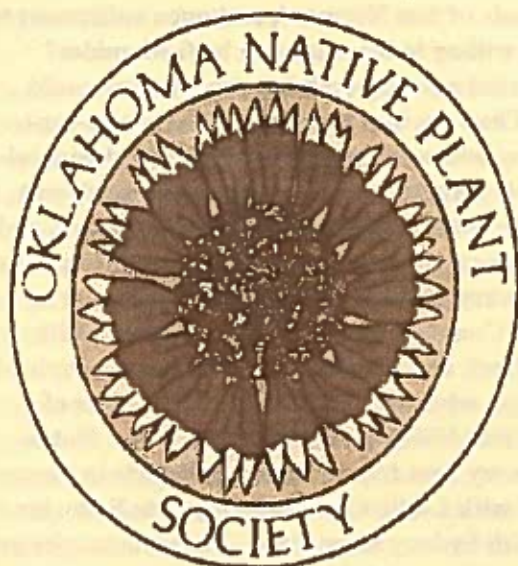




The purpose of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society is to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma's native plants.

Volume 17, Number 2
Summer 2002

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Email: onps@www.usao.edu

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FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 August 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.

August 10: Orchid Field Trip, meet at Raymond Gary State Park at 10 am. Contact Charles Lewallen, (918) 652-3003, granylil@mail.mmind.net

Oct. 18-20: Annual Meeting at Camp Egan Retreat Center.

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 Barclay Fund
Mary Harriet Korthase
in Memory of James D. Cole, Cushing OK
Davida E. Phillips

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Last chance to reserve your free copy of the Premier Issue of ONPS Journal; send request to ONPS address. Next Gaillardia issue will give price and instructions for the next issue of ONPS Journal.

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The 'control of nature' is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that nature exists for the convenience of man. The concepts and practices of applied entomology for the most part date from that Stone Age of science. It is our alarming misfortune that so primitive a science has armed itself with the most modern and terrible weapons, and that in turning them against the insects it has also turned them against the earth.

Conclusion, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

Ah, spring in Oklahoma! For the first time in my life, I am 'enjoying' spring without hay fever. Unfortunately, that is because I am spending it indoors, while recuperating from a total knee replacement. Fortunately, I am recovering about as fast as possible, and with no accidents, expect to be back in circulation by the end of May. Spring field trips, though, are not to be hoped for.

The Wildflower Workshop will be over before you get this message. I hope many of you attended and enjoyed the wonderful wildflowers of the dune country. Dr. Paul Nighswonger has led several field trips for us in past years, one of which was seriously hampered by flooding: not a problem this year! The variety and color shown by those dry-sand survivors is simply amazing. I especially enjoy the pink *Palafoxia*, so different from the daisy-like flowers of central and eastern Oklahoma.

But the advent of Workshop season has brought to our attention a real problem for the ONPS: our once-indefatigable corps of field trip leaders is growing older, and few younger leaders have come forth. Jim Norman, especially, is missed on every eastern-tier trip, and Paul Buck is limited by his own knee problems. Here in central Oklahoma, we have lost Larry Magrath, temporarily perhaps, to ill health. Connie Taylor is enjoying retirement and not always available, and Ron Tyrl, still teaching, can't do it all.

So, I thank Goodness for Charles Lewallen, Susan Chambers, and a few more who will lead when asked. They are all busy people, just like you. They also do not know all the answers, but are willing to share what they know and what they can find out. If you are familiar with the McCoy wildflower guides, you know enough to co-lead a field trip. If you have been attending our guided tours for several years, you know where to go. If 'amateur' standing were a deterrent to volunteering, I would never have become a field trip leader, either. But I can honestly tell you that some of the best experiences in a long and interesting life have come to me on ONPS hikes into wild and nearly-wild sites.

Wonder how it would work if we started a volunteer guide corps within the ONPS, maybe call

it 'Friends of Jim Norman', and open enlistment to anyone willing to learn how to be field guides? Think what a dandy training program we could have! The very best tours are those of one-car-pool size, where we are scouting for good general-access sites and have lots of leeway for exploring. I remember one with Jim Norman, Nora Jones, and others about 10 years ago, when we confirmed the re-discovery of the Kentucky Ladies' Slipper in LeFlore County. And then, there was one with Berlin Heck and Charles Lewallen just a couple of years ago, when we prowled the back roads of Little River NWR south of Broken Bow. Not to mention my first trip to Manning Prairie in Payne County with Leslie Cole-Jackson, or to Schooler Lake with Sydney Carpenter. Those memories are among my dearest-held.

Start your own treasury of best places and best field visits, and join us as we attempt to re-discover some of the great places and great plants of Oklahoma.

Pat Folley
President, ONPS

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Business Meeting and outings will be held in the beautiful Camp Eagan Retreat Center in Cherokee County, east of Tahlequah. The Oklahoma Ozarks site is nicely balanced between comfort and natural, and we will have two spacious dorms with a meeting room. Prices are modest, and they will prepare and serve all meals on Saturday and Sunday breakfast. We don't even have to clean up!!

We expect to be able to tour The Nature Conservancy's new preserve nearby on Saturday. Be sure to mark the dates: 18-20 October 2002 on your calendar now. There will be an application form to return in the Autumn Gaillardia.

ONPS AWARDS

Every so often we need to describe our awards for the benefit of our newer members and a review has been requested.

HARRIET G. BARCLAY AWARD

Harriet G. Barclay Awards are given at the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science to outstanding presentations related to botany by a Senior High student and a Junior High (middle school) student. The award is named after Dr. Harriet G. Barclay, one of the driving forces in the formation of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society and a highly recognized academician.

Harriet obtained her Ph.D. in 1928 from the University of Chicago under the direction of the pioneer ecologist Dr. Henry C. Cowles. While there, she met and married Bertram Donald (Don) Barclay and then they took positions at the University of Tulsa. In 1953 Don was killed in an automobile accident and Harriet assumed his position as Chair of the Botany Department with full time teaching responsibilities, the latter of which she held until her retirement in 1972. Actually, that retirement was just from the University of Tulsa as she continued teaching at North Carolina State University during the academic year and at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station and Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory during the summers.

Among Harriet's many contributions to Oklahoma and the Tulsa community were her involvement in the early stages of the roadside wildflower program, establishment of Redbud Valley Nature Preserve (now with its Harriet G. Barclay Nature Center), years of dedication to the Tulsa Garden Clubs as well as her leadership in ONPS. Some of her honors were The William S. Wright medal for Watercolor Painting, The Conservation Award from the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation, The Silver Seal Award from the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Personal Achievement Award from the University of Chicago Alumni, Designated Woman of the Year by American Women in Radio and Television, Green leaf Award from The Nature Conservancy, The Distinguished Service Award from the University of Tulsa and Induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Dr. Harriet G. Barclay passed away May 25, 1990

This year's winners are Jessica Edminsten a 12th grader at McLoud High School for the most promising Senior High research paper in the area of botany "A Botanical Blitz at Natural Falls State

Park" (Teachers are Dr. Bruce Smith & Ms. Paula Tolbert) and Callee Bullard a 9th grader at Welch High School for most promising Junior High research paper in area of botany "Comparative study of pre-generation treatments of redbud" (Teacher is Ms. Pam Chaney).

Each received the Oklahoma Native Plant Society award of \$50, tee-shirt, ONPS membership, and plaque.

ANNE W. LONG AWARD

The Anne W. Long Award was established by ONPS in 1988, the year following Anne's death. The Award is given at the Society's annual meeting in warm remembrance and honor of one of the ONPS founders, and an early State leader in wildflower protection. Anne was an impressive individual, one of those non-professional botanists who contribute so much to our communities.

Anne contributed to other organization as well as ONPS. She was active in the development of the Wildflower Workshop in the 1970s and in the establishment of roadside wildflower plantings, served as President of the Tulsa Garden Center, Co-Chaired the local Up With Trees program and was instrumental in the initiation of Tulsa's successful Operation Clean Sweep, a community volunteer clean-up campaign.

Anne took her Master's in botany under the direction of Dr. Harriet G. Barclay in 1967. Her research involved the biology of *Cotinus obovatus* (smoke tree) in the Anacardiaceae. She worked along the limestone bluffs above the Arkansas River below Keystone Dam.

The Award is in recognition of individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to the stated purpose of ONPS. The first recipient was the Ninnekah High School Science Club and the most recent Sue Amstutz.

Nominations are being accepted for the 2002 Award now and to August 31. Send nominations directly to the Chair:

Paul Reimer
1105 Beacontree Dr. NW
Lawton, OK 73505

Include the complete names and addresses of both the individual(s) making the nomination and the nominee(s); a contact person if the nominee is an organization; and supportive material for evaluation by the Awards Committee.

SERVICE AWARD

Oklahoma Native Plant Society Service Award is awarded to individuals that have made outstanding contributions of service to ONPS. For an idea of what types of service are needed to qualify one for this award, consider that first and second awards were to Ruth Boyd and Paul Buck, respectively.

Nominations are sought now until August 31, 2002 for consideration. Individuals who wish to make a recommendation for the 2001 Service Award should refer to the Autumn, 2000, edition of The Gaillardia for reviewing of the guidelines pertinent to the award or obtain copies from the Chair:

Sue Amstutz
4190 E. 46th Place
Tulsa OK, 74135

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BOTONY BAY
Paul Buck

SPRING

Spring is here! The sudden appearance of new and old growth in plants is confirmation. I suspect many of you, like me, have been watching. In this part of the state the redbuds and bur oaks are rapidly producing leaves for the 2002-growing season. At the same time the Johnny-jump-ups and henbit are rushing to complete their brief lives; food manufacture, flower production, pollination, fertilization, fruiting and finally the production of seeds, the next generation. They must hurry before tree leaves block their energy source, sunlight.

It is impossible to sit and watch plants without contemplating their growth and what is taking place inside those tissues. Shortly questions begin to flood the mind. Each of us with our varied backgrounds comes up with a completely different set of questions. Let me share some of mine.

Perhaps my comments will pique your curiosity and raise questions you may try to answer.

The redbud, bur oak and you and I are all multicellular creatures. We each started in basically the same manner, from one cell. That single cell, a zygote, was produced by the fusion of gametes, an egg and a sperm. A different parent contributed each. For the production of an acorn by the bur oak in the back yard it had to provide the egg and I suspect the bur oak in front released the pollen that provided the sperm. That individual has proven to be a prolific pollen producer.

The single cell resulting from that fertilization, the zygote, divided producing two identical daughter cells, those two divided producing four, and they in turn produced eight, then sixteen, thirty-two, sixty-four, one hundred twenty eight and so on until the large multicellular embryo within the acorn was produced. Upon germination, the dormant embryo cells resumed division until the seedling, composed of millions of cells, becomes evident.

With continued growth and cell division through the years the bur oak has become quite large. Looking at it I wonder if it is possible to estimate the number of cells? We can try but keep in mind our conclusions are valid only for the sampled tree. Other trees of different habitats, species, ages, pathogenic infestations, etc. will vary.

First, the tree. It is indeed a bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) and was first encountered as a young seedling about 1979. The acorn was probably planted by a local squirrel that forgot it. It appeared to be a good specimen and was moved away from the garage to the center of the lawn where it has thrived. Part of that success is probably due to sneaking roots into the sewer line, a constant supply of water and minerals.

Today the tree is over 15 meters (50 feet) in height and 50 centimeters (20 inches) in diameter. My apologies to metrically handicapped readers. The measuring equipment used is in the metric system. For those of you comfortable with feet, inches and thousandths of inches conversion should be no problem. I counted the number of leaves several times in an admittedly unscientific manner and reached a conservative number of 15,000.

What of the size of the leaves? An examination of at least sixty randomly selected, normal appearing leaves showed a range from 10 to 13 centimeters in length. Interestingly enough, twenty-four hours earlier they measured but 5 to 7 cm. I mention this merely to stress the rate, at which they were growing, the rapid increase in cell number.

How does one ascertain the dimension of a cell and estimate the number in a leaf? A disclaimer: only epidermal cells were used, specifically those composing the lower surface of the leaf. Obviously cells are three-dimensional structures but no effort was made to measure depth, only width and length. A different approach is necessary to measure thickness.

A simple method for preparing a leaf surface for microscopic examination is to obtain an impression using clear finger nail polish. Apply several coats to the leaf, peel the dried layer from the surface and examine it directly under a calibrated microscope, one with a magnification of 100X. In the case of the oak in question the imprints were clear and cell sizes varied. That was probably due to genetics, location on the tree, age of the leaf, environmental conditions and other factors.

It was necessary to estimate a per cent of the leaf surface covered by veins. To further complicate things the lower surfaces of these particular leaves contained stomates, paired cells surrounding a pore, which can be opened or closed to regulate the flow of gases into and out of the inner leaf. That opening also allows the loss of water. Counterproductive? Or is it?

Looking at the stomates I wonder. How much water can be lost? How much gas moves? What kind? How do the pores open and close? How many are on a leaf? Are those numbers constant throughout the tree? Why are they restricted to the lower surface? This is getting out of hand. I become flooded with enough questions to last a lifetime. What of those cells I counted?

The average cell size was 20 micrometers (μm) by 35 μm (there are a million micrometers in a meter or 39.37 inches). It was calculated there are over 22 million epidermal cells on the lower surface of one leaf, over 337 billion for the leaves on this tree.

If one adds the cells of the upper epidermis, the complex palisade and spongy layers of the inner leaf and the xylem and phloem of the veins, the tree undoubtedly consists of tens of trillions of cells. Remember the new cells are produced each spring and within a few days. Other data were gathered during this little exercise but would only be more overwhelming.

If you have followed, I know you must agree the spring production of tissues by plants is one of the miracles of nature. No matter what your theological persuasion this is a marvelous event. Enjoy it!

~~~~~

### WILDESCAPING: The Ultimate in Gardening for Wildlife.

by Wynn Anderson

Most folks hang out a hummingbird feeder or two, maybe nail a tray to a tree for holding commercial birdseed, or perhaps even install a store-bought bird bath and proudly call their garden a wildscape. Such endeavors can be laudable and are certainly evidence of an appreciation for nature. But, the truth is -these are not real wildscapes. A true wildscape attempts to emulate nature in the landscape in order to provide a functioning natural ecosystem that meets the basic needs of a diverse array of creatures. Hummingbirds and butterflies are always welcome in any garden, but an ideal wildscape should include all birds, reptiles, mammals and insects not only the cute and cuddly, but the bad and the ugly. After all, every critter has its place in a balanced ecosystem.

Clearly a typical urban residential landscape is an artificial creation. It is a relatively small plot of land. It is also most likely isolated from any significant area of indigenous wild land. And, it is surrounded by a hostile barrier of preying pets, fearful and intolerant neighbors, and a chemically poisoned wasteland of sterile lawns and gardens. This landscape is simply never going to be truly wild again or ever flourish as an ideal independent ecosystem. However, there are limits on any wildscape that are placed by practical good sense and by nature itself.

The fun is in flying to find and define those limits in your own landscape. For example, can you imagine what a pair of cute deer can do to a residential lot

in a couple of weeks? And while I may tolerate resident mice, scorpions and black widow spiders or even an occasional rattlesnake passing through my wild garden, I certainly don't want them in my home.

Now, before this goes any further, there are three essential principles that must be accepted before undertaking the creation of a wildscape.

1. Use of pesticides and other chemicals must be minimized. Remember, if you want to have butterflies, then you gotta have the worms! In this day and age, I hope an explanation of the damage that even minute amounts of poisonous chemical pollutants in the food chain can do to wildlife is not necessary. For example, up to half of a hummingbird's natural diet is protein derived from eating insects, and it takes very little insecticide residue to kill one of these tiny birds.

2. Confine your pets. While a kid with a BB gun can wreak occasional havoc, free roaming pets - especially cats - will permanently devastate local wildlife. A bell on the collar is not the solution nor is excessive feeding of your animals. Only confinement or restraint can control the natural predatory instincts of cats to stalk and kill or of dogs to chase and maim small creatures.

3. Educate your neighbors and yourself. A good wildscape is designed to please wildlife but not necessarily your neighbors. So take time to explain what you are doing and why you are doing it to all those who may be affected in your neighborhood. Investigate local building codes to learn of any restrictive covenants and ordinances that may impact the use of your property. Make sure you comply with them or seek proper variances. You will be surprised how cooperative most people will be once they understand what you're up to.

#### **How to Proceed**

If you are prepared to make those commitments, then you are ready to begin - and that means having a plan. Take the time to prepare a landscape design - whether it is something you scratch out at the kitchen table or have prepared professionally, either a retrofit of an existing landscape or the creation of a new one. A plan is especially useful if you choose to install the landscape over a long period of months, if not years, to spread the cost, or the labor if you are doing it yourself, into affordable segments. If that is the case, always try to plant trees first, as they take the most time to establish and achieve the size and maturity needed to contribute to the wildscape.

The three basic needs of all wild creatures that must be provided for in your plan are food, water and shelter.

#### **Food**

Natural sources of food, in contrast to artificial feeders, require the use of plants with which the animals are familiar. In short, use of native plants that produce seed, fruit, nuts, nectar or forage. While hummingbird feeders can provide all the energy producing sugar these little beauties may need, they cannot provide the equally essential vitamins and minerals that natural nectar produces.

To choose which native plants to use, observe the native food sources in natural areas around you. Look for diversity of food material as well as availability. At some point, you may also turn to the library, the internet and other possible local information resources such as your county extension service. Some federal, state, or local governmental agencies overseeing services such as parks, fish and wildlife, forestry or land management may also have professional wildlife biologists and specific literature or programs such as master naturalists or Master Gardeners that can be of assistance. A local native plant society or chapter of the Audubon Society will often have knowledgeable members to help you identify suitable plants native to your area and possible sources for them.

#### **Water**

A fresh, clean, dependable water source is easy to provide. Traditional birdbaths and shallow standing pools and basins can quickly stagnate and, without frequent and regular cleaning and refilling, become a polluted source of disease or parasites. Larger ponds, unless thoughtfully constructed to provide easily accessible shallows safe from predator ambush, are of only limited use to most wildlife. Ponds also must be oxygenated and properly balanced to avoid odors and mosquito problems.

The best sources tend to be small pools that are equipped with automatic float refill devices to insure a dependable water supply and a small submersible pump to slowly recirculate and oxygenate the water over short, shallow, inclined water-courses or stair-stepped ledges. Irrigation bubblers can also be effective. Let them drip into a basin, trough or onto the irregularly pitted surfaces of large rocks.

Imaginatively designed wildlife water sources can do double duty as attractive water features in the landscape. Avoid fast flowing, water wasting fountain sprays and splashing waterfalls. Also, don't make the mistake of locating the water source in a high traffic area where frequent human presence may deter its use.

#### Shelter

Natural protective shelter is the core of a successful wildscape. You can define shelter as a secure habitat that provides nesting, roosting, sunning and display sites, and protection from storms and predators. In small areas, such an environment can only be provided by layering the landscape with an overstory of fruit or nut producing trees, a multilevel understory of berried or sweet nectared shrubs, and a diverse ground covering of nectar-rich, seed producing, larval hosting perennials, grasses, and annuals. These layered plantings should ultimately open onto or surround an area of clear, open, overhead space. On the ground, this open area can become an attractive wildflower meadow or grassy patch of prairie, perhaps with areas of exposed soil to provide for dust bathing, preening and sunning for birds and reptiles as well as scratching room for ground feeding birds and mammals.

The patch of open sky is important not only to the well-being and security of ground dwellers and feeders, but to butterflies and hummingbirds who need room for their swooping aerial displays required for territorial defense and successful mating. Providing such a richly layered landscape will create a full range of microclimates and topographical features from which a greater variety of birds, mammals, reptiles and insects can select their preferred niche.

Obviously, the urban setting in which most of us live creates limits on the ideal wildscape. But, whether we have a 500-square foot condominium patio garden or a sprawling 5-acre rural yard, creating a friendly sanctuary for wildlife is both important to help compensate for the alarming consumption of natural habitat by unbridled urban growth and agricultural use, and as a personally rewarding, aesthetically pleasing, educational endeavor.

Reprinted from the Native Plant Society of New Mexico Newsletter, volume XXVII, no 1. Wynn Anderson is President of the El Paso Chapter, and the Botanical Curator of the Chihuahuan Desert Garden/UTEP.

## FILLING IN FOR PAT

**Dr. Sheila Strawn**

**Past-president, ONPS**

If our ONPS President, Pat Folley asks you to fill in for her-don't hesitate. There's good food at the end of the job. She's got a reputation for giving a great program and she gets some delicious offers to come & speak.

At Midwest City's Periwinkle Garden Club meeting on Wednesday, April 10, I presented "Oklahoma Wildflowers for Gardeners", a slide show produced and written by Pat Folley. I reminded them that if they didn't fertilize so much they wouldn't have to water so much, and if they didn't water so much, they wouldn't have to mow so much, and if they didn't mow so much, they wouldn't have to rake & take the grass to the landfill. They could just grow all those beautiful natives inside a garden fence and enjoy them all summer. Watch for new members from Midwest City! They fed me cheesecake!

On Monday, May 13, I presented the same program for the Madill Spring Fling at Madill High School. You know the saying, drive a little, eat a lot!. They fed me a whole meal. A great crowd. We need to start a South-Central or a Red River chapter. They've got a lot of potential. Look for new members from there as well.

If you hear of an opportunity to show one of our slide presentations, don't hesitate to volunteer. Pat has several shows to choose from and she'd love to loan them out. Local groups usually offer free refreshments and lots of opportunities to brag about Oklahoma native plants. Remember, our purpose is to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of the native plants of Oklahoma. Anytime we can get our foot in the door to promote native species, we ought to be there.

## THE FIFTEENTH ONPS PHOTO CONTEST

Paul Reimer, Chair of photo contest.

Of the 121 photos submitted (with no pleading from Paul), 14 were excluded because they were either duplicates, non-natives or undersized. The judges were Larry Magrath and Steve Brown, an Associate Professor of Art at USAO.

### BEGINNERS

|                    |                  |                                                       |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| First Place:       | Shirley Spaeth   | <i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> , silverleaf nightshade |
| Second Place:      | Shirley Spaeth   | <i>Mimosa nuttallii</i> , sensitive briar             |
| Third Place:       | Deborah K. Davis | <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> , passionflower           |
| Honorable Mention: | Liz Hatcher      | <i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i> , rabbitbush           |

### AMATEUR

|                    |                |                                                     |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| First Place:       | Tom McCreary   | <i>Cirsium undulatum</i> , wavy leaf thistle        |
| Second Place:      | Tom McCreary   | <i>Commelina erecta</i> , day-flower                |
| Third Place:       | Shirley Spaeth | <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i> , Indian blanket flower |
| Honorable Mention: | Tom McCreary   | <i>Opuntia compressa</i> , prickly pear             |

### HABITAT

|                    |                   |                                          |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| First Place:       | Judy Hamlin       | <i>Cheilanthes sp.</i> , lipfern         |
| Second Place:      | Patricia Folley   | <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> , Indian grass |
| Third Place:       | Christina Lindsey | <i>Nelumbo lutea</i> , lotus lily        |
| Honorable Mention: | Dick Clapp        | Fern, etc.                               |

### ADVANCED CLOSE UP

|                    |                     |                                                      |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| First Place:       | Jeri McMahon        | <i>Mentzelia decapetala</i> , evening star           |
| Second Place:      | Leslie Cole-Jackson | <i>Mammillaria missouriensis</i> , mammillary cactus |
| Third Place:       | Jeri McMahon        | <i>Liatris aspera</i> , gayfeather                   |
| Honorable Mention: | Dick Clapp          | <i>Opuntia compressa</i> , prickly pear              |

BEST PICTURE: Mike Mazzo *Allium perdulce*, wild garlic

BEST BOTANICAL SPECIMEN: Tom McCreary *Monarda punctata*, horse mint

### DISCOVER OKLAHOMA for ONPS

Sue Amstutz

Our Naturalist friends at the Oklahoma State Parks Nature Centers have again proven to be a valued asset as we continue to display our Oklahoma Native Plant Society Photo Contest Posters around the Sooner State. Our Naturalists in Eastern Oklahoma which display posters (Beaver's Bend, Fountainhead, Sequoyah, Robber's Cave, Wister, Tenkiller and Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa) are among some of the best proponents of our ONPS Statement of Purpose as they continue to find areas at their centers in which to provide space for our posters. This summer we will be adding the Nature Center

at Lake Texoma State Park to those which have already been displaying posters.

Interest in the parks is gaining across our state. A number of the parks have been featured in recent weeks on the televised program DISCOVER OKLAHOMA. Tenkiller State Park was featured in early April, with our Naturalist friend Lee Ann Rodgers and her Nature Center presented in a "starring" role. Careful attention to the program made it possible to see our posters lining one of the walls of the Tenkiller Nature Center as the camera panned the inside of Lee Ann's domain. In April the DISCOVER OKLAHOMA cameras visited Beaver's Bend, and once again, the Naturalist with whom ONPS works so closely in displaying our

posters. Kristi Silvey, played a leading role in the production. As DISCOVER OKLAHOMA tours the parks and the Nature Centers, citizens of our state are made aware of the fascinating places we have to visit in Oklahoma; the citizens in turn make plans to visit the parks. When these folks visit the various parks where posters are on display, they learn about ONPS and our organization. So in a way, DISCOVER OKLAHOMA is doing a good job of publicizing places where Oklahomans may also learn about ONPS!

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## 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

Friday, May 17 began the 25<sup>th</sup> workshop in Alva. The day was filled with a series of interesting presentations starting with Joanne Orr telling of the 25 year's worth of workshops. Laurie Stillings indicated various native flowers that she has had success with in her yard. Mike Caywood, naturalist at Alabaster Park, described the rather unique gypsum cavern. Steve Owens, of Oklahoma Gardening, listed various native flowers that he recommended. Richard Ross, chief landscape architect of Kansas DOT, outlined their new approach to roadside plantings that they adopted since they were unsuccessful at planting wildflowers that would last for more than a few years. Herman Dittrich, grass researcher with Johnston Seed Co., a man so in love with love grass that he moved to Oklahoma, presented an amusing account of selecting primarily grasses for dried plant arrangements. Paul Nighswonger told of how red cedar has become a problem and what might be done to control it. Bruce Hoagland listed several flowers that we might see on the field trip that took place on Saturday. The after dinner speaker, Dr. Karen Hickman, a hometown gal and Associate Professor at Ft. Hayes State University, described how various grazing regimens affects flower populations.

Paul and Bebe Reimer presented the Photo Contest winners and the results are presented elsewhere in this issue.

Dr. Paul Nighswonger (pictured below on field trip), a long time member of ONPS and retired biology professor at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, was given the Annual Bess Snodgrass Award. He received a beautiful picture and the right to have a plot of his choice planted in wildflowers.



Wildflowers were blooming in spite of harsh drought conditions and field trip participants eagerly explored prairie meadows west of Alva. Besides wildflower specimens, the group spotted a frolicking pair of jack rabbits, a family of horned toads, a lark sparrow nest containing 5 eggs, a night hawk nest with 2 eggs in the middle of a pasture and other interesting wonders of nature not often seen by us more urbane types! During the Alabaster Caverns bat cave tour, it was learned that one of our participants, Bill Cox, had helped stock the caves with supplies in the event of nuclear attack during the administration of Governor Edmondson in the early 60's. The weather was glorious, the group enthusiastic, and a great time was had by all.

The Workshop was sponsored by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc., The Northwest District Garden Clubs, and the Alva Council of Garden Clubs.

### FIELD TRIP RULES

- Preregistration is required for all field trips.
- Field trip announcements will contain the name, address, and telephone number of the leader. If you have doubts about the terrain, difficulty, etc., ask.
- Field trips take place rain or shine. Hiking boots, long pants and a hat are essential.
- Bring water and lunch or a snack. Sunscreen and insect repellent are always in demand. Field guides, a camera and binoculars are nice.
- 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.
- Children old enough to keep up are welcome. Pets are not. Children should be warned against picking flowers or collecting animal or plant souvenirs: many of our field trip sites are havens for the rare and endangered.

### CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

#### NE Chapter Jim Elder

The NE-Chapter met on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The meeting started with our usual delicious potluck dinner. Monica Macklin then presented a program on under-utilized native trees. She discussed the advantages and disadvantages of using various tree species in your garden. The program was very informative and gave us lots of ideas on the usage of trees.

Clare Miller has been very active in organizing several urban outings in the Tulsa area. She recently had over 30 member and guest for a tour of several native urban gardens in Tulsa. Several of the guests were from out of town. Some of them were from the Grove Audubon society. They were interested in learning about the use of native plants, in the hope of influencing property owners in the Grand Lake area. Evidently many of these properties are being bulldozed and replanted with fescue, Bradford pears, etc. We wish them luck in

their education program. We also had an excellent outing to John and Nancy Wheat's property south of Tulsa. They have planted several wildflowers and have an extensive vegetable garden.

Connie Murray, Charles Lewallen, and I attended the Oklahoma Academy of Science's

Spring outing at Quartz Mt. State Park. We enjoyed Gloria Caddell's botany fieldtrip of the area. Charles Lewallen assisted the Broken Arrow school system with plant identification at a school science outing. A few of us braved stormy weather for a field trip to Chlouber's Farm & Washington Irving Museum east of Stillwater.

We had to reschedule May's happy hour to the 24<sup>th</sup> to accommodate members that want to attend the Wildflower workshop in Alva. We hope to plan several new outings at the next happy hour. Our next meeting will be on September 9<sup>th</sup>; Ron Tyrl will be presenting a program on grasses.

#### Central Chapter Susan Chambers

For the March meeting, we had a presentation by Amy Ganguli, a graduate student in range management at Oklahoma State University. The program covered the dissemination and control of red cedars in the state, often by different arms of the state government. Amy covered the historical presence of red cedars, as well as the spread of this native tree since settlement by the Europeans. Needless to say, quite a bit of controversy exists concerning this plant, and many opinions were heard that evening.

The April meeting was a field trip to the 100 acre property of Jack and Anita Wampler, of Lindsay. Part of the property has never been plowed, part hasn't been plowed since the '30's. It was sort of early to a lot of wildflowers, but there were some in evidence and lots more showing foliage. The greenbrier was full of new, green shoots for tasting (thank you for that bit of knowledge, Neil Garrison) and the button bush at the edge of a natural pond was already lush with foliage.

There will be no May meeting, not wanting to burn everyone out right after Wildflower Workshop.

June will see us at Sanctuary Gardens, an aquatic plant nursery near Blanchard, that specializes in native plants. Part of their business is composed of wetland reclamation. There are several native plant people with garden ponds, and I know we'll all be extremely interested.

There has been no July meeting scheduled, yet.

**Merchandise Committee:** As representative of the merchandise committee at the Wildflower Workshop, I'm happy to report that we sold over \$300.00 on Friday and Saturday. Most popular were the tote bags, followed closely by the ball caps, then woody plant manuals and directories.

#### AN ADDENDUM TO AN EMAIL SENT TO EDITOR

P. S. I got to go bird watching this morning—for the Audubon spring migration count. I saw Cedar Waxwings, Catbirds, Louisiana Water Thrush, Spotted Sandpipers, Franklin's Gulls, Barn Swallows, Cliff Swallows, Summer Tanager, Indigo Buntings, Orchard Orioles, Yellow-billed Cuckoo,

Bluebirds, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Mockingbirds, Pelicans, Great Egrets, Great Blue Egrets, Cormorants, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and tons of chickadees, titmice, cardinals, and the like. We heard Red-eyed Vireos, White-eyed Vireos, Warbling Vireos, Northern Parula Warblers plus a number of unidentified other bird songs. I can report that the poison ivy crop this year is luxurious, and so are the populations of ticks, chiggers, and mosquitoes.

Editor: I read this as ecstasy in hell!

#### WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Jo-Ann Ali-Nandalal, Tulsa  
Dena Allen, Oklahoma City  
Wayne Elisens, Norman  
Pat Kammerlocher, Norman  
Eddie and Savilla Stegall, Wichita, KS  
Beth Walker, Broken Arrow

If you have joined recently and your name has not appeared in the Spring or Summer issue, be sure to notify Chad Cox.

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Edited by Chad Cox

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Oklahoma Native Plant Society  
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2435 South Peoria  
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For *Gaillardia* material only, use the editor's address:  
Chad Cox  
2241 Ravenwood  
Norman, OK 73071-7427  
(405)-329-8860  
Email: [cox.chadwick@worldnet.att.net](mailto:cox.chadwick@worldnet.att.net)

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