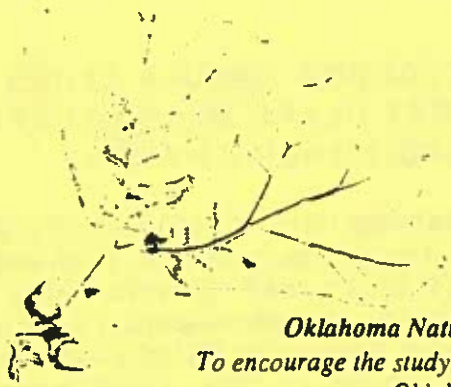


# The Gaillardia



Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter  
To encourage the study, protection, appreciation and use of  
Oklahoma native plants

Volume 4, Number 5

September/October, 1989

## REGISTER NOW! ONPS ANNUAL MEETING AT RUGGED AND ROMANTIC QUARTZ MOUNTAIN RESORT AND STATE PARK, NOVEMBER 4-5, 1989

Pack your swimsuit for a splash in the indoor pool. Bring your binoculars for a chance to see bald eagles. Wear your hiking boots so you can explore among live oak trees dotting granite studded hills.

We guarantee you will enjoy our two-day field and business meeting, starting Saturday, November 4 at 1:00 p.m. and ending in the early afternoon November 5. Registration cost is \$17.00 per person for ONPS members, and includes a banquet and coffee at meetings. Nonmembers are welcome to register for a fee of \$20.00. Make your own room reservations at a special rate of \$38.00 by calling the resort directly at 405-563-2424 or the tourism department at 800-654-8240. Cabins and campsites are also available. Registration and reservations should be made no later than October 31.

We will concentrate on the outdoors. At 1:00 in the afternoon, Vicky Mason, park naturalist, will lead us on a tour of park habitats.

At the annual business meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, we will elect new officers for 1990, pick a logo for our society and vote on a bylaws change allowing for local area meetings. Candidates for office are shown on page 3. Vote for our logo even if you can't attend by mailing in the ballot from page 9 of the newsletter. The bylaws change is on the enclosed sheet.

At 7:30 p.m. on Saturday evening, we will assemble for a buffet style banquet, featuring a salad bar, vegetables, two meat entrees and dessert. The beautiful nine-poster exhibit of the 2nd Annual ONPS Photo Contest assembled by John Miller will be on display. Louis McGee of Wolf Creek Research will speak on "Native Plants of

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Southwestern Oklahoma." Paul Buck, current ONPS vice-president and chair of the Anne Long Memorial Fund Committee, will present the 2nd Annual Anne Long Award to Dr. Doyle McCoy. Dr. McCoy has written and lectured extensively on the native plants of Oklahoma. He was instrumental in having the Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*) named the state wildflower. Last year, he pushed for recognition of our native plants by encouraging the Senate to establish a state Wildflower Day. The first Wildflower Day was held this past May 20. We continue the celebration by naming Dr. Doyle McCoy the recipient of the 2nd Annual Anne Long Award.

In addition to the Anne Long Award, Mr. Joe Andrash, Oklahoma City architect and active member of Oklahoma City Beautiful, Inc., will receive special recognition for his important work with wildflower planting in the Oklahoma City area.

On Sunday morning, after breakfast on our own, Paul Buck, Jim Norman and Larry Magrath will take us into the Wichita Wildlife Refuge for a unique native plant experience. Buffalo and longhorn cattle roam here among prairie dog towns. Don't miss your opportunity to view this habitat with the best field botanists in the state.

Bring slides and photos to show and seeds of wild plants to share. Wildflower notecards by Elisabeth deBoer and Mary Jo Laughlin will be available for perfect holiday gifts. Join us for a wonderful weekend in the southwest corner of the state.

## OKLAHOMA MUSHROOMS FEATURED IN SEPT./OCT.

### *OUTDOOR OKLAHOMA*

DNPS member and former newsletter editor Luann Sewell Waters has written a charming piece about Oklahoma fall fungi for the current issue of Outdoor Oklahoma. The magazine is published by the department of Wildlife Conservation. Luann notes how important fungi are for food for "many wildlife species such as squirrels, deer, box turtles, armadillos, skunks, shrews and mice." She sums up by saying, "Mushrooms create life from death, and complete the final step of a cycle which eventually touches us all."

## OKLAHOMA HAS BEST PERSIMMONS

Mike Bush furnished us with a blurb from the Palmetto, the newsletter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Dick Deverling, a wild foods expert, says that Diospyros virginiana is common in Florida, but "the best persimmons he knows of grow in the Arbuckle mountains of south central Oklahoma....The trees in Oklahoma bear so many fruits that Dick says he shoves a limb in a paper bag and shakes it to collect the fruit."

## SURVEYS SHOW WORLD FOREST RESERVES LESS THAN EXPECTED

Daniel B. Botkin of the University of California has just completed a statistical survey of North America's boreal forests, "the largely coniferous woodlands running from the Arctic tree line down through Canada and dipping into the northern United States," according to Science News. His estimates indicate that the forests contain only one-third of the previously accepted amount of biomass.

Sandra Brown, a forest ecologist at University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana reported similar exaggeration in biomass estimates for tropical forests. Average biomass is being further depleted by "rampant cutting and degradation of tropical woodlands."

Lower biomass means that the earth is much less able to store carbon, and, thus, reduce the greenhouse effect caused by carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel burning.

## OKLAHOMA GARDEN CLUBS WIN FIRST PLACE IN 1989 OPERATION WILDFLOWER AWARDS

Oklahoma Garden Clubs won first place for the category "Rural Highway" and a \$1,000 award for wildflower projects from the National Council of State Garden Clubs' Operation Wildflower. The Columbine of July, 1989, reported that all applicants were very good. Oklahoma was judged best, however, for its 15 year project to educate and beautify with workshops, wildflower programs and over 92 acres of roadside plantings across the state. "As the wildflower sites have increased, there has been growing enthusiasm from other organizations to promote and plant wildflowers, capturing the interest of state legislators and state officials."

Congratulations, Oklahoma Garden Clubs!



*Diospyros virginiana*

## FROM "From the Stump"

by Bob Jennings

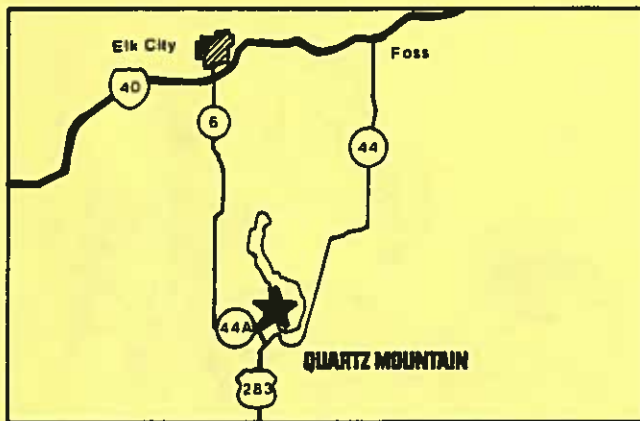
"We know full well the threats that face the environment, and we understand that we are in a desperate race with all the elements of destruction. We also know that the outcome of this race is still far from certain. But looking at both sides, we see enough of the good stuff to know that it is not yet too late to make a difference. There is such an elemental power in the ability of the earth to heal itself, to keep trying to beat back the tides that threaten to overwhelm. You have only to step into the forest to feel it, if you are willing to be open to it." --from the Oxley Nature Center Newsletter, July/Aug. 1989.

## TALLGRASS PRAIRIE TRIP SET

Visit the Nature Conservancy's 35,000 acre Tallgrass Prairie Preserve on Saturday, September 30, 1989. Herb Beattie, shaker and mover behind the \$15 million purchase, will be on hand to give us a personal tour of one of the last remnants of the endangered biome. Lots of rain this summer has made the prairie bloom. Some say it hasn't looked this good in 100 years. Don't miss it!

Participants will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Country Roads Restaurant, next to the Black Gold Motel at 544 Mathews in Pawhuska. Going West on Highway 11, go about six blocks past the only stop light and turn right on Mathews. Taylor Chevrolet is on the corner and the restaurant is about 1/2 block from the corner. If you get lost, stop and ask because it's the "oldest and best-knownest" restaurant in Pawhuska.

Tulsa-area parties will meet at 8:00 at the Garden Center parking lot to carpool. Call a friend and share this wonderful field trip.



### Q: WHERE IS QUARTZ MOUNTAIN?

A: Right Next to Lone Wolf  
Quartz Mountain State Park and Resort is tucked away in the southwest corner of the state. It's only 162 miles from Oklahoma City. Go west on I-40 to the Foss exit. Go south about 40 miles and you're there. Tulsa area members can expect about a five hour drive. Be ecologically minded--share cars with other meeting goers. If you need a line on a ride, call Nora Jones (918-749-5859).

## ONPS NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

The Nominating Committee made a special effort to get representatives on the board from across the state. Here is the report of the committee, which included Herb Beattie, Davida Phillips and Larry Magrath. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to the continued strength of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society.

### President

Dr. Larry Magrath, Chickasha

### Vice-President

Dr. Pat Mehltop-Cifelli, Norman

### Treasurer

Herb Beattie, Tulsa

### Secretary

Nora Jones, Tulsa

### Historian

Davida Phillips, Tulsa

### Directors-at-Large

1989-1990

Dr. Paul Nighswonger, Alva

1989-1991

Linda Watson, Norman

1989-1992

Dr. Connie Taylor, Durant

1989-1992

Mike Bush, Oklahoma City

The above slate of officers is expected to be ratified at the ONPS business meeting at 4:30 p.m. on November 4, 1989, in the meeting room at Quartz Mountain State Park.

Directors-at-Large continuing on the Board are as follows:

1987-1990

Aileen R. Carter, Tulsa

1988-1991

Joanne S. Orr, Oklahoma City

## ONPS FIELD TRIP REPORT

At the August 16, 1989 ONPS Board Meeting, Jim Norman, Field Trip Chair, recapped this year's field trips and set two more for September 30 (See page 3) and October 28 (See opposite).

On March 18, Jim Norman and Ruth Boyd were the only participants on John Taylor's Lake Texoma field trip. Jim was very disappointed, since John had taken a lot of trouble to put out herbarium sheets.

On April 22, eight people (including 4 from Wichita) showed up for the Illinois River trip. These lucky people got to see the largest spread of birdsfoot violet Jim had ever seen.

On May 20, there were lots of trips across the state, with varying attendance.

The July 15 Boehler Seeps and Harrison Bog trip drew 21 participants. The trip was led by Larry Magroth, Ron Tyrl and Ed Nelson. At least two poisonous snakes were seen. Amanda Thompson, daughter of Steven and Margaret Thompson, was bitten by bees at the tail end of the trip, but she responded quite well to calomine lotion and was a real trooper. Her experience has led the board to decide to carry first aid kits along on our field trips. Amanda's letter to Nora Jones appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

On August 5, Ed Nelson and his granddaughter Veronica Riera led six of us on a tour of four lakes in northeastern Oklahoma: Bixhoma, Haskell, Okmulgee and Dripping Springs. Ed gave participants a copy of his book, Aquatic Plants of Oklahoma, and we used it to identify such plants as Chara zeylanica, Nitella hyalina (both green algae), Nymphaea tuberosa (Tuberous Water Lily), and Potamogeton foliosus (Leafy Pondweed). Ed and Veronica kept cool in the 100+ degrees by wading in the shallow water to retrieve specimens.

Thanks to all the leaders and all the participants of our field trips so far. Let us know if you know of a person to lead a trip or a place you would like to explore.

## LET'S OUTNUMBER ARKANSAS FOR JOINT FALL FOILAGE TRIP

Jim Norman, our Field Trip Chair, has arranged for a joint trip with the Arkansas Native Plant Society on Saturday, October 28, 1989.

For once, Jim says, he'd like to see more Oklahomans than Arkansans on the trip! The foilage should be splendid, and the gauntlet has been dropped. So, plan to arrive at 10:00 a.m. at the Visitor Information Station on Highway 88 just outside Mena.

### The Gaillardia

is the bimonthly newsletter of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114. 918-749-5859. Membership is open to any interested individual, family or group. Membership dues cover the period from January-December. Dues pay for the newsletter and for programs. The Oklahoma Native Plant Society is a non-profit corporation.



## HAWK EXPERT TO SPEAK AT OOS FALL MEETING IN BARTLESVILLE

The Oklahoma Ornithological Society (OOS) is sponsoring Pete Dunne, author of Hawks in Flight and Tales of a Low-Rent Birder, at their annual meeting in Bartlesville, October 20-22, 1989. Registration cost is \$8.00 for members, \$13.00 for nonmembers, and \$12.00 for the Banquet. Registration fee is waived if you attend only the banquet. Bonnie Gall (918) 333-2051 for more information.

# NATIVE PLANT EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Date/Time	Event/Location	Contact/Phone
9/25 6:30 p.m.	OKC AREA MEETING Horn Homestead & 1899 Museum, 312 N.E. 18	Joanne Orr 405-521-4037
9/30 10:00 a.m. (8:00 a.m. Tulsa Garden Center to car pool)	Tallgrass Prairie Field Trip -- Meet at Country Roads Restaurant Pawhuska Be there!	Herb Beattie 918-742-2003 Nora Jones 918-749-5859
10/14-10/15 9:00-6:00 Saturday 11:00-5:00 Sunday	Sorghum Festival Kerr Agriplex, Hwy. 59 North, Poteau ONPS will have a booth.	Nora Jones 918-749-5859
10/28 10:00 a.m.	Joint ONPS/Arkansas Native Plant Society Fall Color Tour -- Info Center, Hwy 88, 2-3 miles north of Mena, AR	Jim Norman 918-682-1896
11/4-11/5 Noon Saturday	ONPS Annual Meeting Quartz Mountain Resort Lone Wolf, Oklahoma	Nora Jones 918-749-5859
12/9 10:00 a.m.	ONPS Executive Board Meeting Myriad Gardens, OKC	Larry Magrath 405-222-0904

## COMING SOON TO A MEETING NEAR YOU! OUR NEW BROCHURE

Thanks to the magic of desktop publishing and some hard work on the part of Donna Horton and the ONPS board, we will have a three-fold membership brochure available in the near future. The brochure will feature drawings by Elisabeth deBoor. Included in the brochure is a membership survey of member's likes and wants in ONPS programming and direction. Be sure to pick one up at the next field meeting or at the annual meeting! Give them to friends and encourage them to join. Fill one out and renew your membership. (Or use the handy form on page 9 of the newsletter.)

Check your mailing label to determine your membership status. If the label doesn't show a future date (12-89 or later), your membership has expired, and we have

carried you for nearly a whole year on our mailing list. If the membership says "Mail," you receive a courtesy mailing and do not receive all our newsletters. Remember, membership pays for the newsletter and other programs and is important to help keep ONPS strong and growing. New members joining now will not expire until December, 1990.

In related news, the Texas Native Plant Society is running a "seeing double" campaign. They hope each member will recruit one other so they will be twice as big after October 1. That's Texas style we'd like to copy!

If you are moving, please let ONPS know. We do not get returns on undeliverable addresses due to our low postage rate. But we want to keep in touch, so let us know your whereabouts.

## PHOTO NOTES

by John Miller, Photography Committee Chair

Autumn in Oklahoma is an exciting time of the year. Many different wildflower species will be blooming right up until the first good frost. Displays of golden flowers will harmonize with the changing foliage. There will be accents of other colors, too, like the red of the cardinal flower, already blooming. This is a great time to get out into the rural areas with your camera.

David Halpern, who helped judge our recent photo contest, has a photo exhibit, Images of Rocky Mountain Park, on display at the International Photography Hall of Fame in the Kirkpatrick Center in Oklahoma City. This is the show that was on display at the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. It will be on exhibit here through September 30. There is a great deal to be learned about composition and lighting by studying a black and white exhibit such as this. Besides, it is a joy to behold. If you have a chance to visit the Kirkpatrick Center, don't miss this exhibit. While you are there you will want to visit the floral displays in the gardens and greenhouse.



We are looking forward to the ONPS Annual Meeting at Quartz Mountain State Park, November 4 and 5. The Photography Committee expects to set up a display of your work. If you have photographs of native plants and/or habitat, matted or unmatted, if you have wildflower photocards or any other handicraft, please bring it with you to the meeting. We'll set up a projector so we can view your slides, too. A part of the joy of photography is in sharing it with others. Also, bring your questions and suggestions. Members of the Photo Committee will be on hand to visit with you.

**HELPFUL HINT:** Photographs of subjects which are partially in the sun and partially in the shade will not turn

out well. The photographic process does not accommodate such great contrast. Your photograph will not have good detail in either the dark or light areas. If you can't get all the subject in the light or all of the subject in the shade, using a flash will help.

### ***Favorite Field Trip Report***

*After her adventures on the Boehler Seeps & Sandhills ONPS field trip last July, Amanda Thompson wrote (and illustrated) this note to ONPS president, Nora Jones. Amanda, five years old, is the daughter of members Steve and Margaret Thompson of Edmond.*

DEAR NORA,  
THANK YOU FOR  
THE PICTURES.  
I LIKED THE BOG  
EXCEPT FOR THE BEES.  
IT WAS FUN  
SPLASHING. OUR  
HOUSE IS  
FINE.  
FROM YOUR FRIENDS  
AMANDA



### **Wildflower Center is Seeking Prairie Expansion Funds**

The National Wildflower Research Center in Austin has launched a fund drive to expand the diversity of its Re-created Prairie. The Center's stated goal is to advise highway departments nationwide on highway plantings, and a high-diversity planting of 60 plant species is required. For more information, or to send a contribution, write to the Center at 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, TX 78725-4201.

### **Sustainable Agriculture Network Plans Workshop**

Groups and individuals in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri who are interested in seeking more economically and ecologically sound agricultural methods are invited to attend a one-day workshop October 8 on "Farmer Participation in Research for Sustainable Agriculture" at the University of Arkansas in downtown Fayetteville. For information call the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas office in Fayetteville, 1-800-346-9140.

## Dr. Barclay Resigns as Board Member

Recognizing that she will not be able to be active on the Board of ONPS for some time, Dr. Barclay has resigned her position. In a very moving letter to the board, she wrote, "My association with the Oklahoma Native Plant Society has not only been educational and rewarding but a treasured one as well. It has permitted me to spend quality time with many close friends such as Anne Long, Doyle McCoy, Davida Phillips, Aileen Carter, Evelyn Washburn and others too numerous to list...It is gratifying to think I may have had a small part in the development of the organization and I pray it continues to grow, becoming as strong statewide as it currently is in Tulsa and Oklahoma City."

We thank Dr. Barclay for her pivotal role in the inception of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society. We hope she will accept an *emeritus* board member role to continue to guide us in future.

## Oklahoma Wildlife Federation Seeks Conservation Awards Nominations

Oklahoma conservation leaders are recognized annually at the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting through Conservation Achievement Awards, for which nominations are now being accepted. Organizations and individuals can qualify in many categories relating to air, soil, water, wildlife and "at-large" (a "wide scope" not covered by other categories) conservation. Nominations, due by Nov. 1, should be sent to the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation, 4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 171, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. The information number is (405) 524-7009. Any Oklahoma resident can submit nominations. Awards are to be presented in the spring of 1990.

## Wildflowers of Oregon Poster Available via Mail Order

The Native Plant Society of Oregon has produced a new, full-color poster featuring 13 of Oregon's most beautiful wildflowers. Included are Kalmiopsis, Western Lily, Yellow Bell and the Cobra Plant. It is 18 x 24" and has information on each species printed on the reverse side.

The Society is offering the poster at \$4.95 including postage via mailing tube. Checks should be payable to The Native Plant Society of Oregon, and sent with orders to:

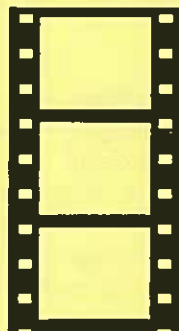
Susan Gabay  
P.O. Box 151  
Mosier, OR 97040



## Hints for Prize Winning Wildflower Photos

by John Miller, Photography Contest Chair

Want to win the ONPS photo contest next year? Follow these suggestions from our Photography Committee and our Photo Contest Judges:



- Find an interesting subject. Look for a good composition.
- Be sure the background is not cluttered.
- Be sure the focus is sharp and that you have a good sharp depth of field.
- The exposure should be correct to get good color.
- A good print but one with some distractions can be improved by a good custom printing or by cropping with a paper cutter. Plan cropping by covering the portion of the print you think should be cut off.

Start now to take winning photos for next year's contest...and good luck!

## Wetland Losses Getting More Attention via New Report

"The Impact of Federal Programs on Wetlands" is a new Interior Department report you can order pointing out how federal policies encourage wetland destruction at an alarming disappearance rate in the United States.

In the Mississippi Valley, almost 19 million acres of bottomland forests have been cut and drained, and only about 7 million acres of the original 20 million acres of U.S. prairie wetlands remain. In both areas, agriculture accounts for almost all wetland conversions as federal programs such as price and income supports increase the profitability of draining wetlands. There are other causes and effects.

Copies of the report covering the Lower Mississippi Valley and Prairie Potholds can be obtained by writing:

Wetlands Report  
Office of Program Analysis, Room 4412  
Department of the Interior  
18th and "C" Streets NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## Using Native Plants in Our Yard by Raymond Kays

Landscaping might be identified as the art of developing land for use and beauty in such a way to provide maximum utility and enjoyment.

In contrast, when one thinks of roadside beautification with native plants, especially wild flowers, one assumes that these plants will arise random mixtures with 1) time of bloom, 2) color of flowers, and 3) height of plants as three of many variables.

Following several years of adaptation to a given site, these random mixtures usually develop into dominant species or cease to be a part of the scene.

For plantings in our yard, unlike the random concept, I choose the same approach as with domesticated plants. I intend to provide a limited amount of space for each species, each kind. As examples -- I like to use *Penstemon digitalis* behind lower growing snapdragons, vincas, etc. I may select *Echinacea purpurea* -- purple coneflower to be behind marigolds, geraniums, iris, columbine, petunias or other kinds because of a difference in plant texture, flower size, habit of growth, etc.

Before this may be accomplished, I would like to know when a given native plant blooms, the duration of flowering, flower color, plant height, growth habit, plant texture, tolerance to sun or shade, wet or dry soil and other factors related to optimum plant growth.

Since we hope to have 60 to 80 kinds of wild flowers and

### Dr. Barclay Featured in TU Quarterly, *Dialog*

The Summer 1989 issue of Tulsa University's *Dialog* magazine carries an article by Jean Gerow that was started a year ago last June, but as Dr. Barclay told *Gaillardia* this month, "is very well done."

The piece traces the career of the Tulsa University professor emeritus, and ONPS co-founder, from childhood in Minnesota through her collegiate honors, the move to Tulsa and chairing of the botany department, her world-wide excursions studying (and many times discovering) plant life above the timberline. Her successful efforts at saving Redbud Valley, eventually resulting in the Nature Conservancy's first Oklahoma preservation site, are also described. Five full-color photographs accompany the article.

Dr. Barclay had to spend the summer of 1989 at home to deal with chemotherapy, the first summer in many years she hasn't spent in Colorado, but she's in her usual form: "There's not much plant life in the Antarctic, but it's one of the few places I haven't been. I'm responding well...so I may make it to Antarctica yet."

possibly 100 domesticated varieties and types in our yard each year, it is necessary to fit one with another as specific growth requirements allow. On the other hand, if I were to utilize only wild flowers, I suspect I might have more gaps when flowering would be absent or less showy.

As one recognizes the potential of certain wild flowers in the yard, one observes that the "one season of bloom" of the native habitat may develop into intermittent flowering or re-blooming when additional water, nutrients, space and reduced competition are present. Native verbenas, *gaillardias* and showy evening primroses may flower throughout a 3 to 6 month period.

When these many variables become manageable and annuals, biennials and perennials find their place in your plantings, you may observe that the very seasonal flowering of native blue sages (due to photoperiod) may encourage you to select a small colony of plants of *Salvia farinacea* since it should bloom for 5 to 6 months.

I do not suggest that the combination of native and domesticated flowers in a landscaped area is either easy or instantly successful, but I do know it is satisfying and practical.

Next time I hope to give you some variables of plant groupings which I have enjoyed in our sunny yard. Also some for shade.

### Course on Oklahoma Environment Has ONPS Leader and Participation

ONPS member and Oxley Nature Center volunteer Tom Chilton has developed a course for the Tulsa Public Schools that may appeal to many other ONPS members this fall. Part of the evening adult curriculum, it is called "THE ENVIRONMENT: Focusing on Oklahoma," and meets for three Thursdays at 7 p.m. beginning Sept. 28.

Chilton describes the course as an "overview of the environmental problems and opportunities in eastern Oklahoma" wherein participants can learn about rare plants, strange animals and hidden habitats. The first two sessions are to be slide shows and presentations by biologists, ecologists, naturalists, engineers and city officials on the natural history of Oklahoma, threatened species and ecosystems, landfills, etc. Dr. Paul Buck is scheduled to participate. The final Oct. 12 session is to be a panel representing ONPS, Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy and other groups describing projects and opportunities for volunteer involvement.

"THE ENVIRONMENT" is scheduled for Byrd Community School; cost for the three sessions is \$12. Call 745-6287 to register.