

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

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Blue insert: Questionnaire. Please return!

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Volume 13, Number 1
 Spring 1998

**COPY AND ART DEADLINE
 FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
 15 May 1998**

☛Contributions from members are welcome!

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.

1998

- March 30: Central Chapter meets at OSU Tech. For a program by Sam Friedman on Fossil Plants. P. 10
- April 4 State outing to Frank's Tract: Old growth blackjack and post-oak forest near Tulsa. Paul Buck, p. 7
- April 10-11: Garden market sale, Tulsa. P. 10
- April 11 Central Chapter trip to Lake Arcadia near Edmond. Lynn Allen, p. 10
- April 18-19 Oklahoma Academy of Science spring field meeting at Camp Classen near Turner Falls.
- April 26: Central Chapter field trip to view grounds and herbarium at USAO, Chickasha. Judy Jordan, p. 10.
- May 4: 7:30 p.m. meeting of NE Chapter. P. 10
- May 15-16: Wildflower Workshop, Lawton. Joanne Orr, page 6.
- May 15 Gaillardia deadline.
- May 29-30: The Nature Conservancy annual meeting at Boiling Springs State Park near Woodward. TNC phone number is (918) 585-1117.
- June 6: State outing to Hackberry Flats near Frederick, OK. Connie Taylor, p. 7.
- June 27: Board meeting in Shawnee. St. Gregory's University, Shawnee. Sheila Strawn.
- Aug. 8: Annual orchid tour of SE Oklahoma. Larry Magrath and Jim Norman.
- Aug 15: Gaillardia deadline.
- October 15-18: Joint annual meeting with NPSOT and NPSNM, Amarillo, Texas. P.8
- Oct. 16-18: Oklahoma Academy of Science fall field meeting at Sequoyah State Park.
- Nov. 15: Gaillardia deadline

1999

- Feb. 6: Indoor Outing in Chickasha. Larry Magrath

Note: all members are invited to all chapter field trips or meetings, including board meetings, and are encouraged to bring guests.

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

by Ruth Boyd

I believe our Editor, Pat Folley, named this article and no doubt hoped that the presidents would confine it to a paragraph. How disappointed she must constantly be!

You will see from the calendar the ONPS board had a very successful planning meeting in Norman on Saturday, January 1. VP T. H. Milby arranged a meeting place for us and we kept at it from 10:00 a.m. through 3:15 in the afternoon...even during lunch we only took a 30-minute break and nibbled on the snacks provided by Dr. & Mrs. Milby. I had arranged the good weather only through 4:00 and I've heard the board members who had to travel a long distance ran into poor weather before they got home. This first meeting each year is always unusually long and those throughout the year won't be so strenuous. I was especially pleased because each member came with the idea of finding out what needed to be done and prepared to volunteer for the projects.

When looking at the calendar please note three very important items: some of the dates for the rest of the year are tentative, depending upon the availability of the location and trip leaders; and two dates are corrections to the ones reported in last winter's Gaillardia...the correct dates for the Wildflower Workshop in Lawton are May 15 & 16 and the dates for the combined annual meeting with Texas and New Mexico at Amarillo will be from October 15 through 18. The first day, the 15th, will be for pre-conference field trips. Judy Jordan and Ann Randle are coordinating the particulars of the meeting and the summer newsletter will fill in the details.

If you have never been on one of the state or local chapter field trips you can't possibly realize the magnitude of your misfortune. Not only are you given opportunities to visit sites that might not be available otherwise, but you have the very best field trip leaders in the state. All natural items encountered can be discussed including critters with 2, 4, 6 and 8 legs - or none at all; even rocks. I have never been on a field trip where I was disappointed although I've been on a few when the weather left something to be desired. Our trip leaders are personable and knowledgeable but so far not clairvoyant.

I want to thank Dr. Connie Taylor for an outstanding Indoor Outing on February 7. The lectures were interesting, lunch was delicious and the workshops in the afternoon were well received by all. Anyone who has ever helped plan and carry out an exercise like that will

understand all the work that is involved. And in spite of that Dr. Larry Magrath has already agreed to have the 1999 one in Chickasha!

Membership note: We had **62** new members join ONPS during 1997. That's wonderful! How many of these did you recruit? Sadly, we also are looking at losing 70 members for non-payment of dues, for a net loss for the year. If you are one of those, won't you reconsider and send in your dues? We really need all the members we can get.

CORRECTIONS TO THE GREEN SHEET

Connie Taylor's office phone number is (580) 924-0121, ext. 2209.

Clare Miller's office phone number is (918) 588-7136.

Sheila Strawn's co-chairman for Conservation is Leslie Cole-Jackson, 1217 N. W. 199th, Edmond, OK 73003, ph. (405) 359-0641.

ONPS thanks these donors:

Anne Long funds: Ruth Boyd, Paul Buck, Betty Kemm, Lawrence K. Magrath, Mary D. Price, Martha C. Steeters.

Harriet Barclay Fund: Ruth Boyd, Cynthia F. Norman, Paul Buck, Lawrence K. Magrath, Davida Phillips, Mary D. Price, Martha C. Steeters, Forrest Johnson.

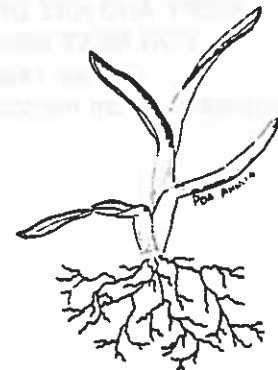
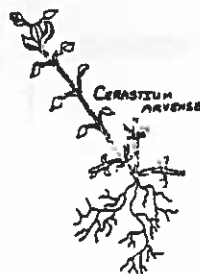
New life members: Frank and Jewella Carl, Barbara Farbutton and Dick Clapp, and Sheila Strawn.

Special appeal for slide-program support: Barbara Stage, Tulsa, for a carousel projector and slide trays.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE BOWERS FAMILY

Many of you know that Loretta Bowers suffered a ruptured aneurism in December and had a very risky surgery for the ensuing hematoma. Husband Kirk reports (on February 21) that Loretta is making a full recovery, has 100% of her functions intact, and is potting-up little plants for the garden sales. She's not making any commitments to appearances just yet, but is looking forward to accompanying Kirk to the garden shows by April.

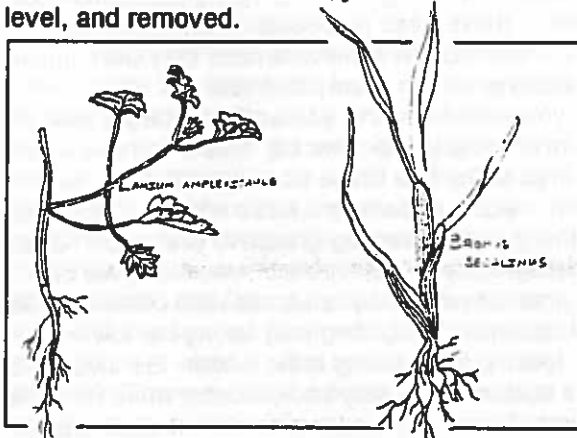
Kirk and Loretta send thanks for all the cards and other expressions of our concern, and particularly for our thoughts and prayers.



INVEST IN KNEE-PAD FUTURES

You've really done it now! You actually started a mini-meadow, a native grass lawn or a wild-flower bed last summer or fall. But what the heck is all that stuff coming up in there? My motto has always been to leave seedlings alone until I'm absolutely positive of their identity. However, I know native plant gardeners out there who are way more impatient than that.

Some of the really common early spring weeds are the type that "mat" or spread out and cause no damage when young, but can cause significant disturbance if allowed to get very big: i.e. silver dollar size or larger. When they grow too large to be pulled, some of them can be severed with a knife, just below soil level, and removed.



Two of the most common weeds are chickweed and henbit. The more correct common name is "mouse-ear chickweed, or *Cerastium vulgatum*, which should give a clue as to its appearance. The mature leaves are 1/2" to 1" long, bright green and juicy. The stems are thin, hairy, and snap easily when pulled. The stems will root out along their length, making it almost impossible to get all the plant at once. The flowers are very small and white and don't really qualify as wildflowers. Left alone, the plants can reach about a foot across.

Henbit, or *Lamium amplexicaule*, is the other major mat-forming spring weed. I actually find this plant attractive if it's not impeding the growth of annual wildflowers. The grasses and perennials will outgrow it. If you've ever driven by a purple lawn in the spring, this is the plant. The leaves are opposite, nicely scalloped on the edges and about 1/2" to 3/4" across. They have a slightly puckered, quilted look. The flowers are tubular, small and a gorgeous purple to magenta shade. They appear in clusters at the nodes on the square stems.

Vetch, *Vicia villosa*, never really goes dormant in the winter time. This evergreen legume will send out new growth whenever we have three or four days of warm weather in a row. It's often sold as seed to farmers and ranchers as a soil erosion control and soil improvement plant. Vetch fixes nitrogen in the soil and can be kept under control when mowed or grazed. What's never said is that it will tendril up and over many plants, shading them out. It is nearly impossible to pull all the roots out (a must, or it will be right back) once the plants have matured. Get it while it's young. Once you have it pulled, you'll notice tiny bumps on the roots. These are nodules of nitrogen-fixing bacteria. The leaflets are small and dark green, 5 to 10 pairs per leaf. Most flowers I've seen are rose-colored, although they can be violet-blue to white.

Annual bluegrass is one of the few weedy grasses that are green in the dead of winter. Some lawn grasses have escaped and can cause some problems, also. The leaves of *Poa annual*, however, are bright green and cupped, or boat-shaped. The stems and leaves are glossy and tend to splay out from the center of the plant. Be sure to pull these when very young, as they are quite precocious. The plants germinate in early fall, slowly gaining size and strength, until they burst forth in late December to early March, setting seed and preparing to die. One plant alone does not cause much harm, but annual bluegrass sets an enormous amount of seed and it seems they all germinate.

"Cheat grass" is an excellent common name for *Bromus secalinus*. It emerges in late winter, long before warm season grasses and wildflowers wake up, in such vast numbers that it can shade out and kill seedlings. It then sets seeds and dies before the heat of summer, leaving a hole in the meadow and cheating you out of summer flowers and grasses. Its leaves are pale green with purple stripes at the bottom. The most distinctive characteristic is the fuzzy, soft feel to the stems and leaves. The plants will reach 12" to 15" tall before setting seed; the kind that always stick in your socks. It can be pulled when still small, and other than mulch, this is the only way to control it.

Herbicides are not an option when trying to control these plants in a new setting. *Round-up* is not selective at all. It will kill anything green. The grass killers do not work on cheat and annual blue-grass. Broad-leaf herbicides would work on chickweed, henbit and vetch, but would also

Ed. Note: Susan's charming and accurate drawings of the weeds discussed in her article wouldn't all fit on this page. You'll find them, weed-like, "growing" in odd corners here and there throughout the Gaillardia.

kill any emerging wildflowers.

The good news is that this weeding does not go on forever, year after year. The flowers and native grasses will eventually establish and crowd out the weeds. Then you can sit back and enjoy the meadow or wildflower bed you envisioned.

By Leslie Cole-Jackson

First of all, I want to say "Hello" to all the great ONPS members and friends out there. I hear the Indoor Outing at Durant was simply outstanding (and well-attended). A Big Thank You to Dr. Connie Taylor and everyone who helped make this a great event.

I view this kind of educational opportunity created by the ONPS as one of the best ways we can achieve the goals of our Society. "To encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma's native plants".

We, on the conservation committee, want to know what you, the members (The Native Plant Society) see as our society's role in the broad area of conservation. We have included an insert in this issue of the *Gaillardia* that is a survey. Some questions are answered with a simple check in a box, others are fill-in-the-blank, and comments are welcome. Please take your time and give this survey some thought, then return it to Leslie – it's addressed.

We will report the results in the next *Gaillardia* and set to work formulating goals and plans to achieve them, based on the voice of our members.

Thank you for helping!

(Note: Leslie is a veterinarian and mother of two small boys. She operates a joint practice with her husband George in NW Oklahoma City.)

MORE WILD GARDENING

(It must be spring! This time our busy gardening editors came in with two great articles. So, with apologies to Ann Randle for the displacement, is her article as well. It's too timely to save for next time.)

by Ann Randle

This seems to be a good time of year to remind gardeners not to overlook the fact that our local plants can be manipulated in many of the same ways as more exotic cousins. "Natural" landscaping is in reality a concept that exists largely in the philosophical realm. How naturally we use plants in gardening is largely a matter of degree. Remaining a purist may be virtuous in areas like prairie restoration or gardening for wildlife; but if you desire more fun with little or no investment, allow me to point out that many wonderful effects can be achieved by substituting native plants for commonly recommended ornamental nursery species. This approach demands only a couple of things from you. The

first is a good knowledge of the growth habits of native species and secondly a willingness to experiment.

An example on the scale of a major impact occurs to me from the first house my husband and I built. The site had two plum thickets on it when purchased. As I grew up in sand hill country south of the Arkansas River, these thickets reminded me of home, and I wanted to keep them. As you would expect, this scandalized the landscape architect I was consulting with. He probably thought these small groves were amorphic and that the individual plants lacked enough character for the residential landscape. At least, that is what I thought. As a result, I carefully selected a few of the strongest specimens in each group (7 in one area, 5 in the other), three to six feet apart, and laboriously cleared the remainder. At this stage, each shrub was about three to five feet tall. I then began pruning them two to three times a year. My goal was to have small trees that were still tall enough to be mowed under by a six-foot man with his hat on, and trees that were beautiful even in the winter when their trunks and branches would be obvious. Over a ten-year period of careful pruning this was so well achieved that I eventually received many questions about the species of these trees (especially when in flower). Rarely did anyone believe me when told they were native plums that had grown to twenty feet tall.

If you want to try this yourself, here are a few general hints for the inexperienced. Never remove more than one-third of the live tissue from a plant in any one year. Then make cuts back to a node and remember that by doing this you are directing growth to that node. Choose which node carefully. Stubs left look awful and will die back to a node anyway, so you should take control. When pruning plums specifically, begin by taking out low branches, looking for a strong main leader. Be aware that wild plums sucker continually and probably more so under this regimen. There is a tendency to put off weak descending branches that should always be removed. They will never grow in any direction but downward and the goal here is to lift the leaf canopy upward. Plums also throw off all sorts of little branchlets along the main trunks – especially in the spring immediately after bloom. I removed these by sliding a very sharp hatchet along the trunk and at an acute angle to it. This skins the little leaf tufts off and thus maintains a clear view through the trees at and below eye level. Pruning plums in this manner is largely an effort to curtail their instincts to become a thicket. The advantage is that plums have a natural twisted growth habit that can produce a nearly Japanese type of dramatic effect in the garden.

An additional species that could be used in this manner is Rough-leaved Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*). It blooms, birds like its berries, and it should achieve a 15-25 foot stature under cultivation. With both species, think in terms of a small grove when plotting location, instead of using just one tree. The effect is then multiplied.

(Ed. Note: Ann didn't state which Prunus she used, but I suspect that it was P. mexicana. P. americana might do as well, but you'll never make a tree out of P. gracilis!)

By Paul Buck

I am nearing a bottomland forest, one filling the large bend of a Bird Creek meander north of Tulsa. It is a typical, beautiful Oklahoma winter day. Typical in that it is overcast, the wind is from the north, a hint of moisture is in the air, and temperatures near freezing. Beautiful in the sense no others will be out today.

The editor asked for a botany article, one featuring an interesting Oklahoma plant. I quickly accepted since the literature search is always rewarding, I enjoy discussing our native flora, and it is necessary to go into the field to gather information. Past articles have featured goldenrod, mistletoe, pokeweed and other species. The present problem is, what species should I write about? One approach is to go into the field and wander until, by chance, the plant makes itself known.

Leaving the truck at the edge of the road, I enter the forest and immediately encounter a large lagoon, too deep to wade and besides, it is too cold to get wet. That means a walk which turns out to be worth while. Along the bank the surface is a mat of water fern, gathered here by the persistent wind. The few openings are covered by duckweed from which several birds, startled by my intrusion, gather wing and flee to what they must perceive as a safer place. I wonder what lurks beneath the surface? There must be a multitude of insect larvae, many active while others have started the pupation process, a prelude to the reawakening of aquatic life next spring. The lagoon is interesting, but I must move on, seeking that special plant.

The forest consists of large oaks, hickories, ash, elms, and maples. There is no sound but the wind pushing against the protesting trees, the soft impact of late-falling leaves striking the litter-covered soil and complaints of crows objecting to my presence. The tranquil beauty compels me to stop. I settle comfortably on a fallen tree and become immersed in thought – there is something special here. Nearby I spot a tangle of vines consisting of Oklahoma's three members of the moonseed family; Carolina snailseed, moonseed, and cup-seed. The striking yellowish-orange buds of poison ivy catch my eye and close examination reveals bud scales covered with long, soft hairs. Suddenly a white-footed deer mouse, unable to stand it any longer, darts from temporary hiding near my feet for the security of its burrow a short distance away. But it is time to press on in my search of a subject for this article.

Why follow this worn path when an animal trail angles off in the direction I wish to go? The trail shows evidence of deer passing recently. The prints indicate an adult and two juveniles, perhaps a doe with her twins. In this moist area the trail is lined with broadleaf spangle-grass, the heavy fruiting stems forming arches. Youngsters prefer to call this grass 'fish on a line', a most descriptive name. Many of the plants here are still green; perhaps this spot has escaped a hard freeze. Beyond the wet area I find myself surrounded by coralberry (Kansans call it buck-brush), still bearing dense clusters of the reddish fruit which give it our common name. This would be a good subject for the article, but I prefer continuing; it is difficult to give up the interactions with nature and the peaceful seclusion.

In spite of the low temperature, something is moving in the leaf litter. It is wolf spiders scurrying about, although most are under the protective leaf cover. Interestingly, none of the females are carrying egg sacs, the eggs having long since hatched and new young dispersed. These spiders live five or six years and are active through the winter. I wonder how they survive the bitter cold?

In the distance a fallen tree has a distinct reddish glow which calls for examination. It turns out to be a beautiful mass of brightly pigmented moss sporophytes – but this is not the time for moss reproduction. Down on the belly! An up-close, hand-lens look and it is obvious each capsule is wide open, empty of spores. A delightful winter gift from Mother Nature. As I arise I am greeted by a raucous, almost vulgar, alarm cry from a Great Blue Heron as it struggles to get airborne along the edge of the creek. I move to the bank to watch the heron disappear around a bend and find the slope covered with hop vines. Most have been frozen but some are still green and show evidence of browsing, probably deer. While examining the hop fruits a skunk appears, moving rapidly in my direction. It stops at the sound of my voice, stares directly at me and seems to listen as I explain I am no threat and sincerely hope it shares my peaceful intent. After appearing to consider my comments, it continues, not toward me but at an angle, passing without so much as a 'Pardon Me' and disappears into the dense mass of hop.

Space will not permit me to share all I found. There is so much more: the beautiful sulphur-yellow winter buds of bitternut hickory, logs covered with carpets of small tan puffballs, a Great Horned Owl passing soundlessly overhead, patches of leaves covered with powdery mildew, huge sycamores and cottonwoods, and spots of bright green in the leaf litter which turn out to be henbit, nettle and groundsel; a sneak preview of what is to come.

Later, as I contemplate bur-oak fruit along the trail and marvel at the few acorns but abundance of empty fringed cups, it occurs to me it is getting darker, the sun must be setting. At the edge of the forest I climb onto a dike, this time into a much stronger wind, heavier clouds, stinging rain, and it is colder – but still, that beautiful Oklahoma winter day.

No, I've not located that special plant I was seeking. That is bad: what will I tell the editor? On the other hand, it is good: I must return to this spiritual place and continue my search.

WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN WICHITAS

By Joanne Orr

The Wild and wonderful Wichitas will be the scene of the 21st Annual Wildflower Workshop to be held starting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 15 at the Vo-Tech school in Lawton and continuing on Saturday, May 16 with a field trip to the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. The popular Wildflower Workshop is sponsored jointly by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, The Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc.

As always, the workshop will feature an eclectic variety of speakers, including John Snowden from Bluestem Nursery in Arlington, Texas, speaking about native ornamental grasses; John Blevins, discussing worms and compost and Gordon Uno, University of Oklahoma, explaining the naming of wildflowers. Two members of Oklahoma City Beautiful, Inc. will describe how they raise \$20,000 each year for planting wildflowers and Dr. Paul Buck, Tulsa, will describe wildflowers of the Wichitas. Other speakers will be Brian Dougherty of OSU Tech, on Landscaping with Natives, Paul Koreys from the Oklahoma Heritage Inventory on Villainous Plants, and Patricia Folley with a book review. The Friday evening dinner will feature photographs of the Wichitas and legends about the checkered history of these popular Oklahoma mountains, presented by Joe Taylor, who grew up on a ranch adjoining the refuge. Awards will be presented to Native Plant Society Photo Contest winners and Garden Club Poster Contest winners. The Bess Snodgrass Award will be presented to a person who has contributed significantly to the establishment and conservation of wildflowers in Oklahoma.

Buses for the Saturday field trip will leave at 8:00 a.m. sharp and head into the mountains to make several stops to explore and photograph native wildflower sites. The new Visitor Center at the Wildlife Refuge will also be on the day's itinerary, as well as a stop to enjoy the box lunches.

The cost of the two-day workshop package is \$35.00. This includes registration at \$4.50. The Workshop and lunch cost is \$6.50. The Friday dinner cost is \$10 and the Saturday field trip and box lunch cost is \$14. **ONPS members will automatically receive flyers.** Members of the Native Plant Society and the Friends of the Wichitas will act as guides on the field trip. For information not included in the flyer. (available in March) please contact the

Beautification Office of the Department of Transportation (405) 521-4037. Please send registrations to: Ruth B. Simmons, Route 1, Box 67, Walters, OK 73572. Checks should be made out to the Wildflower Workshop.

BOARD/PLANNING MEETING RESULTS

In addition to the calendar and other business reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the Board also discussed:

The President reported that she had written to 44 other native plant societies inquiring about plant protection legislation in their states. We wish to avoid future instances of rampant over-collection, as happened to our purple coneflowers. Although 35 inquiries were ignored, there were informative responses from Oregon, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. The information has been turned over to the Conservation Committee for further inquiry and study.

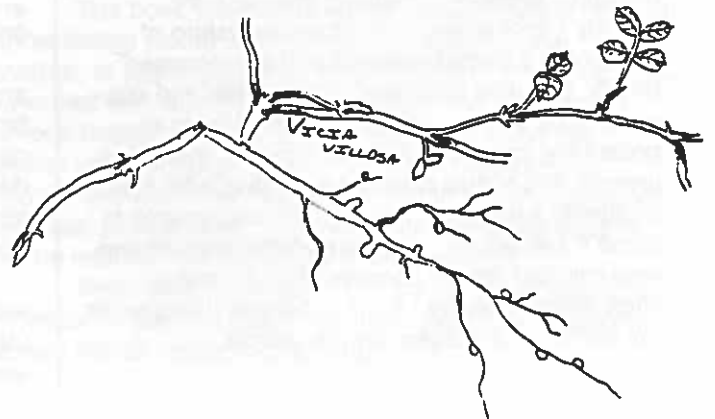
The President announced that all committee chair and co-chair positions have been filled. After a discussion, it was decided that the Conservation Committee may be expanded if membership indicates it would like us to take action on several pressing issues in Oklahoma at this time.

The current supply of our "Plant Collection Guidelines" brochures is almost depleted and it was decided to modify and shorten it somewhat to make a more attractive document. Dr. Paul Buck, who wrote the original, was asked to accomplish the task and he accepted.

The ONPS had been asked by the Choctaw Ranger District at Heavener for input into a proposition to use herbicides in controlling vegetation growth that obscures the view on some over-views on the Talimena Scenic Drive. After hearing the consensus of the Board, Dr. Buck agreed to respond for the ONPS approving the proposition providing the herbicides were used in a judicious manner on selected target plants only.

New Board Member Larry Magrath told us of plans for an annual Wildflower Festival in Chickasha and specifics will be published in this newsletter as available.

A nominating committee is to be appointed immediately and will be asked to provide a complete slate by the August 15 deadline for the fall Gaillardia. Their first assignment will be to contact the incumbent officers as they are all eligible to serve another year if willing. Both board members whose terms expire in 1998 must be replaced. This year, particularly, this task should be easy. If you have an interest in serving your ONPS on this committee, please contact President Boyd immediately at (405) 872-9852.



Gaillardia Winter 1997
OLD GROWTH FOREST IN
OKLAHOMA

page 7

FIELD TRIP PLANS

By Connie Taylor

Post oak-blackjack oak forests cover about 17,623 miles in Oklahoma and it is our most common ecosystem. Dr. Stahle, Tree-Ring Laboratory, University of Arkansas, has been investigating old trees in the SE United States for over 20 years. He has found that many undisturbed sites on steep bluffs and slopes with poor soils produce a forest cover not desirable for timber or agricultural purposes. SO, in Oklahoma we have, by default, an extensive amount of "Old Growth Forest". Old growth forests have become associated with towering Redwoods, Douglas Fir, and other impressively large trees. However, the dwarfed and gnarled Bristle Cone Pines of Utah and California are the oldest trees known.

Dr. Stahle and his colleagues have found 300 to 400 year old Post Oak trees and 300 to 500 year old Red Cedars in the Cross Timbers of Oklahoma. These trees average only 15 to 40 feet in height and 10 to 20 inches in diameter. They occur in uneven age stands with a mosaic of age classes including sapling, juvenile, mature, and ancient trees along with standing-dead snags, and fallen decomposing logs. He believes that these post oak-black-jack oak forests have remained about the same for the last 6,000 years.

One of the most extensive locations is in Osage County, on dissected uplands just east of Keystone Reservoir. It is owned by the U. S. (Corps of Engineers), the Tulsa Audubon Society, and Mr. Irvin Frank of Tulsa. Mr Frank has given ONPS permission to visit the site on Saturday, April 4. (See Field Trips) Dr. Stahle, UA, and Sophonia Roe at OSU will be our guides.

Not only does this area have very old Post Oak and Red Cedar, but it seems that all the major species of trees, including blackjack oak, black oak, black hickory, ash, and winged elm have individuals at or above typical life spans.

The ancient Post Oaks of the Cross Timbers have annual rings that respond dramatically to the environmental conditions to which they are exposed each year. Dr. Stahle's group has found that post oak chronologies in Oklahoma and Texas reflect the El Nino/Southern Oscillation of sea surface temperatures over the equatorial area of the Pacific Ocean. The scientific, wildlife, botanical, historical, geographical, geological, educational, and recreational significance of these tracts warrants their protection.

By Connie Taylor

APRIL 4, Saturday. 10:00 a.m. Osage County, Old Growth Forest at Frank's Tract in Osage Co., about 15 miles west of Tulsa. (Dr. Paul Buck, 918-743-3397) **Directions:** **FROM EAST.** Go west from Sand Springs on HWY 412/64 for 6 miles. Turn north on New Prue road. Go north 2 to 2.5 miles to transmission tower on east side of road. **FROM WEST.** On Hwy 412/64 across Keystone Lake, come about 2.5 miles east to New Prue road. Turn north and go north 2 to 2.5 miles to transmission tower on east side of road.

Bring a lunch and water.

JUNE 6, Saturday. 10:00 a.m. Tillman Co. Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area, 10 miles south of Frederick. **Directions:** From Frederick, east 1 mile to VoTech. Turn south for 2 miles. At T of Airport Road turn east for 1 mile, then turn south for 6 miles. At EW 189 Road go east 1/2 mile. Meet at entry sign. Bring lunch and water. (Dr. Connie Taylor, 580-924-5163 or mail to Rte 1, Box 157, Durant OK 74701)

AUGUST 8, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. For Orchid Trip, meet at entrance to Lake Raymond Gary State Park Campground located about 1 mile east and 2 miles south of Fort Towson, about 12 miles east of HUGO. (Jimmy Norman, 918-682-1896 or mail at 502 N. 14th St., Muskogee OK 74401)

FIELD TRIP RULES

>Preregistration is required for all field trips.

>Field trip announcements will contain the name, address, and telephone number of the leader. If you have doubts about the terrain, difficulty, etc., ask.

>Field trips take place rain or shine. Hiking boots, long pants and a hat are essential.

>Bring water and lunch or a snack. Sunscreen and insect repellent are always in demand. Field guides, a camera and binoculars are nice.

>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.

>Children old enough to keep up are welcome. Pets are not. Children should be warned against picking flowers or collecting animal or plant souvenirs: many of our field trip sites are havens for the rare and endangered.

1998 ANNUAL MEETING ALERT!

The ONPS 1998 Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Native Plant Society of Texas and the New Mexico Native Plant Society in Amarillo, TX the third weekend of October--**October 15-18, 1998**. The first day, Thursday, October 15, will be a "pre-conference" field trip day for those who are able to attend. The last day, Sunday, October 18, will also feature various field trips to conclude the conference. The middle days, Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17, will be for the presentation of papers, the respective business meetings of each organization, and perhaps workshops or other conference activities. There will probably be a banquet Saturday evening, October 17. The joint meeting will be held at the Raddison Hotel, near the airport on the east side of Amarillo, which has facilities for the conference presentations, the banquet, and plenty of rooms for those who wish to stay at the conference headquarters.

A preliminary "Call for Papers" is being issued now to our membership and local authorities. The regional focus for this year's meeting is "**Llano Estacado and Canyonlands,**" which, I have been advised, may be broadly interpreted to include most of the southern plains, including **western Oklahoma**. Papers are to be compiled into a "Symposium Proceedings" to be distributed at the meeting. Conference speakers and topics will be obtained from the papers submitted. The papers may be up to 10 pages long and double-spaced, turned in on computer disk and with one paper copy. The deadline for submission of papers is September 1, 1998. Papers should be sent to: **Native Plant Society of Texas, P. O. Box 891, Georgetown, TX 78627**. If you have particular questions on paper format, etc., you may call Dana Tucker, NPSOT, (512)-238-0695. The email address is: yecn08a@prodigy.com.

More information will be forthcoming in the next Gaillardia. Just to keep tabs on things, I would appreciate it if you would let me or Ann Randle (Annual Meeting Co-Coordinator) or Ruth Boyd know if you do plan to submit a paper, or if you would like to make a presentation at the conference or conduct a field trip or workshop. We want ONPS to be properly represented at this great joint meeting of three native plant societies in a high plains setting. Noteworthy attractions of the area include (but are not limited to) the following: Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, Buffalo Lake National Wildlife

Refuge, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, and (near Quitaque) Caprock Canyons State Park. Let's get with it for Amarillo in October! Thanks--Judy Jordan, Annual Meeting 1998 Co-Coordinator. (Judy Jordan, 405-321-1611; Ann Randle, 405-447-4773; Ruth Boyd, 405-872-9652)

BOOK REVIEW

The Green Pharmacy, by Dr. James A. Duke. Rodale Press, \$29.95 in hardback

Duke has done it again! He has provided the consumer interested in medicinal plants a source that covers some 120 symptoms of the human body, from Athlete's Foot to yeast infections. Part one of the book is a guide to *The Green Pharmacy*. This section includes the safety aspects of using herbals for medicinal purposes (these pages should be read carefully by the inexperienced before using herbals), buying, harvesting, growing and storing medicinal plants. This section also contains information and instructions for making herbal teas, tinctures, poultices, and salves.

Part two covers some 120 symptoms of the human body and how and what plants are used to treat them. There is a short general overview at the beginning of each symptom, followed by the plants that are useful for it. Each plant is given by common name, with scientific name in parentheses. This is followed by a variety of useful information concerning the plant species. And in some cases, the author provides a generalized recipe. Throughout the book are boxes that illustrate a particular plant or provide interesting anecdotes about the plant or symptom. In several cases a recipe is provided (e.g., in the section on overweight, there is a wonderful recipe the author calls *Lean Mean Bran Muffins*).

At the end of section two, the author provides an overview of his life with plants. This is a most interesting section because in several ways it parallels the lives of many of us whose world seems to center on plants and the seemingly endless wonders of nature.

The only disappointment in the book, but minor and one of personal taste, is the index. Under some entries it will refer the reader to another entry. For example, if the reader looks in the index for coneflower, it will refer him to Echinacea. Under Echinacea it provides the page number. This is an annoying process when it seems that a page number could be put under coneflower as well as referring the reader to Echinacea.

The book provides a wealth of information concerning medicinal plants whether one is a professional, amateur, or just enjoys a general interest in medicine. It is presented with solidly researched data and often in the author's botanical humor. It also provides those not familiar with the importance of plants in medicine an enlightenment to their many uses and to some degree with medicinal plant history. I highly recommend the book for anyone with an interest in plants and medicine.

Submitted by Stephen L. Timme, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Botany, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 / slt@pittstate.edu

1998 Photo Contest

The purpose of the photography contest is to encourage the study, protection, appreciation and use of Oklahoma's native plants. This year 85 entries were submitted by 23 state-wide photographers. The entries were judged by Linda Lockett and Professors Susan Barber and Andrew Strout in January. The winners will be announced at the Oklahoma Wildflower Workshop to be held in Lawton on May 15. All of the photographs submitted will be mounted and on display throughout the state.

The photography committee would like to thank both the photographers and the judges.

p.s.: To schedule past contest photograph posters for display in a public place near you, contact Sue Amstutz at (918) 742-8374 or Ruth Boyd at (405) 872-9652.

INDOOR OUTING REPORT

Barney Lipscomb with Connie Taylor



By Pat Folley

Of the 90-odd registrants, at least 89 showed up in Durant on a beautiful Saturday to enjoy this traditional first "field trip" of the year. Dr. Connie Taylor had planned our day to the fullest, providing a variety of interesting speakers and activities, plus a great lunch in the college's Sidewalk Café.

Morning sessions included Dr. George Diggs presentation on the imminent publication of the Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas, which will be of immense interest to Oklahomans as well. Then Dorothy Thetford used her beautiful slides to educate us on some of our own southern Oklahoma wildflowers, and some wonderful home settings using them. Barney Lipscomb told us *All About BRIT*, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, and Rahmona Thompson introduced us to the wonders of Internet surfing for information on botany, wildflowers, and

resources. The equipment now available for classroom use made at least one old ex-teacher green with envy!

After lunch, we had to choose (heartbreak!) only two of three great labs: *Botany on the Internet*, with Dr. Thompson, *How to Know the Ferns*, with Dr. Bruce Smith, or *Introduction to the Asteraceae*, with Dr. Taylor.

As always, we ran out of day before we all got caught up on our visiting. See you all in the field on April 4!

FRIENDS OF THE WICHITAS PHOTO CONTEST

The *Friends of the Wichitas*, a support group for the Wichita Wildlife Reservation, also functions as a southwest-area chapter of the ONPS. (Anyone who doesn't understand that has never been an officer in an organization that uses volunteers on a state-wide basis.) Last year they held their own photo contest, and it must have been successful, because they are doing it again. As we haven't room to run the whole application, we'll just say that the deadline is 1 December 1998, the categories are 1) Native Plants, 2) Animals, and 3) Landscapes and Landmarks. Prints 4x6" to 5x7" will be accepted. Contact Dr. Paul Reimer at 1105 Becontree Drive, Lawton OK 735-4001 / ph. (580) 536-5488 for entry blanks or more information.

WILD GARDEN MAGAZINE

ONPS has received a courtesy copy of a beautiful new magazine, called *Wild Garden*. The subtitle introduces it: Your Resource for Gardening with Native Plants. Following an introduction by Sara Stein, author of *Noah's Garden* and *Planting Noah's Garden*, are articles about wild plants, wild animals, birds, butterflies, and the people who love and make room for them. I read every word, including the ads, and enjoyed it all. It costs \$23.95 for six quarterly issues, to Wild Garden / P.O. Box 70570 / Eugene, OR 97401, or phone (541) 726-5819, or <http://www.wild-garden.com>.

PRAIRIE FESTIVAL 98

The Land Institute, officed in Salina Kansas, announces a two-day celebration on May 30-31, 1998, honoring Aldo Leopold. Leopold's four children and two of his biographers will be present to speak about his work, and the schedule also includes bird- and prairie- hikes, tours, art, music, food, a barn dance, and children's activities. For more information, contact *The Land Institute*, 2440 E. Water Well Road, Salina, KS 67401

1997 Species List, *Growing Native Wildflowers*

The Kansas Wildflower Society has issued another in their series of propagation and cultivation guides. I have found these to be helpful, easy to understand, and appealing as educational material. Issued in notebook form, each nearly-annual collection includes a mix of common and not-so-common wildflowers. Contact Pat Folley at the Gaillardia address for a copy of the order form, or send \$7.80 for printing and shipping to Lorna Harder / Dwight Platt, Kauffman Museum, Bethel College, N. Newton KS 67117.

Gaillardia Winter 1997

NE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

by Betty Kemm

We were saddened by the loss of two charter members this winter – Josephine Hyatt and Forrest Romero.

For our December meeting Russell Studebaker brought some specimens of winter wild fruits and then showed a video about native lilies of Southeastern United States.

On January 17, Paul Buck led a winter tree walk co-sponsored by ONPS and the Tulsa Garden Center. Sue Amstutz and Betty Kemm set up an exhibit for the Midwest Conference of the International Society of Aborigiculturists. The NE Chapter will host a shift on March 13 at the Garden Center's booth at the Tulsa Home and Garden Show, displaying ONPS materials.

Coming events will include:

March 9: Regular meeting at the Tulsa Garden Center. There will be a potluck supper at 6:30 with the meeting at 7:30. Eleanor Rader will give a slide program about Redbud Valley.

March 21: Field Trip to a new Oklahoma State Park. Natural Falls State Park is on U. S. 412 near the Arkansas state line. Meet at the Garden Center at 8:30 a.m. to carpool or at Natural Falls at 10:00. Bring lunch or snacks. In the afternoon we will return by way of Clare and Buddy Miller's property near Rose, OK.

April 10 and 11: Garden Market. Members will donate plants and volunteer for the Garden Center's annual sale.

May 4: Regular meeting at the Tulsa Garden Center at 7:30 p.m. The program will be about the new Mooser Creek Greenway Project in Tulsa, presented by Corey Wren Williams.

Jimmie Norman wants to have a field trip to the wild azaleas in April, but hasn't found a date yet. He suggests visiting the Honor Heights azalea gardens in Muskogee on the same trip.

CENTRAL CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

BY Sheila Strawn

Our business since the Annual Meeting last October: 1) Virginia Pattinson agreed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer again in 1998. 2) Sharon McCain has accepted nomination as Chairperson for 1998. 3) ONPS (State) Chapter Guidelines were adopted by the Central Chapter

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at the February meeting. 4) Our election of officers will be at our March 30 meeting.

Programs held since last October included: In January, Dr. Larry Magrath with a very educational presentation on penstemons with slides, handouts, and an extensive question and answer session.

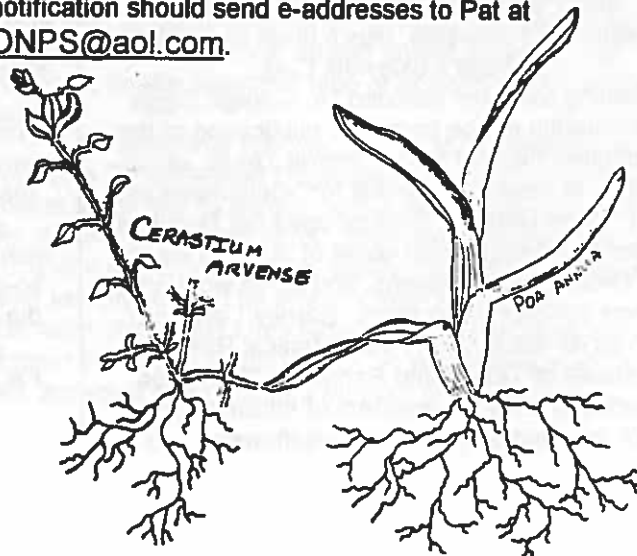
For the February meeting, Susan Chambers presented a slide program showing a wide variety of water gardens she and her husband, Wayne, have built and /or maintained. They are Co-owners of Rose Rock Landscaping in Midwest City. The program was so well-attended that it was almost standing-room only. If our meetings continue to be this successful, OSU-OKC's Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center has promised us a larger room. (*What a great incentive for all of us to bring lots of guests!*)

Judy Jordan sends these plans for future meetings:

Monday, March 30: Sam Friedman will speak on "Fossil Plants of Oklahoma I Have Known". Sam was Senior Coal Geologist for the Oklahoma Geological Survey until his retirement in January, 1996. He was in charge of coal resources investigations. He continues to work in this area after retirement and maintains an office at the Survey. He will be bringing fossil specimens, as well as color slides, to his presentation.

Sunday, April 26: The Central Chapter April meeting will be a field trip to the campus of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO), at Chickasha, and will consist of a visit to the USAO Herbarium, followed by a tour of the campus to observe trees and other plantings. The field trip will be led by Dr. Larry Magrath, Professor of Botany and Interdisciplinary Studies and Curator of the Herbarium. Participants should meet at the water garden immediately north of Austin Hall (The Science building) at 2 p.m. The program is expected to last until 4 p.m.

A future outing to the Selmon Bat Caves will be announced later, as will the planned summer picnic in June. If you are interested and not currently on the special post-card announcement list for Central Chapter, call Ruth Boyd, Pat Folley, Judy Jordan or Sheila Strawn (all on your green sheet) for directions and listing. Members wishing e-mail notification should send e-addresses to Pat at ONPS@aol.com.



Gaillardia Winter 1997

ONPS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

August, 1997

Wes & Georgia Galloway, Locust Grove
Jettie Jo McElroy, Tulsa
Jeff Myrick, Durant

Tracey Norris, Edmond
Robert Wiebelt, Crescent

September, 1997

Rosanne Edwards, Tulsa
Fran Heston, Norman

Kip & Lori McDonald, Anadarko
Pearl Pearson, Oklahoma City

October, 1997

Bettie Cooper, Marlow
Richard Sharp, Oklahoma City
Dorothy S. Silver, Durant

November, 1997

Robert J. Harwood, Tulsa
Paul J. Kochie, Edmond
Gregory L. Schoen, Oklahoma City
Russell Stevens, Ardmore

December, 1997

Anton Kammerlocher, Norman
Joann Nitzel, Calumet
Dion Perkins, Watonga

January, 1998

Chad & Pat Cox, Norman
Nels Holmberg, Washington, MO
Janice McCormick & Ed Main, Tulsa
Doris Perkins, Idabel
Katy J. Rasberry, Norman

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Wow! What a lot of new faces to learn. If you know any of these good folks, invite them to attend a meeting or field trip with you. Make them welcome and hope they'll be happy they joined us.

A word about addresses

ONPS has a business address:

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

Membership, changes of address, and general correspondence of all kinds except newsletter material should be sent to the Tulsa address.

For *Gaillardia* material only, use the editor's address:

Patricia Folley, Editor
15100 Etowah Rd.
Noble, OK 73068

The *Gaillardia* can accept material by disk (ASCII or Word format), fax to (405)872-8361, or e-mail to

Onps@aol.com

Members who wish to receive information by e-mail from ONPS may send their on-line address to onps@aol.com and just say you want to be included in any notices.

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

DONATION TO: ANNE LONG FUND _____ HARRIET BARCLAY FUND _____

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

Published quarterly by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society
2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa OK 74114

President	Ruth Boyd
Vice President	T. H. Milby
Secretary	Clare Miller
Treasurer	Judy Jordan
Historian	Karen Haworth

Boardmembers-at-Large
1998: Sheila Strawn and Betty Kemm
1999: Lynn Allen and Sue Amstutz
2000: Paul Reimer and Larry Magrath

Edited by Patricia Folley
Copy to: 15100 Etowah Road, Noble OK
73068

Phone/fax (405)872-8361
e-mail Onps@aol.com

*Gaillardia articles may be reprinted at will.
Please acknowledge source and author.*

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

Each year at the Annual Meeting (usually, in October), an award is made in the name of Anne Long, one of the organizers of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, who died before it became a reality. Anne loved the native plants of Oklahoma and the people who cared enough to preserve them.

Nominations for this award may be made by any ONPS member, and are for a person or organization who has been a shining example of the execution of our Purpose during the past year or years. Members of the current Board, though, are not eligible for the award (those listed in the box at the left). To refresh your memory, the Purpose is stated on page 1, under the logo.

RULES: Send the name of the person or group you wish to nominate, with your own name and address to:
Dr. Paul Buck, 1623 S. Delaware Pl., Tulsa, OK 74104-5915.

On a separate sheet, explain why you think the nominee deserves the award. All nominations are kept confidential, and the names of the nominator(s) are not revealed.

RENEWAL TIME!

Please look at your expiration date on the label and if it's not '98 or later, send in your dues. We don't want to lose you,

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

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ONPS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

☞ Please circle the answer or fill in the blanks where appropriate. Additional comments welcome.

1. Should the ONPS develop lists of books and suppliers of appropriate native plant material to be made available to any organization or individuals who could benefit (ie: landscape professionals, state and local planners, forest service, schools, garden clubs and individuals)? Yes No
2. Should the ONPS be more involved in the effort to have more conservation education mandated and taught in Oklahoma's Public Schools? Yes No
3. Should the ONPS be more active in fund raising to support approved projects (teacher workshops, use of native plants in recovery and landscaping projects, getting the word out on our scripted slide programs)? Yes No

If so, how do you recommend we raise funds? _____

4. Should the ONPS support in appropriate ways botanic gardens, state herbaria, research? Yes No
5. Should the ONPS be active in locating and/or protecting botanically special areas in the state? Yes No
6. Do we need a Legislative Committee to follow or even initiate legislation affecting the conservation of Oklahoma's Native Plants? Yes No

If Yes, please give your NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

.....PHONE # _____

7. Does the Native Plant Society want to be an activist organization – or – do we want to support activist organizations already in existence?

ONPS as an activist organization

Yes

No

ONPS as a supporter of existing activist organizations

Yes

No

8. Does the ONPS need to pursue new members more aggressively?

Yes

No

If so, list any suggestions on how to best accomplish this:

9. With regards to Legislative and Conservation issues which suddenly are in the limelight, would you be willing to be listed in a phone tree to be advised of these issues and to make calls yourself? Yes No

If so, please give Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

10. Do you know anyone in the Legislature, whom you would be willing to contact about Conservation / Native plant issues and voice ONPS views and provide information? If so, list Representative's name: _____

11. Can you recommend another action we can take to improve our Conservation mission?

Please fold this questionnaire and address it to

Leslie Cole-Jackson
1217 N. W. 199th St.
Edmond, OK 73003

(The post office no longer allows staples: please use tape to fasten the long edge)