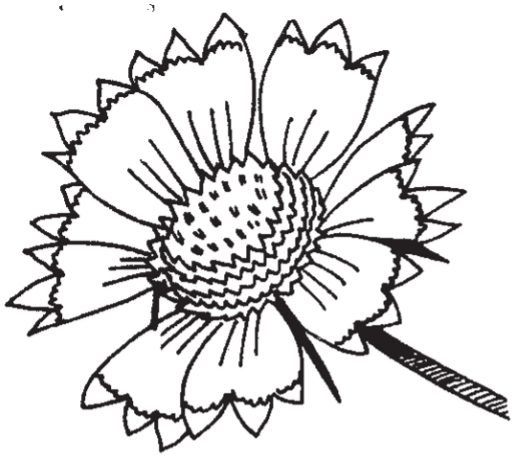


the Gaillardia

OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Society mailing address: 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114

Editor---Luann Sewell Waters, Box 457, Wynnewood, OK 73098

Volume 2, Number 2 Summer 1987

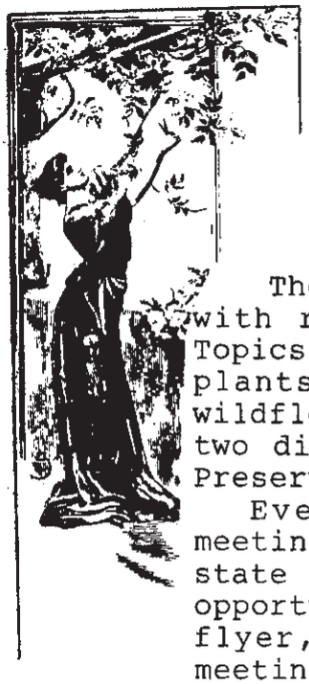
It has been a busy time for native plant enthusiasts. The field trips to the Wichita Wildlife Refuge on April 11 and to the Rich Mountains (Mena, Arkansas) on April 25 and 26 each had about 15 people to attend. The Wildflower Workshop in Claremore is coming up on May 30-31 (details elsewhere in this newsletter) and our organization continues to grow....we now have over **100 members!!!**

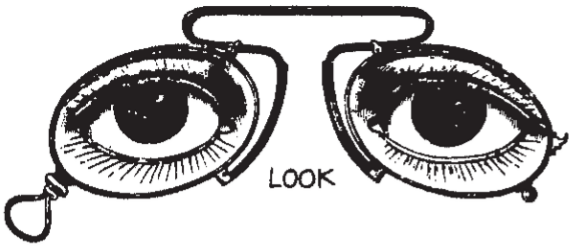
President Betty Kemm and Aileen Carter, Director-at-Large, attended Texas Wildflower Day on April 24 while editor Luann Sewell Waters attended the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects meeting in Guthrie on the same date to accept an award for the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation for its work on the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve (more in the newsletter).

The Oklahoma Nature Conservancy is off to a great start with a well-done newsletter which included an impressive line-up of supporters of the Conservancy. Congratulations to Herb Beattie for a job very well done.

Thanks go to Paul McClung of the Lawton Sunday Constitution for mentioning our April 11 field trip in his column. ONPS has also had publicity in the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation's paper, Outdoor News, as well as in the Tulsa World and Tribune. If you know of other publications that have spread the word about the group, please let me know....and send copies of articles to Mary Jo Neal, Historian, 5535 SW Faulkner Road, Claremore, OK 74017.

The National Wildflower Research Center in Austin, Texas is conducting a survey to learn what people know about wildflowers and other native plants. It will be interesting to see the results....more on this later.



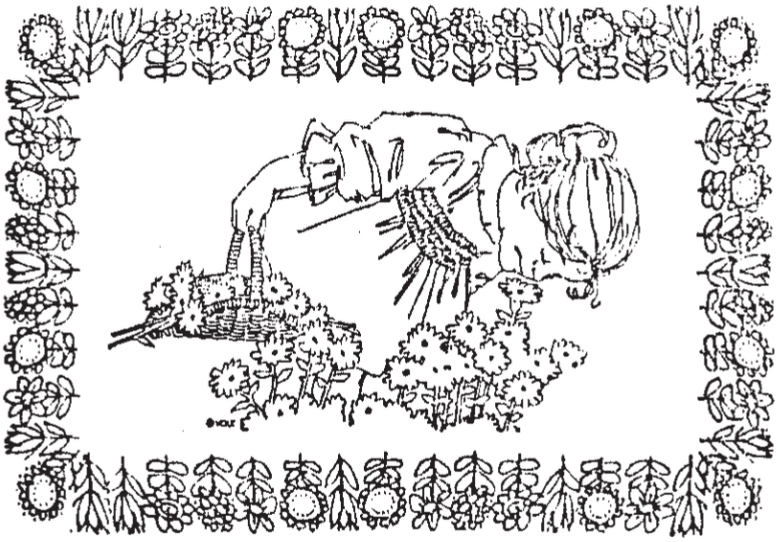


The 10th annual Wildflower Workshop for Oklahoma will begin with registration from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 30. Topics include the wildflowers of Rogers County, edible wild plants, Oklahoma grasses and grasslands, highway department wildflower plots and tree identification. Sunday, May 31 offers two different field trips to select from: Redbud Valley Nature Preserve or Skull Hollow Nature Trail at Lake Oolagah.

Everyone is encouraged to **bring a plant specimen** to the meeting...for identification, to share with others and to have a state wide plant display at the meeting. This will be a prime opportunity to learn new plants....according to the workshop flyer, in 1985 a new plant for Oklahoma was identified at the meeting...maybe you could have a "first" too!!

Sponsors for the workshop are: Oklahoma Garden Club, Inc., Claremore Garden Club, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and **Oklahoma Native Plant Society.**

Registration for the workshop is $17 for both days(includes workshop, lunch, dinner and field trip) or $15 for May 30 only (includes lunch and dinner) or $3 for just a Sunday field trip. By the date you receive this newsletter, however, it may be too late to still include dinner. Contact Mary Jo Neal, Claremore, 918-266-1930 or Lynn Michael, 3530 W. Country Club Rd.,-Claremore, OK 74017 to be sure what is available. This promises to be an excellent meeting and a great time to get-together with other native plant enthusiasts. (Saturday without meals $3.00)



A fun book on the market for those of you interested in native plant uses and folk tales is Doug Elliott's Woodslore and Wildwoods Wisdom. You can order copies from Doug at Rt.1 Box 388, Union Mills, NE 28167 for $9 postpaid.

SUMMER MEETING PLANNED

WHAT: A meeting of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society

WHEN: Saturday morning, July 11

WHERE: Myriad Gardens, Oklahoma City

In territorial days the pioneers and the Indians had a multitude of uses for Oklahoma's native plants. Early-day cooks used everything edible and searched for special plants as their only source of medicine.

On Saturday morning, July 11 at the Myriad Gardens in downtown Oklahoma City, Linda Kennedy Rosser, noted Oklahoma City author and lecturer, will present a program about those frontier uses of native plants. Betty Burns, owner of the Cutting Garden in Norman, will provide a display of living plants representative of those used by the pioneers. Registration will begin at 10:00 a. m. and the meeting will begin at 10:30 a. m.

After the meeting and program, Mike Bush, director of the Myriad Gardens, will show everyone around the new plantings and the completed waterfall in the Myriad Gardens botanical tube.

Linda Rosser wrote and published "Pioneer Cookery Around Oklahoma," "Christmas in Oklahoma," and "Apple Cookery Round and About." She is on the board of directors of Harn Farm, the 89er Museum in Oklahoma City, and has been on the board of the Oklahoma City Zoo and the Omniplex. She received the Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma Heritage Association and the Byliners Award from the Oklahoma City Women in Communications Inc. She has also appeared in the Lyric Theatre.

The new Myriad Gardens is just west of the Myriad Center between Robinson and Hudson. The meeting room is on the south side of the building. On Saturday there will be parking on the street as well as the Myriad Parking Garage.

All members of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society and other interested persons are invited and urged to attend this unusual and interesting summer morning program.

Tulsa's Up With Trees! organization is making plans for a wildflower plot in the northeast circle of the Broken Arrow Expressway interchange with Yale and 31st Street. The area has already been designated as a future wildflower site and will be named the Anne W. Long Wildflower Plot.

This will be a fitting tribute to Anne, as she was active in the formation of Up With Trees! as well as Pride in Tulsa, the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, the Oklahoma Wildflower Workshops, and the highway beautification program. Up With Trees! will have the cooperation of the Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Native Plant Society in the planning of this project. Up With Trees! president is Marina Metevelis, (918) 575-6561, Extension 275.

It may seem a long way off, but mark your calendars now for the 11th North American Prairie Conference, August 7-11, 1988, in Lincoln, Nebraska. The theme for the conference is "Prairie Pioneers: Ecology, History and Culture". There is currently a call for papers. Abstracts must be submitted by March 4, 1988. A conference program booklet will be available 1 December 1987. For additional information contact: Thomas B. Bragg, Dept. of Biology, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182-0040 or phone 402-554-3378.

"Prairie...appears as an inextricable mass of endlessly variable vegetation. One glories in its beauty, its diversity, and the ever changing patterns of its floral arrangements. [One]...is awed by it immensity, its complexity, and the seeming impossibility of understanding and describing it. After certain principles and facts become clear, however, one comes not only to know and understand the grasslands but also to delight in them and to love them." J.E. Weaver, 1954, North American Prairie. (from North American Prairie Conference registration form---which also has a nice poster of blowout penstemon.....).

The Sierra Club is opening a field office in Tulsa to help work on the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. This showing of strong interest by a national organization should help the effort. More on this later.

Phillips University is offering a course July 18-25 in Field Botany at its Field Camp in Colorado (about 35 miles SW of Alamosa). There are only a few openings left so contact Dr. Jeffery T. Burkhart soon to reserve a spot. You can reach him at Phillips University, Enid, OK 73702, (o) 405-237-4433 x330, (h) 405-233-3967, or field camp 303-852-3052.

The course will cover techniques of identifying, collecting and preserving native plants. Emphasis is on application for science teachers but the course would be of interest to anyone. The cost of the course is $270 for 2 hours credit or you can audit the course for half price (no college credit) of $135. Room and board is $105 (7 nights). So your total is either $375 for credit or $240 for audit.

East Central University is offering two sessions of the workshop "Ecology of the Arbuckles" this summer (each a four afternoon course). It is offered through the Higher Education Center in Ardmore. I took this class last summer and had a super time and learned alot....I recommend it highly. Contact Dr. Elmer Brown, ECU, Biology Dept., Ada, Ok 74820, 405-332-8000 x 497 for more information.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS May, 1987

I'll give a short progress report on the Oklahoma Native Plant Society.

Our plans are to have at least one meeting or field trip each month and a newsletter four times a year.

We had two field trips in April -- to the Wichita Mountains and to Rich Mountain. In May we are co-sponsoring the Wildflower Workshop and field trips in Claremore. On June 27 Donna Hamilton will lead a field trip to prairies around Tulsa, and on July 11 we will have a meeting of ONPS in the new Myriad Gardens in Downtown Oklahoma City. We do not have the August or September field trips scheduled yet.

In preparation for our Annual Meeting in October, I have appointed the following nominating committee: Joanne Orr, Oklahoma City, Chairman; Luann Sewell Waters, Wynnewood; and Theresa Grosshans, Tulsa.

Our organization is growing, and I am pleased to report that we now have 110 memberships -- 23 family, 78 individual, and 9 students. If you have not yet joined, we hope you will send in your membership application and dues right away.

Arrangements are being made to file the necessary papers for incorporation as a non-profit organization. Dr. Paul Buck is chairman of the committee working on this.

My thanks go to Donna Hamilton for inserting an ONPS membership application form in the Oxley Nature Center newsletter.

I hope all of you were able to enjoy the wildflowers this spring. Their bloom this year despite a wet fall and winter, a late freeze and record dry spring, was proof of the value of using native plants in gardens and landscaping. In a good year they should be even more beautiful.

I am putting together slides of wildflower plantings from all parts of the state -- businesses, private, parks, and highways. Please share your slides with me. We have a lot to learn from each other, both successes and failures. I would like to show these slides at the July or October meeting.

It may seem strange, but summer is the time to plan for next spring's flowers. If you have wildflowers, gather seeds as they ripen for planting in the fall, or delay mowing until they have gone to seed and can self-sow. Most lily family seeds should be planted as soon as they ripen.

This is the time to encourage planting projects by organizations, as they must have time to select a site, arrange funds for seeds, make plans for planting, and order seeds to be planted in September and October.

I hope to see all of you at the Wildflower Workshop in Claremore and at the ONPS meeting at the Myriad in Oklahoma City.

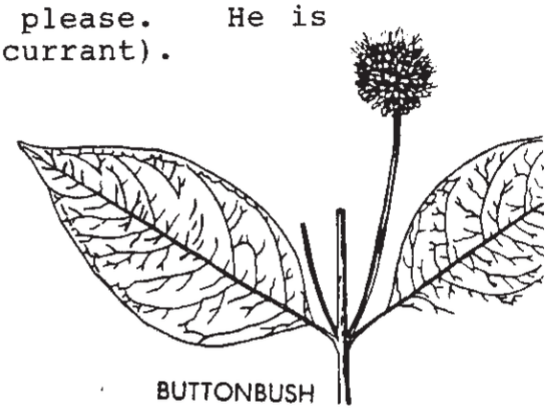
Betty

Betty Kemm

There is a request from member John Clegg of Arlington, Texas for information on nurseries in Oklahoma that specialize in native plants. Can any of you help with this? Send me company names and addresses for future issues please. He is especially interested in Ribes odoratum (golden currant).

FLOWER and GARDEN

"You're standing on my dandelion!"



BUTTONBUSH

Do you know of native plantings that are impressive to go see? I've heard good reports on the Oklahoma City Zoo, Quail Springs Corporate Park (in OKC), Tulsa Zoo, Telex (in Tulsa), Tulsa River Parks and several naturally occurring fields worth a trip to go see (local report of a field of Indian paintbrush between Davis and Sulphur). Share the information with others. You'll be surprised how many folks out there are starting to notice and appreciate native plants.....

More photo tips from Theresa Grosshans of Tulsa for those of you wanting to try some wildflower photography....use a tripod unless you have a very steady hand; use clothes pins, string or wire to help hold the "unwanted" out of your picture (be sure to take them away when you are finished so that nature is restored); certain times of day offer better pictures--before 11 a.m. and after 3 p.m.--so the sun isn't directly overhead. More in later issues.

The Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects had their first annual meeting in conjunction with Guthrie's 89er Day Celebration on April 25. Presentations during the meeting included Oklahoma's Main Street Project, seminars, landscape designs by students of OU and OSU Tech, and a program by Phillip Morris, Executive Editor of Southern Living magazine on "Place making in the South".

Those attending included landscape architects, educators, product representatives and students. The focus of the meeting was on making cities more liveable through preservation, long--range planning and design. The Carnegie Library was the center of the group's activities.

There was considerable interest shown by those attending in the ONPS. The OC/ASLA has endorsed the proposed Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and presented an award to the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation for the work it has done to promote the Preserve idea by increasing public awareness and working to protect Oklahoma's environment.

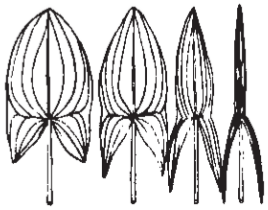
Those interested in learning more about OC/ASLA should contact Susan Everett, President, OC/ASLA, 515 N. Birch, Ponca City, OK 74601.

If you're going to be attending meetings where you could spread the word about ONPS, let Betty Kemm know (c/o ONPS 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114) and she will send you membership application forms you can give to interested individuals, businesses or organizations. The form also gives a brief summary of the group's activities and promotes our purpose"To encourage the study, protection, propagation, use and appreciation of the native plants of Oklahoma."

FROM THE GRASS ROOTS

ONPS has developed a speakers list and available slide presentions for all parts of the state and is working on more. Write ONPS, 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114 or call Betty Kemm 918-742-4351 or Dr. Ron Tyrl 405-624-5559 for more information on this.

There is still a need for line drawings, cartoons, etc. for the newsletter. Postcards or letters of comments (be they positive or negative as long as they're constructive) are also appreciated!



The Nature Conservancy has recently provided financing for the U. S. Department of the Interior to protect 2,000 acres of hardwood bottomland along the Little River in McCurtain County. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has called this "The highest quality bottomland hardwood habitat remaining in Oklahoma" and plans an eventual 15,000 acre Little River National Wildlife Refuge.

Marcie Dennis has discovered an unusual fern colony in Creek County. She took Tulsa's fern lady Evelyn Connors to see it. Evelyn identified it as a Royal Osmundia, which she has never seen growing wild in Oklahoma.

A reminder. If you don't have time to reserve meals for the Wildflower Workshop in Claremore, the registration fee is $3.00 and there are lots of fast food restaurants within a mile of the fairgrounds.

What would you like to have at future meetings? Would you like a plant and seed exchange or sale? What topics for meetings or workshops? Suggestions for field trips are always welcome.

You can still become a charter member of the Oklahom Native Plant Society by returning the form below with your check. Help support education and research to preserve, protect, propagate and use Oklahoma's wide variety of native plants.

- -

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(Clip and mail to: Oklahoma Native Plant Society, c/o Mary Byrd, Treasurer, 5819 S. Evanston, Tulsa, OK 74105)

Please enroll me as a member of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society. My dues payment is enclosed for the category checked: (Make check payable to Oklahoma Native Plant Society.)

______$5 Student; ______$10 Individual; ______$15 Family; ______$______ Contribution

Name: ____
(Please print)

Address: ____

y: ______________________________ State: ______________ Zip: ____________

( ) ______________________________ ( ) ______________________
(Home telephone) (Business phone)

Dr. Doyle McCoy's new book, "Oklahoma Wildflowers," is just out. Look for it in bookstores or buy an autographed copy from him at the Workshop in Claremore.

Seed Sources. We do not know of any producers of wildflower seeds in Oklahoma at this time. There are two good source of bulk seeds in Texas.

Wildseed, Inc. 16810 Barker Springs, Suite 218, Houston, TX 77084 sell more than 40 varieties by the pound. Write for a price list. Wildseed also sells smaller packages of some varieties and mixtures in local nurseries in Oklahoma.

Green Horizons 218 Quinlan, #571, Kerrville TX 78028 sells seed in $1.50 packets, by the ounce and pound. The brochure also lists wildflower and gardening books.

Pittsburg County Sheltered Workshop, 609 East Peoria, McAlester, OK 74501 packages seed produced by Wildseed. These packs are a moneyraising project for sheltered workshops. They may be purchased at wholesale price for resale by organizations.

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
c/o Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114