



*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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Volume 14, Number 2  
 SUMMER 1999

**COPY AND ART DEADLINE  
 FOR NEXT ISSUE IS  
 15 August 1999**

☛ 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.**

**June 19, Saturday:** Statewide field trip to Alva/Waynoka. See page 7. Patricia Folley (405)873-8361

**June 26, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m:** Board meeting at All Souls Church, ½ mile south of the Tulsa Garden Center. Map and agenda will be mailed to board members. All ONPS members are invited to attend.

**August 14, Saturday, 9 a.m.** Orchid tour starts at Raymond Gary State Park. Pat Folley: see page 7

**October 15-17, Weekend:** Annual Meeting at Lake Texhoma Lodge. More on page 9

**May 26-28, Weekend of Memorial Day, 2000:** Field trip to Black Mesa State Park. Plan ahead to be there!

**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 FUNDS  
 CONTRIBUTORS**

**Anne Long Fund**  
 Aleda Carpenter  
 Helen Marie Hodges

**Harriet Barclay Award**  
 James Ownby  
 Kimberly Ann Shannon  
 Helen Marie Hodges

**General Fund**  
 Robert Wayne Chambers

By Sheila Strawn

Yes, this year we're traveling new roads, seeing new sights, and doing new things. We're literally writing a new chapter into the Oklahoma Native Plant Society's history. It was with great excitement last month, that I responded to Ron Tyrl's request for copies of our state bylaws & local chapter guidelines. That can only mean one thing. ONPS members in the Stillwater area will be electing local officers and planning programs for Oklahomans to study, protect, appreciate, and use Oklahoma's native plants. If you live in North Central Oklahoma and haven't contacted Dr. Ron Tyrl ([rityrl@okstate.edu](mailto:rityrl@okstate.edu)) to help organize the new chapter, please do so. Don't miss this chance to be a charter member!

As we saw on the Wildflower Workshop's field trip to Manning Prairie, the flora of the North Central area is diverse. I hope you all had the opportunity to see this unplowed prairie. It is a place of dramatic contrasts from the ferns & mosses of cool damp creekbeds to the typical native forbs and grasses of the arid, open rangeland. Local chapters help ONPS recognize and promote the preservation of natural areas like this. If you live in the NW, SW, SE, South Central, the Panhandle, or another under studied area of the state, why don't you get together with a few other members. Talk about what lessons the flora of your area provides, then call me to find out what you can do to start an ONPS chapter there. We're looking for new places to go!

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**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](mailto: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.

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"Biologists suffer from paranoia, frustrated ambition, angst about their sex lives, lack of hard cash, and all the usual frets that beset

mankind. But they are not bored." From *Civilization and the Limpet*, by Martin Wells

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**Editorial**

By Patricia Folley

ONPS has several standing committees which accomplish a variety of functions in the state at large. Prominent among those is the support of the Wildflower Workshops, which serve a growing and varied audience of gardeners, educators, public officials, and lovers of wildflowers. Another is the annual photo contest. Our prize structure makes it an attractive local venue for amateur and professional photographers alike, and is gaining new contestants every year. Then, the posters are kept on public display, mostly in nature centers at our state parks and in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, year-round. We have made a real effort to get each picture identified so that their admirers will learn something about them.

Ruth Boyd has operated a book-and-literature table at Wildflower Workshops and other gatherings for several years, and it gets larger and more complete with time. We have two or three books that are "published" via Xerox to make them available. Our education committee plans much more, including a journal, as soon as we find the time.

Recently, we added a set of copyright free color-book pictures, which can be used by teachers and others as attractive training aids for those learning to identify their local flowers. More are planned. A limiting factor in all these plans is volunteer manpower to do the clerical and mailing tasks. We could offer a mail-order book list if someone other than the three or four of us who are already loaded would take the job.

Ultimately, we need to participate in several public display gardens. It would be nice to just do them, including all the planting and tending, but no one has ever been able to offer that kind of work. Instead, I want to propose that all ONPS members try to "adopt" one species of wildflower that is convenient to them, and make seeds or plants or both available to all who need them. Remember the book/movie "Fahrenheit 451"? We could do for native plants what those poor folks were doing for the books they loved. Specializing simplifies the task and spreads the work to a minimal effort. Indian blankets (*Gaillardia pulchella*) seeds are now available everywhere, but where are we to get seeds or seedlings of winecups (*Callirhoe involucrata*)? I have been spreading plants of the lovely bright-magenta spiderwort (*Tradescantia tharpaii*) for several years, and it wasn't any trouble worth mentioning. You might select from the list on page 3, or look at your own collection and see what you have experience with that you can offer. Then contact me or Sheila Strawn with your plan. Distribution can be made at Chapter meetings or any other gatherings of members. A coordinator for this effort will be needed too. Anyone who is willing to receive the mail and make lists to be published in the *Gaillardia* will be just right for the job.



## GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE

*This space is available. We need more ONPS members who are also gardeners to contribute. Wayne Chambers, bless his heart, can't do it all! In absence of other input, I'm running part of a handout from the Wildflower Workshop...Pat*

## Natives that Hit the Big Time

By John Dole, Associate Professor of Horticulture at OSU

Cultivars are made by selection from the wild of natural variations, traditional breeding within species, hybridization, polyploid breeding, mutation breeding, induction of somatic variation and genetic engineering. Thus, many of our wild native plants are available through horticultural sources, though often in not-quite- identical forms. Some natives that you might find in garden supply stores and catalogs are grouped below.

1. **Cultivated plants that are similar to wild plants:** *Aquilegia canadensis* (American columbine), *Baptisia australis* (blue false indigo), *Centaurea americana* (basket flower), *Chasmanthium latifolium* (inland sea oats or fish-on-a-pole), *Dryopteris filix-mas* (male fern), *Dryopteris marginalis* (wood fern), *Eupatorium coelestinum* (mist flower), *Helianthus maximiliani* (Maximilian's sunflower), *Hystrix patula* (bottle-brush grass), *Liatris aspera* (tall gayfeather), *Lobelia siphilitica* (blue cardinal flower), *Monarda citriodora* (lemon monarda), *Muhlenbergia capillaris* (hairgrass), *Oenothera macrocarpa* (Missouri primrose), *Osmunda regalis* (royal fern), *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper), *Phlox divaricata* (blue phlox), *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern), *Rudbeckia laciniata* (cutleaf coneflower), *Rudbeckia maxima* (giant coneflower).

**Cultivars which differ only slightly from typical wild plants include:** *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly milkweed, other colors); *Aster ericoides* (heath aster, other colors); *Campsis radicans*, (trumpet creeper, other colors); *Coreopsis lanceolata* (doubles, colors); *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower, colors, horizontal petals); *Euphorbia marginata* (height, amount of variegation); *Eupatorium purpureum* (shorter plants, other colors); *Linum perenne* (shorter plants, other colors); *Lobelia cardinalis* (cardinal flower, hybridized with other species); *Oenothera speciosa* (showy evening primrose, colors and flower size); *Panicum virgatum* (tall switch grass, height, color); *Penstemon digitalis*

(smooth beard-tongue, colors); *Physostegia virginiana* (obedient plant, colors, height, variegated foliage); *Ratibida fulgida* (Mexican hats, height, flower size); *Salvia azurea* (blue sage, flower size); *Solidago canadensis* (prairie goldenrod, height, colors); *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indian grass, colors); *Verbena canadensis* (rose vervain, other colors, habits); *Vernonia fasciculata* (ironweed, height)

Many cultivars, some of which differ significantly from typical wild plants: *Achillea millefolium* (yarrow), *Aster dumosus* (aster), *Aster novae-angliae* (New England Aster), *Coreopsis grandiflora* (tickseed), *Eustoma grandiflora* (tulip gentian), *Helianthus annuus* (annual sunflower), *Hibiscus moscheutos* (rose mallow), *Rudbeckia hirta*, (black-eyed Susan).

## HARRIET BARCLAY AWARDS

By Connie Taylor, Barclay Award Committee Chair

The Harriet Barclay Award is presented to students presenting research papers in Botany at the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science Competition that meets in conjunction with the Oklahoma Science and Engineering Fair in Ada. Both High School and Junior High School awards were presented. Students receive a plaque, \$25, and ONPS membership.

The Senior High winner this year was Cora Hutson, an 11<sup>th</sup> grader at McLoud High School. She presented her research "A Floristic survey of the Vascular and Non-vascular Plants of Rough Canyon (Phase II: The Spring, Summer, Fall Flora)". Rough Canyon is a part of Robbers Cave State Park. Her sponsoring teacher was Dr. Bruce Smith.

The Junior High winner this year was Katherine Benne, a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Welch Public Schools. Her paper is titled "A County-wide Study of *Acremonium coenophalium* in Fescue." She found 97% of fescue sites were contaminated. Her sponsoring teacher was Monica Fimple.

Dr. Larry Magrath and I were two of the several judges that are ONPS members.

*Members, if you know these outstanding young botanists, take time to congratulate them. They're our future, and they need all the encouragement they can get!*

## COLORBOOK PROJECT

The first set of twelve colorbook pages was distributed at the Wildflower Workshop, with the intention of getting them to state schoolteachers. We hope they will aid in making easy lessons in wildflower appreciation. Thanks to Chad Cox, for donating a drawing of *Datura metel* in time to be included.

Then, one day before the Workshop, came a package of eight beautiful drawings from a member in Texas, Aleda Carpenter. Not only are the drawings beautifully executed, but also all the botanical details are included to make them excellent teaching material. They will be included in future sets.

Sorry, time and postage costs prevent distribution by mail.

*Ed. Note: I had a fine press release from James Shaw, President of The Wildlife Society's Oklahoma Chapter, about upcoming legislation on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). Unfortunately, it will come up for vote before this newsletter reaches you.*

*Please keep in mind that the Oklahoma Delegation is about the least "green" of all state lawmakers. Any influence we can exert is confronting a huge burden of vested interests and apathy. It will take all of us, and possibly years of gentle prodding, to change the status quo. So all of us need to do all the prodding we can manage. Remember the tree roots that can uproot the sidewalk!*

**NATIVE PLANT CONSERVATION INITIATIVE**

From Planting Foundations, the bimonthly newsletter for NPCI

The NPCI, an U. S. Government agency, has established a working group for the study and control of aggressive alien plants. Called the Alien Plant Working Group, or APWG, will serve as coordinator among private and public organizations which are trying to cope with the problems caused by unrestrained introduction of alien plants.

The APWG is also involved in public outreach and education, centered on its website, called *Weeds Gone Wild*. They hope to complete fact sheets for at least 2/3 of the species currently on the list of about 400 invasive plants, build a strong national network of other agencies, organizations, and individuals who can share information on this issue, and develop educational programs for schools, the nursery industry and others.

Volunteers are urgently needed who can write fact sheets, provide photos of invasive plants for the website, do website maintenance, assist with other website projects, help with development of the national invasive plant referenced database (USA WEEDS) and the National Park Service invasive plants database (NPS Weeds), or to start an invasive plant management group in their state, agency or organization.

You can contact the APWG at their website <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien> to sign up for automated e-mail listing, or by writing J. M. Swearingen at U. S. National Park Service, National Capital Region, 4598 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Washington, DC 20007.

**A Conservationist's Prayer**

Hear oh Lord our prayer.  
There is but one Earth,  
Thy creation, the mother of us all.  
Help us to understand  
That we are part of the whole  
Interdependent interwoven threads.

One thread out of many  
In the vast cosmic tapestry  
That thou art eternally weaving.

Help us to know  
That as sentient creatures  
We have duties and responsibilities  
That go far beyond ourselves.

St. Francis of Assisi  
Referred to brother sun and sister moon,  
Let us learn from his example  
Let us realize that now we must speak  
Also of brother dolphin and sister grass.

Help us to realize that you  
Love all things - for all things  
Are ultimately of your creation.

Show us how to preserve - not destroy  
How to curb our unruly passions  
And make them become a part of a  
Universal harmony.

These things, oh Lord, we pray  
That you give us knowledge and  
The wisdom to use that knowledge  
Wisely to thy greater glory.

By Lawrence K. Magrath, Ph.D

Reprinted by permission from *IDS CONNECTIONS*, the Interdisciplinary Studies bulletin from USAO, Chickasha



By Paul Buck

A friend asked the age of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) trees in Oklahoma. My response was simple: "I do not know." Was the disappointment in his eyes due to the absence of an answer or my ignorance? His expression haunted me and I was compelled to seek an answer. A search of the literature revealed nothing, so obviously the next step was to go into the field and look.

The western edge of North American sugar maple distribution occurs in our state, which implies the plants are under environmental stress due to limiting factors. To assure a cross section of Oklahoma specimens, three widely separated populations were selected for study. Their locations were: (1) Redbud Valley Nature Preserve (RBV) in Rogers County north and east of Tulsa; (2) Red Rock Canyon State Park (RRCSP) in Caddo County west of Oklahoma City, and (3) the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge (WMWR) north of Lawton in Comanche County.

The RBV site is characterized by steep east and north facing limestone bluffs with rocky slopes but with soils deep enough to maintain a high moisture level. Located about twenty miles west of the Ozark Plateau, its flora is eastern. Examples are Smoke Tree (*Cotinus obovatus*), Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), and Colombine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), all typically Ozarkian. Sugar maple growth here is low and shrubby with only a few isolated, tall trees.

RRCSP provides a truly unique habitat due to its special microclimate. The vertical walls produce a deep, narrow canyon which reduces air movement assuring a high relative humidity and in turn, ensuring increased available water in the sandy soil. Sugar maple growth is tall and straight, reminiscent of New England – that is, until the trees reach the top of the canyon when the hot, dry Oklahoma winds strike and growth ceases.

The westernmost populations of our sugar maples occur in the WMWR site. In this beautiful area the trees are restricted to steep, north facing slopes on the mountains and in protected drainages of deep, v-shaped valleys. The growth pattern is similar to that of RBV: low, shrubby and in clumps. None of the specimens here can be construed as true trees.

Standing trees can be cored without harm using an increment borer, which permits the removal of an intact cylinder of about 4mm in diameter and reaching the center of the trunk. The extracted core can then be processed and

examined microscopically, counting the annual growth rings to obtain a close estimate of the tree's age.

Contrary to what your scout leader may have told you, this is not an exact science. A given tree may not even form an annual ring in all parts of the stem every year, and for a variety of reasons entire rings may be missing or double rings may appear. A few of the factors responsible are: drought, defoliation, release from competition by fire or lumbering, the ravages of insects, or even an extreme deviation from the normal growing-season weather.

With all these caveats in mind, the collected cores were examined and annual rings counted. The average age for trees in each site was: RBV 96 years; WMWR 106 years, and RRCSP 171 years. It should be noted that almost all the RBV and WMWR plants suffered heart rot, a fungal invasion of the trunk leading to tissue destruction and preventing an accurate ring count. Interestingly, such internal decay was not encountered in the RRCSP samples.

In considering the three sites each of us would have predicted the oldest trees would be found in RRCSP based upon the habitat and their general growth form and physical appearance. It is obvious the most favorable environmental conditions for sugar maple growth in Oklahoma are there. However, the plants at RBV and WMWR may not be as young as it seems. While extracting the cores it became evident the trees in those sites were clumped together, frequently in a close circle. A little digging about and it was obvious they were sharing a common root system and located in the center was a stob which appeared to have been the parent shoot. The implication was that several "trees" springing up from the soil were all part of one organism, a clone of shoots sent up before, or perhaps after, the parent shoot died back.

There it is. Was the question answered? I think – yes! Oklahoma sugar maple trees may be over 171 years of age, starting as seedlings in the early 1800s. At the same time it was discovered it is impossible to determine accurate ages for all Oklahoma sugar maples. It seems some may represent secondary shoots of much older organisms.

As is generally the case in science, the original question has been answered but others have been raised. I recall words I heard many years ago as a student, words voiced by then President of Oklahoma State University as he welcomed the Oklahoma Academy of Science to his campus. He observed that knowledge could be likened to an island in the Sea of Ignorance. As knowledge increases so does contact with ignorance and it becomes evident there is much more out there we do not know or understand.

May that continue to be the strait for each of us – that we continue learning, continue to identify areas of our individual ignorance and persist in seeking answers for those new questions.

*Dr. Buck recently received the Council Oak Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Citizens of Tulsa through the Tulsa Park and Recreation Department.*

MEMBER PROFILE

Charles Lewallen

Charles Lewallen is the source of those beautiful wildflower pictures on the "Oklahoma Wildflowers" website (below). He doesn't think he is doing anything very unusual, and didn't want to write this, but I can be very forceful, and here are the results. Pat

I started taking pictures of wildflowers in order to help me identify them. I have always been interested in nature but never spent the time to really identify the things around me. I thought that if I took pictures of the flowers, that would be an excuse to then identify them and learn more about them. At the time, I did not realize what I was getting myself into. I had no concept of the number or diversity of the plant life here in Oklahoma. I am starting my fourth year and so far have taken pictures of approximately 500 different flowers, and I have not even started on the sedges and grasses yet!

I had no intention of putting up a web site but my sister is a web master by avocation and insisted, so there it is. I was a mailman for 14 years and the last route I had was a walking route of about 15 miles. It was a great opportunity to spot flowers and then go back at the end of the day and take the picture. All day long I would not see a soul, but as soon as I took out the camera and laid down on the ground I would draw a group of people. I even had one lady call 911 and report that she had a dead man laying in her ditch. O well.

I use what I call the idiot savant method of taking pictures. I spend little time composing a shot, I do not use a tripod because it takes too much time to set up, so my pictures are spontaneous. I enjoy driving the section line roads looking for flowers and taking field trips. Now that I am retired I plan to spend a lot of time travelling Oklahoma exploring places I have never been and finding new flowers.

I have been humbled by the experience of finding out how diverse the natural world is and how little I know about it. I know a lot more than when I first started but now I am aware of how much is still a mystery.

I use a digital camera, which allows me to edit my pictures as soon as I get home and post them on the web. Chad Cox, who is webmaster for the ONPS web page, has agreed to help me as he lives in Norman, close to where my site is hosted. The URL for my web site is <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/okwild/>.

Charles S. Lewallen, Henryetta, Oklahoma  
p.s.: if you want to see Charles in his field, or prone position, see the website!

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ruth Simmons

Many ONPS members will remember Ruth, who was instrumental in the Lawton-area Garden Clubs' sponsorship of last year's Wildflower Workshop. Ruth Simmons was a Master Gardener, editor and judge for the American Iris Society, treasurer of the Red River Orchid Society, and a member of the Walters Dahlia Club. She was only 58.

Survivors include her husband, Jack, a son, Jack Allen and a daughter, Loessa Sue Thompson, grandchildren and other relatives. She leaves to mourn her people all over the state and nation who were the beneficiaries of her dedication and hard work in the field of flower gardening.

ONPS POINTS WITH PRIDE

To Past President Frank Carl, who will be teaching a class on Butterfly Photography (with plenty of flowers) at the Nature Center in Roman Nose State Park on July 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

HACKBERRY FLAT DEDICATED

Almost six years after state officials first introduced the concept to a group of Tillman County landowners, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation finally held a formal dedication of the site. Called "a triumph of late 20<sup>th</sup> Century technology", the project required elimination of early-century efforts to drain the 3,750-acre natural basin.

Partners of the restoration effort include Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the City of Frederick, the Bureau of Reclamation, Wildlife Forever, and the Oklahoma City Sportsman's Club, as well as many corporations.

According to the ODWC, thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds once used the wetland as a stopover during both fall and spring migrations. During wet years, the isolated wetland was estimated to cover more than 3,000 acres.

Hackberry Flat was the destination of an ONPS field trip on June 6, 1998.

HELP WANTED

From Roman Nose State Park, by e-mail, comes a request for names of any ONPS members who might be willing to speak to one of their groups on herbs. Those interested should call Naturalist Denise Grudier at (580)623-4215, or contact the state Parks and Recreation Department for more information.

Invite a friend or family member on the next field trip. We encourage students and other young people to find out what a fun bunch we are!



**Gaillardia Summer 1999**  
**FIELD TRIP REPORTS**

page 7

**THE WESTERN WALL**

By Paul Buck

From my perspective the 1 May field trip into the Western Wall Primitive Area of the Osage Wildlife Management Area turned out to be one of the most outstanding we have had. About 20 members of the state organization attended and were treated to a twelve+ mile tour of the area hosted by Bill Sartin of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.



John & Connie Taylor with Ruth Boyd  
At the Western Wall, 1 May 1999

Squeezing into four-wheel-drive vehicles, we stopped a number of times to explore various habitats and found a number of unusual plants in bloom. Examples were Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), and Aunt Lucy (*Ellisia nyctelia*). I heard Bill comment that he thoroughly enjoyed the group which eagerly disembarked at each stop and spread out searching for new plants. His observation was that we were like "...a bunch of kids in a candy store..."

An added bonus was that much of the time we could look in any direction and not see evidence of humans; no buildings, no roads, no powerlines, and certainly, no trash. What a rewarding day in a most beautiful area! I'm sorry everyone could not share the experience with us. A special "thank you" to Bill Sartin!

**JUNE FIELD TRIP**

There's just time, if you read this promptly, to get in on a really unusual destination for a field trip. That's Saturday, June 19, 9:00 a.m. 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 a minimum of 1 quart of water per person. Closed shoes a must, as the terrain is very soft sand. Sunscreen and a hat will be welcome too. Paul

Nighswonger and Connie Taylor are fieldtrip leaders. Register with Pat Folley at (405)872-9361 or on line to [onps@aol.com](mailto:onps@aol.com).

**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.



Buddy & Clare Miller, Cyndy Harnett, Kay Tan, Bill Sartin, and Ruth Boyd at lunch in Osage Hills State Park before the trip.

**ORCHIDS, ANYONE?**

Yes, the Orchid Tour is going to be held again this summer. Plans are for Saturday, August 14, meeting at Raymond Gary State Park at 9:00 a.m. We will gather at the first picnic site as you enter the park, where there are restrooms and parking, and form carpools to the sites. Dr. Larry Magrath will lead and answer questions. Register with Pat Folley at (405)872-8361 or by email to [pfolley@aol.com](mailto:pfolley@aol.com).

**1999 WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP**

*Yes, the Workshop took place after the deadline for this issue, but here's an "unofficial" report of the goings-on. By Pat Folley*

More than 200 of us assembled in the beautiful Noble Research Center on the OSU campus, and a finer facility cannot be imagined. The displays were magnificent in the spacious outer hall, where curving lines of the multi-level floor gave a natural shape to the tables of plants, seeds, books and literature. Everything was so well organized that you didn't even notice the hard-working garden club ladies, who were every-where and always had a solution or an answer.

The Friday speakers covered several wild-plant-related subjects in various and entertaining ways. I was going to tell you my favorite, and discovered that they all were. My, wasn't I proud when Rahmona Thompson pulled up Charles Lewallen's wildflower pictures off the WWW! That's something I always wanted to do, but got too old before the technology became available. Maybe in the next life? And, how does Paul Buck manage to come in with slides of the plants we're going to see tomorrow?

Lunch was a pleasant stroll away at the Union, then back for the rest of the program. After 4, most of us drove around the water hazards to visit the Oklahoma Botanical Garden and Arboretum, home of "Oklahoma Gardening". Another fine meal at the Union followed, then the evening events back at the Noble Center. The choice of Marge Franklin for the Bess Snodgrass award was an obvious crowd-pleaser. This hard-working lady has been instrumental in the Wildflower Workshops since their inception 22 years ago, and has earned honors in garden-club, educational, and ONPS work as well. The tribute by her husband was wonderful. Wish I had room to reprint it here.

Part of each Workshop is the awarding of certificates and cash to the best wildflower photographers in the annual contest. Here are the results of this year's effort:

**Photo Contest Winners**

Prizes and certificates were awarded after the Evening Dinner to the latest winners of our annual Native Plant Photo Contest. Photo Contest Chairmen Bob & Emma Crane admit to being very impressed with the quality this year, and thank every participant. Nineteen photographers submitted a total of 79 entries. All photos submitted are made a part of our travelling poster show, a most popular service of the ONPS.

***The 1999 Photo Posters will be on display at the Omniplex Photography Hall from June 14 through August 14.***

By category, here are the winners:

**BEGINNERS**

1<sup>st</sup> place: Dorothy Thetford, Denton Texas  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Maureen Stocking, Bedford Texas  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place: John Dole, Stillwater  
 Hon. Mention: Maureen Stocking

**AMATEUR CLOSE-UP**

1<sup>st</sup> place: Jeannie Ho Coley, Norman  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Sallie Webb, Broken Bow  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place: John Dole, Stillwater  
 Hon. Mention: Jeannie Ho Coley

**ADVANCED CLOSE-UP**

1<sup>st</sup> place: John Eagleston, Oklahoma City  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place: James L. Norman, Muskogee  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Anton Kammerlocher, Norman  
 Hon. Mention: Leslie Cole-Jackson, Edmond

**HABITAT**

1<sup>st</sup> place: Jeannie Ho Coley, Norman  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Joanne Orr, Oklahoma City  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Leslie Cole-Jackson, Edmond  
 Hon. Mention: John Eagleston, Oklahoma City

**BOTANICAL INTEREST**

Leslie Cole-Jackson, Edmond

**BEST OF SHOW**

John Eagleston, Oklahoma City

This year's judges were Linda Lockett of Color Chrome in Norman, Professor Susan Barber of Oklahoma City University, Professor Andrew Strout of the University of Oklahoma, and Patricia Folley of the University of Oklahoma.

E. Barrie Kavash, an ethnobotanist, spoke on "American Indian Healing Arts Using Native Wildflowers". Her diagram of a medicine wheel garden had many of us scribbling notes.

Of course, the Saturday field trip was one of my favorite parts. We gathered early in the morning into three huge buses for the 20-odd mile trip to the Manning Prairie near Cushing. ONPS member Leslie Cole-Jackson and Cushing Mayor Joe Manning welcomed us to the privately-owned land, which has never been plowed or grazed. An annual hay-cutting maintains it as prairie instead of brush, but the old buffalo wallows are still there, and an incredible wealth of wildflowers. A crew of botanists (all but one of the editors of the Flora of Oklahoma) quickly added another thirty-or-so species to the already lengthy list provided by Leslie.

Lunch that day was a picnic in the park at Cushing, after which we either went back to Stillwater or back to the Prairie. Nature Conservancy representative Kim Shannon then assured us that Mr. Manning had recently signed a conservancy agreement for the preservation of that land.





ONPS has reserved the Lake Texoma Lodge for the weekend of October 15-17, 1999 for our Annual Meeting. All of you who were unable to attend the far-away meeting in Amarillo last year: this is your chance to make up. We have reserved 15 guest rooms in the lodge itself, but other accommodations are available in cottages and cabanas as well. Members should contact the Lodge to make their own reservations. Please be sure to tell them you are with us. The rooms are \$55/night for single or double, \$85 for triple occupancy. Call (580)564-2311 or toll free at 1-800-528-0593.

While the program has not yet been finalized, you may be sure that it will be one that will get you inspired, involved, and entertained. Our business meetings are brief, the programs and field trips the best. An application blank will be mailed to all members shortly before the date.

**NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT OUR  
STATE PARKS**

BY Ruth Boyd

Since about 1996 I have represented ONPS on the newly formed State Parks Advisory Board. It is composed of representatives of organizations that utilize the parks. In that capacity I have an item that I hope you will find interesting and also news of a new Park Speaker's Program beginning this year for which we need volunteers.

This past fall and winter more than 550 pounds of wildflower seed has been planted in parks throughout Oklahoma. Chosen this year were Crimson Clover, Plains Coreopsis and Indian Blanket. The parks department welcomes the assistance and guidance of the ONPS in helping to expand this program in the future. If you have suggestions you may call the number that appears later in this article.

The Speakers Program hopes eventually to bring a different speaker each week to every State Park from the Memorial Day holiday through the Labor Day weekend. Saturday evening is the preferred time and programs will be in a park location convenient to campers. Park managers or naturalists will choose a location with electricity available and be responsible for obtaining a slide projector and screen when they will be required. Programs should be about 45 minutes in length. Individuals who volunteer will want to choose a park convenient to their homes and arrange a date. Each will be asked to do only one

program, although a larger commitment can be made. Some subjects of interest might be wildflowers, birds, insects, local history or geology, Indian lore, music, story telling, conservation issues, etc. We have folks of varied interests and expertise in the ONPS and this is an opportunity for each of us to do something for our parks and make our organization known to a large number of people.

Please consider a one-night stand and call either Tom Creider or Freddie Truitt at OK Tourism Dept., State Parks, at (405)521-3411. If you know park personnel in your area, you may make your arrangements directly with them.

**TEXAS NPS ADDS BOOKS BY MAIL**

Some of the books available from the NPSOT are "good for" Oklahoma too. Any of those listed below is available by sending your name, address including zip code, telephone number in case of questions to: Native Plant Society of Texas / P. O. Box 891 / Georgetown, TX 78627. The prices shown are below retail cost. Add \$3 for the first title and \$2 for each additional title to cover shipping.

Trees, Shrubs and Cacti of South Texas, by Everitt & Drawe,	\$15
Wildflowers of the Western Plains by Kirkpatrick	13
Field Guide to Common S. Texas Shrubs	
by Taylor & Rutledge	15
How to Grow Native Plants, by Nokes	30
Wildflowers of Texas by Ajilvisji	13
Southwestern & Texas Wildflowers, by Neihous & Savage	15
Native Texas Gardens by Wasowski	30
Landscaping Region by Region 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed. By Wasowski	35
A Book of Salvias by Clebech	25
Growing Desert Plants by Hodoba	20
Texas Range Plants by Hatch	13
Grasses, Pods, Vines, Weeds - Decorating by Steitz	20
Landscaping with Native Plants of Texas & SW by Miller	15
Trees, Shrubs & Woody Vines of SW by Vines	60
A Field Guide to Texas Trees by Simpson	15
Plants of the Rio Grande Delta by Richardson	20
Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country by Enquist	12
Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie by Kindscher	12
Medicinal Wild Plants of the Prairie by Kindscher	12
Plants for Natural Gardens by Phillips	25
Natural by Design by Phillips	25
100 Texas Wildflowers by Mattiza	7

Count your garden by the flowers  
Never by the leaves that fall.  
Count your days by golden hours  
Don't remember clouds at all.  
Count your nights by stars, not shadows.  
Count your years with smiles, not tears.  
Count your blessings, not your troubles.  
Count your age by friends, not years

Author unknown

By Irene Molnar McKee

On March 6 the N.E. Chapter displayed several posters of our wildflower photo contest winners at the Fourth Annual Our Earth Conference on Sustainable Living held in Tahlequah. Sue Amstutz, Betty Kemm and Irene McKee staffed a table displaying ONPS brochures and literature. We shared information about ONPS' programs meetings and field trips with the approximately 50 conference attendees.

Other organizations with displays included the Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Save the Illinois River, the Metropolitan Environmental Trust, and a commercial home water filtration system supplier. Oklahoma Senator Paul Muegge spoke about the difficulty small farmers and environmental groups encounter when they try to get their concerns before legislators and state and federal regulatory boards that control agriculture and water quality. The well-funded lobbies of high-density hog and chicken businesses exert a great deal of influence on legislation and state and federal regulations.

Ed Brocksmith and Ed Fite presented an excellent history and current impact of both agriculture, leisure use and population density on the Illinois River.

Other workshops included "The Town Branch Creek" of Tahlequah, "Private Land & Water Conservation" and "Investments in Safe Environmental Business".

N. E. Chapter also participated at Borders Books of Tulsa's "Gardenfest 99" with a table display of literature and brochures and two of the Wildflower Contest Photo posters. Chapter members set up and staffed the table and shared information about ONPS activities with customers. Chapter members participating were Paul Buck, Sue Amstutz, Karen Haworth, Irene McKee and Laurel Upshaw.

Some programs presented during the day were Jim Bowman on Organic Gardening, Russell Studebaker on Oklahoma Gardening, Sue Gray on Edible Horticulture, and Flower Arranging by Tulsa Greenhouse.

*The Central Chapter did not turn in a report to the Gaillardia this quarter. We know they've been busy, and have a field trip to the Oklahoma City Zoo scheduled for June 12. Maybe next time.*

**IN MEMORIUM**

**Dr. George Goodman**

Dr. George Goodman, Professor Emeritus of Botany and Curator Emeritus of the Bebb Herbarium at OU, died peacefully at his home in Norman on May 23. Though he had been "retired" since 1975, it has been little over a year since he stopped coming in to the herbarium to work on one of his books. He became an assistant professor of botany at OU in 1933, which gave him more than 60 years to educate, amuse, train and in general make his mark upon generations of botany students, colleagues and just friends.

Though I never had the privilege of sitting in one of his classes, I was one of his students too: every day he came in through the back door, greeted all who were working there, and managed to express an interest in the work we were doing. He would look through your microscope, remark upon the beauty of the object, and pause just long enough to allow you to ask a question. Of course, being a teacher to the bone, he never gave a direct answer. He just made a suggestion that turned out to be the key to finding the answer for yourself.

His retirement project, researching the route of the Long expedition through western Oklahoma and Colorado, became a book, published in 1995 by the University of Oklahoma Press. Titled *Retracing Major Stephen H. Long's 1820 Expedition: The Itinerary and Botany*, was co-authored by his former student Cheryl Lawson of Shawnee. Though it follows all the formulae for scientific publications, the irrepressible wit and sense of fun that Dr. Goodman brought to his work bubbles through.

Members who hadn't the privilege of knowing Dr. Goodman at work will remember the field trip he led during the Wildflower Workshop hosted by the OU Botany department in 1988. He was also a featured speaker at the Annual Meeting in Alva, October 1992. His trademark plaid shirt and gentle smile will remain for many of us a memorial more lasting than bronze.

Dr. Goodman was never officially a member of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, but was mighty influential on its mission and makeup just the same. Though at 94 years, it might be thought that a man could just slip away, he has been a part of our lives in this state and in the education of botanists that will never quite be replaced.

By Patricia Folley



**ONPS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

- William & Susan Bauman, Norman
- Joyce De Board, Tulsa
- Beverly Boyd, Oklahoma City
- Sharon Burnis, Ardmore
- Joann Clark, Shawnee
- Anne Cramer, Enid
- Viola Ernst, Bessie
- Grace Feller, Luther
- Carolyn & Nestor Gonzales, Stillwater
- Destiny Gualco, Tryon
- Steven Hill, Norman
- Paul & Rebecca Johnson, Tulsa
- Philip & Johanna Meredith, Norman
- Stephen Nielsen, Norman
- Robin Randolph, Oklahoma City
- Carl & Lynn Roberts, Oklahoma City
- Jean & John Salmon, Jay
- Virginia Skeel, Norman
- Louise South, Oklahoma City
- Gena Steele, Tuttle
- Terry Sunday, Welling
- Premkamur Thondikkattik, Stillwater
- Pat White, Norman
- Mark & Leslie Young, Tulsa

**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](mailto:onps@aol.com).

Members who wish to receive information by e-mail from ONPS may send their on-line address to [onps@aol.com](mailto: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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**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 Highland Ave., Shawnee, OK 74801 **Deadline for entries is 1 September 1999**

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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