

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 PARAGRAPH2
GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE3
CONSERVATION CORNER4
BOTANY BAY5
WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP.....6
FIELD TRIPS7
ANNUAL MEETING PLANS8
PHOTO CONTEST REPORT9
CHAPTER ACTIVITIES10
MEMBERSHIP FORM11
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS11
ANNE LONG AWARD12

Blue insert: Photo Contest Entry Blank

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Volume 13, Number 2
 SUMMER 1998

**COPY AND ART DEADLINE
 FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
 15 August 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

- June 27: Board meeting in Oklahoma City at the OSU Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center, N.W. 4th at Portland. 10 to 12 a.m. Sheila Strawn.
- Aug. 8: Annual orchid tour of SE Oklahoma. Meet at Raymond Gary State Park at 9 a.m. Pg. 7, Larry Magrath and Jim Norman.
- Aug 15: Gaillardia deadline.
- Sept. 12: Field trip to Rich Mountain area. See page. 7.
- Sept. 15: Urban and Community Tree Council, annual Tree Conference, Tulsa. Call Mark Bays at the Oklahoma Forestry Service, (405) 521-3864. Public is invited.
- Sept.19: Field trip and picnic, Central Chapter, at Sharon and Don McCain's. P. 10
- Sept. 28: Regular Monday evening meeting of the Central Chapter, at OSU Tech's horticulture center, 4th and Portland, Oklahoma City. 7:30 p.m.
- 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
- Dec. 1: Photo contest deadline (see blue insert)

1999

- Feb. 6: Indoor Outing in Chickasha. Larry Magrath
 - May, date not set: 22d annual Wildflower Workshop.
- Note: all members are invited to all chapter field trips or meetings, including board meetings, and are encouraged to bring guests.**



ONPS Thanks These Special Fund Contributors

Anne Long Fund
 Aline B. Romero, Kathleen E. Duncan,
 Mary Korthase, Helen Hodges, Katherine E. Skinner

Harriet Barclay Fund
 Karen S. Harris, Mary R. & Stephen Whitmore,
 Aline B. Romero, Mary Korthase, Helen Hodges,
 Kathleen E. Duncan

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

by Ruth Boyd

Although we exchange newsletters with several other Native Plant Societies, we have never until recently had an official Affiliate. The OK Orchid Society has voted to become our Affiliate. I'm not sure just what that entails but I must assume it means they support our goals. We certainly share interests and concerns about preservation of our native flora. We are pleased to welcome OOS and look forward to future collaborations.

We have just had one of the most exciting Wildflower Workshops I have ever attended and my first was in 1985. At that time I could not believe that an event of that magnitude could come off without a hitch of any noticeable sort. I was also disgusted that I had only found out about them and they had already had 7 without me. I have been representing the ONPS for 6 workshops and if I wondered how it all came together before, I now know. It's a *Miracle!* So many involved with so many different ideas and about how to present them and yet the end result is always magnificent.

The ONPS not only helps plan and conduct the workshop but we also sponsor the annual Photo Contest and award its prizes at the workshop and we provide field trip leaders for the Saturday field trips. Since we have so many joint members, I recommended to Paul Buck, who is traditionally our chief field trip leader, that he work with Paul Reimer, president of the Friends of the Wichitas, for a joint effort. We certainly owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Reimer for stepping in at the last minute and doing it all, due to a serious illness in Dr. Buck's family. He gave the Friday afternoon slide program and details of the field trip and served as Chief field trip leader. He had ample assistance on the trip from both ONPS and FOW members. Just another example of the narrow escapes we have overcome to provide what seems to make each workshop seem flawless.

Every reader of this newsletter must feel proud of the Bess Snodgrass winner, our own Pat Folley, Editor. Naturally it wasn't just this publication that won it. Pat is a tireless worker for ONPS and The Nature Conservancy. She gives many, many wildflower programs, tutors some home-schooled children in nature subjects, is a member of the Flora of Oklahoma Project and is compiling a picture book of roadside grasses that has been encouraged by Dr. Doyle McCoy, author of the other Roadside books. Incidentally, Dr. McCoy made a surprise visit to the workshop and was kept busy

autographing books. Heartiest congratulations to Pat on the overdue recognition.

P.S. Modesty will make her not want to publish this but I am the President and what I say goes... occasionally.

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.



Folley trying to look modest while receiving award from Orr.

A WORD OF THANKS AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Thanks to the efforts of our member Leslie Cole-Jackson of Edmond, this year beginning June 15 and continuing through August 15, the current year's ONPS Photo contest posters will be displayed at the International Photography Hall of Fame and Museum at the Omniplex in OKC. The exhibit will also include one prior year's posters each time, and they expect to do that every June through August for eternity or until they change their minds.

For the rest of our members: here's your chance to become famous. Use the inserted Photo Contest entry form and use the pictures you're taking right now. Hint to new contestants from an old winner: don't wait until the first frost to start looking at your annual generation of slides and snapshots. Instead, as each roll of slides or prints is developed, have the best one or two printed in 4x6 or 5x7 sizes. At the end of the season, you can hold your own "contest" to select the best six for entry. "Extras" and "also-rans" will make nice postcards, little framed pictures for gifts, or scrapbook items.

By Susan Chambers

Due to the pressures of spring gardening and participation in the Wildflower Workshop, Susan has shared with us this pre-written piece on Alternatives to Common Ornamental Trees and Shrubs. The clipping was from *Hortideas* for March 1998, but the source is acknowledged as *The Dawes Arboretum Newsletter 32(1)*, January 1998.

Why choose something different from what all of your neighbors are planting? There are several good reasons. Greater diversity in local plantings should help to reduce pest and disease problems. And some of the alternatives have greater resistance to such problems than do the plants they can replace. Also, novel plants are sure to stimulate interest and attract admiration. But be sure that the climatic (minimum temperatures, annual precipitation, etc.) and site (soil type, shade level, etc.) requirements of any alternatives you choose will be satisfied at your site!

(Ed. Note: the long list has been pared down to mostly native American species or their cultivars.)

Instead of *Acer saccharinum* (silver maple), try *Tilia tomentosa* (silver linden).

Instead of *Euonymus alatus* (burning bush), try *Euonymus europaeus* "redcap" (spindle tree).

Instead of *Gleditsia triacanthos*, f. *inermis* (thornless honeylocust) try *Celtis occidentalis* (hackberry) or *Cladrastus lutea* (American yellowwood).

Instead of *Ligustrum* spp. (privets), try *Itea virginica* (sweetspire).

Instead of *Lonicera tatarica* (Tatarian honeysuckle), try *Aesculus parviflora* (bottlebrush buckeye).

Instead of *Prunus x cistena* (purple leaf sand cherry), try *Prunus virginiana* 'shubert' (Chokecherry) or *Cotinus coggygria* "Velvet cloak" (smoke tree).

Instead of *Pyrus x calleryana* 'Bradford' (Bradford or callery pear), try *Amerlanchier x grandiflora* (apple serviceberry).

Instead of *Quercus palustris* (pin oak), try *Quercus coccinea* (scarlet oak), *Quercus rubra* (northern red oak), or *Quercus shumardii* (Shumard's oak).

Instead of *Syringia vulgaris* (common lilac), try *Chionanthus virginicus* (American fringe tree).

Instead of *Platycladus orientalis* (oriental thuja), try *Thuja plicata* (western red cedar) or *Thuja occidentalis* (American arborvitae).

STALKING THE WILD AMARANTH: Gardening in an Age of Extinction by Janet Marinelli. Henry Holt & Co., April 1998, \$25.

Yes, this is the same book I reviewed at the Wildflower Workshop, so if you were listening then, you may go on to page 4. If not, pay attention! This is an important book for those who love native plants, or variety in their lives, or who have ever wondered if there was anything that could be done at a really grassroots level by ordinary people.

Janet Marinelli, who works as a publications director at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, once joined a colleague doing field research in a hunt for the rare sea-beach amaranth. And after several days of slogging through sand, they found one. Just one, recently crushed by an off-road vehicle. Using the plight of the amaranth as a model for the plight of the rest of the natural world, Marinelli develops a rational response to the need to preserve the non-aggressive, non-economic plants and animals, for their own sake, not because they have a price to pay.

A gardener from childhood, and the daughter and granddaughter of gardeners, Marinelli must tend her salad greens and azaleas in a densely populated Brooklyn neighborhood. The challenges make the victories even sweeter. Along the way, the reader learns a lot about the tough problems, and some of the solutions. I was particularly enchanted by the description of some of the eastern woodland plants and their need for propagation. "The quirky May-apple", she says, "is spread by the land turtles that eat their fruit. Bloodroot and violets are disseminated by ants. Now, turtles and ants can cross highways, and occasionally even arrive alive, but seldom while carrying loads of Bloodroot seed. So gardeners who are aware that global warming means that plants must have carriers to take them across man-made barriers in a northerly direction can simply remember to plant and care for those plants which are, for them, at the northern extremity of their range.

In even the tidiest of gardens, the most formal of landscapes, there is room for a dozen bloodroots, a clump of Mayapple. If we add to those waifs a healthy desire to use native plants instead of the all-too-available aliens where the natives will do as well, we may learn to plant trees and shrubs which have survival and wildlife value as well as beauty.

You can learn a great deal from this book. I wouldn't want to discourage anyone, because the book is eminently well-written, but it is also a triumph of elegant writing and clear thinking. Marinelli is being mentioned as a disciple of Thoreau, Emerson and Wright for her ability to take a problem out of the mundane context and make it, somehow, universal. As you wait for the bookstore to open, think of this: "ecologically sensitive gardening needn't be a dreary affair. As great gardeners have always done, we must reinvent our relationship with the rest of nature in a fertile, creative, and playful way."

By Pat Folley

By Leslie Cole-Jackson

**Conservation Committee Reports Survey
Results**

Hello everyone! Thanks to all who took the time to respond to the questionnaire in the last Gaillardia. We had 19 respondents. This number doesn't give the Conservation Committee any mandates for actions. However, I do believe we have gained valuable insight into our members' concerns and interests. Many thoughtful comments and suggestions were also included. Most respondents supported the idea of the ONPS being a source of information concerning the use of and how to acquire native plants to the public. New Mexico NPS is very active in this area, providing sources and instructions. An interesting suggestion which would lend itself to this problem very well, I think, was the development of an ONPS Web Page.

Most respondents also favored more education about conservation in Oklahoma schools and felt the ONPS could do more to raise funds for our organization. Most also favored supporting state herbaria and the ONPS helping to locate botanically rich or special areas in this state.

Interestingly, respondents were about equally for and against having an ONPS Legislative Committee with perhaps an existing committee (the Conservation Committee) which would handle these issues when they arise.

Those ONPS members who responded almost unanimously did not want our organization to be an "activist" organization. However, almost every one did favor forming coalitions with other organizations to help achieve common goals and address common concerns. Not many respondents, however, wanted to be involved in these processes personally, nor is there a means currently in place in the ONPS to deal with the mechanics of these issues.

The majority would like to see the ONPS seek new members. Many excellent suggestions were put forth, from student memberships to ads in appropriate publications, like the Nature Conservancy's state magazine. I know that people I speak to are surprised and delighted to find out that we exist.

Several valid comments expressed concerns about the actual mechanics of bringing any of these goals about. I would say this is a good start towards discussion of these and other issues. We have great ideas and I see the joint meeting with the TNPS AND NMNPS in October as an opportunity to see what the other states are doing in the area of conservation and to exchange information.

Thank you for your interest. We genuinely appreciate each response.

We got e-mail! Actually, we have several members now who have sent their e-mail addresses. But one special message has to be passed on: from Nora Jones in Trinidad, "We are getting nicely settled in Trinidad. Yesterday we spent most of the day in the field with Roger Neckles. Roger strikes us as the Harvey Payne of Trinidad. He is extremely knowledgeable, likeable and talented. His photos have been published in The National Geographic and other publications. We got fantastic views of the common piping-guan at daybreak and the channel-billed toucan at sunset. In between we saw swallow-tailed and plumbeous kites, yellow-headed caracara, and common black, great black, gray, white, and broad-winged hawks. Other birds we had good views of were violaceous trogon, white-shouldered and silver-beaked tanagers, ringed and green kingfishers, striped cuckoo and yellow-rumped cacique.

"We stopped for breakfast and lunch at a lovely little hotel in Grand Rivere. We made reservations to go back there in a few weeks to view the sea turtles nesting on a nearby beach."

(Nora is a former President and Editor of ONPS)

Leslie also sent along this fragment:

*"What thou lovest well remains, the rest is dross;
What thou lovest well shall not be reft from thee;
What thou lov'st well is thy true heritage.
From Ezra Pound, Canto LXXXI*

In your spare time, ONPS members: think about the need, expressed several times through these pages, of a source of seeds and plants of native species, preferably in the central Oklahoma area. (Steve & Sherry Bieberich are wonderful, but they're in Clinton. Loretta and Kirk Bowers are wonderful, too, but they're in Cherokee County.)

Yes, we need members to plant and nurture native perennials which can serve as sources of propagules for sharing. But we need someone, too, who has commercial greenhouse space and is willing to gamble on these plants as salable material. I think of the beautiful red colombine that grew in my messy garden this year, from seed dropped by Paul Buck last summer. And the red-flowered *Penstemon murrayanus*, shared by Jim Norman. Oh, and the delicate, blue-flowered *Clematis pitcherei* brought in by Leslie Cole-Jackson. If it can grow in my weed-patch, folks, it's hardy. (I broke my right arm in April and haven't been able to dig or weed since.)

We have members who are horticultural professionals, and many more who have influence with other people in that field. Surely somewhere there is the right person to provide that service. Then, we need the names and locations of source material to offer these pioneers. Think about it!Pat Folley

BOTANY BAY

By Pat Folley, with a little help from Connie Taylor, via e-mail. Thanks, Connie!

Some of you have noticed that many authors have begun separating the old family "Papilionaceae", the peas and beans family, into three new families, each not as large but maybe more coherent. We've had many a lively debate about these changes while writing the family descriptions for the Flora of Oklahoma Project, and more to come, no doubt, before we're done. However, there is no stopping the onward march of insight and research into the complexities of the world around us. Here, as a bit of guide to the brave new world of legumes, are some guides to deciding which is which:

Mimosaceae. Probably best-known for the alien tree *Albizia julibrissin*, called Mimosa, this family of 11 species growing wild in Oklahoma contains only one non-native – that tree. You can recognize Mimosa family plants easily by their round or cylindrical flowering heads with minute flowers bearing long, showy stamens that look like pom-poms. Most of them also have touch-sensitive leaves that fold up rapidly when touched, endearing them to children of all ages. One common Oklahoma species has recently suffered two name changes, and will probably be called *Mimosa nuttallii*, instead of *Schrankia nuttallii* or *S. uncinata* when all the votes are in. Its common names are even more fun: "catclaw, sensitive brier, powder-puffs", and more.

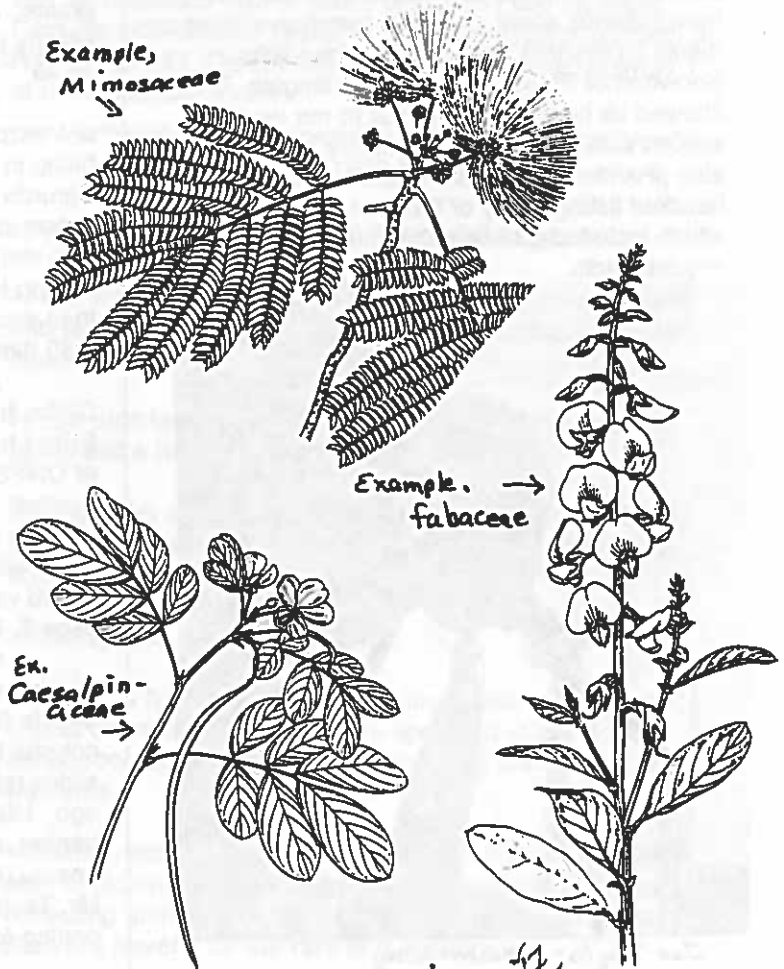
Caesalpinaceae. Mostly tropical plants, the best-known species in Oklahoma is probably our State Tree, the Redbud, or *Cercis canadensis*. The family's namesake, *Caesalpinia gilliesii*, called "bird of paradise", is not native to Oklahoma but has escaped cultivation and made itself at home in the southwest counties. We also have a native in that genus, James rushpea, or *Caesalpinia jamesii*. If that doesn't ring any bells, try *Hoffmanseggia jamesii*, the name some of us know and love.

There aren't many obvious differences about the Cassia family, as it continues to be called, but look for simple leaves (as in redbud) or compound leaves (as in honey locust or Kentucky coffee tree), combined with flowers that are slightly irregular (Cassia) or nearly pea-like (redbud), but are never quite perfectly pea-like. Look for flowers with the upper petal enclosed by the lower ones while in the bud: in the true peas the upper petal is on the outside of the bud.

Several years ago, the large Senna genus was divided into two (in Oklahoma) segregates. *Cassia fasciculata*, or partridge-pea, became *Chamaecrista fasciculata*, and *Cassia nictitans*, or sensitive pea, became *Chamaecrista nictitans*. Our other Cassia species were transferred to the genus Senna. The distinctions are made on the basis of fruit characters.

Fabaceae. Still one of the larger families in the State, with 154 species in 40 genera, the Fabaceae are found worldwide in huge diversity, and include some of the most important food plants. Leaves may be simple or palmately or pinnately compound. Many are vines. Typical Oklahoma species might include *Amorpha canescens* (lead-plant), a shrub; *Apios americana* (American groundnut), a vine; *Astragalus missouriensis* (Missouri milkvetch), an herb; *Robinia pseudo-acacia*, (black locust), a tree, and the ubiquitous *Melilotus officinalis* (yellow sweet-clover).

The best way to determine whether a plant belongs in the Fabaceae is to look at the freshly-open buds. The large upper petal, called the banner, wraps around the lower petals until they are fully open. The two lower petals are usually fused into a boat-shaped "keel". (Don't expect the possession of "beans" to help – many other plants make bean-shaped pods, but they don't behave like true beans. Think of Catalpa trees, for example, members of the very different Bignoniaceae.)



Diagrams are from Guide to Flowering Plant Families, by Wendy B. Zomlefer

Gaillardia Summer 1998
21st Annual WILDFLOWER
WORKSHOP

page 6

By Laurie Stillings Effinger and Ruth Boyd
(because Joanne Orr went to *Switzerland!*)

Many participants were heard to say "this was the best workshop ever!". We hear that at each one and they do seem to get better and better. 165 individuals registered. The ladies from Lawton and the surrounding area who make up the SW District of State Garden Clubs did an outstanding job with registration, snacks for breaks, a display of freshly cut wildflowers from the area in labeled containers, artwork on the name tags, favors and special buttons depicting a Gaillardia and centerpieces for the dinner tables. The facility at Great Plains Vo-Tech in Lawton provided total support for the Friday activities, including two meals.

Pat Folley reviewed two books that will be interesting reading: "The History and Folklore of North American Wildflowers" by Timothy Coffey and "Stalking the Wild Amaranth: Gardening in the Age of Extinction" by Janet Marinelli. Dr. Paul Kores, Visiting Professor, Oklahoma Heritage Inventory, softened the horror stories about our most common villainous plants by treating them with humor. John Snowdon of Bluestem Nursery, Arlington, TX, showed us how to add interest to our landscapes with native and non-native grasses. He also provided us with a comprehensive 4-page handout listing many of those recommended which included growth habit and growing requirements.



Joe Taylor, reminiscing

After a brief break, Genia Stenseth and Kay Tanger of OKC Beautiful, Inc. shared some of the secrets of their highly successful "Pennies for Wildflowers" campaigns. Winners of the school competition got to put their principal "in jail", bombard her with water balloons and send her to the moon in a "refrigerator box space ship". The means used to inspire those school kids should be interesting to fund-raisers at all levels. At that point we were joined by 60 third and sixth grade students from Lawton who came to hear our next speaker and then to adjourn to another room for about an hour of activities. They also toured the display room. All were impressed with their good behavior and active interest in the program. John Blevins, "The Worm Guy" from *Visions of Paradise, Inc.* of Oklahoma City motivated all present to acquire red wiggler worms to use in their gardens and for composting. According to Blevins, worms are the only species that return more good things to the environment than they take out. Those who desired were allowed "hands-on" encounters with the worms.

Following a lunch of barbecue and trimmings, Brian Dougherty, a prominent OK landscape architect, used slides to show examples of natural landscapes. He cautioned all present that maintenance requirements should be remembered and planting designs should be realistic in order to function properly.

In a talk entitled "A Rose by Any Other Name", Dr. Gordon Uno of the University of Oklahoma explained the reasons for using both common and Latin names to identify plants. Although it might seem a dry subject, this popular botany professor made the topic interesting and relevant to us all.

Last on the afternoon program was Dr. Paul Reimer of Lawton, current president of the Friends of the Wichitas, filling in at short notice for Paul Buck, who usually leads the Saturday field trips and gives a preview program the day before to prepare us for what is to come. Using slides provided by Doyle McCoy, Dr. Reimer did a fine presentation on the glories that awaited us at the Refuge. We were then excused to nap, shop, or visit local attractions until the 6:30 dinner, provided at the same location.

After dinner, Marge Franklin of Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. described a poster contest they had conducted. Prizes had previously been awarded. Ruth Boyd, President of ONPS, then announced the winners of the annual Photo Contest. Certificates showing a computer image of their winning entries were presented to each winner present, along with the check. The 8th Annual Bess Snodgrass award was awarded to Patricia Folley of rural Noble (see page 2, President's Paragraph)

Our evening speaker, Joe Taylor, is a retired rancher who grew up during the depression on land adjacent to the Refuge. He entertained us with stories of colorful local citizens of bye-gone years. He also showed slides taken of wildflowers on the Refuge nearly 50 years ago. His mother had obtained the photos, taken by an area banker, and preserved them. We were all awed by the beauty of the subjects and the quality of the color slides. Mr. Taylor was highly informative and entertaining, a fitting ending for an excellent day. (cont. on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

Saturday dawned bright and clear after an early-morning rain cleared the past week's smog, and the day's activities in the Wichita Wildlife Refuge more than exceeded our naturally high expectations. In two large buses we visited the Quetone overlook for dry hilltop wildflowers including Drummond's skullcap (*Scutellaria drummondii*), Indian blankets (*Gaillardia pulchella*), lance-leaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), giant beardtongue (*Penstemon cobaea*), with spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) and blue false-indigo (*Baptisia australis*). Many were interested by the many plants of the smallest daisy, (*Chaetopappa asteroides*). Following a stop at the new Visitor's Center and its gift shop, we toured the hill behind the historic Ferguson House, which proved the species-lister's highlight of the day. A box-lunch meal at Boulder Cabin picnic grounds capped the tour for about half the folks, who returned early to Lawton. The remainder stayed to tour The Narrows, a beautiful natural feature adjacent to Boulder. There we saw a clear mountain stream tumbling over the typical rounded pink boulders, a pair of "mountain boomers" or colored lizards, courting on a rock, and even a small beach of pretty pink sand. Field trip leaders included Dr. Reimer, Pat Folley, Dick Clapp, Barbara Tarbutton, John Johnson, and Elise Smith, all members of the Friends of the Wichitas and of Oklahoma Native Plant Society.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

OLD GROWTH FOREST IN OKLAHOMA

By Ruth Boyd

Saturday, April 4, was another of those cold early spring days we had an abundance of this year. There was also a threat of rain but that didn't keep a hardy individual from enjoying the delights of Frank's Tract. We were dressed for cold and the rain never materialized. Due to a breakdown in communications, Dr. Stahte was not able to be our field trip leader but Sophonia Row from OSU, who has done extensive work on the property, did an admirable job with assistance from Paul Buck.

Among other wonders, we saw Shadbush (*Amelanchier arborea*), black hickory (*Carya texana*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and five kinds of native oaks. Herbs included ferns *Asplenium platyneuron*, *Asplenium trichomanes*, and *Woodsia obtusa*, as well as more colorful spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), yellow star-grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*), arrow-leaved violet (*Viola sagittata*), Jack-in-the-pulpit

(*Arisaema triphyllum*), and smallflower bitter cress (*Cardamine parviflora*).

There were plenty of large rocks to provide seating while we enjoyed our brown bag lunches.

The Hackberry Flats field trip is underway as this goes to press, so no news on that front for this issue.

FIELD TRIP PLANS

By Connie Taylor and Jim Norman

AUGUST 8, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. For the ONPS' famous Orchid Trip, meet at the entrance to Lake Raymond Gary State Park (near the rest-rooms) located about 1 mile east and 2 miles south of Fort Towson, about 12 miles east of Hugo. Please bring insect repellent, drinking water, and casual, comfortable shoes. Cameras are definitely recommended. We will proceed to several stops using air-conditioned vehicles, and have never had a snake-bite yet, so it is not the "field trip from hell" that you might think, considering the season. (Jimmy Norman, 918-682-1896 or mail at 502 N. 14th St., Muskogee OK 74401)

Saturday, September 12. Rich Mountain Tour

We will meet at the Queen Wilhelmina Inn* on the Talimena Trail at 9:30 a.m. to take a mostly driving tour of the flora of this unique Oklahoma environment. While the terrain tends to be rough and rocky, there will be sights to see for members with all kinds of abilities and interests. Register with Connie Taylor at (580)924-5163 or address at Rte 1, Box 157, Durant OK 74701. *Oklahoma Highway 1 at the Arkansas border.

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.

BY Ruth Boyd

Peter Loos, president of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), called on the phone to relate that final plans for the combined Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico annual meeting scheduled for October 15 through 18, 1998, will be finalized by the third week in July. He promises us a registration form complete with program, fees, etc. in early August. Since we believe that the September 20 date that our fall newsletter will be received is too late to be fair to our members, we plan to make a special mailing within a few days after its receipt.

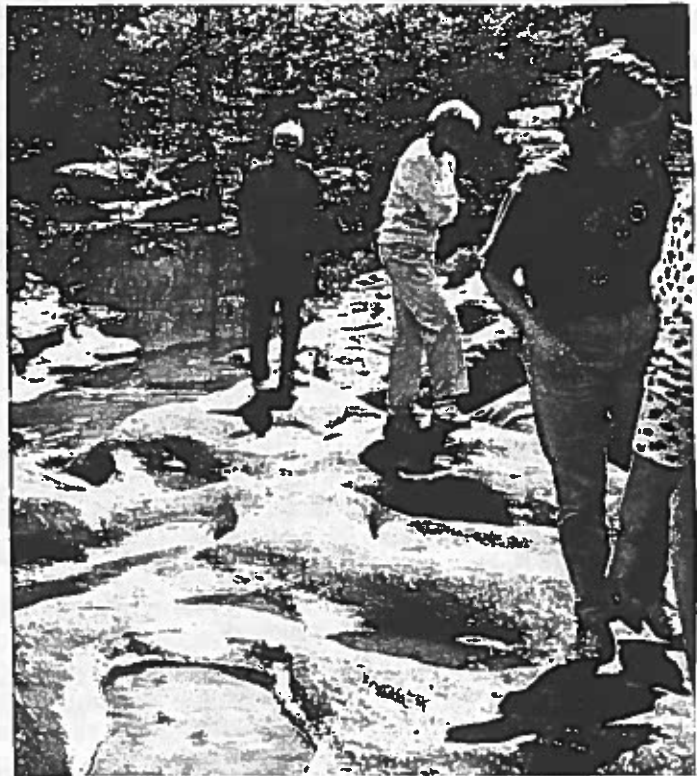
Here are a few of the tentative plans:

- A silent auction of donated articles. All are encouraged to bring items like plants, books, garden tools, and other plant-related paraphernalia. Proceeds will be shared by all three sponsors, based on percentage of attendance.
- A minimum of five half-day and one full-day field trip. More will be added if attendance justifies it and leaders are available.
- A minimum of 15 papers will be presented.
- Probably 5 workshops are possible. Topics are propagation, cooking, photography and dried arrangements. ONPS is invited to present a workshop but it should be defined prior to the third week of July. Please call Judy Jordan at (405)321-1611 or Ann Randle at (405)447-4773 or Ruth Boyd at (405)872-9652. We will discuss this at the June 27 board meeting.
- Most meals will be the responsibility of the participant. However, the exceptions are: Friday evening, with an evening speaker, dessert will be available. There will be a Saturday evening banquet. The Amarillo chapter plans a wine and cheese party.
- Three wildflower T-shirt designs are being created especially for the occasion.
- A logo is being designed, to include the names of all three states.
- It is expected that we will occupy almost all of the Raddison Hotel (near the airport) for the event. A room will be assigned to ONPS where materials such as books for sale, photo contest posters, etc. may be secured.
- Each organization will have time on Saturday for its own annual business meeting.
- Registration is expected to run between \$50 and \$64 depending on how many sponsors can be lined up.
- We are encouraged to plan a field trip designed mostly for our own members (or guests) on the way home on Sunday. There

will be field trips planned in Texas for those who can stay another day.

- For planning purposes, we estimated that about 75 ONPS members may attend. New Mexico made the same estimate. Texas never has fewer than 230 members at their annual meetings. Since registrations will be mailed directly to Texas, we need to find a way to know how many ONPS members are registered. More on that later.
- The Spring Gaillardia included information on submitting papers to be presented at that joint meeting. We recommend you review those as you read this. We have not yet heard from anyone who is planning to represent us in this important function. 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.

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)



Thanks to Dorothy Norris for sharing this great shot of Jim Norman and others on a N.E. Chapter outing to Bathtub Rock.

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 were announced at the Oklahoma Wildflower Workshop held in Lawton on May 15. All of the photographs submitted have been mounted and will be kept on display throughout the state.

And the winners are:

BEGINNERS

- 1st Place: Gene Streller, Edmond "Sumac"
- 2nd place: John Johnson, Lawton "Antelope Horns"
- 3rd place: Delores Ward, Denison, TX "Calico Aster"
- Honorable Mention: Wyatt Schmitz, Noble, "Mulberry"

AMATEUR CLOSE-UP

- 1st Place: Gene Streller, Edmond "Passion Flower"
- 2nd Place: Sharon Burris, Ardmore "American Star Thistle"
- 3rd Place: Cathy Minor, Sayre "Rayless Gaillardia"
- Honorable Mention: Marguerite Waldroop, Muskogee, "Meadow Beauty"

ADVANCED CLOSE-UP

- 1st Place: Patricia Folley, Noble "Opuntia engelmannia"
- 2nd Place: Anton Kammerlocher, Norman, "Antelope Horns"
- 3rd Place: James Norman, Muskogee "Yellow Trout Lily"
- Honorable Mention: Dick Clapp, Noble, "Redbud"
- Honorable Mention: Priscilla Iba, Tulsa, "Blue Vervain"

HABITAT

- 1st Place: James Norman, Muskogee "Spider Lilies"
- 2nd Place: Patricia Folley, Noble, "Pennington Creek"
- 3rd Place: Dorothy Norris, Tulsa "Trees, Creek"
- Honorable Mention: Dorothy Norris, Tulsa, "Mushrooms, Trees"

BOTANICAL

- James Norman, Muskogee, "Fiddleheads"

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.

1999 Photo Contest

Attention, Photographers! Your 1999 Photo Contest entry blank is inserted in this issue for your convenience. Note the 1 December, 1998 deadline, set to permit consideration of all those great pictures you take this year.

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 73505-4001 / ph. (580) 536-5488 for entry blanks or more information.

MORE WINNERS

The Annual Harriet Barclay Awards for the best student papers in botany presented by the Oklahoma Academy of Science were made to:

**Cora M. Hutson
McLoud High School**

And

**Kara Morgan
Wewoka High School**

The awards consist of a cash prize of \$25, plus a memorial plaque and a year's membership in the ONPS. We are justly proud of these young people, who represent the future of wild plant conservation for all of us.

Ed. Note: After presenting Cara with her award, I joined super-teacher Bruce Smith and his honors biology classes for two days at the Noble Wildlife Research Center east of Ada. A finer lot of youngsters you never saw: they were interested, attentive, kind, agreeable, and courteous. As I was somewhat disabled with the broken arm, they even served as portable props, and without a single complaint.

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 Loma Harder / Dwight Platt, Kauffman Museum, Bethel College, N. Newton KS 67117.

by Betty Kemm

Activities this spring included a great field trip to see the newest state park: Natural Falls, in far eastern Delaware County. The scenery was spectacular, and the weather, though chilly, was fine. We found walking fern, *Asplenium rhizophyllum* L., on rocks in the splash pool under the largest waterfall. Many shrubs which should make lovely shows later, such as Hydrangea, filled the mostly wooded site, and spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*, was in full bloom. Later, after a picnic lunch at the park, we went over to Clare & Buddy Miller's vacation home about 20 miles southwest of the park, and had another tour. It is a beautiful site, with a wooded ravine and a little creek at the bottom. Jim Norman and Paul Buck were the leaders, but as usual, each member and guest brought his/her own expertise and shared. What talented members we have! Pat Folley and Ruth Boyd came all the way from central Oklahoma to join us.

Jimmie Norman reports that the wild azaleas were putting on the best show in some time, and that the field trip to view them yielded other goodies as well, but no report of the route or number of attendees is available at presstime. Dorothy Norris sent snapshots of a group at Bathtub Rocks, which may show up on this page if room permits.

CENTRAL CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

By Tina Julich

Officers were elected at the March 30, 1998 meeting. Elected were: Chairperson, Tina Julich; Chair-Elect, Sharon McCain; Secretary/Treasurer, Virginia Pattinson.

Also on the March 30 agenda was a program by Samuel Friedman of the Oklahoma Geological Survey. He entertained our many attendees with a witty and informative lecture to accompany his slide presentation on "Fossil Plants of Oklahoma I Have Known". He also brought along hands-on examples of many of the fossils for us to look at.

Members brought plants to share.

Central Chapter outings included a field trip April 11 to Lake Arcadia. Eighteen members were led on a walking tour on a balmy Saturday morning. Also in April, members and guests braved the weather for a field trip to the campus of USAO in Chickasha, led by Dr. Larry Magrath. A downpour cut the campus tour short,

but we were able to regroup indoors to look at the extensive specimen collection of Dr. Magrath. Even soaking wet, the field trip was great.

Upcoming events planned by the central chapter include:

An outing to the Selmon Bat Caves is planned for July 18. This trip is for those who have made a reservation, since it is a guided tour, and space is limited. Susan Chambers will mail information packets to those who have already signed up. If you're interested in attending, check with her to see if there have been any cancellations.

All members urged to attend the wonderful Orchid Tour on 8 August. You can't top this tour for experience and sights.

Sept. 19 is the date set for our picnic and field trip to Sharon and Don McCain's home. The native grasses should be in great shape on this date. Take the first exit from I-40 for Mustang/Yukon, south about 8 1/2 miles. They will put a sign at the driveway. Come on out at 5 p.m. Bring a box dinner and chairs; the McCains will provide drinks.

The first evening meeting of the new season will convene on Monday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m. OSU Horticulture center, NW 4th at Portland, Oklahoma City. The speaker hasn't yet been announced. If you have seeds to exchange, bring them. And bring a guest!

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

Teaming with Wildlife is an initiative sponsored jointly by many conservation organizations to gain support for wildlife resources. It is a national program attempting to attain funding by legislative action, to be derived from a "tax" on supplies and equipment for outdoor activities. Oklahoma is one of the leaders in securing the support of organizations and businesses:

TOP COALITION BUILDING STATES

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Alaska | 2. Iowa |
| 3. Pennsylvania | 4. Oregon |
| 5. Minnesota | 6. Arizona |
| 7. Washington | 8. Missouri |
| 9. Oklahoma | 10. North Carolina |

ONPS, an early supporter of TWW, is now receiving e-mail notices for the progress of this important project. Not only does this medium receive immediate attention, but also as it is virtually cost-free, more of the resources go to the cause instead of to the overhead (vs. snail-mail)

A "safer" room freshener can be made by simmering a small amount of white vinegar with some fresh herbs while preparing a meal. Many commercial fresheners contain compounds that aggravate asthma and build up on furnishings and carpets to make them harder to clean.

ONPS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

ONPS Secretary Clare Miller reports:

- Sheila J. Edgmon, Tecumseh
- Lorna Habegger Harder, N. Newton KS
- B. A. & Patricia Heck, Broken Bow
- Charles S. Lewallen, Henryetta
- Betty (Florence) Miller, Irving, TX
- Debbie Pleu, Tulsa
- Cathy & Shannon Sheffert, Stillwater
- Paul & Mary Sheffert, Oklahoma City
- Janet Corley, Norman
- Sue Meyer, Norman
- Geneva Murray, Edmond
- Melissa & John Pearson, Jones
- Louise Pennington, Sperry
- Jack & Helen Bell, Edmond
- Marcia Buchanan, Norman
- Dorice Burkes, Oklahoma City
- Patty Cummings, Norman
- Paul & Nila Dowlearn, Wichita Falls, TX
- Linda & Edward Easter, Piedmont
- Cora M. Hutson, McLoud
- Larry & Dawn Montello, Marlow
- Kara Morgan, Cromwell
- Wayne Owen, Hot Springs, AR
- Kari Smart, Durant
- Sally Boyd Yones, Shawnee
- Larry & Barbara Alexander, Tulsa

Jeremy Bell, Durant,
 Linda Brown, Stillwater
 Melany Dickens, Norman
 Robert Leigh, Stillwater

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.



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

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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

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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
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Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

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.

We are all urged to give thought to our communities and just who ought to be recognized as a person or organization who has been a shining example of the execution of our Purpose during the past year or years. *The winner need not be an ONPS member.* 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.

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