



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

Volume 20, Number 3
Autumn 2005

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INSERT: ANNUAL MEETING

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FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 November 2005**

Gaillardia

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society Newsletter

CALENDAR

Note: the events dated below are followed by either a page number for further descriptions or the contact person.

Sept 10: Crosstimbers Chapter will visit Jim Ownby's garden. Page 7.

Sept 12: NE Chapter Meeting features Dee Simmons, Volunteer Coordinator for the Owen Park Restoration project. Page 7

Sept 16 - 20: BioBlitz 2005 at Mohawk Park starts 3 PM Friday, September 9 and ends 3 PM on the tenth. For more information visit www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitz.

Sept 17: Central Chapter will meet at the home of Jeannie and Dan Coley at 10:00. Page 8.

Oct 7-9: Annual Meeting at Quartz Mountain. Insert

Oct 29: Central Chapter will visit Pontotoc Ridge; meet there at 10:00. Page 8.

Nov 28: Central Chapter Meeting at 7:30 at OSU/OKC 400N Portland. Meylynda Hickman from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife will be our speaker. Page 8.

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

ONPS THANKS THESE DONORS

Color Oklahoma Fund

Boncilla Klein

Donna Scoggis-Stuber in honor of Lavonia & Charley Bright's 50th wedding anniversary

It is that time of year again – the air is beginning to cool, and you can contemplate being out of doors again. Why not join us for a tromp in the woods and some thoughtful, stimulating conversation at the Annual Meeting?

I hope you will join me in thanking Kim Shannon and all of the Color Oklahoma Committee for their diligence in attempting to resolve the controversy over the plantings sponsored by the Color Oklahoma Project. (See her article in this issue.) I hope you will also join me in viewing this as 'growing pains', that we have now grown through, so that we can move cohesively into the future.

Connie

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

Photo Contest pictures need to be received by Tina Julich before December 1. This will be the last notice in the Galardia for the contest.

BOTANY BAY

A Journey of Wonder

Departure is shortly after 6:00 a.m., long before sunrise. Few people are out and traffic will be light. Thirty six hours ago the moon was full and I am blessed with a crystal clear sky overhead, dominated by that bright, near perfect orb. There is enough moonlight to distinguish trees along the side of the road. Remote from urban areas the sky is speckled with a profusion of sparkling stars. Unfortunately the lights of on-coming traffic prevent the development of true night vision but still it is possible to see a hint of long banks of clouds on the horizons. Before long, with the seemingly endless blacktop flowing out of the darkness, the distant stars moving slowly across the sky, and the comradeship of the nearby moon, I cannot help but become philosophical, and begin contemplating both the physical and spiritual history and meaning of our earthly life.

eliminated. Soon the ghostly forms of crows became evident, gliding on silent wings along the edge of the road with their inevitable raucous conversation. They appear to be checking what might be available for breakfast after a night of wildlife carnage. With the increasing light I observe three deer under trees in a bottomland forest along a small creek. The larger is a doe, the two smaller probably her twins of last spring. The adult and one juvenile stand frozen, watching my passage. The other, still with that youthful absolute trust in Mother, ignores me and continues browsing in an unconcerned manner.

With the increasing light the stars wink out until only the moon and one bright star, or perhaps it is a planet, remain. It is impossible to know just when the sun appeared on the horizon, a distant cloud bank obscured that moment. However, in time the sun topped the clouds, flooding the countryside with its brilliance and warmth. A new day is underway and with it the magic of this Oklahoma sunrise is broken. I must pack all of this away in a remote corner of my mind and make room for new visions and thoughts. I notice the road crests a long hill in the distance. I wonder what special things Nature has in store for me on the other side?

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Sue Amstutz

Sincerely, Faye Henson, 2005 OK Master Gardener State Convention

It is opportunities like this which provide the Oklahoma Native Plant Society with the chance to educate another group of our fellow state residents as to who we are and what our purpose is.

Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws:

Term of Treasurer

Rationale: This amendment was discussed at the Board Meeting in June. It was prompted by our discovery that the term of our current Treasurer, Mary Korthase, is expiring. As you can probably imagine it is a large and specialized task to be the Treasurer of a 501c(3) organization such as ours. It requires someone with specific training such as accounting, bookkeeping, taxes, familiarity with their associated software, and of course integrity. It also requires someone who can attend meetings, and handle our intermittent 'bursts' of paperwork. Finding someone to do all of this as a volunteer is no easy feat. The requirement to find someone different after six years, when there is already someone who is trained, willing and already doing a good job, seems a waste of both talent and effort. The Proposed Amendment is therefore recommended by the Executive Board.

Concerns: What if in the future someone who is not as organized and reliable as Mary is Treasurer? Are we stuck with that person indefinitely? Indeed, not. The Treasurer is elected every year, as are the other offices. An unsatisfactory Treasurer would not be recommended by the nominating committee for re-election.

Current By-Laws: Article V, Section 1: "No individual shall serve in a voting capacity for more than six consecutive years on the Executive Board."

Proposed Amendment: Article V, Section 1: "No individual, with the exception of the Treasurer, shall serve in a voting capacity for more than six consecutive years on the Executive Board."

Procedure: According to Article XIII, amendments to the By-Laws must be presented to the Membership by the Executive Board at least two weeks in advance of the vote. Amendments must be approved by at least two-thirds of those present at a duly constituted meeting. You are hereby appropriately notified of the proposed amendment. We will vote at the Annual Meeting in October.

Color Oklahoma is ALL about being WILD!
By Kim Shannon, Color Oklahoma Chair

In the Summer 2005 issue of the *Gaillardia*, an article was submitted and printed that *incorrectly* reported the activities of the Color Oklahoma committee. In this issue, the Color Oklahoma committee wishes to address the statements made, give a historical overview, and clear up any and all questions regarding the activities of this group.

First we want to address the misleading and untrue statements from the June issue of the *Gaillardia* article titled *Is Color Oklahoma Really About Coloring Our State Wild?* In that article it was stated that, "there was talk at first, and then actual usage of European imports to seed some of the most visible roadsides in the state." Since 2002, there has been *discussion* of using some non-native species in areas where they have been planted in the past around the downtown area of Tulsa. These areas have been planted numerous times over the past two decades with flowers such as Crimson clover, Red poppies and Bachelor buttons. There are two important points here that we wish to communicate to ONPS members and others who are concerned.

1. COLOR OKLAHOMA FUNDS HAVE NOT AND WILL NOT BE USED TO PLANT NON-NATIVES AS LONG AS IT REMAINS A COMMITTEE OF THE OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY.
2. Some areas around downtown Tulsa did have these flowers blooming this past spring. But contrary to the Summer *Gaillardia* article, they were purchased and donated directly to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation by individuals who have done so for 20 years. Color Oklahoma was not involved and did not purchase any non-native seeds or receive a donation with that stipulation.

In July, the Color Oklahoma committee and members of the ONPS board (including the President and Treasurer) met to discuss this non-native issue. During that meeting a motion was passed by Color Oklahoma committee members that states, "Color Oklahoma will continue to purchase and

Color Oklahoma seeks to promote the use of native plants to beautify our state. We hope also to educate people about Oklahoma's native plants and their benefits to our environment. If you would like more information about Color Oklahoma, please feel free to contact either Kim Shannon at 918.697.3488 or Pearl Garrison at 918. 587.4624. You can also visit the website at www.coloroklahoma.org.

2003

2004

Along I-40 in western Oklahoma near Clinton, Elk City and the Erick rest stop, we will be planting a combination of Claspig coneflower, prairie coneflower, plains coreopsis, Indian blanket, blue sage, annual winecup, lazy daisy, and prairie

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Chad Cox

Here are some general suggestions for those gardening with native plants.

Do not have any plants that are noxious or allergenic.

Do not violate any height restrictions near roads.

Take care not to violate any easement requirements.

Keep records of what is present and their care. Keep records of all interactions with authorities. Make the area look like a garden including hardscape.

Keep a picture record of what your garden looks like through the seasons.

The following part of this article was prepared from an email from Native Plant Conservation Campaign that contained a report by Cindy Cole in the Arizona Daily Sun.

Las Vegas pays \$1 from the local water district for every square foot of lawn that a citizen removes. Now Flagstaff is following suit with its own one-time \$500 rebate for households that remove at least 1,500 square feet of grass and replace it with rock or, ideally, hardy, native plants that don't need much water.

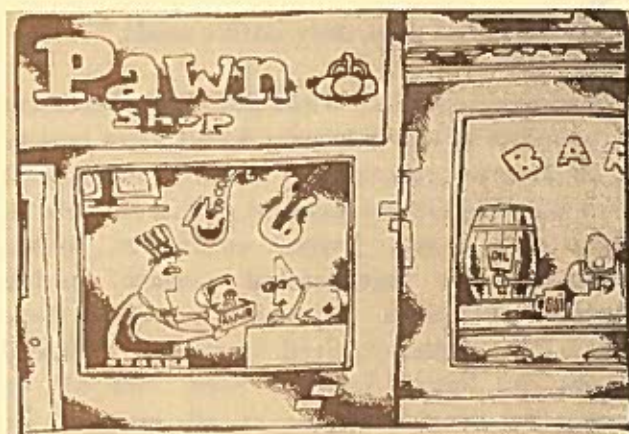
Jan Newton lives north of Flagstaff High School on Navajo Road, which is lined with green lawns the

size of small lots. "This is a grass neighborhood, and it's beautiful, but I'm not going to pay to water," Newton said. Conscious about water use in the southwest, so the grass at their new house had to go, she said. It took a sod cutter, a Rototiller, almost two months of work and between \$3,000 and \$4,000 to change her front yard from grass to a rocky mosaic of pathways and curvy, large planters.

By chance, Newton asked water conservation manager Adam Miller if the city was doing any sort of reimbursement for tearing out grass and learned she stood to receive a \$500 check under a program that just got under way.

"As we move into the future, we think the xeriscape program will provide the largest opportunity for water conservation," Miller said. The average homeowner uses about 72 gallons each year to water just one square foot of grass, a recent Bureau of Reclamation study found. Those who xeriscaped their yards used 55 gallons less for the same space. Families watering their lawns use more water than any other segment of Flagstaff's business or residential population in the summer.

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27th ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

27th ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

By Connie Murray

I have just returned from Ponca City and a Wonderful Wildflower Workshop!

At the close of a hectic academic year it was restorative to sit among friends, to spend a day contemplating the beauty and diversity of the living world and the next day experiencing the spring glory of the TallGrass Prairie and Biven Gardens. If you were unable to attend, you missed a day of thought provoking workshops and presentations on topics varying from orchids to herbs to new river birches. And you missed a gorgeous day among the bison and the wildflowers.

Special thanks go to Joanne Orr and her ODOT staff and to the members of the Oklahoma Garden Clubs for organizing the Workshop. Thanks to all the vendors for their beautiful plants and inspiring suggestions on ways to use and appreciate wildflowers. Also special thanks to Kim Shannon and Bruce Hoagland for leading the Field Trip on Saturday and to Connie Taylor and Monica Macklin and all the others who pitched in to guide and share their knowledge with such a large group.

If you missed the Wildflower Workshop this year, don't miss it next.

Looking ahead, our next big event is the 2005 Annual Meeting in October. Kim Shannon has had a grand idea - having a Silent Auction! Be thinking of items or services you could donate and

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**NE Chapter
Sue Amstutz**

Attendance at the various excursions ranged in number from as few as three members to a high attendance of seventeen participants. The botany encountered in each location did not disappoint. At Lake Keystone State Park, we catalogued around 22 blooming varieties; at Natural Falls we listed over 40 varieties of wildflowers in bloom, plus numerous types of ferns for which the park is noted. At Rusty Grimpe's prairie acres in Osage County, 29 flowering varieties were catalogued. Over forty plants blooming along the backroads ramble route, along with a dozen or so varieties of vines, shrubs, ferns and botanicals were observed and tabulated. We listed an amazing array of natives at RSU Conservation Education Reserve with around 30 plants in bloom plus an assortment of other flora identified as well. Our final trip in late June added another 19 blooming plants, many vines (some with, some without berries) and a fantastic display of fungi varieties decorating the woodland floor, products of the plentiful rains of earlier in June. The Chapter continued to have our monthly Happy Hour social event at Panera Bread Company on the third Friday of the month. Our first meeting of the fall, September 12, will

For information about chapter activities, contact Paul Richardson, chair (405-377-4831), Olen Thomas, vice-chair (405-743-3613), or Elaine Lynch, secretary-treasurer (405-624-1461).

FIELD TRIP RULES

- Participation is at your own risk.
- 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.
- Collecting any plant parts or other materials at the site must be approved by the field trip leader.
- 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.
- 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.

Central Chapter
Marilyn Stewart

Central Chapter Report

June 25 We gathered at the home of Carolyn and Charles Lilly, east of Norman. They have some tended gardens with lots of natives and several wonderful acres of prairie and woods. We saw some beautiful plants, there were a few that stumped us as to species, especially the milkweeds. One of those places that made us all want to return and see in a different season.

July 18 Everyone met at the Bebb Herbarium on the OU campus for a tour by Pat Folley. Don't know what anyone expected, but I think that we were all impressed by what we found. An amazing collection. Some of us got to do arts and crafts toward the end. Everyone in ONPS should treat themselves to a field trip to the Bebb.

September 17th We will meet at the home of Jeannie and Dan Coley. The directions have been sent by either mail or e-mail to all the CC members, if you need directions call me. We meet at 10:00.

October 29 Pontotoc Ridge. There is no bad time to visit PR, but fall has to be one of the best, we will meet at 10:00. Bring a sack lunch, drinks will be provided.

November 28 7:30 OSU/OKC 400N Portland
Meylynda Hickman from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife will be our speaker.

Marilyn Stewart: 382-8540, home; 255-1707, cell

Mycology Chapter
Clark Ovrebo

As a respite from the Oklahoma summer heat and dryness (especially the dryness which means no mushrooms), Glenda and I spent the second week of August in the mountains of southern New Mexico in the vicinity of Ruidoso. One reason of the trip was to get away and see a new area, and the second reason was to attend the New Mexico Mycological Society's annual foray.

We spent the early part of the week in Cloudcroft, south of Ruidoso. Cloudcroft sits in the Sacramento Mountains at an elevation of about 8600 feet. The rainy season had just begun so we experienced cool, damp weather. Coniferous trees dominate the woody vegetation with Douglas Fir, white fir, ponderosa pine and limber pine the main tree species. Gambel's oak is also scattered in the forest. These trees form ectotrophic mycorrhizae (root-fungus association) which means that if moisture conditions are right, mushrooms should abound. We were just a little early to see the results of the rain but did see a few fungi around Cloudcroft.

Toward the end of the week we moved to Ruidoso, the site of the meeting. We had two days of collecting in similar vegetation and the results were somewhat better for fungi. The mushrooms had a little longer time to respond to the rain and having several dozen "pairs of eyes" searching in the forest also helped. Gilled mushrooms, boletes, puffballs and jelly fungi were brought in. One of the events of the foray is to have a tasting session of the edible mushrooms. The mushrooms served included the shaggy mane (*Coprinus comatus*), oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*), fairy ring mushroom (*Marasmius oreades*), ear mushroom - a jelly fungus (*Auricularia auricula*), *Sparassis crispa* (related to coral fungi) and *Agaricus* sp. (related to the store-bought mushroom). By the

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