Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

The purpose of the ONPS is to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma native plants.

Board sets 1992 dates; new members introduced

Our new slate of officers met on December 7 for a long planning session on ONPS activities, policies and committee responsibilities. Major dates for 1992 meetings and field trips were chosen, and recommendations were made on filling several co-chair and board vacancies. New president Ruth Boyd started the session at 10 a.m. in the Nature Conservancy office, Tulsa, and adjourned at about 4 p.m. A good indication that this group is sincerely dedicated to ONPS is the fact that 16 chairs and board members attended. Only one board member could not attend.

You will find several subjects arising from this meeting in this and in the next issue of *Gaillardia* (March, 1992). The insert on colored paper contains the ONPS board and committee confirmations, and activity dates in 1992 decided upon so far.

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From the President...

It seems appropriate for a new president of an organization to sell the organization, but you are already sold or you wouldn't be reading these words. In our materialistic world, SELL is almost the National Anthem. So sell I shall. But I will sell field trips.

You are either already a member or receive a complimentary copy of this newsletter. If you are like many busy people I know, you are interested in many things but you do not need, nor can accommodate yet another meeting. How about just forgetting meetings and just enjoying a few hours or a day outdoors with people who can tell you what you are seeing?

It was a revelation to me not too many years ago to realize that what I already knew ... that there was a difference between yellow and purple flowers ... but that there was even a difference in yellow flowers. Our trip leaders are all professional botanists and they have the patience of the teachers that they also are. They allow you to admire butterflies, birds and the creepers and crawlers. They are also knowledgeable in those areas. Trips are always within the confines of our State. Some are necessarily two-day excursions since it is a long way completely across or up and down, but the trips themselves last only one day or partial day. There is never a charge except your own personal expenses. If you watch our schedule and attend the ones in your neighborhood there will be almost no expense but then you don't learn about the rest of the State. Oklahoma is where East meets West and North meets South in both plants and animals. How lucky we are.

When I joined this organization in its first year, it was for the field trips. I joined for the fun of it and never dreamed that some day I would have to earn my keep. I wish I had paid a little more attention to business along the way.

I close with a quote I borrowed from John Graves in his wonderful book, From a Limestone Ledge, that describes many of the folks I have met in the ONPS: "...having been led by circumstance into focusing good brains on natural phenomena instead of the civilized world's bright clutter and jabber and stink, they follow curiosity where it leads...".

Don't be strangers.

Ruth Boyd

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December, 1991

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Membership and Delinquent Dues Policy -- *by Paul Buck*

There has been some confusion concerning the re-establishment of memberships after they have been dropped due to unpaid or delinquent dues. The current ONPS By-Laws (Article IV) states: "Membership becomes effective upon payment of the dues and lapses when dues become delinquent." There is no stipulation regarding retention of charter membership status, nor the year to which late dues are to be applied. At this time such questions will be handled by the ONPS Secretary on an individual case basis.

President Ruth Boyd has appointed a By-Laws Revision Committee and charged it with the responsibility of examining the entire By-Laws. The committee is then to submit a written report to the Board of Directors along with any proposed amendments to the By-Laws, both of which will then be acted upon by the Board. The membership of ONPS at the Annual Meeting will decide the issue, and members' input is now invited.

The first rough draft revision of the By-Laws Committee contains the following:

Article XI - Dues

Section 2: Membership becomes effective upon payment of dues and lapses when dues become delinquent. Dues paid through 31 August will apply to the current year whereas dues paid after 31 August will apply to the next calendar year. Members will be dropped from the Society when their dues are in arrears one calendar year. Memberships may be reinstated by payment of current dues but to maintain an unbroken or Charter membership, the payment of all delinquent dues is required.

Society members are asked to provide the By-Laws Committee with comments or suggestions regarding the entire document. Any communication should indicate which specific areas need to be revised, deletions or additions, etc. Please take a few moments, jot down your ideas and send them to the ONPS By-Laws Revision Committee at the Society address in Tulsa. The March, 1992 *Gaillardia* will carry a further item on this issue, but members' input is requested now. ✿

1992 Photo Contest Notes -- *by John Miller*

We are excited about our Fifth Annual ONPS Photo Contest. This year there are more cash prizes with more opportunities to win. The 1992 rules are as follows:

Photographs of plants that grow wild in Oklahoma qualify for competition if received by **April 15, 1992.** There are four categories:

1) BEGINNERS for those who have never entered before.

2) AMATEUR CLOSE-UP for those who have not placed in an ONPS contest before; images should be of subjects less than a foot across.

3) ADVANCED CLOSE-UP for all who have placed in a previous contest, or who choose to enter "advanced."

4) PHOTOS NOT CLOSE-UPS of subjects a foot or more across, including plant habitat. Anyone can enter this category. This type of photography requires simpler equipment and less technical skill, so Beginners can compete with Advanced entrants in this category.

Each contestant may enter a maximum of three unmounted color prints in each of two categories -- a total of six prints. They should be 4x6 to 5x7 inches in size.

A label with contestant's name, address, phone number, category entered and name of plant (if known) should be written on the back of each print. Mail to:

ONPS Photo Contest/c/o Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria • Tulsa, OK 74114

No contestant may win more than one cash prize per category. Prizes are high visibility, plus: 1st: $50; 2nd: $25; 3rd: $15, 12 cash prizes in all totalling $360. A special Merit Certificate will be awarded for the best photo from a "botanical" point of view. This will be chosen from all categories, and all entries automatically are entered. Awards will be presented at the Oklahoma Wildflower Workshop in May in Lawton, or mailed to those not prese

The contest is open to the public. There is no entry fee, but all prints entered become the property of ONPS to be used for displays or educational purposes. ONPS will attempt to give credit to photographers.

HELPFUL HINTS: Now is the time to get ready for the 1992 Contest. Choose from photos on hand, or go out and take new ones. Wildflowers begin blooming early in the year, but remember you can photograph native plants or plant habitat, even if they are not blooming.

Keep in mind that judges will be looking for sharp photos and good composition.

To achieve sharpness, the camera must be steady and/or the exposure very fast (using a high shutter speed or using a flash). Your focus must be sharp. Use a small f-stop -- f-16 or f-22 -- to get good depth of field on close-ups. The lens must be clean.

For good composition, an interesting subject should be well positioned and not be to "busy" or cluttered. Different angles and different lighting will change the composition, so experiment.

The special "botanical photo" should show as much detail of the plant and bloom as possible so the plant can be easily identified. (There is no cash for this award.)

If you enter or not, why not encourage a friend to ente Remember the deadline: Income Tax Day, Apr. 15. With each entry, include: your name, address and phone number, plus the total number of prints entered. ✿

October Field Trip Report -- by Connie Taylor

Despite 3.5 inches of rain on each of Thursday and Friday, the Oct. 26-27 weekend at Poteau was mostly dry with perfect temperature for hiking. Saturday we assembled at the Kerr Conference Center and visited the Runestone State Park east of Heavener. The stone sits in a steep north facing canyon and is surrounded by nature trails. In the canyon itself, the moist microhabitat favored the Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*). We also saw Asters, Goldenrods (*Solidago ulmifolia*), Redbud, Dogwood, Black Haw, Inland Sea Oats or Spangle Grass (*Chasmanthium latifolia*), numerous lichens and mosses and, of course, a fine array of fungi.

Unfortunately, the dense understory which once occupied the canyon has been greatly diminished. The trail leads down a steep slope to the building protecting the runestone, and then climbs up the canyon to more gentle, dryer slopes covered with a predominantly post oak-short-leaf pine forest (*Q. stellata-Pinus echinata*).

Despite a red oak tree suddenly falling over and down into a ravine giving several ONPS berry pickers a fright, no one was hurt. Coming out to a road we crossed toward the western side of the park where a bluff overlooked Heavener. It was covered with a somewhat stunted Short-leaf pine grassland which also yielded a number of beautiful flowers including Aster (*Aster anomalous*) and goldenrods (*S. nemoralis* and *S. petiolaris*). If you missed this fall exploration, you might visit this park next spring as you can expect a wildflower proliferation on this high bluff. We saw the dry remnants of many species including Shooting star and Phlox.

The dense clouds dampened the fall colors which were not as intense this year due to the prolonged dry period, but we still had a beautiful Sunday morning drive down to Holson Valley, located at the base of the north side of Winding Stair Mountain.

Paul Buck, our field trip leader, walked us through a moderate age Oak-Pine forest with a different composition than that seen the day before. This floodplain was rich in oak species, predominantly Black Oak (*Q. velutina*), Spanish Oak (*Q. falcata*) and lesser numbers of Post-oak (*Q. stellata*), Bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), Shumard's Oak (*Q. shumardii*) and a few Blackjack Oak (*Q. marilandica*).

The understory also had numerous species, the more spectacular being the Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), which truly lived up to its name with the most beautiful of red leaves. Drought had put most of them on the ground.

Rare but also showing brilliant red were Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). Equally beautiful was the vivid yellow of the Mockernut Hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginica*), and Mulberry (*Morus rubra*). The Flowering Dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) still had a full compliment of brilliant red berries.

Along Holson Creek we identified Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis*), Alder (*Alnus serrulata*), and River Birch (*Betula nigra*), and Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), as well as several hawthorns (*Crataegus* sp.) along with dozens of herbaceous species, woody vines, and fungi including Earth Stars.

While starting in a gentle drizzle, the persistent group soon was putting away umbrellas and removing rain gear as the rain quit. The theme of "fall foliage" was well rewarded with the numerous species of woody plants learned and relearned by all. ✱

Anne W. Long Award presented; call for nominations

The Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy received the award named for one of the ONPS founders, Anne W. Long, at the Annual Meeting in Poteau October 26. The award was given for the Conservancy's work to preserve and protect areas identified by the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory as having rare or endangered species and natural communities. Marty Marina, accepted the award on behalf of the chapter.

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society will recognize outstanding contributions to the purpose of the society via the Anne W. Long Award. Individuals, groups of individuals, scout troops, church groups, science or environmental organizations, businesses, etc. who have contributed to the purpose of the ONPS shall be eligible for the award. Recognition and presentation of the award will be made at the annual meeting of the Society.

Nominations may be submitted directly to the chair of the Awards Committee: Paul Buck, Biology Dept., University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK 74104-3189. Please include the following: Nominee. Contact person. Address.

On separate sheets, provide detailed information supporting the nomination. Such material is necessary for evaluation by the Awards Committee. Also include: Person(s) making the nomination and address and date of nomination. Sept. 1, 1992 is deadline for nominations.

Invitation to Join

For $10/year, individuals; $15/yr, families; and $5/year, students, you can become a member of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society and receive the newsletters and all other mailings to keep you involved in Native Plant field trips, meetings, and issues relating to ONPS purposes. Contributions to the Barclay and/or Anne Long funds are also welcome. To join, write to:

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
2435 S. Peoria
Tulsa, OK 74114

Annual Meeting Report

The 1991 Annual Meeting convened on Oct. 26 at the Kerr Conference Center near Poteau with Rebecca Ovrebo presiding in the absence of then president, Linda Watson. Thirty-five members attended. Minutes from the previous Meeting were distributed and approved. Due to the absence of then treasurer, Herb Beattie, the treasurer's report was waived (see below).

Copies of the by-laws, last amended Nov. 4, 1989, were distributed with the proposal to amend Article IV to include Life Memberships at $200 for individuals and $300 for families. The Board had previously recommended this change, which was approved unanimously.

Connie Taylor read the nominating committee report, and all nominated officers were elected. Joanne Orr's earlier request that a permanent seat on the Board be provided for the ODOT (state highway department) was discussed, and it was decided that this subject should go to the by-laws committee for recommendation, and voted upon at the next Annual Meeting.

A temporary Wildflower Workshop committee was established by vote.

Wally Kerr of Norman displayed his set of botanical designs on knit shirts and offered to grant ONPS a rebate for selling them.

Following reports on activities of the Central and Northeast chapters, the meeting was adjourned.

by Pat Folley

ONPS Chapters Note: Central and Northeast Chapter reports will be carried in the next issue. Both had excellent November meetings (with 33 attending Central's), and great plans for '92. See Calendar insert.

Treasurer's Report

Following are items from the ONPS statement for year ending 10/30/91, normally given at the Annual Meeting, but instead reported by Herb Beattie here:

Checking bal.	11/1/90	$2,044.21
Checking bal.	10/30/91	$2,394.18
Endowment	12/22/90	$2,727.88
Gift:		$1,000.00
Value	12/29/91	$4,017.51
Barclay & Long fund contributions		$185.00

Check your mailing label!

If your membership lapse date is highlighted it is time for you to renew your dues. Only those ending 12-91 are highlighted. If yours shows an ending date earlier than that you may want to renew or also include payment for lapsed times. Please see pg. 2, this issue, for a detailed statement of membership policy and protection of charter membership.

The Gaillardia

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Happy Holidays