



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

#### LOOK INSIDE FOR

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH.....	2
GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE.....	3
CONSERVATION CORNER.....	4
BOTANY BAY.....	5
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT.....	6
FIELD TRIPS.....	7
INDOOR OUTING.....	8
CHAPTER ACTIVITIES.....	9-10
MEMBERSHIP FORM.....	11
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.....	11
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	12
GREEN INSERT: OFFICERS AND BOARD ADDRESSES, CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR	

#### BLUE INSERT: INDOOR OUTING FORM

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Winter 1995

**COPY AND ART DEADLINE  
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS  
15 FEBRUARY 1996**

# Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

## CALENDAR

**Note: the events dated below are identified either by a page number for a fuller description of the event or the name of a person to contact. Phone numbers are at the bottom of the page.**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 4 Dec 95     | Monday evening meeting of NE chapter. Tulsa Garden Center. Betty Kemm*, p. 9   |
| 5-6 Jan 96   | Horticulture Industries Show, TJC Campus, Tulsa. For Registration information, call Dean McCraw, Dept. of Hort. and L. A., OSU, (405)744-5409.   |
| 3 Feb 96     | Indoor Outing at Tulsa Junior College, NE Campus: North Harvard at Apache. Theme for morning lectures will be uses of native plants. In the afternoon there will be workshop labs in botany and photography. See details and registration form in the <u>(color)</u> insert. |
| 15 Feb 96    | Spring Gaillardia deadline for reports.  |
| 4-5 Mar 96   | Biodiversity Conference, OKC. See insert.  |
| 25 Mar 96    | Central Chapter meets at OSU Tech to hear Frank Carl. page 10  |
| 30 Mar       | Field Trip to Chickasaw NRA, Connie Taylor*. page 7.   |
| 13 April     | Spring outing, possibly Spring Creek or McCurtain Co. Wilderness Jim Norman, page 7.   |
| 10 & 11 May  | Wildflower Workshop in McAlester.  |
| 15 May 96    | Summer Gaillardia deadline for reports.  |
| 8 June 96    | Field Trip to Pontotoc Ridge. See page 7.  |
| Oct. 5 or 12 | Annual Meeting at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Mike Palmer, details later.  |

**Note: all members are invited to all chapter field trips or meetings, and are encouraged to bring guests. Many field trips are suitable for children: ask first.**

\*Betty Kemm (918)742-4351, Connie Taylor (405)924-0121.

#### ONPS THANKS THESE MEMORIAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS:

Betty Kemm, to the Anne Long fund in memory of Raymond Kays.  
Ruth Boyd, to Anne Long and Harriet Barklay funds.  
Richard Bradley, to Harriet Barklay and also to the General Operating fund.

## PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

by Frank Carl

These are get-acquainted and thank-you comments. Being elected president of this organization came at a very opportune time. I am in the process of retiring from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and was, sort of, looking for something to do, especially something conservation orientated. The election or re-election of the other officers and board members was very welcome.

Dr. Connie Taylor advises me this is an easy job. Easy because of the enthusiasm, available expertise, and willingness of the officers, board members, committee chairs and especially the general membership to provide assistance.

So, I am looking forward to this easy job. Remember, I am an amateur botanist, but I try to hang around the professionals. Most of my professional experience has been in the area of habitat evaluation and habitat manipulation on large land tracts.

I am also a free-lance nature photographer. Sometime in March, if any of the chapters need a nature slide presentation, I will do my best to schedule it. The presentation will cover birds, bugs, and butterflies, along with flowering plants.

Looking forward to working with all of you in promoting the objectives and goals of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society.

.....Frank Carl and wife Juaretta live in Okeene.

## FLORA OF OKLAHOMA PROJECT

by Patricia Folley

For the many admirers of Oklahoma's wild plants, the long-promised Flora of Oklahoma has been more a chimera than an anticipated reality. While the Flora's editorial board has been meeting monthly for corrections and advice, all the real work is done in our spare time, when- and- if. Two developments during the past year, however, have raised our own hopes, and I'd like to share them with you.

First, we Xeroxed copies of the newly completed Keys to the Families, and distributed them at cost to botany professors statewide, soliciting comments, corrections and criticisms. My! You want criticism, just ask a college student! We got lots of feedback, all of it welcome, and made lots of changes. In fact, each printing has become a new edition, incorporating enhancements and corrections received from the last printing.

Then, Mrs. Waterfall, widow of the author of Waterfall's Keys to the Flora of Oklahoma, gave us the rights to that book. While seriously out of date, it has been the standard reference of its type for many years, simply because no other flora covered the state's wide variety of plants. We have been keeping it printed, bundled with the new family keys (the "we" in this case is Dr. Ron Tyrl at OSU, who does all the printing). During this transitional time, the eight editors have been busy working on technical descriptions of the families identified in the Key to Families. That work is nearing completion, and may be available by spring.

While the original plan was to continue down the hierarchy of taxonomic identification, completing the genera keys and descriptions before going on to the species, those professors who are actively involved in use of the bundled keys have successfully plead for jumping, instead, to the long-needed rewriting of the keys to the species. Hopefully, that task will be completed within another year. We're excited about the prospect of being able to print, even though it will still be in Xeroxed paperback, a key that will enable the student or serious amateur to fully identify any plant found growing outside of cultivation in Oklahoma.

The editors are, besides Ron Tyrl and myself, Paul Buck, Connie Taylor, Susan Barber, Larry Magrath, Rahmona Thompson and Jim Estes. Most of them are active in the ONPS. Why am I telling you all this? *Pray for us!*

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*Last night I saw a beauty contest brief  
Between a rainbow and an autumn leaf.*

shared with us by Melynda Hickman

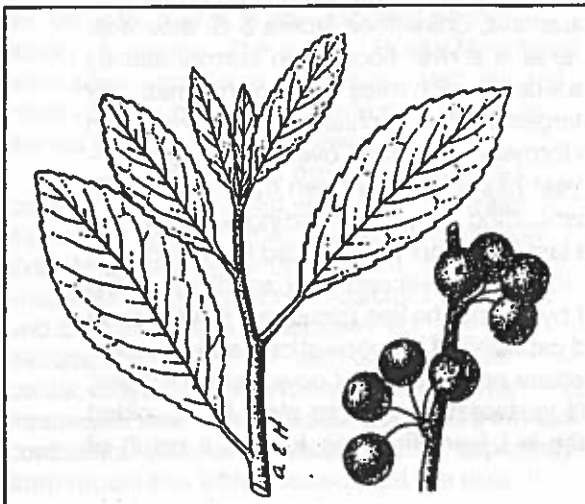
## GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE

by Susan Chambers

## PLANTING FOR CHRISTMAS

Just about now, everyone is hip-deep in decorating for the holiday season. And every year, the price of plantation-grown, fresh greenery goes up in price. Almost everyone has cut some kind of greenery to bring inside, but have you ever planted something with the *intent* of using it for cutting?

Many native plants can lend beautiful color to the holidays. Not all of these will grow in all conditions, of course, but with some thought and preparation, all should do well.



Needle evergreens are the traditional greens, and there are a few native to Oklahoma that will work for cutting. We're all familiar with Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) which will grow anywhere, in any soil and any exposure. All these factors will simply determine how dense the foliage will be and how tall the tree will get. Ordinarily, this tree attains a height of about 30 feet with a spread of about half that. Most generally planted as a windbreak, small trees also serve as cut Christmas trees. Larger trees can yield enough evergreen boughs to decorate a whole house. Redcedars can be started from seed, cuttings, or by moving small trees (under 3 feet) bare-root in wintertime.

Pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and Rocky Mountain ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa* var. *scopulorum*) are both native to the far northwestern corner of the panhandle. Neither grows very tall in its native range -- 18 ft. and 20 ft. respectively -- but both may get substantially larger the farther east and south they are planted. Both are very bushy, yielding many small tip cuttings for wreaths. The one major prerequisite is perfect drainage, so they do not do well in clay soils. Both may be propagated

by seed. Ponderosa pine may also be propagated by grafting cuttings onto closely related species.

Colorful berries are widely available in native plants. Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*) and Yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) are all native to southeast Oklahoma. At a maximum of 30 ft., 45 ft., and 24 ft. all are considered small trees. They normally grow in moist soil, but selections have been made that are more drought and sun tolerant. Regular pruning will encourage bushiness and a greater quantity of berries on all three species. Possumhaw and Yaupon bloom on previous year's growth and American holly on the current year's growth. Keep this in mind when pruning.

Propagation of all three can be done by seed, but more easily by hardwood cuttings of evergreen and softwood cuttings of deciduous hollies. Plant male hollies of each species to ensure good fruit set.

American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) is one of the few vines that retains its colorful berries when cut and dried. Once the foliage has dropped from the vine and surrounding trees, the brilliant orange and red berries stand out even at 55 m.p.h. However, do not plant bittersweet on living trees, as it can choke young plants to death. Plant the vine on dead trees, a trellis, fence or arbor for plant safety. Bittersweet is also one of those plants which require a male plant for pollination and fruit set, so be sure, when you buy, what you're getting. Any pruning to control size of the vine (mature length of 20 feet) should be done in early spring, before bloom in June. The bittersweet naturally grows in open woods and around the edges of clearings. The plant is not picky about soil type or pH. Propagation is by seed, layering (laying a piece of vine over onto the soil and weighing it down until rooted) or by cuttings of hard or soft wood.

All of the above will retain their freshness much longer if treated thoroughly with an anti-transpirant such as Wilt-Pruf or Cloud Cover. This film prevents moisture loss through the foliage of cut greenery and can be purchased at garden centers.



With husband Wayne, Susan is co-owner of Rose Rock Landscaping, Midwest City. They do natural and native planting and maintenance.

## Oklahoma Orchid Conservation Update -- Site Status

## Oklahoma Orchid Site Update -- Development: Boon or Bane?

Yesterday, Sunday 20 August 1995, I had a chance to escort two wildlife photographers, Albert Lavallee and Martin Woods, from Lawton, Oklahoma on a whirlwind tour of four Oklahoma Orchid Sites in southeastern Oklahoma. They were particularly interested in photographing *Platanthera ciliaris* which we found at two locations. We were also able to locate a goodly number of *Tipularia discolor* in good blooming condition. The following is a brief synopsis of the condition of the four sites themselves.

Swink Bog # 2 (Choctaw Co.) this area consists of a wooded area with a large boggy/swampy area created by a series of beaver dams. This area is still in good shape with only minimal evidence of tree cutting activity. We found well established colonies of *Platanthera ciliaris* (in bloom) and *P. clavellata* (in early fruit) that seemed to be in excellent condition. Note: we also found a pygmy rattlesnake in the middle of a colony of *P. clavellata*. This site appears to be capable of sustaining orchid populations for some time into the future. Other orchids found at this site include: *Listera australis*, *Spiranthes lacera* & *S. tuberosa*.

Mountain Fork River (northeastern McCurtain Co.) this area is a river flood plain surrounded by formerly forested hills, and is one of the few locations in Oklahoma where beech trees are known to naturally occur. Numerous rare plants occur at this location including the largest known population of *Cyperipedium kentuckiense*. The colony of *Cyperipedium kentuckiense* which formerly numbered over seventy plants -- at least half of whom could be counted to bloom in any given year has effectively been destroyed. This colony has been in trouble for the past 5-6 years as a result of clear-cutting of the surrounding woods which has affected the ability of the area to absorb and hold water. The last two years that I visited the site during blooming time there were serious flood problems that resulted in first and second year seedlings being covered by sand deposits and blooming flowers being destroyed by having the lips (pouches) fill with sand and then the flowers would rot, thus preventing the setting of seed capsules. This population has in the past set between 20 to 60 seed capsules per year. However the immediate problem is that now there is logging up to and into the colony area. I was able to locate only 1 plant yesterday -- and that plant had avoided being squashed by a matter of only about 5-6 inches. This site is I fear effectively lost as a result of "development."

Battiest Site (northern McCurtain Co.) this site has (had?) the largest concentration of native orchids known in Oklahoma, including: *Cypridium kentuckiense*, *Corallorhiza wisteriana*, *Galearis spectabilis*, *Isotria verticillata*, *Malaxis unifolia*, *Platanthera flava* var. *flava*, *P. lacera*, *P. clavellata*, *Spiranthes cernua*, *Tipularia discolor* & *Triphora trianthophora*. This site has been impacted by clear-cutting in the past to the west of the site (floodplain of the Glover River) which has increased runoff and sediment deposit in a bog area. Also the site is becoming dryer and less favorable for many species. This location at one time had the largest population of *Platanthera flava* var. *flava* known for Oklahoma. Now there is significant logging in the areas where the orchid populations are concentrated. Long term prognosis for this area is not very good. The only species that seems to be holding its own is *Tipularia discolor* (and possibly *Triphora trianthophora*) all the others seem to be in decline, especially the *P. flava* var. *flava*.

Honobia Site # 2 (aka Indian Highway Site) (Pushmataha Co.) -- this site is a mountaintop woodland with a "pond" formed by the Indian Highway. This pond is the site of several interesting plants including the northernmost (and highest altitude) location for *Platanthera ciliaris* in Oklahoma. This is a well established orchid population that seems to be quite stable. Yesterday the site seemed to be unusually dry with the result of forcing some out-laying plants into premature dormancy. However the site appears to be in no danger of either development or lumbering, so it will hopefully persist for a long time into the future.

Summary -- two sites are holding their own, one is being rapidly degraded and one is essentially lost. I am writing this note to hopefully stimulate some of the rest of you in SWROGA to let us know what is happening to orchid sites in your states. Are they holding their own? becoming more degraded? or hopefully becoming more protected? Please let us know what is happening in your state (area).

Lawrence K. Magrath  
Curator of the USAO Herbarium &  
member of the SWROGA Conservation Committee

## BOTANY BAY

by Sheila Strawn

A little geological history of the state:

During our field trip to the Quartz Mountains State Park, we talked about the geology of the region. One of the points that was brought up is that the Wichita, Quartz, and part of the Arbuckle Mountains are granite, an igneous rock. They are part of the oldest mountain range formed when the North American continental plate ran into the Pacific plate. They are broken pieces of the continental plate. You could say they are the Oklahoma branch of the Rocky Mountains. However, they are older than what is now exposed as the Rocky Mountains. The original Rocky Mountains have been worn down and volcanic activity and more recent uprising has made new peaks as the old ones have eroded away.

The land that is now Oklahoma was covered and uncovered with either saltwater or freshwater several times during the Paleozoic Era. When covered with saltwater, sedimentary limestone was formed from calcium carbonate and calcium sulfate minerals in the decomposing bodies of such organisms as corals, and mollusks. When covered with a freshwater lake or inland sea, minerals from the continental plate were eroded from it, especially from mountains which surrounded the lake. In most areas the minerals from the inland sea have been deposited on top of the limestone, but we can see portions of the ancient sea beds because the layers have been broken and forced up in the form of the Arbuckle, Ouachita, Ozark, and part of the Wichita Mountains. Their layers make beautiful backdrops for photos of our native plants.

What about all the red soil that fills in-between those mountains? Many native Oklahomans already know that the red color of Oklahoma's soil comes from its iron oxide content. Iron-oxide is the same mineral as rust, which forms on the kid's swing set, the clothesline pole, and unfortunately, the car. Where did it come from?

Iron sulfides, iron carbonates, and iron silicates (in Olivine and several other minerals) are present in many formations such as the original Rocky Mountain chain. Oxidation of the iron resulted from the exposure and erosion of igneous rock formations. The sediment was further broken down and carried by water and wind into the inland sea. After the sea dried up the sediment easily spread across the state due to the slight declination from west to east across the somewhat level plain. The stream banks are

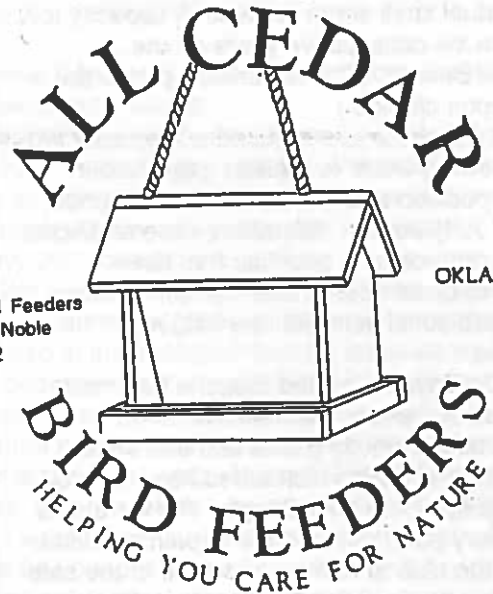
low because the streams flow slowly across the gentle slope. When floods occur, streams easily lose their banks and spread the sediment out across the plain, making new stream beds, leaving the old, and generally keeping the whole state eroded and level.

Over the centuries, much of the sediment has become compacted under pressure and become sandstone. Much of the sediment has degraded in size to become silt and clay. As stream beds move they move the clay. The deposition of the red clay soil is a distinctive feature in Oklahoma and has played an important role in the other natural characteristics of our state, determining to some extent the distribution of plants and animals.

*Sheila is a doctoral candidate in an interdisciplinary program on Grassland Ecology at the University of Oklahoma. She is also the newest member of the Board.*

*They're not just for the birds, anymore!*

This is to thank Mark Snively, co-owner of All Cedar Bird Feeders in Noble, for "helping" me with the silk-screening of the logos on the chambray shirts we sold at the Annual Meeting. (Actually, Mark does the work, and I make encouraging noises).....Patricia Folley



All Cedar Bird Feeders  
115 S. Main, Noble  
(405)872-5212

### *Ruth Boyd's Law*

**There is no limit to the amount of good you can do — if you don't care who gets the credit.**

...and Paul Buck says that he hopes someday to "pass on to that great collecting spot in the sky, where every plant bears an unquestionable label"



**Annual Meeting Report**

by Darlene Michael and Pat Folley

Despite a shocking lack of support from Quartz Mountain State Park, Coordinator Ann Randle was able to entertain an encouraging number of members for the field trips to natural areas in the park. Scenery in the seldom-seen dune area at the north end of the lake made for some exotic-appearing photographs, and the wild-flowers were still in good form.

At the business meeting, held at the Altus Best Western Motel, we approved a correction to the By-laws to apply the two-year term limit to the President only. The corrected text now reads "The officers shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and six Directors at Large. Each officer other than the Directors at Large shall be elected for a term of one year and shall serve until (his or her) successor has been elected and has assumed the office, and the President shall serve no more than two consecutive terms Directors at Large shall serve 3-year terms, two being elected each year to provide continuity. No individual shall serve in a voting capacity for more than six consecutive years on the Executive Board." (The underlined part is the agreed-upon change.)

Other business included a Treasurer's report showing small but steady gains in our financial position and the two Memorial Funds, made by Judy Jordan. Members were reminded that the photo contest deadline had been changed to December 1, and that Jim Norman needed additional help with the judging committee.

Dr. Taylor reported that she had made 200 copies of Darlene Michael's book on selecting native woody plants and that sales were brisk. Pat Folley distributed hand-painted shirts displaying the ONPS logo. We were able to get a very good price on the unpainted shirts, enabling the club to retain nearly half of the sale price. More shirts in the smaller sizes are on order.

Membership Chairman Susan Chambers reported 59 new members during 1995. Current membership includes 24 Student, 110 Family, 222 Individual, 50 Complimentary, and 6 Life memberships. Complimentary issues are mostly to other Native Plant Societies in exchange for theirs.

**The assembled members voted unanimously to elect the following slate of officers for the coming year(s):**

**President:.....M. Frank Carl**  
**Vice-President..Ann Randle**  
**Secretary.....Darlene Michael**  
**Treasurer.....Judy Jordan**  
**Historian.....Karen Haworth**

**Directors-at-Large: 1996, Anais Starr (replacing Ann Randle); 1998, Sheila Strawn. Incumbents are: 1998, Betty Kemm; 1997, Mike Palmer and Richard Bradley; and 1996, T. H. Milby.**

Betty Kemm reported on plans for the Indoor Outing to be held in Tulsa on 3 February 1996. Richard Bradley and Mike Palmer were tentatively assigned co-chairmen of the 1997 Indoor Outing at Phillips University, Enid.

The evening was completed by a talk on fire control methods for native grasslands by Mark Gregory, OSU Extension Agronomist.

.....  
 The newly-elected Board met for a working breakfast on 22 October, again in the Altus Best Western Motel. Pat Folley and Sheila Strawn agreed to cooperate on development of a traveling slide-display program similar to the ones being provided by *Keep Oklahoma Beautiful*. These could be loaned to teachers or organizations where a speaker need not be sent.

Betty Kemm reported on the problems of development at Gluedobbers' Field near Tulsa, and hopes for a "plant rescue" event.

More publications planned for the near future include a pamphlet on pronouncing plant names and on wildflowers for *Partners in Flight*.

An all-day planning meeting was scheduled for 2 December, and the Annual Meeting adjourned to return to the Park for more field-tripping.

.....  
**December 2 Board Meeting**

by Connie Taylor and Ruth Boyd  
 The combined old and new board met at St. Stephen's Church in Norman for an all-day planning session. Dr. & Mrs. Milby provided home-baked refreshments. Field trips, detailed on page 7, were planned and leaders assigned. The need to get more information to the members on the photo contest and on the Ann Long and Barclay Awards was discussed, and the task assigned to the *Gaillardia*. Ruth Boyd mentioned that there are now 8 sets of photo posters available for display; enough to satisfy all requests. Assignments were made for the three essay pages to appear in *The Gaillardia* during the next year.

Another possible publication will be on "Oklahoma Great Places", describing good field-trip, wildflowering and admiration sites. We agreed to help publicize Mary Richie's protest of the use of herbicides along county roads, but that we could not join in actual protests. Joanne Orr sent information on progress of a "Prairie Highway" designation that will run through the U.S. from Texas to Canada, with loops in the Arbuckles and the Tallgrass Prairie in Oklahoma.

## FIELD TRIPS PAST

Blue River Trip on Labor Day Saturday  
by Connie Taylor

Despite the continued heat wave and extended drought, members, visitors, and some of my Forest Systematics class met at Blue River hunting and fishing area near Tishomingo for an interesting morning hike. Most flowers were drooping except those adjacent to the river, so we hiked down to the edge to observe an Oklahoma native plant with the strangest distribution: the Seaside Alder, *Alnus maritima*. As its name implies, this shrub-to-small tree grows in Maryland and Delaware near the ocean and out here in the Arbuckle Mountain uplift along the cold flowing spring-fed streams and rivers between Fittstown and Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

The yellow catkins at the ends of the branches were just opening, and down below in the axils of the leaves were the small clusters of female flowers with their beautiful red-maroon stigmas showing their true membership with the other flowering plants. Later on, the female flowers will expand into a miniature "cone" with numerous winged fruits. In fact, some of last year's cones were still on the stems.

We walked upstream armed with xerox copies and a look at a color photograph of one of the local orchids, known by several names, including chatterbox, giant helleborine, stream-side epipactis, and *Epipactis gigantea*. No orchid! The lower water of August and the absence of those slippery algae we are all so familiar with made easy wading across part of the river to a large island. In and among some horsetails, the elusive orchid was found. Since it spreads by underground rhizomes, the two clumps we found may be genetically alike. The dry petals still hung on the fruits. The flowers are about an inch long, greenish, with red or purple veins. Although very widespread in wet habitats throughout the western United States, it is known only from the Arbuckle Mountains of Murray and Johnson Counties in Oklahoma.

Avoiding too much contact with poison ivy, we hiked back to the cars and drove over to the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge. The nature trail on the refuge circles through a young successional forest that invaded a pasture dotted with Osage Orange, *Maclura pomifera*. At Dick's Pond we obtained samples of *Lemna*, *Spirodela*, and *Wolfiella*. These are three of the smallest flowering plants in the world. We also saw giant bulrushes and waterlilies. The *Azolla*, a floating aquatic fern, was absent. Perhaps it was too hot.

Adjourning to the picnic tables, we ate and rested in the shade, sharing the fellowship with fellow naturalists. ☺

## FIELD TRIPS FUTURE

There aren't many field trips scheduled for the next couple of months -- in fact, the only one during the time-span for this winter issue is the Indoor Outing, and that's covered by the blue insert. One of our more popular offerings, the idea of an Indoor Outing appeared during the first year of ONPS, and has been going strong ever since. There was even one that fell during an unseasonable warm spell, when we all went over to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve afterward. For a sure-cure for the winter blahs, sign up today.

Connie Taylor's offer of a field day at Chickasaw NRA, near Sulfur in the Arbuckle mountains is firm for March 30. She has a forestry class that will be joining us there. And since the area is well-wooded, there ought to be a multitude of early spring bloomers out. More in the Spring issue, but mark your calendar now, as spring tends to get crowded for us gardeners and botanists and tree-huggers.

I have conflicting stories from witnesses to the planning session on the destination for the early spring outing: it may well become two of them. At any rate, save April 13-14 for a two-day affair in the lovely eastern hill country; either the Ozarks or the Ouachitas or both. While Jim Norman is now the Photography Chair, he will definitely be involved. You can reach Jim at (918)682-1896.

.....

Hear Wallace Stegner on the necessity of limiting human power over Nature:

"I am as exposed as a prairie dog under a sky full of hawks. ".....The more power I have and use, the less likely I am to submit to anything natural, and the less spiritual power natural things will have over me. For that reason, I bless the poverty and powerlessness of my family in my youth.

"We submitted to the Saskatchewan prairie not because we wanted to, but because we had no choice. We hadn't settled in undeveloped country because we loved undeveloped country or responded to its rhythms. We had settled there to mine the earth for wheat, and we destroyed some natural rhythms and would happily have destroyed more to make a good crop. Nevertheless, I bless our unsuccess, and our relative helplessness. Like Aldo Leopold, I would hate to be young again without wild country to be young in. And if I were to give my grandchildren my patriarchal blessing in the Mormon manner, I would tell them 'be as powerless as possible; submit whenever you can. Don't try to control the earth beyond the absolute minimum. Work with the earth, not against it, for the earth does not belong to you: you belong to it'."

.....

And from Ann Zwinger, in "Is There Anything Down There?" "My great pleasure is in finding out a name for something because then I have a handle on it, and to that end I use every means possible: a scientist friend, a field guide, whatever. When I have a name I can look up something about it. How did it get there, what is it doing, how long will it stay? I believe that with every answer comes a bouquet of questions that piques your curiosity, fuels your way of looking at the world."

## THE MEMORIAL FUNDS

by Pat Folley

It says in the Minutes that I am going to write an article about the Memorial Funds, so I will try, though I really don't know much about their history. We have two different funds, with different purposes, and after some experimenting with joint management, we now administer them separately.

Anne W. Long was one of the founders of ONPS, much loved by those lucky Tulsans who were privileged to know her. After her death, the Anne Long Fund was started to further her goals in starting ONPS: to preserve and protect the native plants of Oklahoma, and to make their study and appreciation available to all. In her honor, we annually award a trophy and a grant of money to the individual or organization which has best served that purpose during the year past. There is a stipulation that current members of the ONPS Board cannot be eligible for the award. Not surprisingly, some of the winners have been people like Paul Buck and Betty Kemm, who deserved it long before they were eligible.

Donations to the Anne Long fund are often made as memorials to another member or loved one, but are not restricted to that source. We try to acknowledge every one in the Gaillardia, but the information doesn't always trickle in at the appropriate time. I appreciate being told of such oversights and will try to correct them as needed.

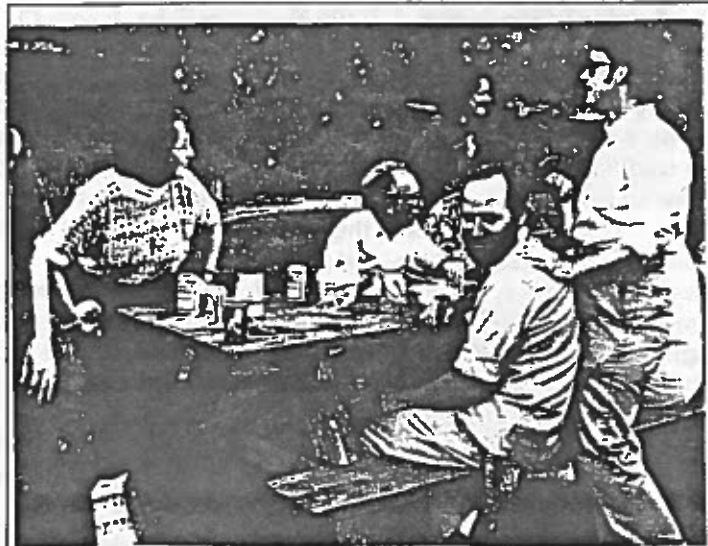
Dr. Harriet Barclay was a professor of Botany at Tulsa University. I know that she did her PHD work at OU because the specimens for her research are a part of the Bebb Herbarium there. She was much-respected by her students and trained many first-rate botanists.

Dr. Barclay, like Anne Long, died before ONPS had become an independently functioning organization. She would be so proud to see that we are growing and reaching people of all backgrounds across the state. In her honor, the money contributed for this fund is used to give a trophy and a cash award to the author of the best paper on Botany submitted to the Junior Academy of Science.

Because the fund is able to cover an increased application, last year we made two Harriet Barclay awards: one each to the best high-school paper and to the best junior or mid-high contestant. In addition, the ONPS contributes a year's membership subscription to the *classroom* that produced the work. Serving as a judge for the JAS finals was an astonishing event for me. Those youngsters are working in fields that didn't even exist when I was a high-schooler -- and those computers turn out a

professional report, too. With all the competition for the students' time, it is heartening to see the work and hope that goes into their presentations. We are fortunate to have a part in encouraging the future of the study of botany in Oklahoma, and in having a model like Dr. Barclay for the young people to emulate.

Now, all of you who know the details I missed, how about some biographical background, to be printed in a future issue? ☺



*Mary Whitmore, Ed Kessler, Wayne & Susan Chambers*

## SAVE THE PLANTS -- NOW!

Mary Richie is a new member of ONPS who lives in north-eastern Oklahoma. But Mary is not a newcomer to the love of wild plants, and Mary is angry. The road near her home is being widened and "maintained" to become yet another Bermuda-grass wasteland, devoid of color and individuality. Unfortunately, she has been passed from one public official to another, from the city to the county to the state transportation department. Too bad they didn't tell her about Joanne Orr.

One person who did listen was Bonnie Ashing, a physician and garden-columnist in Tahlequah. In an inspiring column, Dr. Ashing calls for a local movement to regain some perspective on our treatment of the Earth, using Mary's case as an example of the wrong to be righted. She offers "find out how you can live as if what you do matters unto the seventh generation. How you dispose of your trash, conserve energy, landscape, etc., will matter for the next seven generations and beyond. We don't know what we are losing when we lose the genetic diversity of our wild plants...."

Some of us at the Annual Meeting met and sympathized with Mary Richie. Some of us signed the petition she is circulating asking for an end to the use of herbicides on state and county roads. While petition-presenting is not a function of the ONPS, individual members may want to contact Mary and encourage her. Her address is P. O. Box 1904, Tahlequah, OK 74465



**IN MEMORIAM**

Raymond Kays died on October 9, 1995 at the age of 80. He helped to organize the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, became a charter member and a life member. He was horticulture professor and head of the horticulture department at OSU. Dr. Kays was the first host of the "Oklahoma Gardening television program. He encouraged early roadside planting projects and was always glad to share seed, plants and knowledge. He will be missed.

**NE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES****Coming events, by Betty Kemm:**

(The December 4 potluck supper and wildflower program will be past before this Gaillardia is mailed. I hope you had a good time!...Ed.)

The Northeast Chapter will be hosting the Indoor Outing on the Northeast Campus of Tulsa Junior College, as described in the enclosed insert. Theme for the morning lectures will be the uses of native plants, with workshop labs in botany and photography scheduled for the afternoon session.

**Fall Outing Report by Karen Haworth**

What better way to celebrate the autumnal equinox than trek to Kirk and Loretta Bowers' Clear Creek Farm? on September 23, 41 people met Kirk and Loretta at Peggs; the group included both ONPS members and members of the Spring Creek Coalition (of which, more later), and other interested area residents.

Our first stop, Clear Creek Farm, began with a brief exploration of Kirk and Loretta's gardens and the natives they have available for purchase. Then we split into two groups - one headed for the prairie area, and the other for the creek. Some of us now know why winged elm is supposedly called "piss elm"; our thanks to Dorothy Norris for bringing up the subject! The creek was beautiful - clear and cold, with cardinal flowers in bloom.

After a brief rest at the creek, we headed back up the hill where Kirk managed to round us up so we could travel to our first stop on Spring Creek; property that was once part of a large ranch. Jennifer Owen, whose family owns the property, and Kirk told us about the plans and goals for the Spring Creek Coalition. (Jennifer and Kirk are President and Vice-President of the Coalition.) They hope to have

everyone who owns property on Spring Creek join the Coalition, so they can work together on keeping the Creek free of pollution and educate the public about its virtues. The Bowers hope eventually to include everyone who has property on any of the tributaries feeding Spring Creek in the Coalition as well.

Our next stop was at Treskwood, owned by Robin Perona, whose property is also on Spring Creek. She welcomed us to her distinctive home in a secluded valley; then we went down to enjoy another view of this beautiful, clear stream. Robin's stretch of the creek has a bluff on the far side.

Our last stop of the day was at an abandoned school building, Lucky School, which is also located on the Creek. Loretta had cleared a path all the way from the school to the creek for us. Kirk had planned one more stop for us, but it was 4 p.m. by then, so he directed us back to the main highway.

I know each of us learned new plants and recognized familiar ones, with our assortment of resource books and our knowledgeable guides. A big thanks to Kirk and Loretta for all the planning and effort they put into the day for us. And we hope the Coalition members can be successful in maintaining and preserving these native areas.

*A Postscript: In talking with Loretta about this article, she told me that one of the Tulsa television stations came out and filmed a segment on Spring Creek, which aired in late November on "People Making a Difference". A local Girl Scout troop was there helping with a clean-up project, so the coalition is getting community involvement too.*

*Ed. note: Karen is Historian for the ONPS. She hasn't been able to make many of the statewide activities lately because of family obligations, so we were delighted to hear that she was able to enjoy what must have been a great outing.*



## CENTRAL CHAPTER REPORTS

By Ruth Boyd

### Calendar

26 Feb 96: Chapter meeting at 7:30, Horticulture Center at NW 4th & Portland, OKC. Program TBA - suggestions welcome.

25 Mar 96: Chapter meeting at 7:30, Horticulture Center, OKC. Program by Frank Carl, a slide program featuring his wildlife and wildflower photography.

Late April or early May: Saturday Field Trip. Open to suggestions.

### Chapter Activities

Future: Speaker Frank Carl for the March meeting is the newly elected president of the ONPS, having served 3 years on the Board of Directors. He is an outstanding photographer whose specialty is wildlife and wildflowers, especially those wildflowers with critters on them.

Past: More than 30 members and guests gathered on the campus of the University of Oklahoma on Saturday morning, Oct. 7, for a walking tour of the campus to identify the trees, both native and exotic. The tour was coordinated by Pat Folley who was ably assisted by ONPS board members Sheila Strawn and T. H. Milby.

On Monday evening, Oct. 30, 32 members and guests met at the Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center in OKC to hear ONPS Secretary and landscape architect, Darlene Michael, speak about using native plants in the home landscape. Darlene's presentation was witty and insightful and packed with information for those whose home landscaping goals are intended to help wildlife and not harm the environment.

*Ed. Note:* The Monday, Nov. 27 chapter meeting, short because Ruth wasn't there to make us do any business, featured a review of the Urban Forests program recently released by the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful organization. A short color slide program featured various views of the trees planted by individuals and businesses for their own purposes over the years, and how they have grown to form a kind of forest. Some of the advantages of this urban forest were emphasized: air purification, beauty in the changing seasons, contribution of food

and shelter to people and the other animals who share our cities. The accompanying script was read by coordinator Pat Folley. Handouts, provided by the sponsors, are really superior and were popular with the members and guests present.

### BOOK REVIEW

*From the Stump: Thoughts of a Naturalist*, by Bob Jennings, Oxley Nature Center, Tulsa.

A slim volume of essays masterfully written by an outdoor man who says he hates to write, *From the Stump* is a wonderful read and would make an excellent gift for anyone who is, or ought to be, interested in the events and creatures of the natural world. In a foreword written by Paul

Buck, he is called "a gentle blend of the philosophies and literary styles of Henry David Thoreau, Aldo Leopold and Garrison Keillor".

It's hard to pick a favorite, but one must surely be "Winter Hope", in which the author gently evokes a chill, damp park, spitting snow and with only a Marsh Hawk to entertain the eye. *The Naturalist* lifts dead leaves to reveal the winter rosettes of henbit, listens as courting owls sing their territory calls in the woods, and remembers the budding

limbs on tadpoles in the office terrarium. He smiles to think of the parking lot blooming with yellow school busses. "These children", he says, "we will lead deep into the forest. We'll try to cover them with a coating of wonder mixed with a little knowledge, adding just enough fun to be sure that it all sticks. We hope it never wears off."

Graphic-style illustrations by Rusty Johnson enliven every page. Why didn't I order a copy for everyone on my Christmas list? To get your own, send a check for \$7 plus \$1.50 postage to Oxley Nature Center, 5701 East 36th St. N., Tulsa OK 74115. If you ask, Bob will even autograph it for you.

### POSTERS, ANYONE?

Ruth Boyd and her co-distributor in the Tulsa area, Sue Amstutz, have pretty-well saturated the market for our beautiful wildflower posters in their personal circles of influence. Means you could get some for your own affair for mostly just the asking. These are the mounted displays from each of the past several years' photo contests.

Call Ruth at (405)8729652 or Sue at (918)742-8374 to schedule a display. You will need a secure location, where they can be locked up at night, if the posters are to remain in a location for several days.

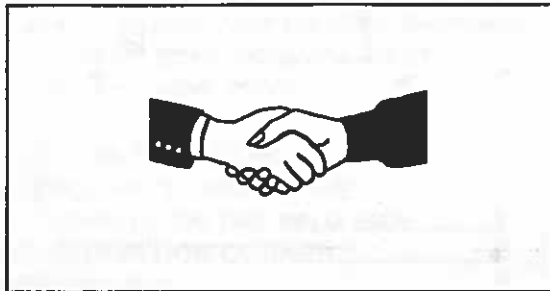


ONPS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

- Brad & Regina Norbury, Arnett
- Margaret Ruff, OK Wildlife Federation
- Dr. Susan Barber, Norman
- Bill & Janice Dunn, Tulsa
- Dennis Fry, Tulsa
- Larry & Patricia Mays, Newcastle
- Cynthia Plemons, Myriad Gardens
- Paul and Bebe Reimer, Lawton
- Janis & Ronald Sacco, Norman
- Anais Starr, Norman
- Mr. & Mrs. M.E. Thompson, Calumet
- Carolyn Torrence, Weatherford

Know any of these fine folks? Why not give them a call and let them know you're happy they joined -- and then make sure they are personally invited to one of our outstanding programs or field trips. We're glad to have them!

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FORMING A NEW CHAPTER

Several members have mentioned that they are interested in forming local chapters. It's really very easy to do: first you ask Darlene Michael to make you a printout from the membership data-base for your area. It is easier to do if you give her the zip codes that you want included. Then, contact your prospects (Darlene can make your list on mailing labels, if you ask). Schedule a meeting at a place with parking available, maybe bring some cookies and a pot of coffee, and stand back!

We've learned by working with the Central chapter that field trips are not very good for organizing -- all of us are more interested in the wildflowers than in electing officers -- and that a minimum of one Chairman, to schedule meetings, a Delegate to attend the statewide Board Meetings (can be a current officer who would be going anyway), and a Program Chairman. Titles are optional. Our first elected leader in the Central Chapter, Mike Bush, wanted to be called "Czar". A Secretary /Treasurer to take notes and keep records is good, too. The state board will pay the chapter's reasonable expenses, and chapters are not expected to raise funds unless for local projects.

Keep it light, keep it flexible, and make it interesting and fun. We're an educational and personal-involvement organization -- not a political party. When you decide to make it official, schedule a visit with the Board or with President Frank Carl.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please renew my membership in the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, or add the name below to the membership list in the category checked.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION (School, Business or Avocation) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE( ) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  please don't list my phone

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 Student \_\_\_\_\_  Gift from \_\_\_\_\_

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ \$300.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_ or \$200.00 Individual.  Renewal  New Member

I am enclosing an additional \$2.50 (to cover cost of printing and mailing) for a complete ONPS directory.

Please make checks payable to Oklahoma Native Plant Society and mail to:  
Oklahoma Native Plant Society / 2435 South Peoria / Tulsa, OK 74114

**The Gaillardia**

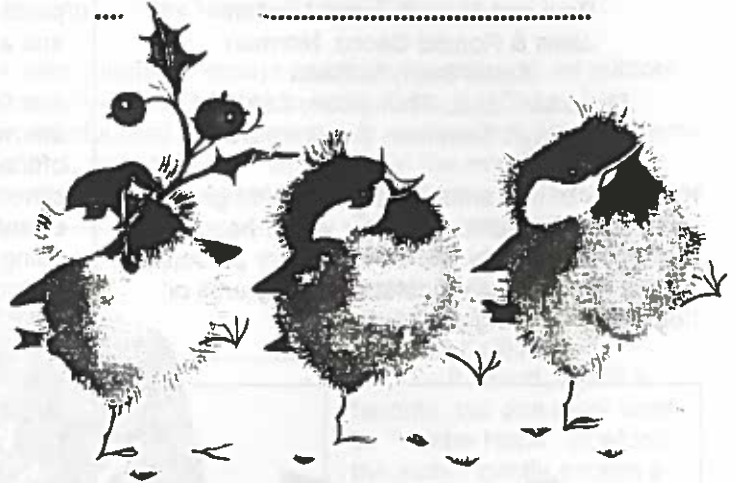
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Vice President	Ann Randle
Secretary	Darlene Michael
Treasurer	Judy Jordan
Historian	Karen Haworth

Boardmembers-at-Large  
1996: Anais Starr and T. H. Milby  
1997: Mike Palmer and Richard Bradley  
1998: Sheila Strawn and Betty Kemm

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*Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years to all members and friends of the Oklahoma Native Plants, from the Newsletter Committee..... Patricia Folley, T. H. Milby, Ruth Boyd and Lynn Allen*



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