



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

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Spring trips/events

Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

Clayton Lake 3-day field trip planned for end May

The 4-day Black Mesa excursion announced in December's *Gaillardia* as "tentative," had to be put off due to lodging unavailability. Field Trips co-chair Connie Taylor sent the following new agenda for that weekend -- May 29-31, which is one week after Memorial Weekend: An investigation of the Clayton Lake - Pushmataha Wildlife Refuge. Location is in North-Central Pushmataha County, about 40 miles southeast of McAlester. Here's the field trip plan:

Friday, May 29, meet at 1 p.m. at entrance to Clayton Lake State Park (Clayton Lake Recreational Area) located along Hwy 271, five miles southeast of Clayton, OK. We will field trip within the park.

Saturday, May 30, meet at 10 a.m. at the entrance to the Pushmataha Wildlife Refuge located southeast of Clayton.

We will visit the site of *Calamovilfa arcuata*, a rare grass known only from Oklahoma and Tennessee. We will field trip within the Refuge. Bring a sack lunch.

In the later part of the afternoon we will visit a pimple mound prairie located about 5 miles north of Clayton which is across the highway from Dr. Barclay's Sundew Meadow, which has been heavily grazed. Sundew, one of Oklahoma's insectivorous plants, has been found at the site we will visit.

Sunday, May 31. We will meet for field trips and/or photography. Sites not yet selected.

MOTELS in Clayton:

Sardis Motel (918) 569-4665, 1 queen-size bed, \$25; 2 double beds, \$30.

Double A Motel (918) 569-4101, 1-2 persons, \$30; 4 persons, \$40.

CAMPGROUND: camping sites available at Clayton Lake State Park. Tent space is \$4; RV sites are \$9 to \$11+ depending on utilities. For reservations call (918) 569-7981. ♣

Wildflower Workshop agenda set

The 15th Annual Wildflower Workshop runs May 1 -2 at Cameron University in Lawton. The workshop features lectures and slide programs in several fields on Friday: Weckeah Bradley, granddaughter of Chief Quanah Parker, will talk on Comanche plant lore; Assistant Professor Robert Ziegler of Cameron will present, "Native Grasses as Ornamentals," and Glen Wampler, Fort Sill Fish and Wildlife Administrator, will discuss, "Controlled Burning of Prairies." Other topics include wildflowers of the Wichitas and the history of wildflowers in Oklahoma.

A luncheon and dinner will be provided. A visit to the old post at Fort Sill will be arranged for those interested. On Saturday, a tour of the wildflowers of the Wichita Wildlife Refuge will be conducted by local experts and Native Plant Society members.

The workshop is sponsored by the Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation, ONPS, Oklahoma Garden Club and Cameron University. For more information, contact the Beautification Office, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, 200 NE 21st, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, at (405) 521-4037. ♣

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ **Newsletter goes Quarterly**

The ONPS board decided, at the Dec., 1991 meeting, to issue the *Gaillardia* four times a year beginning with the Spring, 1992 issue.

Other publication dates will be Summer (June), Fall (October) and Winter (December.)

Volume 7 Number 1
Spring 1992

printed on
recycled paper



Conservation Corner -- by Nora Jones

Perhaps this summer the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera praecleara*) will bloom again in north-eastern Oklahoma. A project funded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and carried out by the Oklahoma Nature Conservancy may help this showy rare plant.

Despite many years of searches by the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory and many other biologists and plant fanciers, the orchid has not been observed here for over a decade. There are two historical sites for the plant in northeastern Oklahoma; a total of 160 historical sites exist in the central U.S. and Canada. At one time it ranged from the Red River Valley of Manitoba, Canada south to Oklahoma. It is now known from only about 50 sites in the midwest.

The orchid most often occurs in mesic tallgrass prairie sites, but has been known to occur on some disturbed sites. Conversion of tallgrass prairies to agricultural land at the time of settlement was a major factor in the plant's population decline.

The orchid puts up an erect raceme (spike) with up to two dozen white to cream flowers. The lower petal of each bilaterally-symmetric flower is deeply lobed and fringed. Leaves are long, thick, and hairless. It is hard to find the orchid unless it is in bloom since the leaves are so undistinctive.

The Western Prairie Fringed Orchid is listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened, which means it is faced with the danger of possibly becoming extinct throughout its range. The Fish and Wildlife Service has put together a recovery team that is working to help restore the populations of the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid.

The Oklahoma Field Office of The Nature Conservancy has received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help in this effort. There is some evidence that burning at certain times of the year will

stimulate the growth and flowering of the Western White Fringed Orchid. So, the Conservancy will conduct prescribed burns on four high-quality prairie remnants, including the two historical sites for the orchid in Oklahoma. Assuming the weather cooperates, the prairies will be burned in late March to early April. Then, we will return to the prairies in June to see if the plants are

flowering. Let's hope they are. I'll keep you posted.

A similar species, the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) is also listed as threatened. This plant is considered to be extirpated from the state.

If you happen to observe either the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid or the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid on any prairies in Oklahoma, let me know. I will share the information with our Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory, who keeps track of rare and endangered species and communities in our state. 🌸



PLATANTHERA LEUCOPHAEA

PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Enclosed is my entry for the 1992 Oklahoma Native Plant Society Photo Contest:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Number of entries submitted: _____ Mail by April 15, 1992 to:

ONPS Photo Contest
Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, OK 74114

It's not too late!

Oklahoma Elms -- by John Skeen

Possibly like others with an interest in plants, I have long been familiar with the two elm species most common in Oklahoma -- American and slippery. Although I had encountered the three other native species (winged, cedar and September) on different occasions, I had not bothered to learn much about them.

Trees in the genus *Ulmus* include some of the most useful forest and ornamental species. These trees share the characteristics of oblong leaves with short leaf stalks and usually doubly serrate edges, round to oblong samaras with papery wings which are often notched at the tip, and zigzag twigs that lack terminal buds. Although found in a variety of habitats, most elms prefer moist soils such as in floodplains.

Of the five Oklahoma natives, American elm has the largest range and occurs statewide except in the pan-

handle. September elm has the smallest distribution and is restricted to the Arkansas River Valley in a few eastern counties and to McCurtain County. Cedar elm is also found in the Arkansas River Valley and in the southeastern and south central tier of counties. Both slippery and winged elm occur throughout much of eastern Oklahoma, but the form species also ranges in the west and southwest regions. At a few sites, e.g. in Sequoyah and McCurtain counties, all five native elms may occur together.

The elms are best distinguished by looking at a combination of characteristics. The following chart, adapted primarily from the Forest Trees of Oklahoma, lists the features that seem most useful in identifying the species.

SPECIES	LEAF length & features		TWIG	FLOWERS	BUDS
American <i>Ulmus americana</i>	3"	Mostly smooth above and soft hairy below	No wings. Slender, brown, mostly hairless	spring	dark brown, pointed and hairless
Slippery <i>U. rubra</i>	3"	Sandpapery above and densely soft hairy below	No wings. Moderately stout, light brown and soft hairy	spring	brown, blunt and rusty hairy
Winged <i>U. Alata</i>	3"	Thick, smooth above and soft hairy below	Usually has Wings. Slender, gray and hairless	spring	brown, egg-shaped and hairy
Cedar <i>U. Crassifolia</i>	3"	Very small and slightly leathery; rough above and soft hairy below	Usually Wings. Slender, red-brown and finely hairy	fall	small, red-brown and finely hairy
September <i>U. serotina</i>	3"	Shiny and smooth above and hairless below	No Wings. Slender, shiny brown and mostly hairless	fall	brown, pointed and hairless



FYI: Gaillardia deadline

All copy, letters, suggestions, art, field trip reports, etc. for the Summer Issue --due to members in mid-June -- must be received by the editor no later than May 15. or May 20 if you call in and explain.

Thank you! The editor



Eat the Dreaded Blaspheme Vine!

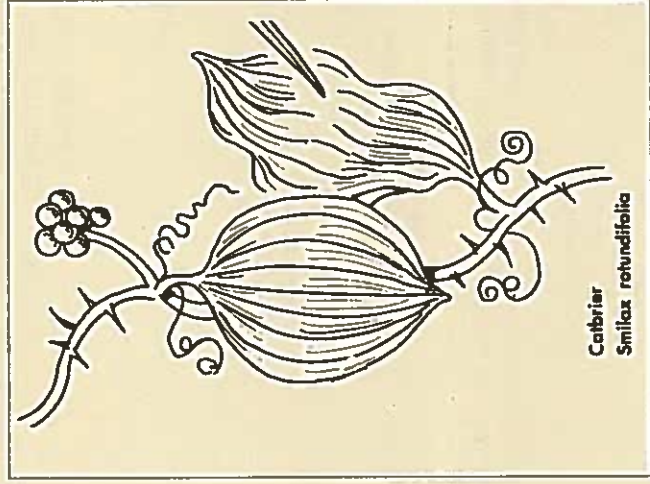
A botanist's ode to a "thicket" -- by Michael Palmer

More than 150 years ago, author Washington Irving travelled through Central Oklahoma. In his book, *A Tour on the Prairies*, he complained bitterly about traversing the cross-timbers (Post Oak - Blackjack Oak forests).

Any Oklahoman living in the cross timber region today can readily understand his complaint. Irving was pestered by the impenetrable lower branches of the blackjack oak, the rugged topography of small ravines with crumbing banks, and finally, what he calls "brambles." Irving's brambles are probably not true brambles (genus *Rubus*, the blackberries and raspberries), but rather members of the genus *Smilax*.

Smilax has been given a host of common names, usually derived from the fact that the stems bear menacing thorns. Such names include catbriar, greenbriar, bullbriar, horsebriar, sawbriar, and helifetter. Anyone who has ever been caught in a *Smilax* thicket would attest that the name blaspheme vine is also appropriate.

Oklahoma is blessed (or cursed, depending on your perspective) with nine species of *Smilax*. However, only three species are common throughout the state, excluding the panhandle. These are *S. bona-nox*, *S. rotundifolia*, and *S. tannoides*. Although a number of characteristics are required to fully distinguish these species, the



C. Palmer
Smilax rotundifolia

Recommended Reading

At a recent native plant conference, one publication stood out as an excellent guide for either the amateur or dedicated naturalist. It is Trees, Shrubs and Vines of Arkansas.

Fortunately, plants do not respect man-made boundaries. Oklahoma's eastern vegetation is primarily comprised of Eastern United States species and, in fact, many of our plants are flora of the Ozarks. Having thoroughly digested this book from cover to cover, I find that 90% or more of the plants listed are growing in Oklahoma's "Green Country."

The book is written and photographed by Carl G. Hunter, retired assistant director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

As with his companion volume, *Wildflowers of Arkansas*, published in 1984, Hunter has taken great care to produce a high quality publication. In fact, he called on more than 30 people -- amateur and professional botanists, conservation agencies -- to aid in assembling the

following are usually adequate: *S. bona-nox* has little bristles at the margin of the leaf near the base; *S. rotundifolia* has large and often evergreen leaves, and *S. tannoides* has numerous weak, black bristles in addition to (and occasionally instead of) spines.

Smilax is unusual among Oklahoma plants in that it is a woody broad-leaved monocot. Most monocots (e.g. lilies, grasses, sedges, irises, etc.) are herbaceous and have narrow leaves. *Smilax* often confuses beginning botanists who try to identify it while assuming it is a dicot. *Smilax* is often considered part of the lily family (Liliaceae), but it does possess numerous unique characteristics and is thus often placed in the *Smilacaceae* family (Liliaceae) which in North America contains 25 species, all in the genus *Smilax*.

Smilax is at home in a wide variety of forested or shrubby habitats. It can be a high-climbing liana (a botanical term for woody vine) which laces together the canopies of

information. He reviewed thousands of his own color slides to find the best illustrations...and oversaw the printing to check on accuracy of color in the photos. Noted artist-conservationist Sherry Langford created 56 accurate, detailed drawings to complement these.

The species are grouped by plant family, which makes it easy to sort out the 26 species of oaks, or the six kinds of dogwoods, or seven species of wild grapes.

This book has over 300 full-color photographs keyed to 325 species descriptions, and 68 plant families. It contains drawings of plant parts, a glossary of botanical terms and a complete index for its 216 pages.

Published in late 1989, the book is available in paperback for \$22.50 or hardback at \$29.50. Books are available in some Oklahoma bookstores, or can be ordered directly from Carl Hunter, at 10525 Diamond Drive, Little Rock, AR 72209; or from the publisher, Ozark Society of Books, Box 3503, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Reviewed by Russell Studebaker

forest trees. In central Oklahoma, it appears to be especially prolific in the canopies of red cedar trees. Although rare in grasslands, *Smilax* can persist a long time after a forest has been cleared and converted to pasture. This is due in part to the fact that they have swollen underground stems (or "lignotubers") which serve

...since *Smilax* causes so much pain and is almost impossible to eradicate...I suggest we rely on an adage: "If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em!"

as food storage organs. These lignotubers can range from golfball to almost basketball size. Once cleaned, their outer surface is a beautiful aqua blue-green -- a color not matched by any other native plant. Since the lignotubers occur up to a meter underground, they're well protected from fire and grazing. Thus, *Smilax* springs back quickly after almost any kind of natural disturbance.

Leaves of *Smilax* species are often mottled with white above. The function of such patterning has led to much speculation. My favorite explanation is that the splotches closely resemble the damage caused by leaf miners (the caterpillars of minute moths which tunnel through leaf material for nourishment). This resemblance deters female leaf miner moths from laying eggs on the leaf. If this explanation is correct, the *Smilax* vines are essentially placing a "no vacancy" sign on the leaves.

Since *Smilax* literally causes so much pain, and is almost impossible to eradicate, what should one do? I suggest we rely on an old adage: "If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em!"

In the spring, *Smilax* buds will break their dormancy and new shoots start to expand. These shoots are at least as delicious as asparagus! Simply cut the shoot as far down as it is tender. Shoots (tendrils and all) can be eaten raw, or steamed or sauteed as one would cook asparagus. While young, the thorns are quite flexible and will not bother the palate. Young leaves can also be eaten, but they become bitter with tannic acid as they expand.

One of my favorite spring dishes consist of *Smilax* shoots, morel mushrooms, and garlic sauteed in olive oil. Usually, however, I end up eating all the shoots before I make it back to the kitchen!

The dried lignotuber can be ground to make a flour used in cooking, but the effort in grinding is immense: the "ligno" in lignotuber refers to wood, and the tuber is indeed as hard as wood.

Perhaps the most intriguing use of *Smilax* is in the making of root beer. Indeed, sarsaparilla, one of the prime ingredients of root beer before the invasion of artificial flavorings, comes from a tropical species of *Smilax*. In theory, the rootstocks of all of our common *Smilax* species are capable of producing such a beverage. All of my edible plant books give different advice on how to make it. I have tried all of these recipes, and experimented with a few of my own. I have tried different species of *Smilax*, harvested in different habitats, on different soils, and in different times of the year. So far, my best results have been a drink tasting somewhat like tree bark (i.e., tannic acids) steeped in water. Euell Gibbons complains of similar bad luck in his classic book, *Stalking the Heathful Herbs*. If anyone out there has had any success in figuring out this *Smilax* root beer, I sure would like to know about it.

It is written that a root-beer flavored pudding or jello can be made from *Smilax* rootstocks; again, I have had no luck in reproducing this.

Smilax produces a blue-black (red in a few species) berry. These berries are very seedy and tasteless, and should be avoided by humans. However, the berries do constitute an important part of the diet of many wild bird and mammal species.

If this discussion on *Smilax* has not stilled your desire to eradicate the plant, let me suggest that you let your blasphemous vines die a slow, prolonged death. In the late fall or winter, cut the vines at the base. Every Spring for several years, come back to the site of the former thicket and harvest the fresh shoots. If the lignotuber is vigorous enough, these shoots should be at least as big around as asparagus! If you place a box or inverted bucket over the emerging stems, the stems will be blanched, mild, and tender. Such a delicacy may make you repent of your blasphemy, at least until you get torn to shreds in a *Smilax* thicket again. ☘

Michael Palmer is a new ONPS board member, and with the Botany Dept. of OSU. He does not as of this date have his own cooking show on television.

Gaillardia watch part of Bristow Wildflower Run ... (or walk) ... May 16

For the last four years a group of runners have been promoting wildflowers in Bristow, Oklahoma with the annual Bristow Wildflower Run. It has grown from the initial race of approximately 180 to over 500 participants in the May athletic event.

Classified as a "run," actually about one-third of the entrants walk and spend a "day in the park." Walkers are more than welcome.

The course wanders through Bristow and goes around the city lake. It is at this area that we find the extensive blanket of *Gaillardia pulchella* that inspired the naming of the race. Each year the race committee has

given out a small amount of *Gaillardia pulchella* seed to each contestant and has used the native wildflowers as the main theme of the T-shirts.

The run committee has also sponsored planting of wildflowers in the center median leading into town. There is usually an art show and a picnic time.

If you have no other plans, May 16 would be a day to mark on your calendar to be in Bristow for the 9:00 a.m. start of the Wildflower Run. For more information contact: Bristow Chamber of Commerce, 918/367-5151, or me at 918/367-5531, or P.O. Box 747, Bristow 74010.

by Dr. Chlp Cooper

Central Chapter Notes

Since last newsletter, the chapter met in January for a tour of the T L C Greenhouse and Nursery, in February for a presentation by Pat Folley on "Local, Native and Useful," and planned several field trips.

At the February meeting, some dates were changed for spring activities: The May 2 field trip to Methodist canyon was changed to June 6, so not to conflict with the Wildflower Workshop in Lawton. The May 25th meeting was changed to May 18 to avoid Memorial Day holiday. A nominating committee was appointed for 1992 chapter election (after *Gaillardia* went to press).

Sixteen members and three visitors toured the extensive greenhouse complex at T L C Greenhouse and Nursery, hosted by Charles and Linda Shackelford. The nursery began about 11 years ago with a small storefront and a few bays of greenhouse space. The owners have much expanded the business, and even selected out a cultivar of poinsettia specific to T L C. Linda gave a slide show of annuals that thrive in central Oklahoma climate.

Sydney Dobson of Oklahoma City Beautiful requested the Chapter's help in researching the history of a list of native plants being used to rehabilitate the east shore of Lake Hefner. Needed was the botanical name, common name and uses of each plant by Native Americans and early settlers. This information will be inscribed on plaques and placed by representatives of each plant.

Submitted by Susan Chambers

Watch for ONPS, please



The new Historian for ONPS is Marjorie Franklin of Oklahoma City. She will watch her local newspapers for items mentioning ONPS to be added to the scrapbooks. However, if you agree that items from other parts of the state should also be included, please send these to her at: 2513 N.W. 121st St., Oklahoma City 73120.

She would also appreciate snapshots taken at meetings and on field trips. The scrapbooks are on view at our Annual Meeting, the annual Wildflower Workshop, the Indoor Outing and other public meetings.

Northeast Chapter Notes

At the December 5 meeting at the Tulsa Garden Center, Oxley Nature Center naturalist Donna Horton talked about and demonstrated uses of native plants for 23 attendees.

On January 5, Paul Buck lead 10 people through the North Woods of Mohawk Park, observing trees in the winter condition and noticing a lot of beaver damage. Paul, ONPS vice president, will conduct an Oklahoma wildflower class in April. (See page 8 for details.)

At the Feb. 12 meeting, John Kahre gave a tour for 15 of Tulsa Junior College's new horticulture department at the North Campus.

Jackie Bubenik was scheduled to talk about native plants in River Parks on March 9, when the group also planned local field trips for spring and possible projects.

ONPS will have a booth at Everyman's Garden Fair on March 14-15 with Chapter members on hand.

The Chapter has a telephone committee in an attempt to remind members of upcoming events.

Submitted by Betty Kemm

Welcome to ONPS board

Dr. T.H. Milby has agreed to complete the year remaining of John Skeen's position on the ONPS board. Dr. Milby is lately retired from the Botany Dept. faculty at the University of Oklahoma.

Welcome aboard!

The Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (the 1991 Anne W. Long Award recipient) hosts its Annual Meeting and field trips at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve on April 24 & 25. Walks, a program on prairie projects, Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory participation, Preserve Director Harvey Payne, music and food are among features scheduled.

For information, call Holly Farris at the Conservancy field office: 918-585-1117.

Background of annual Anne W. Long Award

The Anne W. Long Award was established by ONPS in 1988, the year following Anne's death. The Award is given at the Society's annual meeting in warm remembrance and honor of one of the ONPS founders, and an early State leader in wildflower protection. Anne's role in the establishment of roadside wildflower plantings and in litter control with her Operation Clean Sweep program is well known. Anne was the "environmental conscience" of northeastern Oklahoma for many years.

The Award is in recognition of individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to the stated purpose of ONPS: "to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma native plants." The first award was made in 1988. Recipients have been: Ninnekah High School Science Club, 1988; Dr. Doyle McCoy, 1989; John Miller, 1990; and Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, 1991.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 1992 Award. Awards Committee chair, Paul Buck, asks all members to "give serious thought to potential recipients, and to stop a moment and think about deserving individuals or organizations." Nominations should be sent directly to the Chair, and will be treated in confidence:

Paul Buck
Biology Department, University of Tulsa
Tulsa, OK 74104-3189

Include the complete names and addresses of both the individual(s) making the nomination and the nominee(s); a contact person if the nominee is an organization; and supportive material for evaluation by the Awards Committee.

Nominations may be made now to September 1, 1992, the deadline.

Thank You...

For all the work involved in mailing the previous issue of *Gaillardia*: Karen Haworth, Judy Barto, Laurel Upshaw, Jackie Hallenburg, Cyndy Harnett, Betty Kemm.



Special Fund Contributors

Since Jan. 1, 1992 the following contributed to either the Anne Long Fund or the Harriet Barclay Fund:

Pat Bergey*
Ruth Boyd*
Paul Buck
Nora Jones
Dorothy Thompson

*In memory of Romalie Murphy, mother of Pat Folley

New year 'round gift idea

How often do you struggle with what gift to give on a special occasion such as a birthday? Why not make it something that will last a year, and rest assured the recipient will be reminded of your thoughtfulness at least four times -- with the arrival of each *Gaillardia*? A year-long Oklahoma Native Plant Society membership is the answer. Inform ONPS that the membership is to be a gift and ONPS will send a card to the recipient.

Then again, why wait for a special occasion? Remember "Alice" and the "Unbirthday Party?" Lewis Carroll pointed out we have but one birthday, but 364 "unbirthdays" a year. Make such a gift and it will be acknowledged with "A Very Merry Unbirthday" card.

All this is very simple. Just use the form below.

Become an Oklahoma Native Plant Society member.

Please enroll me as a Member of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society. My dues payment is enclosed for the category checked. Make checks payable to Oklahoma Native Plant Society, and mail to:

Oklahoma Native Plant Society • 2435 South Peoria • Tulsa, OK 74114

_____ \$15.00 Family
_____ \$10.00 Individual
_____ \$ 5.00 Student
_____ \$ _____ contribution (All contributions are tax deductible.)

Gift or Unbirthday
From: _____

Renewal
 New Membership

NAME: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ BUSINESS PHONE: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Native Plant Spring calendar

March 28 10 a.m.	Illinois River Trip Meet at Goldies, Tahlequah	Jim Norman/918-682-1896 Connie Taylor/405-924-5163
March 30 7:30 p.m.	Cent. Chapter at OSU Horticulture Center, Okla. City. Topic: <i>Desert Flora</i>	Pat Folley/405-872-8361
April 2 6:30 p.m.	ONPS Board Meeting Stroud	Ruth Boyd/405-872-965
April 10-12	Okla. Acad. of Science Spring Field Meeting: Wichita Mtns. area	Paul Buck/918-743-3397 Connie Taylor/405-924-5163
April 15	Photo Contest Ends!	John Miller/ 918-245-6983 Clark Ovrebo/405-341-9583
May 1-2	Wildflower Workshop Lawton	Joanne Orr/405-521-4037 (Described on pg. 1)
May 18	Central Chapter meets	Pat Folley/ 405-872-8361
May 29-31	Clayton Lake, etc. Field trip (see pg. 1)	Connie Taylor/405-924-5163
June 6	Central Chapter field trip to Methodist Canyon	

NOTE: For Central Chapter, Oklahoma City area, meeting information, contact Pat Folley, 405/982-8361. For Northeast Chapter, contact Betty Kemm, 918/742-4351.

*PLEASE, let us know if you are moving.
Post Office will not forward 3rd Class Mail. Thanks.*

Rocky Mountain Flora: identification & appreciation -- trip June 21-27, and **Rocky Mountain Mushrooms** hands-on course, July 26-Aug 1 -- Offered by Eldercare/Phillips University, but mushroom trip (Dr. Ken Conway scheduled to lead) is open to under 60-year-olds, too. Contact for info: Dr. Jeff Burkhart, Phillips University, Div. of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Enid, OK 73702 or call Jeff at 405/237-4433.

PLUS...

Identifying Oklahoma Wildflowers is the subject for Paul Buck's classes every Thurs. in April, 6-8 p.m., at the Tulsa Garden Center. Cost for all five sessions is \$15 plus purchase of text. For information, call Garden Center, 918/749-6401.

The Gaillardia

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Vice President: Paul Buck
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Treasurer: Rebecca Ovrebo
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Illinois River
Trip!
March 28