



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

Plan now for Fall Foliage weekend/annual meeting

A weekend in late October. A beautiful vista in eastern Oklahoma. A national forest not that far away. Guided and unguided trips to investigate the native flora. Perfect days and cool nights. You can plan on this weekend now, in hot July.

It's the October 26-27 ONPS Annual Meeting and field trips at the Kerr Country Inn and Conference Center, south of Poteau. This beautiful hilltop native stone mansion overlooks the Poteau River valley and features a unique historical museum. It is less than an hour to many parts of the Ouachita National Forest. Theme of the meeting is *Fall Foliage*. Forest biodiversity is also on the agenda.

Tentative agenda for the weekend

Saturday, October 26

All events originate at Kerr Country Inn and Conference Center

- 9 a.m. - noon Registration and optional self-guided field trips
- Noon Guided field trip to Heavener Runestone Park
(Lunch before trip or bring lunch along.)
- 4 p.m. Business meeting and election
- 5 p.m. Panel: Forest Biodiversity
- 7 p.m. Dinner and Awards
Program: Susan Hooks, botanist, Ouachita National Forest

Sunday, October 27

- 7 a.m. Breakfast and board meeting -- all members welcome
- 8 a.m. Fall foliage trip...Beech Creek Botanical area (tentative)
Leaders will organize carpools and lead caravans.
(Bring snacks.)
- 12:30 p.m. Adjourn

Your next *Gaillardia*, the September/October issue, will carry a more detailed agenda, plus names of new board members put forward by the nominations' committee, but now is the time to register and book rooms for this weekend. On page 3 you will find more information and registration form.



Native Plant events for your calendar

Date/Time	Event/Place	Contact/Phone
July 29 7:30 p.m.	Central Chapter Meeting OSU Hort. Branch, 4th & Portland, Okla. City • Subject: <i>Water Gardening</i>	Susan Chambers (405) 769-7917
August 9	Board meeting rescheduled to earlier date/McAlester	
August 10	Orchid field trip/ SE Oklahoma CANCELLED (to be rebooked in 1992)	
Sept. 1	Deadline: <i>Anne Long Award</i> nominations	Paul Buck (918) 743-3397
Sept. 27-29	OAS wildflower field trip Osage State Park	Paul Buck (918) 743-3397
Oct. 26-27	ONPS Annual Fall Outing & Meeting Poteau/Kerr Center & environs	Linda Watson (405) 325-1985

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Protection for Oklahoma's Plants -- Status : Action Needed by Linda Watson

At last count (An Annotated List of the Ferns, Fern Allies, Gymnosperms, and Flowering Plants of Oklahoma, 1991, by Drs. John and Connie Taylor), Oklahoma has 159 families of vascular plants, 846 genera, 2,540 species, and a total of 2,830 taxa.

Oklahoma has more diversity than Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, or New Mexico. One reason for this is that many floristic regions are represented with the Western Gulf Coastal Plain in SE Oklahoma, the Ozarkian Region covering the Ozark Plateau and Ouachita Mountains, the Prairie and Great Plains Regions in central Oklahoma, the High Plains Region of the Panhandle, the Rocky Mountain Region of the far northwestern Panhandle at Black Mesa, and the Southwestern Region in southwestern Oklahoma which includes the Wichita Mountains.

Despite this outstanding diversity, native plant species receive no legal protection in the State of Oklahoma at the state level, and only limited protection at the federal level. A little background on what Oklahoma does have, and doesn't:

No Oklahoma state laws protect plant species from destruction or from becoming extinct. This is in contrast to state laws that provide some protection for animals, with the Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation the state agency responsible for enforcement. In contrast to Oklahoma, many states do have plant protection laws, including our neighbors, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, and Missouri. Some states' laws protect all native plant species from destruction, and others protect only threatened or species in danger of becoming extinct.

The Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory, a program of the Oklahoma Biological Survey, is the only state agency that tracks the distribution and threats of rare, threatened, and endangered plant species in Oklahoma. There are similar programs in all 50 states, and several conservation centers in other countries of the western hemisphere.

At the federal level, native plant species are afforded only limited legal protection through the Endangered Species Act, adopted in 1973 by Congress. The law remains intact, with few amendments over the years. One of the most important of these added protection for plants and invertebrates, when previously only vertebrates, mollusks, and crustaceans were covered. The Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the federal agency charged with enforcement.

Under the Act, legal definitions were created for the terms "threatened" and "endangered."

"Threatened" is "any species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant part of its range."

"Endangered" is "any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range."

If a species has been federally listed, it has been the subject of a proposed and final rule or regulation, and it has been published in the Federal Register.

A "candidate" species is any being considered by the Fish and Wildlife Service for listing as threatened or endangered, but it has not yet been the subject of a proposed rule.

A "Category One" candidate species is one for which the Fish and Wildlife Service currently has substantial information on biological vulnerability and threats that supports listing the species as endangered or threatened.

A "Category Two" candidate species is one for which information indicates listing is possibly appropriate, but for which supporting data is not currently known. A "3C" species is one previously proposed or listed, or a "candidate" species, but has been excluded because it is either extinct, taxonomically invalid, or widespread and not threatened.

Each of the categories provides differing levels of protection under the law. Candidates receive no protection, proposed species for listing receive limited, and listed (either threatened or endangered) species full protection. Limited protection means that the species must be addressed in biological assessments and other agencies must confer with the Fish and Wildlife Service regarding any activities likely to jeopardize its existence. Full protection means that the Fish and Wildlife Service must develop a recovery plan for the species, prohibit removal, halt government and private development, and participate in cooperative management with state agencies. However, plants are protected only on Federal lands, while animals are protected on private and public lands. This is because plants are part of the land owned by the landowner. Plants are also protected in activities that require Federal action, such as permit issuing.

Currently, two plant species are federally listed as "threatened" in Oklahoma; 20 are "candidate species," and 16 are "3C." No plant species are federally listed as endangered. The Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory tracks some 500 native plant species, of which 60 are globally rare, and many more are common throughout the U.S. or N. America, but rare in Oklahoma. Still, none of these plant species has any legal protection, regardless of rarity or vulnerability, unless the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes and lists them as "threatened" or "endangered," and has published a proposed or final rule. And even then, protection is very limited. For many of these species, we don't have enough information to determine if they should be listed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. For some species, it may be too late.

It is long overdue for the citizens of Oklahoma to recognize the value of their native plant species, to appreciate the diversity, and to work towards preserving this natural heritage. ♣

Turnpike Authority still trying and succeeding in wildflower plantings

Betty Kemm wrote to the Authority this spring, to express appreciation for successful wildflower showings. Here is part of CEO Richard L. Ridings response to her, dated June 10:

"In reference to the numerous wildflowers along the turnpikes, they are visible today for two reasons. First...due to the delayed mowing in 1990 and the decreased mowing planned for 1991, more natural wildflowers have been encouraged. Secondly, the Turnpike Authority planted approximately 83 acres of flowers at select sites. ... As indicated in your letter, we are working toward increasing the flowers on the Will Rogers Turnpike. We anticipate positive results in the future."

Ridings sent a list of planting sites on the Turner, Indian Nation, Cimarron, Will Rogers, H.E. Bailey and Muskogee turnpikes. Quite a variety was chosen, including "Lemon Mint, Crimson Clover, Oxeye Daisy, Indian Paintbrush and Blanket," and on the Cimarron Mile 28-59, "Unknown (yellow)." Did anyone identify these?

*Thank you To :

John Miller for producing the beautiful 1991 Photo Contest posters; Walter Long, for helping fold, stick on labels, etc., the last *Gaillardia*; and to all ONPS members who remembered to renew their memberships last month.

Booking October's "Fall Foliage" Weekend

Planners have booked 10 rooms for ONPS members at the Kerr Country Inn for the Oct. 26-27 weekend, for Saturday night only. Reservations must be made directly with the Inn at (918) 647-8221, first-come, first-served. So, call now if you want to stay there.

Rates are \$45 for one person, and \$59 for two. Make sure you identify yourself with ONPS. If you want to be closest to the meetings, this is the place. Same complex, just south of Poteau.

Among other lodging options are:

Kerr-Overstreet Living History Farm, near Kerr Lake, 966-3282
Edna Lee's Bed & Breakfast, 647-9573

Black Angus Motel, 647-3246

You can reserve a cabin at Lake Wister State Park, 655-7756.

Camping is available at Lake Wister and two U.S. Forest Service areas: Cedar Lake and Billy Creek.

All above numbers are area code 918.

Other useful numbers

Teresa Maurer and The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Poteau are local co-hosts of the event. For local information, Teresa, Heidi, Lara or Nancy at (918) 647-9123 (days) can advise. Or, you can call ONPS president, Linda Watson, at (405) 325-5357.

Registration Form

1991 ONPS Annual Meeting and Field Trips • October 26-27 Kerr Country Inn and Conference Center near Poteau, Oklahoma

Please pre-register. Late registrants cannot be guaranteed banquet meal. Fill in the form below and mail by October 11 to:

Linda E. Watson
Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory
2001 Priestly Ave., Bldg. 605
Norman, OK 73019

NAME(S) of attendees: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Registration for Members: \$ 5.00 x # attendees = \$ _____
Registration non-Members: \$ 6.00 x # attendees = _____
Saturday Awards Banquet: \$10.00 x # attendees = _____
Sunday Breakfast: \$ 4.50 x # attendees = _____
TOTAL = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: ONPS. Thank you!

Central Chapter by Susan Chambers

The May 20 meeting was at the OSU Horticulture Branch under the arbor in the gardens. (We hadn't planned to meet outdoors, but someone forgot to unlock the door.)

Pat Folley and Ruth Boyd reported on the Wildflower Festival the first week in May. On future meeting places, we decided to continue meeting at the Horticulture Branch for as long as it's feasible. The next meeting will be on July 29 with Susan Chambers leading a discussion on water gardening with native plants.

We decided on a June 24 field trip to the Folley Farm, a "brown bag" evening picnic and wildflower hike.

Possible projects utilizing native plants were discussed, and the conclusion was we needed more of a "core" group attending meetings before attempting more volunteer projects. Some of our wildflower seedlings we raised this spring emerged in one of the flower-beds in a city median.

After the formalities, the nine members gathered around to identify samples of native and not-so-native flora, and share in some of the potted native plants that Pat Folley and Ruth Boyd brought.

Memberships Invited

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:

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
2435 S. Peoria
Tulsa, OK 74114

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
c/o Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

Sign up
now:
Fall Foliage
annual
meeting

Northeast Chapter from Betty Kemm

ONPS president *emeritus* (also recently finishing a term as Tulsa Garden Center president), Betty Kemm, has accepted the role as "chair" of the NE Chapter's new steering committee, replacing former chair, Gary Schaum.

She reported that after several organizational meetings this spring, and a survey mailed to NE chapter members, it was decided that field trips would be scheduled throughout the year (these to be announced via postcard, if not in *Gaillardia*), and quarterly meetings would begin in September.

If you need information about NE Chapter meetings or field trips, call Betty Kemm at (918) 742-4351.

Note on next issue:

The next *Gaillardia* will be the September-October issue, so if you know of calendar items -- meetings and field trips for both those months -- please mail them to ONPS by Aug. 20.

The Gaillardia

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