



# Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

## CALENDAR

Note: the events dated below are identified either by a page number for a fuller description of the event or the name of a person to contact.

The Officers and Board of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society join in wishing all our members and friends the Merriest of Christmases and the most Joyous of New Years.

### 1998

- Jan. 10 Board meeting, St. Stevens' Methodist Church, Norman. Page 2: snow date Jan. 17
- Feb. 7 Indoor Outing at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant. P. 6
- May 8-9 Wildflower Workshop, Lawton. More in next Issue of *The Gaillardia*.
- October 24-25 Joint annual meeting with NPSOT and NPSNM, Amarillo, Texas. P. 2

Note: all members are invited to all chapter field trips or meetings, including board meetings, and are encouraged to bring guests.

The purpose of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society is to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma's native plants.

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☛ Contributions from members are welcome!

### ONPS THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTORS

#### Anne Long Fund

Gretchen Cowsley, Mary D. Price, Lawrence K. Magrath, Richard E. Bradley, Merrill D. Calvert, James C. Norman, Ruth Boyd

#### Harrlet Barclay Fund

Mary R. Whitmore; White City Garden Club (Tulsa); Gretchen Cowsley; Mary D. Price; Leslie Cole-Jackson; Lawrence K. Magrath; James D. Ownby; Richard E. Bradley; Merrill D. Calvert; Marclalyn Roblnowitz, Julia A. Jordan, James C. Norman; Ruth Boyd

## PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

by Ruth Boyd

I guess it's true that what goes around, comes around. At least in my case. For those who are new to our organization, I was president from the annual meeting in 1991 until the one in 1993. I should know this time what's expected of me.

As you will see from the Conservation column, at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in October '97, Connie Taylor and T.H. Milby presented a proclamation for our consideration concerning a particular proposed hog farm facility in Caddo County which would probably adversely affect Methodist Canyon. The proclamation was enthusiastically approved and four copies of it and the cover letter were signed on October 29 and mailed to Governor Keating, Lt. Governor Fallin, Senate Pro Tem Taylor and House Speaker Benson. Almost immediately I received a reply from the Lt. Governor's office thanking us, and the assistant's reply expressed similar views. Our letter has been forwarded to the Agriculture Dept. where it will, I hope, join a large stack of similar letters. Our thanks to Connie and T.H. for their efforts.

The annual meeting was such an outstanding event. I want to mention a few who contributed so much. President Carl made all the arrangements for the facility and the food. I don't know whether he forgot to arrange for good weather or if his prayers were ignored. The food, catered by the *End of Main* in Watonga, was very good. Never have so many eaten so well for so little. They are to be commended. The staff at Roman Nose State Park went out of their way to make us feel at home and checked on us often to see if we needed anything. In particular, Ranger Dion Perkins and the maintenance man, whose name I didn't hear, were helpful. The expected cold front arrived about noon on Saturday and drove several people to local motels that night. Those of us who braved the unheated cabins felt very superior. Never mind that I came down with a terrible cold the following week. Buddy and Clare Miller slept in their tent both nights. Sandy Root and I seemed to be the only ones who reported seeing falling snow around midnight.

Steve Bieberich of Sunshine Nursery in Clinton has been a popular speaker and host for the Central Chapter for several years. He presented a very informative and amusing program on Friday night, about his favorite trees. Pat Folley's slides of meetings and field trips past was also entertaining, particularly to those who had not been caught in uncomplimentary

poses. Dr. Elroy Rice joined us as key speaker on Saturday Night to give a talk on allelopathy, a fascinating subject that was researched by Dr. Rice during his many years as a Professor of Botany at OU. He has traveled all over the world sharing his knowledge. Many present had never heard the term *allelopathy*, but most had already observed that for some reason most plants will not grow under black walnut trees. Our sincere thanks to both Steve Bieberich and Dr. Rice for taking time to come help make our annual meeting such a grand success. Also, thanks to Pat for bringing back pleasant memories for us. Many others contributed to making the weekend memorable, and space does not allow me to mention them.

Our great, good friend Jim Norman won the annual

Anne Long award, and it was about time. In a predictable move, Jim gave the check to Treasurer Judy Jordan for deposit into our two endowment funds. Now, that embarrassed me because I selfishly spent mine last year on a Serviceberry tree for my yard. At least, it is a native tree.

If our calendar in this issue looks a little skimpy, that's because it is. Our usual planning board meeting with both incoming and outgoing officers and committeemen is usually held early in December but this year for several reasons will meet in Norman on January 10,



Jim Norman with his Anne Long Award

1998. That's when we talk about and schedule our activities for the year. It is very important to us not to schedule events on days when other organizations have something scheduled. Most of us have interests in common. Please let us know if there is an event already scheduled that we should work around. We will be able to accept your items for the calendar to be considered at our January 10 meeting if they are received before that date. Please send them directly to me at 812 Jordan Dr., Noble 73068-8401. It will delay them if they are sent to the Tulsa address and have to be forwarded to me.

I also want to thank our outgoing board members, Mike Palmer, Richard Bradley and Ann Randle for their loyal service. Their contributions will be missed but they are still members and we'll see them. Also, Frank Carl did a fine job as our president for two years. I personally know how much work is involved. He always kept his sense of humor although I expect he smiled through gritted teeth a few times. I look forward to seeing many of you on our excursions during the coming year. I hope also to meet many that I don't already know.

## GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE

Reprinted from the Nov/Dec 1993 newsletter of the National Wildflower Research Center.

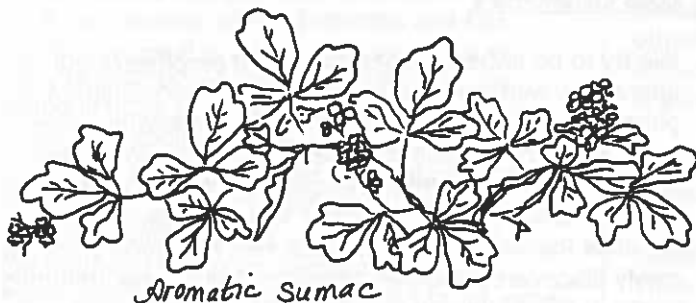
By Angela Barton, Resource Botanist

Now that the lazy days of summer are long gone and the leaves have succumbed to gravity, we can no longer ignore the promise of colder weather. Gardening plans are stored away for the winter, and our thoughts turn to holiday decorations with pumpkins, mistletoe, and evergreen boughs, which highlight the season with their colors and aromas.

But not so long ago, native plants played a markedly different role during the winter season. Our ancestors appreciated native flora more for their practical uses, especially their medicinal properties. Before the advent of drugstores and pharmacists, Native Americans and settlers widely practiced "green" medicine. They collected, dried, and stored indigenous plants during the growing season and then used them to treat common winter ailments.

Native flora remedies sometimes involved nothing more than picking a certain piece of the plant and chewing it. Comanche Indians would chew pieces of aromatic sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) bark, swallowing the juice to treat colds.

However, many plants had to be prepared in some way to be useful. Four common herbal preparation methods were infusions, decoctions, syrups, and poultices. Infusions and decoctions were teas brewed with various parts of the plant. An *infusion* was a tea made by pouring boiling water over the leaves or flowers of a plant and steeping for ten to fifteen minutes. A *decoction* was a tea made by boiling woody pieces such as bark, root, nuts, and twigs for at least five minutes. Syrups were made by heating the herbal parts with honey or sugar. External wounds and skin problems were covered with *poultices* made by wrapping crushed, warm herbs in cotton or gauze.



Aromatic Sumac



Yarrow



Purple Coneflower

Native Americans and settlers highly valued hundreds of native plants as treatments. The best known of these undoubtedly is the purple coneflower (*Echinacea spp.*), which the Plains Indians used to treat everything from colds to snakebites. Chewing the root helped sore throats and decoctions made from ground roots helped ease toothache pain and fever. Recent medical research has found that parts of *Echinacea* contain chemical compounds that stimulate the immune system and work as an antibiotic.

Various tribes used the flowers and leaves of *Achillea millefolium* (yarrow) to make teas that treated coughs and sore throats. *Achillea* teas were diaphoretics that increased perspiration, which opened the pores and allowed the body to purge toxic impurities. A poultice made of boiled *Achillea* herbal parts was applied to external wounds to control bleeding.

Willow trees (*Salix spp.*) were highly valued for their pain-relieving abilities. Used mostly as a decoction, the tea was used for headaches, fever, and other cold symptoms. Willow bark, leaves, and buds have been found to contain salicin, which has analgesic properties similar to aspirin.

Bayberry-scented candles, popular during the holidays, are made from a shrub frequently used in folk remedies. Berries from *Myrica cerifera* (wax myrtle) were crushed and boiled in water, producing a wax believed to be germicidal when burned. One could calm a cough by swallowing a small piece of the wax or chewing the dry berries.

Green medicine is becoming more credible as medical research confirms that native plants contain properties that could treat many ailments. *But it is important to confer with a specialist knowledgeable about green medicine before using herbs medicinally.* Many of these plants can be dangerous if not used wisely and carefully.

*Ed. Note: It is also dangerous to harvest these plants irresponsibly. Please leave more than half of any population.*

## CONSERVATION CORNER

At the Annual Business Meeting in Roman Nose State Park, the Oklahoma Native Plant Society passed the following resolution, authored by our members Connie Taylor and T. H. Milby:

## METHODIST CANYON RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Methodist Canyon area is a unique biological area in Oklahoma.

WHEREAS, it contains vital habitat for rare plants and animals.

WHEREAS, the canyons are a place of important scientific research.

WHEREAS, the canyon is used as an outdoor classroom by schools and scientific organizations.

WHEREAS, the area is fragile and would be sensitive to the adverse impact of influences beyond the canyon itself.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY is opposed to establishment of industrial swine operations within a distance that would adversely impact the canyon.

Passed unanimously October 25, 1997.

The resolution was signed and mailed to Speaker Lloyd Benson, Governor Frank Keating, Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin, and Senate Pro Tempore Stratton Taylor under the following cover letter:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

At the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, a resolution was unanimously passed in opposition to swine facilities in the proximity of the Methodist Canyon Camp. Three of the proposed hog farms are located within 2 miles.

The primitive camp canyon, owned by the Methodist Church, is the best example of preserved relict vegetation from the Caddo Canyons area. Some of the rare plants, such as the *Epilobium coloratum*, depend upon the wet habitats created by the springs in the canyon. While our interest is in preservation of native plants and native ecosystems, contamination of the water table will also impact use of the main camp as a retreat by humans because two water wells supply the water for human consumption in the camp.

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society is opposed to any facilities within a distance that would adversely impact the primitive canyon area of the Canyon Camp of the Oklahoma United Methodist Church.

S/ Ruth Boyd, President

While we received an immediate and favorable response from the officials mentioned, nothing has been done to slow or stop the building of the facility, where massive amounts of concrete foundations have been poured after the resolution was received. The corporate owners apparently "know" that they will win in the end, after the poorly funded and organized opposition has faded.

To quote from Michelle Pitt, director of the Oklahoma Recycling Association, writing in *The Daily Oklahoman*, "While corporate farming advocates insist Oklahoma's water supply is not in danger, North Carolina, Iowa and many other states are already battling significant environmental hazards blamed on corporate animal production." There follows a list of examples of accidental spills from the "accident-proof" lagoons, which have resulted in contamination of surface and ground waters. She continues: "And then there's the smell. This isn't the smell of a farm you remember from your childhood and summer vacations. *Today there is enough hog waste in open pits in the Oklahoma countryside to equal the waste produced by twice the human population of our state.*"

To access one organization trying to halt the hog-farming attack on Oklahoma, call the Oklahoma Family Farm Alliance at (405) 557-1649 or your local Sierra Club.

In another article from *The Daily Oklahoman*, this AP release from Milford, Utah details a horror story that could become all too familiar to Oklahomans: quoting Allen Mayer, a third-generation alfalfa farmer there, describes "the eye-searing stench of tens of millions of gallons of hog waste. The stink rouses sleepers, who stagger to slam windows or flee to the basement." The local farming association isn't just complaining about the smell, though: "They set neighbor against neighbor by lying, corrupting local politics, fouling the air and threatening the semi-arid Utah desert's scarce water." This same installation is described as failing for 44 days to report a spill of 80,000 gallons of hog waste, which went into a well. Utah law permits the owners to conduct their own inspections. So does Oklahoma's.

We try to be upbeat, educational, and emphasize the fun of interaction with the most peaceful of nature's children, the plants, but we wonder what we will do for field-trip sites when we have to issue gas masks to day-visitors. How long before our wetlands are toxic to humans, so that our annual orchid trips, for example, would be cancelled because the swamps are infested with *Pfiesteria piscicida*, a newly discovered/evolved organism that passes from hog waste to fish to human populations with effects that resemble Gulf War Syndrome.

Compiled by Gaillardia Editor, Patricia Folley

## BOTANY BAY

HERBAL MEDICINE – GOOD FOR YOU?  
Yes! No! Maybe So!

By Dr. Connie Taylor

In June I visited a restored home in Waco, built in 1957 by a plantation owner and medical doctor. One of the more interesting artifacts on display in his office was a medicine chest from before the turn of the century, a small wooden box with numerous dividers holding glass jars and still bearing their old labels. They seemed to be about equally divided between minerals and plant materials. Despite such a pharmacopoeia, death certificates for the year 1880 in the United States reveal a startling high mortality rate. A whopping 25 % of those certificates were children under 5 years old, 50 % were age 21 and under, and 75 % of the certificates were for ages 54 and under. Only 25 % were in the age range to which most of us will and now expect to live. Death was usually by infectious diseases such as bacterial dysentery or pneumonia, typhoid fever, malaria, kidney infections and subsequently kidney failure, and viral diseases such as Influenza.

Interestingly, large numbers of people are now seeking the older plant remedies, paying good money, and swearing of amazing results—most of which can not be substantiated by clinical studies. One of the more important and heavily promoted of these herbs is our own native Echinacea, a plant of native prairies.

So the question is "Will using herbal remedies bought from a health food store, or Eckerd Drug Store (yes, in Irving, Texas, herbal medicines are for sale at your 24 hr chain store pharmacy) really help? YES! NO! MAYBE SO!

YES If you are a fast food junkie, and eat no fruits and veggies, anything that contains vitamins extracted from plants will be a definite help. Scurvy, recognized by bleeding gums, is the deficiency disease from insufficient Vitamin C. It can develop within 3 months and can eventually result in death. The very first disease studied in the 1920s and 1930s by the National Institute of Health was pellagra. This Vitamin B deficiency disease was causing thousands of deaths a year, particularly in the poorer rural south. In 1946, the US Surgeon General testified before congress that 70% of the men who had poor nutrition during the Depression era were being rejected for physical reasons by the draft. Hence our school lunch program was established, designed to prevent

poor nutrition and help children achieve a balanced diet.

There are numerous individuals today with poor diets, some because they do not know better, some because they are fast food junkies. When a poor nutrition individual finally decides to become healthy, the same driving force for taking herbs will also be applied to the diet. These individuals are now SOLD on herbal medicines. Drinking herbal teas can benefit just from the act of sitting down with a cup of fluid and relaxing to diminish stress.

Some herbal medicines do contain active ingredients, which have been proven to affect the body in specific ways. In fact about 75% of all medicines originated from plants. Their active ingredients are now extracted or chemically made into pure form and packaged in specific doses. Those ancient herbal plants with major medicinal benefits have been studied, and their active chemicals are a current ingredient in modern medicines. Examples are FoxGlove (digitalis); Willow (aspirin), Psyllium (laxative), Madagascar Periwinkle (Vinblastine, used in treating cancer); opium poppy (morphine), etc. and etc. Large numbers of medicinal plants are now discredited as medicinal, but they may have played an important role in preventing vitamin deficiencies, a role not currently included in "medicinal plant" concepts.

NO! A close reading of literature on most herbal medicines shows that benefits are couched in vague terms or there is use of the qualifiers "might" or "may be" in the sentences. A brochure of 33 herbs produced by Nature's Resources has an \* by nearly every statement which refers to the following disclaimer. \*\* This statement has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease". *Echinacea purpurea* is promoted with "may help stimulate natural resistance by helping to maintain the immune system. *Echinacea* is recognized for use during the cold weather season." Note the "may".

In Dr. W. W. Griffith's Complete Guide to Vitamins Minerals & Supplements (1988), the only known proven effects for *Echinacea angustifolia*, *E. pallida* are 1) Kills insects, especially houseflies and 2) "possible" anti-tumor activity. Its unproved speculated benefits are 1) acts as natural anti-toxin for internal and external infections. 2) "blood purifier" (what ever that is) and 3) helps heal wounds. But hard sell of these nonproven benefits is having an effect on our native plants. There is a lack of quality control in wild-collected herbal concoctions. Some herbal supplements do give the species of Echinacea, others do not. Here in Oklahoma, 4 species are being collected, and heaven only knows what other plant material is being sold.

We do not eat moldy orange peel or moldy bread when we need penicillin. Why should we rely on ancient remedies when a modern pharmacopoeia is available?

MAYBE SO! Some herbal concoctions may be a benefit to you. First discover what the proven benefits are. Then shop carefully. Herbal medicines and supplements are rather expensive. But first start eating those 5 fruits and veggies per day. French fried potatoes do not count.

## INDOOR OUTING ANNOUNCED

Is there anyone out there who has never been to one of our famous "INDOOR OUTINGS"? Just in case, here's a brief history:

Back when ONPS was just a bud, we were already developing an emphasis on field trips. Most of our field-trip leaders have been involved in field work through teaching biology at college level, or through Oklahoma Academy of Science outings. For some of us who had tagged along on bird-watching expeditions with the Audubon Society, getting an outing with people who were really interested in plants was a dream-come-true. Still is, in fact. So, after the first season of wonderful field trips where we explored the many habitats Oklahoma provides, we were sad to contemplate the thought of a whole winter without an outing.

Someone, I can't remember who, proposed a dead-of-winter outing, using the facilities of a local college. We did, and it was both fun and educational, and the Indoor Outing was born. The next year, we held it in the Crystal Bridge in Oklahoma City's Myriad Gardens. Through nine-or-so years, we've been all over the state - wherever facilities were available and hosts were willing.

The date became standardized to the first Saturday in February. If ever there were a date that needs some excitement, that is it. Only once have we had to cancel because of snow. Once, in fact, the weather was so nice that some of us stayed over another day and went to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve on Sunday.

The format has become somewhat standardized, so as not to disappoint any of our regular "customers". There is a registration and gathering time around 9 a.m. followed by a series of short lectures, a coffee break, and lunch. After lunch, we have to face a heart-breaking decision: more workshops than one person could possibly attend. The lectures and workshops are provided by unpaid professional teachers and other experts, and are better than you can imagine. You may be in a building all day, but your mind will think it has had a field trip. About 3 p.m. we will be free to go home, explore the local terrain, or continue the visit with old and new friends. All this for \$4 plus lunch.

Do you have a friend or relative who might be interested in native plants if he/she were only introduced to it in a comfortable way? Bring them along. We are glad to have visitors for any of our field trips. Students cost only \$3, and the events would be interesting to serious-minded high-school or college students. This is

one field trip where you needn't bring sunscreen, poison-ivy cream or OFF!

This year's Indoor Outing will be at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. There is a map on the back of the dark yellow insert, showing the principle highways (US75 and US70) and also the campus area. Durant is located in the South-central part of Oklahoma, east of Ardmore. Even if you're not sure you want to go, look over the list of offerings: you might just find something you'd drive across the state to do:

Lectures, which all can attend, will cover the North Central Texas Flora project, Dorothy Thetford's beautiful wildflowers of the Texas-Oklahoma border area, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, located in Ft. Worth and a possible field trip destination for next year, and Botany on the Internet, by Dr. Rahmona Thompson, who teaches at South-central, Ada. The workshops will cover hands-on Internet botany, Fern identification by Dr. Bruce Smith, who is the fern editor for the Flora of Oklahoma project, and Dr. Taylor's introduction to the Asteraceae (composites).

*Please note the deadline for registrations: January 21, 1998. As a courtesy to the planners, it is essential that they know within reason how many people to expect.*



*Lunch crowd at 1996 Indoor Outing - Enid*

"So cleverly as to make one chuckle like a tickled baby, the suburban landscape can be teased to control its own pests, maintain its own soil, conserve its own water, support its own animal associates, and altogether mind its business with minimal interference from us.

"But first, one must make space. The only way to do that is to take up less space oneself... If ordinary garden design begins with the blank space of a lawn which is then cut here and there to create beds of taller plantings, we can aim for the obverse: a tall growth of grass, shrubs, and groves cut by mowed or mulched paths that occasionally open into clearings."

Sara Stein, from *Noah's Garden*

## FIELD TRIP PLANS

Our newly-elected field trip leaders, Jim Norman and Connie Taylor, haven't had time to recover from the deep freeze at the Annual Meeting, so there aren't any exact dates to quote. But plans are being made for an early-spring outing to some woody location to see violets and fiddleheads and Dutchman's breeches. A repeat of the very successful Memorial Day outing to Black Mesa may be possible. Certainly we won't want to miss the Orchid tour. A Clayton Lake visit has been mentioned. So many great places, so few great weekends available.

Members who haven't taken advantage of one of our memorable field trips are urged to reserve at least one of these dates and give us a try. Some people think they're addictive!

**Loretta Bowers writes from Peggs, OK:**

"Sorry we had to miss the Annual meeting at Roman Nose. I had slipped on our deck and busted my tailbone (totally healed now) and was lucky I didn't do major damage to my back. We also are spending every spare second fighting this proposed landfill. This area of the state is too pristine and beautiful to allow an idiot to mess it up.

"...We just thought some members would like to know what is happening. If they can help with suggestions that would be great. If not, we could always use a few extra pennies or dollars sent to the coalition bank account to help defray our expenses. (she omitted the bank's name, but anything sent to Kirk & Loretta Bowers at P.O. Box 89, Peggs, OK 74452 will reach the CPCC: Coalition for Protection of Clear Creek.) Peggs is in Cherokee County.

For lack of space, the following is a condensation of the statement of concern published by the CPCC: "In thirty days the coalition, through telephoning, door-knocking, and a combination Bake & Garage Sale generated sufficient revenues to secure the services of an engineering and geological services firm to produce studies for presentation to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and coalition members."

"Over 1300 concerned citizens have signed a petition to stop the landfill while sending letters of protest to" (state and local officials).

The object of all this concern is a proposed Tier III Municipal Solid Waste landfill to be called *Hidden Valley Landfill*. The location is just 1 ½ miles south and ¼ mile west of Peggs. In central Oklahoma, that would put it inside most city limits, but Peggs is a small town. The landfill would "be capable of

accommodating solid waste, household waste, commercial solid waste, construction waste, demolition wastes, non-hazardous industrial solid waste, biomedical waste, asbestos waste, and materials containing asbestos." The 40-acre tract is expected to receive 200 tons of waste per day for the next 43 years! As with the hog farms, the operators will be charged with monitoring, regulating and reporting of problems.

The soil survey perc rate for the area classes the soil there as 2 – 6 inches per hour. A leak in the clay and plastic liner could be in the groundwater in 10 to 30 hours. The liner specified is slightly thinner than 1/16 inch, and will be supported by 2 feet of compacted clay. The site is in the watershed for Clear Creek, which flows into Ft. Gibson Lake.

"While there are no public water wells within a 2-mile radius of the site, an estimated 90% of the households are using private wells for their daily water needs (drinking, cooking, bathing, etc.)."

"What can you do to help? Be vocal, send letters to politicians and bureaucrats, alert and inform other residents in Cherokee and surrounding counties as well as others who share the concern for preserving the delicate environment of Cherokee County."

Some suggested addresses:

Governor Frank Keating	Senator Herb Rozell
State Capitol Building	State Capitol Building
Oklahoma City, OK 73105	Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Mark S. Coleman, Executive Director  
1000 N.E. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1212

For more information, contact Kirk & Loretta at the address opposite (phone 918 598-3782), or John Gilgren / Rte 2, Box 38, Hulbert, OK 74441, or Jennifer Owen, P.O. Box 6, Peggs, OK 74452, or Stan Doyle, Cyber Sites, L.L.C., 320 So. Boston Ave, Ste 705, Tulsa, OK 74103-3716, phone (918)743-1276.

Wow! That's a lot of heavy stuff for a fun group to absorb. Do you have a feeling we're being "sold down the river"? I wonder if some of those multinational corporation owners think it's about time the USA had to take some of the junk.

#### SHRUBS AND WOODY VINES OF MISSOURI

The Missouri Department of Conservation announces the publication of a new book describing 170 species of native and nonnative shrubs and vines that grow wild in Missouri. These will cover many Oklahoma species as well, and Oklahoma is still some time away from having a similar book of its own (but the Oklahoma Biological Survey is working on one). The Missouri book is 387 pages, including keys to identification. No description of illustrations, but the text shows a beautiful drawing of American groundnut. Order from Missouri Dept. of Conservation, Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Soft cover \$9 plus \$2 shipping; hard cover \$14 plus \$5 shipping.

## HOT TAMALE! ONPS GOING TEX-MEXI

At the invitation of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), the ONPS members present at the Annual Meeting in Roman Nose State Park voted to join with our neighbors to the west and south for a joint Annual Meeting in Amarillo, Texas, on the third weekend in October. Texas and New Mexico have joined for a meeting at El Paso in the past, and seem to have had a very good time of it. We look forward to this change in our yearly routine, and hope to come home with new ideas, new enthusiasm, and chill on our sweatshirts.

We are already discussing the possibility of renting a bus (buses?). Please try to join us for this one-of-a-kind opportunity: mark your calendar now to reserve the dates. There will be much more about the plans for this meeting in future editions.

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**ONPS' ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

*(Ed. Note: in absence of our Secretary, Clare Miller, this summary of the business portion of the Annual Meeting was assembled by Ruth Boyd and Pat Folley out of notes we made at the time. Clare's official minutes will be available at the January planning meeting.)*

The tenth anniversary annual business meeting of the ONPS convened Saturday, October 25, 1997 at 6:45 p.m. President Carl welcomed us and introduced the current officers and board members at-large who were present. Secretary Clare Miller distributed the minutes of the last meeting, held October 12, 1996 at Osage Hills State Park. The minutes were approved as written. Treasurer Judy Jordan then presented the annual summary of our financial records, reflecting a current balance of \$21,161.37. This includes the two endowment funds which are invested in CD's and restricted as to the use of their interest.

Old business featured the presentation of the Anne Long award for outstanding contributions to the Purpose of the ONPS, which was made by Awards Committee Co-chair Connie Taylor to the 1997 recipient Jim Norman. Jim has been a tireless field trip leader in ONPS and other organizations for many years, and also served a term as Photo Contest Chairman.

The Technical Journal report was made by Sheila Strawn. She has material in hand for a first edition, and is working on the logistics of copyright, distribution and costs. The technical journal, still unnamed, will serve as a means of publishing plant surveys and other reference material which are too long for the *Gaillardia*.

Patricia Folley gave an update on the status of the Flora of Oklahoma Project. This lengthy undertaking will eventually result in a single source for the identification of Oklahoma wild plants. The keys to the families and family descriptions are now available for students and teachers, with the keys to the genera nearing completion.

The ONPS slide library has grown to three complete programs, with slides mounted in carousels and text, a tape accompaniment, and instructions packaged for distribution by mail or courier. They are designed to be used by any program chairman. Current titles are: *Planting Natives for Wildlife*, *The Shy, the Rare and the Wonderful*, and Doyle McCoy's original slides for the *Roadside Wildflowers of Oklahoma*. All materials are donated by ONPS members, and cost to the organization is limited to the cost of reproducing the slides and purchase of carousels.

New Business entertained the following:

An invitation from the Native Plant Society of Texas to join them and the New Mexico Native Plant Society for a three-state Annual Meeting in Amarillo, Texas on October 24-25, 1998. We have several members who are also active in these neighboring groups. After some discussion on the extent of support for such a venture, the offer was approved. Judy Jordan and Ann Randle volunteered to coordinate it.

Dr. Connie Taylor presented a proclamation (see page 4) prepared by T. H. Milby and herself concerning the erection of a large swine farm near the Canyon Camp in Caddo County. ONPS, the Oklahoma Academy of Science and other environmental organizations have used the facilities there. The proclamation was approved.

Chapter reports were made by Betty Kemm, former president of the NE chapter, and Sheila Strawn, president of the Central chapter. Both have had meetings and field trips during the past year and are making plans for spring. Each chapter has drawn up chapter by-laws revisions and they are now negotiating the differences. Hopefully, a single version will be presented for approval at the next board meeting, and will be voted upon at the 1998 Annual Meeting.

Committee Reports were brought by the individual co-chairmen. Curators of the Photo Posters Sue Amstutz, Tulsa, and Ruth Boyd, Noble, detailed distribution of the posters to state parks, Oxley Nature Center, Tulsa Garden Center, many public schools, public libraries, churches, garden clubs, wildlife refuges, the Audubon Society and the Tree Conference. The posters are extremely popular, and also heavy, bulky, and time-consuming to distribute. Sue and Ruth make a tremendous contribution to this organization and to public awareness of wildflowers in the state.

After President Frank Carl announced that both of our acting field trip leaders had moved out of the state, Jim Norman and Connie Taylor volunteered to take the positions. Nora Jones has moved to Texas and Jeff Burkhart to Arizona. We have been fortunate in having the very best field trip leaders, all professionals who know just where to go and what to see.

...continued on next page



..continued from page 8: Annual Meeting Report

Connie Taylor gave a brief report on the plans for the 1998 Indoor Outing, planed for February 7 in Durant. Details on page 6 and in the enclosed flyer.

Bob Crane reported for the Photo Contest that the 1997 contest attracted more entries than the previous year, and that they look forward to beginning the 1998 contest in December. Bob and wife Emma will continue as contest co-chairs.

Publicity chairman Ruth Boyd reported that news releases were mailed for almost all ONPS activities during the past year, with a number of local papers cooperating in printing them. Bebe Reimer agreed to augment the existing 16-member roster of reporters by taking releases to the Lawton newspaper, and Susan Chambers will take care of Midwest City.

Pat Folley reported as editor of the *Gaillardia* that the four 1997 issues were all produced on time, but that member input still needs to be encouraged. Ruth Boyd, who is chairman of the mailing committee, recognized the assistance of Judy Jordan, Lynn Allen, Virginia Pattinson, Leslie Cole-Jackson, and Tina Julich. Ann Randle volunteered to join them. The mailing committee meets quarterly in the Hafer Park maintenance building in Edmond, arranged by Lynn Allen.

Ann Randle reported for Joanne Orr on the Wildflower Workshop plans for 1998. The workshop will convene in Lawton on Friday-Saturday, May 9-10. One planning meeting has already been held and another was planned for November 17. The Great Plains Vo-Tech in Lawton will host the event. Flyers containing full information and a registration form will be mailed to all ONPS members in March.

Ann also gave the Membership Committee report, showing a small increase in paid memberships last year.

The Nominating Committee report was made by Chairman Susan Chambers, who acknowledged the help of Betty Kemm and Paul Buck. The following slate of officers was proposed for next year: President, Ruth Boyd; Vice-President, T.H. Milby; Secretary, Clare Miller; Treasurer, Judy Jordan; and Historian, Karen Haworth. Two new board members-at-large, Paul Reimer and Larry Magrath, were elected to replace retiring board members Mike Palmer and Richard Bradley.

Following announcements of the *Gaillardia* deadlines and plans by Roman Nose State Park to plant wildflowers along the park roadsides, the meeting adjourned at 7:45.

A brief meeting of the newly-elected Board was held the next morning. Minutes of the previous

board meeting were approved, as was Judy Jordan's request for permission to purchase a new CD for the endowment funds. Other business was deferred to the January planning meeting, and the morning field trips were cancelled because of really, really cold weather.

*(Ed. Note: The following is an editorial Connie Taylor wrote for the Oklahoma Academy of Science's newsletter. I think ONPS members will appreciate it too)*

#### MY POINT OF VIEW

This is my last commentary as President of the OAS, and I wish to provoke thought on a very important issue: the disdain for the observational sciences, especially in biology, particularly by the laboratory scientists and granting organizations.

This essay is not to oppose experimentation under controlled conditions. We owe our current life style to such experimentation. However, the idea that if there is no experimentation in the laboratory setting, the knowledge is not important or useful is wrong.

In a laboratory, under controlled conditions, organisms and cells behave in ways that are never duplicated in real life. How we all wish every condition that inhibited or killed cancer cells discovered in laboratories really worked in the body! Cancer would be a disease of the past. Another example: I discovered that all the floral timings published for Sabatia, the pink gentian, were evidently greenhouse observations, and rarely occur in natural populations. Animal behaviorist's observations of gorillas is another example of controlled versus natural occurrences being extremely different.

Humans are conducting a grand experiment on the earth's surface. Emphasis in the popular scientific press has concerned endangered species. But the distribution of particularly successful plants and animals around the world will probably play an even more important role in totally changing the biological diversity of the earth's surface and the composition of dominant species. Not only has Oklahoma been invaded by Johnson grass, henbit, salt-cedar, privet, fire ants, cattle egrets, and more, but many Oklahoma plants, such as box elder and goldenrods are aggressively finding new homes elsewhere in the world. The arctic, by its nature of uniform harsh climate and proximity of land-masses is extremely uniform. The current dispersal of exotics will eventually increase the temperate zone uniformity. Even if humans disappeared, the damage has been done.

Humans are conducting a grand experiment. I want to encourage all Oklahoma scientists to document as much as possible what Oklahoma is like now and the changes as they occur. The Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Science will serve Oklahomans well if we preserve for those a hundred years from now what we are like today. In my own professional life I continue to be amazed at changes that are occurring. The earth is in a period of change probably as great as or greater than that which occurred at the end of the Cretaceous. Perhaps we are witnessing the end of the Cenozoic. Go out and observe the world, record, and publish.

## NE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

by Betty Kemm

The Northeast Chapter meetings always seem to coincide with the Gaillardia's press-date. On December 1, NE chapter will have an evening meeting at the Tulsa Garden Center to plan the upcoming year's activities. It won't be all work, though, for Russel Studebaker is bringing a video program he got at a wildflower conference, on native lilies. Wish we all could be there.

At the September meeting, Loretta Bowers gave a demonstration of her butterfly-raising work. She brought cages with chrysalises and described the methods used to keep the pretty creatures happy. Such a busy lady!

## CENTRAL CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

BY Sheila Strawn

Central chapter had three evening meetings this fall, all of them gratifyingly well-attended. On September 29, Jim Ottman brought a program on one of our less-well-known pollinators: Bats.

On October 29, which turned out to be the day after the coldest annual meeting in history, Pat Folley screened one of the new slide programs made to share with the public. This one is the one on Native Plants for Wildlife. We also traded plants and seeds (mostly natives, but then, you know how gardeners are) brought in by those who had some to share. Wayne Chambers brought the most, of course. Would that we all could hope for a garden like Wayne and Susan's.

Our last meeting before the holidays featured Dr. Larry Magrath from USAO in Chickasha, speaking on the genus *Penstemon*. Larry brought beautiful slides and also herbarium sheets to show actual plants.

A nominating committee has been named for next year's election of officers. The three members are: Hal Howard, Susan Chambers, and Leslie Cole-Jackson. The current officers will meet sometime next month to plan the spring activities. Members with ideas to be considered should contact Sheila Strawn at 733-0864.

## WALDEN THOUGHTS

By Patricia Folley

It seems I have "always" loved Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*. Of course, the truth is, I met Walden while studying American Literature in the eleventh grade at old Central High School. I was lucky to have a wonderful English teacher, who truly loved the language and its literature,

and was able to pass along some of that love to her students.

Over the years, my copy of *Walden* became shabby; even, I confess, dusty. Conscience tickled me only a little because there were all those new and wonderful books on nature and its appreciation. All of these, of course, are indebted to Thoreau as their progenitor. Then I found a beautiful leather-bound copy at a reduced price in the local *Barnes & Noble* store, and had to re-read it so the best parts were again underlined. What a joy!

With a little space to spare, here are some of my special goodies:

"Morning is when I am awake, and there is a dawn in me."

"No man ever followed his genius until it misled him."

"Every man is the builder of a temple, called his body, to the God he worships after a style purely his own, nor can he get off by hammering marble instead."

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer."

"Economy is a subject which admits of being treated with levity, but it cannot so be disposed of."

"We are all poor in respect to a thousand savage comforts, though surrounded by luxuries."

"The bad neighborhood to be avoided is our own scurvy selves."

"It is not all books that are as dull as their readers."

"It is time that we had uncommon schools, that we did not leave off our education when we begin to be men and women. It is time that villages were universities, and their elder inhabitants the fellows of universities."

"The men on the freight trains...pass me so often and apparently they take me for an employee; and so I am.

I too would fain be a track-repairer somewhere in the orbit of the earth."

I had three chairs in my house; one for solitude, two for friendship, three for society....It is surprising how many great men and women a small house will contain."

"A goose is a goose still, dress it as you will."

"There was a man in my neighborhood who lived in a hollow tree. His manners were truly regal."



**ONPS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

Yes, we do – but we don't have a report on the current crop, as Secretary and Keeper of the Records Clare Miller is working out of town this month. Hope to have that for you next issue.

**NEW CONTEST!!**

ONPS is slowly moving toward the publication of an annual publication which will be able to publish longer, more serious works than we can do in the space of the *Gaillardia*. We hope to make information about the health and distribution of Oklahoma plants available to our members and others who are seriously interested in the natives. Material for the first edition has already been selected, and we are pursuing questions of copyright and other business-type questions.

Meanwhile, we need a name for this publication. It will probably be annual, paperback, and black-and-white. There are traditional methods of naming botanical periodicals, including using the name of a genus, for example, *Rhodora* or *Sida*, or simply "Annual" or "Gazette". Our newsletter already has this kind of name, in *Gaillardia*. There is no law requiring such a name, of course: it is up to our members to decide what we want to call it.

So, we propose a contest. Send your best idea for a journal name to Sheila Strawn,

9624 N. E. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Midwest City, OK 73130. The best entry will be selected by a panel of ONPS-member judges, and the winning author will receive a book of wildflower pictures as a prize. Don't be shy: be a winner! You don't even have to have a camera for this contest.

**ROSTER OF PAST ANNE LONG WINNERS**

- 1988 Ninnekah High School Science Club
- 1989 Doyle McCoy, author of the *Roadside Wildflowers*
- 1990 John Miller, our first Photo Contest chair
- 1991 Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
- 1992 Joanne Orr; Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and Joe Andrach; Oklahoma City Beautiful
- 1993 Sydney Dobson, Oklahoma City Beautiful
- 1994 Paul Buck; Botany Professor, author of *Winter Tree Identification*, field trip leader
- 1995 Connie Taylor, Botany Professor, author of *The List*, field trip leader
- 1996 Ruth Boyd, past president and cheerleader of ONPS, major motivator
- 1997 James Norman; bird man, field trip leader, explorer

Your assignment, then, is to ponder the names above, and determine who will be the next recipient of this prestigious award. (Current ONPS board members and officers are not eligible.)

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

Please renew my membership in the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, or add the name below to the membership list in the category checked.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION (School, Business or Avocation) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE( ) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  please don't list my phone

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 Student \_\_\_\_\_  Gift from \_\_\_\_\_

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ \$300.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_ or \$200.00 Individual.  Renewal  New Member

DONATION TO: ANNE LONG FUND \_\_\_\_\_ HARRIET BARCLAY FUND \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing an additional \$2.50 (to cover cost of printing and mailing) for a complete ONPS directory.

Please make checks payable to *Oklahoma Native Plant Society* and mail to:  
**Oklahoma Native Plant Society / 2435 South Peoria / Tulsa, OK 74114**

**The Gaillardia**

Published quarterly by the Oklahoma Native  
Plant Society  
2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa OK 74114

President:	Ruth Boyd
Vice President	T. H. Milby
Secretary	Clare Miller
Treasurer	Judy Jordan
Historian	Karen Haworth

**Boardmembers-at-Large**  
1998: Sheila Strawn and Betty Kemm  
1999: Lynn Allen and Sue Amstutz  
2000: Paul Reimer and Larry Magrath

Edited by Patricia Folley  
Copy to: 15100 Etowah Road, Noble OK 73068  
Telephone (405)872-8361

*Gaillardia articles may be reprinted at will. Please  
acknowledge the source and author!*

**REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS**

Each year at the Annual Meeting (usually, in October), an award is made in the name of Anne Long, one of the organizers of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, who died before it became a reality. Anne loved the native plants of Oklahoma and the people who cared enough to preserve them.

Nominations for this award may be made by any ONPS member, and are for a person or organization who has been a shining example of the execution of our Purpose during the past year or years. Members of the current Board, though, are not eligible for the award (those listed in the box at the left). To refresh your memory, the Purpose is stated on page 1, under the logo.

**RULES:** Send the name of the person or group you wish to nominate, with your own name and address to:

Dr. Paul Buck, 1623 S. Delaware Pl., Tulsa, OK 74104-5915.

On a separate sheet, explain why you think the nominee deserves the award. All nominations are kept confidential, and the names of the nominator(s) are not revealed.

**RENEWAL TIME!**

Please look at your expiration date on the label and if it's not '98 or later, send in your dues. We don't want to lose you,

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

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