



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.

March 27, Saturday Field trip to Sunshine Nursery in Clinton. Central Chapter; see page 10.

April 26, Monday: Central Chapter meets at OSU Tech, OKC, at 7:30 p.m. for a program by Judy Jordan on the Amazon Rain Forest. See page 10

April ? Sunday, date uncertain, to be determined by weather: NE Chapter field trip, on a Sunday, to the home of Dr. Patrick Blair, Professor Emeritus at Tulsa University. P. 10

May 1: State-wide field trip sponsored by the NE chapter, to Osage Hills State Park and The Western Wall. Page 7

May 3: NorthEast Chapter will host Janet Slater for a presentation on the Wildflowers of the Appalachians.
May 21-22 Wildflower Workshop, Stillwater. All ONPS members will receive a brochure in the mail. Page 8

June 12, Saturday: Central Chapter field trip to the OKC zoo. See page 10.

June 19, Saturday: Statewide field trip to Alva/Waynoka. See page 7

October 15-17: Annual Meeting at Lake Texhoma Lodge. More in Summer Issue.

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

Ruth Boyd, Paul Buck, Chadwick Cox, Kathleen Duncan, Judy Jordan, Mary D. Price, Marcialyn Robinowitz, Pat Folley in memory of Bob Boyd

Harriet Barclay Fund

Ruth Boyd, Paul Buck, Kathleen Duncan, Forrest Johnson, Judy Jordan, Mary D. Price, Marcialyn Robinowitz, Mary R. Whitmore, Pat Folley in memory of Bob Boyd

Life Memberships

Ethel Mae Brown, Tulsa
Bill Menzie, Norman

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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The Green Sheet: Committee persons and how to contact them.

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Volume 14, Number 1
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**COPY AND ART DEADLINE
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 May 1999**

☛ Contributions from members are welcome!

By Sheila Strawn

"My brain is full!" We had outstanding speakers, presenters, & workshop leaders at the annual "Indoor Outing" on February 6. Larry Magrath, Professor at USAO and coordinator of the Indoor Outing saw to it that we had the best facilities, food, and program. There were so many new ideas suggested, so many opportunities to learn that I find it hard to focus again on what it was I was supposed to do before I went. If you've been enjoying our workshops and field trips and haven't had the opportunity to thank the leaders before it's time to go, please drop a line, zap an email, or mail a note on a computer disk (in TEXT format) to Pat Folley. She'll put it in the next newsletter and let everyone know what an excellent job they've done.

Before I left for the Indoor-Outing, I had received correspondence from the National Forest Service about the questionnaire regarding SFP's (special forest products) and a request for help on a new project to renovate the plaza area at the Kerr Arboretum. Every week I get new communications from local, state, and federal entities wanting our help on conservation issues. There is more work than our Conservation Committee can deal with. If you would like to help sort out, coordinate, & work on a conservation or education project, please let us know. We need your help. In the coming months, our nominations committee will be asking for members to serve as officers or board members for next year. Call one of our nominations committee members, Judy Jordon, Patricia Heck, or Irene McKee or call me at home (405) 733-0864. Serving as a state board member or as an officer in your local chapter is a good way to "learn the ropes". If you are asked, please say "yes" and be ready for some highly rewarding experiences.

SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS SURVEY

What are they? Special Forest Products (SFPs) are known by many names. From the Forest Service's perspective, they are those things you might take from the woods that are not part of their well established programs. Special Forest Products do not include things like timber, firewood, Christmas trees, rocks or minerals, or forage for livestock. SFPs are things like berries, moss, pinecones, medicinal herbs, grapevines, live plants, herbarium specimens, and just about anything else that comes from plants.

The collection of SFPs for private use and commercial resale is increasing dramatically and national forest lands are being especially

hard hit. We've all seen the proliferation of herbal health supplements and a trip to your favorite craft store will highlight the popularity and range of SFPs available to the consumer. On the down side of the SFP issue, just about everybody has seen a favorite patch of coneflowers disappear, an old patch of lady-slipper orchids eradicated, a hidden moss bed laden with partridge berry stripped, or a seep full of cinnamon ferns devastated. The Forest Service, in order to devise a fair, consistent, and ecologically sound means of assuring the future survival of all those species that fall into the SFP category, has embarked on a process to assess who uses SFPs and how they use them.

The Forest Service realizes that there is rarely any harm in a family going out to pick dewberries for jam, collecting a few pine cones for a holiday wreath, or picking up a decorative piece of heartwood for a home garden. These, and other, low-intensity, private uses are part of a great tradition and an important avenue by which we experience the natural world and pass our traditions and values along to our children. The Forest Service is more concerned about people who remove quantities of SFP for private profit. It is important that any such removal be done in a way that is ecologically sustainable and not injurious to the health of the forest. The Forest Service is not necessarily opposed to the commercial extraction of SFPs. Conversely, there is no guarantee that it will allow such collections. If it does, there are several issues to resolve. Chief among those issues is the cost of a SFP program. When the Forest Service sells timber, the timber purchaser pays for the preparation of the timber sale; the environmental analysis before hand and the clean-up after the sale. If the Forest Service decides to allow the collection of Special Forest Products, someone is going to have to pay for the administration of the permit process. The options are that either you pay for it via your tax dollars, or that the people making money from SFPs pay for it.

This issue of Gaillardia contains a SFP survey. Please take the time to fill it out and return it. Your anonymity is assured. Remember that the Forest Service's SFP policy, what ever it ends up being, will apply only to national forest lands. This is your best chance to tell the Forest Service what you think. All options are currently being considered so your input will help frame the issues in a way consistent with the goals of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society.

ONPS IS ON THE 'WEB'

Check it out, and then bookmark this site:

<http://www.telepath.com/chadcox/onps.html>

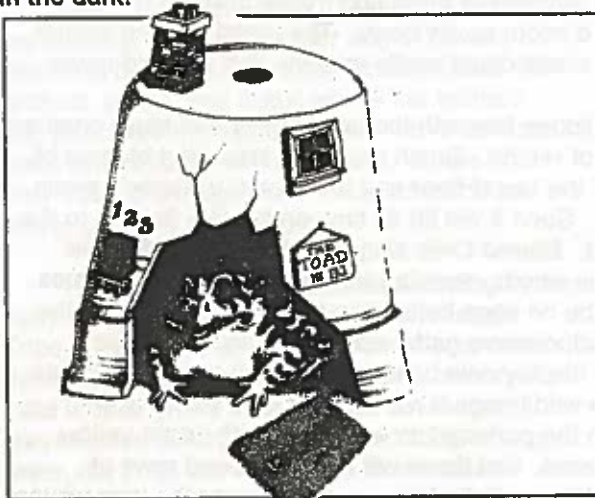
We encourage all members to take advantage of this new member service. ONPS member Chad Cox of Norman has designed and is maintaining this website as a contribution to the Society. Why not drop him a line at his email address: chadcox@telepath.com and let him know you appreciate it. This issue of Gaillardia will be available at the web site. Also, links to other Native Plant websites and sources of some great pictures.

Wayne Chambers on The Compost Pile

(Ed. Note; Wayne said I could title this, so he asked for it!)

Gardeners who make their own compost are much like folks who make their own chili or barbeque sauce. There are some basics but lots of room for self expression. Because most gardeners have their own ideas about what to put in their compost I won't deal much with that in this article. I'm just going to give a few very random tips about what I've learned.

I practice creative cheapness. My compost bins are wooden shipping pallets, the bottoms lined with plastic. Both plastic and pallets were scrounged. Raw materials - leaves, grass clippings, horse manure, etc. are scrounged as well. I steer clear of anything that has been chemicalized. I don't want my compost to glow in the dark!



Before I begin the process I gather all my raw materials into my "staging area". Actually, it's just a gigantic pile of bags of leaves and grass clippings that have gone anaerobic and gotten so smelly that they would stink a buzzard off a gut wagon. After about two months of this Susan asks when I'm going to do something about it. I assure her the bags are merely "pre-composting" and that I was just on my way to take care of the problem that very instant.

A month later when I actually begin making compost, I roll out the key to making great compost: our chipper/shredder. Or, as I like to call it "Ol' Rusty!" That's not a nickname. It really is old and rusty. Once I finally get Ol' Rusty fired up it makes a lot of racket so my wife, the neighbors and everyone else within a four mile radius knows I'm up to something important.

When operating a shredder or any power equipment it is a good idea to protect yourself. Wear gloves, safety glasses, ear protection, and

a dust mask. Pants and a shirt come in handy as well. Keep the area in which you are working clear. This is to allow for easy access by emergency vehicles.

Never check the fuel level with a lighted match.

When feeding raw materials into the shredder, remember: drier is better than wet. Especially that sloppy stuff that has been in the bag for six months and makes a disgusting "schhhplungk" as you dump it onto the chute. Just before it slides down en masse into the spinning hammers and jams them up so tightly you spend the rest of the afternoon digging the stinky slimy mess out. That, and the biggest part of the plastic bag you hadn't noticed slid in as well.

To keep the raw material moving along in an orderly fashion it is a good idea to keep a pointy stick handy. You need not search for a pre-pointed stick because the stick will become pointy when the hammers chew on it a while.

Pay attention to the statement on the machine that says: 'NO HANDS BELOW THIS LINE'. This is not so much a warning as a statement of fact. Put your hand below that line and folks will be calling you "Lefty, the One-armed Composter."

Although few people realize it, I've found it is a good idea to add candy wrappers to the compost. Susan found a bunch of wrappers in the compost bins and thought I was just pigging out on candy. This wasn't the case at all. The wrappers bind the compost together in much the same way the fat in the candy binds your arteries together. Susan didn't believe me either. She said if I wasn't careful I was going to turn into a candy bar. In fact, she said I often reminded her of one already. "Which one" I wondered. "Butterfingers? Bit O Honey? Or maybe just maybe "Big Hunk?" She said "Zero was more like it." She said she had been hoping for a 'Millionaire' instead.

Finally, when making compost, it is best to have two people. One to run the machine, the other to go after candy bars and pointy sticks.

■ Timber Company Agrees to Government Deal

Groves of towering redwoods that were saplings when the Roman Empire was at its height have been saved in a middle-of-the-night deal with the timber company that owns the tract along California's fog-shrouded Pacific Coast.

In a deal reached Tuesday, the state and federal government will spend \$480 million to buy the 12-square-mile **Headwaters Forest** from **Pacific Lumber Co.** and set aside the property as a preserve.

The agreement, which concludes more than a decade of negotiations, also imposes timber-cutting restrictions for the next 50 years on an additional 330 square miles of redwoods that Pacific Lumber will still own. That area includes 12 stands of redwoods dating back 1,000 years.

From Staff and Wire Reports

Last-minute
Good news:
we won one!

THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

18 Wednesday, March 3, 1999

By Paul Buck

It is winter. Yet as I sit at a picnic table to write (and at the same time, watch the trees grow and animals play) it is an extraordinarily beautiful day. The soil is saturated by recent rain, the sky clear blue and there is a gentle breeze from the south. The temperature is well above 70°; but nevertheless, consulting the calendar, it is winter.

All of us in Oklahoma are familiar with these wonderful days but recognize how quickly things can change. Tomorrow may dawn with a strong, cold north wind bringing rain, then sleet turning to snow. One of the many pluses of living here is the weather, its diversity and the stimulating swiftness of change.

Today one often hears comments our weather shifts are due to El Nino or global warming. Now, that may be true but the only recently recognized El Nino has probably been a factor for centuries. We have become aware of the mechanism of this phenomenon in only the last decade or so. At this time the data are not all in on the question of global warming. Evidence suggests there has been an increase in global temperatures but perhaps that is simply a long-term climatic cycle over which we have little control. But then, it might be a result of an increased atmospheric carbon dioxide level resulting from human activity. If, as some maintain, it is indeed the former, resulting from an intrinsic cycle, dumping vast quantities of the gas into the environment will most certainly exacerbate the problem.

Enjoy the day. Winter is not past. We may still experience a late blizzard. This is the season to exercise the mind by reading. Forget the mind-numbing television and settle down with some books. Plan a garden for the approaching spring, pour over seed catalogs or curl up with some of the books set back for reading "some-time in the future".

With that thought in mind, let me recommend a book of more than thirty nature essays by an Oklahoma author. Its title is "From the Stump: Thoughts of a Naturalist", by Bob Jennings, Director of the Mary K. Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa.

Bob is widely recognized as an outstanding naturalist, one who takes his philosophy of environmental interpretation directly to the hearts of our youngsters. One cannot help but be impressed as school children depart the Center after a field trip, their minds filled, not with complex names of organisms, but instead able, and often eager, to explain the role each plays in nature's scheme of life. Bob Jennings

is a naturalist *par excellence* as any member of the Northeast Chapter of the Society who is familiar with him will testify.

Bob's book is loosely divided into rotating spring-summer-fall-winter essays. Let me share "Winter Hope" from my worn and dog-eared copy. You must agree it sheds an interesting light on our youngsters and winter.

WINTER HOPE

Winds are northerly and sharp with a damp chill this morning. It's spitting snow. Ducks, mostly Mallards and Gadwalls, huddle along the protected edge of the pond, probably wondering why they didn't go further south for the winter. The trees offer bare silhouettes to the gray winter sky. One lone Marsh Hawk patrols the edge of the road, watching, without much hope, for a brave or foolish field mouse.

On days like this, it seems as if the whole world is slowly rumbling to a halt. The wild creatures huddle sleepily in their burrows, with only a few venturing forth to scavenge among the dried and frozen grasses for an overlooked acorn or dry berry. The forest is deep asleep, and a pessimist could easily imagine that it would never awaken.

But hidden beneath the gray clouds and snow crust are the signs of rebirth. Brush aside the insulating blanket of leaves on the forest floor and the Henbit is already green and leafy. Soon it will lift its tiny, orchid-like flowers to the spring sun. Barred Owls sing their 'who-cooks-for-you' deep in the woods, marking territory and tempting mates. They will be on eggs before the month is over. Even the bullfrog tadpoles we gathered last fall and put in the aquarium display new bumps, which will soon evolve into legs. The wild things have hope, even if we do not.

Soon the parking lots will bloom with bright yellow school busses, and these will open to reveal rows of anxious children, full of energy stored over the long winter days indoors. These children we will lead deep into the forest. We'll try to cover them with a coating of wonder mixed with a little knowledge, adding just enough fun to be sure it all sticks. We hope it never wears off.

"From the Stump" is available for \$7 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling from Mary K. Oxley Nature Center, 6700 E. Mohawk Blvd., Tulsa, OK 74117. If your reaction to this delightful series of essays is similar to mine you will order additional copies for friends and relatives, young and old. It has been a much-appreciated birthday gift and even, as Lewis Carroll's Alice commented, '...for an un-birthday present' for one of those other 364 days.

Dr. Buck is a retired professor of Botany at Tulsa University, a member of the Flora of Oklahoma editorial board, one of the best field-trip leaders in the state, and a winner of the Anne Long Award.

by Dr. Connie Taylor

Since the Sunflower-Daisy Family is the largest in Oklahoma, it seems appropriate to learn a little bit about the family. Everyone should be able to recognize it, and probably most of you do. Asteraceae is the family name if you use all family names ending with aceae attached to a genus name. It is also called Compositae. Many family names were originally chosen to describe a unifying character of the family. In this instance Compositae was chosen because it refers to the close association of numerous flowers into a head. Think of a large sunflower. If you examine it closely, you find it may have over 100 flowers tightly packed together. Same for a dandelion, or a chrysanthemum or a daisy. The head of the Asteraceae mimics a single flower. It has flowers that look just like a single petal. These are called ray flowers. Inside this outer ring of flowers there will be numerous small flowers (each with anthers, pistils, and fruits) where the anthers and pistils are in a typical flower. In Oklahoma there are 10 tribes of Asteraceae. Some are very easy to tell apart and I want to introduce you to some of these tribes.

The tribe with most species blooming in the early spring is the Lactuceae (Chichorieae) Tribe. This is the group with dandelions, false dandelions, goat beard, lettuce, and chicory. Wild lettuce grows in Oklahoma but the small leaves have a very milky sap and a bitter tangy taste, not at all like the lettuce at the store. The same is true for dandelions. You have probably heard that they are good to eat in a salad and make good cooked greens. Yes, if you live up north where the leaves are 3 times larger, grow very fast, and are tender and tasty. All the dandelions in my yard taste bitter and might make a meal if I was starving. Perhaps your yard produces plants with lush leaves that taste better. In Canada and Montana, I have eaten very tasty dandelions.

In the Lactuceae Tribe the flowers in each head are all alike. The 5 petals are joined to make a single long strap shaped structure that looks like a single petal. Also, all these ray type flowers are perfect—that is, they have both the male stamens and female pistils. In dandelions, the anthers form a black column that is very striking against the bright yellow petals.

Because the flowers are tightly packed in a head, the sepals (outer green leafy looking structures on a flower) no longer serve the purpose of protecting the flower when it is in bud.

The sepals are modified into awns, bristles, scales, or sometimes absent. These modified sepals are called a pappus. In dandelions and most other members of this tribe, the pappus is a collection of numerous hair-like (capillary) bristles. These really show up when the plant gets ready to distribute the one-seeded fruits. All of us have given a mature dandelion head a good blow and watched the capillary bristles of the pappus carry the one-seeded fruit away into the wind. If the wind is strong enough, such seeds can be carried many miles. That is how the dandelion got into your yard to begin with.

There are 13 genera of Lactuceae in Oklahoma. See how many you can find this spring.

The largest tribe in the Asteraceae family is the Astereae (Tribe names end with eae). There are 22 genera in this tribe. This is about one fifth of the 104 or so genera found in Oklahoma. Some botanists are "splitters" and others "lumpers" so the actual number of genera depends on who is listing and counting.

This tribe contains many plants you are familiar with including Asters, goldenrods, daisies, golden asters, and daisy fleabane. In this tribe there are both ray and disk flowers present. The receptacle where the flowers are attached to the top of the stem is naked. Around the outside of the head are numerous green (herbaceous) small structures called involucre bracts, because they go around the head and look like minuscule leaves. (Sometimes a special term, phyllaries, is used instead of involucre bracts because that means resembling a leaf) The pappus, which is modified sepals, are usually capillary bristles just like in the dandelion and lettuce that we talked about last time.

The two biggest genera in this family are *Aster* (daisies) and *Solidago* (goldenrods). NO! goldenrod does not cause hayfever. It just happens to grow in fields with that obnoxious ragweed that is an allergen and blooms at the same time. Of course, goldenrod has gotten the rap. Most Asteraceae are associated with grasslands because they show up so well among the grasses and many give the glorious colors to the wildflower mix in a grassland. If you do not already recognize an Aster or Goldenrod, then look at wildflowers along roadsides this fall. Both of these genera are found in every county in Oklahoma.

Wildflower Coloring Sheets

ONPS is trying to assemble a set of wildflower drawings that can be provided *copyright free* to teachers and parents so they can reproduce them for children's use. This project requires that we get original drawings donated for the purpose. To date, we have five finished sheets: Indian Blanket, Lance-leaf Coreopsis, Prairie Gentian, Spiderwort, and a composite drawing labeled to teach the parts of a flower.

Members and friends are encouraged to submit more species for this use. They don't have to be great works of art, but should faithfully represent the plant, so that the users may be able to recognize them in the wild. Send to Pat Folley at the Gaillardia address. To get a sample sheet for style, just ask.

Elsie E. Johnson

Elsie Johnson was born in Louisville, Kentucky, graduated from high school in Seattle and from Whitman College in Walla Walla Washington. While in Washington, she met and married John W. Johnson. They moved to Lawton in 1986, and Elsie taught high school math while raising their three children. She died on 1 December 1998 in Lawton.

Elsie and John have been tireless volunteer workers at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, both individually and as members of the Friends of the Wichitas. She took leadership positions, lead field trips, wrote newsletters, and was a docent at the Visitor Center. Just after her death, Elsie and John Johnson became the first recipients of the Frank and Mae Rush Award for "outstanding contributions to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System."

Through their Friends of the Wichitas affiliation, John and Elsie were also members of the ONPS. We will always remember her kind and winning disposition as well as her willingness to do whatever needed to be done.

ONPS POINTS WITH PRIDE

To Elsie Elizabeth and John W. Johnson, winners of the first Frank and Mae Rush Award for their many years of service to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of the Wichitas. Individually and together, they volunteered many hours of service to the Refuge, serving in almost every position and capacity as needed.

In an article appearing in a Lawton newspaper on 23 January this year, Elsie and John's service was summarized by Dennis Prichard, Volunteer Coordinator at the refuge: "Her volunteer hours over these years (1987-1998) only show 1,076 total, but I know this is a mere fraction of the time she has dedicated to the (Fish and Wildlife) Service and to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. The true time and effort this lady has put forth has only been exceeded by her modesty in recording her hours, given most generously. Paul Reimer added: "I have an idea she had another 2000 she wasn't credited with. John had almost as much." They edited newsletters, trained field trip leaders and led tours themselves, worked as docents in the Visitor Center, participated in butterfly and other counts, and through all maintained a cheerful, can-do approach that encouraged others to join in that cause.

Just before her untimely death, Elsie worked with Katherine Hunt, Donnie Phyllaier and Debbie Folkert on an application for a \$1,500 grant from the National Wildlife Refuge System. The grant has been approved, and the Friends of the Wichitas will be administering it.

John Johnson, a native of Michigan, is a systems analyst at Telos Federal Systems and also teaches night classes in math and statistics at Cameron University.



Native Wildflowers & Habitat Plants
Medicinal & Culinary Herbs

(918) 598-3782 P.O. Box 89 Pegg, OK 74452

Howdy!! 1999 is our 6th year to offer native plants, habitat plants and seeds for wildlife. We've added shipping by UPS Ground and an e-mail address - ccreek@chouteautel.com or Fax 918/598-3784. We are excited about the coming of spring and our many new offerings. Please let us know if you would like to be on our mailing list to receive our listing of plants, seeds and events where we will be offering plants this spring.

You may look for Kirk and Loretta in person with a display of their spring offerings at the Wildflower Workshop in Stillwater.

"The mind, once expanded to the dimensions of larger ideas, never returns to its original size."
Oliver Wendell Holmes (contributed by ONPS member Janet Curth)

Osage County Field Trip

A May 1 field trip to the Osage County Wildlife Management Areas will be led by Ranger Bill Sartin. We will meet at Osage Hills State Park near the Pavillion at the Ranger's office at 12m, noon. Bring a picnic lunch as there are very few food service businesses in the area (none, in fact, the last time we were out) Cabin accommodations at the State Park are still available if desired. Several study areas around Hulah Lake and the Western Wall Primitive Area will be on the agenda. This field trip is co-sponsored by the State ONPS and the NE Chapter. Contact Paul Buck at (918)743-3397 or Irene McKee at (918)622-1696 for more information

Field Trip to the Alva/Waynoka area Set

For access to one of the outstanding wildflower displays in Oklahoma, meet for a guided tour of the Cimarron Sand Dunes on **June 19, Saturday at 9:00 am.** Meet at the junction of US Hwy 281 and State Hwy 45, located 16 miles south of Alva and 12 miles east of Waynoka. Bring lunch and minimum of 1 quart of water per person. Paul Nighswonger and Connie Taylor fieldtrip leaders. Register with Connie Taylor (580-924-5163).

Lodging is available at motels in Waynoka and Alva. There will be carpools forming. Contact your chapter for tips.

OAS SPRING FIELD MEETING

Not an ONPS-sponsored event, but one that many of our members enjoy and take part in.

The Oklahoma Academy of Science announces its annual Spring Field Meeting, to take place at Robbers Cave State Park, Latimer County, on April 23-25, 1999. Rustic bunkhouse space or tent sites available. Communal meals will be available, but there are no other cooking facilities at the park. Cost to non-OAS members is \$55 for two nights lodging and all meals. Contact Larry Magrath at USAO, Department of Biology, Chickasha OK 73018-5358 or (405)224-3140, ext. 292 for a registration form. Registration must be received before April 20.

While it's not cushy, touristy or even business-class, many of us consider this the premier field event of the year. You get the very best

interpreters and guides and meet outstanding teachers and scholars in the natural sciences.

OSU ELDERHOSTEL AT OUBS

"Those Ubiquitous Grasses" will be the subject of a 6-day Elderhostel event at the Oklahoma University Biological Station on the north shore of Lake Texhoma. September 26 through October 2, 1999; this event features air-conditioned, double-occupancy suites with private bath. Meals in the station's dining hall, classes in the station's research laboratories and fields. Total cost is \$390.

"Grasses, like sunlight, air, and water are taken for granted", says Agnes Chase in a summary of their relationship and importance to humans. With the assistance of Dr. R. J. Tyrl, OSU grass taxonomist, become acquainted with the biology of this remarkable plant family. Learn how they are classified and identified, how they have evolved, how they dominate the landscape, and how they have been domesticated in so many ways. Vigorous outdoor activities, including day-long field trips to the prairies of south-central Oklahoma and north-central Texas, will complement lecture presentations and laboratory work.

To enroll, call (405)744-5647. For questions, contact Sue Brock at that number or Dr. Tyrl at (405)744-9558

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.

Native Oklahoma wildflowers will be the central theme of the 22nd annual Wildflower Workshop as enthusiasts from across the state gather Friday, May 21, and Saturday, May 22, at the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Noble Center in Stillwater.

The workshop's featured speaker, E. Barrie Kavasch, is a nationally known ethnobotanist and food historian from Connecticut. She is a fourteenth-generation direct descendant of Chief Powhatan through his daughter Pocahontas. Kavasch has authored, illustrated and photographed many published works. She is a trustee of the Institute of American Indian Studies and currently is working with several museums on a range of ethnobotanical projects.

During the morning, Kavasch will explain how to "Create A Medicine Wheel Wildflower Garden." Other talks will include "Picking Wildflowers on the Web," by Rahmona Thompson, associate professor of biology at East Central University in Ada; "Crafting with Natives," by Jacqui Savage of Jacqui's Herbs Naturally in Perkins; and "Designing for Wildlife," by Ron Masters, associate professor of forestry and wildlife at OSU.

John Dole, associate professor of horticulture at OSU, will discuss commercially successful native wildflowers in "Natives That Hit the Big Time," and Ron Tyrl, OSU professor of botany and curator of the OSU Herbarium, will warn about ubiquitous yellow composites in "Those NYCs." Laurie Stillings, landscape specialist, will explain the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's roadside wildflower programs, and Paul Buck, emeritus professor of botany at the University of Tulsa, will discuss "Wildflowers of Payne County."

After the sessions, tours will be available at the Oklahoma Botanical Garden and Arboretum, which includes the set of the popular Oklahoma Educational Television Association show, "Oklahoma Gardening." Kavasch will discuss "American Indian Healing Arts With Native Wildflowers" at the dinner Friday evening, where winners of the Native Plant Society Photo Contest and the State Garden Clubs' wildflower poster contest will be announced. The Annual Bess Snodgrass award will be given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the establishment and preservation of wildflowers in Oklahoma.

The Saturday field trip will include a visit to the pristine Manning Prairie, a privately owned tall grass prairie that has never been plowed. Native Plant Society members, led by Ron Tyrl, will act as guides.

Displays will include identified specimens prepared by OSU botany students and the NPS Photo Exhibit. Also, native plants, wildflower books and wreaths will be for sale.

Sponsors of the event include the Native Plant Society, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc., Stillwater Daisy Garden Club and OSU Botany Department. The workshop, an annual event, rotates to a different region of the state each year.

To receive a Wildflower Workshop brochure, which will be available in March, contact the ODOT Beautification Office, 200 N.E. 21st Street, Oklahoma City, OK, (405)521-4037.



Gaillardia pulchella. One of the beautiful wildflower drawings by the late Mary Jo Laughlin. Used by permission.

MOVING? JUST MOVED? Don't forget to let ONPS know. Drop one of those change-of-address cards to the official address in Tulsa. The *Gaillardia* isn't forwarded.

BY Pat Folley

Some eighty of us gathered at Davis Hall's theater center on the USAO campus on Saturday, February 6 for the annual Indoor Outing. You who are not now addicted to field trips as a way of life can have no idea how we become starved for the kind of company and stimulation that only a field trip can provide! This year's coordinator, Dr. Larry Magrath, had assembled a multi-disciplinary staff of speakers and teachers to entertain and enlighten us.

There were the displays of books and pictures, mostly contributed by Ruth Boyd and her crew; the friendly ladies who greeted each incoming participant: Judy Jordan and Lynn Allen; and the great food provided by the University staff in the Student Center Ballroom. Classroom-style slide/lecture programs were presented by Pat Folley on Sedges, Connie Taylor on the Aster Family, and Mike Mather on Terrestrial Molluscs. Jim Norman's slide program on Oklahoma Wildflowers was sheer delight: a feast of beautiful wildflowers as he photographed them statewide over years of exploring.

Of course, we had to have a bit of rain. Quite a lot, really, and it came just at noon while we were in transit to Austin Hall for hands-on workshops on The Hidden Beauties of the Graminoids with Dr. Ron Tyrl, So You Want to Know What Kind of Snail It Is, with Dr. Mike Mather, and How to Properly Collect and Process Plants for Scientific Use, with Dr. Magrath. Some of us seem to remember that it has rained on nearly every official ONPS visit to the Chickasha campus! Maybe they should keep that in mind, for the next drouth. What's a field trip without a bit of weather, though? Makes it all the more "authentic".

I've seen comments on our great idea, having an indoor field trip midwinter, in several other native plant societies' newsletters. If you are one of the members or friends of ONPS who missed this one, plan now to get in on the next one. It's what you joined the Native Plant Society for.

If you missed it: take another look at the calendar on page one and the field trips listed on pages 7 and 10. All ONPS members are welcome to all announced activities. Chapter memberships are for convenience: they're not exclusive.

Introducing our Board Members

Iris McPherson

By Pat Folley

Iris McPherson, a multi-talented lady, was profiled in the latest edition of *The Oklahoma Conservator*, published by the Nature Conservancy's Oklahoma office in Tulsa. It seems like a golden opportunity to use that material for the purpose of introducing her to ONPS members. Iris is one of our newest board members (Berlin Heck of Broken Bow is the other, and more about him later.)

From her home in Perkins, Iris volunteers as a docent at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. She is the widow of Dr. Jim McPherson, a botany professor at OSU and popular field trip leader until his untimely death several years ago. Iris is retired from OSU, where she worked in the Computer Center for 29 years, and is a tireless and accomplished volunteer for The Nature Conservancy, Mobile Meals, the Oklahoma Botanic Garden and Arboretum as well as for the Oklahoma Native Plant Society. At the Tallgrass Prairie, she is a member of the Speakers' Bureau, and presents slide programs and lectures in the Stillwater area.

We are fortunate to have attracted Iris McPherson to our staff of well-used volunteer boardmembers. We look forward to getting to know her better as we work with her toward our goals.

BOARD MEETING RESULTS

Gleanings from the minutes of the meeting 19 December 1998, sent by Secretary Clare Miller

Twenty officers and board members met at St. Stephen's Methodist Church in Norman on 19 Dec. 1998 for the annual planning session. Many of the reports made are incorporated into other articles in this newsletter.

Bob Crane reported receiving 79 entries for the 1999 photo contest. The judging party took place in January and the results will be announced at the Wildflower Workshop in May. Some of the pictures are just stunningly beautiful!

Berlin Heck reported on two stands of native trees that are slated for cutting or sale this year. Both of them are critical sites for Oklahoma native species: one of Swamp Chestnut Oaks and one of Sabal Palmetto. ONPS will write a letter to the responsible parties and see if something can be done.

Irene McKee, Judy Jordan and Pat Heck have volunteered to serve on the nominating committee for the year 2000 officers. If one of these hardworking ladies calls on you, please answer yes!

Tina Julich will head a committee to acquire new, better quality scrapbooks and transfer all our material from the old ones, which are completely worn out. Funds to support that effort were voted.

Over the years, ONPS has accumulated some very nice books. Because of the storage size and weight, they have not always been available for checkout. Sheila Strawn has promised to get them out to most of the meetings so you can see what we have available, and use them for all they're worth.

Isn't it about time that ONPS members in the Stillwater area organized a chapter and began having monthly activities? After all, Stillwater ranks third in membership, was the site of our first "Indoor Outing", and has several long-time members who are regulars at society activities. If you are willing to help get a chapter started, please telephone Ron Tyrl at 744-9558 or email to rityri@okstate.edu. Feeling guilty about not doing it sooner, he has volunteered to do the initial work.

(Ed. Note: there is a chapter of Wild Ones, a national organization of natural landscapers, meeting on the last Saturday of each month, 10 a.m., in the Stillwater Public Library, room 138. We should have some members in common. Maybe we could work out a shared-membership plan with those folks like the one we have with the Friends of the Wichitas? As there are no additional dues attached to ONPS chapter membership, chapter members need only provide some planning and organizational structure.)

NE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

One Sunday in April, we will tour Dr. Patrick Blair's gardens in Tulsa. Date will be set later to take advantage of weather. Watch for your card announcement, or call Irene McKee at (918)622-1696.

The planned field trip to the "Western Wall" primitive area has been extended to include the entire state, so look for notes on that May 1 field trip on page 7.

NE MEETING NOTES

NE Chapter representatives took a display of photographs and literature to the "Law of the Land", 4th annual conference on sustainable living. The location was the Unitarian/Universalist Church in Tahlequah.

Another, similar display was taken to the Urban Ecology meeting at the Tulsa Garden Center.

By the time you read this, the March regular meeting will be history. Plans are for a presentation on herbal uses of native Oklahoma plants, by Pat Folley.

CENTRAL CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

By Sharon McCain

Central Chapter has some very interesting events lined up for the spring:

March 27 is the date set for a field trip to Sunshine Nursery at Clinton. Steve & Sherry Bieberich. ONPS members. grow their own

sturdy native Oklahoma trees from seed. Their nursery is an education in itself, and we have profited greatly from our past visits there. Car pools are forming. Contact Susan or Wayne Chambers at (405)769-7917 to get into one, or directions for getting there on your own (arrival time 10 a.m.). Lunch in nearby Clinton or bring-your-own and picnic on the grounds.

April 26 will be an indoor meeting at 7:30 p.m., in the Horticulture Center at NW 4th and Portland, Oklahoma City. Judy Jones will bring a program on her trip to the Amazon rainforest. The seed and plant exchange will take place after the program. Be sure to bring some of your extra plants to share, or plan to take home some that have been successfully propagated locally. As always, no charge for the plant material, and no obligation to contribute if you are a beginner!

No chapter meetings are scheduled for May because there are so many field events (see calendar on first page) that we couldn't find time. June's field trip will take us to the OKC zoo, where Lewis Scott will lead a behind-the-scenes tour and explain how plants are selected for animal habitats. Details will be published closer to the date.

>>We are still in need of a vice-chair. Please step forward if you can help. Leaders are made, not born, and experience is only obtained by participation.

PLANT FIBERS AT WORK

Virginia and Roger Pattinson brought a truly different and educational program at our February 22 meeting. With a table-full of plants, they showed us how to make a strong cord out of Yucca fibers, and some other plants that could be used if yucca is not available. They discussed different methods of preparation, such as stripping, retting, teasing and twisting the stems or their fibers. Inevitably, some discussion of using these and other native plants as food ensued. Most of us agreed that corn-on-the-cob is better. Roger emphasized the amount of technical knowledge that is being lost as these survival skills are dropped from the community.

Some other native plants demonstrated include: *Stenosiphon virgatum*, *Apocynum cannabinum* (Indian hemp), and *Maclura pomifera* (Osage orange).

Garden Catalogs

We are getting garden catalogs in every mail now. A surer sign of spring than the mad, mad, mad Oklahoma weather! I am especially impressed by *Plants of the Southwest*, which offers seed to many of our native grasses and prairie wildflowers. Since last summer's weather in central Oklahoma was more like that of eastern New Mexico, this catalog looks better than ever. You can write for their free catalog to: Plants of the Southwest, Agua Fria, Rt. 6 Box 11A, Santa Fe, NM 87501, phone to (800) 788-SEED, e-mail to contact@plantsofthesouthwest.com, or visit their website: www.plantsofthesouthwest.com.

ONPS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

New members are:

Jeannie Ho & Dan Coley	Norman
Sandra Elsik	Houston, TX
Deborah Dalton	Norman
Georgia Prakash	Irving, TX
David Redhage	Poteau
Gail Panza	Edmond
Gina & Harvey Pratt	Guthrie
Stana Taylor	Lawton
Glen Tortorici	Tulsa
Clydette Alsop	Stillwater
Johnson Bridgwater	Oklahoma City
Phil & Sue Ann Floyd	Lexington
David Scott	Norman

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, rtf 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	Tina Julich
Secretary	Clare Miller
Treasurer	Judy Jordan
Historian	Karen Haworth

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2001: Berlin Heck and Iris McPherson
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Hey, look below!

Please look at your expiration date on the label and if it's not '99 or later, send in your dues. We don't want to lose you,

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
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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 (those listed in the box at the left), though, are not eligible for the award. 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. Rebecca Troth, 212 W. Highland Ave., Shawnee, OK 74801.

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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SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS AND YOU.

Special Forest Products (SFPs) are the things people like you take from the forest that are not among the conventional commodities managed by the Forest Service (such as timber, forage for livestock, minerals, Christmas trees, firewood). Some of these "unconventional" products have been used by many people for many years (fruits and berries, pinecones, and mushrooms for example) and some become popular in cycles or are collected by relatively few people (like grape vines, medicinal herbs, and seeds). As the population in the mid-south increases, the demand for SFPs is increasing. To assure that all of the resources on National Forest lands are managed in a sustainable and ecologically sensitive manner, the Ouachita NF is implementing a plan to assure the long-term survival of all the things that fall into the SFP category.

We need your help. Rather than making choices for you in a vacuum, the Ouachita National Forest is looking for guidance and opinions from the public. Please take a minute to complete this survey. **Your confidentiality is assured**, so feel free to be candid in your responses.

Are you Male, or Female?

What is your age? less than 25, 25-35, 36-55, 56 or older

Do you live in a city or town, or a rural area?

In what state do you currently reside? Arkansas Oklahoma Other _____

What are your favorite activities to engage in on National Forest Land?

- Hunting/Fishing ORV/Horse Riding Hiking Camping
 Scenery Viewing Wildlife Viewing Economic Activities

1. What kind of Special Forest Products do you gather from the Forest?

- live plants fruits/berries other edibles (greens, nuts, mushrooms)
 medicinal herbs pinecones/boughs decorative moss
 vines seeds none (go to Q. 6)
 other _____

3. What do you use these things for?

- personal use educational use resale
(go to Q. 6) (go to Q. 6) (continue with Q. 4)

4. Do you retail your own products or do you work with a wholesaler?

- retail wholesale

5. If you sell products gathered in the forest, approximately how much do you make each year?

- up to \$100 up to \$500 up to \$1000
 up to \$5000 more than \$5000

6. If you were required to purchase a permit to use SFPs, would you prefer
 a flat fee for everyone. an annual, unlimited collection fee for commercial users.
 a sliding fee based on how much you harvest and the market value of the SFP.

7. If permit costs were based on the value of the product, what would be a fair assessment?
 5% 10% 15% 20%

8. Would you support the designation of harvest areas and seasons as a means to assure sustainable harvests?
 Yes No

9. The US Forest Service is required to assure that commercial activities on public lands are carried out in a sustainable and ecologically sensitive manner. Who should pay for the studies required to make these determinations? (circle the best answer)

Forest Service	100%	75%	50%	25%	0%	(public funds)
	1	2	3	4	5	
(private funds)	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%	Industry

10. We are interested in any other comments you may have concerning special forest products.

THANK YOU for taking time to complete this survey.
Please fold it along the dotted lines, tape it closed, stamp it, and drop it in the mail.

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c/o Plant Ecology
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Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas 71902