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.

LOOK INSIDE FOR

GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE ..... **P. 2**
CONSERVATION CORNER P. 3
BOTANIST'S CORNER..... **P.. 4**
GOLDENROD GARDEN **P. 5**
THINGS TO DO **P.6**
ANNOUNCEMENTS..... **P. 7 & 8**
FIELD TRIPS..... **P. 9**
CHAPTER ACTIVITIES..... .....**P. 10**
RENEWAL FORM, MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS..... **.P.11**
NEW MEMBERS, ADDRESS **P. 12**

Printed on
Recycled Paper

Volume 9 Number 3
Autumn 1994

COPY AND ART DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS 15 NOVEMBER 1994.

CALENDAR

Ed. note: to make the calendar a better reference, I have put either the page number for a more detailed explanation, or the name of the person to contact for more information.

10 September, Saturday, Tour the Great Salt Plains with the Nature Conservancy. Contact Lorre Kay Troyer, 918-585-1117.
12 September, 7:30 p.m. on Monday: NorthEast Chapter meeting at the Tulsa Garden Center. More on page 10.
17 September, all day Saturday: NE Chapter field trip to a valley near Keystone Lake. More on page 10.
17 September, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.Native Herbs seminar, Duncan. More on p. 7.
24 September 24 (Saturday) Fall statewide ONPS field trip to Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Full details on page 9.
30 September - 1 October 1994: Oklahoma Academy of Science fall field meeting. To be held at Methodist Canyon, near Hinton, OK. Contact Connie Taylor at (405)924-5163 or Ruth Boyd at 872-9652.
8 & 9 October 1994: ONPS Annual Meeting: Deer Run Lodge, near Durant. Use registration blank inserted on the yellow sheet.
21-23 October 1994: Mid-South Native Plant Conference, Memphis, TN. Application blank on page 8.
31 October, (Monday) Central Chapter meeting and plant exchange at Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center. More on page 10.
15 November 1994 Winter *Gaillardia* deadline.
17-20 November: Oklahoma Orchid Society Show. See the orchid-colored flyer insert.
5 December, Monday, 7:00 p.m. Regular NE chapter meeting at Tulsa Garden Center.
4 February, 1995: first Saturday: Indoor Outing. more on page 10
15 March 1995, deadline for photography contest.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS

The nominating committee, Dr. T. H. Milby chairman, reports that all of the officers elected to one-year terms last October have agreed to serve again. Only one boardmember, Dr. Rahmona Thompson, was due to expire, and Richard Bradley of Tulsa has agreed to take that post.

The slate of officers will be voted at the Annual Meeting in October. Nominations from the floor will be considered at that time. See page 12 for a list of all current and proposed elective officers. ⊕

GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE

by Wayne Chambers

BLACKHAW --One of the Best Natives You've Probably Never Seen in a Nursery.

BlackHaw (*Viburnum prunifolium*). Large deciduous shrub or small tree, 15' - 25'. White flowers in flat clusters in spring. Blue to black fruits in autumn.

The first black-haw I ever saw was in Hafer Park in Edmond several springs ago. It was about 20 ft. tall and covered with clusters of flat, white blooms. Having never seen one before, I had to look it up. I was surprised to discover it was native. At that time I thought something that beautiful couldn't "just happen".

I was familiar with the genus *Viburnum*, but hadn't seen one like this. I once asked a nurseryman why blackhaws weren't more commonly seen in nurseries and home landscapes. His reply was that blackhaws get too large for the average yard. I agree that they can grow fairly large, but so can many easily available shrubs that home owners gleefully stuff cheek to jowl into home landscapes in the belief that they will stay the same size they were on the day they were planted.

Viburnum rufidulum.
thanks to Lisa Burkhart for this drawing

In my opinion, another reason they aren't more widely seen is that folks are unaware of what a benefit they can be to the year 'round landscape. That is the reason I'm writing this article. That, and the fact that I'm afraid of Pat Folley.

Blackhaw is a fairly slow growing small tree or large shrub, reaching 25 feet or more on occasion. 12 to 15 feet is more common, however. It has a tendency to sucker, sometimes making a small thicket. In fact, I've started several plants by severing suckers from a plant down the road. My success rate is less than 50%. I probably wouldn't have taken any suckers if it hadn't been for the approaching road crew. Winter would have been a better time to dig, but even then, success would be less than 100 %.

This plant has several desirable qualities. Fall color is outstanding on most every specimen I've seen. Shades of yellow, red, purple and orange appear -- often more than one color appearing simultaneously. If you've ever been to Oklahoma City's Martin Park Nature Center during autumn you know what I mean.

The leaves are thick and glossy green in spring and summer. The plant is pleasingly shaped and shows an attractive silhouette in winter with its gray stems and prominent brown bud tips.

White flowers appear in late spring well after the last freeze. The flowers are "perfect" - that is, both male and female in each little trumpet. They are very showy but not extremely long-lasting. (But then, neither are forsythia, lilac and mockorange, and they are all spring blooming shrubs.) Fruits ripen in late summer or early fall to a dark blue-black. I've seen fruits ranging in color from white to red to blue all on the same plant at the same time. Ripe fruits are edible, though seedy, and can be made into jelly if the birds don't get them first.

Blackhaw occurs as an understory tree in the eastern part of the state. In the crosstimbers, I've seen them growing under oaks. They also are common in fence-rows. Their ability to grow in shade makes them good choices for properties with lots of trees. Around here, they seem to prefer loose, sandy soil. Drought tolerance is very good. Just about every August, they put my hybrid Viburnum cultivars to shame.

Blackhaw seems to have no insect or disease problems. Chain saws and mowers are probably more of a threat. Understory plants are often destroyed so homeowners can mow around their big trees.

Although the title of my article may indicate otherwise, I have actually, in all fairness, seen blackhaws for sale at Sunshine Nursery in Clinton. They are also available from several mail order sources.

One further note: the literature I've read shows two species in Oklahoma. *Viburnum prunifolium* is called blackhaw and *Viburnum rufidulum* is called rusty blackhaw. Whatever their species, they're good plants for Oklahomans.

Ed. note: Taylor & Taylor's *An Annotated List of the Ferns, Fern Allies, Gymnosperms and Flowering Plants of Oklahoma* lists *V. rufidulum* as the standard name and *V. prunifolium* as an alternate name. They seem to tend more to the rusty-fuzzed type as you go south. For roadside flower-watchers, look for *Viburnum* in woodland openings in April, *Cornus drummondii* in May. Thou similar in habit, *Viburnum*, in the Honeysuckle family, has 5-lobed flowers vs. *Cornus'* four-lobed flower. ⊛

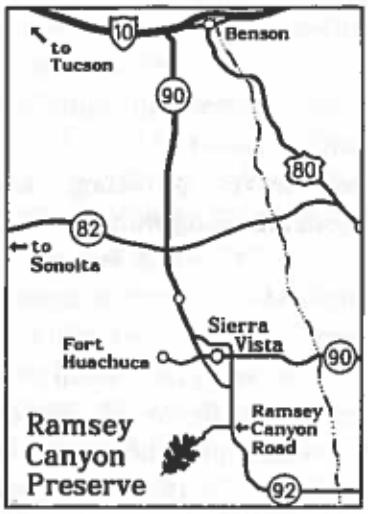
CONSERVATION CORNER
by M. Frank Carl

RAMSEY CANYON PRESERVE

Riparian (streamside) habitats are one of the most endangered natural communities in this country, and this is especially true in Arizona. During the past century, 90% of these streamside habitats have been either destroyed or degraded in that state.

The Ramsey Canyon Preserve owned and operated by The Nature Conservancy was the first preserve in the United States to obtain water rights for the express purpose of protecting the plants and animals that live there. Protecting the flow of water in Ramsey Creek has insured the special habitat found there will remain intact.

Another important "first" came in 1965 when the canyon was registered as the first National Natural Landmark. This occurred due to the great abundance and diversity of plant and animal life, including several species found at fewer than twenty locations worldwide, and due also to the many important discoveries made there by biologists representing many disciplines.



GETTING THERE

Ramsey Canyon Preserve is about 90 miles southeast of Tucson, near the city of Sierra Vista. To visit the preserve, take Highway 92 to Ramsey Canyon Road, six miles south of Sierra Vista. The preserve is at the end of Ramsey Canyon Road, four miles west of the highway.

Juaretta and I spent four nights in one of the six cabins provided for guests during June of this year. We went there to watch birds and flowers and take a few pictures of both. This was an extremely rewarding trip and although we have never maintained a lifetime bird list, we could start with the two species most people never see, the white-eared hummingbird and the elegant trogon.

The canyon, located on the eastern flank of the Huachuca (wah-CHOO-kah) Mountains, has a moist, cool and stable environment. This is unusual in the desert southwest and is due to a permanent spring fed stream, a favorable east-west orientation, and high canyon walls. Communities ranging from desert grassland to pine-fir forest are found within the canyon. You may find water-loving plants (maples, columbines and sycamores) growing within a few feet of cacti, agaves and yuccas.

An extensive plant and bird list is not practical. Notable plants are Arizona sycamore (majestic and provides nesting sites for many birds including black-chinned hummers and whiskered screech owls); eight species of evergreen oaks (acorns are an important feed source for a variety of animals); point-leaf manzanita, *Arctostaphylos pungens*, literally "sharp bearberry" (striking red bark and blooms provide nectar and insects for hummingbirds in late winter and early spring); horsetails or scouring rush, *Equisetum hyemale*, a remnant of the dinosaur age; Fendler's buckbrush, *Ceanothus fendleri*, which is browsed by deer; Schott's yucca, *Yucca schotti*, found in cool mountain climates, pollinated by the yucca moth; Palmer's agave, *Agave palmeri*, pollinated at night during late summer by lesser long-nosed bats, an endangered species; and alligator juniper, *Juniperus deppeana*, food plant for three species of shining leaf-chafer beetles -- some of Ramsey Canyon's most beautiful insects.

Notable bird sightings include white-eared, black-chinned, Anna's, magnificent, blue-throated, and broad-billed hummingbirds; elegant trogon, *Trogon elegans*; gray-breasted or Mexican jay; sulphur-bellied flycatcher and Gould's Wild Turkey. A pair of trogons was making the first recorded nesting attempt in the preserve during the past twenty years.

Added to our butterfly list were two-tailed and pipevine swallowtails and Arizona (California) sister. We also saw the Ramsey Canyon leopard frog -- the only location where this species has been identified -- and a coati traveled through the cabin area daily.

Some advice: AVOID Albuquerque, NM during the evening rush hour, and DO NOT MISS Jerry's Restaurant in Corrozozo, NM -- order a green chili burger.

This is a fascinating place. For more information write to Ramesy Canyon Preserve, 27 Ramsey Canyon Rd., Hereford, AZ 85615-9738, (602)378-2785. Reservations during peak periods must be made a year in advance.

BOTANISTS CORNER by Connie Taylor

"Achoo!" "God Bless You"
"Achoo! Achoo! I know it's that goldenrod that is making me sneeze"

NOT

Goldenrods occur throughout Oklahoma and get plenty of blame for fall hayfever. The idea that goldenrod pollen is allergenic is so prevalent that Channel 12 (Sherman, Denison, and Ardmore) even listed it on the pollen count board of the evening weather report one whole fall season. No pollen count was ever given because goldenrods are insect pollinated not wind pollinated. The real culprit out in the fields is, of course RAGWEED.

Both goldenrods and ragweeds are in the Asteraceae or Compositae Family, the largest family of flowering plants in Oklahoma. These plants produce clusters of very tiny flowers generally in two types (hence the name Compositae). The outer row of flowers have their 5 petals joined together into a long strap shape that mimics the petal of a typical flower. Inside this row will be densely packed a large number of disk flowers, each with 5 petals joined into a very short tube. What a surprise when examining a tiny aster or a sunflower to discover that there are these tightly packed flowers instead of stamens and a pistil. Each tiny flower dumps its pollen into the center of the flower tube and it is pushed up by the growing style. The heaps of pollen are quickly harvested by insects in the goldenrod. The style will continue to grow and presently will split to reveal the two recurved stigmas. As the outer flowers open first, there will be rings of stigmas and rings of pollen in each head. The bright yellow petals attract a bee coming from a nearby plant. The bee will bring the sticky pollen on its legs and body and will brush some against the stigmas causing pollination at the some time it harvests more pollen from the central ring of flowers.

RAGWEED is different from goldenrods. It separates the sexes. Male or pollen producing flowers are at the very tips of the branches, and down below are the female flowers, 1 per head. This pollen is light and definitely not sticky. Because the flower heads hang down, during the night when the anthers shed the pollen it falls on the leaves. As the dew dries in the early morning, the pollen is picked up in the wind and carried to different plants. As it drifts in the window it gets inhaled and sticks to the moist lining of the nose. Most people have nose cells that simply ignore the ragweed pollen along with all the other stuff brought into the nose, but some of us have immune systems that believe we are being attacked by something both foreign and harmful. The full response of the immune system is a release of histamine, inflammation, and eventually sneezing, watery eyes, and total misery. Thank goodness antihistamines ha been discovered.

Goldenrods and ragweed are found throughout most of North America. Many are very abundant such as the common old field goldenrod *(Solidago canadensis var. scabra and S. c. var. gilvocanescens)*. These plants form the typical pyramidal inflorescences and grow from 3 to 6 feet or more depending on moisture availability. Each fall one plant can produce several underground stems called rhizomes. Next spring the mother plants begins to produce a new plant and surrounding her will be more new goldenrods. Eventually they can spread out over acres of land or along a roadside or bar ditch. These plants have very hairy leaves and stems. Our variety of the similar giant goldenrod *(Solidago gigantea var. serotina)* which is found only in very moist or wet places has leaves and stems without hairs.

Solidago means to make whole, and the European plants are attributed to have medical properties. Research shows that this was due to its availability as early green leaves, providing vitamins as do dandelions and onions after long winters.

The leaves of Aromatic Goldenrod *(Solidago odora)*, found in eastern Oklahoma and through the eastern United states, can be used to make an infusion or tea. The leaves have small punctate dots containing the aromatic anise flavor oil. Unfortunately, many edible plant books illustrate other species which surely taste blah.

Oklahoma also has some very rare goldenrods. In the U.S. Forest Service Botanical Area on the north slope of Rich Mountain in Oklahoma and Arkansas is the Ouachita Mountains Goldenrod. Described new to science by Connie and John Taylor, it is known only from the upper north slopes of this mountain, and a few locations in State Parks and Nature Conservancy areas in Arkansas. Although limited in locations, at each location it appears to be thriving and plenty of plants are blooming each fall.

Common in openings and edges of blackjack-post oak woods is the elmleaf goldenrod *(Solidago ulmifolia)*. It is often seen on plant walks. Most people can quickly learn the characteristics of goldenrods *(Solidago)*, but the 32 varieties cluster into species groups that require close examination. Just be sure that you trample down t ragweed plant as you stop to marvel at the blooming golden rod. ❀

.THE MUCH-MALIGNED GOLDENROD

by Susan Chambers

The difference between a naturalist and everyone else is that a naturalist knows it's not goldenrod causing the sniffles and sneezes in August and September. If you're a budding naturalist, it's ragweed that's the root of the problem, but it doesn't have showy flowers.

Solidago species are native across most of the United States. They appear in every county in Oklahoma in one form or another. The six species that grow in our area of central Oklahoma grow in dry or well-drained soil, sun to light shade and average fertility. What this means in gardening terms is sandy loam to clay loam soil; east, south or west side of the house (or under tall trees that have been limbed up). The further from the hose, the better. And, there is no need to fertilize the plants to get them to bloom.

There are goldenrods to fit almost every situation in the garden, whether as a background plant, front of the border, or somewhere in between. They range in height from 6 inches to 7 feet, with four distinct flower-head types. They also have the benefit of a long bloom period, from August to November in some species. A bloom period this long allows plenty of opportunity for plant combinations. One time-honored practice is to pair this golden yellow with a lavender or blue, such as aster, chicory or lemon monarda. A more striking combinatiion might be *Liatris* or ironweed *(Vernonia)*.

These cheerful, exuberant plants are another of those wildflowers that were exported from the U.S., hybridized like crazy, selected to within an inch of their lives and then sent back to us as a border plant. Of the several varieties offered, none has a truly pure blood-line, most being hybrids of *S. canadensis* and *S. virgaurea*, [a European species.] Some of the variety names to look for are "Cloth of Gold", "Gold Dwarf", "Peter Pan", "Golden Baby" and "Golden Fleece". In general, the varieties are not going to reseed everywhere, or send runners out into the lawn. However, if what you have in mind is a wildflower meadow, you will want seed of *S. speciosa var. angustata or S. rigida.*

Starting plants from seed is relatively easy. If it's to be in a meadow area, first kill the bermuda grass. There are several grass killers on the market. Then, simply mow the area in September or early October (bag the clippings), rake the area lightly, broadcast the seed, roll or tamp the area and let the elements do the rest. The seedlings should emerge in two to seven weeks with reasonable moisture. If you choose to raise the germination rate (not really high to begin with), water lightly every day until you see seedlings emerge. Then, water every third or fourth day unless there is a rainfall.

A more reliable, less intense method of propagation is division of established plants. If you plan to get these from the wild (none are endangered), first get permission from the landowner. Flag their location while in flower and dig them in early spring. Never take all the plants from a single colony. Use a digging fork to lift the emerging crown and separate the crown by prying apart with two forks. Cut short any extremely long roots and replant as soon as possible. Water thoroughly at planting and not again until the soil surface feels dry. Unless the area is fairly large or very natural in character, the plants will need to be divided every two or three years to keep them within bounds.

Having gotten this far, you may be wondering what to do with all these beautiful blooms, now that you've got them all over the place. Cut the flower stalks at peak bloom for use as a long-lasting cut flower. The dried flowers look great with grasses, cattails and lotus pods. The yellow flowers are also used in organic dyes for cotton fabric. The species *S. odora* was used as a source of tea during the American Revolution. It is said to be mildly stimulating. Plant it close to a path you use often for an aromatic stroll when you brush the foliage. If nothing else, enjoy it just for itself, as do the Europeans who covet it so greatly.

Sources of Plants:

Sunshine Nursery and Arboretum
North Highway 183 / Rte 1, Box 4030
Clinton, OK 73601 (405)323-6259

Warren's Nursery
10901 N. E. 23rd St.
Oklahoma City OK 73141 (405)679-2678

Kings Creek Gardens
813 Straus Rd.
Cedar Hill, TX 75104 (214)291-9162

A High Country Garden
2902 Rufina St.
Santa Fe, N.M. 87501-2929 (800)925-9387

Source of Seed:

J. L. Hudson, Seedsman
P. O. Box 1058
Redwood City, CA 94064

SOME FUN

by Patricia Folley

Are you a member of ONPS who isn't "into" field trips, or "not the meeting type"? Still, you joined us for some reason, and I'm concerned that we aren't meeting that need. So, for what it's worth, some suggestions for native plant projects that might just get you involved, and make a big difference to your community too.

1) Carry some post cards with you, and when you see a garden or roadside that makes use of native plants, send a compliment to the owner.

2) Remember the location of some pretty plants that will set seed, and go back when they are ready. One of our members saves the return envelopes from junk mail for this purpose. Take only a few from each place, and take them to work or to your social club or church to share.

3) Save the 3" to 1-gallon pots that come from the garden center, and fill with a mixture of good garden soil and potting mix. Plant seeds or cuttings from your favorite natives, and offer the results for sale or trade in the spring.

4) When you have to thin your patch of trumpet-creeper or dogwoods, or what-have-you, pot some of them up for a friend or neighbor. Central Chapter members love to see Wayne Chambers coming, because he always has a trunkload of goodies to share!

5) Live in the suburbs or country? Mow your roadside before the county gets to it, and mow neatly around the seeding-out flowers like *Gaillardia* or *Callirhoe*. Many times the neatly-edged patches will be left alone.

6) Take a plant inventory of: your backyard; an empty lot; a favorite park; X miles of country road-side; your county.

7) Check up on someone else's inventory. Many counties and state parks have plant lists made years ago. The Oklahoma Biological Survey, a local school's botany teacher, or your public library may have a copy. Then, find out what's changed: what's new, what's gone.

8) Make a list of a different color: plan to learn by sight all the pink flowers that bloom in June, for example. Or all the grasses that bloom out at over 3 feet tall.

9) Unplant a garden. Make a habitat, such as a rocky hill or a little bog. Be sure it is fit to live in. Then, don't plant it. Wait for nature to seed it by bird or wind. Be patient. Make it small enough that you can give it a year or more, but **let nature take her course with it**. You'll have to pull a few ragweeds at first, but you might just be amazed at the results. I got a Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans)* and a fine bittersweet vine (*Celastrus scandens)* that way.

10) Love a sedge! Instead of fighting the sedges, horsetails, rushes and such that love a poorly-drained spot in your yard, try encouraging some company for them: add a pinch of seed from a related plant, or transplant in a root cutting of a pretty wildling. Instant, free water-garden!

11) Using a camera with macro or close-up or telephoto lens, make pictures of some of the better-looking native plants in your neighborhood. Then, make an album for it, add a short description of the habitat or an interesting fact about it, and lend it to: your child's school teacher, your county librarian, the nature center at the nearest park. If you have talent, draw a simple, color-book kind of picture of a wildflower. Type the name and color of the flower at the bottom of the page, and make copies for the kids in the class.

12) Got a better idea? Of course you do! Send it to the *Gaillardia* and we'll print them as space permits. ❀

"Poco a poco, paso a paso, dia por dia" Don Elijio, Mayan herb doctor, Belize, on being asked how one teaches or learns the flora of a region.

Thanks to Nora Jones for passing on a note from former ONPS president Mike Bush. Mike is still ducking hurricanes, tornadoes, and the more usual weathers of life, as Horticulture Director, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Belmont, North Carolina. Their newsletter tells how Mike rescued their building after a tornado unroofed it.

ADs, ANYONE?

Many of the Native Plant Society newsletters in other states accept advertising. The ONPS board agreed to a trial use of *Gaillardia* ads, restricted to: 1) from members of ONPS whose businesses are related to our goals. 2) from businesses with offers of use to our members and consistent with our goals, and 3) to ads approximately the size of a business card. Such ads, if any are submitted, will cost $10 per issue, or $40 a year.

THE TANGLED BANK

Offering the finest in biological diversity at the finest price in the world.

At a wildnerness near you.

No phone.

Mother Nature, Prop.

Dr. James K. McPherson

Those of us who were privileged to know Dr. Jim McPherson were saddened to hear of his sudden death in July, at the young age of 56. A retired professor of botany at Oklahoma State University, he was making a second career as a volunteer for The Nature Conservancy, making a botanical survey of the Black Mesa Preserve and assisting on many other sites. He had won the Oklahoma chapter's Stewardship Award in 1992, and was scheduled to receive the President's award at the national level in September.

Dr. McPherson leaves to mourn him his wife, Iris, two sons, Andy and George, and uncountable former students, colleagues, and co-workers in the cause of conservation. He will be greatly missed.

Memorial awards to the ONPS funds are still being received, and will be listed in the next *Gaillardia.* ⊕

ANNE W. LONG AWARD WINNERS

One of the highlights of the Annual Meeting of the ONPS is the presentation of the Anne Long Award to the person or organization voted by our members to have contributed the most to the furtherance of our goals. Nominations for this year's award are in the hands of the judging committee, and results won't be available until the evening of October 8.

We thought you might enjoy knowing who the past winners were. Here, in chronological order, is the score:

1988	Ninnekah High School Science Club
1989	Dr. Doyle McCoy
1990	John Miller
1991	Oklahoma Chapter of the Nature Conservancy
1992	Joanne Orr, Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Joe T. Andrash, Oklahoma City Beautiful
1993	Sidney Dobson, Oklahoma City Beautiful

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST RULES CHANGED.

Because the annual Photography Contest sponsored by ONPS is an integral part of the annual Wildflower Workshop, of which we are co-sponsors, the awards must be made at the late-May observance of the Workshop. This leaves precious little time for the judges and participants if fresh pictures must be taken. After several complaints were registered about the short deadline this year, we've changed the deadline date for next year's contest entries to March 15. Unless you are planning to photograph the flowers of *Acer rubrum*, you'll need to take the pictures this year, for submittal by 15 March 1995.

Much more about the 1995 contest will be in later editions. Meanwhile, there are all those fabulous fall wildflowers..... ⊕

THOSE STATE MOWING LAWS

Most of us remember the fuss that resulted from Tulsa's serving weed-mowing orders to a lady who was welcoming 500 visitors to admire her wildflower garden. Everybody from the ONPS' NE chapter to Lady Bird Johnson and the National Wildflower Research Station got into the act! Susan Chambers agreed to update us on the content of the law, and the Board will discuss any action that we can recommend after the October meeting.

Meanwhile, the gist of the thing is, yes, there is a **State of Oklahoma** law, Nr. 22-111,

The municipal governing body makes the determination that a particular site constitutes a nuisance under the law. Usually, this is done only after a local resident has filed a complaint.

"Weeds" are defined as poison ivy, oak or sumac and any other vegetation that exceeds 12 inches in height, **except healthy trees, shrubs, or produce for human consumption**. (Rosebushes seem to be ok, but don't let your zinnias get up over a foot tall!) Also covered is plants that regardless of height, harbor rodents or vermin, emit unpleasant odors, constitute a fire hazard, or are dead or diseased.

Members who wish to make an input to any decision we make, either to support or to challenge this law, should attend the next board meeting or send a written comment to President Connie Taylor. .

Need a copy? Send a legal-size, addressed and stamped envelope to Pat Folley at 15100 Etowah Rd., Noble, OK 73068. ⊕

NATIVE PLANT CELEBRATION.

Earthway Herb Farm of Duncan, Oklahoma, is holding a *Native Plant Celebration* on Saturday, September 17. There is no admission charge. Times 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., including a wild plant walk at 10: dress comfortably. Co-sponsored by The Native Herb in Norman.

Displays, plus native plants and seeds and books for sale. For more information, call Ellen Primm at 321-3038 (Norman) or Kathryn Moore at (405)252-4372 in Duncan..

Using Native Plants in the Landscape

October 21–23, 1994

Christian Brothers University
Memphis, Tennessee

Toot Fineberg–Buchner and Joyce Woodford, Directors
Leslie Aldridge and Larry Wilson, Registrars
Larry Lowman, Program Chair

Mid-South Native Plant Conference Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (day) ( ) _____ (eve) ( ) _____

T-Shirt Size: (Circle one) M L XL (Unspecified = XL)

Circle Concurrent Sessions you will attend [a b c d] [e f g h] [i j k l]

Refer to ground rules for cancellation refund policy.

Let us know if you have any special needs

Amount Enclosed

Make Checks payable to: MSNPC

$_____ Registration Fee $85, or

$_____ Preregister by Oct. 1 Fee $70

Return to: MSNPC, LNC
5992 Quince Road
Memphis, TN 38119

"In this all-important matter of seeds, nature never trusts to luck. She banks on the average, the long run, not on the few or the individual. She covers the swamp with floating, parachuted, windborne seeds. A thousand seeds to attain one seedling... that is her method. The chances may be against any one individual seed. But the odds are in favor of the average and the species survives."
.....From *Circle of the Seasons*, by Edwin Way Teale

WILDFLOWER CALENDARS.

Oklahoma Today magazine has offered us a good price on the 1995 edition calendars -- to feature beautiful prints of Oklahoma wildflowers. We'll have them for sale at the Annual Meeting in October, and at chapter meetings, too, but if you miss out on those, you can order them from Judy Jordan at 2560 Chateau Dr., Norman, OK 73069 for $10 each plus $2 for postage and packing. The $10 price will be in effect when we can sell them direct at a meeting.

These calendars will make excellent gifts for your friends and relatives who have had to leave Oklahoma and are pining away in strange places.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

ONPS members and friends are encouraged to contribute to the *Gaillardia*, published quarterly. Many of our articles are written by professionals, and are submitted on disks.

As editor, I welcome all sorts of input, from the high-tech to the scratch pad. You may send clear black-and-white drawings to illustrate your material, or describe the illustration you wish and I will insert one for you.

Of course, as a non-profit organization trying to keep our membership rates as low as possible, we cannot pay in real money. You will have to work for love -- every author who contributed to this and all other of our newsletters does the same.
.....Patricia Folley

FALL STATEWIDE FIELD TRIP ANNOUNCED

by Jeff Burkhart, Field Trip Co-Chair

Chickasaw National Recreation Area will be the site of the upcoming ONPS Fall Field Outing, scheduled for September 24. Located in the Arbuckle Mountains some 75 miles south of Oklahoma City, the Recreation Area is comprised of the former Platt National Park and the Arbuckle Recreation Area. The complex geology and variable physiography creates a diversity of habitats which supports in excess of 550 native plant species. An abbreviated checklist of selected plants will be provided for those interested. Because the most recent complete species listing for the Travertine District where we will be focusing our efforts is over 50 years old, we may even be able to add some new species to the known flora of this area.

The plan is to meet Saturday morning at the Travertine Nature Center, located south and west of the City of Sulfur. At 10:00 a.m. we will proceed to the prairie areas of the buffalo preserve located southwest of Veterans Lake (maps are available at the nature center for those who miss the departure). At noon we will then retire to Flower Park at the north entrance for lunch, and following lunch we will return to the Nature center to walk the wooded nature trails leading to Antelope and Buffalo springs, a pair of artesian springs which supply Travertine creek. Birders are advised to bring binoculars as the riparian habitat offers prime habitat for a diversity of woodland birds.

Comfortable camping facilities are available, especially at the Rock Creek campground on the northwest side of Veterans Lake where there is an abundance of campsites provisioned with grills, restrooms and water. RV's and trailers can be accommodated by Rock Creek and Cold Springs campgrounds. More information about available facilities may be obtained by calling the Chickasaw National Recreation Area office at (405)622-3165. ⊛

>NOTICE

> Preregistration is now required for all field trips.

>Field trip announcements will contain the name, address, and telephone number of the leader. If you have doubts about terrain, difficulty, etc., ask.

>Field trips take place rain or shine. Proper dress and shoes, hat, etc., are essential. **Bring water and lunch.**

>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.

>Chapter-initiated field trips are also open to all ONPS members who may be able to attend. Please register.

> Next state-wide event will be the Chickasaw NRA outing on Saturday, September 24. Details at left. To register, just notify Jim Norman at (918)682-1896 or 502 North 14th, Muskogee, Oklahoma .74401, or Jeff Burkhart at (405)233-7639 or 2502 E. Elm, Enid, OK 73701.

>To register for other events, notify the person listed on the notice. Names, address and phone are on the green insert. It is never too late or too early for planning.

ORCHID-HUNTING TOUR RECALLED

by Ruth Boyd

On Saturday morning, August 13, twenty ONPS members and guests met trip leader Jim Norman at Raymond Gary State Park near Hugo. We came from Noble, Shawnee, Muskogee, Atoka, Broken Bow, Tulsa, Tahlequah, Jennings, Ft. Towson, Chickasha, Claremore, Oklahoma City and Pauls Valley. It was hot and calm, but travelling in air-conditioned cars between sites helped. The park itself yielded views of *Cooperia drummondii* (rain lilies) and other southern woodland species.

A short drive away, Jim took us to his special orchid site near Swink. Jim waded into the swamp and brought out samples of *Platanthera ciliata* (yellow fringed orchid) and its fern companion, *Onoclea sensibilis*. Many more beautiful and interesting flowers were visible right beside the road. Despite a flat tire, Jim persevered to bring us to a huge *Quercus phellos* (willow oak) perhaps 21 feet in circumference, *Sabal minor* (dwarf palmetto), Oklahoma's only native palm, and the lake at the Bokhoma entrance to Ouachita National forest -- possibly the single prettiest spot in Oklahoma.

After lunch at Catfish King in Idabel, we continued east of Broken Bow, where we visited huge cypress trees with the knees visible, *Aralia spinosa* (Hercules' club) and *Ostrya virginiana* (hop hornbeam).

Finally, way up north in Battiest, we made our last stop of the day, to view two orchids in one spot: *Tipularia discolor* (cranefly), *Triphora trianthophora* (three-bird). The woods were carpeted with *Mitchellia repens* (partridge-berry), *Impatiens capensis* (jewelweed), *Saururus cernuus* (lizard's tail), and *Mimulus alatus* (monkeyflower). The trees were heavily burdened with *Vitis riparia* (muscadine grapes).

It was after 6 p.m. when the group disbanded to go home or to nearby motels. Another successful ONPS orchid trip is now history. I naturally thought our leader would write up the trip for the *Gaillardia*. However, by the shameless use of excessive flattery, he passed that responsibility to me. Had I known, I would have made much better notes.

(Ed. note: actually, Ruth had better notes than appear here, but I had no space)

CHAPTER NOTES

NORTHEAST CHAPTER

by Betty Kemm

The fall schedule for the NE Chapter includes **two evening programs at** the Tulsa Garden Center: 2435 S. Peoria

Monday, September 12, 7:30 p.m., the program will feature Leigh Standingbear, Tulsa Parks horticulturist, on "Wild Flowers and Native Plants in the Tulsa Parks System".

The next indoor program will be planned for Monday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m., again at the Garden Center.

A field trip is scheduled for Saturday, September 17, when Engineer Ranger Mike Schrick will lead a hike to an undisturbed valley west of Cleveland. Trippers will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Ranger Headquarters below Keystone Dam, north side of the river. Plan to carry your lunch and drinks with you on the tour.

Betty further reports that their plant rescue chairman, Laurel Upshaw, is staying in touch with the events at Gluedobbers' field, along with Bob Jennings of Oxley Park. The Backyards Habitat group is still very active but did not send an event schedule.

CENTRAL CHAPTER

Due to an exceptionally full September schedule for the statewide group and related activities, Central Chapter will not be meeting in September. The next regularly scheduled meeting, then, will take place on Monday, October 31. That's right: Halloween! Plan to meet at the Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center, 4th and Portland, at 7:30 p.m. for a short **program and our Fall plant / seed exchange.** There's still time to gather a few seeds or pot-up a few plants. Exchange is always non-cost, and you don't have to bring anything to take part: it's just more fun that way. The program will feature Pat Folley, with a slide - lecture on **The Fall Composites.**

FIELD TRIP NOTES

The annual **June Picnic** was held at Ed Kessler's *Great Plains Apiaries* near Purcell. Eleven members and friends gathered at the farmhouse on 8 June to tour the many projects and experiments that Ed Kessler, who is an atmospheric scientist by profession, keeps running. Some of the many projects include a Mesonet station, transmits meteorological data to a central data bank every 15 minutes. Plantings of native prairie plants testing propagation and yield. A Rodale Institute test plot using beneficial insects and non-chemical farming practices. Gardening under plastic and nets. Tree plantings along a deeply entrenched all-year creek to compare effectiveness, survival, etc.

The Central Chapter sponsored a tour of the **Constein Farm** in Perkins (southern Payne County) on July 15. The weather really came through for us: after two months of drouth, a good rain on the 14th had freshened the land, and the day was mild, but brilliant. More than 20 members and guests assembled on the Consteins' lawn to learn about their efforts to live the life most of us only dream of: a farm that is a home in every sense, where the crops include caring for the future of the land and inhabitants. Bob Constein is a former teacher who welcomes school groups for tours, but quit raising pumpkins last year, when he found that each one had a black-widow spider living beneath!

His comments on sustainable agriculture emphasize the fact that doing it is more important than the crops harvested. Healthy lifestyle is the theme. Their home, built by themselves to suit their idea of friendly living, is complemented by a forested creek that runs just behind the house and a truly innovative (and inviting) out-door shower! Along with more mundane crops and herbs, we were able to see hops and sesame plants under cultivation. Thanks to Wayne and Susan Chambers for arranging this interesting and inspiring visit.

EUSTOMA GRANDIFLORA: A GOOD SHOW IN A BAD YEAR

by Patricia Folley

At the 1993 Annual Meeting, visiting with Wes and Jeanette Garton, ONPS members who live in Kansas, somehow, the subject of the beautiful and undependable "bluebell gentian", "tulip gentian" or "wild Lisianthus" (all the same plant: *Eustoma grandiflora*) became a promise to call the Gartons when they again were bloom. In a dry, dry summer, I didn't really expect much, but then Wally Kerr, the "beautiful ***Wldflrs*** shirt man", found a field-full in a west-Norman pasture. A "site visit" was promptly organized, the Gartons brought a friend, Bess Windes of Wichita, we were joined by Jim Norman from Muskogee and Leslie Cole-Jackson from Edmond. *The Norman Transcript* sent a photographer, and after admiring the gentians for an hour (at 100°), we added a tour of the Kerrs' beautiful wildflower garden and of the Folley farm's tangled wilderness. It was so much fun that I recommend we all do more of such *ad hoc* visits.

INDOOR OUTING '95

Susan Chambers reports that the entire schedule for the 4th of February, 1995 Indoor Outing has been arranged. While it's unusual to have an Outing program before the preceeding Annual Meeting, it's surely a relief! To be held in the OSU-Oklahoma City Technical Branch, the all-day, indoor seminar will feature: Speakers Sally Wasowski, Author & Native Landscaper; Steve Bieberich, Tree Farm and Horticulturist and Darlene Michael, Landscape Designer. An Herbal luncheon, catered by Tom Bergey of the Golden Trowel Herb Farm and workshops by Toby Goodale, Valley Tree Farm, on propagation. By Jesse Rohde, Myriad Gardens, on acquiring and transplanting, and Georgia Muenzler, OU, on designing how-to. A complete brochure and application instructions will be included in the December *Gaillardia*..

SUMMER EDUCATION

"In a recent review of literature about environmentalists and their sources of commitment, Louis Chawla noticed two recurrent themes. They all recalled "many hours spent out-doors in a keenly remembered wild or semi-wild place in childhood or adolescence and an adult who taught respect for nature." Children don't need more hours in school, more days of the year, at just the time when they need to develop a relationship with the natural world. Children need vivid, extensive, structured but open-ended immersions in nature all year round, not just during summer vacations. And they need parents willing to save the stones they find in their children's pockets."
by David Sobel, in *Orion* magazine, Spring 1993.

ANOTHER WINNER

Dr. Larry Magrath, former president of ONPS, has won first place in the annual *Keep Oklahoma Beautiful* contest -- again! Magrath and USAO won the title in 1982 also. Despite a busy teaching and research schedule, Dr. Magrath personally designs and helps maintain the landscaping at UASO, located in Chickasha.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The *Flora of Oklahoma Project*, a committee of plant taxonomists from all over Oklahoma, is in the process of writing a comprehensive flora of Oklahoma, but that goal is still several years away. In the meantime, we are making the new family key and Waterfall's Keys to the Flora of Oklahoma available to anyone who needs it. Send $15 with mailing instructions to *Flora of Oklahoma, 15100 Etowah Rd., Noble, OK 73068.* The price includes cost of postage and state tax. Title of the temporary two-part Keys is "Identification of Oklahoma Plants".

Several copies of Rick Imes' great little manual for beginners in study of natural plants, titled "The Practical Botanist" are still available at $9.40 (half the original price), including tax and postage. This is a full- color, 180 page book for high-school level and up.

It includes descriptions of all major ecological types, how-to-collect and preserve specimens, basics of plant taxonomy, wildflower gardening, urban botany, wildflower art and photography and more. Send requests to Pat Folley, address 15100 Etowah Rd., Noble, OK 73068.

Hint: this would make a fine gift. Christmas isn't all that far away. You might even get us a new member.

BECOME AN OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEMBER

Please enroll me as a Member of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society. My dues payment is enclosed for the category checked. Make checks payable to *Oklahoma Native Plant Society*, and mail to:
Oklahoma Native Plant Society / 2435 South Peoria / Tulsa, OK 74114

_____$15.00 Family ____$10.00 Individual [_]Gift from_____
_____$5.00 Student ____$200.00 Lifetime Individual _____
_____$300.00 Lifetime Family [_]Renewal [_]New Membership
_____$_____ contribution for_____ (All contributions are tax deductible)

NAME_____HOME PHONE_____

AFFILIATION_____

ADDRESS_____BUSINESS PH._____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

RENEWAL TIME!

Please look down at your mailing label If the top line has a date entry of 12-93 or before in the third "word" position, your renewal for 1994 is due. (The first "word" is your membership group: IM for individuals, FM for families, SM for students. The second "word" indicates the time you joined ONPS.)

If you are a LIFE member, why not use this notice to send a gift subscription? Our low rates make it easy for anyone interested in natural plants to get in on our great field trips, interesting and educational programs, and lots of new friends. Just fill in the application on page 11 and send it to the Tulsa Garden Center address, and we'll do the rest. ⊕

The *Gaillardia*

Published quarterly by Oklahoma Native Plant Society
2435 S. Peoria / Tulsa, OK 74114

President:	Constance Taylor
Vice President	Susan Chambers
Secretary	Darlene Michael
Treasurer	Judy Jordan
Historian	Karen Haworth

Edited by Patricia Folley, Noble, Oklahoma
Copy to: 15100 Etowah Road, Noble OK 73068
Telephone (405)872-8361

ONPS WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS

Rena Conger, Tulsa
Linda Davis, Tulsa
Michael and Rosario Douglas, Norman
Philip and Tommye Fant, Oklahoma City
Tara Howell & Steve Herzog, Skiatook
Richard Jerabek, Dallas, Texas
Coriene Kelly, Tulas
Diane Sears, Tulsa

Know any of these fine folks? Why not give them a call, welcome them to the organization, invite them to go along on a field trip, get acquainted. We need them!

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

Non-Profit
U. S. Postage Paid
Norman, Oklahoma
Permit No. 145