



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

### Inside:

- Bluestem pine
- Photo contest
- The mistletoe  
(2 views)
- Name behind the plant
- Indoor outing report
- Chapter news

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recycle paper



Volume 8 Number 1  
Spring 1993

# Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

## Field tripping into spring: opportunities abound!

What part of the state will you investigate? The farthest out west and the highest at Black Mesa? Or SW at Quartz Mtn.? Or the NE (Jim Norman started spring with an Illinois River field trip on March 20), or the SE ... or right in the middle of the state? Don't forget Enid, a city celebrating the Cherokee Strip Centennial and host of the Wildflower Workshop this year. Here's some of the opportunities:

- April 2, 3, 4:** *Watchable Wildlife Weekend* (Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation) in 30 or more State Parks, preserves, nature centers all over Oklahoma. Includes the Tallgrass Prairie, Quartz Mtn., Wichita Mtns. Refuge, Robbers Cave, Kerr Arboretum.
- April 17:** Okla. Acad. of Science field meeting at Quartz Mtn.
- April 17:** NE Chapter field trip on property of Kirk and Loretta Bowers, 8 mi. south of Locust Grove
- April 24:** NE Chapter wetlands tour
- May 1:** Annual meeting, The Nature Conservancy at Beavers Bend State Park
- May 15:** Central Chapter trip to Lexington Wildlife Management Area and Milby's native tree nursery
- May 15:** State Wildflower Day & Quartz Mtn. Wildflower Festival
- May 21-22:** Wildflower Workshop in Enid
- May 28 - 31:** Black Mesa trip

### Notes on activities

- \* The Bowers' property covers over 200 acres and 240 species; meet at J J's restaurant near Peggs (about 8 mi. south of Locust Grove on Hwy 82) at 10 a.m., April 17. For the
- \* wetlands tour (with Dr. Ed Nelson) on April 24, meet on ORU parking lot "D" (Tulsa) at 10 a.m. Date and site of wetlands tour has changed since postcard mailing. **Contact: Betty Kemm, 918-742-4351.**
- \* The Nature Conservancy day at Beavers Bend will include mosses walks, woody plants, wildflowers and reptiles. May 1. **Contact Jan Miller, 918-585-1117.**
- \* The Central Chapter arranged a May 15 trip to the Lexington Wildlife Management area in the southeastern part of Cleveland County, along a part of the Buckhorn Creek watershed. Area is south from Noble on U.S. 77 to Slaughterville Rd., then east 5 1/2 miles. It is Crosstimbers woodland which at some time was cleared for farming, but most recent use before acquisition by the state was as a Naval artillery range. Vegetation is a mixture of native post-oak/blackjack/hickory with prairie openings of mixed grasses, dominated by little bluestem, and relict domesticated plants. Along a 1.2 mile trail, expect in spring to see the woodland floor full of butterfly violets and wood-sorrel. Grassy areas will bear spring beauty, bluets, blue-eyed grass (some white), pretty puccoon, and crow-poison. Late spring brings out blue spiderwort and yellow ragwort and penstemons. Flowering shrubs (black-haw, redbud, rough-leaf dogwood among them) are all along the paths, and large expanses of wild verbena grow on the southern roadsides.
- \* Also on May 15 is a visit to T.H. Milby's native tree nursery. For details, **contact: Ruth Boyd, 405-872-9652**
- \* For more information about the Quartz Mtn. Wildflower Festival on May 15, call **Bob Lindsey 918-224-8004.**
- \* The 16th Annual Wildflower Workshop in Enid offers a chance to celebrate Cherokee Strip Centennial events as well as in-depth presentations on wildflowers in landscaping,

(Cont. on pg. 8)

## Conservation Corner -- by Nora Jones

Old growth shortleaf pine-bluestem once blanketed seven million acres in the Ouachita Mountains in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Fire exclusion, coupled with land conversion, have all but doomed the pine-bluestem. Only about 10,000 acres of intact continuous old growth shortleaf pine remain -- all of it on the McCurtain County Wilderness Area, an island adrift in a fragmented landscape. The periodic fire regime has been so greatly altered on and around the area that the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has committed to a multi-year restoration project on this site.

Dramatic efforts are also being made by the Ouachita National Forest across the state line near Waldron. Restorationists hope to reinject processes that drove the forest years ago and thereby make the habitat more suitable for now rare plants and animals and communities. Their plans would also grow big pine trees, some say at the expense of other forest values.

Treatments to restore the areas include thinning small diameter trees and periodic prescribed burning to encourage grasses and forbs. One of their goals is restoring habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker, an endangered species that creates nest holes in large pines in open stands. The practice also grows big pines -- a lumberman's dream according to some sources. Can we have old growth values, endangered species and lumber production from the same stand? The Ouachita National Forest staff thinks so, and they are embarking on an ecosystem level approach based on a pattern of very long rotations which retains forests in all age classes (See Harris, The Fragmented Forest, for more background).

The vision of the future forest is based on the past. An oldtimer from Big Cedar told me that as a boy he would ride a horse through the open forest of big pines growing on Blue Bouncer Mountain. Now, it's sometimes hard to pick a path through the woods because of shrubby undergrowth. Folks in Arkansas remember being able to drive a buggy through the woods, but it's no longer possible. Second and third growth forests have closely spaced small trees, shrubs and vines.

Elbert Little, author of Forest Trees of Oklahoma and the Audubon field guides to trees, corroborates this change through a series of photos taken in LeFlore and McCurtain Counties over a 50-year period. The 1930's forests have widely-spaced trees subtended by a thick carpet of grass. Photos taken at the same spots in the 1980s show the same trees with small hardwoods crowded into the midstory.

Research done by Ron Masters on the Pushmataha Wildlife Management area showed that repeated cool season burns could recreate shortleaf pine-bluestem. His pre- and post-burn photos are truly amazing. The post-burn photos reminded me of restored longleaf pine-wiregrass systems. In both systems the grass carries periodic fires, clearing out most small-diameter trees and opening up the forest so more light reaches the forest floor.

Thinning out the midstory and injecting prescribed fire into the system has been somewhat controversial. A recent article in *Outdoor News* reported on a recent site visit to the



McCurtain County Wilderness Area. There was some very vocal opposition to implementing the restoration plan. Some said there may not be a viable population of red-cockaded woodpeckers on the Wilderness Area, so why go to all the trouble to restore their habitat? Others felt that managing wilderness areas in general is contradictory and that ODWC should take a hands off approach. Others stated that oak trees are an endangered species in McCurtain County. Many of the opponents were concerned that the area would be opened up to lumbering and would just become another wildlife management area. Despite repeated assurance by ODWC staff, some would not accept the plan at face value. It's clear that not all the heat for implementation of the plan will be coming from drip torches!

As many of you know, The Nature Conservancy has been using prescribed fire to manage and restore its preserves for many years. Dr. Ron Meyers, TNC's national fire management expert, was a leader in the use of fire to restore the longleaf pine-wiregrass system. Ron visited the McCurtain County Wilderness Area recently and was very impressed with what he saw. He also reviewed ODWC's management plan and liked their large scale burn units -- about 1,000 acres each. Few fire breaks will need to be created with units this size so forest fragmentation will be kept to a minimum.

Also, because of the large unit size, a mosaic of burned and unburned patches will be created, thereby allowing diversity in plant responses. Moist sites will not burn or will burn much cooler than dry sites, so oaks and other fire-sensitive species will find a refuge from the flames. TNC's fire management team feels confident that the shortleaf pine-bluestem ecosystem can be restored using ODWC's approach.

These issues will continue to simmer as the plan is implemented. Everyone who has visited the McCurtain County Wilderness Area realizes how special it is. But no matter what our philosophy, we all agree that inventory for and monitoring of rare plants and animals is important. Volunteers who can brave the heat, humidity, ticks and chiggers and who would like to help inventory and monitor Southeast Oklahoma sites, including McCurtain County Wilderness, Ferndale Bog, Cucumber Creek and Boehler Seep, may call me at 918-585-1117 to sign up. ✿

## Photo Notes -- by Bob Lindsey

The 1993 ONPS Photo Contest deadline, April 15, is drawing near for receiving entries. So, start sorting through your slides or pictures. There is one notable change of the rules in 1993: an entry fee of \$2 per person will be charged for all entries up to the maximum of six photos. The board felt a small fee would help cover some of the cost of preparing the display. The awards money will be covered from the ONPS treasury.

We're also trying to spread the word early that the 1994 deadline for photo entries will be February, this to allow the photo committee more time to prepare the posters for the May Wildflower Workshop.

I want to encourage all of you to enter the contest. Each person as a

unique individual sees plants and flowers from a particular perspective. Since our judges are different each year, the style the judges prefer will also change. However, all winning photos have a few things in common. The subject must be sharp, a good specimen, and the background should not compete with the subject.

### Helpful hints

**To achieve a sharp subject:** The depth of field (F-stop) should allow the subject to be in focus. A tripod or flash will help prevent camera shake and photographer jitters that can blur your picture.

**Hints on a good subject:** The plant(s) you choose to photograph should be the healthiest, most colorful,

and freshest of the ones you find. Look for specimens free from bug holes and discoloration. The time of day often affects the appearance of the flower. Some flowers photograph best when backlighted or when shadows show the texture of the petals.

**Hints for a good background:** These are 'nature' photographs, so a background should be natural and muted. Some ways to accomplish this:

a. underexpose the area behind the plant you are photographing by shading that area with a piece of cardboard, etc.;

b. you can underexpose using your flash by setting your camera to take a one or two stop underexposed photo  
(Cont. on pg. 5)

1. This contest is open to the public. All photos entered become the property of ONPS to be used for displays or educational purposes. ONPS will attempt to give credit to photographers.
2. Photographs entered are to be of flowers which grow wild in Oklahoma.
3. Entry deadline is April 15, 1993 or postmarked on or before April 15, 1993.
4. Each contestant may enter a maximum of three unmounted color prints in each of two categories -- a total of six photos. They should be 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 inches in size.
5. A label with the contestant's name, address, phone number, category entered and name of the plant (if known) should be attached to the back of each print.

6. There is an entry fee of two dollars (\$2) per person. This covers up to the maximum of six prints any one person may enter.
7. There are four categories: BEGINNERS for those who have never entered before AMATEUR CLOSE-UP for those who have not placed in an ONPS contest before; images should be of subjects less than a foot across. ADVANCED CLOSE-UP for all who have placed in a previous contest, or those who choose to enter "advanced." The subject should be less than one foot across. SCENIC for subjects a foot or more across where the subject is flowers or plant habitat. This category is open to all

entrants.

8. Contestants may win only one cash prize per category. Prizes are: 1st, \$50; 2nd, \$25; 3rd, \$15. There are 12 cash prizes totaling \$360. Honorable Mentions may be awarded.
  9. A special Merit Certificate will be awarded for the best photo from a "botanical" point of view. All entries are automatically eligible for this award.
  10. Mail entries and \$2 to ONPS.
  11. Awards will be presented at the Oklahoma Wildflower Workshop in May at Enid. Prizes will be mailed to those who cannot be present.
- NOTICE: Entry deadline for the 1994 contest will change to February.

### ONPS 1993 PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ENTRIES SUBMITTED: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORIES ENTERED: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* MAIL BY APRIL 15, 1993 TO:  
\*\*  
\*\* ONPS PHOTO CONTEST  
\*\* TULSA GARDEN CENTER  
\*\* 2435 SOUTH PEORIA  
\*\* TULSA, OK. 74114



PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ON ONPS MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

THIS FORM MAY BE REPRODUCED

## A truly beautiful "ugly" floral emblem -- by Rahmona Thompson

I teach general botany at one of the colleges where Dr. Doyle McCoy once taught. So it was not incredibly surprising one morning as I began botany lab to have Dr. McCoy pop into my classroom. I introduced him to the students, and he recounted a few experiences about teaching general botany at East Central University.

Then, Dr. McCoy told one of his favorite stories: the adoption of the Indian blanket, *Gaillardia pulchella* Foug., as Oklahoma's state wildflower. He explained the mistletoe, *Phoradendron serotinum* (Raf.) M.C. Johnst. [*P. flavescens* (Pursh) Nutt. is a synonym *P. serotinum*], had been designated as a state floral emblem, not a state flower. This peculiar wording, he pointed out, made it possible to convince our state legislators to continue to recognize our floral emblem, while also designating a state wildflower.

Dr. McCoy went on to tell the students something about the life-history of Indian blanket and show them a photograph of the flower.

As I listened to the stories, I also watched the students faces, and wondered if they cared about state flowers or wildflowers. I had previously been involved in numerous conversations about how mistletoe was a very poor representative for the state because of its ugly, highly reduced flower. Did college students care anything about mistletoe or Indian blanket? Discussion in the room, after Dr. McCoy left, seemed to indicate that my students were more interested in previous botany classes at ECU than flowers - much less the state "recognized" flowers.

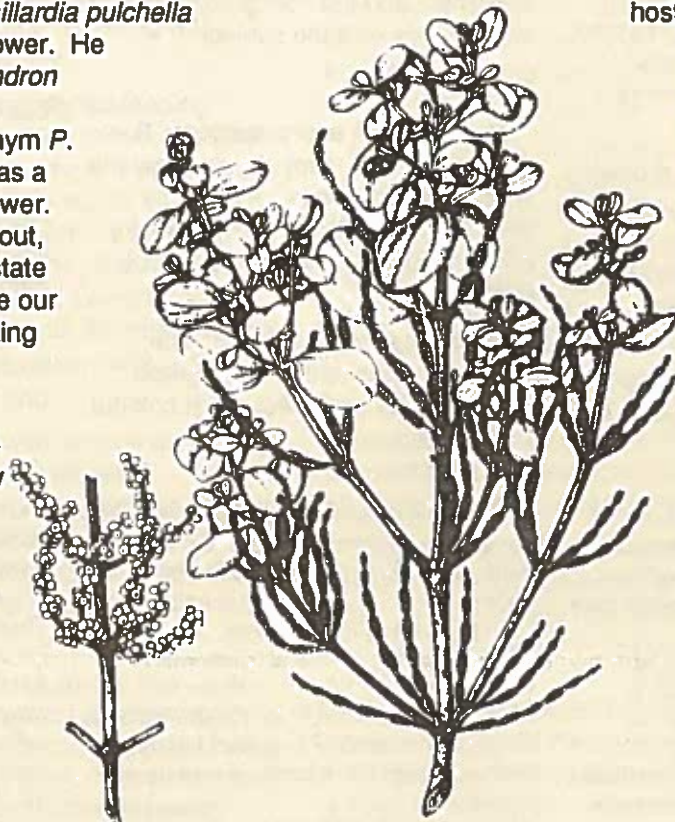
Several class periods later I defined the term "parasite." Immediate questions were raised about mistletoe. Still later in the term, during a lecture on modified roots, I defined "epiphyte" and "haustoria."

Questions: "Was mistletoe an epiphyte (an organism growing on a plant)?" and "Does mistletoe have haustoria (modified roots that penetrate the host)?"

With these questions, I finally had the answer to my question. Oklahomans of all ages are interested in their "ugly" floral emblem. I also realized a truly beautiful aspect about mistletoe: it is a wonderful teaching tool. Few other states are represented by plants that can be used to explain so many modifications found in flowering plants.

In winter, I am lecturing, in general botany, on flowers. Because mistletoe's flowering season occurs from February to March, my students have an excellent fresh example of a highly modified flower to dissect.

Now I am trying to figure out if future generations of college students are going to be curious about two plants, mistletoe and Indian blanket. I certainly hope so; I like having a floral emblem and a state wildflower. Besides, if interest in one plant can help my lectures, just think what two will do. ♡



### Recommended Reading

#### Requiem for a Lawnmower and other Essays on Gardening with Native Plants

by Sally Wasowski with Andy Wasowski

Published by Taylor Publishing Co., 1550 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, TX 75235

Sally Wasowski is a landscape designer who lives in Dallas and is a past president of the Native Plant Society of Texas. In *Requiem...*, she presents a variety of reasons for including natives in our landscapes. She gives basic guidelines for planning and planting different types of native plantings -- a miniature woodland, creekbed plantings, a desert garden, etc. Although the natives she writes about are primarily ones indigenous to various areas of Texas, she really encourages the reader to explore native plant possibilities in their own "neck of the woods."

She has several chapters that are good brief, basic information on a variety of areas, such as imported plants that have become extremely invasive, development of new varieties of buffalograss, and preserving trees on a new homesite while construction is under way, as well as making sure they will live *after* construction!

The essays in this short book (180 pgs.) are four to six pages long, and generally have catchy titles. Mrs. Wasowski writes in a very personal, informal style that is easy and enjoyable to read. There are only a few illustrations, but they are full-page, lovely and delicately colored. I think this might be a good book to give to a "beginning" native gardening friend -- after you've read it yourself, of course! ♡

Review by Karen Haworth

## Botanist's Corner: Mistletoe -- by Paul Buck

*Phoradendron serotinum* (Raf.) Johnston

Every Oklahoma child quickly becomes familiar with the common mistletoe, the green leaved growth on naked branches of large trees in mid-winter. This native plant occurs over most of the state, and is particularly popular as one of the year-end holiday decorations. We all know it is permissible to steal a kiss from someone standing 'under the mistletoe.'

Although considered by many to be a parasite, in reality the plant is only semi-parasitic. It does obtain water, minerals and perhaps some proteins from the host, but is able to carry out photosynthesis and therefore produce most of its own food. In spite of the plant invading its tissue, the host is seldom harmed, unless, of course, there is a very heavy infestation.

Just 100 years ago, in February 1893, mistletoe became the floral emblem of the Territory of Oklahoma. In 1909, the Second State Legislature conferred the same designa-

tion for the State of Oklahoma. The following explanation for its selection appeared in the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, the publication of the Oklahoma Historical Society:

"Tradition has it that the first grave made in Oklahoma Country in the winter after the Opening of 1889 was covered with mistletoe since there were no other floral offerings in the new country except the green of the mistletoe with its white berries growing in great clusters on the elms along the dry creek beds and branches. All through the winter the green bank of the lonely grave could be seen far across the prairie against the sere brown grass or the melting snow of early spring. Thus, the mistletoe became associated with sacred thoughts among the pioneer settlers..."

In Oklahoma, mistletoe is most commonly associated with *Ulmus americana* (American elm), a species which has been badly ravaged by Dutch elm disease, a

fungus with tissue choking the water translocating tissues. Mistletoe may also be found on hackberries, oaks, maples, ash, sycamore and other native deciduous trees. This is fortunate; otherwise the species might well become a candidate for rare or endangered status.

The plants are dioecious (unisexual; staminate and pistillate flowers on different individuals), flowers are about 2 mm across, without petals, and borne on spike-like stalks from the bases of the leaves. The fruit, which are readily consumed by birds, are whitish, mucilaginous, one-seeded drupes and appear during the winter. It has been suggested that dispersal takes place as the sticky seeds are 'glued' to a twig as a bird wipes its bill, or the ingested but unharmed seeds are deposited on a limb with fecal material.

Used as a medicinal plant by Indians and pioneers, a tea was prepared to relax nervous tension, muscle irritabil-

ity, and to increase blood pressure. Other uses were to lessen bleeding, promote clotting, to stimulate uterine contraction, and in arresting postpartum hemorrhage. However, caution is advisable. Like virtually all medications, mistletoe can be poisonous under certain conditions such as improper dosage levels, sensitive individuals or with the very young, elderly or feeble. There is no reliable information on safe dosages. Although consumption of the fruit is harmless to pigs, 13 Hereford cattle forced to consume the plant when their pasture was reduced, died within 10 hours after the onset of symptoms. Death was due to collapse of the cardiovascular system. Several deaths among children, having consumed the fruit, have been documented.

Such is the state's floral emblem, the Oklahoma mistletoe, also *Phoradendron serotinum*, an interesting, beneficial and potentially dangerous member of our native flora. ❀

### Photo contest (Cont. from pg. 3)

and then set the flash for the correct exposure.

Another good way to handle the background is to have it out of focus. A depth of field preview button on some cameras will allow you to see this before you snap the picture.

**Hints about film:** Use the slowest film you can work with because the slower films have less grain and reproduce better. Again this is a good reason for using a tripod. Kodak Ektar print film, Kodachrome, or Velvia slide film are my preferences.

I encourage you to come to the Wildflower Festival at Quartz Mountain State Park on May 15. There will be a full day of activities including photo instruction, slide shows, a seed auction, crafts, and walks in this beautiful and unusual terrain. I'm also excited about the upcoming Black Mesa trip end May. This may be a once-in-a-lifetime photo opportunity, and chance to see some of the special plants and geography

of this area. Make your reservations now -- space is limited.

Have fun with your photography. I look forward to seeing your photos in the up-coming contest. ❀

### NOTICE ALL MEMBERS

Do you know an individual, a church group, scout troop, science or environmental organization, or a business who "encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma native plants?"

*Please think about your community .... Who, or what group, deserves to be recognized, in honor of one of our founders? Make a nomination this year.*

*The Anne W. Long Award  
Awards Committee c/o ONPS*

## The poignant story behind an unusual plant name -- by T.H. Milby

If you have traveled through the Arbuckle mountains during late summer, or explored for plants on the limestone soils in the southern tier of Oklahoma counties along the Red River, you have no doubt seen the handsome, prickly Leavenworth eryngo growing among the prairie grasses of the area. The thistle-like habit of purple and grey fruits and foliage seems to establish the plant's place in the company of the true thistles which it superficially resembles and makes it a bane to the botanical novice wrestling with unfamiliar characters in a taxonomic key.

The name Leavenworth itself is equally misleading, suggesting as it does a namesake for the military leader, Gen. Henry Leavenworth, memory of whom is perpetuated in the town of Leavenworth, Kansas. In actual fact, the name is for Melines Conkling Leavenworth, a less illustrious nephew of the famous general. While less well-known than his more famous uncle, the younger Leavenworth is one whose heroic life and poignant death deserve recognition every bit as much as does the Leavenworth of the Kansas town.

*Eryngium leavenworthii*, along with several other Oklahoma plants, is the namesake of Melines C. Leavenworth who first collected it while serving as an Army surgeon on the frontier during the 1830s. Leavenworth was trained in botany and medicine at Yale, graduating with high honors in 1817, and completing medical studies a year later.

A contemporary of Elliott, Nuttall and Torrey (the latter with whom he collaborated in later years), Leavenworth was appointed by the faculty following graduation to make plant collections in Alabama toward the formation of an herbal of southern plants. At the end of this botanical assignment, he remained in Alabama for a period of time in the practice of medicine and pharmacy. He later returned North where he applied for and was granted a commission as Assistant Surgeon, U.S. Army.

His military career began at Jefferson Barrack, Missouri in September, 1831, followed by nearly a decade of service in various camps and posts in the South as well as on the

Texas and Arkansas frontiers. Included in these latter assignments were intervals at Ft. Towson, and at Ft. Washita near the Red River during the years 1834 - 1835.

He spent the remainder of the decade at several other stations in Texas, Louisiana and Florida before finally being assigned to an Army post in Michigan in 1839. In addition to fulfilling his medical duties, Leavenworth collected plants extensively wherever his military assignments took him, and carried on an extensive correspondence with Torrey and others concerning the plants and vegetation in whatever region his tour of duty lay.

But disappointment came to him along with this latter assignment in Michigan. At the time of his furlough, following a decade of service in remote posts in the South and on the Western frontier, Leavenworth arranged to take the examination before the Army Medical Board required to qualify him for higher rank. But to his dismay, medical standards had been raised during the period of his frontier service, so that he no longer qualified even for the rank he had come to hold as a young surgeon a decade earlier. He subsequently resigned from the Army and returned to his former home in Waterbury, Connecticut to pick up a shattered and prematurely ended career.

The mark of his true character and devotion to duty was revealed over two decades later at the onset of the Civil War. In 1861, at the age of 66 and in less than robust health, Leavenworth volunteered for service as assistant surgeon with the 12th Connecticut Volunteers. He was posted with the unit to Louisiana where, in 1862, he was assigned to Camp Parapet near New Orleans. There, while serving the troops in this alien climate, he contracted a fever and died Nov. 16, 1862, and was buried in front of the breastwork of the fort. His life was thus given for the country that had rejected him for service 20 years before.

The lovely plant, *Eryngium leavenworthii*, as well as *Carex leavenworthii*, *Vicia leavenworthii*, and *Leavenworthia aurea*, are fitting reminders of this selfless man whose early years were spent in botanical exploration of the native plants, and in providing medical service to soldiers on the Oklahoma frontier.

(I am indebted to Rogers McVaugh's account in *Field and Laboratory* 15:57-70, 1947, for details of the life of Leavenworth.) ❀

### NOTE -- April workshops:

ONPS vice president Paul Buck is conducting his Wildflower workshops every Thursday in April at the Tulsa Garden Center. For information, call 918-749-6401.

### Gaillardia

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Vice President: Paul Buck  
Secretary: Pat Folley  
Treasurer: Rebecca Ovrebo  
Historian: Marjorie Franklin

Editing by Marilyn Bell, WriteAngle, Tulsa

### Contributions to Memorial Funds

Since December, 1992, contributors to the  
Anne Long Fund:  
Patricia Chancey  
\*\*\*

Harriet Barclay Fund:  
Ruth Boyd\*  
Paul Buck

\*In memory of Paul Buck's mother, Ruth Virginia Buck

## Indoor outing at OSU report

On February 6, one of those rare, pre-spring days, the Oklahoma State University Botany Department hosted the annual ONPS Indoor Outing. Forty-six people of all ages from 11 Oklahoma communities participated. The theme for the 1993 gathering was "plants: up close and personal." Festivities began with registration, viewing of exhibits and welcome hot coffee accompanied by delicious home-made cookies, breads, etc.

A full day of fascinating programs ensued: Ron Tyrl, Glenn Todd, Jana Biehl, and Linda Gatti-Clark set up botanical experiments and displays which emphasized plants as living systems, not merely attractive parts of the landscape. Dave Meinke described how a fast-growing member of the mustard family is being used to understand the genetics behind plant growth. Sue Studlar introduced participants to the much-overlooked world of the bryophytes (mosses and liverworts). Arnon Rikin described his passion for gourds. Mike Palmer showed slides of ecosystems and plants he encountered during recent trips to Estonia and Romania. John Dole described the use of native wildflowers in the horticulture industry. Jim Ownby discussed the effects of acid rain on native plants. Video-tapes of edible wild plants and plant reproduction were viewed.

Special thanks and congratulations are due to Ron Tyrl, who organized and masterminded the event.

This almost annual event has been held most years since the beginning of the ONPS. In earlier years it was simply called the "Winter Meeting." Previous meetings have been in Stillwater, on the OU campus in Norman, at the Myriad Gardens in Oklahoma City, and on the campus of Tulsa Junior College. It is a welcome bright spot, falling as it does during our winter doldrums. Your officers and board members welcome members' suggestions for future events. ✨

**Report by Mike Palmer and Ruth Boyd.**  
*Dr. Palmer added: "I regret to write that this will be the very last indoor outing hosted by the OSU Botany Dept., as the department will cease to exist on July 1, 1993."*

## Chapter news

**The Central Chapter** met in January for "Attracting Birds to your Yard" by Melynda Hickman, Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, and Steve Thompson, of Martin Park Nature Center. Seven guests and 18 members attended, and learned how to turn their yards into green corridors-lanes of habitat connecting larger areas, such as parks, pastures and farms, and uses of various kinds of plants and feeders.

The February meeting scheduled Dr. Margaret Hamilton, retired botany professor and author, on "woodcarvings of a Native American, and the native woods he uses."

A trip to Sunshine Nursery in Clinton was scheduled for late March; the annual picnic at the Folley Farm on June 25th. Other trips are described elsewhere in this issue.

*From notes by Susan Chambers*

**The Northeast Oklahoma** chapter has quarterly meeting and field trips and projects between meetings.

Jim McPherson, The Nature Conservancy, spoke at the March meeting, with slides of the Black Mesa area. About 35 attended for a wonderful preview of the May trip.

Members help with the mailing of *Gaillardia*, and nine chapter members helped man the ONPS booth at the Garden Center's Green Country Garden Fair March 12-14. On the 12th the fair was open for 2nd & 3rd graders on a field trip from Jackson Elementary School.

The chapter has been asked to advise two outdoor classrooms in the Jenks and Union districts. Members are participating in the Garden Center's Garden Market on March 26-27. Field trips are listed elsewhere in this issue, and the next meeting will be on May 10, with a potluck salad supper before the meeting. ✨

*From notes by Betty Kemm*

## 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.)

Gift or Unbirthday

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal

New Membership

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes on trips *(cont. from pg. 1)*

ethics of collecting, habitat, herbs, history and more. Speakers are among the best botanists and biologists in the area, including Friday night dinner speaker, Dr. James R. Estes of the Bebb Herbarium, whose topic will be "Myths and Images of The Great Plains."

Location for the workshop is the Cherokee Strip Conference Center at 123 West Maine [sic] Enid.

The Saturday morning field trip is a wildflower tour in the limestone cap rock area of the Glass Mountains, and in the Post Oak Cross Timbers region. In the afternoon a visit to Oklahoma's largest wildflower seed producer, Johnston Seed Co., will include blooming fields, and touring the dried wildflower operation that supplies florests.

Announcing the ONPS Photo Contest winners, wildflower-related displays, and plant identifications are other features.

Registration is \$3.50; lunch on Friday, \$6; dinner Friday, \$9; and field trip via bus (includes lunch) Saturday is \$7.50. Pre-registration is required for all meals (by May 14); registration at door will be accepted, but may not include meals.

For more information, call Joanne Orr, 405-521-4037.

\* As *Gaillardia* went to press, Connie Taylor had received over 40 pre-registrations for the Black Mesa trip end May. Based on these, Connie calculated catering and cabin costs, and thought \$75/per person, payable on arrival, for the three nights and all meals would be maximum (less your pre-registration).

The Youth Camp (headquarters) is adjacent to Lake Carl Etling at Black Mesa State Park, about 15 miles NW of Boise City, off Hwy 325. It opens at noon on Friday, May 28; first meal will be served that night around 6:30.

A note about the all-day Sunday hike to the top of the Mesa: Dr. Jim McPherson, trip leader, advises not only bringing along water and stamina, but wear heavy boots for encountering the cacti. Full trip to the top and back is six miles to Oklahoma's highest point at 4,973 ft. "Rockies in the Spring," as Dr. Taylor puts it. If you missed the previous description of this trip, and still want to come along, you can contact Connie Taylor at 405-924-5163. The cut-off date for reservations (meals and lodging) is April 20. ☺

**Copy & art deadline  
for next Gaillardia:  
May 15**

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

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