

which makes her the ONLY person to whom the first ONPS Service Award could legitimately be awarded."



Ruth's service to ONPS includes multiple terms as state president, Publicity Chair, Photo Contest Co-Curator, ONPS Representative to the State Parks Advisory Council, Wildflower Workshop liaison, Central Chapter active member, Gaillardia mailing committee, involvement with the Biodiversity Project of Oklahoma, liaison with the International Photographer's Hall of Fame at the Omniplex in Oklahoma City, Advisor for Anne Long and Harriet Barclay Awards guidelines, recipient of the 1996 Anne Long Award, and co-producer of the catalogue of photos in our collection of Photo Contest posters.

It is not too early to be thinking about a candidate for the 2001 Service Award. Guidelines for the award were published in the Autumn, 2000, edition of the Gaillardia. Nominations for this award may be made by sending documentation to Sue Amstutz, 4190 E. 46th Pl., Tulsa, 74135. Deadline for submission of nominations will be August 31, 2001.

ANNE LONG AWARD

Dr. Bruce Smith, Science teacher at McCloud High School, is the recipient of the Anne Long Award in lieu of his outstanding excellence in teaching and high standards/expectations of his students. His students have consistently won more botany awards in the Oklahoma Academy of Science yearly competition than any other school.

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BOTANY BAY

Paul Buck, October 2000

A CONVERSATION WITH A SMALL BEETLE:

Today we find our lives filled with technological innovations such as personal computers, the internet and email, supersonic aircraft, space probes, interspecies gene transfers and on and on. Yet you think we lead an unusual life! Let me tell you what happened recently to an insect acquaintance. She related her tale of woe as I sat out back watching the tall phlox Pat Folley gave me grow taller.

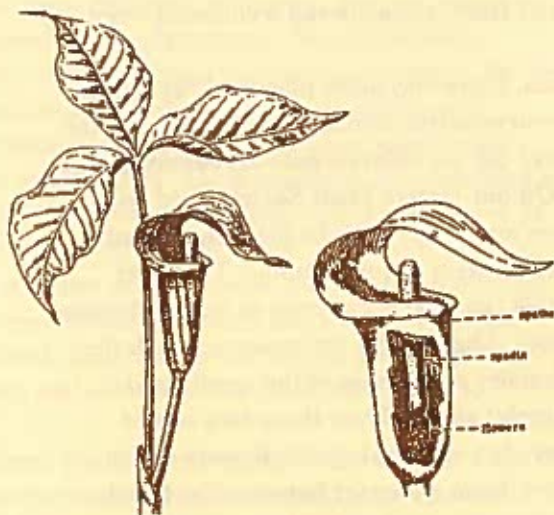
First, a number of gardeners in the neighborhood grow *Arum italicum*, an arum lily, for its large attractive, light veined leaves and clusters of beautiful bright red berries which appear late in the growing season. Introduced to North America, the species is native to southern Europe and in some areas of Italy is considered a common weed.

In Oklahoma, flowering takes place in May and in Arum the reproductive structure is actually not the typical flower but an inflorescence surrounded by a large leaf. On our Native Plant Society field trips we have seen numerous Jack-in-the-Pulpit plants and the floral system is quite similar. The erect flower stalk (spadix) is enclosed in an enveloping bract (spathe). The flowers are unisexual with the pistillate (female) at the base of the spadix and staminate (male) above. Over those two sets of fertile flowers is a whorl of sterile flowers which, when inflated, form a barrier between the floral chamber within the spathe and the open area above (see figure).

My friend, a small, dark beetle, said her recent

experience started one warm afternoon while foraging when she sensed what she felt was the aroma of food (you and I would probably say it smelled like a combination of carrion and urine). She followed her 'nose' to a large plant (we later identified it as *Arum italicum*) and landed on the open throat of the spathe. A large number of beetles, gnats, and blowflies had already gathered. She sensed the aroma was welling up from the tubular spathe and, again, following her 'nose' walked to the opening. She reported slipping at the edge on tiny oil droplets and falling through some bristles into the depths of the chamber. There she found the stigmas of the pistillate flowers covered with a sweet, slimy fluid. She noted the inflated bristles that so readily permitted her fall were keeping large insects out. They were forced to fly off, seeking food elsewhere.

Once at the bottom of the pit her first thought was of escape. However, she discovered the walls of the lower chamber were just as slippery as the upper spathe surface and climbing out was impossible until she realized she could climb over the lower female flowers. As she did she noticed others with pollen on their backs losing those grains to the sticky surfaces of the female flowers as they labored upward. Unfortunately when the group reached the base of the bristles they encountered downward pointing hairs which prevented further progress.



Jack-in-the-pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum*.

She lamented, 'What to do?' but only briefly. The

chamber was warm, out of the rain, there was abundant food being produced by the flowers and about half the crowd was male. There was but one thing to do - PARTY!

With the setting of the sun my friend and the others settled down. I do not know if it was the darkness, full bellies and party fatigue or simply bedtime for little beetles. However, during the night the staminate flowers matured and rained pollen from above.

With dawn and the rising sun everyone awoke to find themselves coated with pollen adhering to the sticky exudate from the stigmas. Once again, how to escape? Lo and behold, the downward pointing hairs had wilted along with the bristles and it was possible to climb up and over their wrinkled surfaces to the throat of the spathe and freedom. Interestingly, the upper portion of the spathe (appendix) had lost the carrion aroma and my friend, with her pollen-laden companions, previous prisoners of the night, flew away.

However, the escaping insects picked up the aroma of another arum inflorescence and agreed to drop by for a visit only to be trapped in a new prison chamber. This time one where the pollen on their backs would be transferred to the flowers and pollination would take place. When I last saw my friend she was joining a group headed toward yet another arum plant.

There is an additional feature of arum I would like to mention before closing. The terminal portion of the spadix, the appendix, is the source of the aroma, unpleasant to you and me but attractive to my beetle friend. While the chemical producing the aroma is being released the appendix tissue generates heat to the point it may be as much as 36 degrees warmer than the surrounding air. Research suggests the temperature elevation serves to volatilize the smelly compound increasing the speed with which it is spread into the atmosphere. For most of us that is an interesting aspect of the overall process and we quickly see the reason behind it. For you chemists it raises another question. What metabolic pathways are utilized by the plant to produce such significant energy

release? How do the plants do it?

What an interesting story and introduction to pollination ecology right in the back yard. You see there is a benefit to taking a few minutes to chat with a small beetle.

ONPS receives several Oklahoma Newsletters: "Outdoor News", The official Publication of the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation; "Field Notes", Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture; "Rangeland Wire", Oklahoma Section Society for Range Management; and "Nature Talk", Martin Park Nature Center.

SCRAPBOOK UPDATE

The updating of the ONPS scrapbooks is about 90% completed. If you have material that should be included for any year, please note who, what, where, and when to help in placing it chronologically. Mail to Lynn Allen, 8809 Lakewood Dr., Edmond, OK 73034

ONPS LIBRARY NEWS

If you attend a Native Plant Society meeting and you see a lady pulling a red and white ice chest, it is not filled with cold beer. It contains the Oklahoma Native Plant Society Library. ONPS members may check out these publications. You can bring them back to me at a Central or Cross-Timbers meeting or mail them back to me at the lowest postal rate available.

Some of the more popular books in the library are:
"Noah's Garden" by Sara Stein
"Requiem for a Lawnmower" by Sally Wasowski
"The Landscaping Revolution" by Andy Wasowski
"Landscaping with Wildflowers & Native Plants published by Ortho
"Starting from Seed", Brooklyn Botanic Garden
"Wildflower Gardens", Brooklyn Botanic Garden
"Flowering Vines", Brooklyn Botanic Garden
"Hummingbird Gardens", Brooklyn Botanic Garden
"Old-Fashioned Flowers," Brooklyn Botanic Garden

ONPS exchanges newsletters with native plant societies of, Kansas, Texas, Missouri, Illinois, Georgia, Oregon, and Arizona. ONPS also receives newsletters from the New England Wild Flower

Bonnie Winchester, Rt. 1 Box 8, Douglas, OK 73733
Phone: 580-862-7714 E-mail: winwin@pdi.net

BOOK REVIEW

Chad Cox

The Landscaping Revolution: Garden with Mother Nature Not Against Her.

Andy and Sally Wasowski, NTC/Contemporary Publishing Group, \$27.95 hardback, 176 pages

One of the perks, possibly the only perk, of being the editor of the newsletter is a free book (my first) for review. This is the eighth book written by the husband-wife team; he author, photographer and long time advocate of natural landscaping, she landscape designer, formerly near Dallas but now near Taos. They begin with explanations of how we ended up with our high-maintenance yards and proceed to describe natural landscaping, how to do it, including techniques, encouragements, and humorous jibes at the standard landscape. There are personal tributes to our native plant righters that have led the way, one of which is our own Evelyn Connors of Tulsa. The book outlines what is needed but lacks sufficient details to develop a native landscape and should be supplemented by other sources, possible one of their other books that include plants for regions, desert, wetland, etc., in the southwest.

I would recommend this book as a gift to susceptible friends, especially ones that have bought a lot that has not been "landscaped" free of native vegetation or as a loaner for any neighbor that has complained about all the work they have put into their yard, their water bills, or your native landscape.

Bonnie Winchester has a copy of this book in our library and you are welcome to my copy as well.

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WOODLAND GARDENING

By Susan Chambers

A patch of shade does not a woodland garden make. Contrary to what some glossy magazine articles would have you think, plopping in some coral bells and some mulch does not do it.

To have a truly "real" woodland garden isn't exactly possible, either. We can't import all the components of an ecological niche. What we can do is create the conditions that encourage the soil micro-organisms and other denizens of a natural woodland to move in and set up camp.

This may sound obvious, but, one of the first things you need is trees with a high canopy and deep roots. Branches too close to the ground will not allow enough light, and shallow roots cause too much competition for water and nutrients. Shade on the north side of a building is not the same thing. Understory plantings of small trees or large shrubs will also help add to the wind-buffering ability and humidity retention of your woodland. Smaller shrubs and herbaceous plants cover the soil to provide shade for temperature control and habitat for smaller animals.

A generous layer of chopped hardwood bark and wood, chopped leaves and/or compost will get your soil cooking with the right microbes to support woodland plants without being on "life support". The finer these ingredients are chopped, the quicker they will start to change your soil. If your soil is clay, you'll have to incorporate some of this at the beginning, or you'll have a very long wait. The hardest part of a woodland garden is in letting this mixture sit for at least a year or so. You can plant shade annuals in the area with additional helpings of nitrogen in the form of bloodmeal or slow-release nitrogen to offset the composting leaves and wood. The area should be kept moist during dry periods to hasten the composting process. During this time, you can peel back layers of organic material and see fine white threads running through. These are mycelia (fungal bodies), one of the most important components of a woodland garden. They will develop a symbiotic relationship with most of your woodland plants and help them survive extreme swings in weather conditions.

Once the soil has started to change, you can incorporate some of the tougher woodland plants. As you are planting, gently pry and knock most of the loose soil off the root ball, as it is unlikely to be compatible with your soil. If the roots have started to circle in the pots, you're going to have to be rather brutal. If the roots are tough and woody, you'll have to cut, or score, the root ball from top to bottom in several places around the root ball. If the roots are fibrous, simply rough it up on the surface of the root ball. Place into the hole no deeper than the surrounding soil and crumble soil into the hole around the edges. If it's a large plant, use the spade to settle the soil down into the hole; if it's a smaller plant, simply firm the soil with your hands. Water thoroughly—as in soaked—until water stands on top of the soil. Let it soak in and then come back and soak again. Move the composted bark and leaves back over the new root ball and settle well with another spray of water.

How long you have to pamper these plants depends on that kind you've planted. Herbaceous plants (those that die to the ground in winter) establish the quickest. Watering once or twice a week for 6–8 weeks will generally get them on their feet, except for extended periods of drought (and we all know about those!).

Woody plants require life support for longer periods, usually at least a year, to get established. An important point here is that the larger the woody plant, the longer it will take to establish. (Some large trees may take five or more years to establish.)

Take care to keep replenishing the chopped bark and leaves. As they decay, they will provide all the nourishment your plants will need. Unnecessary fertilizers will only cause weak, spindly growth that's more susceptible to disease and insect invasion. If you find your mulch turning into bark/leaf mold too quickly, it will cause some yellowing of foliage. The decaying organic matter is tying up nitrogen in the soil. This can be easily offset by the sparing application of bloodmeal. It also deters hungry rabbits (though it doesn't work on deer and gophers).

Recommended plants for woodland gardens in Oklahoma:

1. Trees

Chittamwood
Shumard oak

Bumelia lanuginosa
Quercus shumardii

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| Willow oak | <i>Quercus phellos</i> |
| Burr oak | <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> |
| Cottonwood | <i>Populus deltoides</i> |
| Hop hornbeam | <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> |
| Green ash | <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanicus</i> |
| Persimmon | <i>Diospyros virginicus</i> |
| Fringe tree | <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> |
| Hackberry | <i>Celtis spp.</i> |
| Pecan | <i>Carya illinoensis</i> |
| Chinquapin oak | <i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i> |
2. Large shrubs or small trees
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|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Yaupon holly | <i>Ilex vomitoria</i> |
| Buckeye | <i>Aesculus glabra, A. pavia</i> |
| American holly | <i>Ilex opaca</i> |
| Deciduous holly | <i>Ilex decidua</i> |
| Rough-leaf dogwood | <i>Cornus drummondii</i> |
| Pin cherry | |
| Redbud | <i>Cercis canadensis</i> |
| Sassafras | <i>Sassafras albidum</i> |
3. Small shrubs
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|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Oakleaf hydrangea | <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> |
| Buttonbush | <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> |
| American beautyberry | <i>Callicarpa americana</i> |
| Wahoo | <i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i> |
| White honeysuckle | <i>Lonicera alba</i> |
| Chokecherry | <i>Prunus virginiana</i> |
| Clove current | <i>Ribes aureum</i> |
| Carolina rose | <i>Rosa caroliniana</i> |
| Elderberry | <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> |
| Indian current | <i>Symphoricarpos orbiculata</i> |
| Black Haw | <i>Viburnum rufidulum</i> |
4. Herbs & Vines
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Alumroot | <i>Heuchera americana</i> |
| Wild ginger | <i>Asarum canadense</i> |
| Mayapple | <i>Podophyllum peltatum</i> |
| Wild sweet william | <i>Phlox spp.</i> |
| Cinnamon fern | <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> |
| Royal fern | <i>Osmunda regalis</i> |
| Christmas fern | <i>Polystichum acrostoides</i> |
| Wood fern | |
| Inland sea oats | <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> |
| Prairie rose | <i>Rosa foliolosa</i> |
| Bird's foot violet | <i>Viola pedata</i> |
| American bittersweet | <i>Celastrus scandens</i> |
| Coral honeysuckle | <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> |
| Pussytoes | <i>Antennaria parlinii</i> |
| Virginia creeper | <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> |
| Columbine | <i>Aquilegia canadense</i> |
| Jack-in-the-pulpit | <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> |
| White false indigo | <i>Baptisia leucophaea</i> |
| Wild hyacinth | <i>Camassia scilloides</i> |
| Spring beauty | <i>Claytonia virginica</i> |
| Rain lily | <i>Cooperia drummondii</i> |
| Standing cypress | <i>Ipomopsis rubra</i> |
| Blue flax | <i>Linum lewisii</i> |

Horsemint	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
False dragonhead	<i>Physostegia virginica</i>

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TRAVELS WITH THE ONPS PHOTO CONTEST POSTERS

Sue Amstutz

One of the benefits of being ONPS Photo Contest Poster Curator for Eastern Oklahoma is getting to visit our wonderful state parks where the posters are being displayed each year. My husband, Dale, and I make around a dozen trips each year delivering and retrieving poster sets from the Nature Centers.

We have met some charming, enthusiastic Naturalists: Kristi Silvey of Beaver's Bend; Lee Ann Rogers of Tenkiller; Mitch Arteberry of Robber's Cave; Les Pulliam, formerly of Sequoyah and now Manager of Okmulgee state Park; our ONPS member Sue Hughart, Fountainhead manager; and of course, Bob Jennings of Oxley Nature Center and his "sidekick" ONPS member Donna Horton.

We have hiked some gorgeous Oklahoma trails in search of wildflowers after delivering or retrieving posters, one of the added bonuses of our travels. Dale and I have dozens of slides of spring-blooming beauties we have discovered at Beaver's Bend among the tall pines of Southeast Oklahoma. We have located fascinating Lost Lake arid its beautiful stands of dogwood in full bloom at Robber's Cave. We have strolled the Savannah Trail at Fountainhead in late fall and been amazed at the number of berry-producing, trees and shrubs and golden grasses we see there. We have observed clouds of Monarch butterflies in migration enjoying the nectar of swampweed along the shores of Lake Fort Gibson at Seruoyah State Park. We have found the hiking at Wister and Robber's Cave among the rocky formatioi3challenging and lots of fun!

Our travels to the state parks with the ONPS posters have provided us numerous opportunities to add new plants to our "life list". Nearly every trip we make, even to parks visited before, allows us to locate something not seen there before. In the past year I have probably added two dozen new-to-me wildflowers to my journals, plants I might not have ever "met" were we not delivering or retrieving posters!

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habitat in sustaining so many unique living creatures, each dependent on the other, the mere images of which prepared the minds of the viewers for a good night's rest. After a period of questions/answers, the group expressed their appreciation to Carl for his time and providing the evening's program.

Devil's Canyon area located on private property near Quartz Mountain State Park, approximately 20 miles north of Altus was next days field trip lead by Pat Folley, Connie Taylor, and Jack Haley, retired curator of the Western History Collections at the University of Oklahoma library, who presented the history of the canyon.

Hikers were rewarded with scenic landscapes of granite hills and outcroppings that have erupted in stark angles from an otherwise mostly flat terrain and are visible from at least 20 miles distance. Earlier hints of seeing remains of early-day Spanish mining were dashed by the local historian who proclaimed that the rumors are only myth. Signs of the three-year drought in the area were ubiquitous from the small size of acorns on oaks, to dried-up prickly-pear cactus, to all big blue stem grass eaten to a stump by the cattle.

The afternoon trip was to the north side of Lake Altus (created by a dam on North Fork of Red River) and the little advertised sand dune area. Abundant blue-gray artemesia waved among other tall grasses along the winding road. Honey locust, cottonwood and soapberry are the dominant trees on this side of the lake. Again, the group split into two groups: the sand dunes with Pat Folley (selection of this writer) or the forested area with Connie Taylor. The walk from the parking area to the lake's shoreline was all sand, featuring several areas of large sand mounds with smoothly sculptured windblown patterns—perfect for photo-taking. Some of the plants seen were: helianthus, Western sunflower, *Chrysopsis pilosa* (golden aster), crisopsis, buckwheat, and Euphorbia (spurge) whose four glands imitate petals (which it does not have). From the point of the pre-drought lake's shoreline to the current water's edge must be near a quarter mile. Tire marks indicated sand buggies had used the dry shoreline area.

For the evening program, Steve Bieberich, co-owner with his wife Sherry of Sunshine Nursery in Clinton, Oklahoma, presented "Native Plants of Tibet," sharing his experiences during a month-long

botanizing trip to Tibet this summer as a part of the University of Nebraska Great Plains Plants Consortium He began by describing and illustrating with slides the geography and culture of the almost entirely mountainous country of elevations up to 17,000, between 12,000-13,000 feet. Perhaps sensing the imminent question on our minds as to specimens he might have brought back to Oklahoma and resulting success/failures, Bieberich did not keep us in suspense too long. Basically, Oklahoma's severe contrasting weather conditions proved to be too much even for the early promising species. Those that survived the drought, didn't make it through the early freeze. Tibet does not have the high degree of variance of temperatures between summer and winter, night and daytime.

Even in the grim reality of life in Tibet, the native plants offer a brief respite to wildlife and humans alike. Some of those pictured in the slides were: wild jasmine, clematis, fir and pine trees in the East, delphinium, roses with huge thorns, dogwoods, junipers, sedum, elderberry, salvia, medicinal Tibetan pokeberry.

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CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NE Chapter, Jim Elder

September 11, the NE chapter elected their new officers: Jim Elder as President, Ethel Brown as Secretary, and Elizabeth Medley as Assistant Secretary. Carol Eames spoke on "Backyard Wildlife" Charles Lewallen also gave a report on his attending the Oklahoma Academy of Science Meeting in Arkansas. The chapter had planned a Nov 11th field trip to Oxley Nature Center. Paul Buck will talk on "Copper Canyon" at the Dec. 4th meeting.

The NE Chapter will be starting a monthly happy hour ("botany hour") on the 3rd Friday of each month, with the next two scheduled for 5:30 PM on 11/17 and 12/15 at Mazzio's restaurant. Mazzios is located at the Farm Shopping Center, 51st and Sheridan in Tulsa. This will be an informal social meeting and will give a chance for members to get to know each other better. Please bring pictures, books, maps, and outing ideas to share.

Call or email Jim Elder at (918)747-0735 or jfeok@aol.com for further information

Central Chapter, Judy Jordan

Our last field trip of the year was on 23 September 2000 at Warren's Nursery in Midwest City. After a brief introduction, Preston Warren started his tour of the plants in the nursery, which had been in that location since about 1951.

The Oklahoma Redbud was discovered by Prof. J. C. McDaniels of Illinois State University in the Arbuckle Mountains. It's a hybrid of American Redbud and Texas Redbud, which both grow in the mountains. He went exploring in the spring and brought back several young plants in bloom and eventually introduced a plant with waxy leaves and good bloom. According to the Late J. C. Raulston, it's the best small flowering tree available. It's smaller than the American Redbud but grows further north than the Texas variety. It took 3-4 years to select. There are also the "Rubea Atkinson" and "Flame" varieties.

Ilex decidua "Warren's Red" was noticed in the landscaping of Will Rogers Park, OKC, with both red berries and foliage nicer than the species. Both male and female are needed for pollination. (At this point, Preston said that you have to look through a lot of catalogs to determine if your selection is already offered in the trade.)

Preston then pointed out a sweetgum selection that colors up earlier than any other variety, being daylight sensitive as well as temperature sensitive. It doesn't do well any further north because it doesn't show color before freezeup. (Preston also stated that most plants are better if not grafted to reproduce selections, but there is no other way to get some plants, such as the Oklahoma Redbud.)

Other trees observed and discussed include; in the Bignoniaceae, *Chilopsis linearis*, or desert willow, in white and burgundy forms and a 15 – 20 feet maximum height; crossvine, or *Bignonia capreolata*, trumpet creeper, *Campsis radicans*; Catalpa and Chitalpa, a cross between catalpa and chilopsis. Also, Bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*; beauty berry, *Callicarpa americana*; Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*; flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*, with leaves that scorch and curl in central Oklahoma, but whose flowers bloom anyway; Kentucky coffeetree, (*Gymnocladis dioica*, good for summer shade and winter sun; willow oak, *Quercus phellos*; tulip tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, named for its tulip-like flowers. Not native to Oklahoma and not very drought tolerant; red maple, *Acer*

rubra, some are very good selections – “October Glory” is one; Silver maple, *Acer saccharinum*; a hybrid of red and silver maples called “Autumn Blaze” that has good fall color, is fast growing, drought tolerant, and also wet tolerant. Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*; fringe tree, *Chionanthus virginicus*, from eastern Oklahoma but very hardy, gets to 15 feet tall, showy white blooms, a good understory tree completed the tour of trees. Additionally, he pointed out oakleaf hydrangea, *Hydrangea quercifolia*, a large shrub with good foliage even in drought; scarlet trumpet honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*, a native of southern Oklahoma; Virginia creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*.

We also saw native flowers of which selections are available, including Columbines, Asters, Coreopsis, Gaillardia, Gaura, including a variety called Siskiyou Pink, Hibiscus, Texas Star is native to Texas, Blue River II is a pure white hybrid of an eastern Oklahoma native; *Lantana camara*, native to Texas; *Oxalis violacea*, or wood sorrel, native to eastern 2/3 of Oklahoma, *Salvia greggii*, native to Texas in red, other colors are selections; dwarf goldenrod, and a Penstemon called “Husker Red”.

October 30, 2000. Our regular October meeting was held at the Kirkpatrick Horticultural Center with approximately thirty-five persons attending. The speaker was Steve Hill, who gave a slide presentation on the use of native plants in landscaping. He gave special attention to the recent landscape project at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, which he planned and implemented. Steve Hill has a landscape and design business in Norman. He does both residential and commercial work, and specializes in native plant and low maintenance type installations. He is currently also teaching a class at the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of Oklahoma. In his talk he stressed the qualities of such native plants as Smooth and Winged Sumac, Western Dogwood, Post Oak, Redbud, Bluestem grass, Indian grass, Buffalo grass, and other shrubs, trees, and grasses.

Officers for the coming year were elected. The Chairperson is Judy Jordan (321-1661); Vice-Chairpersons are Wayne and Susan Chambers (769-7917); Secretary is Maurita Nations (721-

4227). The officers welcome your suggestions for programs and field trips.

November 27, 2000. Nancy Fernandes will discuss on her natural native landscaped garden, and show slides. We will meet at the Kirkpatrick Horticultural Center at 7:30.

Cross-Timbers Chapter, Ron Tyrl

Despite the paucity of reports of its activities in The Gaillardia, the Cross-Timbers Chapter is thriving. Mailings are now sent to 80 members and interested individuals, and its members celebrated completion of their first year of activities in late November, with a potluck dinner at the home of Jeanette Sciara. Following an excellent dinner, Shane Feirer, conservation specialist with The Nature Conservancy, treated the group to an informative presentation on an ancient crosstimbers forest which overlooks Lake Keystone. The uniqueness of the 1,365-acre forest site is being protected by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in collaboration with The Conservancy. Shane's slides revealed both the beauty of the site and the striking appearance of *Quercus stellata* (post oak) and *Juniperus virginiana* (eastern red cedar), especially when they are 400-500 years old.

The November potluck was the chapter's second such gathering. In March, members also met at Jeanette's home for a brief walk in her fields, dinner, and a wonderful presentation on photographing wildflowers with a digital camera by Charles Lewallen whose work is quite familiar to ONPS members. A highlight of the dinner was Mike Palmer's wildflower salad comprising *Lactuca* (wild lettuce), flowers of *Cercis* (redbud) and *Lonicera* (trumpet honeysuckle), achenes of *Helianthus* (sunflower), and a *Monarda* (beebalm) dressing.

The chapter has also sponsored three field trips to sites near Stillwater, including the J.K. McPherson Botanical Reserve, the Dotter Prairie, and the OSU Cross-Country Prairie. Twenty-five to thirty individuals have attended each of these outings. For some, the trips were their first foray into the field to look at wildflowers up-close and personal. ONPS members enjoyed introducing the diversity of plants present.

In order to maintain the chapter's momentum, chapter officers and members have begun planning next year's activities. Again, a schedule complementing state-wide activities of ONPS is planned: January 13, 10:00 a.m., Field Trip; March 10, 6:30 p.m., Potluck dinner and presentation; June 2, 1:00 p.m., Field Trip; September 15, time 10:00 a.m., Field Trip; November 9, 6:30 p.m., Potluck dinner and presentation.

Members of the chapter are also awaiting the arrival of spring and the blooming of *Gaillardia pulchella* (Indian blanket), *Rudbeckia amplexicaulis* (clasping coneflower), *Aphanostephus skirrhobasis* (lazy daisy), *Coreopsis tinctoria* (plains tickseed), and *Ratibida columnifera* (prairie coneflower). The achenes of these species were planted in early November by Lori Stilling and coworkers of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. The junction of US Hwy 177 and the Stillwater Spur of the Cimarron Turnpike, north of Stillwater, was chosen by chapter members and Ron Tyrl as the planting site for seeds that Ron received as part of the Bess Snodgrass Award at last spring's Wildflower Workshop in Tahlequah.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS!

Sydona Baroff, Norman
 Ken & Karen Bell, Stillwater
 Ken & Theresa Bosma, Stillwater
 Amy Buthod, Norman
 Jeana & Mike Davis, Tulsa
 Chan Glidewel, El Reno
 Jean Hancher, Calera
 Robert & Mary Ann Heard, Oklahoma City
 Ron & Gloria Hoggard, Piedmont
 Mary Ann King, London, AR
 Carol Lester, Bethany
 Julia Linger, Moore
 Monica Macklin, Tahlequah
 Jane R. & Donald E. Menzie, Norman
 Lea Murray, Tulsa
 Steve Owens, Stillwater
 Carol Phelps, Broken Arrow
 Donna Scoggins, Sand Springs
 Dr. Barbara Shirley, Shawnee
 Manette Wiley, Shawnee

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