



Gaillardia

Oklahoma

Native Plant Society

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

Volume 33, Number 4
Fall 2018

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Upcoming Events/Activities

(check the ONPS website for more details)

Central Chapter-January 3, OSU/OKC Horticulture Building, 400 N Portland, Room 196, 6:30 Social, 7:00 Jona Tucker speaking about Thomas Nuttall's 1819 expedition through Arkansas and Oklahoma

NE Chapter-December 3, 7:00, Tulsa Garden Center, Gloyd McCoy will speak about his uncle, Doyle McCoy, author of [Oklahoma Wildflowers](#)

Fabulous Wildflower Fridays, at 5:30 the third Friday of each month at Panera Bread at 5601 E 41st Street, Tulsa

Indoor Outing-February 9, for more information see page 2

For additional meeting times and topics please check the website

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



Green Sweat Bee on Aster

Photo: courtesy Heather Holm

It's **really** happening this time, on October 25th and 26th of 2019 ONPS is planning a trip to Austin to visit Selah (Bamberger Ranch Preserve) and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Selah is a 5,500 acre ranch in Blanco County that has been restored to its original habitat. It is a showcase of restoration management and considered large enough to be a functioning ecosystem. Tours are by reservation only, and we will book our tour for October 25th. The next day, October 26th, we will meet at the Wildflower Center in Austin.

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Published quarterly by the
Oklahoma Native Plant Society
P. O. Box 14274, Tulsa OK 74159

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President's Paragraph

Dear ONPS members,

I hope you are well and ready for winter. It has been a good fall season with plenty of nature to enjoy. I have been staying busy in the MHS oak hickory forest. I am currently trying to learn as much as I can about red mulberry trees. There is always something new to learn. Maybe next year it will be hackberries. As I remind my students on occasion "we don't know nothing." There is so much to learn. I am very blessed to have the MHS oak-hickory forest within five minutes of my home. Every time I walk through the forest, I learn something new and pose more questions about the forest ecosystem.

I hope you will make an effort to find a forest or a prairie near you. The closer to your home, the better. I suggest that you start your visits by creating a checklist of the dominant woody plants or grasses. If you need help with your identification, don't hesitate to ask someone in ONPS. I am sure they would love to help. I would also purchase a good journal. I think you will find it very gratifying to keep a daily or weekly journal of your visits. As the months and years pass and the journal becomes full, it will remind you of some good times.

I wish you the best, keep botanizing, get involved in your local chapters and please make yourself available for some of the upcoming events.

God bless, Bruce A. Smith

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February 5th, 2019**

From the Editor

This will be my final Gaillardia as editor, thanks to all who have helped, submitted articles, pictures and done the laborious task of folding them all and mailing. This group of people is the best!

Marilyn Stewart

Indoor Outing 2019

This year's Indoor Outing will be held in McCloud on February 9. There will be workshops in the morning that will repeat in the afternoon, so everyone can attend at least two. Planned workshops are: Smudging, Journaling, Winter Identification of Trees, and Lichens. We will also have the opportunity to tour the school greenhouse and weather permitting, a nearby forest. A mailer with registration details will be sent in January.

Botanist's Corner

Heather Holm

Native Plants: *Plants that exist in a geographic area without direct or indirect human introduction.*

The network of interactions between insects and native plants is the foundation of a complex ecosystem. Fostering these interactions with a diversity of native plants in the urban, natural, restored and agricultural landscape supports healthy, robust ecosystems and pollinator populations.

Pollination ensures the successful reproduction of plants and the long-term survival and diversity of plant communities. Without pollinators performing cross-pollination, fewer viable and genetically-diverse seeds are produced.

With the degradation and fragmentation of most native plant communities, there has been a significant decline in pollinator populations. Even small urban landscapes play an important role in supporting native pollinators when a sufficient amount and diversity of forage plants are provided. Recent research (Frankie et al, 2005; Wojcik et al, 2008) has demonstrated that native flowering plants were four times as likely to attract pollinators than exotic plants. The studies also found that eight or more species of native plants in a landscape increases both the abundance and diversity of native bees.

A diverse native planting not only supports more pollinators but also attracts beneficial insects. These insects suppress problem pests and provide ecosystem services to all types of landscapes. Gardeners and landowners who manage and enhance their landscape with both pollinator forage plants and nesting sites can support almost as many types of pollinators as natural areas.

Invasive Plants: *Non-native plants that have been introduced by humans and are serious environmental pests.*

Invasive plants change the structure and diversity of native plant communities. Eradicating invasive plants before enhancing existing or installing new pollinator planting eliminates this competition for light, nutrients and water. Herbaceous invasive plants without a taproot can be smothered using paper and a thick layer of mulch in the fall. Before covering the soil, it is a good idea to check for ground-nesting bee nests. This smothering material can be left in place for planting through in the spring.

Invasive woody plants can be cut to the ground (basal pruned) and stump spot-treated with a concentrated glyphosate-based herbicide. This technique reduces soil dis-

turbance caused from removing the entire woody plant root system and minimizes the amount of herbicide used. Repeated basal pruning (several times per year for two to five years) instead of herbicide treatment can be effective at eliminating some invasive plants. Prescribed fires are another tool used in the control of invasive plants but can cause harm to existing pollinator populations and nesting sites if performed over large areas or when pollinators are active.

ONPS is pleased to announce author Heather Holm will be our featured speaker in the coming year. On March 1 at 7:00 p.m. she will present "Attracting Bees and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants" at the Tulsa Garden Center. This talk will focus on the positive impact of insects in our landscapes and how native plants can be selected to attract specific insects. She will tell about the predator-prey relationships of these flower-visiting beneficial insects, their life cycles, nesting habits and how they help keep problem insect populations in balance. At 2:00 p.m. March 2, Holm will speak at OSU/OKC. "Forget Television-the Real Entertainment is Happening Outside in Your Pollinator-Friendly Yard" is the topic for this Saturday event. Holm will share about the fascinating world unfolding in your garden, the pollinators, their foraging behaviors, and the tricks flowers use to attract insects. We will also learn about using technology to document what we see and how to ultimately contribute to science.

Holm's books, [Pollinators of Native Plants](#) and [Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide](#) will be offered for purchase at a reduced price. Holm will be available for signing an hour before each event. Attendance is free, although donations will be accepted, and is open to the public.

"Somewhere between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants on the earth need help with pollination-they need pollinators. Pollinators provide Pollination services to over 180,000 different plant species and more than 1200 crops. One out of every three bites of food you eat is there because of pollinators"

About Pollinators, pollinator.org

“How do you give an award to someone who is in charge of giving awards?” With those words, attendees at the recent ONPS Annual Meeting at Sequoyah State Park realized that something out of the ordinary was about to take place.

Since 2000, when the ONPS Service Award (now known as the Betty Kemm Service Award) was envisioned by the State Executive Board as a means of recognizing ONPS members who had exhibited meritorious service on behalf of the Society, Sue Amstutz has been responsible for the presentation of the Kemm Award. After being proposed by Pat Folley, Sue and Pat got together and formulated the Guidelines for the award. Those Guidelines have remained in effect for the Betty Kemm Service Award, Sue has remained chairman of the award, and the traditional gaillardia-embossed plaque has been awarded nineteen times.

So it was at the recent Annual Meeting on September 22 that Sue rose as usual to present the 2018 BKSA to Sandy Graue.

Somehow, surreptitiously, a plan behind the scenes and out of Sue’s earshot, had been worked out to present a second 2018 BKSA, this one to Sue herself! Sue was called to the front of the hall by Awards Chairman Connie Murray to be presented her own Betty Kemm Service Award plaque by Connie and Northeast Chapter Chairman Lynn Michael.

Sue’s biography in ONPS include Photo Contest Photo Poster Curator for Eastern Oklahoma (1990 - 2012), Board Member-at-Large for six years, Northeast Chapter Chair (2005-2009), Liaison for ONPS to the Tulsa Garden Center (2005 - 2018), Awards Chairman (2015 - 2018), and as already mentioned, Betty Kemm Service Award Chairman since 2000. Sue has been a member of ONPS since 1989 and has been involved in all aspects of Society activities—Sue and her husband Dale were recipients of the Anne Long Award in 2001 in recognition of their years of providing photo contest posters to Nature Centers and other display venues in Eastern Oklahoma.

Congratulations, Sue, well deserved!



Snowberry Clearwing Moth on *Amsonia tabernaemontana*

The Betty Kemm Service Award for 2018 was presented to Sandy Graue during the recent ONPS Annual Meeting at Sequoyah State Park.

Sandy was cited for her many years as part of Northeast Chapter and as integral member of the State Executive Board, first as State Secretary and later as Chairman of the ONPS Photo Contest. She was also recognized for her proofreading and editorial work on the Society’s scholarly Journal, *The Oklahoma Native Plant Record*.

Sandy was also noted for her preparation of fliers, documents and announcements which were needed for special events in which the entire Society was involved. She is also in the process of digitizing photos from our vast collection of ONPS Photo Contest posters dating back to 1989.

Sandy was cited for her attention to detail, willingness to be of assistance to the Society, and organizational skills. She received the traditional gaillardia-embossed plaque to mark her accomplishments, along with kudos from the members who witnessed the presentation during the September 22 member meeting.



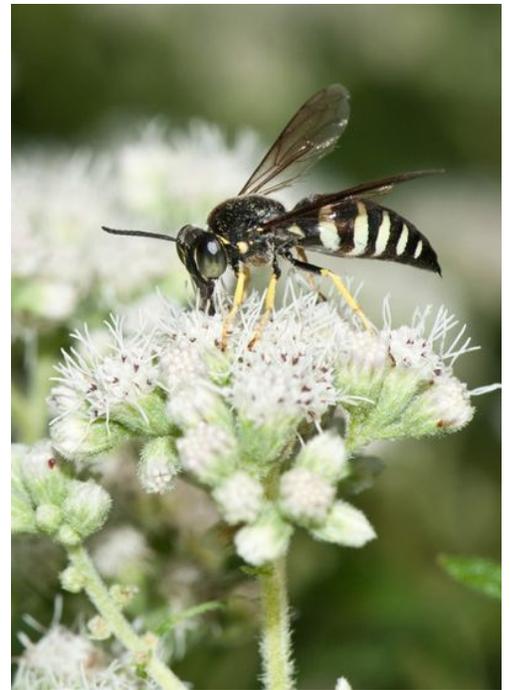
Sandy Graue and Sue Amstutz



From left to right: Connie Murray, Sue Amstutz, Lynn Michael



Skipper butterfly and beetles on *Centaurea americana*



Sand Wasp

Photo: courtesy Heather Holm



Bumblebee on *Dalea purpurea*

Photo: courtesy Heather Holm



Leafcutter Bee on *Gaillardia aestivalis*



Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve

Annual Meeting Report
Sue Amstutz

Plans initiated in October of 2017 came to fruition when ONPS held its 2018 Annual Meeting, September 21 - 23 at the Lodge in Sequoyah State Park. Friday arrivals endured a driving autumn rain en route to the park, and there were fears that Saturday's outdoor schedule might be adversely affected by the downpour.

Friday evening's activities began with registration in the Hospitality Suite where agendas for the next two days, sign-up sheets for the upcoming Saturday field trips, and snack goodies were available to get things started. The park naturalist arrived to present an overview of her duties and responsibilities at the Nature Center. She brought along one of her charges, a friendly corn snake which came out of its carrier, wrapped itself around the naturalist's arms, and made its way through the Hickory Room to say "hello" to the members of the audience.

A bonfire story time had been scheduled to wrap up Friday night's events, but the rain cancelled the bonfire but NOT the story time which was moved into the Lodge's rec room so that Fran Stallings could share an hour's worth of tales and songs with us. Meanwhile, in the Cedar Room, the Silent Auction was being set up, with a wide variety of auction items.....books, framed wall decor, handcrafts, jewelry, and various other offerings.... being made available for bidding through Saturday evening.

Saturday morning found the Hospitality Suite offering a yummy selection of fruits, breakfast breads and rolls, and juice, or for those wanting a heartier breakfast, the Lodge's Grill was available. We convened in the Cedar Room to hear instructions for the day, announcements, and suggestions for park activities. Fortunately, Friday's rain was basically over, though the overcast sky remained for most of the day. Once the talking was done, folks scattered to various sites in the park.....the asphalt trail to the Nature Center, the Sequoyah Trail from the Nature Center northward, or the Scavenger Hunt at the Choctaw Use Area. These adventures occupied us for the morning.

We returned to the Lodge where instead of having our box lunches outdoors, it was wisely decided to eat at the tables in the Cedar Room. This option allowed comfortable seating, and more opportunity to bid on Silent Auction items in a warm, dry environment.

After lunch, there were more field excursions from which to choose, including selection of a different hike from that taken in the morning. The majority of adventure-seekers opted for an afternoon car caravan which would take them to the Spring Creek property owned by ONPS members Beth and Martin Rooney. The Rooney property is part of the Spring Creek Coalition which has the objective of preserving and protecting the stream and its watershed.

The evening found us back at the Lodge and enjoying a catered dinner in the Cedar Room. Tables were set with fabric tablecloths and cloth napkins arranged as to look like roses, dinner-worthy flatware, and, when the dinner itself was served, pottery plates and dishes. We were treated as though we were dining at a five-star hotel or at a first-class restaurant, with the Lodge's wait staff tending to us as honored guests. After dinner, President Bruce Smith called the Annual Meeting to order, and the business of the Society was conducted, with reports, election of new officers, and awards presentations being on the evening's agenda. Following the business, the all-important announcements of winning Silent Auction bids provided an exciting climax to the very busy day.

Sunday morning, following breakfast in either the Hospitality Suite or the Lodge Grill, the State Executive Board held its fall meeting in the Hickory Room. Non-board members loaded up for the trip home or spent a few moments further exploring the park. A few of us had our noon meal in the Grill, and with final good-byes, we also headed for the highways home. All agreed that our 2018 Annual Meeting had provided us with wonderful memories and good vibes about our Society and its future.

Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve

In 1969 business man David J. Bamberger purchased the land that is now Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve with the goal of teaching ethical land stewardship and to show that given the chance that Nature can heal itself.

Mr. Bamberger sought to buy the worst piece of rangeland he could find. The land he purchased, near Johnson City Texas, was completely covered with Red Cedar trees and mostly void of grass. Several wells were drilled but, no water was to be found.

After two and a half years of mechanically removing the cedar trees and planting native grasses the first spring appeared. There are now eleven springs on the property producing about four thousand gallons of water a day. These springs are the water source for Miller creek.

Controlled grazing and prescribed burns are utilized as needed to manage the grassland. The ranch has received numerous conservation awards from entities such as the Nature Conservancy, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Wildlife Association.

The ranch offers seminars for landowners, serves as a research lab for botanists, zoologists and other researchers. They provide hands on science classes and nature camps for school children, as well as public tours and workshops for birdwatchers, plant and animal enthusiasts and photographers.

Sometimes it's birds and bugs – and a camera – that lead to an interest in native plants! ONPS charter member Mary Korthase grew up in rural Vinita OK, roaming the family farm and munching on wild edibles such as plums, blackberries, and “sheep shower” (sorrel). She says that last was especially good with a bit of Bit o' Honey candy, although she lost a tooth to a fit of nostalgia.

She went to Northeastern A&M, then OSU for an accounting degree and did accounts for Amoco until the BP takeover tossed out many Amoco employees with golden parachutes. Mary was glad to accept, since her mother's failing health required more time than Amoco could begrudge. Retirement also let Mary take a more active role in ONPS.

Mary had started with the Tulsa Camera Club and Audubon wildflower walks: Birds can be found near particular plants. But birds often fly off the minute you get them in focus, while plants and insects stay where you found them. Mary thinks the Audubon walks may have helped lead to the founding of ONPS. She still attends Audubon meetings and first Saturday bird walks at Oxley.

Never much for gardening, Mary likes a “just plain yard” where she can mow around blue-eyed grass, spring beauties, fleabane, even henbit. She has “corrupted” a neighbor who now also practices selective mowing around interesting things.

She appreciates the range of wildflowers we have visited on fieldtrips to parts of the state we might otherwise not see, including cliffs that might make her question the choice of the walk. She fondly remembers the teaching lab by Alabaster Caverns; Boise City with tornado spotters, dinosaur footprints, the top of Black Mesa, and traces of the Santa Fe trail; Red Slough's tiny sundews. She regularly attends ONPS annual meetings, WOW and indoor outings, and the NE chapter's monthly Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (handy for getting bills to be reimbursed).

Mary has served as ONPS treasurer for years! Once retirement freed up her time, she offered to serve as secretary but when the officers learned of her accounting background, the die was cast. We can all thank her for her vigilance in making sure ONPS attends to government forms.

“Human beings have fabricated the illusion that in the 21st century they have the technological prowess to be independent of nature. Bees underline the reality that we are more, not less, dependent on nature's services in a world close to 7 billion people”.

Achim Steiner

The ONPS Central Chapter hosted member and vice president Bill Farris as our featured speaker for the September meeting. Bill's talk on using *Native Plants in Landscaping... Why, How and What Not to Use* was informative and well received. The November speaker, Dr. Dwayne Elmore, Wildlife Extension Specialist, and Boltenbach Chair in Wildlife Biology in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University, discussed habitat management and plant succession for optimal native plant richness and diversity. His very interesting talk included various management options for desired plant and wildlife restorations.

After a holiday break in December, the Central Chapter will meet on January 3rd and will feature 2015 Anne Long Award winner Jona Tucker. 2019 marks the bicentennial of Thomas Nuttall's 1819 expedition through the Arkansas Territory (eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas). Jona will present a fascinating description of that expedition and some of the native flora and animals that were documented. Additionally, 4 field trips to celebrate the bicentennial are scheduled to take place in 2019. These trips will closely follow the same routes those earlier explorers used. More information will be posted on the ONPS website as it becomes available.

The January 3rd meeting will be held in room 196, Horticulture Building, OSU-OKC campus, 400 N. Portland Ave, OKC. Doors open at 6:30 for socializing, Jona's talk will start at 7:00. All ONPS events are open to the public, membership is not required to attend. Plan to bring a friend and join us.

Patrick Bell
Chair, Central Chapter

NE Chapter News

NE Chapter has had a busy few months with our meeting at the garden center, then hosting the Annual Meeting at Sequoyah State Lodge. Then we had field trips the last Saturday of both September and October. We also had members who attended Kansas and Arkansas wildflower meetings, and Bioblitz. So, it has been a whirlwind. Fall 2018 has been glorious, but the persimmon seeds are showing spoons which predict a snowy winter. Snow is a bad thing if you have to drive in it, but a good thing for winter moisture and insulation that helps our plants.

Hopefully, our members will have no trouble attending our December 3rd meeting when Gloyd McCoy will be bringing some of the last remaining copies of his uncle Doyle McCoy's book, *Oklahoma Wildflowers*. Our gatherings at Panera Bread continue each month on the third Friday. The next NE Chapter meeting will be in March after the Society's Indoor Outing.

Lynn Michael
Chair, NE Chapter

Oklahoma Native Plant Society

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Looking for a way to contribute to ONPS? ONPS is in need of a webmaster. The site is designed, someone is needed to do updates and maintain the site. If you are interested or have questions please contact joeroberts13@cox.net

For joining or renewing use this form

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