



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.

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Volume 9 Number 2
Summer 1994

**COPY AND ART DEADLINE
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 AUGUST 1994.**

CALENDAR

Ed. note: to make the calendar a better reference, I have put either the page number for a more detailed explanation, or the name of the person to contact for more information. The green pull-out sheet enclosed with the spring newsletter contains addresses and phone numbers for contact.

18 June ONPS Board Meeting. St. Stevens United Methodist Church, 820 McGee Dr., Norman, 10:00 a.m. Members are always welcome at board meetings. Contact Connie Taylor.

25 June Central Chapter annual picnic at Kessler Farm. See page 10.

30 June Call for award nominees. Jeff Black. Form on page 7.

16 July: 9:00 a.m.: Central Chapter field trip and catered luncheon in Perkins.

See page 10. Register by 11 July, Pat Folley @ 872-8361

No Central Chapter meeting in August. See you at the Orchid Tour.

13 August 1994: Bog-tripping field trip to SE Oklahoma. Native orchids and lots more. More on page 10. Contact Jimmy Norman.

15 August 1994: Fall *Gaillardia* deadline.

September Central Chapter meeting open. Any ideas?

30 Sept-Oct 2, Oklahoma Academy of Science fall field meeting.

7, 8 & 9 October 1994: ONPS Annual Meeting: Deer Run Lodge, near Durant. Details and registration form enclosed..

15 November 1994 Winter *Gaillardia* deadline.

Continuing the series: **Meet your officers and boardmembers: Judy Jordan, Treasurer**

Judy has a BA in English and an MA in Anthropology from the University of Oklahoma. For several years she worked as Oral History Coordinator on the Doris Duke Indian Oral History Project at the University's American Indian Institute. Later she served for seventeen years as the financial officer of the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, retiring from the Museum last June. Her husband, Bill Jordan, is retired from the Administrative Affairs office of the University. Judy has always been interested in native plants, having an especial interest in the ethnobotany of some Southern Plains Indian tribes. She also likes birding, canoeing, hiking, and other outdoor activities. She looks forward to learning more about Oklahoma flora through the ONPS. Judy admits to enjoying the Treasurer's position, because she gets to see what everyone is doing -- when the bills come in!

"'Come', say the churches of the valleys, after a season of dry years, 'let us pray for rain.' They would do better to plant more trees."
..... Mary Austin, from *Land of Little Rain*

CONSERVATION CORNER

thanks to Dr. Paul Nighswonger, who sent us this gem!

LAMENT OF A FIELD BIOLOGIST

by George W. Folkerts

My former choice collecting spots
Are shopping center parking lots.
The meadow, once abuzz with bee,
Is still now, thanks to DDT.
Shades of Rachel Carson,
Whatever will become of me!

The glen where trilliums lolled in shade
And toadlets hopped, and chipmunks played,
In a watery grave has lain for years
Drowned by the Corps of Engineers.
My wild world is sinking fast,
Whatever will become of me!

The marsh, a haunt of coots and rails,
Where Typha waved and wagged its tails,
Succumbed to an ignominious fate,
It's a cloverleaf on the Interstate.
Nature heaves a dying breath,
Whatever will become of me!

Clear birch-edged stream with fauna rank,
With iris blue upon your bank,
Your poisoned pools I now may scan,
My seine haul yields one Falstaff can.
Everything I love is gone,
Whatever will become of me!

The fields are being, with great precision
Transformed into a subdivision,
The Eagle falls, the lily dies,
And on the road a 'possum lies.
No doubt what will become of me;
Molecular biology!

GLUEDOBBER'S FIELD

by Patricia Folley

As part of the Wildflower Workshop, a tour of the Tulsa Nature Parks was scheduled for those who didn't have time for the long trip to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. As I'd been to the Tallgrass Prairie, but hadn't seen Redbud Valley or Oxley Nature Center, I offered to "help" with the parks. First, though, was a preliminary walk-through, courtesy of Betty Kemm, on the Thursday before. We started in Redbud Valley, because it is somewhat off the main roads, and is also cool and shady. There were plants in that park that I'd never even heard of, and a few that were on my all-time most-wanted list (to photograph, not to keep). The little pink-and-white columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, was still blooming in hand-size patches of sunlight in rocky spots. An old favorite, climbing milkvine, *Matelia gonocarpa*, was blooming at a turn in the trail. The dry, open top was a total surprise: widow's cross sedums, *Sedum pulchellum*, was everywhere, mixed with *Gaillardia pulchella* and others. What could top that?

Gluedobbers' Field, that's what! An open, sunny hayfield in southeastern Tulsa, it got its strange name from the group of model-airplane builders who fly their toys there. Three rolls of film later, we had to leave for the day. Two, maybe three species of Indian paintbrush punctuated with phlox in white and blue and lavender; pale custard-yellow *Potentilla recta*, a cinquefoil; more widow's cross; more *Gaillardia*; green milkweed, *Asclepias viridens*; Junegrass, *Koeleria cristata*; blue-eyed grass, yarrow, pale purple coneflowers, prairie larkspur -- the list could go on for pages. When we got back with the tour on Saturday, there were even more that had opened in the interim: notably, *Talinum calycinum*, the fameflower (because it lasts only one day).

What is a field-trip report doing in the Conservation Corner? Because Gluedobbers' has been sold, the deal done, the zoning already in place. Next year, this natural miracle of a prairie will be a sterile, bermuda-grass desert: a golf course. Dripping poison, no doubt. The Northeast Chapter plans a plant rescue, to begin in the fall. Wish I had a sunny meadow with limestone scaling-out in patches for the widow's cross, lush creases full of irids and phloxes, and everywhere *Gaillardia*. If you can, when the call goes out, help. Gluedobbers' is too good to lose.

Have you noticed the fact that we've had only guest articles in this column lately? It's because we need someone to help Mike Palmer, to co-chair the Conservation Committee. You needn't be an expert. If you care about the little green lives that are treated so carelessly by this culture we are caught in, call or write Connie Taylor at (405)924-5163, or Rte 1, Box 157 / Durant OK 74701 and offer to be one of the team.

GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE

The Cowboy Rose

by Ann Randle,

Owner of *Colorscape* Garden Design and Consultation.

When I taught public school art I learned that the favorite color of twelve-year-olds is purple -- preferably the screaming, magenta variety of purple. Probably this, at least partly, explains why scouts usually would ask about *Callirhoe involucrata* on nature walks. It is visually magnetic during its bloom period and especially obvious in areas where its normally taller grassy companions in the wild have been mowed. It is, in fact, one of the most trouble-free perennial wildflowers available to us and has a bloom period that rivals in length any garden perennial I know of. Its flowers are evident on roadsides from early May in southern Oklahoma to at least the end of June and it usually shows up now and then through the rest of the summer.

Propagation is moderately easy if your timing is good. Seed and tubers are both available on the retail market although they will probably have to be mail-ordered. Purchased seed will germinate much better if given a cold, moist stratification. I plant the seed in a soil mix made of one part vermiculite and one part peat moss. This medium is dampened and put into a styrofoam container (the ones 8 oz. of fresh mushrooms come from the grocery in). After sowing the container is put into a transparent freezer bag and set on a refrigerator shelf in a location where its consumption by accident is unlikely. After three months, move the entire package to a window sill. Unseal a little to provide some ventilation. Check often after 10 to 12 days and remove the container from the bag when germination occurs in about two weeks. I have never collected seed in the wild but suspect that if this were the seed source and it was planted immediately after its collection when it was very fresh it might germinate well without the cold treatment. It would be worth trying in mid- to late- summer when transplanting out the seedlings would have a good chance of success.

Dormant tubers can be purchased in early spring. I have tried this and found the quality excellent. These tubers look like pale carrots and experts state they can be very large in old plants. I have never dug one in the wild that had a root larger than a medium size carrot, and found that size a challenge to replant as even then the tap root required a hole deeper than my sharpshooter is long. Plant immediately on receiving the shipment in the mail --

preferably in a spot that remains relatively dry if the weather is still chilly. The one consistent problem with this species is its tendency to rot if kept damp during dormancy. Water to settle the tubers in after planting and then do not water again until new growth is evident.

Transplanting from the wild works well if done early enough in the year and fast enough in the event. You may need to mark the spot in the fall so you can find it in early spring for the transplanting. An ordinary garden fork will lift out a large clump of soil if the soil is damp and not too rocky. The tuber can then be loosened from its surrounding dirt with a minimum of damage. Try to decide ahead where to replant so that desiccation is minimized. After planting, don't despair if old branches seem to die. New leaves will probably come out at the center of the crown.

Allow up to three feet for this plant to spread or use a plant species next to it that won't mind being crawled under or over. It should be located near the front edge if used in a traditional flower bed as it rarely grows over one foot tall. Rock garden enthusiasts will find this plant appropriate in form and cultural demands. In a wild or meadow garden try to locate it where it won't be completely hidden by taller plants at the time of its peak bloom. I think it would be fun to plant with one or more *Liatris* species in a drift crowded behind it and perhaps a pink *Oenothera* (*O. berlandieri* or *O. speciosa*) near it to calm its color down slightly. I wonder also if it wouldn't liven up the ubiquitous 'Blue Rug' junipers if it were planted among them in those large parking lot kind of areas where junipers are so often used. Both plants have similar soil, light and water requirements. A more traditional combination might be to use it in front of a grey *Artemisia* as at the base of an *A. x 'Powis Castle'*. Planting it with Rose Campion (*Lychnis coronaria*) would produce a strong, if limited, palette.

I have never seen this plant for sale in a nursery. It is possible that it may be available near Dallas at Kings Creek Gardens in Cedar Hill, Texas. The phone there is 1-214-291-7650. Other native plant nurseries may have it. Tubers can be purchased by mail from Wildseed, Inc.; P.O. Box 308; Eagle Lake, TX 77434; tele. 1-800-848-0078. Seed is available by mail from Green Horizons; 218 Quinlan #571; Kerrville, TX 78028; tele. 1-210-257-5141. ☼

☞ *Just a thought: the seed pods on Callirhoe are easy to find and gather. Chapters or individuals might want to take on harvesting them as a service.....Ed.*

COURCAMP WINS HARRIET BARCLAY AWARD

by Patricia Folley

Each spring, the Harriet Barclay award is presented to Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science member who submits the best research paper in the discipline of Botany. Initiated by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society as a memorial for Dr. Barclay, the award currently consists of \$25 in cash and a handsome wall plaque bearing the name of the winner and the date of the award. While a check for the cash award is made on the final evening of the OJAS spring meeting, the plaque must await the judges' decision, and is then delivered to the recipient's school for presentation during its awards program.

For four of the last five years, the award has gone to a student at McLoud High School. It was my privilege to carry the plaque to McLoud this spring, and after delivering it to Kelly Courcamp, I stayed and visited with her teacher, Bruce Smith. He told me that he specifically targets the Barclay award in helping his students design their projects, as he is himself working toward an advanced degree in botany at OSU. Miss Courcamp put a great deal of time and effort into her project, "A Study of Possible Hybridization Among Two Species of the Genus *Euphorbia*", involving the detailed examination of a population of *Euphorbia* plants, and it does not in any way lessen the honor she received to mention that it helps to have a teacher who enjoys his subject and his vocation.

This was also my first opportunity to serve as a judge in the OJAS contest, with Dr. Connie Taylor and some 25 other science professors. It is an experience that more of us should enjoy: the young scientists, some of them having access to high-tech equipment through a parent or teacher, making presentations that any college teacher would be proud of. What seemed to impress my fellow judges the most, however, was the understanding of the requirements of science that each one demonstrated. The amount of work that was done, and the ingenuity applied to the interpretation, counted for just as much as the computer-generated presentations and papers. Perhaps in the future, there should be an additional award for the teacher who gives so freely of his time and interest.

Congratulations to Kelly Courcamp, the 1994 winner of the Harriet Barclay Award, and to her teacher, Bruce Smith of McLoud High School. 🌸

1994 ONPS PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS

by Bob Lindsey, Chairman of Photography Committee.

The 1994 ONPS photo contest drew 92 photographs, submitted by 21 individuals. The February 1 closing date may have been the cause of fewer entries submitted than in prior years, but the quality just seems to grow better with time.

By category, the winners were:

For "HABITAT", 37 entries submitted

1. Patricia Folley, Quartz Mtn. Red Bud.
2. Dorothy Norris, Lotus
3. Laurie Stillings, Gaillardia in Panhandle

For "BEGINNERS", 16 entries submitted

1. Maura McDermott, Lotus
2. Ann Bishop, Black-eyed Susan
3. Bill Jordan, Yucca

HM Marsha Strasia, Gaillardia

For "AMATEUR CLOSE-UP" 17 entries

1. Anton Kammerlocher, Sunflower
2. Bill Jordan, Poppy
3. Dr. Easterling, Purple Coneflower

For "ADVANCED CLOSE-UP", 22 entries

1. Jennifer Lindsey, Northern Nemastylis
2. Warren Williams, Columbine
3. Laurie Stillings, Bluebells

HM Dorothy Norris, Brown Mushroom

HM Jim Norman, Sensitive Briar

HM Jack Taylor, Bicolor Composite

For "BEST BOTANICAL FEATURES", chosen from the entire entry field:

Jim Norman, Trout Lily

Serving as judges were: Nora Jones, Director of Science and Stewardship for The Nature Conservancy, Natalie Green, owner of Apertures Photo Store in Tulsa, and Tom Beecher, former commercial photographer in New York, now working toward a Fine Arts degree at Tulsa University.

(Ed. note: The early entry date was dictated by our commitment to presenting the awards at the annual Wildflower Workshop. Let's each of us make a commitment to encouraging participation. Winter is an excellent time for reviewing your past year's work and selecting the best. Ruth Boyd at 405-872-9652 and Sue Amstutz at 918-742-8374 keep the contest displays busy all year long: at public libraries, garden centers, and schools of all levels.) Call either of these ladies to arrange for a display.

The Botanist's Corner

by Paul Buck, Tulsa

Passiflora incarnata L.

One of the more interesting plant families occurring in Oklahoma is the Passifloraceae or Passion Flower family. It is represented in the state by two species, the large-flowered *Passiflora incarnata* L. or "maypop", and the smaller-flowered *P. lutea* L. or "yellow passion flower". If one will just take the time to carefully study the strikingly beautiful flowers there is no doubt any other member of the family will be recognized immediately.

In Oklahoma, the larger, more abundant *P. incarnata* is generally called may pop, but in the southeastern United States the more common vernacular name is apricot vine. Other common names are maypop herb, passion flower, and passion vine. The plant is an herbaceous perennial vine reaching 9 meters (30 feet) in length and climbs via tendrils from the axils of the leaves. The alternate leaves are about 10 cm (4") long, 7.5 cm (3") wide and with 3 to 5 lobes bearing fine teeth on the margins.

One of the peculiar charms of the plant rests in the flowers, which bear a fancied resemblance to the instruments of the crucifixion of Christ, consequently the scientific name, *Passiflora*. The family is primarily native to tropical America with the first report of the genus being made by Spaniards in South America in the early 16th century. Detailed descriptions of those species were sent to Europe and portray a flower remarkably similar to our *P. incarnata*.

It was the Jesuits following the conquistadors who provided the legend associating the flower with Christ's suffering or the divine passion. Today a wide variety of interpretations of the floral parts exist and the following are but a few found in the literature:

The ten parts of the floral envelope (5 sepals and 5 petals) are said to represent the ten apostles present at the crucifixion, Peter who denied and Judas who betrayed being absent.

The showy, double corona of filaments, within the corolla, is taken by some to represent the crown of thorns, may suggest it is emblematic of the halo, and yet others claim the outer filaments represent the countless disciples and the inner ones the crown of thorns.

The five stamens are suggestive of the five wounds.

The three styles with their capitate stigmas symbolize the three nails and the ovary the hammer used to drive them.

The white tint of the petals signifies purity and the blue

tint, heaven.

The curling tendrils represent the whips with which Jesus was scourged and the leaves, shaped like a lance or pike, refer to that used to pierce his side.

The flower remains open three days which symbolizes the three year ministry.

All of this makes an interesting and fanciful interpretation of one of our most unusual and beautiful flowers.

May pop has been used as both food and medicine in Oklahoma. The fruit is a yellow, egg-shaped berry about 5 cm (2") in length. Although edible directly from the vine and a welcome

thirst-quencher, there is little substance available and it is more esteemed when made into jelly, sherbet, or a refreshing social drink, the latter a common usage by the Cherokee Indians.

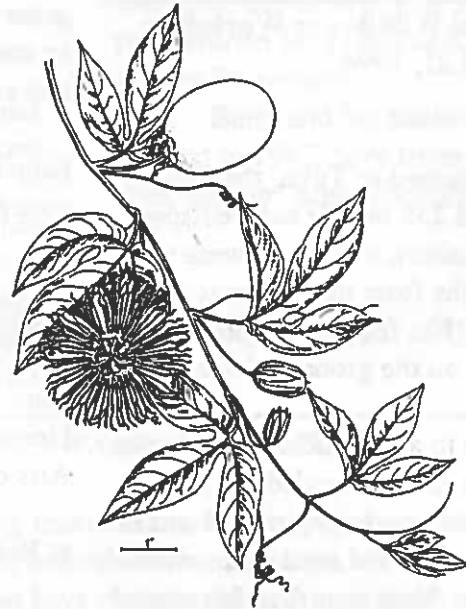
P. incarnata has reportedly been used to treat a variety of medical problems including convulsions, spasmodic disorders, epilepsy and insomnia. Paul Hamel and Mary Chiltoskey, in their book **Cherokee Plants**, indicate the Cherokees used the roots for treating wounds, boils, ear-

aches, and for babies difficult to wean. In addition, the USDA's **A Guide to Medicinal Plants of Appalachia** states the plant has been used to lower blood pressure, increase respiration and as an aphrodisiac, particularly for elderly men.

However, a word of warning before attempting to use may pop. In their book **Medical Botany**, Walter and Memory Lewis of Washington University in St. Louis list the passion flower family (Passifloraceae) among those containing cyanogenic glycosides, a precursor of hydrogen cyanide, a poison which will block atmospheric oxygen in metabolic respiration resulting in death. It behooves each of us to be knowledgeable when it comes to our diverse flora. Frequently there is both nutritive and medical value to our native flora but at the same time, danger may lurk behind the most beautiful of plants. 🌸

PASSIFLORA INCARNATA L.

(PASSIFLORACEAE)



Contributions to Memorial Funds

Contributions to the Harriet Barclay Fund during the past quarter were made by:

Jim Norman, Muskogee

Paul Buck, Tulsa

Muskogee New Friends Club, in" appreciation of Jim Norman"

No new donations for the Anne Long Fund have been recorded.

Contributions to these memorial funds may be sent to the ONPS' return address at the Tulsa Garden Center..

Report of the 17th Annual Wildflower Workshop May 20 and 21, 1994

by Joanne Orr

The Wildflower Workshop returned to Tulsa, the town where it all began in 1977, and 255 people enjoyed spectacular weather, intriguing speakers, and went home with a handful of buffalo fur, a trophy from the Saturday field trip to the Tall Grass Prairie. (No, the fur was not attached to the buffalo, but was on the ground where they had shed their winter coats.)

The Workshop rotates to a new location each year to give all Oklahomans access to the knowledge generously shared by Oklahoma botanists, hobbyists and out of state experts. It is a low-cost, informal workshop which was first held in 1977 in Tulsa. Next year the 18th annual Workshop will be held in the northwest part of the state, possibly at Black Mesa. The Workshop is jointly sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc., the Oklahoma Native Plant Society and several local sponsors. This year, they included the Tulsa Garden Club and the Tulsa Council of Garden Clubs.

Speakers included Steve Holland from the Iowa Department of Transportation and Stacy Armstrong from

BESS SNODGRASS AWARD

**In memory of the coreopsis that bloom in the Arbuckles and in recognition of those who carry on Oklahoma's legacy of wildflowers.
Betty Ann Kemm, 1994**

he Missouri Department of Transportation who described prairie restoration and wildflower programs in their states. Harvey Payne, director of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, shared his spectacular slides during the Friday evening dinner and described how it all began.

A large selection of potted wildflower plants were available, along with seeds, gifts, reference books, dried wildflowers and grasses and free printed handouts about wildflowers.

The number attending the Wildflower Workshop is increasing every year. In 1992 at Lawton, registration was 135, and in 1993 at Enid, 165 people attended.

An annual feature of the Wildflower Workshops is the awarding of the Bess Snodgrass Award, established by John F. Snodgrass and his brother, Charles H. Snodgrass in memory of their mother, Bess Snodgrass who did so much to establish the coreopsis in the Arbuckle Mountain area. (see another article on the Snodgrass Award on page 8)

We thought our members would enjoy reading the biographical background used in presentation of the award to one of our own:

Betty Ann Kemm

Betty Ann Harner Kemm was born in Joplin, Missouri, where she attended public schools and obtained an Associate of Arts degree from Joplin Junior College (now Missouri Southern State College). She then went on to the University of Missouri, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in botany.

In 1947 and 1948 she was an instructor in biology at Rider College in New Jersey.

A resident of Tulsa since 1953, she has been involved as a volunteer in community and conservation activities for many years. She was one of the founders of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society and was its first president, from 1986 to 1988, and has been president of the Northeast Chapter of ONPS since 1991.

A member of the Board of Directors of the Tulsa County Conservation District since 1988, she is currently serving as Chairman of the Board. In 1993 the six-county Tall Grass Resource Conservation and Development organization presented her an award for Outstanding Contribution to Tourism Promotion for her work as chairman of the RC&D's Tourism Committee.

She was president of the Tulsa Garden Center, Inc., 1989-1991, has served as a board member and Conservation Chairman of the Tulsa Garden Club, and has been a board member of Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, Inc., and Pride in Tulsa, Inc. She is also a member

>>continued on page 7

NEW LIFE MEMBERS ADDED

Two new life memberships have been received since the first edition of Gaillardia: Richard Bradley of Tulsa, and Joyce Meyer of Stillwater. These bring to eight the total life memberships received since they were instituted two years ago. As we haven't been in the habit of listing them before, those previously enrolled are: Patricia Folley of Noble; Mrs. Theresa Grosshans of Tulsa; Nora Jones of Tulsa; Ramond Kays of Stillwater; W. E. Long of Tulsa; and Dr. Eugene Majerowicz of Los Angeles, California. Hmm...none from Oklahoma City! OKC, where are you? Seriously, we appreciate those who have demonstrated this faith in our organization, and our commitment to the natives. ♻️

<<<<<continued from page 6: Betty Kemm

of The Audubon Society, Up With Trees, The National Wildflower Research Center, and other groups working to preserve the environment.

Betty has presented slide programs on "Oklahoma Wildflowers" and "Gardening with Wildflowers" to numerous school groups, garden clubs, and other organizations, and has taught a Tulsa Public Schools Community Education course on "Oklahoma Wildflowers". A wild-

flower photographer, she won first place in the adult division of the 1994 photo contest at the Tulsa Garden Center.

For many years she has been involved in arrangements for the Resource Management Conference sponsored annually in Tulsa. She has also helped coordinate plans for the 17th annual state Wildflower Workshop, to be held in Tulsa in May, 1994.

She is a past president of the Gillies (1975-1976), the service organization for the Thomas Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa; was a Girl Scout leader and neighborhood chairman for twelve years; was a member of the Board of the Tulsa Chapter of American Association of University Women from 1969 to 1978; and is active in First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa, which she has served as an elder, a deacon, and as Womens' Association president. She is the historian for Presbyterian Women of the Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery.

Betty and her husband, James Kemm, whom she married in 1947, have three daughters, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. ☺

ANNE W. LONG AWARD NOMINATION

Once again, ONPS will recognize outstanding contributions to the purposes of the Society via the award named for the ONPS founder. Individuals, groups of individuals, scout troops, church groups, science or environmental clubs, businesses or similar organizations who have contributed to the purposes of ONPS are eligible for the award. Recognition and presentation of the award will be made at the Annual Meeting of ONPS in October.

The deadline for nominations is September 1, 1994.

Nominations are to be made on this form, and submitted directly to the chair of the Awards Committee: Dr. Jeff Black, East Central University, Department of Biology, Ada, OK 74820. All nominations will be treated with confidence.

NOMINEE _____ NOMINATION BY _____

Contact Person _____ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Date _____

Note: Please use separate sheets to provide detailed information supporting the nomination. Such material is necessary for the Awards Committee to make final decisions. Nominations may be submitted any time prior to the 1st September deadline.

ELDERHOSTEL COURSE

Of interest to ONPS members

Contributed by Ron Tyr1

GRASSES AND GRASSLANDS

October 2-8, 1994

Grasses, like sunlight, air and water are taken for granted. Agnes Chase's quote aptly describes the importance of grasses to humans. Under the tutelage of OSU grass researchers, become acquainted with the uniqueness of the grasses. Learn how they are identified, how they have evolved, how they dominate the landscape, and how they have been used by us in so many ways. Two day-long field trips to the tallgrass prairies and shortgrass plains of Oklahoma will complement lectures and laboratory work. Vigorous outdoor activity is planned.

This six day program will be conducted on the campus of Oklahoma State University located in north-central Oklahoma. Hostellers will be housed in the air-conditioned Student Union Hotel, which offers beautifully appointed rooms with private baths and is located in the center of the campus. Meals will be served and classes will be conducted in the Student Union and in campus research laboratories.

The program's leader is Dr. Ronald J. Tyr1, Professor of Botany and Curator of the Oklahoma State University Herbarium. Cost is \$350 for those staying on campus and \$200 for those commuting. To enroll or for further information, call Kaye Walker at (405)744-5647. Dr. Tyr1 may be contacted at (405)744-9558.



COREOPSIS ADDING COLOR
TO OKLAHOMA'S LANDSCAPE

by Sharon Burris, *Ardmoreite*, and contributed by Joanne Orr from the Oklahoma Highway Beautification Program.

Bluebonnets may have Texans smiling, but at least one person says the blue flowers have nothing on Oklahoma's coreopsis, the brilliant yellow blossoms that brighten the state's roadways and fields each spring and summer.

Bess Snodgrass feels a personal satisfaction whenever she sees the daisy-like blooms along Interstate 35 south of Davis. She should -- she and a yard man planted them several years ago, and have watched them spread along the medians and shoulders since then. "We don't advertise any of our wildflowers enough in Oklahoma," said Mrs. Snodgrass, who would admit only to being in her 90s. "Oklahoma probably has as many wildflowers as anyone." But

the most beautiful, she believes, are the Coreopsis. "They'll just grow out of rock practically," she laughs. "They're hearty and they don't need much water." Besides brightening state highways and fields, they are beautiful in arrangements, either alone or in bunches....

Mrs. Snodgrass said she can't remember exactly how long ago she and a yard man hauled seeds and tubs of coreopsis uprooted from her yard in Ardmore to plant along I-35, but it wasn't too many years after the interstate opened in the mid-60s. Most of the flowers are clustered along the most northern range of hills in the Arbuckle Mountains south of Davis. She takes sole responsibility for those.....In a way, the flowers are a reciprocal Mother's Day gift. The blooms she and others have planted along the state's byways are an every-day gift to the motorists passing by, and her Mother's Day gifts have traditionally included a drive through the mountains to see the flowers she loves so much.

● *Ed. note: Coreopsis lanceolata*, the Coreopsis species planted by Mrs. Snodgrass and others over much of Oklahoma, is a perennial, easily grown from seed or from offsets produced naturally by the parent plant. It is, as Ruth Boyd likes to say "gloriously invasive", spreading to cover whole hills, banks or terraces with its big showy yellow flowers. You needn't raid the roadsides to start it: any soil, from rocky to clay to sandy, will do, but it should have a tilt to it, and sufficient rain in spring. Native to central and eastern Oklahoma. Contact Ruth Boyd at (405)872-9652 or Pat Folley at the Gaillardia's address to arrange for seeds or plants. ☼



Coreopsis lanceolata L.

INDOOR OUTING 1994: The Treasurer's Report

To the fuller report on the Indoor Outing last February, printed in the Spring *Gaillardia*, these additional data:

Income included \$237 from registrations, \$12 from sale of note cards, \$35 from raffle of plants and book, and \$75 in new memberships. Expenses were \$7.68 for coffee, tea and cups, \$2.57 for name tags, \$29.56 for donuts, \$8.64 for printing extra newsletters and programs, and \$182.35 for printing of copies of the new *Keys to the Families* by the Flora of Oklahoma project. A net profit of \$6.20 was returned to the common fund. ☼

FIELD TRIPS

by Jimmy Norman, Field Trip Co-Chair

ORCHID TOUR

(by Pat Folley, because Jimmy is too modest to tell about it.)

Southeast Oklahoma in August?! If that doesn't get your wheels turning, ask any one who has ever raced behind Jim Norman from one orchid patch to another for an account. We'll meet this year at Raymond Gary State Park's parking lot at 9 a.m. on the 13th of August. In an air-conditioned car, it's not too hot and humid, but you'll want old tennys or rubber boots, and plenty of gas in the buggy, because Jimmy knows all the good places, and will try to show them all to you. R. G. S. P. is east of Hugo, reached from highway 70, and nearest the town of Swink.

On previous orchid tours, we saw several populations of the yellow fringed orchid, *Platanthera ciliata*, which is really a glowing orange. Also, crane-fly orchid, *Tipularia discolor*, and three-bird orchid, *Triphora trianthoiflora*. Also, lots of ferns and neat, strange trees. If you ever take pictures on a field trip, this is the one!

CAMP CHRISTIAN TOUR

The traditional early-spring wildflower tour in beautiful NE Oklahoma took place on April 9, led by (who else) Jim Norman. The following is a column written for the Muskogee newspaper by Jimmy Norman.

This past Saturday, the Oklahoma Native Plant Society held its first wildflower trip of the year at beautiful, wooded, Camp Chris-

tian. The camp overlooks the upper end of Fort Gibson Lake in Mayes County.

As chairman of this event, I had my usual doubts and fears that with rain predicted, no one would show up. Fortunately, I was wrong on both counts: what little rain fell was no problem, and we had a really great turnout of 50 "weed-watchers" from all over.

Jim and Maurine Kerr even came up from Dallas, Texas. And what a relief it was to me when our two most faithful professional botanists arrived to help locate and identify all these wild plants.

Dr. Connie Taylor, the society's newly-elected president, teaches botany at Southeastern State University in Durant. Dr. Paul Buck is from Tulsa University. Without Dr. Buck's skillful and dedicated service through the years, I firmly believe the society would have folded long ago. Now, with a membership of more than 300, the society is alive and well.

NOTICE

- > Preregistration is now required for all field trips.
- > Field trip announcements will contain the name, address, and telephone number of the leader. If you have doubts about terrain, difficulty, etc., ask.
- > Field trips take place rain or shine. Proper dress and shoes, hat, etc., are essential. Bring water and lunch.
- > Participation is at your own risk
- > All ONPS field trips are open to the public at no charge, unless charges per member are specified in the announcement. Visitors and newcomers are always welcome.
- > Chapter-initiated field trips are also open to all ONPS members who may be able to attend. Please register.
- > Next state-wide event will be the orchid tour in SE Oklahoma on 13 August. Details at left. To register, just notify Jim Norman at (918)682-1896 or 502 North 14th, Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401.
- > To register for other events, notify the person listed on the notice. Names, address and phone are on the green insert. It is never too late or too early for planning!

But for dedicated support, my hat is off to Dr. Jeff Burkhart. He was only able to stay just over an hour, but drove from Phillips University near Enid to see how things were going. Jeff and I are co-chairs of the field trip committee.

But enough of this; let's look at what's "growing on" in the wooded hills of Camp Christian. We were scattered all over -- Connie had her van load of students and others; Paul had a group of attentive followers and Dr. Rebecca Troth had her ecology class from Rose State in tow.

Me, I tagged along to identify a bird song now and then, and tried to show someone a pileated woodpecker with my binoculars whether they wanted to see it or not. Of course, I'm always available should the botany profs run into a difficult problem in plant identification. Fortunately, this need never seems to occur.

Noon arrived, and we gathered around picnic tables for a sack lunch. Then we headed out in a 16-car caravan to Cedar Crest, on Spring Creek near Locust Grove. Here, through the generosity of our friends Steve and Sandy Dunham, we were able to examine a grand assortment of spring flowers covering the hillside facing Spring Creek.

Among the early bloomers we found were: Dutchman's Breeches, Yellow Trout Lily, Bloodroot, Wild Ginger, May Apple, Green Violet and many others. This area is a botanical paradise.

But I had other plans for this bunch, so we thanked our hosts

and sped off toward Muskogee. The road from Peggs to Hulbert and on south to Fort Gibson Dam was at its scenic best. Hillsides were awash with blooming dogwood. Arriving at Fort Gibson Dam and the Grand River, my botanist friends enjoyed a change of pace oohing and ahing over a pair of bald eagles at their nest and feeding their young.

Playing my last trump card, I led the remaining cars through the marvelous azalea gardens at Honor Heights Park, then bade them goodbye as they headed west. ☼

CHAPTER NEWS

Central Chapter

ANNUAL JUNE PICNIC and wildflower walk is to be held at the experimental / organic farm of Dr. Ed Kessler. Located near Purcell, Oklahoma, the 220-acre farm is maintained in conjunction with the University of Oklahoma, and, since it is operated in an environmentally-pure condition, full of wonderful plant and animal life.

With the usual brown-bag lunch, meet us at the farmhouse at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 25. Call Ruth Boyd at 872-9652 for directions. (The usual card announcement will be sent to the regular attenders.)

NO PICNIC

by Wayne Chambers.

By the time July field trips roll around we're all a little tired of stale baloney sandwiches. So for this trip we're having something different. A catered **herbal** luncheon. We will meet at Bob & Norma Constine's organic herb farm in Perkins. The Constines are doing research work on plants to attract beneficial insects. They are also studying various plants for use as cover crops. Much of their work is in association with the U. S. D. A. and the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Poteau.

In addition to herbs, they also grow pumpkins and broom-corn. There is also a native area, situated along the clear, spring-fed Golden Creek. Norma mentioned that wading is fully permissible.

Because of the high temperatures possible in July, our tour will begin at 9:00 a. m. on the 16th. Lunch will follow the guided walk. Tables are provided under shade trees for the low cost of \$6 each. Please contact Ruth Boyd at 872-9652 by 11 July if you plan to attend, so the caterer will know how many to expect. Payment in advance is not expected.

If you can find Perkins the rest is easy. The Constines live 1 1/2 miles west of Perkinson Knite St. That's the southernmost

street in Perkins. Look for a flashing yellow light on SH 177 (there is another one on the north edge of town). ☼

SPRING MEETING NOTES, by Ruth Boyd

On Sunday, April 24, 20 members and guests met at 10 a.m. at one of the Menzie Family's farms, Echo Valley Camp, and spent a grand day walking through pastures and woods, meeting new plants and greeting those remembered from past years. After sack lunches and plenty of cold drinks under a shade tree, some of us continued to another of the Menzie farms, about 2 miles north, and a completely different environment. This one featured a genuine swamp, reached after a wild ride in the back of a 4WD pickup. The almost gale-force Oklahoma breeze kept the intense heat in check.

This event also included a plant exchange, and there was plenty of good stuff to trade and discuss, including some we dug up in the Menzies' lawn. Thanks to Don and Jane and Bill Menzie -- it was fun!

Then, on Saturday, May 14, 13 members and guests met at the Oklahoma City Zoo for a guided tour with the Zoo's horticulture director, Pearl Pearson. Early morning showers probably affected the attendance, but the experience was great, and no more showers occurred. The groundskeepers have made enormous plantings in just a short time, and the outcome is impressive. As we visited the animals as we walked, it was a longer tour than expected, but we did get to the greenhouses by 4 p.m. Standard zoo fare made up lunch: hot dogs and popcorn and lemonade. ☼

NORTHEAST CHAPTER

by Betty Kemm

On April 9 Jim Norman and Paul Buck led a field trip to Camp Christian on Grand Lake, Cedar Crest on Spring Creek and Lake Tenkiller. We found many woodland flowers still in bloom. Rebecca Troth and Connie Taylor each brought students.

On April 24, a Corps of Engineers Ranger took nine of us to two sites on Keystone Lake. Prairie Irids were beautiful in a burned-over area.

Then, on April 30 the Plant Rescue Committee went out in the rain and dug plants for Eddie Rees to use at Oxley Nature center's demonstration prairie garden.

At the regular May 9 Chapter meeting we enjoyed a pot luck supper, program on wildflower gardening, and exchange of experiences and plants by members. Mary Bend and Betty Kemm brought slides.

Our next project is to involve many members in helping host the Wildflower Workshop. ☼

NEW MEMBERS

ONPS proudly welcomes these new members:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jane Barrett, Norman | Peggy Brennan, Edmond |
| Steve & Sherry Bieberich, Clinton | Jerry A. Brown, Oklahoma City |
| Brenda Cavins, Tulsa | Frank Crim, Choctaw |
| Doris & Bill Edwards, Norman | Kathryn Flood, Norman |
| Mark & Kathy Howery, Norman | Deloris Isted, Tulsa |
| Nathan R. Kuhnert, Norman | Chris LaFrance, Cushing |
| Mynda McGuire, San Antonio, TX | Pearl Pearson, Oklahoma City |
| Joyce Peterson, The Village | Melissa L. Rickman, Norman |
| Tom & Grace Siegenthaler, Norman | Pat Sprague, Lakewood, CO |

☞ *Know any of these good folks? Give them a call to welcome them, and ask them to join you for a meeting or outing. We have lots of fun to share.*

BOOK REVIEW

NOAH'S GARDEN, by Sara Stein
pub. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1993

Subtitled "Restoring the Ecology of Our Backyards, this little book looks like yet another of a genre that has become a bit commonplace in the past few years. It there is nothing commonplace about *Noah's Garden*. Mrs. Stein admits to having gardened her 6-or-so acres in suburban New York in a too-conventional manner for

many years before realizing that their lovely formal gardens, straight-edged beds and perfectly spaced trees had excluded all the animal life.

Having grown up in the country, Stein knew that there should have been rabbits and deer, moles and caterpillars. Even worse: orioles and bluebirds, box turtles and walking-sticks and luna moths were missing too. The story of her quest to restore the animals makes this as much a detective story as a gardening guide. The fact that she succeeded, in a landscape that had been "lost" for at least a hundred years, is indication enough that Stein did her homework.

In fact, there is a great deal of factual information wound into the story. She names names and sources and facts in a thoroughly researched and carefully reported research project carried out over many years. All, of course, without losing the passion that was the original impulse: "We cannot decide who gets to stay aboard the Ark: if we spray the caterpillars, we lose the butterflies."

Many thanks to Patricia Bergey, who not only recommended this book to us, but loaned her copy as well.
by Patricia Folley

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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:
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RENEWAL TIME!

Please look down at your mailing label  If the top line has a date entry of 12-93 or before in the third "word" position, your renewal for 1994 is due. (The first "word" is your membership group: IM for individuals, FM for families, SM for students. The second "word" indicates the time you joined ONPS.)

If you are a LIFE member, why not use this notice to send a gift subscription? Our low rates make it easy for anyone interested in natural plants to get in on our great field trips, interesting and educational programs, and lots of new friends. Just fill in the application on page 11 and send it to the Tulsa Garden Center address, and we'll do the rest. 

The Gaillardia

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"As in any economy, self-interest weaves webs of interdependence. New Jersey Tea, looking only to its own reproductive needs, does a brisk spring business supplying food to its tiny pollinating flies; hummingbirds, also seeing to their own affairs, feed the satisfied fly to their nestlings, which later in the summer join their parents in the sweetly rewarding task of pollinating lilies. These interdependencies are temporal. Bees and blueberries must make their pollen deals in May if robins and blueberries are to make their seed deals in July.

"One must wonder if one keeps the cupboard bare for four weeks during the season, What are the bees eating in August?" from Noah's Garden, by Sara Stein

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