



The purpose of the ONPS is to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma native plants.

# Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

## Herbarium outing set for January 27 in Norman

Below is the 3rd Annual Indoor Outing schedule as proposed in early January. Any changes will be minor ones or made to accommodate speaker availability. As you can see, this should be an informative, thorough and interesting day at the herbarium, which is located in the Botany Microbiology Building on the VanVleet Oval of the OU campus.

So, please sign up now. You will find the mail-in registration form inside this issue. Even though there is no fee for the outing, please mail in the form to help planners anticipate and provide room space, coffee, etc.

Those who would like to join a bus charter from Tulsa can do so, meeting at 7 a.m. for \$15 round trip. Please register now if you want to join this tour -- 25 minimum riders are needed. For Central Oklahoma transport, call Mike Bush (405) 232-1199.

### Proposed Schedule:

9:00 - 9:30	Registration
9:30 -10:30	<i>Herbaria: Reflections of Nature</i> by James R. Estes
10:45- 3:00	<i>From Soil to Specimen</i> by Bebb staff (with break for lunch)
3:15 - 4:00	<i>Electron Micrography of Plants</i> by John J. Skvarla
4:15 - 5:00	<i>Flora of Oklahoma</i> with Trustees of Flora of Oklahoma Inc.
7:00 - 8:00	Evening presentation by Ms. Cantrell, Attorney

Hosting the day will be James R. Estes, Director of the Bebb Herbarium. After the 9-9:30 a.m. registration, demonstrations via live, color, remote camera from the herbarium will be given. Displays from Oxley Nature Center and the University of Oklahoma Press can be viewed, with 20% discounts offered by the OU Press. One of the best environmental lawyers in the state, Ms. B. Cantrell, will be our evening speaker, after which the outing is to end at about 8:30 p.m.

Coffee and donuts will be provided, and meals can be arranged with others once there, or on your own.

During breaks in the program, slide shows and plant identification sessions are scheduled. See contacts in calendar below for more information, and register using the form inside the newsletter.

## Native Plant events for your calendar

Date/Time	Event/Place	Contact/Phone
Jan. 27 9:00 a.m.	3rd Annual Indoor Outing Bebb Herbarium/Norman, OK	Larry Magrath (405) 222-0904 Nora Jones (918) 596-7988
Jan. 29 7:30 p.m.	Central Oklahoma Chapter meeting Myriad Gardens Classroom	Mike Bush (405) 232-1199
Feb. 12 7:00 p.m.	NE Okla. Meeting/Tulsa Garden Center with Bob Jennings: Oxley & Redbud Valley	
Feb. 15	Deadline for Mar/Apr <i>Gaillardia</i> manuscripts, ads, etc.	Marilyn Bell (918) 496-2218
Apr. 20	Photo Contest Deadline	John Miller (918) 245-6983
Apr. 22	Earth Day	
Apr. 23	Earth Day celebrated at State Capitol	
May 4-5	Wildflower Workshop/Poteau	
May 19	State Wildflower Day	

### Also in this issue

Earth Day planning

Photo contest rules!

Conservation news

Garbage garden?

Anne W. Long Award



## Conservation/Environmental Committee by Paul Buck, Chair

Upon being elected President of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, Dr. Larry Magrath asked if I would function a chair of the Conservation/Environmental Committee, a request with which I immediately agreed. He pointed out one of the roles would be to prepare a brief article related to conservation and the environment for each issue of *The Gaillardia*. This is my initial contribution, and I would like to open with a sincere solicitation for ideas, suggestions and contributions from ONPS members. Let us work together and make this column an open avenue of communication regarding these issues.

In the four years since its birth, ONPS has developed into a strong state-wide organization with hundreds of members. Recently, the establishment of two regional chapters, the Central and Northeast Chapters, attest to the Society's health and continuing growth. It is time for us to make our presence known locally, state-wide, regionally and nationally by communicating concerns regarding environmental decisions and actions which bear upon the goals of the Society. This may be accomplished by Society resolutions and letters from the organization or from individual members.

**"It is time to make our presence known...  
by communicating concerns regarding  
environmental decisions..."**

Share your concerns with ONPS via written communications directed to this Committee using the Society mailing address. Submit any resolutions you feel should be considered, and they will be placed on the agenda for one of the Executive Committee or Board meetings. Help us become widely known as a thoughtful, rational organization eager to provide input into current environmental issues.

### Advice from Udall

Several years ago, Morris K. Udall, an Arizona Democrat and then Chairman of the House Interior Committee, wrote an informative essay titled, "The Right to Write," in which

he spoke of our right, privilege and obligation, as citizens, to influence our senators and congressional representatives via the written word. In his essay, much too long to be duplicated here, Congressman Udall claimed he read every communication from his constituents and to being influenced in his decisions by "thoughtful, persuasive" letters.

Mr. Udall also included a series of the fundamentals for writing most effectively to congressmen. A few of the important ones are:

#### ✍ Address your letter properly:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

or

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

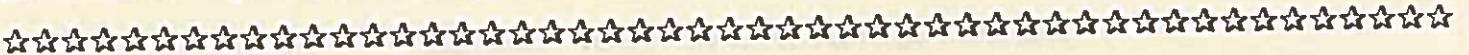
✍ Identify the bill or issue as specifically as possible using the bill number or popular name.

✍ A letter is more effective than a telegram. It need not be typed; a well-written letter in pen or pencil will have as much impact.

✍ Write your own views rather than simply using a form letter or petition. Assume a rational, constructive position and avoid abusive or threatening comments. If you are writing about a specific piece of legislation you believe is wrong, tell your representative what the correct approach is.

In future *Gaillardia* columns members will be alerted to environmental issues on which this committee recommends our communication. Your support will be solicited then, but in the meantime, please do continue (or begin) providing input to your elected officials since, as Congressman Udall ends his essay:

"Your senators and representatives need your help in casting votes. The 'ballot box' is not far away: it's painted red, white and blue, and it reads 'U.S. Mail.'"



### Pitcher Plants Threatened

Pitcher plants, *Sarracenia leucophylla*, have become popular in the domestic and international florist trade. More than 4 million traps (leaves) are harvested in the southeastern states annually with the take estimated to increase to 20-30 million in the next few years.

For more information on this trade and what you can do to help, contact Thomas Gibson at the Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.



### Studebaker will take you to Guatemala . . . via air

Russell Studebaker, chief horticulturist for the City of Tulsa Parks and Recreation Department, is to be the guide on a February, 1990 tour in the "realm of the Ancient Maya," and a nature lover's dream of a tropical paradise. Russell's knowledge of the Central American natural environment and culture stems from his Peace Corps experience in El Salvador in 1962-63. He has a good command of Spanish and a keen interest in the ecology and conservation of wild life and plants in Central America.

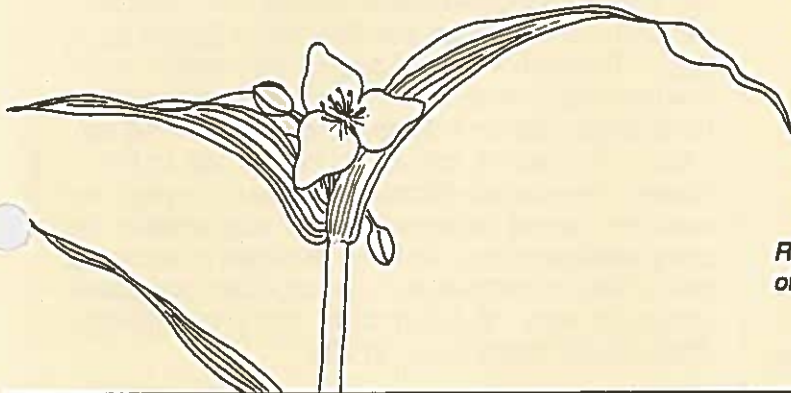
For information and a brochure, call Indian Nations International in Norman at (405) 321-5380. Registration for the (Feb. 14-26) trip is due January 17th.

## 1989 Anne W. Long Award

Dr. Doyle McCoy, author of numerous books on the flora of Oklahoma and well known state botanist, was recognized by the ONPS at the Quartz Mountain meeting in November as the recipient of the 2nd annual Anne W. Long Award. As chairman of the Society's Awards Committee I had the privilege of presenting the award. Doyle has been an inspiration from the moment I became familiar with him and his work as a graduate student in the 1950's. It was with much pride that I made the presentation and Anne would have whole heartedly supported our efforts to honor Dr. McCoy.

Now it is time to begin thinking of a recipient for the Anne W. Long Award for 1990. The deadline for nominations is the 1st of September, but the committee would be pleased to receive them at any time. Please give this ONPS program some serious consideration. Surely you are aware of an individual or organization deserving of recognition. Should you have any questions, contact any member of the Board and they will provide you with a copy of the "ONPS Awards Committee Guidelines."

Paul Buck



## Garbage Garden

With spring coming, many of us are thinking about planting our gardens. This year, why not do something a little different and plant a garbage garden?

You'll need to collect all kinds of throw-away items: an apple core or orange peel, a piece of paper or cardboard, an aluminum can (that's the kind not attracted by a magnet), a styrofoam container from a fast food place, a plastic straw or bottle, an old pair of panty-hose, and a piece of 100 percent cotton or wool cloth.

Dig seven holes, each six inches deep, and pour water into them. Then place one article in each hole. Recover them with dirt, and place a stick over each item to mark what's underneath the earth there. Water them each day.

"Harvest" your crop in about a month. Dig down to find out how these things have changed. Which have started to disintegrate? What do they have in common? Which ones won't be broken down by organisms? What do they have in common? Try the experiment a month longer to see if any more changes occur.

For further action:

- Look up the word *biodegradable* in the dictionary.
- Conduct an anti-litter campaign. Clean up your neighborhood by picking up litter and disposing of it safely.
- Find out about recycling efforts in your neighborhood.
- Start recycling your cans, papers and bottles.

Reprinted from the March/April issue of *TRACKS*, the newsletter of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

### Nomination for Oklahoma Native Plant Society Anne W. Long Award

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society will recognize outstanding contributions to the purpose of the Society via the Anne W. Long Award. Individuals, groups of individuals, scout troops, church groups, science or environmental organizations, businesses, etc., who have contributed to the purpose of the ONPS shall be eligible for the award. Recognition and presentation of the award will be made at the annual meeting of the Society.

Nominations are to be made on the following form and submitted directly to the chair of the Awards Committee: Dr. Paul Buck, Biology Department, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104-3189. The deadline for nominations is September 1st. All nominations will be treated with confidence.

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination by \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please use separate sheets to provide detailed information supporting the nomination. Such material is vital for evaluation by the Awards Committee. Nominations may be submitted any prior to the September 1st deadline.

## **Earth Day gaining momentum via state-wide involvement**

Its official date is Sunday, April 22, and *The Gaillardia* will carry more detail in the next issue (due to you the first week in March), but for now let us observe that the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation is seeing to it that this celebration is going to be Big. Hundreds of educational projects are already underway, and Monday, April 23 has been proclaimed Legislative Day.

**"...the 1970 event was centered in North America...In 1990 it takes on an international aspect...our awareness of the world scope of environmental problems is increased with the realization that choices we make on a daily basis have a global aspect."**

*Oklahoma Wildlife Federation*

Pat Mehlhop-Cifelli is serving as the ONPS liaison with the Federation, and will be in charge of the Capitol Building ONPS photo exhibit, among other projects.

Amongst corporate sponsors supporting the statewide competition, "Earth Day, Everyday: You Can Make a Difference," will be Phillips Petroleum Company, funding the awards celebrating the 20th anniversary of Earth Day. Regional and state winners (and schools of state winners) will receive prizes in four areas of competition: audiovisual presentation, visual art, creative writing and community project via scrapbook. If you need a competition information packet, contact the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation, 4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 171, Oklahoma City, OK 74105, or call (405) 524-7009. The due date for entries is Feb. 1, 1990.

Besides schools and conservation groups, the Oklahoma City Zoo plans a program, and OSU, among others, will sponsor tree-plantings, including one at the capitol. Conservation groups will have a chance to educate legislators on environmental issues on Monday, April 23, and an evening event with the governor is scheduled. ONPS Vice President Pat Mehlhop-Cifelli will have detail on ONPS Earth Day plans in the next issue.

## **Oklahoma Wildlife Federation sets meetings about Conservation goals**

In late January, five meetings are scheduled around the state by the Federation to explain "Design for Conservation," the Wildlife group's proposed program to provide a new funding base for specific conservation programs and projects. Basically, it proposes a 1/10 of 1% increase in state sales tax earmarked for the Dept. of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC). The initiative petition and referendum vote process is to begin in September, 1990 with the signature drive -- 200,000 registered voter signatures within 90 days. The public information sessions, through media and meetings, are now underway.

"Design for Conservation" objectives include acquisition of land to protect: upland and wetland wildlife, unique natural areas in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy and other groups, and to provide river and stream access. Hatchery operations, law enforcement, information pro-

### **"MUST" Reading**

**Reviewed by Nora Jones**

Peter Bernhardt's Wily Violets and Underground Orchids is aptly subtitled "Revelations of a Botanist." His lively prose reveals surprising secrets of El Salvadoran coastal forests, Australian mistletoes, Middle Eastern "lilies of the field" and bizarre below-ground flowering orchids. The underground orchids, like *Corallorhiza*, a genus commonly found in Oklahoma, forms an association with a fungus and does not produce chlorophyll. Closer to home, Bernhardt illuminates the ecology of the tallgrass ecosystem at Konza Prairie in Kansas. In a call for conservation of our native orchids, he laments our "loving our orchids to death" by trying to transplant them from their native habitats. Black and white drawings and color photos enliven the charming text. (William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1989, \$18.95)

\*\*\*\*\*

The New England Wildflower Society has produced a wonderful book of plant activities called Botany for all Ages. Recommended reading for elementary school teachers and parents, this is a great source for science fair projects, outdoor activities, and environmental education. The activity called "To Pick or Not to Pick a Flower" encourages children to discuss the pros and cons and decide democratically by vote whether the group will pick flowers. Children also learn plant names, parts of flowers, pollination strategies, how to grow plants and much more. Excellent black and white drawings. (Globe Pequot Press, 1989, \$11.95)

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The heartbreaking story of the cleanup of the oil spill from the Exxon *Valdez* is told in words and pictures in the January, 1990 *National Geographic*.

grams and Wildlife Interpretive Centers are among the goals.

Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation representatives will be on hand to discuss the plan in Lawton, Woodward, Enid, Poteau and Tulsa at the following places and times:

**Lawton: Tues., Jan. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at Nye Library, Fort Still

**Woodward: Wed., Jan. 24, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** at Pioneer Room of Woodward Civic Center

**Enid: Thurs., Jan. 25, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** at Hoover Bldg. near Garfield County Fairgrounds

**Poteau: Mon., Jan. 29, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** at Poteau Civic Ctr.

**Tulsa: Tues., Jan. 30, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** at Zebco Co. lunch room, 6101 E. Apache

For more information, contact James W. Bennett, OWF Executive Director, at (405) 524-7009.

## Photo Notes by John Miller, Photography Committee Chair

We are happy to report that the rules for our 1990 ONPS Photo Contest have been approved, and we have included a new category -- slides!

**The deadline for entry is April 20, 1990.**

Maximum print size is 5 x 7 inches. Each contestant may enter a maximum of three unmounted color photographic prints and three slides of Oklahoma native plants and/or plant habitats. Contestants must attach a label with the following information to the back of each print: contestant's name, address and phone number. Name and address should be written on the mount of each slide. These should be mailed to:



Oklahoma Native Plant Society  
Photo Contest  
2435 South Peoria  
Tulsa, OK 74114

The contest is open to the general public, but photos which placed last year may not be entered. Members of the Photography Committee are not eligible to enter.

### Prizes, fortunes & fame . . .

The following prizes (six total) will be awarded in both categories:

First Prize:	\$50.00
Second Prize:	\$35.00
Third Prize:	\$15.00

(Ed. note: The *honor* due all entrants is clearly priceless, as the resulting display is a superb contribution to ONPS.)

Prizes will be awarded during the Wildflower Workshop in May at Poteau, Oklahoma. There is no entry fee, but all prints and slides entered become the property of ONPS to be used for displays or for educational purposes. ONPS may duplicate or print slides, and will attempt to give credit to the photographer when prints or slides are used.

In addition to the chair, our Photo Committee consists of Theresa Grosshans, Elenor Rader, Dorothy Norris and Thermon Hollis. Thermon, from Sand Springs, is new on the committee this year, and a former president of the Keystone Camera Club. He also has volunteered at Oxley Nature Center. The time and effort of each committee member is appreciated. We also express our appreciation to Irene McKee, who as Publicity Chair last year did a great deal to make the contest a success.

Winter is a great time to photograph nature -- native plants in their winter form, including berries, dried seed pods and foliage. You can photograph lichens for an interesting study in patterns. It's fun to use your imagination.

Helpful hint: When using the automatic mode to photograph snow scenes your camera will try to make the snow darker than it should be. As a general rule, over expose by one stop in the snow or white sand. Better still, use a Grey Card, which you can purchase at a camera store, to get the correct exposure. Good luck on your winter photography and Best Wishes for the New Year!



### The Gaillardia

Published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society  
2435 S. Peoria • Tulsa, OK 74114 • (918) 496-2218

President:	Larry Magrath
Vice-President:	Pat Mehlhop-Cifelli
Secretary:	Nora Jones
Treasurer:	Herb Beattie
Editing & Design:	Marilyn Bell & Tom Chilton



### Registration for January 27th Day at Bebb Herbarium in Norman, OK

(Please fill out and mail in by Jan. 23 whether you plan to ride bus, car pool or arrive on your own.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER ONPS: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER IN YOUR PARTY \_\_\_\_\_

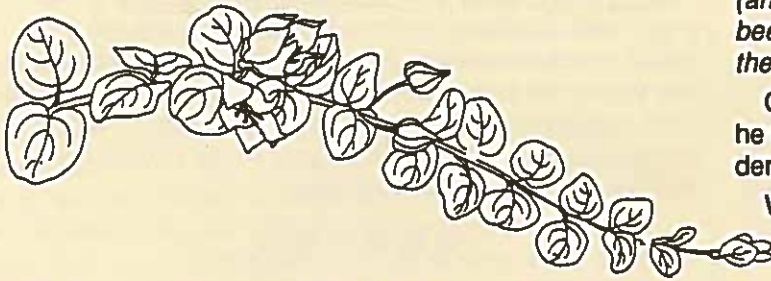
Mail to:  
Oklahoma Native Plant Society  
2435 S. Peoria  
Tulsa, OK 74114

If Tulsa bus reservation is needed (\$15 round trip), please send check with registration.

## **Membership Survey shows ONPS priorities and concerns**

Many thanks to the new and renewed members who responded to the member survey enclosed with the last newsletter. State secretary Nora Jones is keeping a running tally of interests and will present the results to the board at its next meeting. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so this month.

ONPS members seem to be most interested in trees and wildflowers, with endangered species also high on the list. Preservation and conservation was the most important concern of members, with education and self-improvement a close second. Field trips and indoor programs were rated as the most appealing activities. Thanks to those who volunteered to help on committees, and to lead field trips. Committee chairs will be contacting you soon.



## **Perhaps a "mail" coup vs. dirt bikers?**

Here's a letter that might be making a difference: Nora and Jack Jones, Tulsa, hiked near Tulsa on Christmas Day. Nora's letter, printed in the Jan. 5 *Tulsa World*, describes what they found:

*"...we decided to go to the north end of Turkey Mountain. This area, although private land, has long been a favorite spot for birding, plant-watching, hiking and relaxing.*

*Since our last visit, dirt bikers had torn new paths up delicate slopes and damaged several well-worn paths. While we were there, a group of about eight young men were determinedly cutting a path up a slope facing the beaver pond.*

*"Orchids grow on Turkey Mountain. Owls nest there. Many other animals, plants and fungi grow there and nowhere else in Tulsa County. Across the river, least terns (an endangered species) nest in an area which has also been ravaged by dirt bikers. Can't we do something to stop the destruction of our precious natural heritage?"*

Our "own" Herb Beattie is one who responded. He said he would contact the corporate owners with a strong demand.

Well done, ONPS conservators!

## **"Imitation Propagation" alert: Are those catalog offerings really "nursery grown?"**

It is suspected that the term 'Nursery Grown' is being applied to plants which are wild-collected and have been placed either in beds or containers at a firm calling itself a nursery until the plants are sold.

The New England Wild Flower Society, and the National Council of State Garden Clubs are two groups of late alerting their members to this practice. Both mention, in particular, mail-order catalogs listing wildflowers, especially Trilliums and Pink Lady's slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*), at

very low prices under the heading, "Nursery Grown" and "Not Wild Collected."

When you see difficult or impossible to propagate species such as Trilliums and Lady's-slippers being offered, you may be encountering "imitation propagation." Look for the word "propagated" in the catalog, the National Council advises. Most nurseries propagating native plants proudly state their ethics, but be on the alert that you really are supporting a propagator, not an imitator.

Oklahoma Native Plant Society  
c/o Tulsa Garden Center  
2435 South Peoria  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

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