fall 2025

Micah Friedman, Chapter Chair

This summer, we had two great plant walks. One was at Arcadia Lake and the other along the Oklahoma River in downtown OKC. We saw many great native plants! To name a few: *Ipomoea shumardiana* (narrowleaf morning-glory), *Tragia betonicifolia* (betony-leaf noseburn), *Buchnera americana* (American bluehearts), *Neptunia lutea* (yellow puff)...

August 7th we were pleased for Oklahoma moth expert, Zach DuFran, to present about the moths of OK and their relationships to native plants.

Upcoming Events:

September 4th - Plant Identification: Taxonomy and Dichotomous Keys. In the first half of the meeting, Micah Friedman, Central Chapter Chair, will give a presentation about plant taxonomy and using dichotomous keys. The second half will be a hands-on workshop on keying out the five different species of Venus' looking-glass (*Triodanis*) found in Oklahoma.

October 2nd - No Central Chapter Meeting.

November 6th - Oklahoma State University PhD student, David Kunkle, will present his current plant biology research.

December 4th - No meeting.

ONPS Booths (Contact Juliette Hulen juliettehulen@gmail.com to help man a booth)

- **Sept 13: Monarch Butterfly Day 10:00-5:00 p.m.** at Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur
- **Sept 27: ONPN Plant Sale 9:00-3:00 p.m. at** The Mac at Mitch Park 2733 Marilyn Williams Dr, Edmond
- **Sept 28: Monarchs in the Park 11:00-4:00** Legacy Park 1898 Legacy Park Drive, Norman
- **Oct 11: OK Monarch Society Pollinator Party, 12-4 p.m.** Choctaw Cultural Center, Calera, OK



Northeast Chapter Update

Our **September 8th** meeting will be back in the ballroom at Tulsa Garden Center on the second Monday (Labor Day is the first Monday) Holly Dobbs, Extension Educator for Rogers County will give us a program on the interconnection between native plants and insects. See you in September.

September 20th we will have a booth at the annual event Monarchs on the Mountain at Chandler Park in Tulsa. (Contact Theresa Turner at nativeplantlove@gmail.com to help out at booths for this and other Northeast chapter events).

December 1st will be our annual election of officers meeting. Sarah Allen will be coming to talk to us about the wellness properties of many of our native plants and she will be bringing tinctures, salves and herbal remedies that you may buy for Christmas gifts.

Welcome New Members

5/10/2025 thru 8/5/2025

Amanda Satterwhite & Dawn Nauman;
Ken Greenshields; Amber Ley;
Allison Collins; Zach Colorio; Lori Longo; Sara Paden;
Sara & George Wallace; Chris Gabbard;
Libby Billings; Kara Joy McKee & Family;
Leslie Jensen; Tate Rosencutter;

New with Life Membership

Robert Kamper

Renewal with Life Membership

Sherri Bruce; Tina Lynn;
Stephanie Bacoski; Malarie Gotcher

Welcome back

Mark Rasco; David & Betty Turner;
Alicia Webb Milum; Kathy Scurlock;
Julie Skye

REPORT OF THE BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Donna Horton, Chair

It has been 14 years since a general updating of the By-Laws. At the May ONPS Board meeting, the Board appointed a committee to review the By-Laws. The By-Laws committee, Donna Horton, Joe Roberts, and Lynn Michael, hammered out the details of Amendment 13, and presented it to the Board as a motion. The ONPS Board discussed the motion at a Zoom meeting on July 26, 2025. Several amendments to the motion were made and accepted. The Board voted to second the motion as amended.

Now the amendment must be published for the ONPS members to study. Members may ask questions either by contacting a member of the By-Laws committee or on Saturday, October 4, 2025, where the motion becomes an agenda item for the annual meeting. Members may discuss and/or make further amendments to the motion. Finally the ONPS members present at the annual meeting will vote on the motion.

Red text indicates a proposed change, either a deletion or an addition. ~~Deletions have a line struck through them.~~ Blue text explains why the amendment is needed. To view the existing ONPS By-Laws, click on the Home tab at OKnativeplants.org. The previous 12 amendments are summarized at the end of the By-Laws. From the By-Laws tab, you may also access a more detailed version of Amendment 13, including a mark-up copy of the By-Laws showing how the changes will appear if approved.

The By-Laws Committee makes a motion, seconded by the Board, to amend the By-Laws according to the changes listed in Amendment 13:

A. Articles XII (2) FISCAL YEAR, XIII AMENDMENTS, and XIV PARLIAMENTARY

AUTHORITY: ~~renumber the last three Articles to Articles XIII, XIV, and XV.~~ - There are two Article XIIs

B. Article IV MEMBERSHIP Section 2 through Article XV PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY: ~~change the name of “the Executive Board” to “the Board”.~~ Requires striking the word “Executive” in 38 places - Addresses the ongoing confusion over the difference between “the Executive Board” and “the Executive Committee.”

C. Article V OFFICERS Section 2: ~~replace “a Parliamentarian to attend” with “an acting Parliamentarian at the beginning of”~~ - A Parliamentarian is needed at each meeting, even if that position rotates among people.

D1. Article VI THE GOVERNING BODY Section 2: ~~strike “Chairs of standing committees,” from Section 2.~~ - This would reduce the Board’s voting members from 24 to a more nimble 14. Standing committee chairs will still file a written report for each Board meeting, and would be welcome to attend Board meetings to clarify issues and questions, but will no longer vote or be part of the calculation of a quorum.

D2. Article VI THE GOVERNING BODY Section 5: ~~Strike “a simple majority of the Executive Board” and replace with “at least seven (7) Board members, including at least one Executive Committee member”~~ - Simplifies determining a quorum, and reduces the quorum to an achievable number

D3. Article VI THE GOVERNING BODY Section 5: ~~Strike “20%” and replace with “2”~~ - for simplification

D4. Article VI THE GOVERNING BODY Section 6: ~~It eliminates the current Section 6 by striking “Chair may authorize a member of that committee to attend an Executive Board meeting and cast the Chair’s vote.”~~ from Section 6 and moving “The Chair of a standing committee may appoint as many committee members as are needed for the given task. Committee members must be Society members.” to Article X
COMMITTEES Section 1. - ~~Since the Chairs of the Standing committees would no longer be members of the Society’s Governing Body, the first two sentences of Section 6 would move to Article X~~
COMMITTEES.

- D5. Article VI THE GOVERNING BODY Section 6 :** It creates a new Section 6 by adding “The Board will appoint a Membership Coordinator for a two-year term. The Membership Coordinator may hold another office on the Board or may be appointed from the Society membership. There is no limit to the number of terms the Membership Coordinator may serve.” - There is currently no definition of the Membership Coordinator anywhere in the By-Laws. It is an important position critical to the successful operation of the Society.
- D6. Article VI THE GOVERNING BODY Add “Section 7:** Every member of the Board will review the description of their job responsibilities (the ‘Hit By a Bus’ documents on file in the online work space) at the start of their term of office, and again before the end of each term, providing updates as needed.” - defines where to find detailed and current job descriptions for each Board position
- D7. Article VI THE GOVERNING BODY Add “Section 8:** Members of the Board or the Society shall be reimbursed only for personal funds used on special events, provided all receipts and required documentation are submitted to the Treasurer within one week after the event’s final expenditure.” - defines Board members and Society members who organize special events as volunteers
- E. Article IX CHAPTERS Section 4:** Add “The chapters shall operate on the same fiscal year as the Society.” - The chapters do not have separate budgets from the Society.
- F1. Article X COMMITTEES Add a new “Section 3:** An Audit Committee shall be formed once every three years, beginning in 2026. The Board will appoint three Board members to conduct an audit of the Society’s Minutes and Financial Reports before June 30. Their report will be presented to the Editor of the *Gaillardia* in time for publication in the Fall Issue.” renumbering the former **Section 3:** to “**Section 4:**” - Why would the Society “file for audit” our financial reports at every Board meeting, if we never conduct an audit? Whether required or not, it is considered a Best Practice for any charitable organization, indicating financial transparency.
- F2. Article X COMMITTEES Section 3, renumbered to Section 4:** Add “Committee reports will be written and uploaded to the Board’s electronic file sharing space (i.e. Google Drive) one week before each Board meeting.” - These reports should be a written part of the history of the Society.
- F3. Article X COMMITTEES Section 3, renumbered to Section 4:** Add “All committees may be revised or dissolved by vote of the Board” - The By-Laws allow the Board to create committees, but there is currently no mechanism in the by-laws to revise or end any committee.
- G. Article XIII FISCAL YEAR (formerly the second Article XII) Section 1:** Add “The Board will approve an annual budget for the next fiscal year before October 31.” - our Treasurer, Mary Korthase says that ideally there will be a short online Board meeting including the newly elected Board members just to approve the Budget.
- H. Add “ARTICLE XVI CODE OF ETHICS Section 1:** The Society's policy is that Board members conduct themselves in a manner consistent with sound business and ethical practices and be good stewards of member donations. No Board member shall accept any benefit as consideration for any decision, opinion, or recommendation to carry out official acts for the Society. Board members will ensure that all contracts and vendor transactions are open and awarded solely on contractual merit.” - a Best Practice included by many nonprofits these days
- I. Add “ARTICLE XVII NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY Section 1:** The Society does not discriminate based on race, gender, religion, disability, or other protected categories in any activities, including membership, hiring, and events.” - a Best Practice included by many nonprofits these days
- J. Add “ARTICLE XVIII DISSOLUTION Section 1:** In the event of dissolution, the Society’s remaining assets shall be donated to another 501(c)(3) organization with a similar mission.” - If there are no guidelines here, future members may be tempted to distribute the Society’s assets among the remaining Board members or Society members.



CELEBRATE AMERICA 250 WITH WILDFLOWERS

WE NEED YOU!!!! Applications are coming in from counties across the state and it is very exciting. However, to cover all 77 counties we need all of you to see where in your county there might be a public library, fair ground, city welcome sign or other possible place where you could plant a pound of mixed wildflower seed native to Oklahoma. Go to the ONPS website, oknativeplants.org for all the details and get those applications in by the extended deadline, September 15, 2025. Don't let your county miss out on the celebration of our nation's 250th year.

T.O.N.Y. WRAP-UP

Article and Photos by Juliette Hulen

As T.O.N.Y. participants, five generous homeowners in Northwest Oklahoma City opened their front and backyards to nearly 480 visitors on Saturday, May 24, 2025! The event was a joint effort between ONPS and the Oklahoma Association of Conservation District's Yard by Yard program. The home gardens featured plants native to Oklahoma and were also Yard by Yard certified.



The garden hosts for ONPS's first

annual Tour Oklahoma Native Yards (T.O.N.Y.) were Steve, Ron, Odetta, Shannon, and Jamie and Lauren. Each garden had its own unique take on native plant gardening: some were well-established gardens filled only with native plants, while others were transitioning from traditional flower beds into pollinator-friendly spaces. Some gardens also featured bird houses, whimsical sculptures and natural water features.

People from as far as Tyler, Texas, Enid, Tulsa, and Duncan, Oklahoma, joined the tour. They not only toured the gardens but, inspired visitors had the opportunity to buy native plants on the spot. Local nurseries —Wild Things Nursery, Blue House Farms, Lia's Garden at Commonwealth Urban Farms, Sanctuary Gardens, and Prairie Wind Nursery—had booths at each of the homes. More plants were available for purchase at Rollingwood Park, where vendors Pollinator and Prairies, Native Plants, and Prairie Flora Co. set up shop. The park also hosted two food trucks to satisfy hungry visitors on the move.



(T.O.N.Y. continued on page 7)

(T.O.N.Y. continued from page 6)



Immense thanks go to the homeowners, and to the hardworking T.O.N.Y. Committee members who made this event happen. Committee members included representatives from Yard by Yard—Marcus Long, Morgan Sommer, Brandon Crockett, G Payne, and ONPS members Jamie Rucker, Sean Washington, and Juliette Hulen.

Did you miss T.O.N.Y. 2025? Don't worry! We are already at work on T.O.N.Y. 2026! Keep an eye on the ONPS website (oknativeplants.org) to see which part of the OKC metro will be featured next. And if you'd like to be part of the team, email us at ONPSinfo@gmail.com—we'd love to have you join us!



MUNICIPAL SHOUT OUTS

The Britton district <https://brittondistrictokc.org/>, of Oklahoma City has been revived and turned into a new hip commerce destination. They have landscaped their roadsides with native plants and pollinators and it looks great. The Gaillardia, our website, and our ONPS members would like to recognize and acknowledge cities and organizations that are choosing to landscape with native plants.

If you see an area in your neighborhood or town, send a photo and the information to ONPSGaillardia@gmail.com so that we can appreciate these efforts.



Check out these Oklahoma City locations:

- Zach D Taylor park new NW 50th and Shartel
- Mesta Park near NW 16th and Shartel



ONPN Fall Plant Festival

by Susan Chambers

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 27th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** as we celebrate native plants and the people who love them. This year, we're excited to announce a new, larger venue: **The MAC at Mitch Park**, located at **2733 Marilyn Williams Dr, Edmond, OK**. With ample parking and more space for vendors, it's the perfect place to grow our festival community!

Festival Theme: "Hands on Native Plants"

Event Schedule

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.: Shop a wide variety of native plants and other merchandise from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Educational Presentations

11:00 a.m. – Keynote Speaker: Aaron Cain

"Establishing Native Plants in Challenging Conditions"

Aaron is the Parks Crew Manager for Westside Edmond Parks. His team is responsible for planting, soil amendments, bed maintenance, and managing native grasslands and trees.

12:00 p.m. – Guided Native Plant Hike with Sean Washington

Explore the natural area west of The MAC – Sean Washington, a naturalist, science communicator, and founder/president of The Young Naturalist's Club, will guide you through the unmowed sections that have become a haven for native species of plants and animals.

1:00 p.m. – Wetland Bed Demonstration with Aaron Cain

Join Aaron outdoors for a live demonstration on wetland bed installation and plant selection, continuing the hands-on theme of the festival.

2:00 p.m. – Upland Prairie Demo with Marilyn Stewart

Marilyn and her husband Ken of Wild Things Nursery (Seminole, OK) have spent over 20 years helping Oklahomans grow beautiful native landscapes. Don't miss this hands on walk of discovery.

Virtual BioBlitz

Thanks to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Edmond Parks and Recreation is hosting a virtual **BioBlitz** this September in support of the Parks for Pollinators campaign. The Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz is an event in which community members work with parks and rec staff to create a snapshot of the variety of wildlife that can be found in Mitch Park in September. We use a no-cost platform/app called iNaturalist to take pictures of plants, insects and animals to see what wildlife is present in the park during this month and provide us with more information about pollinators, which are essential to our ecosystem.

This information will help us understand how we can better protect pollinators and other important wildlife in our community.

Stay tuned, because we are working on putting together a few in-person aspects of this BioBlitz for September as well.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/mitch-park-bioblitz-september-2025>

ONPN Featured Plants



Sideoats grama, *Bouteloua curtipendula* by Susan Chambers

This isn't just a cool grass—its name is fun to pronounce! Commonly known as sideoats grama or sideoats grass, this warm-season native ranges from Canada to Argentina.

The species name *curtipendula* translates to "shortened" and "hanging," referring to the unique way its seed heads dangle off one side of the stem. Its foliage varies from light green to blue-green, standing out beautifully in native gardens. Mature plants reach about 1½ to 2½ feet in height and spread roughly 1¼ to 2 feet across.

One of the plant's most striking features is its flowers—purplish florets accented by bright orange anthers (the pollen-producing parts), which hang beneath the bloom. It's adaptable to a range of soil types, from sandy to clayey, as long as drainage is good and water doesn't pool for long periods. While it prefers full sun, I've had success growing it in areas with only a half-day of sun, provided conditions are hot and dry.

In fall, the foliage becomes even more ornamental, turning shades of orange and red, starting at the base. Since it's a clumping grass, it won't spread aggressively—only by reseeding nearby. Its fine texture makes it a potential turf grass substitute, especially if mowed taller, around 2" to 4" high. Best of all, unlike Bermuda or zoysia, it requires no fertilizer and far less water.

In my garden, I use sideoats grama in two very different ways: **Prairie Pots:** These glazed ceramic pots sit on the sun-soaked south side of a stucco house, resting on concrete steps. Planted in a bark and coir mix that drains well while retaining moisture for several days, the grass thrives even in peak summer heat. **Easement Planting:** Along the edge of a blacktop road backed by redcedar trees, the grass grows in sandy, low-organic soil with no supplemental water—just natural rainfall.

Despite tough conditions, this plant maintains a good appearance through fall before naturally collapsing under winter's snow, ice, and rain.



Whorled Milkweed, *Asclepias verticillata* by Marilyn Stewart

The variety of Milkweed (*Asclepias*) species never ceases to amaze me. We have tall with big leaves and underground runners (*A. syriaca*), compact with narrow rough leaves (*A. tuberosa*), medium height with soft, thin leaves (*A. incarnata*), vining with heart-shaped leaves (*Cynanchum laeve*), and those are only a few. Oklahoma has around 27 native species of Milkweed, each are distinct with bloom colors ranging from pink to orange, yellow, white, and even purple.

One of our native milkweeds that doesn't get the attention it deserves is Whorled Milkweed, *Asclepias verticillata*. This sweet little Monarch- and native bee-magnet has very narrow leaves, grows to around 24 inches and has small white flowers that are clustered near the stem. It is a single stemmed adaptable perennial. Around the corner from me I find this growing on a hill in rocks and getting sun from about 3 till dusk. Zero supplemental water. I've also found it naturally growing in a low, sandy spot in almost full sun.

A. verticillata is native to much of the U.S. Its ease of growth and adaptability is one reason it was chosen as one of the top plants for 2025 by the Oklahoma Native Plant Network. This coming fall is a good time to plant either seeds or plants. The seeds are small but need the cold stratification of winter to germinate. You can try germinating these via the milk jug method. **If you are looking for plants, be sure to come to the ONPN fall sale at Mitch Park on September 27. This and many other great Oklahoma natives will be for sale.**

MEET THE MEMBERS: Shalini Chitturi

By Fran Stallings

ONPS President Shalini Chitturi grew up in the city of Hyderabad in South India. Her father worked at Electronics Corporation of India while her mother worked for State Government. The family's rented home had a very small strip to garden, but Shalini always grew plants even if it was in pots. She was always into Nature, staring at stars and chasing butterflies and wildflowers. As a teen she once wrote "Plant or Perish!" on their neighborhood wall, using the seed of a green mango which, she warns, "is permanent on clothes or walls." Did you know that?

After completing medical school in India, Shalini married and joined husband Ram in Houston. Twenty-five years ago they moved to Norman, and she did her residency in family medicine at OU. After clinical practice, she joined the VA Medical Center and continues in family medicine.



On a 2013 holiday to Peru, they stayed at a home where every step in the garden was greeted by hummingbirds and butterflies. She loved the abundant life and plant growth and wanted her yard to be like that. She questioned "What is missing in my garden?" Their home had just lawn but no life. Seeking summer butterfly plants, she learned about the concept of larval host plants and hence the importance of native plants.

Marilyn Stewart, whom Shalini met at a farmers market, became her mentor. She started her native garden as per Marilyn's suggestions. Doug Tallamy's lectures really inspired her. After seeing the Monarch butterfly up close for the first time, she never stopped growing natives. "One more milkweed at a time" has been her mantra. She says Marilyn is probably the one who introduced her to ONPS.

Shalini and Ram built their own house on two acres in Norman and she is learning about native landscaping, working towards the bio-habitat concept. They have removed invasives such as Japanese honeysuckle, but still keep getting some from their neighbors' yards. Wild natives pop up each spring, however, thanks to the birds. Part of their property is a real flood zone. She says that it brings a lot of wildlife but also challenges to grow things in that area. She is learning to let things grow by themselves, and the frogfruit, bonesets, and sedges are spreading there.

The property already had elm, hackberry, and Osage orange. They got seedlings from the state forestry service and started a few tree lines of Chickasaw plums, Osage oranges, sycamores, cottonwoods and oaks. They added desert willows last fall. She boasts about their glorious purple ironweed to her friends saying, "And we don't ever have to water these!" Now there are gaillardia and spiderworts in full sun, columbine and golden Alexanders in the shade. "They make their own patches," she says. "Every spring there's a surprise."

They keep the front yard neat for that intentional "cultivated" look, and have a front treeline of redbuds to impress onlookers with a purple statement in contrast to the boring white callery pears of other homes. She tries to make cohorts of natives and biodiversity. At work in the VA Medical Center, Shalini talks with her colleagues about bio-habitats, showing photos of her Monarchs, other critters and birds. They bring their plant questions to her. A mother was giving her child an elderberry naturopathic medicine for a cold. When Shalini told her "I have a big patch in my yard," the child's mother added "I should just let my son come and hang out under that patch." She always wanted to work with the Veterans and grow a native habitat, mainly to save the Monarchs. She believes that it will be very therapeutic for their mental health as well.

(Members continued on page 11)

(Members continued from page 10)

When visiting back in India, Shalini finds the burgeoning cities painful. She says that the landscape gardeners still prefer exotics, while farmers focus on food production although organic farming has increased since Covid. She hopes that the new suburban homeowners may develop an interest in butterflies and native biodiversity.

From childhood Shalini believed in doing as much good as possible. She and Ram like to nurture things, so nature is important. Ram loves swallowtail butterflies, and makes sure their host plants survive. During the dark times of Covid, the yard helped both of them so much. Arriving home from the hospital she goes to the back yard before coming inside. She says "If only we take time to notice, Nature's messages to us can be very healing and intuitive."

CONTRIBUTIONS**5/10/2025 thru 8/9/2025****Color Oklahoma Donations**

5/21/2025 Donna Scoggins-Stuber

In memory of Louise Ann Raleigh

8/9/2025 SouthWest District— Oklahoma Garden Clubs

Contributions to General Fund

5/20/2025 Anonymous Celebrate America with Wildflowers

5/20/2025 Various (cash)

5/20/2025 Various (cash)

5/27/2025 Various Square

5/27/2025 Eventbrite

6/16/2025 Cash

6/19/2025 Color Oklahoma Celebrate America with Wildflowers

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Fall 2025 Issue

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



Photos at left and right and on Page 3, by Micah Friedman. ONPS members attend the ONPS Native Plant Walk at Arcadia Lake, July, 2025.



Monarch Butterfly Day at the Chickasaw Cultural Center

Last year this event had 1,506 visitors and gave out over 3,000 native nectar plants and milkweed. All partners who participate truly help make an impact and help to inspire others to protect the Monarch and our native pollinators.

September 13th ONPS will be hosting a booth from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Chickasaw Cultural Center, [867 Cooper Memorial Drive, Sulphur, OK 73086](#)

Come to the Annual meeting and elect our new officers from this proposed slate or nominate from the floor:

President - Shalini Chitturi

Vice-President - Juliette Hulen

Secretary - Carol Smith

Directors at Large - Debbie Drinko and
 Connie Scothorn.

Oklahoma Native Plant Society

2025 Annual Meeting Camp Wah-Shah-She, near Bartlesville October 3-5, 2025

The 2025 ONPS Annual Meeting will be held at Camp Wha-Shah-She near Bartlesville. It is 460 acres located in the Osage Hills great for outdoor adventures. The Camp combines the rustic with the modern to accommodate every need. Bunks in the Lodge are available. Activities including the annual business meeting, and board meeting will take place at the camp lodge

Tentative Schedule of Events

Friday, October 3

Pre-arrival Woolaroc, on your own
4:00-9:00 pm Registration/Check In (Bring items for Silent Auction setup)
6:30-7:30 Dinner at the Lodge
7:30-8:30 Guest Speaker (TBD)
8:30-9:00 Announcement of Saturday Field Trips

Saturday, October 4

7:30-8:30 Breakfast at the Lodge (Start of Silent Auction)
8:30-12:00 pm Morning Field Trips
12:00-1:00 Lunch at the Lodge
1:00-4:30 Afternoon Field Trips
6:00-9:00 Dinner and Annual Business Meeting (Close Silent Auction)

Sunday, October 5

7:30-8:30 Breakfast at the Lodge
9:00-11:00 ONPS Board Meeting at the Lodge (all are welcome)
12:00-4:30 Osage Hills State Park

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

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone (cell or home): _____

Check all that apply below: registration must be received by **Wednesday, Sept. 24** if purchasing meals

_____ \$20.00 General Registration

_____ \$10.00/ea. night Lodge bunks (must bring linens) _____ Friday _____ Saturday

_____ \$5.00/ea. night camping _____ Friday _____ Saturday

_____ \$16.00 Friday Dinner

_____ \$6.00 Saturday Breakfast

Don't forget your mess kit!!

_____ \$12.00 Saturday Lunch

_____ \$20.00 Saturday Dinner

_____ \$6.00 Sunday Breakfast

_____ **Vegetarian**

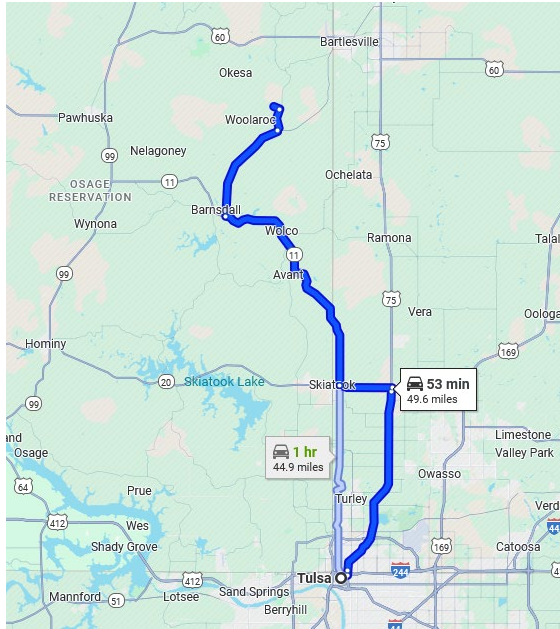
_____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____



Make check payable to **Oklahoma Native Plant Society** Register online or mail registration to:
Mary Korthase, 3926 E 33rd St, Tulsa, OK 74135-1643, - confirmation will be sent by email

The 2025 Oklahoma Native Plant Society Annual Meeting is being held at Girl Scout Camp Wah-Shah-She that's on 460 acres of the Osage Hills – great for outdoor adventures and nature study. The camp has an archery range, pool, lake, and hiking trails. (**not** Wah Sha She Park/campground on Hulah Lake)

Located at 736 County Road 2600, Bartlesville, OK, or GPS coordinates of 36.6764725, -96.0841587.



Map from Tulsa to Camp Wah Shah She. Take US-75 north, take OK-11 west to OK-123 north. Continue on OK-123 N to County Road 2600. Watch for ONPS signs.

Activities, including the annual business meeting and dinner on Saturday night, will take place at and around the camp lodge. Check the ONPS website (www.oknativeplants.org) for details and updates as they become available.

Nearby places of interest are Bartlesville to the northeast, Wootaroc to the southwest, Osage Hills State Park to the northwest, and farther is Pawhuska, or Bluestem Falls to the west, and the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve to the northwest (see map).



Google map screen capture of area

Silent Auction

Do you have an item you would like to donate, a service you would be willing to provide or treasures you'd like to see go to a good home? Bring them to the annual meeting for our silent auction! Drop items Friday evening for display. Auction runs all day Saturday with winners announced during evening activities.

Let Tiane Christy know what you have to contribute. tianechristy@gmail.com

