



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

**Volume 29, Number1  
Spring 2014**

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**15 May 2014**

# 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.**

**March 3: NE Chapter Meeting, speaker Sadie Gordon at Tulsa Garden Center, Page 7**

**May 5: NE Chapter Meeting, speaker Valerie O'Brien at Tulsa Garden Center, Page 7**

**June 1: Central Chapter field trip to Whitchita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Page 7**

**June 13-14: Wildflower Workshop at Sooner Legends in Norman. Contact Adam.**

**Fabulous Wildflower Fridays, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, Page 7**

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

**ONPS THANKS THESE DONORS**

**General Fund**

**Irene McKee**

**In Memory of Betty Kemm**

**Judy Barto**

**In Memory of Betty Kemm**

**Color Oklahoma**

**Janet Pollard**

**In Memory of Loretta Goodwin and Jacob Roberts**

**Harriet Barkley & Anne Long Funds**

**Mary D. Price**

## PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

Adam Ryburn

It has recently been suggested to me by one of our members (jokingly so) that the name of "President's Paragraph" be changed to reflect the fact that I never stick to one paragraph. I very much appreciate the suggestion and the opportunity to serve ONPS as president of the Society and immensely enjoy scripting the quarterly comments I provide. I decided a while back to dedicate a future article to talking about the different awards that ONPS gives out each year. Instead of several lengthy paragraphs following this one, I decided to write a separate article with much more detail on our awards, and thus keep the "President's Paragraph" to just one paragraph. I highly encourage you to check out the article titled "ONPS Awards" found in this edition of the *Gaillardia*. As always, more information can be found at the ONPS website ([www.oknativeplants.org](http://www.oknativeplants.org)).



## IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

Wildflower Workshop will be June 13-14 so be sure to save those dates. It will be at Sooner Legends in Norman. More information will be forth coming.

## ONPS AWARDS

Adam Ryburn

ONPS gives out a number of different awards each year in recognition of service and contribution to the success of the Society and the native flora of Oklahoma. In the paragraphs to follow I present some information regarding each of the Society's awards and how our members can contribute to each award through nominations and monetary gifts. Detailed information on each award can be found on the ONPS website ([www.oknativeplants.org](http://www.oknativeplants.org)) under the ONPS Awards link.

## Anne W. Long Award

The Anne W. Long Award for Promotion of Native Plants, established by ONPS in 1988, is given at the Society's annual meeting in warm remembrance and honor of one of the ONPS founders and an early State leader in wildflower protection. Anne Long was a leader in developing the annual state Wildflower Workshop in the 1970s and establishing roadside wildflower plantings. She served as president of the Tulsa Garden Center, co-chair of Tulsa's Up With Trees planting program, and instrumental in launching Tulsa's successful Operation Clean Sweep, a community volunteer clean-up campaign. The 2013 recipient of this award was Dr. Clark Ovrebo of the University of Central Oklahoma. If you are interested in nominating an individual for this award, nominations are accepted each year by August 31.

## Betty Kemm Service Award

Formally known as the ONPS Service Award, this award is given in warm remembrance and honor of Betty Kemm, one of the founding members of ONPS and the Society's first State President. Betty passed away this past October at the age of 88. She was instrumental in the decision to form geographically located chapters in ONPS and served as Northeast Chapter's chairperson for ten years in the era from 1990-1999. Betty received the Beth Snodgrass Award and was the third recipient of the ONPS Service Award. She was extremely influential in spreading the word of ONPS to her friends; many of which joined the organization because of her efforts and friendship. Like the Anne W. Long Award, the Service Award is presented at the Society's annual meeting to individuals that have made outstanding contributions of service to ONPS. The 2013 recipient of the ONPS Service Award was Alicia Nelson. If you are interested in nominating an individual for this award, nominations are accepted each year by August 31.

## Harriet G. Barclay Botany Awards

The Harriet G. Barclay Botany Awards are given in warm remembrance and honor of one of the driving forces in the formation of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society and a highly recognized academician. Among Harriet's many contributions to Oklahoma and the Tulsa

community were her involvement in the early stages of a roadside wildflower program, establishment of Redbud Valley Nature Preserve (now with its Harriet G. Barclay Nature Center) near Catoosa, years of dedication to the Tulsa Garden Clubs as well as her leadership in ONPS. The Harriet G. Barclay Botany Awards are given each year at the Oklahoma State Science and Engineering Fair for outstanding presentations related to botany by a senior high student and a junior high (middle school) student. The 2013 recipient of this award is McKalee Steen, a 9th grader from Grove Public Schools, for "Roots Run Deep? A comparative study of *Panicum virgatum* and *Cynodon dactylon* in the phytoremediation of heavy metals and uptake of phosphates using rhizofiltration."

#### Paul Buck Botany Award

In an effort to reward the botanical accomplishments of undergraduate students in our state, the Oklahoma Native Plant Society established the Paul Buck Botany Award in 2012. Dr. Paul Buck, a botany professor with the University of Tulsa and a much adored member of the Oklahoma botanical community, has inspired a love of botany and the natural world in thousands of Oklahomans. A founding member of ONPS Board of Directors and recipient of the ONPS Service Award, Paul was extremely important to the creation of Color Oklahoma Committee and the Flora of Oklahoma project. This award is given each year to an outstanding presentation in the field of botany by an undergraduate at the annual Oklahoma Academy of Science (OAS) Technical Meeting. The 2013 recipient was of this award was Ben Haack of Oklahoma State University on the topic of "Multilocus Phylogenetics of the Sonoran Desert Milkweed Clade (*Asclepias*, Apocynaceae)."

#### Giving to the Paul Buck Botany Award Fund

The Paul Buck Botany Award is the newest award given by ONPS and as of now is not fully financially sustainable. I highly encourage our members to consider giving to the Paul Buck Botany Award Fund. In addition to recognition of the fine botanical accomplishments of the future botanical leaders of our state, awardees are given a small monetary award to assist in defraying the costs of research and travel to

conferences. If you are interested giving a monetary gift to help in continued funding of this undergraduate award, please contact the Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Gloria Caddell (gcaddell@uco.edu).

#### The History of the Service Award, Renamed the Betty Kemm Service Award Sue Amstutz

One of the most highly prized awards which is presented by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society is the annual Service Award.

Prior to 2000, ONPS was presenting only two awards, the Harriet Barclay Award given to a student in conjunction with the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science, and the Anne Long Award, named for one of the founders of ONPS. The Anne Long was, in those early days, the only award with which Society members could be honored. Also, the Anne Long guidelines stipulated that NON-members, or even groups, could receive the award, as long as those receiving the award could meet the provisions of the ONPS goals and purposes. Thus, the first Anne Long Award (1988) went to the Science Club at Ninnekah High School; the 1991 award was presented to the Oklahoma Chapter of the Nature Conservancy; and the 1993 Anne Long Award went Sydney Dobson, the Executive Director of Oklahoma Beautiful, Inc.

During the Society's 1999 Annual Meeting which was held on October 15 - 17 at the old lodge in now-defunct Texoma State Park, the seeds of an idea to present an award to a member of ONPS worthy of special recognition appeared on the agenda of the State Board meeting. Discussion of the idea included the desire to recognize the recipient with a special plaque and possible Life Membership in ONPS.

Those seeds began to germinate at the 1999 Winter Board meeting in Norman, when board members discussed the immediate need for a set of guidelines which would be used in directing the awarding of this honor. The new award would be called the Oklahoma Native Plant Society Service Award. Sue Amstutz agreed to have a proposed set of guidelines drawn up in time to allow the Board to approve or make modifications in the proposal during the next meeting of the Board which was scheduled for June, 2000, in Tulsa. At the same time, Sue was appointed Chairman of the Service Awards Committee, with Clare Miller

appointed as a committee member. A third member of the committee, Betty Kemm, was subsequently added; later Irene McKee replaced Betty as the third member.

In June, 2000, the Board approved the submitted Guidelines without alteration (those Guidelines remain in effect today for use in determining the recipient of the award.) In brief, the Guidelines determine that the awardee shall have been a member of ONPS a minimum of five years; shall have demonstrated service to the Society above and beyond expected levels of activity; shall be in good financial standing; the award shall be given annually providing nomination(s) are submitted; the awardee shall be nominated via written documentation which highlights the nominee's qualifications; and the recipient shall receive the award during the Society's Annual Meeting.

At that June, 2000, Board meeting, the role of Awards Committee fell to the Board itself which then selected the first recipient. At the same time, funding for the plaque and Life Membership was approved by the Board; the Chairman was directed to begin the process of readying the plaque which would then be presented at the Fall 2000 Annual Meeting.

Committee member, Clare Miller, knew of a craftsman who owned Glasspecialties, Inc. of Tulsa. Working with "Chip", the committee designed a clear glass plaque, sized 8" by 11" and 1/2" thick, on which the name of the recipient, year of the award, and the Society's logo, the gaillardia, are sandblasted into the glass.

On Saturday, October 14, during the 2000 Annual Meeting, Ruth Boyd received the inaugural Service Award, the first of thirteen ONPS members to have been so honored. Seeds of an idea sowed in 1999, propagated in 2000, bore flowers later that year when a surprised Ruth received the first Oklahoma Native Plant Society Service Award.

Since then, the Service Award has been presented annually, except in the year 2004 when the committee failed to receive a nomination. Four recipients have been affiliated with Northeast Chapter, eight are or have been members of Central Chapter, and one belongs to Cross Timbers Chapter. Of interest is the fact that of the thirteen recipients, eight have been nominated through letters penned by former recipients of the Service Award themselves. Winners of the award following the 2000 recipient, Ruth Boyd, have included Dr. Paul

Buck (2001), Betty Kemm (2002), Patricia Folley (2003), Joanne Orr (2005), Chad Cox (2006), Tina Julich (2007), Dr. Sheila Strawn (2008), Mary Korthase (2009), Lynn Michael (2010), Gloria Caddell (2011), Dr. Ronald Tyrl (2012), and Alicia Nelson (2013).

Until 2010, the glass plaque was crafted by Glasspecialties, Inc.; but when that company went out of business, the need to locate another craftsman who could continue to produce the plaque became urgent. (The Service Awards chairman did not even know of the demise of Glasspecialties until it was time to order the 2010 plaque.) Fortunately, a lovely piece of work for another organization of which Chairman Sue Amstutz was aware, allowed ONPS's Service Award plaque to continue being crafted as before. Taking the original 2000 designs, plus a photo of one of the finished plaques, to Custom Crafts Awards and Engraving of Tulsa made it possible to continue the creation of the unique Service Awards plaque uninterrupted, even with the very short notice given the company in 2010. The owner of Custom Crafts, Terry Lilly, has proved to be a true friend of ONPS; his workmanship in preparing the annual plaques 2010 - 2013 is to be appreciated by all.

In addition to chairing the Service Award Committee, the current Chairman prepares and submits annual Gaillardia newsletter information regarding the August 31 deadline for submission of the current year's nominations; a follow-up article for the newsletter (usually with photos) of the presentation of that year's award during the most recent Annual Meeting; and reports to the State Executive Board in June and December and an annual report to the general membership at the Society's Annual Meeting each autumn. The Chairman continues to be most appreciative of the two long-serving members of the Service Awards Committee-----Clare Miller and Irene McKee-----who assist each year in determining the recipient of the award.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

Chad Cox

### Waxing and Waning of Weeds

Have you ever noticed that a patch of wildflowers that you followed for several years essentially died away? I have followed an infestation of sericea, *Lespedeza cuneata*, for about 15 years and during

about the first 3 years it had spread over a few acres and was nearly a monoculture. Since then, the sericea has thinned to a small percentage of the plants in the area.

UC Santa Barbara's Carla D'Antonio, Schuyler Professor of Environmental Studies, has conducted one of the only long-term studies of plant invader impacts that spans two decades. Returning to the same grass-invaded field sites in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park that she used in her 1990-1995 studies, D'Antonio, along with postdoctoral scholar Stephanie Yelenik, gathered new data that shed light on mechanisms regulating exotic plant dominance and community change through invasion. The findings are published online in Nature.

The concept that invasive plants often alter the ecology of a site to help their invasion is well known. That they would eventually alter the site to their detriment has not been studied before. What they found was that the mineralization rate for nitrogen was reduced significantly as the mechanism for the ecological alteration that led to grasses dying off. Not surprising was the invasion of the area by an invasive nitrogen fixing tree when the grasses declined. They suggested that with the knowledge of the ecological alteration, you should be able to predict what could be possible in overcoming the invasive plant. They further recommended reintroducing native plants when the original invasive plant had waned sufficiently before another invasive plant moved in.

In the case of the sericea invasion I had observed, a shortage nitrogen needs would be unlikely for the ecological alteration caused by sericea since it is in the clover family. I would love to introduce some natives at this site to see if they would readily grow but this is private land that is destined to be converted to homes.

Book Review  
Pat Folley

**THE WATER'S EDGE  
FISH WITH FINGERS, WHALES WITH LEGS  
And how Life came Ashore but Then Went Back  
to Sea  
By Carl Zimmer**

This is another of those library books which I'm tempted to order from Amazon, just to be able to look into it once in a while. Here's a quote from the title page:

"Our ancestor was an animal which breathed water, had a swim bladder, a great swimming tail, and imperfect skull, and undoubtedly was a hermaphrodite". Charles Darwin

Oh, Zimmer starts near the beginning, with fish, but he really covers the whole array of animals, some of them in the direct lineage with us, and many, just interesting relatives. The style is fresh, conversational, sometimes irreverent, but always gives flavor to the often-dry pursuit of the ancestors of modern humanity.

Each contributor to the growing understanding of the way life works is taken up in turn, his truths and errors described, and the context within this work was done. For example, the invention of the microscope made accessible the formerly-invisible bacterial life, as well as the pollen and other minute parts of larger creatures and plants.

Eventually, the author takes up the derivation of what must be his favorite life-form: the whales. I learned more about whales from this book than I would have thought possible, and enjoyed every bit of it. Much of the knowledge was gained relatively recently, for whales do not make accessible lab pets.

In essence, whales evolved in reverse: having originated as fur-bearing carnivores, they moved back into the primordial waters, and there they stay. Unable because of their great weight and size to return to land, they live their entire lives in water while returning to the surface to breathe.

There is also an extensive bibliography and notes on the sources of information page by page. I think it would be a marvelous resource for an instructor in any of several fields to keep on his desk. But best of all, it's written to be read and enjoyed.

Book Report  
Elaine Lynch

There is a new book for people interested in cooking with native plants. The title is Original

**Local: Indigenous Foods, Stories, and Recipes from the Upper Midwest**, by Heid E. Erdrich. It was published by Minnesota Historical Society Press in 2013. ISBN: 9780873518949. This is the summary from the copyright page of the book: “Indigenous peoples have always made the most of nature’s gifts. Their menus were truly the ‘original local,’ celebrated here in 135 home-tested recipes paired with stories from tribal activists, food researchers, families, and chefs” – Provided by publisher.”

Erdrich clues the reader in on the difference between wild rice and manoomin – wild rice is commercially grown and harvested, manoomin is harvested by hand by Native Americans, from waters for which they have treaty rights. Wild rice packages must be labelled “cultivated.” Manoomin packages might be labelled “hand harvested.” The book includes recipes and suggested recipe variations for fiddleheads, ramps (wild leeks), sunflower seeds and sprouts, and cactus, among other plants. There are also many manoomin, squash and corn recipes. There are also recipes featuring North American mammals and fish.

The stories Erdrich includes are interesting and add a personal dimension to the recipes. And the recipes look delicious!

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Cross-Timbers Chapter  
Mark Fishbein

The Cross-Timbers chapter hosted the ONPS 2014 Indoor Outing in February on the Oklahoma State University campus. This year’s event, titled “How and Why Botanical Research Changes our Plant Names,” was attended by 48 participants. The morning program included three lectures by OSU professors. Linda Watson, Head of the Botany Department, kicked things off with an introduction to “Tree Thinking and Plant Classification”. Dr. Watson provided an overview of how to read and interpret phylogenetic trees and summarized some of the ways in which these trees have changed our understanding of the evolution of flowering plants. For example, the traditional division of flowering plants into monocots and dicots no longer holds as it is now understood that the dicots include multiple, independent lines of plant evolution. This talk

was followed by an overview of “What’s New in the Names and Classification of Fungi” presented by Steve Marek from the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department. Dr. Marek provided a detailed look at some of the lesser known groups of fungi, many of which are microscopic and known primarily as pathogens of plants and animals (and other fungi!). As with flowering plants, phylogenetic trees have made it clear that what have traditionally been classified as fungi represent several very distantly related groups of organisms, some of which are more closely related to algae than they are to true fungi. One of the most astounding facts about the classification of fungi is that only a small proportion of the fungal species thought to exist on earth has been named and classified, and that the advent of DNA detection tools is dramatically increasing the number of these unclassified species. The final presentation by Andrew Doust of the Botany Department covered the future of “Plant Classification in the Genomics Era.” Dr. Doust likened the use of genome sequences to searching for a needle in a haystack, when you have the power to actually look very efficiently at every bit of hay! He demonstrated the power of genomic analyses with examples of the evolution of domesticated grain crops, the evolution of algae that inhabit extreme environments by virtue of “borrowing” genes from bacteria and other organisms that are adapted to such environments, and the evolution of unusual milkweeds that inhabit the Sonoran Desert.

Following lunch, Indoor Outing participants attended three workshops demonstrating some of the tools used by plant systematists. OSU Botany Professor Emeritus (and ONPS celebrity) Ron Tyrl demonstrated the use of botanical illustrations in plant taxonomy, covering the process of making line drawings from specimens. Botany MS student Lindsey Worcester demonstrated the use of physical and virtual resources at OSU herbarium available to aid in the identification and correct naming of plants. These include the actual specimens held in the collection, reference books such as floras and monographs, and online databases that provide access to specimen data, on-the-fly maps, and up-to-date names with their synonyms. Mark Fishbein, from the Botany Department, provided a tour of the interdisciplinary Biodiversity research lab in the Henry Bellman Research Center and demonstrated the path from DNA

samples extracted from plant specimens to gene sequences to phylogenetic trees. The Indoor Outing organizers are grateful to the speakers and workshop leaders, as well as the many volunteers who graciously donated their time to make this a successful and enjoyable event. Thanks!

Central Chapter  
Joe Roberts

Our potluck dinner and meeting on February 13 had to be cancelled due to a scheduling conflict. Hopefully we can reschedule Dr. Karpowicz again for our next meeting.

Several Central Chapter members made the trip to the Indoor Outing in Stillwater. It was a great day with very interesting topics and speakers, and it was good to get together again.

We have scheduled a field trip to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge again this year for Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. We will meet up with members of the ONPS Southwest Chapter and Friends of the Wichitas, and botanize around the refuge. The refuge in bloom is a sight to behold, so let the spring rains fall! This trip is open to everyone, regardless of chapter affiliation, so plan on attending if you can. Details will be sent out as they are finalized. Note that in the event of inclement weather, the outing will be rescheduled for the following weekend (June 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>). If you plan on going, please pre-register by emailing Joe Roberts at joeroberts13@cox.net. We need an idea of how many people are planning on coming so we can arrange for meals, transportation, etc.

We have not scheduled any other trips or meetings as of this writing, but we have several in the works. Keep an eye out on Facebook, the ONPS listserve, and your mailbox for more information.

Northeast Chapter  
Connie Murray

At our December meeting Alicia Nelson stepped down as Northeast Chapter Chairman. We are extremely grateful for the leadership, energy and enthusiasm Alicia has given to ONPS, particularly these last four years as Northeast Chapter Chairman. We wish her godspeed and good

health in her future endeavors and hope she will continue to join us whenever she can.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> Northeast Chapter represented ONPS at the annual Garden Affair hosted each February by the Tulsa Garden Center. This is an opportunity for all of the Tulsa Garden Center Affiliate Organizations, of which we are one, to promote its mission to the public. Our participation was organized by the ever industrious Sue Amstutz.

Sadie Cole Gordon will be our guest speaker on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 at the Tulsa Garden Center. She is a Master Gardener from Pryor. She has combed through newspapers, archives and old publications regarding gardens of Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas. She is currently working with Har-Ber Village to create a historically accurate garden there. She will speak to us on *Gardens of Yesteryear: 1870 – 1920*. Be sure to join us for dessert at 6:30 before the meeting.

Valerie O'Brien will be our guest speaker on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at the Tulsa Garden Center. She is currently Assistant Professor of Biology at Tulsa Community College. She will be speaking to us regarding her research on mosquitoes in the landscape, while on post-doctoral appointment at OSU. Her topic *Trees, Grass and Mosquitoes: Do They Care What You Plant?* should be of interest to us all as we approach another hot mosquito-filled Oklahoma summer. Again, be sure to join us for dessert at 6:30.

Be sure to join us for our *Fabulous Wildflower Fridays*, at 5:30 the third Friday of each month at Panera at 41<sup>st</sup> Street and Hudson Avenue. It will soon time to be bringing along that wildflower you want identified to share with the group.

#### WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Iralee Barnard, Hope, KS  
Marilyn and Lawrence Curtis, Oklahoma City  
Tabitha and Josh Wiener Doescher, Stillwater  
Stacy Noakes, Edmond  
Megan Phelan, Norman  
Jay Pruett, Tulsa  
John Ruston, Lawton

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**ORDER YOUR COPY OF VOLUME 13 OF *OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT RECORD* TODAY!**

Volume 13 is going fast. Why? Because it's got some of the best articles ever.

Amy Buthod inventoried and prepared the species checklist for the Mary K. Oxley Nature Center that so many from our Northeast Chapter have been waiting for. It's in the hands of the Center's naturalists and in this issue. You'll also find Stan Rice's and Sonya Ross' research report on the effects of smoke-induced chemicals on seed germination. While effects of burning and charring have been studied for their effects on species distribution, the effects of smoke enhancement on germination has not been explored here - where drought and fire cycle repeatedly. We can hardly wait to hear more about the effects of smoke that will undoubtedly follow this preliminary study.

What more could you want? Connie Taylor's master's thesis is finally digitized and available globally. Hers is a thorough accounting of species' distributions in the Water Branch Canyon system west of metropolitan Oklahoma City. It is now available, for botanists here and abroad, as a basis for studying the effects of canyon erosion, filling, and re-erosion on species in Permian Sandstone formations. It was one of the first studies to document the persistence of Sugar Maples in these mesic ancient canyons, long after their extirpation from surrounding uplands.

To top it off, Ron Tyrl has given us an invaluable educational tool and a very enjoyable article to read, with his "Cavalcade of Field Botanists in Oklahoma". In his personal style that we all love to listen to and read, he has written an article that is both inspirational and factual. It introduces us to many field botanists from the past and salutes several, whom many of us have known. From Francisco Vasques de Coronado's expedition to the botanists of the Oklahoma Biological Survey and Flora of Oklahoma, he highlights their importance to us and to future botanists.

Don't forget to order Volume 13 soon. By the way, back issues are half-price.  
Sheila Strawn, Managing Editor

# *Oklahoma Native Plant Record*

Volume 13, December 1, 2013

Volume 13, the 2013 issue of the Oklahoma Native Plant Record, is now available online at <http://ojs.library.okstate.edu/osu/>. It is being offered to members, non-members, libraries, colleges, and universities in print at the subscription rate of \$10.00 plus \$2.00 shipping. It will also be available in electronic format on CD at \$10.00 for all volumes. If you would like to receive the journal please return this notice with your payment to the address at the bottom of the page. You can also order the current and back issues.

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