



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

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Naturalist's review
Photograph now!
McCurtain Cty

Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

Okahoma Prairies: Have you registered for Feb. 2 outing?

Most ONPS members have received a special mailing-reminder-map for the indoor outing in Tulsa, but if you've not yet registered, please do so soon. Planners need to make arrangements at Tulsa Junior College, venue for the sessions, so please note that registrations need to be received by January 29.

Scheduled speakers for the Oklahoma Prairies agenda are: Terrence Bidwell, Paul Buck, Steve Goldsmith, Sue Glenn, Tom Chilton, John Dickerson, Teresa Maurer, John Miller and Jack Tyler. (Dr. Bidwell, an OSU botanist, is replacing Jerry Crockett, originally scheduled to talk on prairie grasses at one of the afternoon sessions.)

Address of the TJC campus is 3727 E. Apache, on the corner of Apache and North Harvard. Once you enter the main Administration & Academic Building, the ONPS meeting place will be well marked. Also, for the evening "dinner on your own," you will be provided with a list of some of the recommended restaurants nearby. If you need more information about the outing, call co-host, Nora Jones, at (918) 749-5859.

T-Shirts: (each with prairie grass graphic) for under \$10 are in the works for your Saturday..plus many more surprises....Come out and enjoy your prairie...query the experts...enjoy the photography, and more.

Calendar of Native Plant Winter Events

Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Central Chapter meeting at OU in Norman; see pg. 2 for detail

Feb. 2, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Indoor/Outing and Board Meeting at TJC, Tulsa

Feb. 10

Gaillardia deadline

Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.

(tentative date, prog. TBA) and

March 11, 7:30 p.m.

Program by Tom Chilton
NE Chapter meetings
Tulsa Garden Center

April 3, 7 p.m.

Board Meeting
Okla. Natural Heritage Inv.,
Norman

April 20

Photo Contest Deadline

From *Wildflower*, newsletter of the National Wildlife Research Center, Austin, TX:

Act Locally

1. Ask local state and city government and corporations that sponsor tree give-away programs: please plant *native* trees.

2. The Wildflower Handbook is being updated, and **professionals are needed** to incorporate native plants into planned landscapes: especially required are landscape architects, restorationists and consultants. Please call, Ecological Survey, at (512) 929-3600.

All ONPS members are invited to note:

The next *Gaillardia* deadline is **February 10** for the March/April issue, and **April 10** for the May/June Issue.



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Conservation Corner by Patricia Folley

Hello! A new name in this familiar corner. What happened to Paul Buck? Don't be alarmed: Paul's still there, but the ONPS has gone co-ed. Now there's a committee co-chair at each end of the state. So, Paul and I will be sharing this column for a while and, we hope, bringing our members the benefit of an additional perspective.

I'd like to talk seriously with you now, about a species as endangered as the White Rhino, as vanishing as the California Condor. It's a human quality called "joy." Think how long it has been since you last felt good about a natural event. In my case, it wasn't Earth Day; I was too tired, too burdened with the urgency of need and the inadequacy of my efforts to feel anything. No, that response came without warning or effort during a rest stop on a sandy river-trail. There bloomed a flower I had sought in all the wrong places and wrong times. Bloomed in spite of all its specified preferences and needs, in the place where it had been planted.

Is motivation subject to the same rule of natural law as are the more measurable phenomena of nature? If so, then we ought to be able to formulate a kind of Law of Conservation of Motivation. Some balances, perhaps, such as giving ourselves a solitary stroll in an already-protected area for each letter to a politician or editor. What would you offer as a reward for sitting through a local Parks and Recreation department meeting? What penance, for that matter, would balance the joys of the field day that follows each ONPS annual meeting?

Probably, though, the measurement of pleasure is subject to the same limitations as our efforts to measure, even to perceive, the minutiae of nature. What I mean to emphasize and encourage is not any elaborate scheme of

rewards and punishments, but the simple awareness that we owe to ourselves the constant refreshment of our resources. For each individual environmentalist, that selection would be different. Personally, I loathe politics and enjoy one-on-one contact with wilderness -- poison ivy, snakes and all. It takes a lot of trail-walking to keep me active in preserving those trails through the means of political involvement. And it is wonderful to observe those stellar souls who can take pleasure in a political battle well-campaigned, but who endure the rigors of the trail with stoicism and clenched teeth. You will have to determine for yourself which reward must match which job-well-done. Just, please, see that you do allow yourself those rewards. We who carry the burden of awareness need all the help we can get.

In his Earth Day article for *Natural History*, John Madsen quoted this advice by Edward Abbey:

Do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am -- a reluctant enthusiast, a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the West; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it's still there. So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, encounter the Griz, climb the mountains...sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, that lovely and mysterious and awesome space.



Central Chapter information for Jan. 28 meeting at OU

Dr. Rahmona Thompson, interim curator, Bebb Herbarium, will speak on the Flora of America Project. Time is 7:30 p.m.; date Monday, Jan. 28. Visitor parking near Owen Stadium; meeting in Botany Bldg. next to greenhouses. Contact Pat Folley (405) 872-8361.

Recommended Reading

by Steve Thompson, Assistant Naturalist
Martin Park Nature Center

How about some reading while curled up in front of the fire? One of the books I recently read was Enduring Seeds -- Native American Agriculture and Wild Plant Conservation by Gary Nabhan. I had been meaning to read this for quite some time but either couldn't find it, or when I did, I let the title scare me away...I finally read Enduring Seeds after finishing up Red October (yes, the submarine book). Maybe I was feeling a little guilty for reading something just for fun while all these other "serious" things were ignored. Anyway, I'm glad I finally got around to it. It was one of those can't-put-it-down books. I was expecting a lot of details on native plants, and certainly there was a lot of that in the book. What really caught my attention though was the descriptions of Native American cultures. I recommend.★

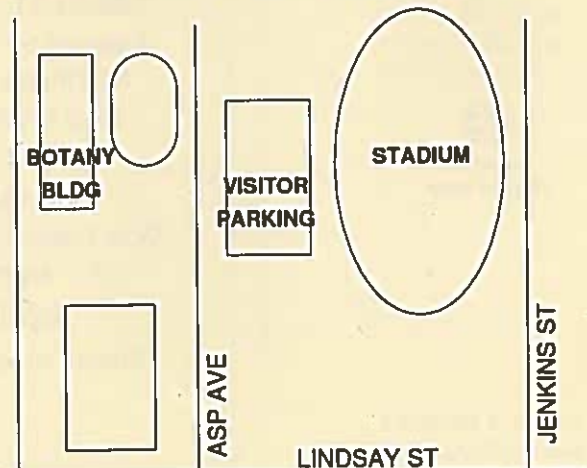


Photo Notes by John Miller

We are pleased to report that the rules for our 1991 Photography Contest are approved and in the process of being printed and distributed.

Some New Contest Rules

Those who have placed in the past will now enter in an *advanced* category. All of our previous winning photos have been close-ups of wildflowers. To encourage more habitat photography, we have a new category for photos of larger groups of native plants. Because this does not require the special equipment or technique which close-ups do, past winners as well as beginners will compete with each other in this new category.

There will be a total of \$300 in prizes -- nine cash prizes. The three categories are: Advanced Close-up, Amateur Close-up, and Plant Habitat. All categories are for photographic color *prints* not larger than 5 by 7 inches. While we are enthusiastic about slides, we have made much more use of the prints we have received in the past. For this reason there will not be a slide category this year. The Contest deadline is April 20. A formal entry form will be carried in the next *Gailliardia*, but you can begin taking and *planning* photos right now. (See *Hints* below.)

We want to thank the executive board for allotting such a generous portion of the ONPS budget to this contest. The committee intends to work hard to make this expenditure worthwhile. We would also like to enlist the help of all ONPS members to promote the contest, whether you enter or not.

We are pleased that Evelyn Washburn and Sue Amstutz have been appointed to serve on the photography committee. They are enthusiastic and will make a valuable contribution. We are also pleased that Thermon Hollis is continuing to serve. This will be his second year.

After serving on the committee for three years, Dorothy Norris, Theresa Grosshans, and Eleanor Rader have declined another year but are willing to help when needed. We appreciate their many contributions.

HELPFUL HINT: Plan ahead. Winter time does offer opportunities for nature photography, but it is also a good time to locate places, and figure out how to take those super shots when spring does come. It is fun to get out in the winter time to enjoy nature while you plan for photographic opportunities. ☆

Nature Notes by Nora Jones

Wildthings is not a new rock song but a quarterly newsletter published by C.M. Slade of Midwest City. The Fall, 1990 issue covered such diverse topics as population pressures, motor oil pollution, wintering bald eagles, the tallgrass prairie preserve, hypothermia, and wildthing photography. Interested? Subscriptions are \$10/year from C.M. Slade, 2925 Shadybrook, Midwest City, OK 74110.

The **Oklahoma Forest Stewardship** program is off the ground with certification of the 6,400 acre Mabry Ranch near Wilburton. The stewardship program encourages landowners to properly manage the resources under its control. A who's who of forest management agencies is available to help landowners with a multiple use management plan. These agencies are: Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Forestry Division, Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, OSU Forestry

Division, USDA Soil Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service and County Conservation Districts. Landowners with more than 25% of their land in forest are eligible for the program. For more information, contact any of the agencies listed above.

A beautiful and informative new book is **Nature's Heartland: Native Plant Communities of the Great Plains** (Bill Boon and Harlen Groe, Iowa State University Press, 1990). Pretty enough to be a coffee table book, it is nevertheless a solid reference book on native plants from the perspective of the varied communities we find here. A page of description faces color photos of each community, followed by a page on each major species, with color photos of the landscape, the plant and the flower, a range map, and tabular description of habitat, form, foliage, flower and fruit. A wonderful book to curl up with on cold evenings while dreaming of spring-time outings. ☆

Comments sought on proposed management plan **McCurtain County Wilderness Area**

The 14,000 acre McCurtain County Wilderness Area is the largest old growth forest remaining in the eastern United States. It is a unique area which deserves the best management possible. For the past half century, it has been managed with benign neglect – fire suppression has been the only management tool used.

Photographs taken in 1930 by Elbert Little, author of Forest Trees of Oklahoma and other important texts, show a "drastic successional change," from a fire-driven pine-dominated forest to an oak forest. The shift in forest composition is causing a decline in the population of the endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker which needs large pine trees with clear flight paths to get to its nest holes. Other birds and animals would also benefit from prescribed burning, which would clear the forest floor of hardwoods of small stem size.

Concepts of managing wilderness are evolving. No longer do foresters think they can preserve a wilderness using a hands off approach. Trying to keep a wilderness preserve bottled up like grandma's jam is a recipe for failure. As Daniel Botkin, author of Discordant Harmonies, stated, "Natural ecological systems are always

changing, always subject to change, adapted to change and require change. If we hope to preserve examples of nature, our management must be active and take natural dynamic qualities into account."

We must ask hard questions *right now* about the future of the very unique treasure called the McCurtain County Wilderness Area. Will the Red-cockaded woodpecker survive? What fire intolerant species exist on the area? What unique hardwood forest communities exist there and maybe nowhere else on earth? What are possible sources of funding for a complete inventory of the flora and fauna of the area?

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is asking for comments on the proposed management plan, which includes prescribed burning, removal of some hardwood trees near Red-cockaded woodpecker colony trees, and increasing public access to the area. If you have comments or need more information, please contact Nora Jones at (918) 585-1117 or (918) 749-5859.

NJ

The Gaillardia

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ONPS Memberships

For \$10/year, individuals; \$15/yr, families; and \$5/year, students, you can become a member of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society and receive the six newsletters a year and all other mailings to keep you involved in Native Plant field trips, meetings, and issues relating to ONPS purposes. To join, write to:

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See you
FEB. 2
in Tulsa