

# The Gaillardia

Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter Volume 4, Number 4 July/August, 1989  
To encourage the study, protection, appreciation and use of Oklahoma Native Plants

## BOEHLER SEEPS AND SANDHILLS SITE OF JOINT OUTING JULY 15

Ever been to a bog? If not, be sure to join us July 15 when Dr. Larry Magrath, well-known expert in orchids and other native plants, leads us into the Bohler Seeps and Sandhills. The event is jointly sponsored by ONPS and the Oklahoma Nature Conservancy. Jim Norman, field trip chair, will be present to help identify snakes and other reptilian inhabitants of the native plant community.

Field trip participants will meet for a dutch treat lunch and a background briefing on the bog at Oliver's Inn in Antlers at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, July 15. The restaurant is located at 1100 E. Main, at the "Y" formed by Highways 3 and 271. It is about 3.5 miles east of the Indian Nations Turnpike Antlers exit.

The Bohler Seeps and Sandhills Preserve was the first undertaking of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Nature Conservancy following its formation in 1988. The 77-acre Atoka County site is probably the best remaining, least disturbed example of a northern coastal plain sandhill community. We will also see a rare hillside seep, or bog.

While the experience will be unique, Dr. Magrath warns that both temperature and humidity will be very high. Bring a water bottle and don't push yourself. The ground will be damp so waterproof footwear is recommended. If that is not possible, bring a spare pair of shoes.

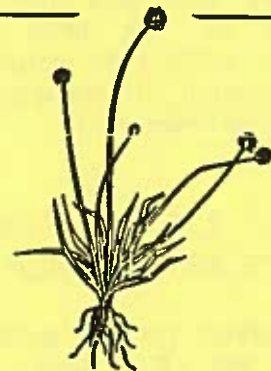
We will probably be too late to see *Calopogon* in flower, but we may be lucky enough to see late-blooming *Pogonia*. Expect the unexpected, including cotton-mouth snakes.

Boehler Seeps and Sandhills is home to 26 plant species of special concern in the state and three plant species that are of concern worldwide.

## ONPS AUGUST BOARD MEETING SET

ONPS Board will meet at the Steer Inn at Stroud at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16. Topics to be discussed include planning for the annual meeting, selection of a committee to nominate officers and board members, reports on proposal for wildflower trail in south-central Oklahoma, and recommendations from the local area meeting committee. As always, ONPS members are invited to attend.

*Small-headed pipewort*  
(*Eriocaulon kornickianum*)



One plant, *Eriocaulon kornickianum*, the small-headed pipewort, is under review by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for endangered plant status. The sandhill community is an open woodland of low oaks, with a sparse understory of shrubs and herbaceous plants. Bluejack oak is one member of the community which occurs only in a few places within the upper Gulf Coastal Plain of eastern Atoka and Western Pushmataha counties.

The hillside seep, or bog, is an herbaceous wetland over decaying matter, loosely consolidated and containing so much water that the surface shakes under foot. Predominant vegetation include grasses, sedges and composites. Pipewort is also found here, as are orchids.

In accordance with ONPS rules and because of the delicate nature of the sandhill community, no collecting of plant material will be allowed.

## NWRC PLANS COSTA RICA EXCURSION

Members and friends of the National Wildflower Research Center (Austin, Texas) are invited to tour Costa Rica September 12-18, 1989. Jean Andrews, a trustee of the NWRC, will lead the tour.

An orchid is the national flower of this central american democracy, and over 1100 species have been cataloged there so far. The president of Costa Rica's orchid association will lecture on the amazing wealth of wildflowers, and members of the organization will personally guide tour members through an exhibition of native flowers.

The NWRC has planned trips to several native forests, including the Braulio Carrillo National Park, home to two dormant volcanoes, 300 species of birds, and hundreds of orchids, ferns and other epiphytes.

Independence day events and visits to an oxcart factory and coffee plantation round out the itinerary. Cost is \$1,595 plus a \$200 tax deductible contribution to NWRC. If you are not a member, you must also include a \$25 annual membership fee. For more information, call 1-800-444-2405. Cost includes round-trip air fare from Houston, all meals and accommodations and all sightseeing activities.

## RAISE A LITTLE CANE AT KERR AGRIPLEX'S 3RD SORGHUM FESTIVAL

Celebrate harvest time in southeastern Oklahoma October 14 and 15 at Green Country Sorghum Festival.

Operation of an old-fashioned horse-drawn sorghum mill highlight the event to be held at the Kerr Agriplex 1.5 miles north of Poteau. Admission is free.

ONPS has reserved space so we can get the word out on Oklahoma native plants. We'll also show the set of fantastic photo posters designed by John Miller. All entries submitted to the 2nd annual ONPS photo contest are included in the display, which covers 9 panels.

Please volunteer to help man our booth at the festival. Contact Nora Jones at 918-749-5859.



## PHOTO NOTES



by John Miller  
Photography Committee Chair

We were pleased to announce the winners of the ONPS Photo Contest at the Oklahoma Wildflower Workshop in Alva. We displayed all the photographs which were entered, and they made a display that was well received. This beautiful display mounted on nine 20 by 32 inch mat boards has already been exhibited at two other meetings, and we anticipate that it will be used for numerous educational and promotional purposes in the near future. For the benefit of those who did not attend the Alva meeting, here is the list of winners:

**First Place** -- James L. Norman, Muskogee  
Yellow Fringed Orchid

**Second Place** -- Bob Lindsey, Sapulpa  
Purple Wind Flower

**Third Place** -- Littleton Fowler, Oklahoma City  
Dog-tooth Lily

### Certificates of Merit

Bob Lindsey, Sapulpa -- Indian Paint Brush

Bob Lindsey, Sapulpa -- Indian Blanket

Joleen Niemann-Stone, Stillwater -- Trumpet  
Creepers

Howard Puckett, Enid -- Common Thistle

Our thanks to all of those who made our second annual contest a big success.

Now that this year's contest is behind us, we need to be thinking about other reasons for staying in practice. There are many uses for our good slides and prints -- photo greeting cards, framed enlargements for home or office, slide programs for family, church or civic groups, etc. This is a subject I would like to discuss in September's "Photo Notes." At our next ONPS meeting we would like to display some of your handiwork.

**HELPFUL HINT;** Many photographs are ruined by a cluttered background. Remove sticks and rocks from around low growing wildflowers. Ask someone to stand so that his shadow will darken a bright, distracting background. If you have removed the mulch from around a plant, put it back when you are finished. The plant needs it to survive.

Have a good time photographing some of the prairie wildflowers which are at the height of their beauty now!



## Call for Nominations Second Annual Anne W. Long Award

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society's first Anne W. Long Award was presented to the Ninnekah High School Science Club at the annual meeting in October. The Science Club and its sponsor, Mr. Edward Cusato, were recognized with a certificate and a cash award. The comments by one of the Society members that, "This is what Anne would have wanted," sums up the event beautifully.

It is not too early to consider nominations for the 1989 award. The adopted procedural guidelines stipulate that calls for nominations appear in "at least two issues of the Society Newsletter. . . ." to assure the membership is alerted well in advance of the deadline. Give the award and recognition some thought. Most members are familiar with deserving recipients.

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

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society will recognize outstanding contributions to the purpose of the Society via an Anne W. Long award. Individuals, groups of individuals, scout troops, church groups, science or environmental organizations, businesses, etc., who have contributed to the purpose of the ONPS shall be eligible for the award. Recognition and presentation of the award will be made at the annual meeting of the Society.

Nominations are to be made on the following form and submitted directly to the chair of the Awards Committee: Dr. Paul Buck, Biology Department, University of Tulsa, 600 South College, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104. The deadline for nominations is September 1. All nominations will be treated in confidence.

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Nominations may be submitted any time prior to September 1 deadline.

## PAINTBRUSH TRAIL PROPOSED

As a result of workshops held at the 1988 Wildflower Workshop in Norman, a proposal was generated and presented to 1989 Wildflower Workshop participants at Alva. Participants recommended the State of Oklahoma develop and maintain, under the auspices of the Department of Transportation, a series of Wildflower Trails. These Wildflower Trails would serve a variety of functions:

1. Enhance the natural beauty of Oklahoma.
2. Cultivate knowledge of Oklahoma's natural heritage.
3. Promote tourism in the State.
4. Preserve Oklahoma's native wildflowers.

A Wildflower Advisory Committee, comprised of members from the Oklahoma Garden Clubs, ONPS, Oklahoma Academy of Science and the Flora of Oklahoma project, will help the Department of Transportation in the establishment and maintenance of the trails.

The first proposed trail, with three loops, will be called the Paintbrush Trail and will be located in South-Central Oklahoma.

The route exhibits spectacular floral displays of Indian paintbrush, coreopsis, verbenas, wallflowers, yucca, lesquerellas, and wild indigo in the spring; Indian blanket, coreopsis, brown-eyed susans, evening primroses and asters during the summer; and Maximillian's sunflower and Indian grass throughout the fall.

Interest will be generated by holding wildflower days and tours, and color guides to the trails will be produced and distributed to local parks and businesses.



## CONSERVANCY TO BUY BEST REMAINING TALLGRASS RANGE

The Nature Conservancy has agreed to purchase 30,000 acres of tallgrass prairie in Osage County. This is the last extensive tract of native tallgrass remaining in the United States. 90% of the original prairie has been destroyed, making the ecosystem the most disturbed in the nation.

When early settlers crossed the prairie in their covered wagons, native tallgrasses stretched over 140 million acres of America's heartland.

Although it is our most disturbed major ecological community, the tallgrass prairie has been little protected in the public preserve system. In the early 1930s efforts to establish a tallgrass preserve in Illinois drew support from the state's legislature--but it was discovered that the last suitable prairie in the state had been plowed over. More recently, bills were introduced into the U.S. Congress but they have died.

The Nature Conservancy's acquisition--the Barnard Ranch--will be the initial purchase for the planned preserve. The Conservancy is negotiating with other land owners for additional acreage. Cost of the project is expected to be about \$15 million.

The Conservancy's goal in establishing the preserve is to recreate and restore a functioning tallgrass prairie ecosystem, including reestablishment of the interaction between native bison and fire, to allow the prairie's natural evolutionary and ecological processes to continue.

As the remaining native prairie becomes further reduced and fragmented, reestablishment of a functioning tallgrass prairie ecosystem will become more difficult and expensive. If the remaining tallgrass prairie is destroyed, it will be gone forever.

"Plants and animals cannot survive on old railroad right-of-ways and pioneer cemeteries (the most common prairie remnants)," according to Herb Beattie, director of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and member of ONPS's board. "The site must be large enough to sustain whole chains of life, where species are dependent on each other for survival. The Osage County area is our only chance to recreate a functioning tallgrass prairie ecosystem."



*Andropogon gerardi*

### IN MEMORIAM--REX E. RADER, 1905-1989

By Theresa Grosshans

We lost a good friend and member of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society recently when Rex E. Rader left us due to pneumonia.

Rex was originally from Indiana but came to Tulsa in 1948 from Fort Worth to work for the Amoco Company. Rex was a geologist who retired after 38 years. He kept busy in his retirement as he loved to work with wood and stained glass.

Rex was an avid photographer, as well. He belonged to the Photographic Society of American and the Tulsa Photographic Society. He and Eleanor loved to travel and they presented their slide shows at churches, schools and clubs. Last December they presented "Redbud: A Valley for All Seasons" as a special treat for ONPS members.

Rex was also a member of the Tulsa Audubon Society and attended many meetings and wildflower trips. We at ONPS will always remember Rex as an active member who was always ready to help whenever and wherever he was needed.

# BUTTERFLY GARDENS

## A COMPLEMENT TO NATURE

(Excerpted from May/June 1989 WILDFLOWER, newsletter of the National Wildflower Research Center (Austin, TX))

A habitat for butterflies? That is exactly the purpose of the Day Butterfly Center at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia. The center, which opened in the fall of 1988, includes an 8,000-square-foot conservatory for butterflies and plants and an outdoor garden designed to attract butterflies native to the area.

Butterfly gardens are becoming popular across the country, as awareness of the need to protect them and their natural habitats continue to heighten...Your own butterfly garden can be as simple as a few nectar plants in pots or as complex as a home landscape designed with sequentially flowering nectar plants. Plant species appropriate for butterfly gardens vary across the country. Some nectar plants with widespread ranges include *Echinacea purpurea* (coneflower), *Lupinus* spp. and *Eupatorium* spp. (boneset).

Butterflies prefer open, sunny spaces--a full-sun wildflower garden is ideal...Water is essential. Butterflies are unable to drink from open water, but puddles, wet sand, or a shallow dish filled with rocks or gravel serve as butterfly oases...Some butterfly species are found throughout the United States while others have restricted ranges.

Cultural practices in your garden can affect butterflies in certain growth stages. Pruning trees and mowing the lawn may destroy eggs and caterpillars during the warm-weather season...For a butterfly gardening bibliography and fact sheet, write the NWRC, 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, Texas 78725-4201. The information is free to members, but costs \$1 plus a mailing label for non-members. If you'd like to join NWRC, send \$25 and you will receive their newsletter, journal, discounts on books and gift items and other benefits.



### *The Gaillardia*

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### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Clip and mail to:

Oklahoma Native Plant Society, c/o Mary Byrd, Treasurer, 5819 S. Evanston, Tulsa, OK 74105

Membership is open to anyone who agrees with the goals of the society. Dues pay for the newsletter and for programs offered by the society. (Mark the appropriate membership category below and make check payable to the Oklahoma Native Plant Society.)

\$5 Student (SM)     \$10 Individual (IM)     \$15 Family (FM)     \$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution  
(Anne Long Fund)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Check whether     Renewal     New Membership     New Address or Phone

# NATIVE PLANT EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Date/Time	Event/Location	Contact/Phone
7/9 6:00 p.m.	Tulsa Group Evening Walk 68th & Riverside Parking Lot River Parks, Tulsa	Nora Jones 918-749-5859
7/10 7:00 p.m.	OKC Area Meeting	Mike Bush 405-232-1199
7/15 11:00 a.m.	Boehler Seeps & Sandhills Field Trip-- Meet for Dutch Treat Lunch at Oliver's Inn, 1100 E. Main, Antlers	Jim Norman 918-682-1896 Nora Jones 918-749-5859
8/5	Northeastern Oklahoma Aquatic Field Trip Call for reservations and details	Jim Norman 918-682-1896
8/16 7:00 p.m.	ONPS Board Meeting Steer Inn, Stroud	Nora Jones 918-749-5859
8/25	Gaillardia Deadline	
9/1	Anne W. Long Award Deadline for Nominations	Paul Buck 918-743-3397 Irene McKee 918-622-1696 Paul Buck
9/15-9/17	Oklahoma Academy of Sciences Fall Field Meet Sequoyah State Park	Paul Buck 918-743-3397
11/4-11/5	ONPS Annual Meeting Field Trips, Anne Long Award Presentation and Election of New Officers--Quartz Mountain State Park	Nora Jones 918-749-5859

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



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