



The purpose of the ONPS is to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma native plants.

Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

Indoor Outing Set for Tulsa in February

Too cold for a field trip? Come indoors to the Tulsa Garden Center for an event you won't forget. The theme of next year's indoor outing, the society's annual winter meeting, is Oklahoma Prairies, scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on February 2, 1991, at the Tulsa Garden Center.

During registration, there will be tours of the newly-remodeled Garden Center and the nearby greenhouse and arboretum. A display of wildflower photographs, sales of gift items, and a poster session are also planned.

Harvey Payne, an attorney from Pawhuska and long-time advocate of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, will kick off the event with his world class photography of the prairie through the seasons.

The Northeast Oklahoma chapter plans to arrange for a lunch on site for a nominal fee, followed by two afternoon sessions to run concurrently. Participants can pick individual lectures from each. In one track, Paul Buck, Tulsa University, will show how to identify woody prairie plants. Jerry Crockett, OSU, will give tips on identifying grasses to genus. Steve Goldsmith, TU, will bring a bug show for hands-on identification of critters commonly encountered in the field. In the other track, Susan Glenn of the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory will talk about what satellite imagery can tell us about Oklahoma prairies. Teresa Maurer of the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture will enlighten us on prairie soil ecology. To round out the session, we'll have a geologist explain the basics of prairie rocks and minerals.

John Miller, Photography chair and winner of the Third Annual Anne Long Award, will show us one of his multi-screen fabulous slide shows. Dinner will be on your own, but be sure to return for the evening program when Jack Tyler, Cameron University, will speak on the mammals of the prairie. Dr. Tyler is the author of Mammals of Oklahoma.

Plan to come and share the fun. Paul Buck and Nora Jones are co-chairs for the event. Registration information will be carried in the January/February Gaillardia. Don't miss it. The three previous indoor outings have been hosted by Dr. James Estes, OU's Bebb Herbarium; Dr. Ron Tyrl, OSU; and by Mike Bush, Myriad Gardens. ♣

Annual Meeting Roundup

The weather was perfect October 13-14 at Fort Gibson Lake. Paul Buck, Larry Magrath, Jim Norman and Clark Ovrebo led about 30 ONPS members on field trips Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. In addition to seeing orchids in flower and fruit, courtesy of Larry, Paul identified some lovely grasses in an unplowed, ungrazed meadow. Jim used his many field skills to identify birds by song and silhouette and to discourse on the life cycle of the luna moth. Clark was in great demand to identify mushrooms in pastures and woodland.

At the annual meeting, the slate of officers provided by the nominating committee was approved by acclamation. Mike Bush to serve as president; Linda Watson, vice-president; Herb Beattie, treasurer; Nora Jones, secretary; and Ruth Boyd, historian. In addition, the following will be directors-at-large: John Skeen, Connie Taylor, Joanne Orr, Paul Nighswonger, Teresa Maurer, and Tom Chilton. Larry Magrath will continue on the board as past president.

Herb Beattie, executive Director of the Oklahoma Nature Conservancy, reported that the Barnard Ranch will be acquired on December 1, 1990. The Cucumber Creek preserve in LeFlore County is growing. It represents the least clearcut, road cut, or developed of any land in southeast Oklahoma, including the national forest. The Nature Conservancy has a long-range plan to acquire 20,000 acres in the Cucumber Creek

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See Insert for:

1991 Board

Calendar of Events



printed on
recycled paper

Annual Meeting

Continued from page 1

watershed, which is home to 18 species of rare plants, many of them Ouachita Mountain endemics. The top and north slope of Black Mesa will soon belong to the Nature Conservancy. Black Mesa, the highest point in the state, boasts at least 50 rare plants.

Ross Murphy, executive director of Deep Fork Wetlands Coalition, Inc., talked about the status of the projected preserve. According to Murphy, the proposed wetlands project is controversial and expensive, but there is a positive economic, political and social benefit to saving the Deep Fork.

Jim Bennett, executive Director of the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation, talked about the status of private and public forests in Oklahoma. Major threats to private forests include lack of a scenic river plan with teeth in it, tax supported fire suppression and acid rain which releases heavy metals thereby destroying plants and aquatic organisms. Public forests are improving. There is more concern for non-game animals and the Forest Service has just hired a botanist, Susan Hooks, to study the plants of the Ouachita National Forest. There has also been a change in clearcutting policy. Clearcuts will only be performed under certain conditions. Usually, a modified seed tree/shelterwood method will be used, which will leave 12 to 15 trees per acre. There was a question from the floor on the reasonableness of cutting sensitive areas such as hanging bogs, at all, where certain rare plants could be wiped out and the ecosystem never recover. Teresa Maurer is ONPS liaison to the Forest Management Oversight Committee. Please contact her with concerns at (918) 647-9123.

Larry Magrath noted that at the August Orchid tour, several sites were impacted. At McKinney Creek hanging bog, a large colony of green adders fern had been cut over and burned. To the east, the trees were marked for cutting. This is a site for the whorled pogonia. At Batieste, someone was there with a chainsaw. Rich forest areas are quickly disappearing in Southeast Oklahoma.

Mike Bush presided at the banquet. He presented outgoing president Larry Magrath with a copy of Wildflowers of the United States by Rickett. Larry, in turn, presented former presidents Betty Kemm and Nora Jones with engraved gavels. Paul Buck announced John Miller was winner of the 1990 Anne Long Award. Davida Phillips was thanked for her two years as historian for the society. Everyone admired her work on the scrapbooks.

After dinner, Dr. Clark Ovrebo, of Central State University, presented a very enjoyable look at the world of fungi. At the end of the slide show, he turned out the lights and showed us a log with *Panellus stipticus*, which glowed in the dark to the delight of the audience. Clark also shared specimens collected earlier in the day. ✪

by Nora Jones

Central Oklahoma Chapter

by Susan Chambers

Our September 24 meeting was at the Crystal Bridge with Brenda Weiser, conservation education specialist from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, as speaker. Nine people were present to hear Brenda speak about Project Learning Tree.

PLT was developed back in the early 1970s, shortly after the first Earth Day. It was originally conceived by the Western Regional Environmental Education Council, composed of 13 western states. Educators, conservationists and foresters got together and developed two activities guides for children ages K-6th and 7th-12th grades, to teach soil and water conservation principles. The guides worked well and the program was expanded nationwide, to be sponsored by state entities. In Oklahoma, the co-sponsors are the Conservation Commission and the Forestry Department. PLT is a state funded, environmental education program, emphasizing our natural resources, using forest and plants as the focus.

Workshops are taught to adult leaders such as college students, 4-H, Scout leaders and elementary through high school teachers. The program covers 49 states, Canada, Sweden, Guam and Mexico. Missouri is the only state not currently using the PLT program, as it had an environmental education program in place

The guides are composed around seven themes, generally encouraging awareness and appreciation. Activities bring out differences in areas such as culture, lifestyle, resource management and the inter-relation of living things and the earth. All of these activities try to teach "how to think," and not, "what to think."

The guides are currently being revised and the new editions will be out in approximately two years. They are easy to use, draw on many different disciplines, supplemental to existing classwork or studies and emphasize the importance of the environment, our natural resources and conservation education in general. They guides are available through six hour workshops arranged through the Conservation Commission and the Forestry Dept.

After Ms. Weiser's talk, we discussed the future direction of our group. One suggestion was to get a 'shopping list' from Pat Folley for the Bebb Herbarium. Any members traveling to other areas can keep alert for specimens requested for the herbarium. Another possibility was to compose a map of "watchable" native plants for public use. It was also suggested that members of the organization compose a list of native perennials, shrubs and trees that are commendable as landscape specimens for local nurserymen.

Our November meeting will be on the 26th at 7:30 p.m. at the Crystal Bridge. Jim Bennett of the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation will speak on plans to naturalize the grounds of the OWF. The January 28th meeting is described in the calendar insert, this issue. ✪

Photo Notes by John Miller

It's great to be back in Oklahoma after a summer of travel. My wife, Ruth, and I, along with Bob and Jennifer Lindsey, spent the last week of August and the first two weeks of September sightseeing and taking photographs in England and Scotland. It's this part of our travels about which I'd like to share some observations. It was the first time there for all of us, and we did most of our touring in a rented car staying mostly at bed and breakfast places. Together we exposed 50 rolls of slide film.

We made some mistakes and did some things right. It turned out right that we bought our film before we left the USA because film is very expensive in England. We ordered ours from a mail order company and our cost was about a third of what it would have been there. We took Fujichrome 100 which produces good color saturation even though the weather is often rainy. Kodachrome would also have been a good choice for the same reason. We chose 36-exposure rolls which take up no more room than 24-exposure rolls and are slightly less expensive per shot.

There was so much to photograph -- castles, cathedrals, formal gardens, and the lush countryside with its rolling hills divided into many plots with ancient rock fences. I'm afraid I was distracted from my usual emphasis on nature photography.

There was an abundance of cultivated flowers -- about everything we grow here and much more. They grow flowers in hanging baskets, window boxes, formal and informal gardens. They also cultivate wildflowers, but

I get more excited to find native plants growing wild. This we did, too. Yes, after the land has been used a few thousand years you can still find flowers growing wild!

We used our imaginations to photograph the Loch Ness Monster. Loch Ness and other lakes were deep and the water beautiful, but they were surrounded by forests which don't look natural. Trees planted in rows are not my idea of a beautiful forest. It is the result of many years of clear cutting. I didn't see a single natural looking forest. I took a picture of a clear cut area as a reminder that it is happening to us here at home.

One reason for taking a holiday in Scotland and England is that the people speak our language and they are so gracious. We really felt at home, and it was easy to enjoy the many sights. But when it comes to natural beauty, the United States has so much more. Right here at home we have more kinds of native plants and our share of lakes and streams, prairies and woodlands. I am anxious to get back to photographing our own natural

HELPFUL HINT: It is risky business to take many rolls of film and not get them developed as you go along. You might be doing something wrong which could be corrected if you only knew. If you are going on an extended vacation and you will not have an opportunity to get your film developed as you go, make sure you are familiar with your camera and that you are in practice. Fall and winter offer many photographic opportunities, so stay in practice.☆

Hot (house) news:

Bush Resigns

Newly-elected ONPS President Mike Bush has indeed submitted his resignation beginning mid-November. He has accepted the position of director of the Bermuda Botanical Gardens, a role difficult to turn down.

With best wishes to him, and disappointment we won't be hearing more "President Bush here" calls, we send Mike best wishes in Bermuda. We also welcome Linda Watson, our newly-elected VP, who now, fortunately for ONPS after the loss of Mike, will serve as our new president.

Handy Nature Guide recommended

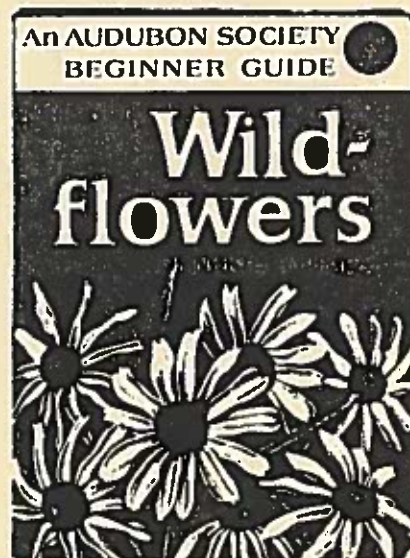
An Audubon Society Beginner Guide, Wildflowers of North America.
Text by George S. Fichter, illustrations by Dorothea Barlowe.
Random House, Inc., NY 1982. 96 pgs. paperback, \$3.95.

As stated on the back cover, this compact book was "designed to give beginners of all ages a basic introduction to the world of nature." It is small enough (3 1/4" x 4 1/2") to slip easily into pockets and will not tire small hands. I chose this well-illustrated guide for a 10-year-old.

Colored drawings with accompanying descriptions of 63 wildflowers are grouped by colors which are quickly located by tabs on upper corners of the pages. Color variations are mentioned in the descriptions which include characteristics of flowers and leaves, the season of bloom and the regions in which they grow. Only common names are used. Each illustration is accompanied by the size of both the plant and the flower. A checklist doubles as an index. For the beginner there are six pages showing the parts of a simple flower, flower types, examples of seeds, leaf shapes and leaf arrangements.

Other books in the series are Rocks & Minerals, Birds of North America, and Reptiles & Amphibians of North America.

Review by Davida Phillips



ONPS resolution in support of Deep Fork River Project

At their October 28 meeting, the ONPS board accepted the Conservation Committee's resolution to support the Deep Fork River Project. The final version, with the board's amendments, is printed below.

"Whereas, the purpose of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society is to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma native plants, and

"Whereas, one of the major concerns of the ONPS is the loss of natural habitat in which wildflowers and native plants grow, and

"Whereas, the Deep Fork River Project would ensure the preservation of 60,000 acres of riparian habitat which involves one of the last stands of bottomland hardwood forests in Oklahoma, and

"Whereas, there are numerous native wildflowers and native plants which occur or could potentially occur in this habitat,

"Therefore, be it resolved that the members of the Executive Board of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society express their complete support for the Deep Fork River Project."

The Gaillardia

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President:	Mike Bush
Vice President:	Linda Watson
Secretary:	Nora Jones
Treasurer:	Herb Beattie
Historian:	Ruth Boyd
Editing:	Marilyn Bell

John Miller receives A. Long Award

ONPS photography chair and regular contributor to *Gaillardia*, John Miller, was recipient of the third annual Anne Long Award, chosen from nominees submitted to the Awards Committee headed by Paul Buck. Announcement of the Award was made at the Oct. 13 Annual Meeting banquet at Western Hills Lodge. In addition to the above-mentioned contributions, John has mounted the outstanding photo displays for ONPS, given programs on Oklahoma wildflowers to children and adult groups across the state, and represented ONPS at environmental and nature events related to ONPS purposes. Many congratulations, John, for the well-deserved recognition.★

Reminder:

Don't forget to renew your membership! And you might consider an ONPS membership for students or friends as a wonderful gift for the holiday season. They'll receive the newsletter six times a year, and all other mailings for meetings, field trips, etc.



Student memberships are only \$5/year; individual, \$10; family, \$15. Write to ONPS if you would like to have a gift card sent to some fortunate recipient(s) from you. Mail memberships (new and renewals) to: Oklahoma Native Plant Society c/o Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 South Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114.

Your contribution to the Harriet Barclay Scholarship Fund is tax-deductible if you act before end 1990. The Fund is for an annual scholarship awarded to the outstanding botany paper presented at the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science Spring Meeting.

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
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TODAY!**

Happy Holidays