



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

**Volume 27, Number 2
Summer 2012**

LOOK INSIDE FOR

IMPORTANT NOTICES2
BOTANIST'S CORNER2
CONSERVATION CORNER3
COLOR OKLAHOMA4
CHAPTER ACTIVITIES4
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS6
MEMBERSHIP FORM.....7

ONPS website www.oknativeplants.org

Email: chadwick.cox@att.net

Printed on recycled paper

**COPY AND ART DEADLINE
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS**

15 August 2012

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.

**June 2: ONPS Board Meeting at Tulsa Garden Center.
Contact Adam Ryburn.**

**June 16: Cross-Timbers Chapter Field trip to Oklahoma Botanic Garden and Cow Creek Restoration Project.
Page 5**

Sept 14-16: Annual Meeting at UCO's Selman Living Lab near Freedom, OK Contact Adam Ryburn

Fabulous Wildflower Fridays, the 3rd Friday of each month, Page 6

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

ONPS THANKS THESE DONORS

General Fund

**Paul E. and Alice R. Richardson
In Memory of Bonnie Winchester**

Color Oklahoma

**Barry L. Redlinger
Patricia L. Stamper**

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

JOIN LISTSERV, BEST WAY TO KEEP INFORMED

To subscribe to the list, send the command in the body of the message **SUBSCRIBE OKPLANTS-L** your first name last name to listserv@lists.ou.edu. You do not need a subject for this email.

If I was joining, I would do this by sending my email to listserv@lists.ou.edu with the following text:

SUBSCRIBE OKPLANTS-L Chadwick Cox

Note there is no punctuation, just single spaces Priscilla Crawford who has provided us with this service will OK your subscription so there may be some time before you can use the service. Once you are notified, you can send an email to everyone on the listserv by merely sending the message to OKPLANTS-L@lists.ou.edu.

2012 ANNE LONG AWARD

Please consider nominating an individual or group for the 2012 Anne Long Award. The Award 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. The Award recognizes individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to the stated purpose of ONPS. The first recipient was the Ninnekah High School Science Club and the most recent Pearl Garrison. Nominations are being accepted for the 2012 Award from now until August 31. Include the complete names and addresses of both the individual(s) making the nomination and the nominee(s); a contact person if the nominee is an organization; and supportive material for evaluation by the Awards Committee.

Send nominations directly to the Chair:

Gloria Caddell
Department of Biology
University of Central Oklahoma
Edmond, OK 73034

SERVICE AWARD

There is still time to submit a nomination for the 2012 ONPS Service Award. Deadline for receipt of entries is August 31, 2012. The nomination must include in writing sufficient documentation

to support the nominee's qualifications for receiving the Service Award.

Nominations should be sent to Sue Amstutz, Chairman, ONPS Service Award Committee, at 4190 E. 46th Place, Tulsa OK 74135, or by email to d-s-amsyutz@cox.net. The 2011 Service Award will be presented during the Annual Meeting of ONPS this fall.



BOTANIST'S CORNER

Fathers of Botany
Adam Ryburn

For those that aren't familiar with my background, I am a native of Anadarko and a product of this state's fine public higher education system. After receiving my Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford under the direction of Bill Seibert, I began my graduate work in plant taxonomy under the direction of Ron Tyrl at Oklahoma State University. Aside from my parents and my wife and kids, I can think of no other individuals who have had a greater impact on me both personally and professionally. These two botanists have had a significant influence on my life and set me on the career path I explore today as a professor of biology at Oklahoma City University.

Bill Seibert was a professor of biology at Southwestern Oklahoma State University for over 40 years. Bill has taken students on class and extracurricular field trips to explore the natural history of places throughout the United States and Mexico. In retirement he still takes opportunities to share these experiences with students. As an undergraduate student, I was fortunate to go on some of these trips and these unique experiences shaped how I introduce my own students to nature. Several of my students have never experience nature aside from a city park, and fewer have ever been camping. While I write this article I am on a two week field trip with twelve of my students and several have never been camping. We are exploring the natural history of the "wild" west; namely New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. I am doing my best to

impart the same appreciation and knowledge for nature that Bill Seibert instilled in me.

For anyone who knows Ron Tyrl, and I'm sure most reading this do, he is an excellent and extremely dedicated educator. Now in only my ninth year of teaching in higher education I find myself emulating Ron every day in and out of the classroom. Like him, I'm not satisfied with simply introducing material to my students, I want them to master the material and use it frequently. Only then can the knowledge be retained. To my pleasure, I find my students reacting in the same ways that I witnessed many of Ron's students reacting to his instruction. While there are of course those students that will never hold a great appreciation for botany, those that do grasp the "Tyrl Way"—and now Ryburn Way—of botany never look at the subject in the same way.

I once had a conversation with Ron several years ago in which he described one of the reasons he dedicated most of his life to teaching. He described that some of the most meaningful praises he received as a teacher are from students who would tell him that they rarely pass by a plant and do not immediately start asking themselves questions about it; or that they can't scan the roadsides or sidewalks without looking at the plants to see what species they can identify. I too have heard these same acknowledgements from my students and it is indeed meaningful.

I genuinely love my job and feel very fortunate to be in this profession. For those of you who have "real jobs" in the "real world" I hope you have as much joy in your professions as I. I extend my heartfelt thanks to my "fathers of botany", Bill Seibert and Ron Tyrl, for providing such an excellent example of an outstanding educator.

Adam Ryburn is currently the acting President of the ONPS. He and his wife, Maranda, and two children reside in Mustang.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Chad Cox

Although we need to know more about the invasive plants in Oklahoma, I have expressed my major emphasis would be limited to *Pyrus*

calleryana, callery (Bradford) pear and *Saccharum ravennae*, ravenna grass. The reasons are listed in the previous issue. The following is some interesting findings about *P. calleryana*. Most of the infestations here in America are the result of the reversion of the hybrid version of the plant, of which Bradford is just one of several (the weakness of the branches of Bradford pears plus the possible cashing in on their popularity, lead to the creation of several new hybrids). Some of the reversions result from the wild root stock. Sprouts may be left to grow as a replacement for the removed upper hybrid. Another possibility is the sprouts might not be removed before they flower and cross fertilize with the hybrid flowers to produce viable seeds. Also, since there are different hybrids having different genetic mechanisms of sterility, they can cross fertilize and produce viable seeds. These appear to be the three possible ways of generating a reversion: a spontaneous reversion is very unlikely. These reversions are simply the initiation of a possible infestation with the usual chances of the seeds producing a tree that is not removed before producing more seeds.

The cross fertilizations probably accounts for an observation I have noted. The Bradford pears are not only sterile but have an emphasized rain drop shape and do not have the "thorns" of the wild callery pear. The "self-planted" callery pears may or may not have the thorns and often will not be as nearly drop shaped. Obviously the sprouts from the wild stock roots would look just like the wild callery pears. The cross fertilized trees can have combinations of the characteristics of the breed out hybrid and the wild pear as well. The crosses have the possibility to exactly look like the hybrid but just produce viable seeds.

How frequent are these reversions that produce an infestation? Obviously, they are much more likely to occur where there are more hybrids and more different hybrids. That suggests that infestations are much more likely in larger towns but neither a certainty in large towns nor exempting small towns from infestations. Certainly they are present in Oklahoma City and Norman and I seriously doubt that they are not separate infestations which might even overlap by now.

I agreed to give a session on Citizen Scientists for surveying for invasive plants at the Nature Festival at the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge. On the way there, I noted whether there

were hybrid callery pears planted at businesses and residences and whether there were callery pears that appeared to be “self-planted”. This was not a thorough investigation but provides an interesting account. All of the towns of any size had hybrid callery pears planted. I did not see any “self-planted” callery pears in Sulfur, Tishomingo, Madill and Ardmore. However, there were two in Davis. Around the parking lot of a bank there, several large hybrids were planted. Across the highway from the bank there were some more hybrids that were clearly younger but of flowering age. The two “self-planted” trees were nearby. Possibly, these were two separate hybrids that crossed fertilized. No one has responded to my previous article. You might expect an email request for information related to this project. I will send out emails to you requesting a survey of your area or possibly a specific site in your area. I hope you will respond. Remember, I will use this information to approach legislators about the need to do something before this problem becomes another one that will plague us forever as red cedars do now.

COLOR OKLAHOMA

Pearl Garrison

Look for the new wildflower signs along state turnpikes. Twelve were created by *Color Oklahoma* and installed along the Turner, Cimarron, Muskogee, and H.E. Bailey turnpikes in the spring. The signs have a blue background with a *Gaillardia* in the center and the words “*Color Oklahoma* with wildflowers.”

“Be a Wildflower Spotter” is a new feature on the new *Color Oklahoma* website which is under construction. Visitors will be asked to record sightings of native wildflowers on our new Facebook page. The information should be the name of the species, the date of the sighting, location, and picture, if one was taken. Wildflower Spotters will help everyone find and learn about Oklahoma’s wonderful natives.

And we have new brochures that will help readers identify a few native flowers by season.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Cross-Timbers Chapter

Elaine Lynch

On Friday, April 13th, our chapter co-sponsored the annual Library Botany Lecture at OSU. This year our speaker was Dr. Sarah Reichard, Director of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens. She discussed the principles presented in her book *The Conscientious Gardener: Cultivating a Garden Ethic*. She talked about Aldo Leopold’s *A Sand County Almanac* and how his philosophy of environmental sustainability inspired her. In the book Dr. Reichard puts forward the principles of sustainable gardening she has formed through her own and other’s research and her own gardening. She outlines the consequences to the environment of even small choices gardeners make in products and practices. Other co-sponsors of the Annual Botany Lecture included the OSU Edmon Low Library, OSU Botany Department, OSU Botanical Society, OSU Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, OSU Botanical Garden, OSU Department of Natural Resources & Ecological Management, and the University Store.

That evening our chapter hosted a potluck dinner for Dr. Reichard and members of other ONPS chapters who attended her afternoon lecture. Dr. Reichard presented a second lecture titled “Citizen Science” and how important ordinary individuals can be in data collection. She described the Washington Natural Heritage Program (WNHP) where volunteers inventory rare plants, lichens, fungi, ecosystems, and some animals. The data collected are used to prioritize conservation efforts. Other programs she talked about were: *Rare Care*, a rare plant monitoring program, *Seeds of Success*, an international program that is storing seeds to preserve genetic biodiversity, and the National Phenological Network which is documenting the timing of flowering, leafing, and seed set to determine the effects on plants of global warming. She also told about the Seattle Survey of Native Species (SEASONS), which involves high school students in monitoring native species, and BioBlitz the 24-hr biological inventory of plants, animals, insects, fungi, and birds. Dr. Reichard mentioned that in some instances the lack of continued funding is jeopardizing these successful programs, e.g., they

have been notified that *Seeds of Success* will be stopping soon.

Our chapter and the Northeast Chapter conducted a joint field trip on Saturday, April 21st, to the Nature Conservancy's J.T. Nickel Family Nature and Wildlife Preserve northeast of Tahlequah. Thirty ONPS members and guests met at the Preserve mid-morning, listened to an introduction to the Preserve by Jerney Tubbs, Preserve Manager, and were introduced to George Pierson, a naturalist/photographer, and then botanized in one area for a couple of hours. Our primary goal was to see *Cypripedium kentuckiense* (yellow lady's slipper orchid) and we were fortunate to find several in bloom in a protected spot. As we botanized, numerous other interesting species were discovered including: *Trillium* (wake robin), *Dioscorea* (wild yam), *Podophyllum* (mayapple), *Phlox* (phlox), *Silene virginica* (firepink), *Camassia* (camas), *Asclepias quadrifolia* (4-leaf milkweed), and *Tradescantia ernestiana* (Ernest's spiderwort). Following a sack lunch eaten among the wildflowers adjacent to the Preserve road, most of us botanized along one of the trails that circled back to the Preserve headquarters. One interesting find on our afternoon trek was three species of *Vaccinium* growing together (one species in bud, one in flower, and one in fruit). It was a long drive starting at a very early hour for those of us who drove over from Stillwater but it was well worth the trip.

Our next field trip, also cohosted by the NE Chapter is scheduled for May 19th to Horsethief Canyon near Perkins in Logan County. Cut by a tributary of the Cimarron River, the canyon extends about 400 feet into the red sandstone and shale of the south bank of the river and is the home to a number of species characteristic of the eastern deciduous forest. Our goal is to see *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-Pulpit) at the western edge of its geographical range as well as other spring flowering species.

On June 16th, we are planning a field trip to the OSU Botanic Garden and Cow Creek Restoration Project which is using only central-Oklahoma native species to stabilize the creek banks. We will meet in the new Oklahoma Botanical Garden parking lot at 10:00 a.m. The entrance is off Hwy 51 (6th Street) between the Cow Creek and

Stillwater Creek bridges. Sharla Lovern will show us what they have accomplished and describe their monitoring plan. The field trip should last 1 – 1.5 hours.

Central Chapter Joe Roberts

The Central Chapter met in February to hear Jona Tucker of the Nature Conservancy speak about the Blue River Project, the Nature Conservancy's newest project in Oklahoma. Jona is an enthusiastic proponent of protecting the different habitats along the Blue River, and gave a very entertaining presentation.

At our March meeting, Nick Plata of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge spoke to our group about the refuge, its history, and the native plants and animals that make the refuge so unique. Like Jona Tucker, Nick is also passionate about his job and the native plants and habitats about which he helps educate people.

The Central Chapter was saddened to learn of the loss of two of our leaders. We found out this March that our chapter secretary Bonnie Winchester passed away in December of last year at the age of 71. Bonnie was also a member of the Master Gardeners, and familiar to many of the members of that organization as well. She will be missed by all of us and our condolences go out to her family.

We also were sad to hear that our chapter Vice-President, Lisa Rountree, was leaving Oklahoma for the mountains of Colorado. Lisa was always ready to help out with anything, and her enthusiasm and cheerfulness will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best in her new pursuits.

With the officers diminished, it was decided to join forces with the Cross Timbers and NE Chapters for a couple of field trips. A couple of us made the journey to the Nature Conservancy's J.T. Nickel Preserve, and the longer drive was worth it. Then on May 19th, we will again join the other chapters on their field trip to Horsethief Canyon near Perkins.

Northeast Chapter Alicia Nelson

On March 24th, the Tulsa Garden Center hosted "OK Wildflowers" by Patricia Folley. Alyne Eiland, a NE chapter member, was instrumental in organizing and bringing this event to Tulsa.

Our chapter, native plant nurseries and many other local organizations participated. The garden center was packed with area enthusiasts interested in Pat's new book. Local media was on site to interview Patricia and ONPS (our own Kim Shannon) for the nightly news. The public had the opportunity to hear Dr. Ron Tyrl speak about the diversity of the OK landscape, as well as, a wonderful introduction about Patricia and her years of work with the Flora of OK project. Patricia spoke to the audience about her years of field research with genuine passion and love for the wildflowers of OK. She graciously signed every book purchased. The event was a success by bringing the public together to talk about the importance of native wildflowers. We also added 45 new ONPS members to the roster.

Our chapter has hosted a booth at these events this spring, The Nature Conservancy's Blue River Preserve Dedication Ceremony, Echofest in Tulsa and Springfest in Claremore.



Cypripedium kentuckiense, yellow lady's slipper

What a great year for field trips! Our first was to the Nickels Preserve near Talequah. It was a lot of fun hiking with members from all over the state. There were 30 enthusiasts in search of *Cypripedium kentuckiense* (yellow lady's slipper orchid). Thanks to Jeremy, Matt and George we were led right to the "prize" wildflower!

A "last minute" impromptu field trip occurred on May 12th near Skiatook. Our group visited a member's 100 acre property that consists of both prairie and woodlands. The wildflowers were in abundance, *Salvia azurea* (blue sage), *Opuntia compressa* (prickly pear), *Tephrosia virginiana* (goats rue), *Echinacea sp.*, *Stylosanthes sp.* (pencil flower), and *Schrankia sp.* (sensitive brier), just to name a few.

What do you do when an unexpected illness takes away your speaker for the evening? Well, talk about wildflowers! Our May meeting was an "informal, picture showing, live wildflower identification" get together. Oh, and we learned how to press a plant for a herbarium sample. Thanks to all members who participated to make this an informative and according to one member a "different" fun meeting.

Join us at Panera Bread on 41st and Hudson in Tulsa every third Friday of each month. We call it "Fabulous Wildflower Friday's" and meet at 5:30 pm for a fun social time with friends. Need information, call Alicia at 918/599-0085.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Kim Bebee, Broken Arrow
Marilyn Bell, Tulsa
Teresa Blue, Tulsa
Judith Boice, Tulsa
Tony Booth, Indianhoma
Virgie Boyd, Tulsa
Linda Callery, Claremore
Cecil Carter, Tishomingo
Chet and Shari Cross, Tulsa
Katharine Dillsaver, Tulsa
Jeremy Dixon, Lawton
Robin M. Elliott, Sand Springs
Rebecca and Brian Fillmore, Bromide
Jamie Frasier, Tulsa
Peggy Garrett, Harrah
Julia Harris, Tulsa
Nancy Hatfield, Tulsa
Sunshine Hawkinson, Sand Springs

Judi Hively, Hominy
Kathy Huber, Tulsa`
Leslie Imboden, Stillwater
Mary Jackson, Tulsa
Mary Keller, Tulsa
John Kernnington, Bixby
Christine LaFon, Tulsa
Clinton Ledford, Pawnee
Dan MacLemore, Oklahoma City
Rebecca Markham, Edmond
Derek McCall, Tulsa
Linda McClintock, Norman
Jerry and Vicki Medlin, Norman
Larry P. Meese, Medicine Park
Betty Louise Minnoch, Tulsa
Dan Moore, Tishomingo
E. Montez Mutzig, Tulsa
C.J. Murphy, Oklahoma City
Sharon Paley, Tulsa
Sharon Parker, Tulsa
Melanie Patry, Edmond
Deb Pettus, Broken Arrow
Anne Pinc, Broken Arrow
Ruth Pray, Tulsa
Maryruth Prose, Lawton
Nell Reed, Midwest City
Jeanne Reeds, Adair

Eddie Reese, Sand Springs
Karen Rose, Owasso
Linda Rose-Evans, Yukon
Mary Anne Secrist, Norman
Anna Marie Sellers, Tulsa
Millie Seubert, Blackwell
Dick Sherry, Tulsa
Jana Singletary, Tulsa
Frances Smith, Edwardsville, IL
Joyce Smith, Tulsa
Tami Smith, Tulsa
Merry L. Steinley, Claremore
Jim Thayer, Tulsa
Claudia Vandiver, Tulsa
Karen and Barbara Gardner Von Moses, Tulsa
Nancy and Charles Waggoner, Edmond
Julie Watson, Tulsa
Charlene Wells, Bartlesville
Juldy Wilder, Tulsa
Verna Wilson, Collinsville
B. Wissen, Owasso
Steve Wood, Broken Arrow
Denver and Yvonne Woolsey, Edmond
Ann Young, 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, P. O.Box 14274, Tulsa, OK 74159.
Membership is for Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 of current year and dues include subscription to *Gaillardia*.

Name: _____

Affiliation: (School, Business, or Avocation) _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ **Cell** _____ **Office** _____ **Please do not list my phone** _____

E mail: _____

Renewal ___ **or New Member** ___ **Dues are tax deductible.**

Annual Membership Choice: \$15 Individual ___ **or \$20 Family** __, **or \$5 Student** ___

Life Membership Choice: \$250 Individual ___ **or \$350 Family** ___

Add \$5.00 ___ **to cover cost of copying and mailing a complete ONPS directory if desired.**

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
P. O. Box 14274
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74159

Non-Profit
U. S. Postage Paid
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Permit No. 357

Return Service Requested

IF YOUR LABEL DOES NOT SHOW
2012 , PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES

The Gaillardia

Published quarterly by the
Oklahoma Native Plant Society
2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa OK 74114

President Kim Shannon
Vice-president Adam Ryburn
Secretary Sandy Graue
Membership Coordinator Tina Julich
Treasurer Mary Korthase
Historian Jeannie Coley

Directors at Large:

2012: Clare and Buddy Miller
2013: Brooke Bonner and Janette Steets
2014: Elaine Lynch and Jay Walker

Chapter Chairs:

Alicia Nelson Northeast
Joe Roberts Central
RonTyr1 Cross-Timbers
Steve Marek Mycology

Gaillardia articles, except those reprinted here with permission from other sources, may be reprinted at will. Please acknowledge source and author.

Send all mail except contributions to the *Gaillardia* to:
Oklahoma Native Plant Society
P. O. Box 14274
Tulsa, OK 74159
Kim Shannon at (918) 425-0075 or
okpenstemon@cox.net

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

Chadwick Cox
2241 Ravenwood
Norman, OK 73071-7427
(405)-329-8860
Email: chadwick.cox@att.net

- All material accepted is with the understanding that it can be freely copied.
- Submit as txt, rtf or word files by disc or email.
- If submitted by hard copy, use Times New Roman or other standard font types for OCR.

Members who wish to receive information by email from ONPS may send their on-line address to chadwick.cox@att.net.