



Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

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

Volume 17, Number 1
Spring 2002

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ONPS website: <http://www.usao.edu/~onps/>

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**COPY AND ART DEADLINE
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 May 2002**

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 11: NE first meeting in 2002, David Stahle will be presenting a program on the Cross Timbers. Contact Jim Elder, jfeok@aol.com , (918)747-0735 .

March 15 & Apr. 19; NE-Chapter Happy Hour, St. Louis Bread Company, 41st and Hudson, Tulsa, OK, 5:30 pm

March 15: C-T Chapter Meeting, Life Sciences Bldg., 6:30 pm, Page 10.

March 16: Field trip to Witchita Mts. to find the Stemless daisy. Meet at nature center at 11:30 am. Contact Charles Lewallen, (918) 652-3003, granylil@mmind.net

March 27: Organizational meeting for new Mycology group. See lecture on morels, Page 6.

April 13: NE-Chapter outing to Chlouber's Farm & Washing Irving Museum east of Stillwater

April 16: Monday, Tulsa Audubon Society meeting - program by Charles Lewallen

April 19-21: Oklahoma Academy of Science spring meeting at Quartz Mt. State Park.

April 27: Cross Timbers Field trip to Pontotoc Ridge. Page 9 & 10.

May 17-18: Wildflower Workshop, Alva, OK, Page 6.

May 25: Clayton Lake Outing - Leader Connie Taylor

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

Mary D. Price

Harriet Barclay Fund

James & Ros Elder

Mary D. Price

General Fund

Connie & John Taylor

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

What a busy month February has become! Those of us who used to dread February's dull gray expanse have been busy with the Oklahoma City Garden Festival and the Indoor Outing in Edmond – both well-staffed and well-attended by our loyal and hard-working members.

If you haven't written to ask for your *free* copy of the beautiful new *Journal*, by all means do so soon. (Requests can be sent to the Tulsa Garden Center address). We will not be able to offer next year's issue free of charge, but we really want all our members to own this first edition, and to see what our editor, Sheila Strawn, can do with Oklahoma native material. There are so many sources of good information on the native plants that just won't fit into a newsletter that we have source material for years to come. After you've read it, if you don't wish to keep it 'forever', please donate your copy to your local library or college.

While the accuracy and appropriateness of the *Journal* are the domain of its editor, the appearance and beautiful color pictures are in large part to the credit of Larry Magrath, who also produced the membership directory. The printing department at USAO does beautiful work and gives us very good prices. They are also responsible for the printing of the new ONPS logo-decorated shirts, caps, cups and more that are available at all state meetings.

To be an effective organization, we need to be able to recognize each other, just as armies depend in part on the uniforms which identify 'friend' and 'foe'. Thus the unifying effect of wearing our unique shirts and caps. We also need to communicate ideas and events and facts, and that is where this newsletter and the *Journal* come in. The rest depends on you, our members, who often travel many miles to participate in meetings and field trips. E-mail is now a big help, as is the ability to post timely information on the web-site. If you haven't given your e-mail address to Chad Cox, do so soon. We want to be able to notify as many members as possible when a report of a 'don't-miss' bloom comes in.

Pat Folley
President, ONPS

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

YOUR 2002 DUES ARE DUE NOW!

JOURNAL OF ONPS: The premier issue is free to members that request one; send your request to ONPS care of Tulsa Garden Center. They are not sent unless you request one. Those interested in subscribing to our new journal will need to be patient while ONPS establishes the cost of the journal.

In Memory: James Richard (Scoot) Cole, father of Leslie Cole-Jackson Died Saturday, February 9, 2002 A Payne County farmer, Mr. Cole spent his retirement years restoring the native grasses on his land near Cushing.

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### BOTONY BAY

Paul buck

### PEPPERS

Not long ago I was with a group gathered around a table following an enjoyable meal. We were relaxing with coffee and a meandering conversation. Somehow the subject became peppers. Everyone knows the kind I mean. Not the traditional, staple black pepper but the picañte jalapeños, the ones currently so popular in our Tex-Mex society. At one point a member of the group, a long time friend and member of this organization, commented peppers would be a good subject for a Botany Bay article. She was right and here it is. Thank you, Barbara.

The peppers we are talking about are not in the same family as black pepper. That common spice, the one we know via peppermills is obtained from *Piper nigrum* of the Piperaceae. It is an Old World plant that has been used for centuries in wine, medicines and bread and may well have developed its current popularity as an early spice to hide the taste and aroma of slightly aged meat. Recall our ancestors did not have the luxury of refrigerators. Spices must certainly have helped make some food items more palatable.



The jalapeño or chili pepper is in the Solanaceae or nightshade family and one of several popular foods in that group. Others are potatoes, tomatoes and eggplant. Yes, this is the family of poisonous species such as belladonna, henbane, Jimson-weed and tobacco. The botanical classification of the pepper is questionable with some workers interpreting the several forms as members of a single species while others separate them into *Capsicum frutescens* and *C. annuum*. That question has little bearing on the current discussion although it does lend some support to the suggestion paprika, pimiento, tobasco, chili and bell peppers are nothing more than horticultural varieties of one species.

The solanaceous peppers are New World plants native to tropical America and the West Indies. Archeological evidence indicates the people of Central America have used them for over 9,000 years. The time of their introduction into Europe is unknown but probably follows Columbus' venture into the Western Hemisphere in search of a shorter route to the orient and spice markets.

These peppers vary in their level of pungency with the sweet or bell peppers being mildest. The strongest are the jalapeño generally called chili peppers. Even these exhibit a wide range of pungency from zesty to scorching hot. The active ingredient is capsaicin, a volatile phenol, which we can sense in concentrations as low as one part per billion.

No doubt some are questioning why a plant would go to the metabolic expense of producing and then losing, via fruit drop, such a compound. Surely its synthesis costs valuable energy which could be used elsewhere. Think about it for a moment and try to answer the question. I have a couple of ideas but who knows if they are anywhere near correct. Perhaps the capsaicin was meant to discourage herbivores from consuming the fruit and seeds. Those may have been creatures with digestive juices powerful enough to destroy the seeds. On the other hand, other herbivores, perhaps with a gentler digestive system may have lacked taste buds sensitive to capsaicin. Not all animals have similar taste buds. Have you noted local squirrels consuming the acorns of red oaks? Try it some time, carefully!

Another possibility is capsaicin is an undesirable metabolic by-product of a chemical reaction. We mobile animals possess complex excretory systems permitting us to concentrate and excrete many of our toxic by-products. Plants use other approaches and may eliminate unwanted compounds by placing them in tissues destined to be lost. Consider deciduous trees in the fall. Could the shedding of leaves be, in part, a gigantic excretory effort?

Those are just ideas. I'll confess your hypotheses are as good as mine.

An additional fact is that capsaicin is most concentrated in seeds and placenta (where seeds attach to the ovary or fruit wall). Remove all the seeds and placenta of a chili pepper and taste the fruit tissue. Often it completely lacks the hot taste.

Once introduced chili peppers often resulted in the development of spicy cuisine, specifically in Hungary, Italy, Indonesia, India and Japan. The Chinese in the Szechwan and Hunan provinces developed Szechwan paste, a fiery mixture of ground chili pepper and garlic oil. If you enjoy spicy food try the Szechwan or Hunan menu offerings at a restaurant specializing in Chinese cuisine.

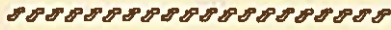
Many herbals and medicinal botany references list capsaicin as an important plant product in the treatment of a variety of physical problems and illnesses. It has been, and in some areas is still used internally as a stimulant, carminative (drug to reduce intestinal gas) and in controlling fever. It is reported some cultures have used it to reduce blood clotting, in pain control, as an anti-inflammatory, for neuralgia, rheumatism and for sore throat. It is used today in the treatment of pain due to shingles (*Herpes zoster*) and arthritis. One cannot help but think rubbing the juice of jalapeños on the skin would, in itself, take your mind off arthritic discomfort.

Today there is another use of capsaicin and that is in law enforcement. It is the active ingredient in many of the non-lethal spray devices sold for defense or to control violent individuals. Anyone who has thoughtlessly rubbed an eye after handling chili peppers can visualize the effectiveness of a blast of capsaicin in the face. However, one source



did point out it is not an effective approach for use on those under the control of stimulants.

Thus a brief introduction to one of the three spices native to the New World (the others are allspice and vanilla) and presently popular in much of the country. There is much more for us to learn about peppers but right now, anyone for spicy chimichangas?



### SYMBIOSIS: ROOT OF HIGHER LIFE FORMS

Chad Cox

Symbionts everywhere you look. Seems I have heard several symbiotic relationships expressed in just the last month. At the Indoor-Outing Clark Ovrebo mentioned how the mycelium of fungi are often entwined with roots some other species. Suzanne McAlister, in discussing bryophytes and other species that might be confused with them, pointed out lichens are the symbiotic pairing of a fungus and alga. These two species can not exist separate in the wild. So these symbiotic relationships run the gamut between a loose arrangement to an obligatory one. The most outstanding one is the remnant of one that you have in your cells.

Mitochondria are cellular organelles that use molecular oxygen to burn various substances to water and carbon dioxide while trapping usable energy in the form of ATP. These organelles produce almost all the energy we use in every thing from driving unfavorable reactions to muscle contraction. Without these organelles, there would be no multicellular creatures roaming the country side. Their origin is a most fascinating story.

A little background information is necessary. Bacteria evolved to the point that they could use the energy of sunlight to combine water and carbon dioxide to sugars while producing molecular oxygen as a byproduct. This freed them from seeking food for energy. This was such a great arrangement that they proliferated and eventually increased the oxygen content of air to approximately what it is today. Some bacteria then evolved to use this increased oxygen content to burn foods for energy, giving them the ability to live free of the need for sunlight. Both of these two

types of bacteria have played important roles in developing our observable life forms.

One of these oxygen-consuming bacteria paired up with another species. Most probably, the bacteria did this for protection and the other species did it for the energy that the bacteria could produce in such abundance that the ATP could be shared. Similar symbiotic pairs exist today. With this extra energy source available, the paired organism became the dominant life form besides bacteria.

This pair evolved to the point that mitochondria are not considered symbionts, while multiplying separate from the cell itself, they are but a remnant where little of their original genes remain with them. Most of the original bacterial genes have been incorporated into the nuclear gene pool of what was the host species. Not all of the genes of the mitochondria could be transferred to the nuclear gene pool since the coding systems are different. These remaining mitochondrial genes are inherited only from mother to child because the mitochondria of the child are from those of the egg cell, none of those from sperm enter the egg during fertilization.

Chloroplasts, similar to mitochondria, are remnants of symbiotic relations developed in plant cells. They were bacteria that used sunlight to produce sugar. Of course as chloroplasts they still do. Because chloroplasts differ in different plant types, this symbiosis to cellular organelle may well have occurred at least three separate times. They, like mitochondria, look morphologically like and accomplish the same metabolic functions as their ancestors. So without these cellular organelles derived from bacteria, there would be no photosynthesizing plants and no energy efficient animals or plants. Without them, it is difficult to conceive how large multicellular species could have developed

So you can say that symbiosis is the root of all higher life forms.



### BIOLOGICAL STATION TO OFFER TWO BOTANY COURSES

If you have a desire to learn more about the natural history of plants, animals, and Oklahoma, you might consider enrolling in



short courses at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station located on Lake Texoma. ONPS members Bruce Smith (The Fern Man) and Ron Tyrl will be teaching two-week courses titled *Field Botany* and *Vascular Aquatic Plants*.

Bruce's course is an introduction to the flora of the state, the terminology of plant description, the use of taxonomic keys to identify unknown plants, and the techniques of collecting and preserving plants. It will be offered August 4 – 16. Classes meet all day long during the week, and emphasis is on field work with trips to botanically interesting sites. Although focused on vascular aquatic plants, Ron's course also will introduce participants to basic terminology, taxonomic keys, and aspects of ecogeography. Numerous field trips to Oklahoma's diverse aquatic and wetland habitats will be conducted. It will be held May 19 – June 1.

Bruce and Ron's courses are part of the station's summer program of courses and research opportunities. In May, five courses are being offered: Vascular Aquatic Plants, Bird Ecology, Experimental Herpetology, Experimental Design in Ecology, and Molecular Techniques for Field Biology. In August, four courses will occur: Field Botany, Field Insect Ecology, Field Mammalogy, and Reservoir Fish Ecology.

Located on the north shore of the Red River Arm of Lake Texoma near Willis, the biological station is a permanent research and instructional facility, and an ideal setting for intensive studies of plants and animals in a diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. The campus comprises 16 buildings, including research and teaching labs, library, dormitory, apartments, and dining hall, occupies approximately 30 acres. Participants in the summer courses normally reside at the station, but commuting is possible.

The complete listing of courses follows:

Vascular Aquatic Plants, BOT 4990/5990, Sec. 051, May 19 – June 1, 2002

Instructor: Ron Tyrl, Oklahoma State University  
Field Botany, BOT 4990/5990, Sec. 050, August 4 – 16, 2002

Instructor: Bruce Smith, Oklahoma State University

Both courses will include field trips to observe and collect specimens in their natural habitats for further study in the laboratory.

Other courses being offered during Summer Session 2002 are:

Bird Ecology, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 051, May 19 – June 1, 2002

Instructor: Terry Maxwell, Angelo State University

Experimental Design in Ecology, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 050, May 19 – June 1, 2002

Instructor: Jacob Schaefer, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Experimental Herpetology, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 052, May 19 – June 1, 2002

Instructor: William Lutterschmidt, Sam Houston State University

Molecular Techniques for Field Biology, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 100, May 19 – June 1, 2002

Instructors: James Thompson, Jr., University of Oklahoma

Ron Woodruff, Bowling Green State University

Field Insect Ecology, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 054, August 4 – 16, 2002

Instructor: Ken Hobson, University of Oklahoma  
Field Mammalogy, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 053, August 4 – 16, 2002

Instructor: Michael Kennedy, University of Memphis

Reservoir Fish Ecology, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 055, August 4 – 16, 2002

Instructor: Keith Gido, Kansas State University

Students receive 3 hours of upper-division undergraduate or graduate science credit with laboratory. A small computer lab for student/classroom use is available in the library at UOBS, one of the classrooms is also set up as a computer lab, as well as a computer available for the instructors in all six classrooms. All of these computers have internet access and word



processing, spreadsheet, database, presentation and statistics programs available. Most of the computers are PCs with only a limited number of Macs available.

For further information about the station and application procedures, visit the station's web site at [www.ou.edu/uobs](http://www.ou.edu/uobs) or contact Susan Bayliss at 405-325-5391 or [sbayliss@ou](mailto:sbayliss@ou). Applications will be accepted starting Jan. 2, 2002.



**ONPS Photo Contest is 15  
Sue Amstutz**

Happy Fifteenth Anniversary, ONPS Photo Contest! When our 2002 photo contest entries are displayed at the Wildflower Workshop in May, it will mark the fifteenth consecutive year that the Society has sponsored its annual contest for photographers of the native plants of Oklahoma. Begging on a rather small scale back in 1988 when the first contest was held and leading up to the more recent, highly successful projects involving dozens of entries, the photo contest has been and continues to be one on ONPS' most visible educational tools.

A few statistics garnered from our previous fourteen years of contests provide an excellent exemplification of the value of these endeavors. We now have in our possession a total of 95 posters, dated 1989 when the photos first began to be mounted, through the 2001 set.

Eighty different individuals photographers have earned prizes for their entries: of those, 31 have received multiple awards and 14 have received awards for different entries submitted in more than one year's contest. We have awarded total prize money (through the 2001 contest) in the amount of \$4430! Thirty different officials have served as judges for the contests, and 7 of our own members have chaired the Photography Committee during the 15 years of this project. The society owes a big thank-you to these Chairs: John Miller (1988-1992), Bob Lindsey (1993-1994),

Clark Ovrebo (1995), James Norman (1996), Bob & Emma Crane (1997-2000), and Paul Riemer (2001-present).

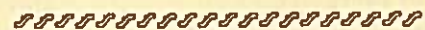
We all realize how abundant the diversity of native plant life is in Oklahoma. This fact is even mirrored in the entries over the years of the contest. Around 350 different plants have been photographed and entered into our contest photo collection, including not only the more obvious wildflowers but also trees, shrubs, grasses, mosses, fungi, ferns and habitats.



**LECTURE ON SPRING MORELS**

Dr. Clark Ovrebo will give a lecture on morels and other early spring mushrooms to members of ONPS and anyone else interested on March 27, 2002, at George Lynn Cross Hall (Botany-Microbiology building) at the University of Oklahoma. The time is 7 p.m. in room 233. Cross Hall is on the South Oval off of Lindsey. You can park in the lot just east of the South Oval but not in front of the building. There are no restrictions after 6 p.m. in the Eastside lot.

The end of March and early April is the time for morels to appear in Oklahoma. With just a little practice morels can easily be identified. Some consider them to be the best tasting wild mushroom. We will also use this meeting to discuss further the organization of a Mycological Chapter of ONPS. Thanks are extended to Dr. Marielle Hoefnagels for making arrangements to use the facilities at OU.



**WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP**

**Joanne Orr**

For 25 years everything's been coming up wildflowers. This year, the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual



**Wildflower Workshop** will take place in Alva, home to the heart of the Cherokee Strip. The Workshop is planned for May 17-18 and includes a variety of speakers, lunch, dinner and a field trip on Saturday. The Workshop will also include a wildflower market with native plants, seeds, books, notecards and more. Wildflower specimens and other displays, plus winners of the Native Plant Society Photo Contest will be featured.

Steve Owens, host of the OETA gardening show *Oklahoma Gardening*, will teach how to incorporate native wildflowers into gardens. Dr. Bruce Hoaglund of the Oklahoma Biological Survey at the University of Oklahoma will speak on the wildflowers of Woods County and what the group may see on the Saturday field trip. Herman Dittrich, a native grass researcher with Johnston Seed Co. will give a demonstration on how to arrange dried native plants. Joanne Orr, Beautification Coordinator for the Department of Transportation (ODOT) will reflect on 25 years of the Workshops history. Laurie Stillings, Landscape Specialist for ODOT will speak on beautifying the backyard with wildflowers. The Alabaster Caverns State Park naturalist, Mike Caywood, will speak on the park's flora and fauna. Richard Ross, Chief Landscape Architect at the Kansas Department of Transportation will talk about the preservation of the wildflowers lining the Kansas roadsides. Red Cedars is the topic of Dr. Paul Nighswonger's speech. Nighswonger is a retired Biology professor at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva.

The Workshop on Friday will be held in the Women's Building at the Bryan County Fairgrounds. The Friday evening banquet will have Dr. Karen Hickman, Associate Professor of biology at Ft. Hayes State University in Kansas presenting "Wildflowers, Grasses and Buffaloes."

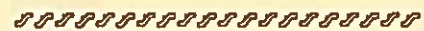
Saturday, May 18, there will be a field trip by bus to various privately-owned prairie sites

near Freedom. Lunch will be enjoyed in the pink and white beauty of Alabaster Caverns State Park.

The Friday Workshop begins at 8:30 a.m., the dinner at 6:30p.m. and the Saturday field trip at 7:30a.m. For registration, contact Nadine Keitel of 702 Noble, Alva, OK 73717. Or phone her at (580)327-2039. The deadline is May 10.

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 Northwest District Garden Clubs, as well as the Alva Council of Garden Clubs will also help sponsor this year's Workshop.

To receive a flyer or a brochure about the Workshop, contact the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Beautification Office at 200 NE 21<sup>st</sup> St., Oklahoma City, OK 73105 or call (405)521-4037.



## INDOOR OUTING

Clark Ovrebo

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society held its 14<sup>th</sup> annual Indoor-outing on February 9, at Howell Hall, University of Central Oklahoma. The theme this year was Cryptogamic plants and ferns. The outing was hosted by Dr. Clark L. Ovrebo with Dr. Gloria Caddell assisting. Dr. Larry Magrath had ONPS tea-shirts, mugs and other items for sale, and Sue Amstutz displayed posters of the photo contest winners.

About 70 folks turned out for the event. Perhaps the most difficult chore of the day was fighting the wind getting to and from our automobiles. The morning program began with a talk by Ovrebo on fleshy fungi of



Oklahoma. The talk highlighted many of the morphological features that are important in identifying mushrooms and other fleshy groups. Kodachrome slides illustrated the diversity of mushrooms, boletes, puffballs, bracket fungi and stinkhorns that are found in our state. This talk was followed by an introduction to Bryophytes by Dr. Suzanne McAlister of OSU. Bryophytes include the mosses, liverworts and hornworts. All groups are found in our state but we are most likely to encounter the mosses. After a discussion on morphology of the three groups, Suzanne showed a number of slides that illustrated bryophytes and the habitats where they occur. These cryptogams are often the dominant plant forms in extreme environments such as high elevations or near the poles. The final presentation of the morning was by Dr. Bruce Smith of McLoud High School whose specialty are the ferns. He gave a listing of areas in the state where interesting ferns can be found. He also discussed the variation in anatomy of fern plants and their mode of



Jerry Brown observing one of Bruce Smith's fern specimens.

reproduction. The afternoon session consisted of workshops where the attendees were able to learn more about fungi, bryophytes and ferns using living or preserved specimens. The final activity of the afternoon was an organizational meeting of a Mycological Chapter of ONPS. By mid-afternoon most of

the folks were on their way home so only four attended the meeting. Another meeting is being planned to get this chapter organized.



## OKLAHOMA GARDEN FESTIVAL

Chad Cox

The second annual Oklahoma Garden Festival was held at the Myriad Center in Oklahoma City on January 31 and February 1-3. ONPS had a booth this year. Susan Chambers, who had participated the previous year with the Organic Gardening Society, led our group. (See her comments under Central Chapter news). Our booth was manned by Judy Jordan, Charles Lewallen, Chad and Pat Cox, Susan and Wayne Chambers, Betty Culpepper, Tina Julich and Pat Folley.



ONPS booth manned by Chad and Pat Cox

Not only did we gain a number of new members but good publicity for our organization. No doubt we can improve on that next time. Many gardening related organizations were there as well. Our booth was between the Oklahoma Begonia Society and the Sierra Club and across from the Oklahoma Horticultural Society and Oklahoma Gardening.



## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### NE Chapter Jim Elder

Other events scheduled are our monthly happy hour meetings, March 15<sup>th</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup>. There are several ONPS outings scheduled in April, but we have not been able to set a date for Washington Irving Museum area outing. We will discuss this at our next happy hour and post any new outing dates on the ONPS website calendar. Charles Lewallen has a Wichita Mts. outing scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>. Several members expressed interest in Ron Tyrl's upcoming trip to Pontotoc Ridge on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, hopefully by chartered bus.

### Central Chapter

The central chapter has only had one meeting since last fall. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, on a sunny, windy, cold day, 26 people followed Julie Tarver, park naturalist, around Lake Thunderbird in search of bald eagles. Most of us actually made it to all of the stops, although a few couldn't stand the wind or had other appointments. While not actually sighting any bald eagles, we did see a few birds out on or over the lake. A cormorant flew back and forth just in case we missed it the first time, a few ducks were out fishing, and a few gulls wheeled overhead. We even sighted the rare black plastic bag in an oak across the lake! By mid-afternoon, even the toughest(?) folks called it quits and went home.

Our next scheduled meeting is on March 25<sup>th</sup>, at the OSU-OKC Horticulture center. Our speaker will be Amy Ganguli, a graduate student at OSU, presenting a program on red cedars. Whether you're for or against them, it should prove to be an interesting program. No further meetings have been scheduled as of yet, however, if you would like to be notified and are not in the central chapter area, please contact Susan Chambers or Pat Folley.

Report on Garden Festival- Jan 31—Feb 3, 2002. Some people missed the garden festival entirely because of power outages or tree damage, but I think it's safe to say that the ONPS will be back again next year. Thursday, the first day of the event, was very poorly attended and staffed because of travel problems or damaged utilities. The lack of attendance on Thursday was more than made up for on the succeeding three days. Thirty new members were signed up during the festival, each of who received a copy of the newly printed journal. Over 600 newsletters were given out to interested festival goers, some issues going all the way back to 1993. Everyone who participated in the staffing of the booth came away with a list of things to 'do better' next year. Volunteers would also be gladly accepted to reduce the amount of time spent in the booth by any one person. Planning for next year is already going on! Think about it for when the call goes out next fall.

### Cross-Timbers Chapter Ron Tyrl

On Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, members from both the C-T and NE chapters took a field trip to the Washington Irving Trail Museum in Mehan to view the recently opened exhibit on the Oklahoma Cross Timbers. Curators and ONPS members Carla and Dale Chlouber hosted the outing. The exhibit presents aspects of the geology and vegetation of this unusual botanical region that extends from southeastern Kansas across Oklahoma to north-central Texas. Also presented are historical accounts of man's use of the area, from the earliest explorers to modern times. Washington Irving, the museum's namesake, was one of the first individuals to describe the Cross Timbers and his description was based on his observations of the forest in the vicinity of Mehan. The Oklahoma Foundation for the Humanities funded preparation of the exhibit, and it was displayed throughout the state. It was subsequently housed at the Oklahoma



Museum of Natural History in Norman, until it was donated to the Trail Museum. After viewing the the exhibit, participants enjoyed a short hike to a nearby spring where Irving and his companions camped.

The chapter's next activity is its traditional spring potluck scheduled for Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. The dinner will begin at 6:30 pm in Room 110 of the Life Sciences East Building on the OSU campus. Following dinner, Joleen Stone, ONPS member and owner of Stonegate Garden Center in Claremore will give a presentation on *The Wonderful World of Herbs*. Lots of touching and smelling of plants is anticipated. A very brief business meeting to elect new officers for the coming year also is scheduled.

On Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, chapter members will take a day-long field trip in order to join other ONPS members in seeing the spectacular display of spring wildflowers at The Nature Conservancy's Pontotoc Ridge Preserve south of Ada. Tentative plans include departure from Stillwater at 7:30 or 8:00 am, travel by 15-passenger vans to the Preserve, botanizing, lunch in the field, botanizing, and return to Stillwater between 6:00 and 7:00 pm. Travel via a more comfortable commercial bus is being considered. Depending upon the number of participants, possibly from both the C-T and NE chapters, the cost will likely be \$17-20 per person. When arrangements are finalized, members will be notified and reservations accepted.

March 15: Cross-Timbers Chapter Spring Potluck and Meeting. 6:30 pm in Room 110 of Life Sciences East building, OSU campus. Joleen Stone, owner of Stonegate Garden Center in Claremore will present a program on *The Wonderful World of Herbs*.

April 27: Cross-Timbers Chapter Field Trip to TNC's Pontotoc Ridge Preserve. Travel arrangements being formalized; probable departure from parking lot between Life

Sciences East and Physical Sciences buildings, OSU campus at 7:30 or 8:00 am. Contact Ron Tyrl.

#### FIELD TRIP RULES

- Preregistration is required for all field trips.
- Field trip announcements will contain the name, address, and telephone number of the leader. If you have doubts about the terrain, difficulty, etc., ask.
- 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.



Do you remember this scene from the last Annual meeting?



**WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS**

**Kellie Adams, Edmond**  
**Carman B. Baker, Oklahoma City**  
**Phyllis A. Connally, Tulsa**  
**Fran Ferrari, Oklahoma City**  
**Sandy Field, Oklahoma City**  
**Warren V. Filley, Edmond**  
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***The Gaillardia***

Published quarterly by the  
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2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa OK 74114

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