



*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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Winter 2002

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**COPY AND ART DEADLINE  
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS  
15 February 2003**

# Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

**CALENDAR**

Note: the events dated below are followed by either a page number for further descriptions or the contact person.

**Dec 7: Board Meeting, St. Stephen's United Method Church, 10 AM.**

**Jan 18: C-T Chapter field trip in search of mosses, liverworts, and their friends; weather permitting, meet in parking lot between Life Sciences East and Physical Sciences buildings, OSU campus at 1:00 pm. Contact Ron Tyrl, 405-744-9558, [rjtyrl@okstate.edu](mailto:rjtyrl@okstate.edu)**

**Jan 30 - Feb 2: Garden Festival, OKC, opens 10 AM - 8 PM except on Sunday closes at 5 PM. ONPS will be represented. Contact Susan Chambers, [chamberstinroof@aol.com](mailto:chamberstinroof@aol.com) or (405) 769-7917.**

**Feb 15: Indoor Outing, Cameron Univ., not confirmed as yet.**

**Mar 7: C-T Chapter meeting and potluck dinner; meet in Room 110, Life Sciences East Building, OSU campus at 6:30 pm. Contact Ron Tyrl.**

**Apr 27: C-T Chapter field trip in search of jack-in-the-pulpit and other early-spring flowers; meet in parking lot between Life Sciences East and Physical Sciences buildings, OSU campus at 1:00 pm. Contact Ron Tyrl.**

**May 2-3: 2002 Wildflower Workshop, Chickasaw National Recreation Area.**

**May 24: Gloria Caddell will lead a field trip to the University of Central Oklahoma's Selman Living Laboratory, 320 acres of gypsum outcrops and mixed-grass prairie in the Gypsum Hills west of Alabaster Caverns in Woodward County. Contact her, [gcaddell@ucok.edu](mailto:gcaddell@ucok.edu) or 405-974-5827**

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

**PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH**

These last few months have been a busy time for me; teaching three classes and now finding myself ONPS president. Oh well, that should keep me from volunteering next time.

It is a great honor to represent ONPS. I have been impressed by the all the friendly and knowledgeable people that I have met. Many of them have been my mentors for the last few years as I have tried to learn about our states diverse native plants. Yes, Charles I do remember Daisy Fleabane.

Trying to follow Pat, Ruth, Sheila, Betty, and all the past ONPS leaders presents quite a challenge. I am lucky in that I knew both Harriet Barclay and Ann Long from my graduate days at the University of Tulsa. I often think about them on many of our field trips.

Sometimes we get busy with the everyday running of an organization like ONPS. Issues such as membership, mailings, budgets, board meetings, etc. can be very time consuming. It is with this thought that I think it is important to restate the objectives of our organization.

*"to encourage the study, protection, use, and appreciation of the native plants of Oklahoma"*

We should always keep this thought with us as we move into a new year. What can we do as individuals and as an organization to honor this statement? Many of our members have been wonderful over the past years in leading field trips, conducting workshops, etc.. We need to continue with these efforts, especially in trying to develop new field trip leaders. Pat's, Charles', and Jim Norman's efforts in establishing the *Friends of Jim* program to train new field trip leaders is a step in the right direction. I encourage all ONPS members to support them in their efforts.

Communication has always been a problem, especially an organization such as ours that is spread out over the state. Past issues such as contacting and handling new memberships appear to be improving as we continue to develop and enhance our membership database and web presence. What did we ever do before the internet? Ruth and Betty are doing a wonderful job establishing publicity contacts and sending out press notices. This is an excellent way of informing

the public of who we are and hopefully picking up new members.

Issues such as the new Mycology group, the possible affiliation with the Color Oklahoma organization, and developing new sales of ONPS merchandise all have the potential of supporting our objectives.

Education has always been one of our main goals. Our annual indoor outing and wildflower workshops have been helpful by informing the membership and public about our states natural diversity. Paul Reimer, Sue and Dale Amstutz, and others have done a excellent job using the pictures from our annual photo contest. And of course, who could leave out Charles Lewallen's digital photos. Our new journal has great scientific and professional potential.

Here's wishing you all the best during the holidays. I look forward to working with you during the coming months.

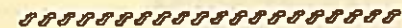
Happy weed watching

Jim Elder



**IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES**

The new officers elected at the Annual Meeting are listed on the back page of this issue of the *Gaillardia*.



**BOTANY BAY**

Paul Buck

What is a Wort?

Often while walking amid wildflowers with members of our Society I have identified a plant as a member of the figwort family or we have encountered the beautiful, bright yellow St. John'swort. Generally someone will ask the origin of the word wort. That is a good question and the answer will take us back several hundred years. In addition to discovering the meaning of the word we will learn how it became part of the common names of so many of our wildflowers.

First the word wort. Originally spelled wurt it comes to us from the Old English. The term was used to refer to an herb, plant or root, especially an

herbaceous one, often of medicinal value. Yes there is a second definition, '...an infusion of malt and sugars fermented to form beer...' but that is another story.

There are well over twenty five Oklahoma plants bearing the name wort including quillwort, wormwort, liverwort, feverwort, soapwort, bladderwort and milkwort. How did the term become part of these common names?

I think today, in our herb-oriented society, everyone is familiar with the term herbal. My dictionary defines it as 'a book that lists individual herbs, especially those considered having medicinal value and describes their particular properties and possible uses.' Herbals provide information on identification and exactly what parts of the plant are used, how they are prepared and the diseases, conditions and wounds for which they are useful. One of the earliest known is a simple tablet from Sumer in lower Mesopotamia dated about 3,000 BC. The tablet lists about a dozen prescriptions in use at the time, some utilizing thyme, cassia and sage.

Admittedly many, such as Aristotle, Theophrastus and Pliny, contributed to early herbals but the more persistent name is Dioscorides. In the first century of the Christian era he wrote an herbal which is still extant and was the final pharmaceutical authority for over 1,500 years. That is difficult to imagine when today's publications are outdated when they roll off the press. One must keep in mind these very early works were hand written and illustrations were limited. No doubt this is one reason intellectual advance was slow until about 1440 and the development, in Europe, of the printing press.

The ability to accurately print multiple copies of a work opened up avenues of communication allowing workers to share information. It was at this time herbals became available to those searching for drugs and medications.

At this point, let me raise a question. Just who, in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries were interested in plants and animals? Of course, it was physicians. After all, in addition to diagnosing an illness they had to provide the appropriate medication and there was no drug store at the corner (that may also help to

explain why plant reproductive parts have names such as ovary and placenta).

Since plants were the primary source of medicinal drugs, physicians, in their on-going search for new medicines grasped at any lead or clue. This led, in the 1600s, to the development of the belief in the *Doctrine of Signatures*. This superstition held that plants were somehow stamped with the 'signature' of their medicinal value and use. That is, the Creator had placed a sign or clue on each as to their usefulness, what disease or injury they were meant to treat. The form of a plant signified its intended use. In 1664, botanist Robert Turner stated it: "God hath imprinted upon the Plants, Herbs, and Flowers, as it were in Hieroglyphicks, the very signature of their Vertues."

One example reported in sixteenth century herbals indicated plants that exhibited overlapping scales such as lily bulbs and the flower heads of scabiosa (a popular garden herb from Europe) were meant for treating scaly skin conditions such as scabies. Others were that long-lived ones will lengthen ones life, and short-lived one abbreviate it; maidenhair fern will prevent baldness; adder's tongue cures the bite of an adder; and, herbs with reddish sap should be used for treatment of blood problems.

Here are a few of the native Oklahoma worts and their reported uses:

Lungwort, *Verbascum thapsus* (Mullein); used for asthma, mental disorders, diarrhea, bruises and contusions.

St. Jame'swort, *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (Shepherd's purse); as a diuretic and for excessive bleeding associated with childbirth, menstruation and hemorrhoids.

Bloodwort, *Achillea millefolium* (Yarrow); for stomach disorders, breaking fevers and as a diuretic.

Saltwort, *Salsola iberica* (Russian Thistle); as a diuretic.

One last comment. Use your head! Admittedly there is medicinal value in many of our native plants. Keep in mind the training period for medicine makers in Native American cultures exceeds that of medical school of today's physicians. Those tribal men/women know what they are doing. You and I do not. As an example:

*Sanguinaria canadensis*, the common bloodroot so abundant in the oak-hickory forests of eastern Oklahoma has been used to treat a wide variety of illnesses. However, few of us, if any, know what to collect, when to collect it, how to prepare it and the correct dosage. The improper use of this well-known native may result in a series of grim conditions described by the author of a Medicinal Plants book. The final stages of the prolonged reactions reads: '...heaviness of the upper chest with difficult breathing; dilation of the pupils; great muscular prostration; faintness and coldness of the surfaces, showing that death follows from cardiac paralysis.'

That could ruin your day.



### The 2002 BioBlitz

The BioBlitz, a 24 hour inventory of flora and fauna at a given site, was held this year at Beavers Bend. The results may be seen at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bbresults02.html>  
The results in brief are: Total Number of Species 1017: Mammals, 14; Birds, 69; Reptiles, 16; Amphibians, 10; Fish, 37; Butterflies & Moths, 35; Beetles, 32; Ants & Bees, 45; Lesser Aquatic Insect Orders, 61; Other Insects, 197; Spiders/millipedes/centipedes, 38; Non-Insect/arachnid invertebrates, 17; Fungi, 46; Mosses & Liverworts, 22; Lichens, 4; Algae, 4; Vascular Plants, 370.

The inventory was accomplished by 140 biologists represented by 26 different organizations, including ONPS. Unusual findings were the Federally listed Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) and Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*) which is widely distributed in North America, but infrequent in Oklahoma. The most fun was Giant Walkingsticks (*Diaperoma femorata*).



### Mycological Chapter

The Mycological Chapter is still in the organizational stages. Yet to be done is finalization of the chapter by-laws. Clark Ovrebo has agreed to be the initial director of the chapter with Julie Tarver as assistant director. Although there is continued interest in the chapter, some ONPS members feel that a chapter devoted to the study of

a particular group of plants (in this case fungi which are not plants) should not receive chapter recognition. Also, the fact that a Mycological Chapter does not represent a region of the state like our other chapters is of concern. These issues will be discussed at the December board meeting in Norman. A meeting to act on the by-laws will be held at the University of Central Oklahoma, Sunday, 3 pm, Jan 12, 2003, in Howell Hall (same building as the 2001 Indoor Outing).

Because the Mycological chapter will not represent a geographic region, how will meetings and field trips be organized? My home base is in central Oklahoma in Edmond. A couple of meetings per year with educational programs could be held at the University of Central Oklahoma. Other programs could be given throughout the year in conjunction with the other chapters' meetings. For field trips, they could be held with other planned ONPS field trips or could be scheduled separately. Mushroom-type fungi appear only after abundant rainfall - timing is everything. Field trips could be planned and advertised in advance, but a spell of dry weather beforehand will result in no fungi. Impromptu trips might be better. They could be scheduled when mushrooms begin to appear. With e-mail access in almost every home, I might suggest an e-mail mailing list or list-server system to spread the word about a field trip. This, however, can only be done if members throughout the state are alert to the appearance of fungi. An ONPS member who sees mushrooms in abundance would contact one of us who has an e-mail list and notice could be sent out about a planned field trip. This member if willing would arrange the date, time, meeting place and also secure permission if needed to enter the property. The above ideas for meetings and field trips are just suggestions. If they seem workable ideas, I would appreciate your feedback.

*Late fall mushrooms:* With abundant rains in late October and early November in central Oklahoma, mushrooms typical of late fall were everywhere, in both wooded areas and lawns. One of the more common species seen on lawns was *Lepiota naucina* (*naucinoides* in some field guides). You probably saw its whitish fruiting bodies in your yard or noticed them on lawns while driving in urban areas. This fungus is very pale off-white overall, has free lamellae, smooth cap, and a partial veil which leaves an annulus. You might think *Amanita*

when first examining this mushroom, but the lack of a universal veil (volva) eliminates that genus. Another group of fleshy fungi, the stinkhorns, were also common. In one yard over a period of a week I saw several dozen fruiting bodies of *Phallus impudicus* appear. This fungus is phallus-shaped with a sticky, dark brownish black spore mass (gleba) covering the apex. Stinkhorns are renowned for the foul odor they produce, a mechanism to attract flies for spore dispersal. Scattered in clusters under planted pines in the Oklahoma City area was the bolete *Suillus brevipes*. Instead of gills, boletes have tubes which end in pores. The cap of *Suillus brevipes* is slimy when fresh and starts out brown but fades to nearly yellow in age. *Suillus* species are mycorrhizally associated with pines. My graduate student, Sean Jones, and I ventured into a wooded area in Edmond on the first Saturday in November and were delighted to find a large fruiting of *Clitocybe nuda*, commonly known as "blewit". It is a very attractive mushroom that is light purple overall when fresh. You can find a photo of it in almost any field guide. It is prized as an excellent edible mushroom. We both enjoyed several meals of it.

With cold weather approaching, the mushroom season is winding down. Mushrooms will be scarce until spring. We now must wait for morel season. Don't be surprised, though, to see some *Pleurotus ostreatus* (oyster mushroom) growing on logs or tree stumps during the winter months. It is another excellent edible species.



Ron Tyrl: Anne Long Awardee

Betty Kemm

Dr. Ron Tyrl received the 2002 Anne Long Award at the annual meeting of the ONPS held at Camp Egan on October 19. It was presented to him by ONPS past president Betty Kemm.

Ron has been a vital part of ONPS from its very beginning. He served on its first board, presented the program at its first annual meeting and developed the first Indoor Outing, which was held at OSU. Since then he has continued to support ONPS in many ways. There have been other

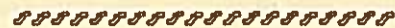
Indoor Outings at OSU. He has presented workshops at some of those and at those held at other universities. He has been a leader for many of our field trips and has organized an ONPS chapter in Stillwater.



Ron Tyrl receives the Anne Long Award

He has also been very generous with his time and knowledge in presenting many lectures and programs to the public, including Elderhostels, and led a wildflower tour to England.

His professional records and awards are too many to list. After receiving his doctorate from Oregon State University he joined the faculty at OSU where he has had an illustrious career, teaching, advising graduate students and continuing his research. He is participating in the preparation of the Oklahoma Flora project. He has published many articles and co-authored a number of books. He brought with him copies of his latest book which has just been published, It is a Field Guide to Oklahoma Plants.



**2002 Service Awardee Betty Kemm  
Sue Stutz**

Betty Kemm was honored at ONPS' Annual Meeting at Camp Egan as the recipient of the 2002 ONPS Service Award. The award, presented by Service Award Chair Sue Amstutz, included the gaillardia-embossed glass plaque designed especially for our Service Award recipients by Glasspecialties of Tulsa. Betty also received a Life Membership in ONPS.

Betty Kemm, a Charter Member of our Society, served ONPS as its very first State President. She edited *The Gaillardia* for four years and was also elected to serve as Director-at-Large. She chaired the Northeast Chapter from 1991 to 1999, the long duration of service due to the fact that the Northeast group held her leadership skills in such high esteem that they refused to elect a successor!



**Betty Kemm: 2002 Service Award Winner**

Other aspects of Betty's service have included hosting innumerable ONPS committees and planning sessions in her home; speaking at educational, environmental, and political groups on the subject of the value of native plants; organizing State meetings and Indoor Outings; and manning countless registration tables for ONPS functions.

Even at the State Meeting on October 19, Betty was fulfilling a role of service. She appeared on the program to present the 2002 Anne Long Award to

Ron Tyrl, filling in for Chairman Paul Reimer who was unable to be present due to health concerns.

ONPS offers congratulations to Betty, as well as our thanks for her many years of devoted and valuable service to the Society.

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**BIOLOGICAL STATION'S SUMMER  
PROGRAMS**

The University of Oklahoma Biological Station (UOBS) will be offering two field-based botany courses as part of its Summer Session 2003 academic program:

*Field Studies of Non-Flowering Plants*, BOT 4990/5990, Sec. 051, May 18 – May 31, 2003

Instructor: Ron Tyrl, OSU

*Field Botany*, BOT 4990/5990, Sec. 050, Aug. 3 – Aug. 15, 2003

Instructor: Bruce Smith, OSU

Bruce's course is an introduction to the flora of the state, the terminology of plant description, the use of taxonomic keys to identify unknown plants, and the techniques of collecting and preserving plants. Ron's course is an introduction to the diversity and evolution of non-flowering plants and related taxonomic groups – algae, bryophytes, club mosses, ferns, horsetails, and lichens. In both courses, classes meet all day long during the week, and emphasis is on field work with trips to botanically interesting sites.

Other courses being offered during Summer Session 2003 are:

*Experimental Design in Ecology*, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 050, May 18 – May 31, 2003

Instructor: Jacob Schaefer, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

*Introduction to Stream Ecology*, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 051, May 18 – May 31, 2003

Instructor: William Stark, Fort Hays State University

*Molecular Techniques for Field Biology*, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 100, May 18 – May 31, 2003

Instructors: James Thompson, Jr., University of Oklahoma and Ron Woodruff, Bowling Green State University

*Wildlife Conservation*, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 052, May 18 – May 31, 2003

Instructor: Richard Kazmaier, West Texas A&M University

*Field Insect Ecology*, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 054, Aug. 3 – Aug. 15, 2003

Instructor: Kenneth Hobson, University of Oklahoma

*Field Mammalogy*, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 053, Aug. 3 – Aug. 15, 2003

Instructor: Michael Kennedy, University of Memphis

*Reservoir Fish Ecology*, ZOO 4970/5970, Sec. 055, Aug. 3 – Aug. 15, 2003

Instructor: Tim Patton, Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Students receive 3 hours of upper-division undergraduate or graduate science credit with laboratory. UOBS is located on the north shore of Lake Texoma, approximately 125 miles south/southeast of the OU Norman campus. For further information, please contact Susan Bayliss, 405-325-5391 or sbayliss@ou.edu. Applications will be accepted starting Jan. 2, 2003.

## IN SEARCH OF ENGLISH WILDFLOWERS

Ron Tyrl

If you have mastered identification of all the wildflowers in Oklahoma and want to become acquainted with those found elsewhere, consider joining ONPS member Ron Tyrl and British taxonomist Tom Cope on a 9-day botanical adventure (June 14-22) in southern England.

Each day you will venture forth to stroll the hills and dales in search of the country's most beautiful wildflowers. You will enjoy the beauty of terrestrial orchids galore, carpets of sundews, and innumerable rare species such as the wild gladiolus. You also will become acquainted with their taxonomy and ecology. Your travels will take you to botanically exciting areas such as the famous Box Hill, a chalk grassland on the North Downs; the heathlands and bogs of the New Forest; the chalk grasslands of the South Downs near Selbourne, home of Gilbert White, the 18<sup>th</sup> Century naturalist; and the sand dunes and marshes of Sandwich Bay on the English Channel. You will eat your lunches in village pubs or picnic in the field.

In addition to the field trips, you will visit the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the most famous

garden in the world. In the evenings, there will be opportunities to stroll along the banks of the River Thames, visit English pubs, and see the beauty of English gardens in the vicinity of your hotel, a 17<sup>th</sup> Century coach house adjacent to Henry VIII's Hampton Court Palace. After botanizing all week, you will be a tourist and spend a day and evening in the heart of London enjoying the sights of the city that you have always wanted to see.

This tour is the second one organized by Ron and Tom. Their first foray was in 2000 and eight ONPS members were among the participants. The tour price (double occupancy) is \$3145. For further information, contact Ron Tyrl (405-744-9558, rjtyrl@okstate.edu) or Lin Kobsey Travel (8912 S. 70<sup>th</sup> E. Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74133, 918-747-0077, Lkobsey@SBCGlobal.net).

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## ALDO LEOPOLD'S PRAIRIE

Excerpted from *A Sand County Almanac*

By Aldo Leopold

Suggested by Pat Folley

"Every July I watch eagerly a certain country graveyard that I pass in driving to and from my farm. It is time for a prairie birthday, and in one corner of this graveyard lives a surviving celebrant of that once important event.

"It is an ordinary graveyard, bordered by the usual spruces, and studded with the usual pink granite or white marble headstones, with the usual Sunday bouquet of red or pink geraniums. It is extraordinary only in harboring, within the sharp angle of its fence, a pin-point remnant of the native prairie on which the graveyard was established in the 1840's. Heretofore unreachable by scythe or mower, this yard-square relic of original Wisconsin gives birth, each July, to a man-high stalk of compass plant or cutleaf Silphium, spangled with saucer-sized yellow blooms resembling sunflowers. It is the sole remnant of this plant along this highway, and perhaps the sole remnant in the western half of our county. What a thousand acres of the Silphiums looked like when they tickled the bellies of the buffalo is a question never again to be answered, and perhaps not even asked.

"When I passed the graveyard again on 3 August, the fence had been removed by a road crew, and the Silphium cut. It is easy now to predict the

future; for a few years my Silphium will try in vain to rise above the mowing machine, and then it will die. With it will die the prairie epoch.

“Mechanized man, oblivious of floras, is proud of his progress in cleaning up the landscape on which, willy-nilly, he must live out his days. It might be wise to prohibit at once all teaching of real botany and real history, lest some future citizen suffer qualms about the floristic price of his good life.”

Note: Dr. Leopold wrote *A Sand County Almanac* just after world war two. Credited with the invention of the philosophy and science of ecology, he may be one of the reasons why Oklahoma roadsides and fence rows are blessed with a healthy helping of *Silphium laciniatum* during the long days of our own summers.



CONSERVATION CORNER

Chad Cox

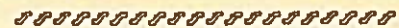
A recent article in Science by Pitman and Jorgensen, suggests that the expected extinction of flora is between 22 - 47 % rather than the previous estimate of 13 %. Their guess at the amount of extinction, based on observations in Ecuador, has such a large range because of our lack of complete inventories of tropical flora. They did not take into account global warming which they say will increase extinction. The more we fragment the land by farming, the greater the extinction of plants as they will not be able to migrate as the climate changes.

This study is note worthy not only because of the dire prediction but that it concentrates on plants. Most conservation interests are directed at animals. In fact, the given significance of most conservation efforts is based on saving animals or saving species that might provide medicinal compounds for humans. Fortunately, habitat loss is a major reason for threatened animal species so that saving habitat for them also helps with conserving plants as well. Certainly, an argument can be made that this is backwards because animals depend in the final analysis on plants. Regardless, so far plants have been primarily ignored in many conservation plans.

Others have recognized of the paucity of conservation directed at plants. A consolidated plan would be most effective. The Center for Biological Diversity and the California Native Plant

Society have established the Native Plant Conservation Campaign, whose mission is to promote appreciation and conservation of native plant species and communities through education, law, policy, land use and management. This campaign is envisaged as a national and international effort combining all interested parties and national and international scientific and conservation organizations such as Sierra Club, Botanical Society of America, National Resources Defense Council, Planta Europa, etc.

Given their mission as well as goals and strategies, ONPS should be interested in this campaign. I will monitor this campaign for the near future and return to the subject as the campaign develops. Anyone interested in the campaign can visit [www.cnps.org/npsc.htm](http://www.cnps.org/npsc.htm) for further information.



2002 ANNUAL MEETING of ONPS

Patricia Folley

The 2002 all-member meeting of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society assembled in a light rain at Camp Egan, in the Oklahoma Ozarks east of Tahlequah, on Friday, October 18. Despite the drizzle, we had a total of 70 members, their spouses and friends, on hand by the Saturday business meeting.

Friday evening's supper was catered by our new member from Seminole, Marilyn Stewart, who came all the way across the state to bring us a lavish buffet of sandwich fixings, finger foods, and munchy stuff. Our entertainment was provided by Chris Wilson, manager of the new J.T. Nickel Family Preserve, a few miles west of Camp Egan. With a lecture and slides of some Nickel Preserve scenery, Chris introduced us to the site of the Saturday field trip. A highlight of Friday was Ron Tyrl's introduction of his new book "Oklahoma Wildflowers". Luckily, he brought plenty of copies at a special ONPS price. It's a book just written for folks like us.

Again in a light drizzle, we formed carpools on Saturday morning for the short drive to the Nickel Preserve. Many of us remembered taking field trips there with Jim Norman, years ago. And Jim blessed us with his presence all that day. We hiked up onto a wooded ridge, down to a waterfall, and across a wetland called Tule Hollow. Leaves were beginning to turn, though fall color had not fully



developed. Lunch, from brown bags supplied by the camp, was enjoyed in the unfinished, but already beautiful new visitor center.

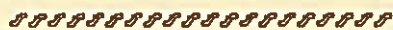
A partial composite list for the area:

*Antennaria* rosettes, *Aster sagittifolius* (Arrowleaf Aster), *Chasmanthium latifolium* (Inland Sea Oats), *Coriulus versicolor* (Turkeytail fungi), *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood), *Hydrangea* sp., *Ilex decidua* (deciduous holly), *Lobelia* sp., *Perilla frutescens*, *Polymnia canadensis* (leafcup), *Monarda russelliana* (Red Spotted Horsemint), *Nyssa sylvatica* (black gum), *Quercus alba* (white oak), *Rhus copallina* (winged sumac), *Scrophularia marilandica* (Maryland Figwort), *Solidago* spp., *Spiranthes* sp., *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* (buckbrush), *Sassafras albidum*, *Vitis* spp., *Vaccinium* spp. (Blueberry), & *Viola* sp. Many lichens, ferns, mosses, pines, juniper, hazel (with immature catkins), false indigo, dogwood, sweet gum, basket flower, and several fungal species, including *Auricularia auricula* (Ear Fungus)

Saturday evening, after dinner in the camp's dining hall, we elected new officers for the year 2003, heard reports from all the busy committees, and saw the Anne Long award presented to Dr. Ron Tyrl by first president Betty Kemm. And then we saw the Service award presented to Betty Kemm

Our keynote speaker was Andrea Radwell, representing the Ozark Society. Andrea is a doctoral candidate at the University of Arkansas, and is a stream ecologist. She gave an informative and interesting talk on the problems of gaining public awareness of the importance of streams to the general welfare of the system.

A short night in the camp dorms, breakfast and the board meeting, and we were off for home by 11 a.m. on Sunday. Many of us plan to go back to Camp Egan and visit the Nickel Preserve again – hopefully, on a sunny day.



## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### CENTRAL CHAPTER

Susan Chambers

June 23: The central chapter members and guests paid a laid afternoon visit southwest of Blanchard to a water garden nursery that specializes in native plants and wetland remediation. Victoria Gonzales

is the owner/manager, and led us on a tour of the artificial and natural ponds dotting the property. There were many exotic as well as native plants in the ponds and on the banks. Victoria also grows goldfish and koi for sale to the public.

July 27: The semi annual garden tour of the Chambers garden in eastern Oklahoma County. A 2 ½ acre property, of which about 1 acre is 'landscaped', the rest being managed to retain the grassland/wildflower status with tree lines here and there. The garden includes many exotics as well as many native plants, several water features, a wetland for bog plants, a woodland garden and a wildflower meadow. New this year is an attempt at a native grass lawn.

August 17: The August heat and sun is not exactly a real inducement to nursery hopping, but several people joined us for a tour of the arboretum, growing houses and sales houses at Sunshine Nursery, in Clinton, Oklahoma. Steve Bieberich led us through the arboretum to show the many different native trees (and some exotics) that are successfully growing in the talc soil of western Oklahoma. He pointed out the damage from the ice storm of early 2002, more severe on some species than others. We then walked through the growing houses with Steve, learning the finer points of tree propagation in a greenhouse. Many thousands of trees were in different stages of growth in just one greenhouse.

September 14; Pat Folley led a group of us on a hike through the Lexington Wildlife Management Area south of Norman. The weather was perfect, cool and a bit damp, just right for a trek through a place of much natural beauty. The grasses were in full glory, as were many vines that had started to turn color or were in fruit. The native lotus in the lake was just gorgeous, waxy and creamy at the same time. We identified a couple of plants that were not previously known for the Lexington. After the hike, we had a tailgate brown-bag lunch.

October 28: Jim Erwin of the Nature Conservancy oversees the caretaking of several of the Nature Conservancy's preserves. He presented slides taken at many of these areas, including Pontotoc Ridge and Boehler Seeps. His program was an overview of what the Conservancy does in many of these preserves. The slides were beautiful and the program was very informative

Jim Elder

The NE Chapter has held three meetings so far this year. All the meetings began with a potluck dinner.

Dr. David Stable presented an excellent program describing the cross timbers area at the March 11th meeting. Monica Macklin presented a wonderful program on May 6<sup>th</sup> about under utilized native trees. Dr. Ron Tyrl's presentation on September 9<sup>th</sup> was a very informative program on the history, uses, and taxonomy of native grasses.

The chapter collected \$123.00 in sales of Shirts, books, and cups at our last meeting, bringing our yearly sales total to \$237.00.

The monthly happy hours have proven to be an excellent way of keeping in touch with members between our 4 yearly meetings at the Garden Center. This has provided us with time to plan field trips and share recent trips with each other.

Our members have participated in outings to the Wichita Mts.; the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve in Osage county, the Pontotoc Ridge preserve, the annual Orchid trip to southeast Oklahoma, an urban garden field trip in Tulsa, an outing to Natural Falls State Park, the Oklahoma Academy of Science meeting, an outing to John Wheat's property along the Arkansas river, and a combination botanical and astronomical outings to the Western Wall Wife Management area. Charles Lewellen set up his telescope for this outing. Several of us spent the night observing the planets and other astronomical phenomena.

Our next scheduled meeting will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Bruce Smith will be presenting a program on Oklahoma ferns. The December meeting will also include election of officers.

#### Cross Timbers Chapter

Ron Tyrl

On Saturday, September 14, five chapter members braved intermittent rain showers in search of fall wildflowers. We visited a prairie hidden in the heart of Stillwater and were fortunate to see the beauty of many grasses in full flower. Species encountered included *Andropogon gerardii*, big bluestem; *Schizachyrium scoparium*, little bluestem; *Sorghastrum nutans*, Indiangrass,

*Panicum virgatum*, switchgrass; *Andropogon ternarius*, splitbeard bluestem; *Buchloe dactyloides*, buffalograss; *Bouteloua gracilis*, blue grama; and *Bouteloua curtipendula*, side-oats. The composite lovers in the group were not disappointed as well because *Solidago rigida*, stiffleaf goldenrod; *Solidago missouriensis*, Missouri goldenrod; *Liatris punctata*, dotted gayfeather; and *Helenium aestivalis*, lanceleaf blanketflower were flowering.

#### FIELD TRIP RULES

- Participation is at your own risk.
- 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.
- Collecting any plant parts or other materials at the site must be approved by the field trip leader.
- 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.
- 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.

On Friday evening, November 15, the chapter hosted its traditional fall potluck dinner and meeting in the OSU Department of Botany's teaching lab. The large crowd enjoyed an abundance of good food. Following dinner, Steve Owens, ONPS member and host of the popular OETA television program *Oklahoma Gardening*, gave a slide presentation on poison ivy, a plant species that is the bane of many of us who venture into the field. In addition to describing the species and its relatives, he discussed the disease problem that it causes, and the common myths associated with it. Some of us began to scratch as he told his story.

We will be going to the field several times this winter and spring. On Saturday, January 18, we will take a local field trip to Payne County's Fern Valley and Horsetail Hollow in search of mosses, liverworts, and their friends. Bryologist and ONPS member Sue McAlister will be our leader and introduce us to the beauty of these non-vascular plants. On Sunday, April 27, we will attempt to catch *Arisaema triphyllum*, Jack-in-the-pulpit, in flower; and on Saturday, June 7, we will visit local prairies in search of spring wildflowers. In addition, our traditional spring potluck dinner and meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 7.

**WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS**

- Earlene Archer, Wellston
- Bob Blasing, Oklahoma City
- Hayley Dikeman, Tulsa,
- Rebecca and Michael Givel, Norman
- Allen and Jana Graber, Stillwater
- David Holder, Oklahoma City
- John Krupovage, Tinker Air Force
- Judy Larson, Tulsa
- Mark Mills, Norman
- Linda Myers, Fairfax
- Curtis Northrup, Tulsa
- Steve Patterson, Rancho Cordova, CA
- Dr. Cindy Pfeifer, Alva
- David Porter, Tulsa
- Colleen Roux, Yukon
- Kathleen Marie Ryan, Oklahoma City
- Crystal Small, Stillwater
- Marilyn and Ken Stewart, Seminole
- Mike and Leonna Taber, Seminole

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Life Membership Choice: \$200 Individual \_\_\_ or \$300 Family \_\_\_

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