



The purpose of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society is to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma's native plants.

Volume 17, Number 3
Autumn 2002

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**COPY AND ART DEADLINE
FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 November 2002**

Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

CALENDAR

Note: the events dated below are identified by either a page number where the event is fuller described or the name of the contact person for that event.

- Sept. 7: Garden Gala at OKC Zoo, Page 9.
 Sept. 9: NE Chapter Meeting, Page 9.
 Sept. 10: Plant Conservation Day, Page 5.
 Sept. 13, 14: BioBlitz!, Page 3.
 Sept. 14: Central Chapter Lexington Wildlife Management Area Field Trip, Page 9.
 Sept. 14: C-T Field Trip in Search of Fall Wildflowers; meet in parking lot between Life Science East and Physical Science Buildings, OSU campus at 9 am.
 Contact Ron Tyrl, 405-744-9558, rjtyrl@okstate.edu
 Oct. 18-20: Annual Meeting at Camp Egan Retreat Center.
 Oct. 28: Central Chapter Meeting, Jim Erwin will present a slide show on the Pontotoc Ridge Preserve at 7 PM.
 Contact Susan Chambers, chamberstinroof@aol.com or (405) 769-7917.
 Nov. 15: C-T Chapter Meeting and Potluck Dinner; Life Science East Bldg, OSU campus at 6:30 pm. Contact Ron Tyrl, 405-744-9558, rjtyrl@okstate.edu

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

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ONPS THANKS THESE SPECIAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Harriet C. Barclay Fund

A. K. Phares

Leslie Cole-Jackson

Ruth Boyd, in memory of
Connie Southern, Connie Taylor's father

General Fund

John & Janet Slater

Make Every Home a Wildlife Habitat

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

This will be my last President's Paragraph. Sure wish I had some words of wonderful wisdom for each of you, but the only thing that comes to mind is: never forget to enjoy what you do. Work or play, if it is done grimly, from a sense of duty, will never satisfy, nor can your creative spirit come out to play. Yesterday fourteen of us toured two swampy sites in south-eastern Oklahoma looking for the August-blooming ground orchids. We found a few, got sweaty and hot and cobwebby, and had a wonderful time. It was a crew you'd take to a desert island with you. You can read about what we found under '2002 Orchid Tour' in the field trips section, but I cannot begin to tell you how the multiple conversations grew and shifted like a wind-blown prairie, nor about the cooperation and willingness that were evident on all sides. If you can walk a quarter-mile on uneven forest floor and are willing to get a bit hot (with air-conditioning breaks between sites), plan to join us next year. It's an experience never to be forgotten.

I've had a few responses to my plea for more support to the field trip leaders. Looks like there will be some, but we can always use more. Folks who're willing to take notes for the always-welcome reports of what was seen are needed on every tour. The guide cannot do that and keep track of the strayers and the pokers who wander far from the group. Everyone who comes out can be a spotter for pretty faces, and the debates on possible nomenclature are an education in themselves. We plan to do it for fun, with special t-shirts and occasional meetings. "Friends of Jim" seems to be playing well for a name.

Some of you come only to indoor, sit-down-and-listen meetings. Some come only to field trips, and of course, some never meet with us at all, but support the organization in other ways. We love you all. Stay-at-home members can watch the local newspapers and clip our publicity reports for the scrapbooks. Other printed notice given to ONPS members is welcome, too. And we do need gardeners who will nurture seedlings of their favorite plant friends to share. Someday, I hope we will secure a member with a greenhouse and equipment to start 'flats' of little plants. And speakers to the general public in everyone's hometown are in demand. We can supply program

material, slides and such if you have the time and are willing. And a talent that I've seen the Nature Conservancy use to great effect is *hospitality*. When you've traveled many miles to present a program at your own expense, it's really nice to be offered a room for the night or a meal. I know, because I remember lots of such occasions myself. All can be 'weed-watchers' who notice and report unusual or unusually attractive wild blooms.

Whatever you decide to do, decide to support the new president and his staff. They work for love, and merit it from you.

Pat Folley

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IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

Oklahoma Native Plant Record, Vol. 2 coming soon. See order form on Page 11.

NOMINEES FOR 2003 OFFICERS

To be voted on at Annual Meeting

President	Jim Elder
Vice-president	Connie Murray
Secretaries	Kim Shannon
	Tina Julich
Treasurer	Mary Korthase
Historian	Carla & Dale Chlouber

Directors at Large:

2003	Jake Reimer and Larry Magrath
2004	Paul Buck and Elfriede Miller*
2005	Kay Gafford* and Melynda Hickman*

*Nominees, see June board meeting, Page 8.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Last year the duties of the secretary were split into two roles; recording secretary and mail list maintenance. This was to help relieve the workload on the secretary. Currently Maurita Nations is the recording secretary and I, Tina Julich, am maintaining the mail list.

Along with this change, our membership list was imported into a more current database application. During the transition I might have missed making some address changes. I apologize if you have sent in a change of address or other information and it

wasn't handled immediately.

Also, you might have noticed that the mail labels look a bit different. The top line includes your membership type and your membership expiration date (Let me know if you would like to see your join date on the labels).

If you need to make any changes to your address or personal information, or would like to add your e-mail address to our database please send those changes to:

Tina Julich
e-mail: tjulich@hotmail.com
or snail-mail:
419 NW 19th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
Or phone:
(405) 650-0052

Here is a current count of the different types of active members for ONPS. Our ranks grow each month as people learn of our wonderful group. If you know of someone who would like to receive a complimentary issue of the Gaillardia, let me know and I'll add them to the list.

Member Type	Count
Media	1
Barkley Winner	2
Life-Family	5
Life-Individual	13
Student	13
Exchange	25
Complimentary	73
Family	122
Individual	243
Total	497

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### BioBlitz! 2002

BioBlitz! is a program directed by the Oklahoma Biological Survey (OBS) where they choose a site and inventory it in a 24 hour period for flora and fauna.

Last year the site was Sutton Park in Norman and several members participated. At the June Board Meeting, ONPS approved sponsorship for the 2002 BioBlitz!

This year the site is the Broken Bow Wildlife Management Area. The 24 hour period will be from 3 PM, Friday until 3 PM, Saturday, September 13 and 14. There is a need for

knowledgeable individuals to perform the inventory.

The general public is invited to witness the inventory. For more information see [www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitz.html](http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitz.html) and you can register there as a volunteer. For more details contact OBS analyst Ian Butler at [ibutler@ou.edu](mailto:ibutler@ou.edu) or 405-325-7599.

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CULPEPPER PATCH

Betty Culpepper
from Friday, Aug. 2, 2002 issue of The Norman Transcript
by permission from The Norman Transcript

John Deere, a blacksmith, marketed the steel breaking plow in 1837, the first plow that was able to rip into the fabric of the rich North American prairies. Before the invention of this "sod buster," the pioneers of the prairie hardly made a dent in the ecosystem of the vast grasslands. Before 1837, it might take a family months to turn an acre of grassland into cropland. With the new invention, the same work might be accomplished by a man or boy walking behind a team of horses or mules, in a day or less.

Now that we've come near to destroying it, suddenly we look back with longing, seeing in the prairie's demise, a fading of our own dreams of youth and freedom and hope. Perhaps it's not too late to stitch together the remnants of what is left.

I seem to note a resurgence of interest in the prairie ecosystems along with an interest in the use of prairie plants to attract native birds, butterflies and beneficial insects to urban landscapes. (Note the city of Norman's plans for a Green Belt.) This awakening awareness of the wealth within the prairies is due in part to the efforts of universities, the media, certain seed-savers organizations, nurseries and greenhouses, public and private organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma Native Plant Society, Oklahoma Biological Survey and Registry, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Management and many more.

Universities especially are playing a pivotal role in the resurgence of interest in native prairie plants. Recently, I had the good fortune to speak with Deborah Dalton, Professor of Landscape

Architecture, in the School of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma.

Prof. Dalton has been gardening at her present address for about eight years. She stressed her interest in the use of native plants that will prosper locally without a lot of hands-on care. It was indeed clear to me that she not only talks the talk, she practices what she teaches.

Beyond the well-ordered patio and attractive inner garden composed of a blend of indigenous plants and cultivars that frames her home, grows a young meadow. This is her place to spy out the individual life and inter-relatedness of prairie wildflowers, grasses and trees: how they change over the seasons and over the years. Also, it stands as a hands-on teaching tool for students to learn about our native wildflowers, weeds, grasses, vines, shrubs and trees. It's meant to represent a miniature Cross-timbers and prairie ecosystem.

Prof. Dalton spoke to me of an interest in experimenting with low-maintenance plants indigenous to this region that might be used to augment and/or replace high-maintenance cultivars in the landscape. Lead plant, a shrub with gray leaflets and bluish-orchid flower spikes, she suggested, might be used as an alternative to buddleia, a.k.a. butterfly bush. Just a few plants of the prairie that could go into local landscapes. Most of these you'll find growing in Prof. Dalton's yard or meadow: coneflowers *Echinacea pallida*, *E. augustifolia*, *E. paradoxa* *E. tenesensis*, Mexican hat *Ratibida columnifera*, *Rudbeckia grandiflora* large-leaved coneflower; beardstongue *Penstemon grandiflora*, *P. cobaea*; yellow baptisia *B. sphaerocarpa* or golden wild indigo; yellow baptisia *B. sphaerocarpa*; iron weed *Veronica baldwinii*; prairie phlox *Phlox pilosa*; blue vervain *Verbena hastata*; Indian blanket *Gaillardia pulchella* and many more.

Oklahoma has some terrific native grasses that would look great in area yards. Prairie grasses as they progress through the seasons, show many faces: tender green shoots in early spring, multiple shades of greens and blues at maturity, outrageously rich russets and bronzes of fall and winter. Some of my favorites are Little bluestem, Indian grass, Switch grass, prairie dropseed and most likely a dozen others as I get to know them.

Once native plants and seed were hard to come by. More and more, greenhouses, nurseries and seed

companies are handling plants native to a region. In Oklahoma, we have two excellent choices, Clear Creek Farm and Gardens, P.O. Box 89, Peggs, OK 74452, e-mail ccreek@chouteautel.com which features indigenous wildflowers, trees and shrubs and Sunshine Nursery & Arboretum, RR 1 Box 4030, Clinton, OK 73601, e-mail www.sunshinenursery.com. Prof. Dalton also suggested two other dependable sources for native flora: Niche Gardens, mail@nichegardens.com, phone (919) 967-0078 and Tall Grass Prairie catalog, (800) 476-9453, www.prairienursery.com.

Wildflower prairies had withstood virtually unchanged over eons until a few centuries ago. Prairies, however, cannot prevail over the abuse of plow, cow and mower. We're fortunate to have such a shining example of tall-grass prairie, 32,000 acres, nearby.

I quote from information in The Tall Grass Prairie, a Nature Conservancy Book. "Fire and bison are being used to recreate a functioning tall-grass prairie ecosystem. The preserve includes self-guided nature trails, a 50-mile scenic drive on gravel roads, and free-ranging cattle and bison." In Pawhuska, go north on Osage Avenue and follow signs to the preserve. Owner of the preserve is The Nature Conservancy. Contact (918) 287-4803.

Gardeners can have a role in saving prairie forbs (wildflowers, weeds and other broad-leaved plants) and grasses by learning more about them, especially how to use them to advantage in the landscape at home and elsewhere.

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## BOOK REVIEW

Chad Cox

Wild Mushrooms Worth Knowing  
Ansel Hartley Stubbs  
The Lowell Press, Kansas City, MO

After a filling of partially composted, ground up yard trash from Norman's compost center in low spots in the backyard last year, a plentiful spread of mushrooms (*Agaricus campestris*, kissing cousin to the common grocery store mushroom) covered the area this spring. My first selection for identifying these mushrooms from my four guides was "Wild Mushrooms Worth Knowing". Why? This is the book that started me eating gilled mushrooms. Before that, my mushroom diet was

morels, boletes, puffballs, polypores and corals. Gilled mushrooms were intimidating as presented by other guides. Stubb's book exudes confidence in selecting edible mushrooms. Part of the success of the book derives from being specific to Central Midwest. Another reason is his non technical descriptions of how to recognize edible species. But he also expresses an enthusiasm that is missing in most guides. He includes specific information to preparing mushrooms as well. My favorite mushroom is the pine bolete. He states that you should discard the stem and peel the membrane from the cap before sautéing. I would have left that membrane on the cap and somewhat spoiled the meal. The reasons that I like the book are the stated main purposes for its being published: specific to the area, limited in scope and technicalities, generate interest in the gourmet aspects, and "to dispel an *unreasonable* fear of wild mushrooms".

Seemed appropriate to review this book given that we now have a mycology chapter. My copy is a third printing from 1980. Unfortunately, it is now out of print and the lowest priced used copy on line is \$47 for what cost \$8 originally.

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All You Wanted To Know About The Commonly Encountered Plants of Oklahoma, But Were Afraid To Ask

Ron Tyrl

ONPS members Ron Tyrl and Terry Bidwell are impatiently awaiting printing of their recently completed *Field Guide to Oklahoma Plants: Commonly Encountered Prairie, Shrubland, and Forest Species*. Coauthored with Ron Masters, now Director of Research at the Tall Timbers Research Station in Florida, their book comprises synopses of 203 species. Each synopsis includes information about the taxon's (1) morphology, (2) taxonomy and nomenclature, (3) geographic distribution, (4) ecology, and (5) economic and/or wildlife significance. A full-page illustration by noted botanical artist Bellamy Parks Jansen accompanies each synopsis. Also included are two chapters that give an overview of the vegetation of Oklahoma and contributing ecogeographical factors. An illustrated glossary of the common botanical and ecological terms used to describe the taxa and vegetation demystifies the terminology

used in the morphological and ecological descriptions.

As the title of the book implies, the objective of the authors was to write a guide that facilitates the identification of commonly encountered, ecologically distinctive, or biologically/economically important plants. They envision the book's users to be anyone interested in the plants of Oklahoma, whether students, scientists, or individuals who simply enjoy the beauty of the state's plants.

Compilation of the information contained in the book began in the early 1970s. At that time, Ron and the late Jim McPherson, a plant ecologist and ONPS member, began to present taxonomic and ecological material in their team-taught field botany course. In the late 1980s, Terry and Masters independently presented rangeland and wildlife information via short courses, workshops, extension publications, and public presentations throughout the state. The three authors were encouraged to formalize their information and *Field Guide* is the result. Completion of printing in early September is anticipated, and the authors plan to bring copies to the ONPS annual meeting in October. The Guide's cost will be \$25.

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#### PLANT CONSERVATION DAY

Join the Tulsa Zoo in celebrating the diversity and importance of the plant kingdom at Plant Conservation Day, September 7, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (with break for lunch). Helmerich Discovery Center, Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum, 5701 E. 36th Street North

##### Schedule of Presentations:

- 10:00 a.m. – Welcome
- 10:15 a.m. – Johnson Bridgwater, Oklahoma Plant Conservation Alliance
- 11:00 a.m. – Victoria Gonzalez, Sanctuary Water Gardens
- 11:45 a.m. – Dr. Mike Palmer, Oklahoma State University Botany Dept.
- 12:30 p.m. – Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. – Dr. Bruce Hoagland, Oklahoma Biological Survey
- 2:15 p.m. – Dr. Rahmona Thompson, East Central University
- 3:00 p.m. – David Stahle, Ancient Cross Timbers Consortium

This informal symposium is intended to provide a forum for individuals interested in the conservation and preservation of our natural world and specifically its botanical elements. Listen, learn, and discuss issues and ideas on the diversity and importance of plants to our environment and gain a greater appreciation and knowledge of how to preserve and protect them for the future.

Admission - Free with regular Zoo admission  
(Adults -\$6, Children - \$3) For more information,  
Contact Jay Ross at 669-6215 or  
jross@ci.tulsa.ok.us

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TAGS TO FLOWERS

Pearl Garrison

A group of people interested in seeing planting of wildflowers along rights-of-way are hoping to establish a 501 3c non-profit organization. The group's mission statement: To preserve and plant wildflowers and native plants in Oklahoma. To promote Oklahoma's wildflower heritage through education. They would like to increase their membership. For more information or to help with the project, please contact Pearl Garrison at (918) 587-4624 after 6 pm. weekdays or at jjpmgarrison@hotmail.com.

To raise the funds for these plantings, the Legislature next year will be asked to establish a special vehicle license tag. The tags would have a colorful design and would cost \$25 above the price of a normal tag. \$23 of the \$25 would go to a nonprofit fund and the remaining \$2 would go to the Oklahoma Tax Commission as a processing fee. We haven't figured the percentages yet but we propose to hold around \$5 of each purchase in reserve for lean years. Except for a small amount we will use for promotions (paper, phone calls, postage, stationary), the balance will be used to buy seeds for wildflowers and other native plants. The group will purchase the seeds and send them to the Beautification Office of Oklahoma Department of Transportation who will do the sowings.

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## GOD ALSO RECYCLES

Sheila Strawn

One of the sections of the World Methodist Social Affirmation we read last Sunday addressed a need for Christians to use the earth's resources responsibly. Having helped several families move during the last year & the preacher twice, I am

reminded of how affluent we Americans are. We are blind to the way we use our wealth to abuse those resources. We buy more than we need or we buy products that are wastefully produced. If you are saving cardboard boxes, plastic boxes or containers, hangers, newspapers, books, magazines, old eyeglasses or if you are stockpiling things to use in the future-USE THEM. Otherwise, let someone else get them back into the "human-use cycle" Take them where they can meet the needs of others who need them. Midwest City has a recycle center on the SW corner of Douglas and S.E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street that takes: newsprint, cardboard, aluminum, clear plastic, & glass. Check with your local community officials, they may be persuaded to offer similar services. Am-Vets, Council for the Blind, and the Salvation Army take working appliances and household items. Albertson's recycles their own plastic bags. Perhaps your church has a mission to supply used clothing to the community closet.

Reuse produce bags for sandwich bags & tie the tops instead of buying so many zip-lock bags. Compost food scraps for the garden so you can reduce the amount of chemical fertilized you put in your yard (that washes down into the sewer). Turn over used printer paper & use the backs. Refill your printer cartridges with a refill kit, but if you can't, you can mail empty ones to a recycler in a cartridge recycling sack you can get in Office Depot.

If you can't take it with you, what do you want to happen after you pass on? Either someone will have to haul it all to the dump, or they'll have to sort through ALL of it. If you don't want to be a burden on those who have to "sort out" your good stuff from your refuse, sort it out as you get it. Reduce what you use, reuse what you buy, and recycle what's not used up. It's like life. We try to reduce the number of sins we make. We reuse lemons to make lemonade out of those sins we can't help. And we ask God to recycle us when we need forgiveness for those that are too awful to fix. The less land area we use for dumps, the more land area native plants have to live.

*Editor's note: Please, when recycling observe what the bins are for. Norman recycles plastics 1 & 2 together but often people put other plastics in the bin that can not be recycle with them. Iron cans, attracted to magnets, that look like aluminum are often in the aluminum can bin. Styrofoam is sometimes left in boxes to be recycled as cardboard. These abuses can lead to curtailment of recycling.*

## OKLAHOMA INVASIVE PLANTS

Chad Cox

Paul Buck, Pat Folley, Larry Magrath, Ron Tyrl, Susan Barber and Rahmona Thompson at a Flora of Oklahoma meeting considered my question of what they would consider were the most invasive plants in Oklahoma. Their list follows but not by rank of seriousness. Connie Taylor also sent a list duplicating many on their list but adding the privet hedges.

*Lespedeza cuneata*, Japanese lespedeza (number one choice)

*Lonicera japonica*, Japanese honeysuckle

*Sorghum halapense*, Johnson Grass

*Cynodon dactylon*, Bermuda grass (primarily Pat Folley's suggestion)

*Bothriochloa ischaemum* (Segregated from *Andropogon*), Yellow or King Ranch Bluestem. (primarily Ron Tyrl's suggestion)

*Lythrum salicaria*, Purple Loosestrife. Recently found in Oklahoma but a serious problem in other states.

*Bromus secalinus*, Cheat Grass (probably other nonnative relatives as well)

*Carduus nutans*, Musk thistle

*Tamarix chinensis*, Salt cedar

*Juniperus virginiana*, Eastern Redcedar (Native but noxious plant under current agricultural practice.)

*Ligustrums* (Privet hedges)

As far as the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture is concerned, the worst noxious weeds are *Carduus nutans*, musk thistle and *Convolvulus arvensis*, field bindweed. By Oklahoma law landowners are required to eradicate musk thistle (*Carduus nutans* L.), Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium* L.), and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). The Legislature finds that these thistles are a public nuisance in all counties across this state.

Paul suggested *Centaurea repens*, Spotted Knapweed, since it is such a problem across the country but Ron said that was not the case in Oklahoma. *C. solstitialis*, according to Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas, has spread rapidly there and they are concerned that it could become a problem. The Taylors report it here as well.

I thought this would be an easy project but was wrong. As Connie points out there are lots of invaders, but those that can invade a natural ecosystem and displace climax species are the most serious. Further, a lot of lawn weeds or bare ground invaders simply live where we humans have already displaced native stuff. Given that as a definition, Bermuda grass might fit this latter class

but I see it spreading wherever mowing persists and marshy areas with no mowing. Perhaps this is the reason that field bindweed failed to be on our list but is considered a top one for Oklahoma farmers where this weed interferes with grain harvesting.

Oklahoma has adapted the US Department of Agriculture's prohibited noxious aquatic plants as those not allowed here under penalties. There are others that are not prohibited currently but under species watch (with investigation possibly to be banned). The list includes *Salvinas* and our listed purple loosestrife.

Marilyn Native Plant Society sponsors "weed warriors", volunteers that remove invasives from public lands. Very likely, other native plant groups do as well. Our society might consider this as a project to undertake. Every member of the society can probably name several sites that could use a platoon of these warriors.

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JUNE 2002 BOARD MEETING

Pat Folley

Brief Summary of the Minutes:

The ONPS Board assembled in the Tulsa Garden Center at 10 a.m. Treasurer Mary Korthase reported that income was significantly down compared with last year. Steps taken to improve timeliness of notifications to delinquent dues are hoped to correct that problem.

Jim Elder reported on activities of the NE chapter. They are working on an education committee to provide more support to speakers in the community. Field trips were made to the Lake Keystone Crosstimbers, Washington Irving Museum, the Wichita Mountains, Pontotoc Ridge Preserve and a local native plant garden.

Central chapter chair Susan Chambers reported on two lecture meetings and field trips to a prairie and a wetlands nursery. Crosstimbers chapter chair Ron Tyrl was away teaching summer school, but mailed a report on the potluck dinner and lecture on herbal plants and a field trip to Pontotoc Ridge. Plans for all the chapters are on-going. There are prospects for a south-central chapter near Madill and a specialty group interested in fungi.

The Annual Meeting site at Camp Egan in Tablequah was approved. Dates are October 18-20. A commitment form is included in this newsletter. Charles Lewallen announced plans for the Orchid tour. Sheila Strawn and Chad Cox and their spouses had toured a nature center built by

the Iowa tribe near Perkins that proved interesting.

Nominations are still needed for the Anne Long award. They should be sent to Paul and Bebe Reimer. Paul and Sue Amstutz brought some of the past contest posters for display. The current year's collection will be on display at the Photography Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City until August. Sue described the detailed database she is building on the photographs.

Wildflower Workshop chair Larry Magrath was absent, and Chad Cox made his report on the workshop, held in Alva in May. ONPS member and field-trip leader Paul Nighswonger won the annual Bess Snodgrass Award.

Acting on a member's complaint that collecting plants on guided tours gives a bad impression about our dedication to conservation, we voted to include a notice on all future field-trip announcements that no collecting or picking is allowed.

Susan Chambers reports that \$400 in ONPS-logo merchandise was sold at the Wildflower Workshop. Ruth Boyd asked again for timely reports to her so that publicity releases can be sent to area newspapers.

Copies of the By-Laws were distributed so that all could see the corrections that need to be made. Paula Shryock offered to enter those.

Paula Shryock presented the following list of nominations for officers to be elected at the Annual Meeting in October:

President	Jim Elder
Vice President	Connie Murray
Secretary	Kim Shannon and Tina Julich
Treasurer	Mary Korthase
Historian	Carla and Dale Chlouber
Director-at-large:	

Kay Gafford (replaces Sue Amstutz)
Melynda Hickman replaces Jim Elder
Elfriede Miller replaces Connie Murray

Several possible sites for the 2003 Indoor Outing were discussed. This selection should be completed by the end of October.

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2002 ORCHID TOUR

Pat Folley

Fourteen nice people showed up at Raymond Gary State Park on Saturday, the 10th of August, 2002. They were:

Charles Lewallen (Leader), Jim Elder, Connie Taylor, Betty Culpepper, Connie Murray, Clare Miller, Patricia Folley, Marcy Robinowitz and Guests, Curtis Northrop, Jennifer McNamara, Dana Simon, Beverly Wissen, Jon Denton, and Diana Denton.

First stop: floodplain forest at edge of Schooler Lake. It was very hot and sultry, but we rolled and tucked our jeans into our socks, sprayed liberally with insect repellent, and plunged in. Everyone saw the big, beautiful orange "yellow fringed orchid", whose proper name is *Platanthera ciliaris*. There were quite a few plants, and the habitat looked better than it has in four years, but we were unable to find the *Bartonia paniculata*, which some of us had learned to look for through the years. Lots of big, healthy ferns: we wished for the aid and presence of Bruce Smith, but refused to guess. Several patches of *Polypodium polypodioides*, *Chasmanthium laxum*, a scapose *Desmodium*, butterfly pea, *Clitoria mariana*, *Vernonia virginiana*, *Commelina erecta* and *Elephantopus*. A big old tree that fell about 6 years ago is now covered with turkeytail fungus: *Coriolus versicolor*. (We wished for the presence of Clark Ovrebo, too) Along the roadside as we entered were *Diodia teres*, *Helenium amarum*, *Cassia fasciculata*, and *Lechea mucronata* (in fruit), and *Chrysopsis pilosa*. We looked carefully for the big spider-lily plant from August 2000, but found none.

Hot and thirsty, we gladly climbed back into our cars and headed for Battiest. Air conditioning is never so appreciated as on orchid-tour day! We stopped for a 'tailgate' lunch at the store in Bethel, where the kind proprietors allowed us to visit the restroom and take shelter on their big front porch when we were suddenly treated to a drenching downpour. Ah, then: Battiest. It is hard to believe that so much that is rare and wonderful sits on a tiny unprotected triangle of land. Again with the repellent, and we plunged in. Now the air temperature was in the 70's, though still humid. Charles quickly found a stand of crane-fly orchids; *Tipularia discolor*, and some three-birds orchids, *Triphora trianthophora*, too, but those were all closed. We finally decided that they were waiting for sunshine or more heat. Along the way, we saw in bloom more *Chasmanthium laxum*, budding *Tridacenum tubulosum*, a pink-flowering St. John's Wort, and some big, beautiful mushrooms, including the unearthly-beautiful *Sparassis crispa*,

and more turkeytail. Twin flower, *Mitchellia repens*, sported a few red berries. Finally, in a clearing no more than ten feet across, we found three stems of the rarely-seen pale-green orchid, *Platanthera flava*. One was in full bloom.

On the way back to the road, we stopped at a bar-ditch to examine *Rhexia mariana* blooming pink and white in a tangle of vines and sedges.

What is it about the orchid tour that brings us back to such uncomfortable surroundings year after year? The orchids, of course, visible at no other season, but also the companion-ship of friends who understand our fellow-feeling for the little green fellows which eke out a precarious living in these neglected corners. Thanks to Charles Lewallen for a splendid preparation (he came down a day early to scout) and leadership.

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CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

ONPS Central Chapter Report Fall 02
Susan Chambers

June 23 Sanctuary Water Gardens

Several people resisted the lure of the air-conditioner on a hot Sunday afternoon for a visit to Sanctuary Water Gardens. Victoria Gonzales has created a beautiful retreat of several natural and lined ponds planted with mostly native and some exotic water plants. Her unusual underground home sits on the same property and looks out over the largest of the water gardens. The growing/sales houses are inside Quonset style greenhouses and offer several species of plants as well as koi and several kinds of goldfish. Ms. Gonzales is in the middle of trying to repair damage from sedimentation from recent road construction, but the landscape was beautiful, nonetheless.

July 27 Chambers Garden Tour and Wildflower Meadow

An early morning, midsummer garden and wildflower tour was held at the acreage of Wayne and Susan Chambers, in Midwest City. The gardens encompass about 1 acre, and the 'wildscape' is about 1 3/4 acre, with the remaining 1/4 acre holding the house, barn and assorted brush piles and driveway. The garden and certified wildscape have been under construction and

maintenance for 18 years (does it ever really end?). Several people brought brown bag lunches that were shared under the oak tree by the house, after a 2 1/2 hour tour.

August 1 Central Oklahoma Water Garden Society, Inc.

Susan Chambers spoke at a meeting of the Central Oklahoma Water Garden Society, Inc.; the title of the program was 'Gardening with Natives Around the Water Garden'.

August 17 Sunshine Nursery

The central chapter has planned a field trip to Sunshine Nursery and Arboretum, beginning at 9 a.m., Saturday morning. We will meet in the nursery parking lot and go on a guided tour of the arboretum, growing houses, sales houses and display gardens. Steve and Sherry Bieberich have supported the use of native plants in the landscape for many years, and continue to bring more species into the nursery trade.

September 7 Garden Gala

We're also going to have a booth at the zoo for the Garden Gala, a garden oriented vendor and charitable organization event. We'll be there from 10 to 3, with promotional literature and merchandise.

September 14 Prairie Grasses at the Lexington

The plan is for the central chapter to meet at the Lexington Wildlife Refuge south of Norman at 9 a.m. on Saturday, the 14th. Pat Folley will lead a field trip through the refuge, helping hikers identify the various prairie grasses and goldenrod. More details in the postcard mail-out.

Northeast Chapter Jim Elder

The next meeting of the NE Chapter will be September 9th. Ron Tyrl will present a program on grasses entitled *An Intimate Affair*. The meeting will start with our usual potluck dinner followed by a short business meeting.

There have not been many outings this summer because of the hot weather and summer vacations. A few members did have an outing to the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. The area is beginning to change and the plant diversity was impressive especially to those of us who have been observing this area for the last 10-12 years. Several chapter

members recently attended Charles Lewallen's orchid trip to southeastern Oklahoma. This was a wet trip, both from the humidity and the occasional welcomed rain showers. The Yellow Fringed Orchids were magnificent.

We are planning another outing to the Tall Grass Prairie and Western Wall area for September 7th. This will be a combination botany and astronomy outing. After touring the Prairie, Charles Lewallen will return to the Western Wall area and set up his telescope. This will be an all night event since the best viewing of the stars and constellations are not until early morning. So, bring your sleeping bags.

Our last meeting of the year will be in December when Bruce Smith will present a program on ferns.

Cross Timbers Chapter
Ron Tyrl

Approximately 30 members of the chapter and their guests met on Friday, March 15th for a potluck dinner in the general botany lab on the OSU campus. As has been traditional, a diversity of excellent food was enjoyed by all. Following dinner, Joleen Stone, ONPS member and owner of Stonebridge Garden Center in Claremore gave a hands-on presentation on herb plants. Re-election of the current officers also occurred—Ron Tyrl, chair; Olen Thomas, vice-chair; and Carolyn Gonzales, secretary-treasurer.

On Saturday, April 27th, 16 chapter members traveled to TNC's Pontotoc Ridge Preserve to view spring wildflowers. We were joined by Charles Lewallen, other ONPS members, and four wildflower enthusiasts from Texas. The stormy weather ended as we began botanizing the ridge and our foray was quite pleasant. Despite the cool spring and subsequent slowing of plant growth, we saw an abundance of wildflowers and thus the 4.5

hours of travel time were considered worthwhile. *Dodecatheon meadia*, shooting star, was especially abundant, and as always, a special treat to behold. A special thanks to Bruce Smith, who led an afternoon walk for latecomers.

On Saturday, September 14th, chapter members will assemble at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot between the Life Science East and Physical Science buildings on the OSU campus to take a local field trip in search of fall wildflowers. Contact chapter officers for additional details.

On Friday evening, November 15th, the chapter will host its traditional fall potluck dinner and presentation. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Room 110 in the Life Science East building on the OSU campus. Contact chapter officers for additional details.

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
Welcomes These New Members

Belatedly, Betty Kaelin, Calumet
Ardmore Beautification Council, Ardmore
Earl and Jeannie Brewer, Tishomingo
Deb and Ben Davis, Luther
Shari Dunn, Luther
Rick Gardner, Tulsa
May Harsharger, Cashion
Jeri and Roger Hensley, Chelsea
Dale W. and Rosie O. Jacobs, Okmulgee
Gregg Kennedy, Oklahoma City
Tom and Carol McCreary, Oklahoma City
Kara McKee, Norman
Amy E. Morris, Tulsa
Pearl Pearson, Oklahoma City
A. K. Phares, Yukon
Shawn L. Shirley, Braman
Gerald Wynes, Ponca City

"There is no need for me to set forth to the multitude the pleasure and delight afforded by a knowledge of plants, since there is none but knows there is nothing in this life more pleasant and delightful than to wander through the woods and over mountains and fields wreathed and adorned with a variety of the choicest flowers and herbs, and to gaze on them attentively. This enjoyment and pleasure is in no small degree enhanced by a knowledge of their properties and powers: for real understanding doubles the charm and delight of vision."

'Dedicatory Epistle'

Leonhart Fuchs, German Herbalist (1501-1566)

Suggested by Paul Buck

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
Announces the publication of its second annual journal

Oklahoma Native Plant Record
Volume II Number 1, December 1, 2002

The 2002 issue is being offered to members, non-members, libraries, colleges, and universities at a subscription rate of \$7.50. It is also available in electronic format (CD) at \$3.00. Rates include shipping and handling. If you would like to receive the journal please return the lower half of this notice with your payment.

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The Gaillardia

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