Gaillardia
The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

CALENDAR
Note: the events dated below are followed by either a page number for further descriptions or the contact person.

Sept 10: Crosstimbers Chapter will visit Jim Owaby’s garden. Page 7.
Sept 12: NE Chapter Meeting features Dee Simmons, Volunteer Coordinator for the Owen Park Restoration project. Page 7
Sept 16 – 20: BioBlitz 2005 at Mohawk Park starts 3 PM Friday, September 9 and ends 3 PM on the tenth. For more information visit www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitz.
Sept 17: Central Chapter will meet at the home of Jeannie and Dan Coley at 10:00. Page 8.
Oct 7-9: Annual Meeting at Quartz Mountain. Insert
Oct 29: Central Chapter will visit Pontotoc Ridge; meet there at 10:00. Page 8.
Nov 28: Central Chapter Meeting at 7:30 at OSU/OKC 400N Portland. Melynda Hickman from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife will be our speaker. Page 8.

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

ONPS THANKS THESE DONORS
Color Oklahoma Fund
Boncilla Klein
Donna Scoggis-Stuber in honor of Lavonia & Charley Bright’s 50th wedding anniversary

Look Inside For

President's Paragraph .......................... 2
Important Notices .................................. 2
Botany Bay ............................................. 2
Photo Posters ........................................... 3
By-Laws Admendment ............................... 4
Color Oklahoma ....................................... 4
Conservation Corner ............................... 5
Wildflower Workshop ............................... 6
Chapter Activities .................................... 7
Field Trip Rules ........................................ 8
Welcome New Members ............................... 9
Membership Form ...................................... 9

Insert: Annual Meeting

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FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 November 2005
PRESIDENT’S PARAGRAPH

Greetings Fellow Weed Watchers,

It is that time of year again – the air is beginning to cool, and you can contemplate being out of doors again. Why not join us for a tromp in the woods and some thoughtful, stimulating conversation at the Annual Meeting?

This year we will be at Quartz Mountain Resort and Conference Center, October 7, 8 and 9. Again, we are meeting earlier in October, hoping for warmer weather and some fall wildflowers – and if we catch the rains just right, maybe even some fungi. After last year’s meeting some members observed that the bunk-house accommodations were not very restful. In response, we have elected to stay at the resort. It will be a bit more expensive, but it will be quieter, drier, and more private! They are giving us their reduced, non-profit rate. In an effort to keep costs under your control, breakfast and lunch will be at your discretion. (Their restaurant has a varied, tasty menu and is generally reasonable.) See the Registration form for more details. We are planning to have two different field excursions, a more vigorous one in the cool of the morning, a more leisurely one in the afternoon, perhaps on paved paths, to accommodate all of our members.

I hope you will join me in thanking Kim Shannon and all of the Color Oklahoma Committee for their diligence in attempting to resolve the controversy over the plantings sponsored by the Color Oklahoma Project. (See her article in this issue.) I hope you will also join me in viewing this as ‘growing pains’, that we have now grown through, so that we can move cohesively into the future.

Do something wild this fall – like attend the Annual Meeting!

Connie

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

As mentioned in the Board Meeting report in the Spring issue, we will be voting at the Annual Meeting on a proposed increase in dues to $15/yr and $250/yr for individuals and $20/yr and $350/yr for families. We will also be voting on a By-Laws change in term limits for the Treasurer as detailed on Page 4.

Photo Contest pictures need to be received by Tina Julich before December 1. This will be the last notice in the Galardia for the contest.

BOTANY BAY

Paul Buck

A Journey of Wonder

Many members of the society have made an early morning journey from Tulsa to Oklahoma City, or the reverse, to attend a meeting or gathering. Through the years I have made numerous such trips and found each different and interesting. Sometimes wildflowers line the highway, other times they have gone to seed and occasionally the Turnpike Authority is busy mowing them down, apparently in an effort to achieve that park-like appearance. During non-flowering months there are other sights to catch the eye. Let me share a segment of one early winter morning journey from Tulsa to Oklahoma City.

Departure is shortly after 6:00 a.m., long before sunrise. Few people are out and traffic will be light. Thirty six hours ago the moon was full and I am blessed with a crystal clear sky overhead, dominated by that bright, near perfect orb. There is enough moonlight to distinguish trees along the side of the road. Remote from urban areas the sky is speckled with a profusion of sparkling stars. Unfortunately the lights of on-coming traffic prevent the development of true night vision but still it is possible to see a hint of long banks of clouds on the horizons. Before long, with the seemingly endless blacktop flowing out of the darkness, the distant stars moving slowly across the sky, and the comradship of the nearby moon, I cannot help but become philosophical, and begin contemplating both the physical and spiritual history and meaning of our earthly life.
Occasionally the headlights reflect watchful eyes of companions of the night, sometimes clearly identifiable as raccoons, opossums or deer but most often seen too briefly to be recognized.

It suddenly seems the clouds in the northwest are just a bit more distinct. It is not the moonlight but the first indication of the new day, the very early predawn light. Shortly the pale tops of the clouds become visible and a subtle hint of color creeps across the heavy bank in the northeast, the remnants of a swiftly retreating cold front that brought light rain and a clear, clear atmosphere. Bands of color are now obvious blossoming along the length of the cloud bank. Words do not accurately describe those colors, one must see them. Artists have an advantage over we less talented people. With their 'artistic liberty' they can close to catching the fleeting hues of a sunset or sunrise on canvas. Slowly, yet too rapidly, there are delicate color shifts in the clouds ranging from faint white to pink to rose to red to magenta and still myriad others, the sum of which I find impossible to describe but am confident they will be with me to the grave. Herein lies the basis for the title of these thoughts, this is indeed a journey of wonder - the Wonder of Nature, the awe inspiring beauty of a simple sunrise spreading across central Oklahoma.

My childhood was spent in the north and I knew little of Oklahoma. Most of my concepts of the southwest came from exciting westerns. Of course they resulted in many erroneous notions. I've since learned there are trees other than cottonwoods along creek beds and that a horse thief does not hang from a low branch on each. One concept often presented was that of the false dawn, the period of morning twilight preceding sunrise, when according to Zane Grey and others, one could expect an attack by a group of outlaws, war party or military patrol. I am now experiencing that phenomenon. As the light intensity slowly increases I began to recognize those parts of the world so familiar to all of us. Spectral outlines of the leafless trees appear, elms recognized by their characteristic deliquescent growth form, oaks by their typically rugged silhouette and physical location, standing as pioneers along the edge of a prairie and the unmistakable dome-shaped motts of persimmon clones that successfully invaded the grasslands once their archenemy fire had been eliminated. Soon the ghostly forms of crows became evident, gliding on silent wings along the edge of the road with their inevitable raucous conversation. They appear to be checking what might be available for breakfast after a night of wildlife carnage. With the increasing light I observe three deer under trees in a bottomland forest along a small creek. The larger is a doe, the two smaller probably her twins of last spring. The adult and one juvenile stand frozen, watching my passage. The other, still with that youthful absolute trust in Mother, ignores me and continues browsing in an unconcerned manner.

With the increasing light the stars wink out until only the moon and one bright star, or perhaps it is a planet, remain. It is impossible to know just when the sun appeared on the horizon, a distant cloud bank obscured that moment. However, in time the sun topped the clouds, flooding the countryside with its brilliance and warmth. A new day is underway and with it the magic of this Oklahoma sunrise is broken. I must pack all of this away in a remote corner of my mind and make room for new visions and thoughts. I notice the road crests a long hill in the distance. I wonder what special things Nature has in store for me on the other side?

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Photo Poster Report

Sue Amstutz

The Custer County Master Gardeners would like to thank ONPS for the loan of the 2003 photo contest panes. They were a wonderful addition to the exhibits.

Sincerely, Faye Henson, 2005 OK Master Gardener State Convention

The above note represents the appreciation of the Oklahoma Master Gardeners who used our 2003 Photo Contest Posters as part of the displays at their State Convention held in Weatherford, Oklahoma, on June 10, 2005. The display was facilitated by ONPS members Faye Henson and Sue Amstutz.

It is opportunities like this which provide the Oklahoma Native Plant Society with the chance to educate another group of our fellow state residents as to who we are and what our purpose is.
Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws:

Term of Treasurer

Rationale: This amendment was discussed at the Board Meeting in June. It was prompted by our discovery that the term of our current Treasurer, Mary Korthase, is expiring. As you can probably imagine it is a large and specialized task to be the Treasurer of a 501c(3) organization such as ours. It requires someone with specific training such as accounting, bookkeeping, taxes, familiarity with their associated software, and of course integrity. It also requires someone who can attend meetings, and handle our intermittent ‘bursts’ of paperwork. Finding someone to do all of this as a volunteer is no easy feat. The requirement to find someone different after six years, when there is already someone who is trained, willing and already doing a good job, seems a waste of both talent and effort. The Proposed Amendment is therefore recommended by the Executive Board.

Concerns: What if in the future someone who is not as organized and reliable as Mary is Treasurer? Are we stuck with that person indefinitely? Indeed, not. The Treasurer is elected every year, as are the other offices. An unsatisfactory Treasurer would not be recommended by the nominating committee for re-election.

Current By-Laws: Article V, Section 1: “No individual shall serve in a voting capacity for more than six consecutive years on the Executive Board.”

Proposed Amendment: Article V, Section 1: “No individual, with the exception of the Treasurer, shall serve in a voting capacity for more than six consecutive years on the Executive Board.”

Procedure: According to Article XIII, amendments to the By-Laws must be presented to the Membership by the Executive Board at least two weeks in advance of the vote. Amendments must be approved by at least two-thirds of those present at a duly constituted meeting. You are hereby appropriately notified of the proposed amendment. We will vote at the Annual Meeting in October.

Color Oklahoma is ALL about being WILD!
By Kim Shannon, Color Oklahoma Chair

In the Summer 2005 issue of the Gaillardia, an article was submitted and printed that incorrectly reported the activities of the Color Oklahoma committee. In this issue, the Color Oklahoma committee wishes to address the statements made, give a historical overview, and clear up any and all questions regarding the activities of this group.

First we want to address the misleading and untrue statements from the June issue of the Gaillardia article titled Is Color Oklahoma Really About Coloring Our State Wild? In that article it was stated that, “there was talk at first, and then actual usage of European imports to seed some of the most visible roadways in the state.” Since 2002, there has been discussion of using some non-native species in areas where they have been planted in the past around the downtown area of Tulsa. These areas have been planted numerous times over the past two decades with flowers such as Crimson clover, Red poppies and Bachelor buttons. There are two important points here that we wish to communicate to ONPS members and others who are concerned.

1. COLOR OKLAHOMA FUNDS HAVE NOT AND WILL NOT BE USED TO PLANT NON-NATIVES AS LONG AS IT REMAINS A COMMITTEE OF THE OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY.

2. Some areas around downtown Tulsa did have these flowers blooming this past spring. But contrary to the Summer Gaillardia article, they were purchased and donated directly to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation by individuals who have done so for 20 years. Color Oklahoma was not involved and did not purchase any non-native seeds or receive a donation with that stipulation.

In July, the Color Oklahoma committee and members of the ONPS board (including the President and Treasurer) met to discuss this non-native issue. During that meeting a motion was passed by Color Oklahoma committee members that states, “Color Oklahoma will continue to purchase and
plant, as in the past, only native seeds.”

Our seed orders for 2003 and 2004 (since becoming a committee of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society in 2002) have consisted only of native wildflowers such as Indian blanket, tickseed, Indian paintbrush, black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, plains coreopsis, blue sage, annual winecup, prairie verbena and others. We have purchased these seeds from Johnston Seed Company, Wildseed Farms and Native American Seed. We will be happy to provide copies of all invoices for confirmation to anyone who is interested.

Color Oklahoma seeks to promote the use of native plants to beautify our state. We hope also to educate people about Oklahoma’s native plants and their benefits to our environment. If you would like more information about Color Oklahoma, please feel free to contact either Kim Shannon at 918.697.3488 or Pearl Garrison at 918. 587.4624. You can also visit the website at www.coloroklahoma.org.

Below are listed the sites and their respective seeds that were planted by Color Oklahoma in 2003 and 2004 or will be planted this fall (due to uncooperative weather last year).

2003

- A combination of tickseed, purple coneflower, plains coreopsis, blackeyed Susan, Indian blanket, and paintbrush were planted at the I-40 rest stops near Seminole, in the center median on I-40 at Seminole and along the road near the I-40 and Hwy 75 junction at Henryetta.

2004

- Creek Turnpike; 2 acres were planted with Clasping coneflower, plains coreopsis, tickseed, blackeyed Susan, Indian paintbrush, standing cypress and annual winecup.
- PSO site; 2 acres on US 169 near Oologah were planted with Tickseed, blackeyed Susan, plains coreopsis, prairie coneflower, clasping coneflower, and blue flax.
- Along I-40 in western Oklahoma near Clinton, Elk City and the Erick rest stop, we will be planting a combination of Clasping coneflower, prairie coneflower, plains coreopsis, Indian blanket, blue sage, annual winecup, lazy daisy, and prairie verbena that were not able to be planted last year.

This coming fall we will be planting even more sites across Oklahoma with only native species.

CONSERVATION CORNER
Chad Cox

Xeriscaping, the use of plants that require little water in gardening, has received some bad rap because too often non native plants have been chosen. Obviously, that need not be a reason to fail to employ xeriscaping in your yard since we have a good selection of natives that are well adapted to our region. Here in the cities we may have more problems facing landscaping codes. First, let’s look at some suggestions for avoiding problems with the city codes. Then we will look at some promising developments that pertain to changes in attitudes of city planners associated with xeriscaping.

Here are some general suggestions for those gardening with native plants.

Do not have any plants that are noxious or allergenic.
Do not violate any height restrictions near roads. Take care not to violate any easement requirements.
Keep records of what is present and their care. Keep records of all interactions with authorities. Make the area look like a garden including hardscape.
Keep a picture record of what your garden looks like through the seasons.

The following part of this article was prepared from an email from Native Plant Conservation Campaign that contained a report by Cindy Cole in the Arizona Daily Sun.

Las Vegas pays $1 from the local water district for every square foot of lawn that a citizen removes. Now Flagstaff is following suit with its own one-time $500 rebate for households that remove at least 1,500 square feet of grass and replace it with rock or, ideally, hardy, native plants that don’t need much water.

Jan Newton lives north of Flagstaff High School on Navajo Road, which is lined with green lawns the
size of small lots. "This is a grass neighborhood, and it's beautiful, but I'm not going to pay to water," Newton said. Conscious about water use in the southwest, so the grass at their new house had to go, she said. It took a sod cutter, a Rototiller, almost two months of work and between $3,000 and $4,000 to change her front yard from grass to a rocky mosaic of pathways and curvy, large planters.

By chance, Newton asked water conservation manager Adam Miller if the city was doing any sort of reimbursement for tearing out grass and learned she stood to receive a $500 check under a program that just got under way.

"As we move into the future, we think the xeriscape program will provide the largest opportunity for water conservation," Miller said. The average homeowner uses about 72 gallons each year to water just one square foot of grass, a recent Bureau of Reclamation study found. Those who xeriscaped their yards used 55 gallons less for the same space. Families watering their lawns use more water than any other segment of Flagstaff's business or residential population in the summer.

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27th ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

By Connie Murray

I have just returned from Ponca City and a Wonderful Wildflower Workshop!

At the close of a hectic academic year it was restorative to sit among friends, to spend a day contemplating the beauty and diversity of the living world and the next day experiencing the spring glory of the TallGrass Prairie and Biven Gardens. If you were unable to attend, you missed a day of thought provoking workshops and presentations on topics varying from orchids to herbs to new river birches. And you missed a gorgeous day among the bison and the wildflowers.

Special thanks go to Joanne Orr and her ODOT staff and to the members of the Oklahoma Garden Clubs for organizing the Workshop. Thanks to all the vendors for their beautiful plants and inspiring suggestions on ways to use and appreciate wildflowers. Also special thanks to Kim Shannon and Bruce Hoagland for leading the Field Trip on Saturday and to Connie Taylor and Monica Macklin and all the others who pitched in to guide and share their knowledge with such a large group.

If you missed the Wildflower Workshop this year, don’t miss it next.

Looking ahead, our next big event is the 2005 Annual Meeting in October. Kim Shannon has had a grand idea - having a Silent Auction! Be thinking of items or services you could donate and
also possible donors. Kim promises to be the first donor with a Gaillardia hooked pillow. Look for details in the August Newsletter.

Do something ‘wild’ this summer!

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NE Chapter
Sue Amstutz

"Fun and Flowers Afield" might be the slogan adopted by Northeast Chapter to describe our late spring/early summer field trips. Members have visited two state parks (Lake Keystone and Natural Falls), Rusty Grimpe’s wonderful prairie acreage northwest of Skiatook, Rogers State University Conservation Education Reserve, the backroads of Okfuskee County southwest of Henryetta with Charles Lewallen, and the trail which follows Pryor Creek south of the city of Pryor. We have visited on these trips a variety of habitats: wetlands, floodplain forests, unplowed meadow prairies, fern-laden grottos, backcountry roadsides, wooded glades, a butterfly garden, and a state park “fitness” trail.

Attendance at the various excursions ranged in number from as few as three members to a high attendance of seventeen participants.

The botany encountered in each location did not disappoint. At Lake Keystone State Park, we catalogued around 22 blooming varieties; at Natural Falls we listed over 40 varieties of wildflowers in bloom, plus numerous types of ferns for which the park is noted. At Rusty Grimpe’s prairie acres in Osage County, 29 flowering varieties were catalogued. Over forty plants blooming along the backroads ramble route, along with a dozen or so varieties of vines, shrubs, ferns and botanicals were observed and tabulated.

We listed an amazing array of natives at RSU Conservation Education Reserve with around 30 plants in bloom plus an assortment of other flora identified as well. Our final trip in late June added another 19 blooming plants, many vines (some with, some without berries) and a fantastic display of fungi varieties decorating the woodland floor, products of the plentiful rains of earlier in June.

The Chapter continued to have our monthly Happy Hour social event at Panera Bread Company on the third Friday of the month.

Our first meeting of the fall, September 12, will feature Dee Simmons, Volunteer Coordinator for the Owen Park Restoration project. This updating and refurbishing of Tulsa’s oldest municipal park is one of the city’s Oklahoma Centennial projects. The State Executive Board of ONPS at our June Board meeting voted to allocate funding for the purchase of native shrubs and flowers for the park as part of the renovation. One of our Autumn field trips for Northeast Chapter will have us visiting Owen Park to learn more about the project, the role ONPS will have in it, and perhaps even get involved more directly in the work going on there.

Crosstimbers Chapter Report
Elaine Lynch

We are beginning to finalize plans for our fall and winter events. Jim Ownby has graciously agreed to host a field trip to his home garden on September 10. The Ownbys’ garden has a number of native Oklahoma plants which have been maintained for several years in a "plot setting." The Ownbys live at 2413 Tanglewood Circle in southwest Stillwater. We will meet at Life Sciences East parking lot on the Oklahoma State University Stillwater campus at 9:45 a.m. on September 10th and car pool to the Ownby home. The field trip should last about two hours. Refreshments will be provided.

Our November potluck date is not yet set. We are trying to confirm a date in early November. We hope to have Ron Tyrl talk to us about similarities and differences between Oklahoma plants and Australian plants. Ron is only a possible speaker as he is not back in Stillwater yet, though he has returned to the US.

We will elect officers for the coming year at the November potluck. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for chair, vice-chair, or secretary-treasurer, contact one of the current officers. Remember to get permission from the person you wish to nominate.

We ask that you also contact an officer if you have suggestions for the January field trip or the March potluck speaker. We will discuss those events at the November meeting also.

For information about chapter activities, contact Paul Richardson, chair (405-377-4831), Olen Thomas, vice-chair (405-743-3613), or Elaine Lynch, secretary-treasurer (405-624-1461).
FIELD TRIP RULES

- Participation is at your own risk.
- 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.
- Collecting any plant parts or other materials at the site must be approved by the field trip leader.
- 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.
- 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.

October 29 Pontotoc Ridge. There is no bad time to visit PR, but fall has to be one of the best, we will meet at 10:00. Bring a sack lunch, drinks will be provided.

November 28 7:30 OSU/OKC 400N Portland Meylynda Hickman from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife will be our speaker.

Marilyn Stewart: 382-8540, home; 255-1707, cell

Mycology Chapter
Clark Ovrebo

As a respite from the Oklahoma summer heat and dryness (especially the dryness which means no mushrooms), Glenda and I spent the second week of August in the mountains of southern New Mexico in the vicinity of Ruidoso. One reason of the trip was to get away and see a new area, and the second reason was to attend the New Mexico Mycological Society’s annual foray.

We spent the early part of the week in Cloudcroft, south of Ruidoso. Cloudcroft sits in the Sacramento Mountains at an elevation of about 8600 feet. The rainy season had just begun so we experienced cool, damp weather. Coniferous trees dominate the woody vegetation with Douglas Fir, white fir, ponderosa pine and limber pine the main tree species. Gambel’s oak is also scattered in the forest. These trees form ectotrophic mycorrhizae (root-fungus association) which means that if moisture conditions are right, mushrooms should abound. We were just a little early to see the results of the rain but did see a few fungi around Cloudcroft.

Toward the end of the week we moved to Ruidoso, the site of the meeting. We had two days of collecting in similar vegetation and the results were somewhat better for fungi. The mushrooms had a little longer time to respond to the rain and having several dozen “pairs of eyes” searching in the forest also helped. Gilled mushrooms, boletes, puffballs and jelly fungi were brought in. One of the events of the foray is to have a tasting session of the edible mushrooms. The mushrooms served included the shaggy mane (Coprinus comatus), oyster mushroom (Pleurotus ostreatus), fairy ring mushroom (Marasmius oreades), ear mushroom - a jelly fungus (Auricularia auricula), Sparassis crispa (related to coral fungi) and Agaricus sp. (related to the store-bought mushroom). By the
way, all of these species occur in Oklahoma. We also had a taste of the black morel (probably *Morchella angusticeps*) which was collected and preserved earlier in the spring. I have yet to document the presence of the black morel in Oklahoma, but consider it to be tastier than our tan morel (*Morchella esculenta*). The coniferous forests also yield a group of species that are akin to *Boletus edulis* (king bolete). The king bolete and related species occur in temperate regions around the world and are considered to be among the most flavorful of all wild mushrooms. The species that we collected was *Boletus barrowsii*, named after the late Chuck Barrows, an eminent amateur mycologist from Santa Fe. It was by far my favorite of the mushrooms tasted. I am not sure if any species of the *edulis* group occur in Oklahoma but am doubtful because I would have had some evidence by now. They occur under pine.

Unfortunately, we had to head for home at about the time when fruiting was beginning to pick up. That's the way it goes with mushroom hunting—

timing is everything. As a postscript, I might add that there was a splendid diversity of wild flowers in bloom in the forests.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Martha Barrett, Broken Arrow
Don Beadles, Alva
Brooke Bonner, Stillwater
Ann and Rob Cross, Tulsa
A.B. and Ebbie Decker, Edmond
Larry R. Morrison, O’Fallon, IL
Juneann W. Murphy, Norman
Cliff and Sandee Pelchat, Edmond
George and Linda Pierson, Tulsa
Kathy Saucier, Carrollton, TX
Jennifer Shubert, Edmond

FOR JOINING OR RENEWING USE THIS FORM

Fill out this form or supply the same information. Make checks payable to Oklahoma Native Plant Society and mail to Oklahoma Native Plant Society, 2435 South Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114.
Membership is for Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 of current year and dues include subscription to *Gaillardia*.

Name: ________________________________

Affiliation: (School, Business, or Avocation) ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

Home Phone: __________________ Office Phone: __________________ Please do not list my phone __

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