

*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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#### INSERT: ANNUAL MEETING

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# 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.

Sept 10: Crosstimbers Chapter will visit Jim Ownby's garden. Page 7.

Sept 12: NE Chapter Meeting features Dee Simmons, Volunteer Coordinator for the Owen Park Restoration project. Page 7

Sept 16 – 20: BioBlitz 2005 at Mohawk Park starts 3 PM Friday, September 9 and ends 3 PM on the tenth. For more information visit [www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitz](http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitz).

Sept 17: Central Chapter will meet at the home of Jeannie and Dan Coley at 10:00. Page 8.

Oct 7-9: Annual Meeting at Quartz Mountain. Insert

Oct 29: Central Chapter will visit Pontotoc Ridge; meet there at 10:00. Page 8.

Nov 28: Central Chapter Meeting at 7:30 at OSU/OKC 400N Portland. Meylynda Hickman from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife will be our speaker. Page 8.

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

#### ONPS THANKS THESE DONORS

Color Oklahoma Fund

Boncilla Klein

Donna Scoggis-Stuber in honor of Lavonia & Charley Bright's 50th wedding anniversary





**Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws:**

**Term of Treasurer**

**Rationale:** This amendment was discussed at the Board Meeting in June. It was prompted by our discovery that the term of our current Treasurer, Mary Korthase, is expiring. As you can probably imagine it is a large and specialized task to be the Treasurer of a 501c(3) organization such as ours. It requires someone with specific training such as accounting, bookkeeping, taxes, familiarity with their associated software, and of course integrity. It also requires someone who can attend meetings, and handle our intermittent 'bursts' of paperwork. Finding someone to do all of this as a volunteer is no easy feat. The requirement to find someone different after six years, when there is already someone who is trained, willing and already doing a good job, seems a waste of both talent and effort. The Proposed Amendment is therefore recommended by the Executive Board.

**Concerns:** What if in the future someone who is not as organized and reliable as Mary is Treasurer? Are we stuck with that person indefinitely? Indeed, not. The Treasurer is elected every year, as are the other offices. An unsatisfactory Treasurer would not be recommended by the nominating committee for re-election.

**Current By-Laws:** Article V, Section 1: "No individual shall serve in a voting capacity for more than six consecutive years on the Executive Board."

**Proposed Amendment:** Article V, Section 1: "No individual, with the exception of the Treasurer, shall serve in a voting capacity for more than six consecutive years on the Executive Board."

**Procedure:** According to Article XIII, amendments to the By-Laws must be presented to the Membership by the Executive Board at least two weeks in advance of the vote. Amendments must be approved by at least two-thirds of those present at a duly constituted meeting. You are hereby appropriately notified of the proposed amendment. We will vote at the Annual Meeting in October.

**Color Oklahoma is ALL about being WILD!  
By Kim Shannon, Color Oklahoma Chair**

In the Summer 2005 issue of the *Gaillardia*, an article was submitted and printed that *incorrectly* reported the activities of the Color Oklahoma committee. In this issue, the Color Oklahoma committee wishes to address the statements made, give a historical overview, and clear up any and all questions regarding the activities of this group.

First we want to address the misleading and untrue statements from the June issue of the *Gaillardia* article titled *Is Color Oklahoma Really About Coloring Our State Wild?* In that article it was stated that, "there was talk at first, and then actual usage of European imports to seed some of the most visible roadsides in the state." Since 2002, there has been *discussion* of using some non-native species in areas where they have been planted in the past around the downtown area of Tulsa. These areas have been planted numerous times over the past two decades with flowers such as Crimson clover, Red poppies and Bachelor buttons. There are two important points here that we wish to communicate to ONPS members and others who are concerned.

1. COLOR OKLAHOMA FUNDS HAVE NOT AND WILL NOT BE USED TO PLANT NON-NATIVES AS LONG AS IT REMAINS A COMMITTEE OF THE OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY.
2. Some areas around downtown Tulsa did have these flowers blooming this past spring. But contrary to the Summer *Gaillardia* article, they were purchased and donated directly to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation by individuals who have done so for 20 years. Color Oklahoma was not involved and did not purchase any non-native seeds or receive a donation with that stipulation.

In July, the Color Oklahoma committee and members of the ONPS board (including the President and Treasurer) met to discuss this non-native issue. During that meeting a motion was passed by Color Oklahoma committee members that states, "Color Oklahoma will continue to purchase and

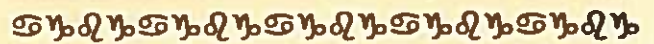
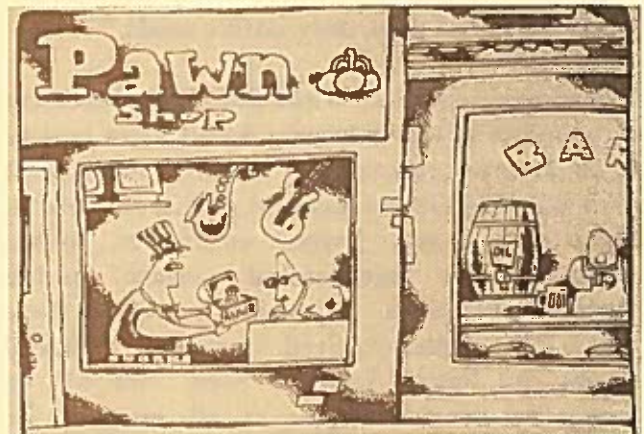


size of small lots. "This is a grass neighborhood, and it's beautiful, but I'm not going to pay to water," Newton said. Conscious about water use in the southwest, so the grass at their new house had to go, she said. It took a sod cutter, a Rototiller, almost two months of work and between \$3,000 and \$4,000 to change her front yard from grass to a rocky mosaic of pathways and curvy, large planters.

By chance, Newton asked water conservation manager Adam Miller if the city was doing any sort of reimbursement for tearing out grass and learned she stood to receive a \$500 check under a program that just got under way.

"As we move into the future, we think the xeriscape program will provide the largest opportunity for water conservation," Miller said. The average homeowner uses about 72 gallons each year to water just one square foot of grass, a recent Bureau of Reclamation study found. Those who xeriscaped their yards used 55 gallons less for the same space. Families watering their lawns use more water than any other segment of Flagstaff's business or residential population in the summer.

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**27th ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP**

By Connie Murray

I have just returned from Ponca City and a Wonderful Wildflower Workshop!

At the close of a hectic academic year it was restorative to sit among friends, to spend a day contemplating the beauty and diversity of the living world and the next day experiencing the spring glory of the TallGrass Prairie and Biven Gardens. If you were unable to attend, you missed a day of thought provoking workshops and presentations on topics varying from orchids to herbs to new river birches. And you missed a gorgeous day among the bison and the wildflowers.

Special thanks go to Joanne Orr and her ODOT staff and to the members of the Oklahoma Garden Clubs for organizing the Workshop. Thanks to all the vendors for their beautiful plants and inspiring suggestions on ways to use and appreciate wildflowers. Also special thanks to Kim Shannon and Bruce Hoagland for leading the Field Trip on Saturday and to Connie Taylor and Monica Macklin and all the others who pitched in to guide and share their knowledge with such a large group.

If you missed the Wildflower Workshop this year, don't miss it next.

Looking ahead, our next big event is the 2005 Annual Meeting in October. Kim Shannon has had a grand idea – having a Silent Auction! Be thinking of items or services you could donate and



### 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.

Central Chapter  
Marilyn Stewart

#### Central Chapter Report

June 25 We gathered at the home of Carolyn and Charles Lilly, east of Norman. They have some tended gardens with lots of natives and several wonderful acres of prairie and woods. We saw some beautiful plants, there were a few that stumped us as to species, especially the milkweeds. One of those places that made us all want to return and see in a different season.

July 18 Everyone met at the Bebb Herbarium on the OU campus for a tour by Pat Folley. Don't know what anyone expected, but I think that we were all impressed by what we found. An amazing collection. Some of us got to do arts and crafts toward the end. Everyone in ONPS should treat themselves to a field trip to the Bebb.

September 17th We will meet at the home of Jeannie and Dan Coley. The directions have been sent by either mail or e-mail to all the CC members, if you need directions call me. We meet at 10:00.

October 29 Pontotoc Ridge. There is no bad time to visit PR, but fall has to be one of the best, we will meet at 10:00. Bring a sack lunch, drinks will be provided.

November 28 7:30 OSU/OKC 400N Portland  
Meylynda Hickman from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife will be our speaker.

Marilyn Stewart: 382-8540, home; 255-1707, cell

Mycology Chapter  
Clark Ovrebo

As a respite from the Oklahoma summer heat and dryness (especially the dryness which means no mushrooms), Glenda and I spent the second week of August in the mountains of southern New Mexico in the vicinity of Ruidoso. One reason of the trip was to get away and see a new area, and the second reason was to attend the New Mexico Mycological Society's annual foray.

We spent the early part of the week in Cloudcroft, south of Ruidoso. Cloudcroft sits in the Sacramento Mountains at an elevation of about 8600 feet. The rainy season had just begun so we experienced cool, damp weather. Coniferous trees dominate the woody vegetation with Douglas Fir, white fir, ponderosa pine and limber pine the main tree species. Gambel's oak is also scattered in the forest. These trees form ectotrophic mycorrhizae (root-fungus association) which means that if moisture conditions are right, mushrooms should abound. We were just a little early to see the results of the rain but did see a few fungi around Cloudcroft.

Toward the end of the week we moved to Ruidoso, the site of the meeting. We had two days of collecting in similar vegetation and the results were somewhat better for fungi. The mushrooms had a little longer time to respond to the rain and having several dozen "pairs of eyes" searching in the forest also helped. Gilled mushrooms, boletes, puffballs and jelly fungi were brought in. One of the events of the foray is to have a tasting session of the edible mushrooms. The mushrooms served included the shaggy mane (*Coprinus comatus*), oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*), fairy ring mushroom (*Marasmius oreades*), ear mushroom - a jelly fungus (*Auricularia auricula*), *Sparassis crispa* (related to coral fungi) and *Agaricus* sp. (related to the store-bought mushroom). By the





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