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

Volume 15, Number 1
Spring 2000

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Insert: Registration form for Black Mesa

Printed on recycled paper

COPY AND ART DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 May 2000

CALENDAR
Note: the events dated below are identified by either a page number where the event is fuller described or the name of the contact person for that event.

March 13 (Monday)  NE Chapter Meeting, Potluck at 6:30 pm, Business at 7:30 pm  Page 7
March 17 (Friday) Scrapbook Day  Page 8
March 24 (Friday) Cross-Timbers Potluck Dinner and Slide presentation, Sciara's Barn, 6:30 pm  Page 8
March 27 (Monday) Central Chapter Meeting, Business at 7:30 pm, Kirkpatrick Horticultural Center  Page 8
April 1 (Saturday) Field Trip in Tahlequah Area  Page 7
April 22 (Saturday) Field Trip-Tulsa's Chandler Park  Page 7
May 19 & 20 (Friday & Saturday) Wildflower Workshop at NEOSU, Tahlequah  Page 8
May 26-28, 2000 (Friday – Sunday) Spring field trip to Black Mesa. See Page 5 and Insert. Connie Taylor
June 3 (Saturday) Cross-Timbers Field Trip  Page 6
June 10 (Saturday) Summer Board Meeting, 10 am-2 pm, Tulsa Garden Center. Sheila Strawn

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

ONPS THANKS THESE SPECIAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Anne Long Fund
Helen Hodges
Mary Korthase
Mary Price
John and Janet Slater

Harriet Barclay Fund
Helen Hodges
Mary Korthase
Mary Price

General Fund
Michael Flanagan
Kirk and Loretta Bowers
PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

We hit a bump in the road when our Winter Gaillardia did not get out as scheduled. Bumps get our attention. It's a change from the norm. For scientists, it's something to be studied. For our members it was a time to realize how much we depend on our newsletter to know what's going on. Many members have pitched in to help get things done. They've done a lot of phoning and mailing, and yes, lots of emailing. Every time we needed something done, board members and members were there to step in.

As I pulled together as many email addresses as I could to communicate with them, I realized that over half (14 of the 22) of those who serve on the ONPS board are connected to the internet. Chad Cox, our “ONPS Webmaster” and Tina Julich, our Vice-president/membership chair are working on developing our current webpage linkage in the Oklahoma Biological Survey's Website. Further development of that linkage will enable us to have the programming capability by which we can maintain our membership list online, with proper security for member use only. Members can be registered as soon as the treasurer receives their check and our mailing labels can be kept up to date.

This linkage also means that we can have an educational outlet that is accessible to every school in Oklahoma. Furthermore, we can keep a record of where each year's contest photos are being displayed, as well as provide scanned images of those photos. We can post photos of where are field trips are going and where we have been. We can have information on how teachers and community organizations can borrow our slide presentations. As we grow, we will hit many bumps in the road. I know you'll be there to help us work around or through them. Thanks for volunteering!

Sheila Strawn
President, ONPS

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

The following announcements of the awards were first published in the Autumn edition but without a description of why the awards were given. More of the story is indicated below as obtained from the KOB newsletter supplied by Ruth Boyd.

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful establish an annual Lifetime Achievement Award and selected as their first awardee Joanne Orr. Certainly, ONPS can understand why; she is a charter member of ONPS. Joanne is the Beautification Coordinator for the State Department of Transportation. She actually established the Beautification Office some twelve years ago. In proclaiming her for this award, KOB pointed out that she had been behind Adopt-a-Highway, the statewide Trash Off, Student Litter Poster Contest, Wildflower workshops and plantings, the Litter Hotline, the Governor’s Hubcap Award Picnic, and the Million Dollar Highway Tree Program. A lovely walnut and crystal trophy was presented to her at a Transportation Commission meeting with Transportation Secretary Neal McCaleb and all the commissioners applauding her as well.

Destiny Marie Gualco, a student member of ONPS, was recognize as an Exceptional Merit Award for Individual Achievement for her efforts to protect our environment. She has given many speeches and demonstrations and written magazine articles on hazardous chemicals and other dangers to the ecology of our state. Destiny won this award at 13 but has received other awards before this.

Ad hoc Editors Comment

I hope you won't be upset by some small changes in the format of this issue. Pat Folley's word processor and mine proved incompatible so I was unable to get her format. Therefore, this one is my best effort at duplicating hers.

Thanks to all the contributors, especially those that sent their material well before the deadline.

Chad Cox
On Steve Dobbs' OK Gardening

By Ruth Boyd

Steve Dobbs, former host of "Oklahoma Gardening" and current operator of Morning Star Farm in the area of Vian, has published a book called, appropriately enough, Oklahoma Gardening. It covers all areas of gardening in Oklahoma and contains a prominent section about using natives. You should find this book informative and helpful in your garden endeavors, wild and tame. It sells for $23.53 including postage and handling and can be ordered directly from the farm.

There is an unfortunate error in identifying the picture on the front cover as Indian Paintbrush when it is actually Indian Blanket, our State wild flower, Gaillardia pulchella. This was caused by a miscommunication and will be corrected in future editions. Both plants are correctly identified in the color plates.

Morning Star Farm is located on Dwight Mission Road one quarter mile north of highway 64 between Vian and Sallisaw. The address is Route 2, Box 101-A, Vian, OK 74962-9283 and the phone number is (918) 773-5389 or by email at mstar@mstarfarms.com. The farm is open to the public only in April and May on Wednesday through Friday from 9 to 5 and on Saturday from 8 to noon.

BOTANY BAY

By Paul Buck

October 1999

Please, Pass the Ketchup

It is strange how people will get worked up over an issue of little significance. At times they may even become irate. Not long ago I witnessed an example of such behavior when two acquaintances could not agree on the start of the third millennium, you know, the January 1, 2000 or January 1, 2001 question. Fortunately they quickly recognized the senselessness of the dispute and called it off.

Once several years ago, in the middle of the night, I received a phone call and was asked to settle an argument. The difference was whether a tomato is a fruit or vegetable. The voice and nature of the background noise and music suggested a happy student and when I asked for identification they quickly hung up. I was sorry as I was prepared to point out that very question had been considered by a more worthy group, the United States Supreme Court.

As botanists, amateur and professional, we know the common tomato is a fruit, after all it is the ripened ovary of a seed plant. Let me share some of the history of the plant and elaborate on the suggestion it was once the topic of deliberation by the Supreme Court.

Research indicates the wild ancestor of our tomato (Lycopersicon esculentum) is native to the South American Andes and although encountered there in the 1500s by Spanish conquistadors, had been carried to Mexico much earlier where it became a food plant. Domestication probably took place in that Central American region along with selective breeding resulting in fruit much larger then the original cherry-size. Workers suspect Mexico was the origin of plants taken to Italy in the mid-1500s since they had large fruit, unlike those of the Andes.

Several Italian common names for the tomato were mala peruviana (Peruvian apple) for its suspected origin, mala aurea (Golden Apple) for the yellow variety, and poma amoris (Love Apple) since many considered it to be aphrodisiac. In French the latter is pomme d’amour which became the common name in that country. Our name, tomato, is from the Mexican Indian Nahua tongue - tomatl.

The tomato is in the Nightshade family (Solanaceae) which includes a variety of toxic plants such as henbane, Jimson weed, belladonna, Datura, and the notoriously poisonous tobacco. That relationship is reflected in the generic name (Lycopersicon) which translates as ‘wolf peach’, a reference to its poisonous relatives. With that association many considered the plant deadly and rejected it. In 1851 Matthias de L’Oobel stated "These apples are eaten by some Italians like
melons, but the strong stinking smell gives one sufficient notice how unhealthy and evil they are to eat."

I suspect the perception of their poisonous character kept tomatoes from being accepted in North America in the 1700s. Many felt to consume one was to commit suicide. That belief was dealt a severe blow in August 1820 when in Salem, New Jersey, Robert Gibbon Johnson courageously consumed a basket of tomatoes on the courthouse steps before a crowd gathered there to witness his demise. Even his physician expected him to die and when he did not the crowd cheered. The popularity of the plant has soared since. Where would we be today without tomatoes. Ketchup, pizza, spaghetti sauce, salads, salsas, and Bloody Marys?

Oh yes, the Supreme Court. It seems the national legislators passed a tariff Act in 1883 that placed a 10% duty on vegetables in their natural state. The Act allowed fruit “green, ripe or dried” to be imported duty free. In 1886 John Nix brought a load of tomatoes from the West Indies to New York and the port authority announced “tomatoes are vegetables in their natural state” and subjected them to the tariff. Mr. Nix protested claiming any botanist could tell you that the tomato is a fruit but to no avail. He pursued the case to the Supreme Court where the attorneys pored over the dictionary to decide if the legal definition of the tomato and its common definition were in conflict.

On May 10, 1893, Mr. Justice Horace Gray, speaking in behalf of a unanimous bench handed down the decision:

"Botanically speaking, tomatoes are the fruits of a vine, just as are cucumbers, squashes, beans, and peas. But in the common language of the people, whether sellers or consumers of provisions, all of these are vegetables which are grown in kitchen gardens, and which, whether eaten cooked or raw, are, like potatoes, carrots, parsnips, turnips, beets, cauliflower, cabbage, celery, and lettuce, usually served at dinner, in with, or after the soup, fish, or meats, which constitute the principal part of the repast, and not, like fruits generally, as dessert."

There, you have it. By legal definition tomatoes are vegetables. Can you accept that?

Whooa! Don’t be so hard on these people of a hundred years ago. In 1981 (nearly a century later) G. William Hoagland, Director of the Department of Agriculture Division of Food and Nutrition Service tried to meet school lunch budget cuts mandated by the Reagan Administration by proclaiming ketchup a vegetable and appropriate for school lunches, replacing more expensive vegetables. Faced with an adverse public reaction, Mr. Hoagland was relieved of his directorship.

Addendum: in 1983, the Louisiana attorney general’s office, which had earlier mandated roosters are not animals, ruled “alligators are domesticated fish”. What would our present Supreme Court do in this case?

Editor’s comment: The Oklahoma State Supreme Court ruled that chickens are fowls not animals which made dog fighting illegal but kept cock fighting legal in Oklahoma. Perhaps, the upcoming vote may correct the outcome of this bizarre ruling.

Wildflower Viewing at TNC Preserves
By Kim Shannon
Conservation Assistant, Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

The Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has two preserves that are regularly open to the public that offer great opportunities for enjoying the native wildflowers of Oklahoma. Many of you are more than likely familiar with the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve located north of Pawhuska in Osage County. Beginning in April and through July the wildflowers of the Tallgrass prairie Preserve offer spectacular views, great "Kodak moments", and a chance to see many species of Oklahoma’s native plants at their peak. April and May are also prime seasons to view the copper-colored bison calves born into the herd of 950 animals.

During the same time period the Pontotoc Ridge preserve in Pontotoc County (which is approximately 15 miles south of Ada) offers an equally impressive showing of Oklahoma’s flora.

Continued on page 7
OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
BLACK MESA STATE PARK FIELD TRIP
GROUP CAMP IN BLACK MESA STATE PARK,
27 MILES NW OF BOISE CITY, OKLAHOMA

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND  FRI-MON  May 26, 27, 28, 29,  2000

AREA: Field Trip Headquarters is in the Group Camp located just north of the Park Headquarters near the shoreline of Lake Carl Etling, 27 miles northwest of Boise City. The habitat is High Plains Grasslands and Rocky Mountain Foothills. This is the only part of Oklahoma where numerous western plants and animals can be seen inside our state boundary. Western pines and cedars dot the short grass vegetation. The lava capped mesas provide dramatic views for those who can climb the slopes. The cottonwoods adjacent to the Cimarron River are also interesting habitat, particularly for birds.

CAMPING: The State Park has 55 campsites. Some campsites have hookups for Rvs. Phone is (580) 426-2222. There are two campgrounds located in Boise City: Caleb’s Camp Sites, 8th & S. Cimarron (580)544-2060 and Walton RV Park, 500 N. Cimarron, (580)544-2479.

BED AND BREAKFAST: Both of the first two facilities are located about 7-10 miles north of the park near Kenton. Hitching Post Lodging, HCR 1, Box 3, Kenton, OK 73946 (580)261-7413 or (580)261-7424; email: cowboy@ptsi.net. Besides bedrooms ($55 + $10 per each extra person) there is a 2 bedroom log cabin sleeping 6 ($45+ per extra person charge) and Mobil Home ($45 + $15 per added person). Black Mesa Bed & Breakfast, P.O. Box 81, Kenton, OK 73946 ($60 per couple or $40 single). 1-800-866-3009 or (580)261-7443, and in Boise City is Virginia’s Bed and Breakfast, 117 N. Freeman, Boise city, (580)544-2834.

MOTELS: Longhorn Motel, 1012 East Main Street, Boise City, (580)544-2596. Santa Fe Trail Motel & Apts., 814 N. Cimarron, Boise City, (580) 544-3495
Townsman Motel, 1105 East Main Street, Boise city, (580)544-2506


TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:
Friday: Registration after 3:00 in Dining Hall of Group Camp. Slide sharing and fellowship in dining hall 8:00.
Saturday: Field Trips Morning and Afternoon trips will be in vicinity of group camp in Black Mesa State Park. Five years ago, we had fabulous display of wild flowers. Before Breakfast birding trip around Group Camp. Saturday Evening: Program on Local Area.
Sunday: Field Trip to Black Mesa, NW of Kenton about 12 miles NW of the park. Those with lots of energy can try the 6 mile trip to the top of the Mesa to Oklahoma’s High Point. Early morning birding trip before breakfast. Sunday Evening: Program on Local Area.
Monday: Early morning birding trip before breakfast. Organize own field trip or depart for home.
Wildflower Sources

The following list of nurseries have been supplied at ONPS meetings. They will be added to the website with a comment that as far as ONPS knows all of these suppliers do not collect plants from the wild. If you know of other such sources, please pass them along to the editor. If you know that one of these sources no longer practices appropriate collection practices or gives poor service, let editor know.

Oklahoma Sources:

Clear Creek Farm and Gardens: Loretta and Kirk Bowers, P.O. Box 89, Peggs, OK 74452. (918) 598-3782. Ccreek@chouteautel.com.

Martin Perennial Farm, Inc.: Lillian and Joseph (son) Martin, Rt 2, Box 750, Fort Cobb, OK 73038. 1-800-554-3139. Martinpf@carnegienet.net.

StoneBridge Garden Center: Martin Stone, 700 E. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore, OK 74017 341-1228. stonbrdg@busprod.com

Sunshine Nursery & Arboretum: Steve and Sherry Bieberich, Rt. 1, Box 4030, Clinton, OK 73601. (580) 323-6259. Sunshine.farm@excite.com.

Other States:

Eastern Plant Specialties; Box 226, Georgetown, ME 04548. (732) 382-2508.

Forestfarm: 990 Tetherow Rd, Williams, Oregon 97544-9599. (541) 846-7269.

Holland Wildflower Farm: 290 O’Neal Ln, P.O.Box 328,Elkins, AR 72727. (501) 643-2622.

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery: 9814 Pleasant Hill Rd, Jefferson City, MO 65109. (573) 496-3492.

Native Gardens: 5737 Fisher Ln, Greenback, TN 37742. (423) 856-0220.


Prairie Nursery: P.O. Box 306, Westfield, WI 53964. (608) 296-3679.


We-Du Nurseries: Route 5, Box 724, Marion, NC 28752. (704) 738-8300.

Woodlanders: 1128 Colleton Av, Aiken, SC 29801. (803) 648-7522.
TNC Preserves continued from page 4:

The Pontotoc Ridge has a new trail system that traverses prairies, savannas, and forests. The trail is nearly 3 miles long. The preserve also has a new office (with facilities) near the trailhead where visitors can park their vehicles, check in and chat with our preserve staff, Jim and Holly Erwin, and return to the picnic area near the office. Along with the wildflower viewing, there is also abundant wildlife on the site including many birds, whitetail deer, coyotes, and reptiles.

If you are interested in visiting the Pontotoc Ridge preserve, please contact either Jim or Holly Erwin at (580) 777-2224 or Kim Shannon at (918) 585-1117 for directions and information about this beautiful home to Oklahoma's flora and fauna. For directions and information regarding the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve contact Kim at the number above or our Tallgrass Prairie Preserve office at (918) 287-4803.

FIELD TRIP PLANS

April 1 - Early Spring field trip to Tahlequah area. Meet at 9:00 am at Goldies restaurant (highway 62 bypass)
Leader - Jim Norman (918) 682-1896

April 22 - Chandler park in Tulsa meet at 12:00 noon near picnic areas on upper level.
Leader Dr. Paul Buck. Further information call - Jim Elder (918) 747-0735

June 3rd (Saturday) and Saturday, September 16th. Departure time is 10:00 AM from the parking lot adjacent to Life Sciences East on the OSU campus in Stillwater. Ron Tyrl (405-744-9558)

FIELD TRIP RULES

• Field trips take place rain or shine. Hiking boots, long pants and a hat are essential.
• Bring water and lunch or a snack. Sunscreen and insect repellent are always in demand. Field guides, a camera and binoculars are nice.
• Participation is at your own risk.
• All ONPS field trips are open to the public at no charge, unless charges per-member are specified in the announcement. Visitors and newcomers are always welcome.
• Children old enough to keep up are welcome. Pets are not. Children should be warned against picking flowers or collecting animal or plant souvenirs: many of our field trip sites are havens for the rare and endangered.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NE Chapter

Amy Robbins speaks on March 13

A 470-mile long trail from Denver to Durango is known as the Colorado Trail. Those who walk its length have access to exquisite, remote scenery and high adventure. Much of the trail is above 10,000 feet. It follows the Continental Divide for 130 miles, and crosses the Divide several other times. Amy Robbins, a 1999 Colorado Trail thru-hiker (and a 1993 Appalachian Trail thru-hiker), will share slides and a first hand account of her adventure at the March 13th meeting of the Northeast Chapter of ONPS, Tulsa Garden Center, 6:30 p.m.

Central Chapter

John Blevins, Coordinator of Community Gardens for Red Dirt Community Gardeners, the amalgamation of Community Gardens and OKC Food Bank, told us at the February Central Chapter Meeting about the projects they have undertaken. There are 25 community gardens that are associated with his project. They are very diverse in size, type of gardening, and participants.
He was also hoping to recruit Master Community Gardeners and can be reached at 478-7883.

John is better known to ONPS as the owner of Visions of Paradise Gardens and as a vermicultrist and organic gardener. During his talk, he presented his philosophy on gardening and many of his techniques on organic gardening. Of course he is very big on worms, what he refers to as Global Warming. Also a favorite is lignite coal, aka revive and humarite(sp). He mentioned that Bermuda grass was his "friend" and Judy Jordan was obviously hoping he would take her "friends" including her henbit and chickweed. He mentioned valerain was a supercharger for worms. Some of us wonder if he might not be partaking as well; he gave a very enthusiastic and energetic talk that was both very informative and entertaining.

March 17, Friday, is scrapbook day. Please join Lynne Allen, Tina Julich and Lynn Roberts at 10:00 am at Lynn Roberts' house, 4401 NW 39th Expressway #402, Oklahoma City, to work on transferring our current scrapbook collection to acid free scrapbooks. We'll make a day of it, serving lunch and working until 5:00 or 6:00 pm. Come for all day, or just a couple of hours.

Lynn lives in the Woodscape Apartments on the Northeast corner of Meridian and 39th. Enter the apartment complex from the South entrance, off of 39th street (This driveway is directly across from Duncan Doughnuts and Steve's Wholesale Tools). At the stop sign go right (east) until the driveway turns left (North). Lynn's building is the first building that 'faces' East. Walk through the first (Southernmost) walkway towards the back of the building. We'll post signs to help you find your way. Her phone number is 946-8978, in case you need additional directions.

On March 27, Monday, at 7:30 pm at the Kirkpatrick Horticultural Center, N. W. Fourth and Portland, Nathan Kuhner of the Water Resources Board will speak on the restoration of Hackberry Flats Habitat.

Cross-Timbers Chapter

Although wildflowers are scarce at this time of the year, members in the Stillwater area are already preparing for next year's forays in search of them.

The society’s third chapter was established at a well-attended organizational meeting on December 4th. Chapter by-laws were adopted and officers elected. Ron Tyrl (405-744-9558) will serve as chair, Olen Thomas (405-743-3613) as vice-chair, and Jeanette Sciara (405-743-2442) as secretary-treasurer. A calendar of activities with bimonthly meetings and activities that complement those of the state organization also was developed.

The chapter’s first outing was on Saturday, January 15th. About 30 members and guests ventured into the woods and prairies of the J.K. McPherson Nature Preserve west of Stillwater in search of plants in winter condition. The weather cooperated and provided ideal field trip conditions. Numerous ecological and taxonomic phenomena were observed and discussed with lots of members asking questions and sharing their knowledge. A mini-banquet (complete with table and tablecloth) provided by Jeanette Sciara was a surprise ending to the trip.

On Friday, March 24th, members will meet in Jeanette Sciara’s barn at 3023 N. Jardot in Stillwater at 6:30 PM for a potluck dinner and slide presentation (a meeting format borrowed from the NE Chapter). An optional “walk in the woods” behind the barn is scheduled for 5:30. It will be an opportunity to review what we learned in January and hopefully see a few early bloomers. Local field trips to see spring and fall wildflowers are scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd and Saturday, September 16th. Departure time is 10:00 AM from the parking lot adjacent to Life Sciences East on the OSU campus.

Another potluck dinner and slide presentation on Friday, November 10th concludes the chapter’s activities for the year.

WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

This year, the 23rd Annual Wildflower Workshop will take place in Tahlequah, considered one of the most historically significant cities west of the Mississippi River. The Workshop is planned for Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20 and
includes a wildflower market with native plants, seeds, totes, tee shirts etc. Wildflower specimens and other displays, plus winners of the Native Plant Society Photo Contest will be featured. The Workshop on Friday will be held in the University Center at Northeastern State University. The Friday evening dinner will be located at the new Indian Capital Technology Center. Crosslin F. Smith, well-known Cherokee Spiritual Leader, will speak about native plants and Cherokee culture at the dinner.

Other speakers during the workshop include Steve Dobbs, Horticulturist farm Morning Star Farms in Vian, discussing Native Plants in Container Gardening. Dobbs has recently published a book, *Oklahoma Gardener’s Guide*. Kim Shannon from the Nature Conservancy will describe the Wildflower Registry Program and Loretta Bowers, Clear Creek Farm and Gardens, will tell about wildflowers that attract butterflies. Steven Hill, Manager of Landscape and Grounds at the University of Oklahoma, will give details about the native wildflowers, grasses and plants just installed around the new Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. Collecting and Propagating Wildflowers is the topic of Joleen Stone, Stonebridge Garden Center, Claremore. Wildflowers and Mowing on the Roadside will be addressed by Joanne Orr, Department of Transportation Beautification Coordinator, and Charles LeWallen, Native Plant Society member, Henryetta, will tell about photographing wildflowers, including the use of a digital camera. Paul Buck, Emeritus Professor of Botany at the University of Tulsa, will describe the Cherokee county wildflowers to be seen on the Saturday field trip. The Friday Workshop begins at 9:00 a.m., the dinner at 7:30 p.m. and the Saturday field trip at 7:30 a.m.

The Workshop is held in a different location each year and is sponsored by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. The NE District State Garden Clubs and Northeastern State University will also help sponsor this year’s program.

To receive a flyer about the workshop, contact the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Beautification Office at 200 NE 21st St., Oklahoma City, OK 73105 or call (405) 521-4037. Flyers will be mailed to the Native Plant Society members in March.

**Indoor Outing 2000**

The Indoor Outing took place Saturday, Feb, 5th at the Tulsa Garden Center. It begin with registration and a good selection of goodies and coffee. Can’t go further without thanking Betty Kemm and the other members of the NE Chapter that helped her host this fine program.

A larger crowd than expected required additional chairs be set up before Harvey Payne could start his talk on the Tallgrass Preserve. He gave a history of the area, the development of the preserve and the rationale for introducing the bison and burning programs. The introduction of the bison followed a study showing that grazing by wildlife, especially bison and elk, had a profound effect on the mix of herbs on the prairie. At present, there are no plans to introduce elk on the preserve which would require substantial changes in the fencing. Fires probably were responsible tallgrass prairies because the rain fall amounts in these areas are adequate to support forests. Many of these fires on the prairie were most likely set on purpose by native Americans.

The slide show accompanying his talk was spectacular, showing steaming bison in snow, dew covered wildflowers and insects overnighting on stems and leaves and a collection of the various denizens of the preserve. They also showed how varied the terrain is on the preserve.

Russell Studebaker provided a list of about 80 of his favorite native shade plants that included suggestions from ground cover to tall flowers, to those blooming as early as February to those as late as October, and annuals, perennials, grasses, sedges and ferns. He showed slides of all with running comments on their usage and virtues. He also had an extensive list of sources, his list comprises most of the list here in this issue of the *Gaillardia*, and had a booth where several of the catalogs were available.

A choice of two workshops out of three were the fare for the afternoon. Loretta Bowers of Clear Creek Farm described how she collected seeds,
processed the seeds and raised the plants. All of her procedures are ones any of us could use; no fancy equipment is required. Various kitchen utensils, like colanders, serve to sift the seeds free of debris. Roughened paper plates remove the finer debris. Much of her seeding is done in simple cold frames. Not only was her workshop informative and entertaining, but you cannot help but like a woman in a long denim dress and work boots. She and her husband, Kirk, had a booth at the outing.

Paul Buck presented a workshop on “Winter Botany”. The thrust was recognition of trees in dormancy. He had a goodly collection of specimens at each table that he had collected at a local park, now denuded. For most of us that depend on leaves for recognizing trees, it was interesting to learn other properties for identification. Of course these properties are useful even when leaves are present. That is, leaf scars, bark, pith, and branch properties remain after the leaves bud out.

Bob Lindsey’s workshop was on “Wildflower Photography”. From comments that I heard, this was an excellent workshop also.

The weather was nice enough that the outing could have been outside. In fact, a walk on the grounds of the Tulsa Garden Center was an added bonus. Just another thing that made the outing a memorable day.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS!

Marlies Bailey
Dianna L. Bannister (student)
John R. Couch
Janee Cramton
Lynn Dickson
Pete Earls
Kay Gafford
Loretta Gilliam
Melynda Hickman
Ellen Jonsson
Betty Johnson
Babor & Jerzy Krasinski
Michael & Elaine Lynch
Helen C. Miller
Carla Picinich
Helen Riley
Adam & Miranda Ryburn
Kenneth & Gloria Sandvold
Paula Shryock
Homer Saunders
Larry Scott
Heleene Standridge
T'Lee Sollenberger
Jeffrey & Susan Walker
Kathie Webb
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FOR JOINING OR RENEWAL, USE THE FORM BELOW:

Fill out this form or supply the same information. Make checks payable to Oklahoma Native Plant Society and mail to Oklahoma Native Plant Society, 2436 South Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114. Dues include subscription to Gaillardia.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Affiliation: (School, Business, or Avocation) __________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

Home Phone: ___________________________ Office Phone: ______________

E mail: ________________________________ Please do not list my phone ___

_______________________________________________________________

Annual Membership Choice:   ___ $10 Individual, ___ $15 Family, ___ $5 Student

Life Membership Choice: __ $200 Individual, __ $300 Family

Add $2.50 ___ to cover cost of copying and mailing a complete ONPS directory if desired.
The Gaillardia

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President
Sheila Strawn
Vice President
Tina Julich
Secretary
Maurita Nation
Treasurer
Mary Korthase
Historian
Karen Haworth

Board members-at-large: 2000: Paul Reimer and Larry Magrath
2001: Berlin Heck and Iris McPherson
2002: Chad Cox and Paul Johnson

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

A word about addresses

ONPS has a business address:
Oklahoma Native Plant Society
c/o Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, OK 74114

Membership, changes of address, and general correspondence of all kinds except newsletter material should be sent to the Tulsa address.

For Gaillardia material only, use the editor’s address:

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Norman, OK 73071-7427

The Gaillardia can accept material by disk (ASCII, rtf or Word format), e-mail to chadcox@telepath.com.

Members who wish to receive information by e-mail from ONPS may send their on-line address to chadcox@telepath.com

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