



Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

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

HERB BEATTIE OF OKLAHOMA NATURE CONSERVANCY WILL SPEAK AT NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA CHAPTER MEETING MAY 9 7:00 PM TULSA GARDEN CENTER. ALSO, BRING SEEDS, PLANTS, PHOTOS TO SHARE. See you there!

Native plant events for your calendar

| Date/Time | Event/Place | Contact/Phone |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| MAY | | |
| 4 | Board meeting | Larry Magrath (405) 222-0904 |
| 4-5 | Wildflower Workshop, Kerr Center near Poteau | Joanne Orr (405) 521-4037 |
| 9 @ 7 pm | NE Chapter meeting, Tulsa Garden Center | Gary Schaum (918) 743-1313 |
| 13 @ 2 pm | Redbud Valley walk, near Tulsa (please call if you plan to attend) | Donna Horton (918) 832-8112 |
| 13 @ 8 am | Hajek Marsh trip Meet at Kirkpatrick Center (see page 2) | Mike Bush (405) 577-0133 |
| 19 | Wildflower Day (see page 4) Quartz Mountain Wildflower Festival | |
| JUNE | | |
| 2 @ 10 am | Edible Mushroom Foray, Lake Tenkiller (call ahead for arrangements) | Jack & Nora Jones (918) 749-5859 |
| 4 @ 7 pm | Central Chapter meeting, Martin Park Nature Center | Mike Bush (405) 557-0133 or Susan Chambers (405) 769-7917 |
| 7 | Deadline for next Gaillardia (the July-Aug. issue) | Marilyn Bell (918) 496-2218 |
| 11 @ 7 pm | NE Chapter meeting Tulsa Garden Center | Gary Schaum (918) 743-1313 |
| 16 @ 10 am | Cimarron River Sand Dunes & Great Salt Plains (Meet at Dairy Queen in Alva) | Paul Nighswonger (405) 327-2752 |
| 16 @ 10 am | Field trip to be announced Meet at Tulsa Garden Center | Dorothy Norris (918) 492-5923 |
| and even later . . . | | |
| August 11 | Choctaw/McCurtain County Orchid Tour | Larry Magrath (405) 222-0904 |
| Oct. 13-14 | 1990 Annual Meeting, Western Hills Lodge near Wagoner, OK | Larry Magrath (405) 222-0904 |
| Feb. 2, 1991 | 4th Annual Indoor Outing Tulsa Garden Center & Environs | |

Also in this issue

Photo winners!

Wildflower workshop

Invasive aliens

Ouachita update

Honors for Oxley

After Earth Day . . .

Northeast Oklahoma Chapter

by Carla Childs

The March 14 meeting featured Richard Dahlke, of the Plant Ranch, a new landscaping business in north Tulsa that handles wildflowers, herbs and perennials. Subject of his talk was Gardening with Native Plants. He also touched on the subject of plant rescue when concerned gardeners go to areas being bulldozed and rescue and move plants. This typically goes on during road expansion/construction.

Members of Tulsa Junior College NE campus Horticulture Club attended, and invited ONPS to their spring plant sale in April. The May 1 kick-off for Pennies for Wildflowers campaign was brought up, and transportation to the May 4-5 Wildflower Workshop in Poteau.

Highlights from the last board meeting were reported by Nora Jones. Tulsa will host the Indoor Outing next year (Feb. 2), a matter discussed at this meeting. Also, a catalog for natives was recommended: Prairie Nursery, P.O. Box 306, Westfield, WI 53964.

Gary Schaum opened the April 9 meeting with an invitation from the Audubon Society to attend their April 17 meeting with Doyle McCoy as featured speaker.

Next meeting:



Betty Kemm reported on wildflower planting projects at Tulsa Junior College and Tulsa Zoo locations. The zoo area is in the red-shouldered hawk enclosure and is mostly shade. A memorial arboretum at TJC requires sun-loving plants. Raymond Kays is donating plants, and if you have any

plants that you want to spread around, call Betty, (918) 742-4351, and give them a new home in a public area.

There was discussion on a plant rescue mission on a road to be bulldozed near Sperry. Details to be worked out. Gary Schaum asked for volunteers to help stuff 5,000 Gaillardia seed packets which Channel 6 would hand out during Earth Week. A handout was available for Tom Chilton's "Oklahoma Environment" six-week class to begin mid-April in Tulsa Public School's adult education program. And the Tulsa Central Library ONPS window display, set up by Nora Jones with Marilyn Bell's help, is getting very favorable responses. Stop by and see it.

Nora Jones did the program for our April meeting. Her subject was "The Range and Diversity of Fungi," a slide and tape presentation by the North American Mycological Association, and Nora's answering a lively Q&A session.

Next meeting dates: May 9 and June 11.

Central Oklahoma Chapter

by Susan Chambers

The March 26 meeting was attended by 13 members and three guests. Reminders were made about possible field trips. The next meeting was set for June 4, 7 p.m., at Martin Park Nature Center. (Bring any wild plants for identification, again.) The program will be about "Native and Pioneer Uses of Edible Wild Plants."

A field trip was scheduled for May 13 (yes, we know it's Mother's Day; bring her with you!) to Hajek Marsh. (See end article below for detail.)

Joanne Orr informed the group about the article and photo layout in the April *Southern Living* that includes a shot of the Highway 77 median looking south to the skyline of Oklahoma City. Quite a picture! The article profiles wildflower programs of several southern states.

Since the last meeting, some members organized a plan to give away wildflower seedlings Saturday, April 21, the day before EarthDay 1990. The giveaway will be from our booth at Martin Park Nature Center. About 500 seedlings were started and transplanted to individual two-inch pots to be grown by chapter members. These plants were "farmed out" at the March meeting to anyone with a free west or south window and some extra TLC. They will be collected from our farmers and given to visitors at the center. Volunteers were called upon to man the booth. The idea for our participation in events such as this is to arouse public interest in native plants.

Ruth Boyd gave her report on the board meeting, including several items that will be in the next Gaillardia. She also reported that the board had voted to extend lifetime memberships to Harriet Barkley and Walter Long. Unless the bylaws state otherwise, lifetime memberships will also be made available to the society as a whole for \$200, individual or family. Ruth also reported that the Nature Conservancy had purchased the top and north face of Black Mesa.

The chapter agreed to lend support, in the form of a letter penned by Mike Bush, for The Deep Fork Coalition. A bill, part of the project, will be introduced into the legislature in an effort to raise support for acquisition of watershed, wetlands and bottomland hardwoods on the Deep Fork River. Funds to accomplish this will be raised from various sources.

How to prepare for the Marsh

The May 13 field trip to Hajek Marsh begins at 8 a.m. when we meet on the north side of the Kirkpatrick Center to motorpool to the marsh. Bring boots or old shoes that can stand being wet, and dry shoes for the trip home (plus maybe a towel to sit on). Bring a sack lunch and any plants for I.D. We'll be back by 3 p.m., give or take an hour. Appropriate clothing: long-sleeved light shirt, long pants and your choice of insect repellent.

Conservation Corner by Paul Buck

Well, it's over, the 20th anniversary of Earth Day is past. All of us that were involved in the first Earth Day celebration cannot help but be impressed by the widespread and respectful attention being given the event this time around.

Of course, the environmentally-concerned organizations such as the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club and many others are participating via their individual approaches. After all, their primary goal is the preservation of the earth and the biological systems upon it. The major difference this time is that so many other sectors of our society have gotten involved.

Television coverage from the national down to the local level has given more than just lip service to the event. Many stations, sometimes in a frenzy of media hype, have put together programs outlining some of the local environmental issues, problems and possible solutions. We should thank them for their efforts. After all, this is what we have been striving for all these years -- environmental education of the population. Perhaps the only weakness in the efforts of the TV industry was the brevity of the presentations. Ecological issues are extremely complex and virtually impossible to present in three to five-minute segments inserted into an already tightly-scheduled news program. Although I am not aware of any recognition of Earth Day on the radio, I suspect it is being covered, perhaps providing topics for some of the numerous talk shows.

The printed medium must be recognized for its significant contribution as well. *Newsweek*, *Time* and *National Geographic*, to name but a few, have provided us with excellent, up-to-date reports on the status of global natural resources and their exploitation, our energy demands, waste problems, both solid and hazardous, environmental pollution and the consequences of a growing population with ever increasing demands upon the earth.

Each of these groups is to be

commended for its outstanding contribution. For the most part they have made a sincere effort to responsibly report to the American people and in doing so, are educating them. Today the population is much more clearly knowledgeable about ecology. That increased level of awareness is evidenced by recycling programs, planting of trees and wildflowers across the state, the establishment and support of wildlife and wilderness areas, the strong emphasis on the environment being made by our classroom teachers and the state's "Don't lay that trash on Oklahoma" and "Adopt a Highway" programs.

It is encouraging to visualize a population of young people assuming control of the land who would be environmentally educated. They would constitute a citizenry willing to pass and enforce protective legislation and make those personal sacrifices necessary to reduce the human impact on the earth. But there are those "doomsdayers" who proclaim we have already gone too far. Could it be too late? Have we destroyed too much native habitat, driven too many species to extinction, permitted the loss of too much top soil, overwhelmed too many ecosystems with solid and toxic wastes and polluted the air and water beyond the earth's capacity to recover? At this time no one can answer this question with certainty, but I suspect we have not -- there is still a chance.

With that thought and a positive attitude, let us make a conscious effort to do our bit individually to save the earth for future generations. Each of us can be involved by helping educate young people, through scout and church groups, for example, regarding environmental ethics, by living a personal life style of one in harmony with the earth, and by providing support -- be it volunteer labor or financial -- to organizations whose goal is to protect and save the earth for our children. It is not too late, but we cannot leave it up to others to do the job for us; each of us must consciously become involved. What will you do between now and the Society's next newsletter?

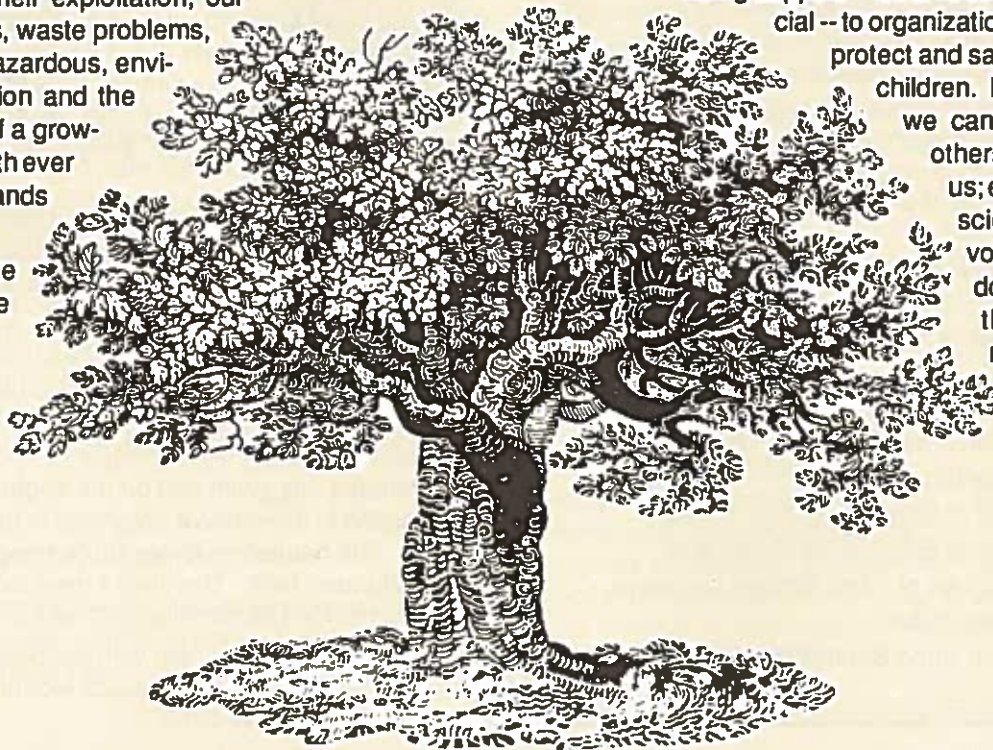


Photo Notes by John Miller, Photography Committee Chair

Congratulations to the winners of our 1990 ONPS Photo Contest. The full results of the contest are carried below. We expect to make good use of the entries' work because we have more opportunities to display wildflower photography now than ever before. There were 207 entries -- almost twice as many as last year! THANKS TO ALL WHO ENTERED!

Eleven of us celebrated the first day of spring with a wildflower Photo Field Trip to Camp Christian, and by the time you get this newsletter, our April 28 Photo Field Trip along the Illinois River will be history.

And the winners are. . .

The Photography Committee's contributions to ONPS are well-known by anyone who has seen the photo display, or gone on a photo field trip. Committee chair John Miller reports that this year's Photo Contest judges, Bill Ess and Al Henry, made their decisions on April 24:

PRINTS

1st place

Bob Lindsey of Sapulpa for *Mexican Hat*

2nd place

Bob Lindsey of Sapulpa for *Fire Pink*

3rd place

Linda Gungoll of Enid for her *Blue Indigo*

Honorable Mention

Jim Norman of Muskogee for *Horse Mint*

Grovalynn Sisler of Stillwater for *Tickseed*

James Norman of Muskogee for

Dutchman's Britches

G. G. Arnold of Pawhuska for *Day Lily*

Bob Lindsey of Sapulpa for *Columbine*

Mark Meacham of Clinton for *Prickly Poppy*

SLIDES

1st place

Jim Norman of Muskogee for *Spider Lily*

2nd place

Larry Prather of Stillwater for *Prickly Pear*

3rd place

Eddie McGinnes of Sand Springs for

Sensitive Briar

Honorable Mention

Bob Lindsey of Sapulpa for *Bull Thistle*

Bob Lindsey of Sapulpa for *Goats Rue*

Eddie McGinnes of Sand Springs for *Venus*

Looking Glass

Ruth Miller of Sand Springs for *Wild Iris*

Still another trip is in the works at Quartz Mountain State Park on May 19. This one is in connection with the Quartz Mountain Wildflower Festival. (See article below.)

There will be some excellent photographic opportunities for those who attend the Wildflower Workshop in Poteau, May 4-5. I expect to be there with a display of this year's ONPS contest photographs, and of course, to announce the winners. This will be a good time to visit about how to improve our pictures.

HELPFUL HINT: When you have tried your hardest and you know that you have done a good job, and your prints come back from the lab washed out and off color, what can you do? I don't know the answer to this one, and we have talked about this problem before. I have mentioned that you should examine the negatives with a magnifying glass. If you see good detail, the problem is not your fault! Yesterday a lab refused to reprint some off color prints. (These weren't bad pictures -- just a little off color.) So, I went to another lab with three negatives, explained the problem, and I already have back some better prints. I hope I have found someone I can work with and who can do a good job. Maybe you know a lab that you could recommend. I have not found one which does good work all of the time. HELP! We need your input. I hope to see you soon at one of our or more of our upcoming events!

Quartz Mountain Wildflower Festival has ONPS participants scheduled

It is exciting to be participating in a big wildflower festival at Quartz Mountain State Park on Wildflower Day, May 19. The ONPS part includes the opening remarks at 9 a.m. by Larry Magrath on SE Oklahoma ecology. We will also have a wildflower photo display and a booth where we offer Gaillardia seed and wildflower cards. In the afternoon from 2 to about 3:30, I'll lead a wildflower photo walk, and 7 p.m. I'll be doing a slide show in the lodge.

There will also be activities not sponsored by ONPS. Vickie Mason, the park naturalist, will lead a wildflower walk in the morning, and entertainment and programs of general interest are scheduled.

Quartz Mountain State Park has many beautiful native plants and unique scenery. It's a great place to spend several days. There are rooms in the lodge, cabins and lots of camping with full hook-ups for RVs.

Perhaps this event can be the beginning of ONPS participation in interpretive programs in other State parks as well. The naturalists in our State parks are already using volunteer help. The ones I have talked to seem to welcome the kind of contributions we can make.

If you would like to help with the booth, or would like more information about the Quartz Mountain festival, give me a call at (918) 245-6983.

John Miller

☆☆ Honor for Oxley naturalist ☆☆

ONPS member Donna Horton, senior staff naturalist at Oxley Nature Center, has been named Distinguished Professional Interpreter by the National Association for Interpretation, Region IV.

The award is given to those who exhibit the highest qualities of skill and professionalism in the field of nature interpretation, and was awarded at the National Association's regional workshop in Wichita.

Donna joined the Oxley staff in 1983, and became senior naturalist in 1988. She supervises the center's highly successful programs for area children, and the recruiting and training of volunteers. She has also been recognized for innovative programs for adults.

Incidentally, Donna is leading an ONPS Redbud Valley tour on May 13. Please see calendar on page 1 of this newsletter.

U.S. deforestation in paradise . . . heaven help us -- or action?

Everyone is well aware of tropical deforestation in the rain forests of South America. Every day thousands of acres of irreplaceable habitat is lost due to clearcutting for timber and agricultural use.

Fewer people are aware that Hawaiian rain forests are also suffering devastation for similar purposes. The Natural Resources Defense Council has produced a booklet entitled, *Extinction in Paradise: Protecting our Hawaiian Species*.

Nearly 40% of Hawaii's birds have become extinct due to development and introduction of non-native animals and plants. Almost 75% of the remaining birds are listed as threatened or endangered. And 40% of the state's plants are listed as endangered, threatened or potentially threatened.

In 1987, the Nature Conservancy launched a \$10 million project to buy half of the threatened habitat. In 1988 Hawaii's state legislature has called for an action plan on state endangered species. The Hawaii Garden Clubs held a symposium in 1987 called, "Saving Hawaii's Native Plants Now or Never."

Despite all the attention, more needs to be done to avert what the NRDC calls "an extinction crisis." To find out more, contact the NRDC, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, HI 96813; (808) 533-1075. Contributions to save habitat may be sent to The Nature Conservancy, Hawaii field office: 1116 Smith Street, Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 76817.

Free native plant catalog

Prairie Nursery will send a free copy of their catalog which features full color photos of prairie forbs and grasses. Write: Prairie Nursery, P.O. Box 306, Westfield, Wisconsin 53964.

Reminder: Poteau workshop May 4-5

It isn't too late to take part in the 13th Annual Wildflower Workshop Friday and Saturday, May 4-5, at the Kerr Agriplex in Poteau. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and amongst presenters will be Linda Watson, Paul Buck, Joanne Orr, Teresa Maurer, plus more. For the Saturday morning tour of Talimena Drive via vans, leaders will be Paul Buck, Aud Balentine, Teresa Maurer and George Bukenhofer. (Plan to return to Agriplex by 2:30 p.m.)

For information call registration chair, Mrs. Doyle Shepard in Poteau: (918) 647-2982.

Ouachita National Forest Environmental Plan out of the woods

Just received! A five-volume set containing the Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Final Land and Resource Management Plan for the Ouachita National Forest.

One volume contains reproductions of letters to the Forest Service commenting on the proposed plan. This reading is much more interesting than the hard slogging bureaucratic lingo in the other volumes. Comments came from all 50 states, with Arkansans accounting for most of the letters (5,523), and Oklahomans a distant second with 608.

The five-volume opus boils down to the Forest Service preferring Alternative W. This new alternative will "benefit local use and economies and environmental issues. A full range of Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes would be provided. High-use recreational sites would be upgraded, with other facilities maintained at a high standard. These sites would serve as bases to support wilderness and other dispersed activities."

Of interest to plant society members, uneven-aged management will be used in "visual and high recreational value areas." Harvest cycles for pine will range from 50 to 100+ years. No hardwood areas will be cut for timber at the present, but this situation could change.

If you would like your own library of information on the topic, contact Gary Pierson, Planning Team Leader, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR. Our many local public and college libraries will be acquiring access to the documents, of course.

Pot Hunters Foray at Tenkiller

Join Jack and Nora Jones on a foray for edible wild mushrooms on June 2 at 10 a.m. near Standing Rock on Tenkiller Lake. Assuming good conditions, forayers should spot some good edible species of *Lactarius*, *Russula* and *Cantharellus*. Some *Amanitas* and others may be encountered but avoided. Call during last week in May for more information: (918) 749-5859.

Mail Order Madness: Aliens vs. Natives

Spring seed catalogs have brought joy to winter-weary gardeners for over 200 years. While fantasizing about growing the perfect garden may seem harmless, many of our troublesome introduced plants were carried through the mails, according to a recent article in *Natural History*.

After the Civil War, the population became urbanized, and people could afford to grow ornamental plants, but many introductions from this period proved disastrous. One good example is the water hyacinth, which was given away at fairs and sold through the mail for the then huge sum of \$1 per plant. Carried up and down stream, it spread prolifically, unchecked by its natural enemies outside its home range of South America. At one point, the plant so clogged the waterways in Florida that boardwalks had to be built over the mats of vegetation so that passengers could get to boats confined to narrow channels. Paddleboats were unable to navigate through the tangle. Water

hyacinth continues to be a problem in Florida, and the Gulf states today, despite decades of control efforts.

Dried Flower arrangements also contained seeds of undesirable plants. Popular with the Victorians, dried wreaths were made from "a virtual Who's Who of weedy grasses in the United States," including chess, compact brome, goose grass and jointed goat grass. Johnson grass was introduced as a forage crop before the Civil War. Nearly impossible to eradicate because it can resprout from a piece of a rhizome, many fields were lost to production because of this practice.

Renewed interest in wildflower mixes may cause problems in the future if nonnative species are included in the mix. Packagers of wildflower mixes must be encouraged to discriminate between alien and native plants. If care is not taken, planting of aliens will lead to the usurpation of habitat for our native species. (Based on "Catalog of Woes," by Richard N. Mack, *Natural History*, March 1990, pp. 45-52.)

Tips for recreating a prairie

Want to help preserve a patch of a dying ecosystem? Consider recreating a prairie in your yard. Some tips for success were given in *Wildflower*, the newsletter of the National Wildflower Research Center in Austin.

- ✓ Don't try to pack too many species together. Use two or three grasses and 10 or 12 forbs.
- ✓ Let grasses dominate. A ratio of 70% grasses to 30% forbs will let the area reach an ideal balance of about 80% grasses. Grasses perform a variety of functions, including support for the forbs.
- ✓ Limit use of aggressive clump- or runner-formers.
- ✓ In limited spaces, go in with a neighbor, or use prairie plants in common areas. Use prairie plants as a backdrop for foundation plantings. Try little bluestem, purple prairie clover or shooting star.

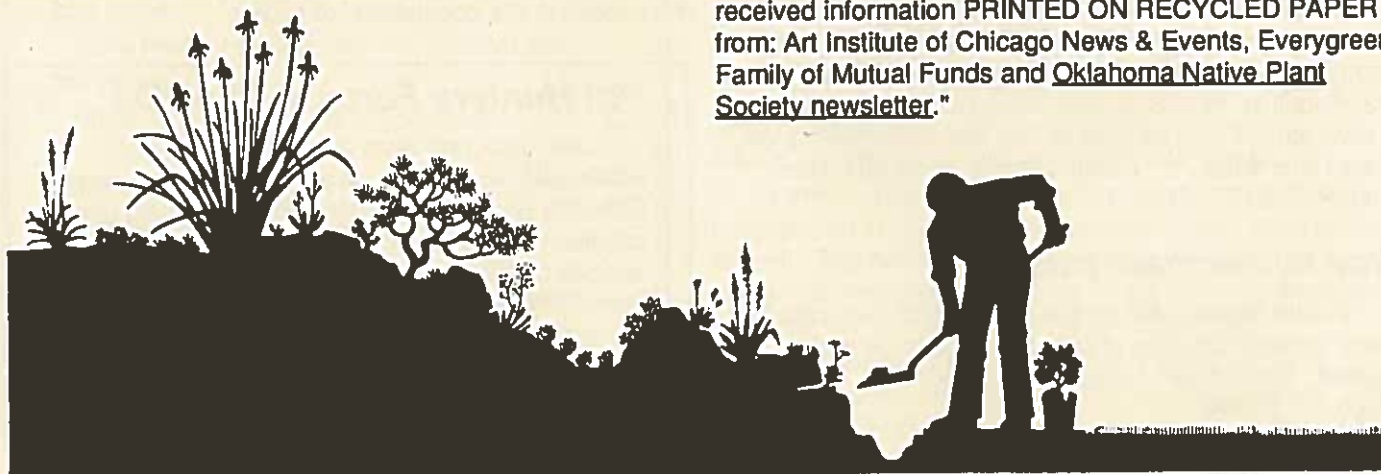
The National Wildflower Center's recreated prairie is now open for visitors. For more information, contact them at 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, Texas 78725-4201.

ONPS members write...

Jo Hyatt sent us a series of letters and documentation about the state flower issue. She tried to correct misunderstandings about what flower was what. Her copy of Bill No. 1649 signed by Gov. Nigh in March, 1986, is a good way to make perfectly clear that *Gaillardia pulchella* is the state wildflower, leaving Mistletoe to carry on as state flower or floral emblem. *Gaillardia* does not replace anything. (Why was that so hard to grasp?) Thanks, Jo. She also reminds us of the color notecards by her daughter, Mary Jo Laughlin. The watercolor reproductions include Indian Blanket, Wild Rose and Prickly Pear Cactus. You can write to Jo at 3412 E. 3rd, Tulsa 74112.

Thanks to Rusty Grimpe's note, we may have found a local source for recycled paper, but the Tulsa firm has yet to provide a price list.

On subject of recycled paper, Nora Jones sent us a League of Women Voters' newsletter whose "Environmental News" column reports: "League members have received information PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER from: Art Institute of Chicago News & Events, Everygreen Family of Mutual Funds and Oklahoma Native Plant Society newsletter."



Wichita's new wildflower exhibit

If you travel north this summer, consider visiting Central Riverside Park in Wichita, where a wildflower exhibit has been designed for your pleasure. Native plants were chosen to enhance the Kansas Wildlife Exhibit area of the old municipal zoo, which also features native Kansas animals. Use of natives may also help keep down maintenance costs, according to an article by Jim Mason in the Kansas Wildflower Society newsletter. The garden has been planned to give spring, summer and fall blooms.

Plants were grown from seed, transplanted from private property and purchased from Prairie Nursery (Westfield, WI) and Bluebird Nursery (Clarkson, NE).

Some of the plants used in shady and/or damp areas are woodland species such as rough-fruited cinquefoil, rose verbena, yarrow, pussytoes, violets and coralberry. Gayfeather, clammyweed, button blazing star and moth mullein and purple coneflower were grown from seed collected from gardens and from the wild.

Many bees and butterflies were attracted to the garden. Plans to optimize attraction of beneficial and beautiful insects are now underway.

To the surprise and delight of the garden designer, many plants flowered the first year. Comments about mowing the "darn weeds" were thus kept to a minimum.

The exhibit is free and is open every day. The garden is located at 700 Nims in Central Riverside Park, which is about 3/4 mile northwest of downtown Wichita. June and July provided the greatest variety of blooms, but there is always something in bloom during the growing season.

To join the Kansas Native Plant Society, send \$15 (individual), \$20 (family) or \$7.50 (student) to: Kansas Wildflower Society, Mulvane Art Center, 17th & Jewell, Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas 66621.

Barclay Scholarship awarded

The second annual ONPS Harriet G. Barclay Botany Scholarship has been awarded to Stacy Allen, an 11th grade student at McCloud High School. The award was made at the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science state meeting on April 7 in Ada.

On behalf of ONPS, Paul Buck congratulated Stacy, whose research paper is titled, "*Cevallia sinuata* (stinging Cevallia), a gypsophilic plant?"

ONPS members are invited to send tax-deductible contributions to the fund to help establish a self-sustaining, interest-earning financial base.

For those new to Oklahoma, Dr. Barclay is Emeritus Director-at-Large of ONPS, and among the nation's foremost botanists and conservationists.

Recommended roadside reading

Don't miss the April issue of *Southern Living* magazine for a colorful survey of highway wildflower plantings in the South. ONPS board member, Joanne Orr, is among Oklahomans quoted in the article, titled, "Flowers, Wild and Wonderful."

Several states are included, and the status of transportation departments' growing interest in roadside plantings is briefly reported, including public education issues, mowing, funding, and "natives vs. exotics."

One of the most stunning photos carried is a view of U.S. 77 complemented with full bloom *Coreopsis* and lemon mint, "a grand entry for Oklahoma City."

At the end of this article (which begins on pg. 90) is a "more information" section. Among these, *Southern Living* will send you a state-by-state update of wildflower programs. Send a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to: Roadside Wildflowers, *Southern Living*, Box C-119, Birmingham, AL 35282.



Become an Oklahoma Native Plant Society member.

Please enroll me as a Member of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society. My dues payment is enclosed for the category checked. Make checks payable to Oklahoma Native Plant Society, and mail to Oklahoma Native Plant Society, 2435 South Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114

_____ \$15.00 Family
_____ \$10.00 Individual
_____ \$ 5.00 Student
_____ \$ _____ contribution (All contributions are tax deductible.)

Renewal

New Membership

NAME : _____ HOME PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ BUSINESS PHONE: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

National wildflower/prairie route could brighten more Oklahoma highways

Several ONPS members reported on this accomplishment in Minnesota -- an 18-mile stretch of highway wildflower preservation, and proposal to extend the route on to Texas. It seems likely to be an item ONPS will either become actively involved in, or at least, report on in coming months.

Public Works magazine did an April feature describing the state's successful development of a roadside policy to find ways for the state to preserve existing native populations, restore native wildflower/grasses where appropriate, and educate the public about natives. The 18-mile route in SE Minnesota was designated and funded within two years after the study began. Six additional routes are planned in 1990. But a "National Wildflower Route" is now proposed, from the North Star State to the Lone Star State, right through the Indian Blanket State.

A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources representative has recently contacted Linda Watson, of the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory at OU (and ONPS board member) to seek information on the plausibility of pursuing a national route, which will depend on identification of corridors of naturally-occurring native prairie or other vegetation communities.

The Minnesota group recommended, "roadside rights-of-way throughout the state where highest quality native vegetation is identified should be designated and signed as wildflower routes." Because the governor's office quickly supported the idea, the program started without delay, and \$100,000 worth of native wildflower/grass seed was purchased and installed.

As to a national route, it has been proposed that a good opportunity for discussion would be at the 12th North American Prairie Conference in Cedar Falls, Iowa in August. In next issue, we hope to report on responses to the Minnesota proposal.

The Gaillardia

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| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
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