



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 1
Spring 2005

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FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 May 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.

- Mar 7: NE Chapter Meeting at Tulsa Garden Center.
Bruce Hoagland will be the speaker. Page 8
- Mar 11: CT Chapter potluck dinner and Presentation by Karen Hickman. Page 9
- Mar 13: NE Chapter Field Trip to Oxley North Woods. Page 8
- Mar 18: NE Happy Hour. Page 9
- Mar 28: Central Chapter Meeting; Speaker Clark Overbo on Mushrooms. Page 9
- April 3: Mycology Field Trip to look for morels. Page 10
- April 8: Oklahoma Academy of Sciences; Robber's Cave.
- April 16: NE Field Trip, Lake Eufaula State Park. Page 9
- April 17: Central Field Trip to Sutton Park. Page 9
- May 13-14: Wildflower Workshop; Vo Tech Center in Ponca City. Page 7
- May 7: CT Field Trip to visit Dr. Steve Owens' Native Oklahoma wildflower garden. Page 9
- May 20: NE Happy Hour. Page 9
- June 4: Board Meeting, Tulsa Garden Center, 10 AM.
- Note: all members are invited to all meetings, including board meetings, and are encouraged to bring guests.

ONPS THANKS THESE DONORS

Harriet G. Barclay Fund
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Davida E. Phillips
Mary D. Price

Anne W. Long Fund
Mary D. Price

Color Oklahoma Fund
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Cynthia D. Webb
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PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Fellow Flower Fans,

Congratulations to all on a great campaign for the license tag! When last I heard we had at least 120. Kudos to *Color Oklahoma!* - Kim Shannon, Chairman, and Marcy Rabinowitz, Pearl Garrison, Joanne Orr, Laurie Schilling, Paul Buck and Susan Chambers for all their hard work over the last two years. And don't forget to order now if you have not yet reserved your plate!

By the time the paper version of this arrives the Indoor Outing February 26 in Claremore will be a memory, thanks primarily to the hard work and planning of Lynn Michael, Northeast Chapter. If however you are reading the electronic version, there is still time to register to attend. The registration form should have arrived in the mail within the last two weeks.

Our next major event is the Wildflower Workshop May 13-14 in Ponca City. Registration forms will be mailed by ODOT in April but reserve the date now.

On a personal note, I just returned from a week in the Sonoran Desert, northwest of Phoenix. I had not seen the desert in more than thirty years since I was a graduate student at U of A. I had forgotten how beautiful the desert is in spring. This year the rainfall is quite high. One day while was there they received 2.5 inches of rain! This doesn't sound like so much by Oklahoma standards, but consider that it was more than 25% of their average annual rainfall – in one day. The Hassayampa River was flowing when I arrived, but full of sandbars and shrubbery. A week later it was roiling and churning and out of its banks. The desert is bright with flowers - California poppies, brittlebush, and desert marigold. And I had forgotten all the subtle shades of green in the desert spring, the saguaro, cholla, agave and palo verde, each distinctive. If you have a chance this will be a great year to venture out of Oklahoma and experience the beauty of the desert. And then come back home to our own lush grasslands and forests.

Have a beautiful spring,

Connie Murray

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

Once again it is time for ONPS members to consider nominations for the Annual Service Award which is presented during activities associated with our Annual State Meeting in October. The Service Award, to be presented in 2005 for the fifth time, recognizes a member of the Society who has demonstrated service to ONPS above and beyond that normally associated with expected levels of activity. Previous awardees have included Ruth Boyd (2000), Paul Buck (2001), Betty Kemm (2002), and Patricia Folley (2003). (No Service Award was presented in 2004 since no nominations were received by the Committee.)

The nominee for 2005 must have been a member of ONPS a minimum of five years and must be in good financial standing with current dues obligations having been met.

Nominations in writing with documentation demonstrating the nominee's service to the Society being an integral part of the letter of recommendation are due on or before August 31, 2005. Send nominations to:

Sue Amstutz, Chair Service Awards Committee
4190 E. 46th Place
Tulsa OK 74135

Nominations for the Anne Long Award are also needed by August 31. These should be sent to:

Pat Folley
15100 Etowah Road
Noble, OK 73068
pfolley7@juno.com

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BOTANY BAY

Paul Buck

Early Naturalists

No doubt many members of the ONPS had an experience similar to mine when they took the required undergraduate Oklahoma History Course. I found that class less than rewarding. Oh, I remember that professor quite well. He was jovial, an interesting individual but made it impossible to enjoy the history of our state. The lectures and reading assignments were steeped in Oklahoma politics, the numerous ill-fated treaties with the various Indian groups, the many facets of

potential statehood, the numerous conventions, their important leaders, and so on.

It was years later as I began to travel about the state studying its diverse biota that I discovered the interesting and broader history of Oklahoma. One aspect was early botanical explorers. With that in mind I would like to devote this Botany Bay article to a brief examination of some of our 19th Century naturalists.

Reportedly the first serious collector of plants in Oklahoma was Thomas Nuttall. Born and bred in London he arrived in the United States in 1807 or 1808. In 1819 Nuttall traveled to Belle Point (present Fort Smith) and accompanied a military party to the Kiamichi River region to evacuate squatters from Indian Land. He was referred to by the French in the area as 'Le Fou', the crazy one, in reference to his insatiable penchant for collecting. During the Kiamichi venture he continued collecting until he missed the return rendezvous with the soldiers. He ultimately joined traveling settlers and returned to Belle Point three weeks later.

Nuttall's next venture took place a short time later in the company of a west bound trapper. After journeying to Three Forks Trading Center at the confluence of the Arkansas, Grand and Verdigris Rivers (the ultimate site of Fort Gibson) the pair set out toward the Rockies. Their plans were to follow the Cimarron River upstream but the trip was cut short when Nuttall became ill with malaria, the horses repeatedly became mired in quicksand and a group of threatening Osages discouraged them. The adventurers became separated and Nuttall finally reached a trading post and help in September.

During these ventures Nuttall collected hundreds of species of plants, many of which bear his name. He was the first to report *Rivina*, *Cotinus*, *Amsonia*, *Gymnocladus* and *Quercus macrocarpa* in our state. Most specimens of early western plant collectors were sent to John Torrey, Professor of Medicine at Columbia University and Asa Gray of Harvard. The two were considered the leading botanical systematists in North America. They identified, categorized and named countless specimens. Their association resulted in the familiar citation 'Torrey and Gray', most often

seen as 'T. & G.'

The second documented naturalist in the area was Edwin James who, in the summer of 1820, accompanied Major Stephen H. Long. Major Long and his party set out from a Nebraska post and had been ordered to ascertain the western border of the new Louisiana Purchase and that of Spanish Territory. James was originally along as surgeon-naturalist but succeeded botanist William Baldwin who died early in the expedition. Among the specimens collected by James were *Paronychia jamesii*, *Cryptantha jamesii* and *Dalea jamesii*.

Botanical collecting increased in the early 1830s with the establishment of Fort Gibson near Three Forks. Between 1831 and 1834 surgeon and medical botanist Zina Pitcher collected in the vicinities of Forts Gibson, Arbuckle and Towson. Dr. Pitcher also sent specimens to John Torrey. Less has been reported regarding Pitcher than James but he was memorialized by Torrey in *Salvia pitcheri* and *Clematis pitcheri*.

I would hope most Oklahomans are aware Washington Irving set out from Fort Gibson in the fall of 1832 on his historic journey through Indian Territory. Although he was not an active plant collector his observations, documented in *A Tour on the Prairies*, tell us much about the area. Every member of the ONPS should read, or re-read, his exciting journal.

In June 1834 General Henry Leavenworth departed Fort Gibson for the Wichitas with a large contingent of troops, Indian guides and civilian support staff including artist George Catlin and Heinrich von Beyrich, a Prussian botanist along to collect plants. Col. Henry Dodge was second in command. Their orders were to make contact with the Comanches who had been interfering with wagon trains and travelers enroute to Santa Fe and to return a young Kiowa girl captured by the Osage during the Cutthroat Gap massacre in the Wichitas.

Roughly two weeks into the journey, Leavenworth and about half the group became ill. Command was transferred to Col. Dodge and the incapacitated started their arduous return. However, the mission was completed. Although Catlin became ill, he painted, and von Beyrich

Many early 19th Century explorers had a difficult time locating the Red River. The Comanches and Kiowa called most local rivers Rio Colorado and, of course, mature rivers on the plains were colored by red clay. Yes, the river was important. The Red was the boundary between present day Oklahoma and Spain in 1819, Mexico in 1821, the Republic of Texas in 1836 and the state of Texas in 1845.

In 1852, Captain Randolph B. Marcy was ordered to locate the headwaters of the Red River, make observations of the Comanches and Kiowas and locate a site for an Army post and reservation. Marcy's interests were primarily reptiles and mammals but Dr. George G. Shumard, surgeon, naturalist and botanist, accompanied the group, although his collecting was limited. Interestingly, the name *Quercus shumardii* (Shumard oak) was not in his honor but for Benjamin F. Shumard, state geologist of Texas.

Again, time and space are running out but the foregoing are a few of our explorer-botanists of the early 19th Century. It might be interesting to continue from here in a future Botany Bay.

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COLOR OKLAHOMA UPDATE

Kim Shannon, Chair

Congratulations, we did it! Go ahead, pat yourself on the back! Good job!

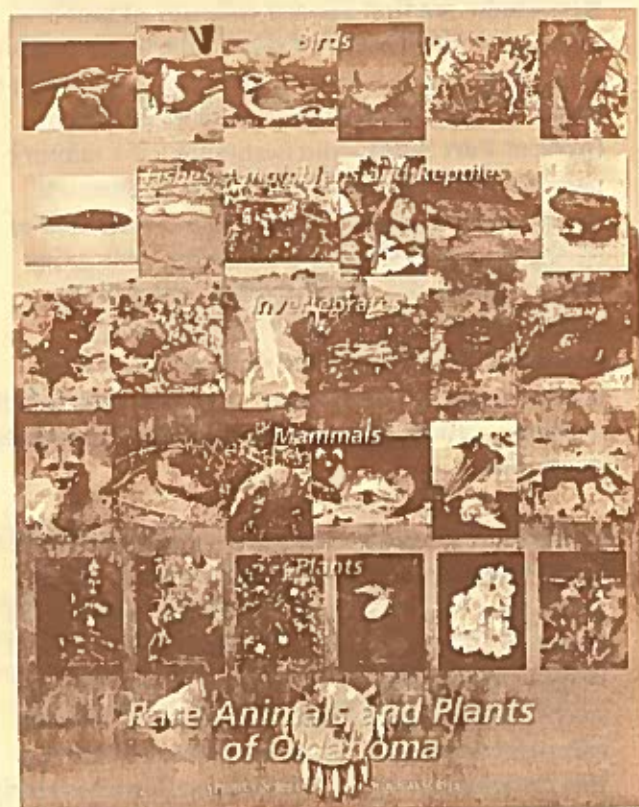
I am happy to report that the Color Oklahoma specialty license tag is a success! We made our goal just before Christmas of a minimum of 100 tags pre-ordered. Actually, at last count there were at least 115 tags ordered, possibly many more. Best of all, the proceeds from the sale of this tag will be blooming across Oklahoma starting next year!

So, many thanks to everyone who ordered a tag and for your generous support! This would not

have been possible without you. Your new tag should show up in your mailbox sometime during March. If you did not get around to ordering a tag, you can still order one. The application form is still available at www.cooroklahoma.org or you can call Kim at (918) 697-3488 to receive a form via the mail.

I look forward to seeing our beautiful new tags all across Oklahoma this spring!

Thank you ONPS members!



Newest Biological Survey Poster

SIGNS OF SPRING

By Kim Shannon

Last year we launched an effort to heighten awareness of our native plants by having select Tulsa and Oklahoma City TV stations feature an occasional photo of a wildflower in bloom. Plans are in the works to continue this effort beginning again in March and getting into full swing as April advances.

As March comes and goes and April approaches keep your eye out for spring annuals and perennials such as Spring beauty, Bluets,

[illegible]

Sue Amstutz

Both the new locations are the result of informational notifications sent to a number of public libraries and universities in the Tulsa area last fall in which our posters were described and their value as educational tools indicated.

According to Anne Stiles, librarian at the Coweta Public Library who arranged for the posters now on display there, having some brightly colored display materials during the bleak brown of winter would serve to remind the library patrons who view the beautiful photos of our contest entries that if winter comes, spring is not that far away. Dr. Connie Hebert who teaches at Tulsa Community College's Southeast Campus was equally excited about the posters. They will be displayed in a large showcase located on the main floor of the building which houses the science classrooms, where not only Dr. Hebert's students but everyone else who enters the building will have the opportunity to see them. Dr. Hebert was particularly interested in the use of scientific nomenclature in identifying the photographed plants. She has been requested by the administration to landscape an area near the science building, and plans to use the photos to gain ideas of appropriate materials to use in that project, since she intends to incorporate native plants in the designated area.

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Chad Cox

An international conference on "Biodiversity, Science and Governance" concluded on January 28. The conference was hosted in Paris by French President Jaques Chirac. It was attended by scientists and government officials from dozens of countries. The conference examined numerous issues in biological diversity conservation, including the economic and health benefits of conservation, current extinction rates, taxonomic challenges, and the roles of governments and the private sector. The conference produced both a Statement and a Declaration. Both call for increased global emphasis on biological diversity conservation.

Paris Declaration on Biodiversity: The Declaration is composed of three sections and recommendations. The first section states that biodiversity, as the natural heritage of and a vital resource for all humankind: is a source of aesthetic, spiritual, cultural and recreational values; provides goods that have direct use values, such as food, wood and pharmaceuticals; supports and enhances ecosystem services upon which human societies depend indirectly, including the maintenance of water, air and soil quality, and ecosystem resilience to change; and provides opportunities for human societies to adapt to changing needs and circumstances, and to discover new products and technologies.

The second section recognizes that biodiversity is being destroyed irreversibly by human activities, noting that: humans are altering the environment at an unprecedented rate, affecting sustainable development and the quality of life; species are being lost at a rate that is about 100 times faster than the average natural rate; large-scale loss is irreversible; and the underlying causes of destruction are of a demographic, economic and institutional nature.

The third section states that a major effort is needed to discover, understand, conserve and use biodiversity sustainably, including: immediate strong actions to meet the MDGs and ensure food security, human health and quality of life; an international coordinated effort to mobilize scientists to expand the knowledge of biodiversity; and integration of conservation and sustainable use into social and economic development. On this basis, governments, policy makers and citizens are urged to take necessary actions, including: ambitious interdisciplinary research programmes; integration of biodiversity into the criteria for all economic and policy decisions and environmental management; improved education and public awareness; and a major effort to build capacity, especially in developing countries. The Declaration also calls for an international mechanism that includes intergovernmental and non-governmental elements, and builds on existing initiatives and institutions to provide information, identify priorities and inform relevant biodiversity-related conventions.

Conference Statement: The Statement recalls the commitment of governments to achieving the 2010 target as a condition for sustainable development, and recognizes that: biodiversity is a vital and poorly appreciated resource that underpins the MDGs; biodiversity is being irreversibly destroyed by humans at an unprecedented rate; unless the rate of biodiversity loss is significantly reduced, any effort to reduce poverty will be undermined; and although enough is known to justify immediate action, major efforts are still needed to fill knowledge gaps.

The Statement urges: governments to take all necessary actions needed to reach the 2010 target, including capacity building; civil society and the private sector to take actions in line with the 2010 target; and the scientific community to develop greater national and international coordination.

The statement also calls for: public and private resources for understanding and conserving biodiversity; communication between all stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities; and greater cooperation and synergies between Parties to, and secretariats of, multilateral environmental agreements. Finally, the statement recommends, in response to the proposal made by French President Jacques Chirac, launching an international multi-stakeholder consultative process to assess the need for an international mechanism that would provide a scientific assessment of information and policy options required for decision making, building on existing bodies and activities.



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On another front, NPCC reported on the survey conducted jointly by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. More than 200 scientists employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said they have been directed to alter official findings to lessen protections for plants and animals. Bush administration officials, including Craig Manson, an assistant secretary of the Interior who oversees the Fish and Wildlife Service, have been critical of the 1973 Endangered Species Act, contending that its implementation has imposed hardships on developers and others while failing to restore healthy populations of wildlife.

Along with Republican leaders in Congress, the administration is pushing to revamp the act. The president's proposed budget calls for a \$3-million reduction in funding of Fish and Wildlife's endangered species programs.

"The pressure to alter scientific reports for political reasons has become pervasive at Fish and

Wildlife offices around the country," said Lexi Shultz of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

You can review this work, read about the effort of the union to fight the politicization of science and sign onto a list of scientists in support of this work at their website: www.ucsusa.org.

The attack on science continues elsewhere. The Law of the Sea, an internationally derived set of regulations for oceans outside of a 200 mile perimeter for coastal countries, referred to many as "constitution for the oceans", has not been brought forward for US ratification in the Senate, blocked so far by our own Senator Jim Inhofe. Inhofe, as chairman of Environment and Public Works committee has held up approval for the law for what he calls loss of sovereignty. This despite approval by Bush administration and other Senatorial committees that have examined the treaty. Inhofe also claims global warming is a farce and cites as evidence fictional writer Michael Crichton's new book.

Most people recognize that global warming is not only real but the greatest threat to mankind at this time. To address the threat, most countries agreed to the Kyoto Protocol. The protocol calls for the signers to reduce their production of greenhouse gases that are driving the warming. With the ratification of the treaty by Russia this last year, enough countries signed on that the treaty went into effect this February. Unfortunately the treaty has two major flaws.

First, the USA, the major producer of greenhouse gases is not a participant. President Clinton signed onto the treaty but Congress refused to ratify. President Bush withdrew presidential support for the treaty. The second problem is that the reductions in production as prescribed by those participating are really only a reduction in the rate of increase in production. However, global warming is occurring at the concentrations of greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide) that is present now. Without a substantial reduction in the current rates that should lead to reduced levels of the gasses, global warming will continue. Whereas as India and China continue to increase their usage of fossil fuels without a corresponding reduction elsewhere, global warming is expected to accelerate.

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## 28th ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

Joanna Orr

On May 13 and 14 the 28th Annual Wildflower Workshop will be held in Ponca City with a dynamite roster of speakers. Harvey Payne, founder of the Tall Grass Prairie will lead off first thing on Friday morning. Other speakers include Dr. Carl Whitcomb, noted horticulturist, author and owner of Lacebark, Inc., Mary Anne Potter, well known herbalist will talk on "Spicing Up Your Cooking", and Dr. Bruce Hoagland, popular speaker from the Natural Heritage Inventory at the University of Oklahoma, will provide his usual inside story on the wildflowers to be seen on the Saturday Field Trip. David Keathly, Executive Director of the E. W. Marland Estate will tell the little known story of Henry Hatashita, the master Japanese gardener hired by Marland to landscape the Marland Mansion, most of Ponca City, and the State Capitol grounds.

The Friday seminar and dinner will be held at the newly opened Ponca Townsite Company Restaurant in downtown Ponca City - plenty of parking is available. The always popular vendors will display live plants, art, books.

The Friday evening dinner will feature Ponca City reenactors with E. W. Marland, B. S. Barnes, Lew Wentz, and Col. Zack Miller there "in person". The always popular Native Plant Society Photo Contest winners will receive awards as their photos are featured on screen.

Saturday's Field Trip. . . . .leaves at 8:00 a. m. for Kaw Lake and surrounding wildflower areas in Osage and Kay counties. Box lunch is included with field trip cost. The trip will be led by Bruce Hoagland, Kim Shannon and other members of the Native Plant Society. For information and/or a copy of the workshop brochure, contact the Department of Transportation Beautification Office at 405/521-4037, e-mail, [beauty@odot.org](mailto:beauty@odot.org), or visit, [www.okladot.state.ok.us/beauty/index.htm](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/beauty/index.htm).

The Workshop is sponsored by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and the Oklahoma State Garden Clubs. Local sponsors include the Ponca City Council of Garden Clubs and the North Central District of Garden Clubs. This first time visit to

**Ponca City promises rich floral history and Tall Grass Prairie preservation plus good cooking!**

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## DECEMBER 4 BOARD MEETING

Chad Cox

The highlights of the board meeting are listed here in this brief report. The next board meeting will be at the Tulsa Garden center June 6. The Annual Meeting is tentatively set for October 8 at Quartz Mountain at either the lodge or group camp. The Wild Flower Workshop was set for May 13-14 in Ponca City at the Vo-Tech Center. Oklahoma Academy of Science meeting will start April 8 at Robber's Cave.

**Pat Folley will take over the Anne Long Award. Marilyn Stewart becomes the western distributor for our Photo Contest Posters. We have a need for chairs for the Publicity Committee.**

**ONPS will sponsor a plaque to memorialize John Taylor. Stan Rice will place the plaque on a tree at the University.**

As of October 31, ONPS accounts were \$12,555.19 in Anne Long Fund, \$4,041.04 in Harriet Barclay Fund, \$7,100 in Life Membership Fund, \$1,258 in ColorOK and \$604.92 in operating fund.

**The board proposes to raise the dues for ONPS to \$15/yr and \$250/life for individuals, \$20/yr and \$350/life for family. Student dues would remain the same. This increase will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.**

Several of us have attended some garden and other events but were disappointed in the interest shown for ONPS. Marilyn Stewart participates at several markets and thinks that we could be better served by having stalls at these events. We will try this spring and summer. Please be ready to help if call upon.

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## PHOTO CONTEST REPORT

**Twelve individuals submitted 59 Photos for the 2005 contest. The plants were identified by Amy Buthold, and are being judged by Kim Shannon/Amy Buthold and Harvey Payne. The**

winners will be announced at the Wildflower Workshop this coming May. Tina Julich has agreed to run the 2006 Photo Contest with a deadline for submission of December 1, 2005. Chad and Pat Cox thank all those contestants that submitted photos for the 2004 and 2005 contests.

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## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## Northeast Chapter

**Sue Amstutz**

Northeast Chapter's winter meeting was held at the Tulsa Garden Center on December 6. Election of a new chair for the chapter was the first order of business, since our chair for the past two years, Connie Murray, is now State ONPS President (a fact of which Northeast Chapter is very proud, since two of the presidents most recently heading the state organization have been members of our group.) Sue Amstutz was elected new Chair of Northeast Chapter. Ethel Brown has agreed to continue to serve as Secretary -Treasurer, and Irene McKee will begin another term as our "Hostess" with responsibility for getting arrangements for our potluck suppers taken care of.

A major item of discussion at the meeting was the announced plan to "develop" undeveloped sections of Mohawk Park in Tulsa. The Tulsa Parks department has instituted a long-range plan which if carried out would eliminate or greatly curtail large areas of Mohawk's natural areas by adding soccer fields, go-cart tracks, equestrian facilities, and day camp facilities. Such developments would even encroach on Oxley Nature Center and its primitive North Woods area. Various members of Northeast Chapter spoke to the problems and difficulties which such development would inflict on Mohawk.

Ron Tyril was speaker for the December meeting. His program featured the Kew Gardens in London at which Ron has spent sabbaticals in previous years. Complete with slides and Ron's ever-fascinating presentation, members of Northeast Chapter were treated to a vicarious experience which left all in attendance feeling as though each had actually been to Kew Gardens!

**Our March 7 meeting at the Garden Center will again feature one of Oklahoma's top botanists when Bruce Hoagland is our guest speaker.**

### Northeast Chapter plans several field trips this

spring. On March 13 the group will visit Oxley North Woods to seek out the lovely *Erythroniums* which in good years number in the thousands in the hardwood forests of North Woods. On April 16, we will return to Lake Eufaula State Park, site of the 2004 Annual Meeting, to view the magnificent dogwoods along the Dogwood Drive area of the park with the added opportunity to hike Arrow-Maker Trail to search for fungi, if there has been sufficient rainfall to produce them. In May (date yet to be decided) we will travel to far eastern Oklahoma to Natural Falls State Park to check out the waterfall and ferns growing around it.

We will continue our Happy Hour planning sessions at Panera Bread on March 18, April 15, and May 20. Panera is located at 5601 E. 41st St. in Tulsa, and all are welcome to join us at 5:30 p.m. on the above-mentioned dates for socializing, plant identifying, and general chitchat about native plants and upcoming group activities.

#### 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.

Crosstimbers Chapter Report  
Elaine Lynch

The Crosstimbers Chapter began the year's activities with a January 15<sup>th</sup> field trip to the Washington Irving Trail Museum southeast of Stillwater. We were hosted by museum curators

and chapter members Dale and Carla Chlouber. The Chloubers provided delicious cookies and very welcome hot cider for the group. The weather on the 15<sup>th</sup> was very cold which resulted in a low attendance for the field trip. Those who attended enjoyed the various exhibits, many of which were personally collected by Dale Chlouber. The museum features documents related to Washington Irving and the 1832 expedition through what is now central Oklahoma lead by Captain Jesse Bean in which Irving participated. Irving described his experiences on the expedition in *A Tour on the Prairies*. The site where the expedition camped on October 10, 1832 is located on the museum property. Unfortunately, the cold weather discouraged trip participants from visiting the campsite. The museum also holds artifacts from settlers, outlaws, very early radio country music, and Native Americans connected with the area's history. The Chloubers also operate a small antiques shop at the front of the museum. An American bison cow and her beefalo calf live on the property. The Chloubers are looking for a gentle, hand-raised bison bull to sire the beginnings of a small bison herd. The Bean expedition first saw signs of bison at that location.

The next chapter activity is planned for March 11<sup>th</sup>. We will hold a potluck dinner and meeting in Room 110 Life Science East on the Oklahoma State University Stillwater campus. The dinner will begin at 5:45 p.m. Our speaker will be Dr. Karen Hickman, Associate Professor of Agronomy at OSU. Dr. Hickman will give us an update on "Oklahoma Range Today." During the business meeting the chapter membership will vote on a proposed bylaws change to move the election of officers from the spring to the fall. Doing so would make our elections coincide with the other ONPS chapters' elections.

Our field trip to the native Oklahoma wildflower garden collection of Dr. Steve Owens has been rescheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> so as not to conflict with the Wildflower Workshop on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Owens is the host of the popular PBS television program *Oklahoma Gardening*. His garden includes an extensive *Penstemon* collection and he may have a license to sell plants by then. We will meet at Life Sciences East at 9:45 a.m. on May 7<sup>th</sup> and carpool to Dr. Owen's garden.

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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).

**Central Chapter  
Marilyn Stewart**

On November 29, we had a very interesting talk by Tim Cannon, about the history of the cross-timbers. Tim has a different perspective and there was some good discussion.

February 28, at 7:30 we will have a meeting at OSU/OKC Hort Center at 400 N. Portland, our speaker will be Stan Blanchard. Stan does wetland remediation for the federal government and also does french drain installation. Come a little early to visit and have a cookie.

March 28, 7:30, OSU/OKC Clark Ovrebo will be our guest speaker, mushrooms and fungi will be the topic. **PLANT EXCHANGE**

April 17, 2:00 at Sutton Park in Norman we will have a scavenger hunt. This should be a fun field trip looking for native plants in this unique spot

right in the midst of so much "progress". The date will be confirmed by postcard.

Looking ahead, we are planning to visit the Keystone Ancient Forest and also have a mycology field trip.

**Mycology Chapter  
Clark Ovrebo**

A Spring field trip looking for morels in the Lake Thunderbird State Park will be held Sunday, April 3, 2005, 1 PM. Meet at Crow's Secret Nature Center 15 miles east of I-35 on highway 9.

**WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS**

L. JoAnn Buswell, Edmond  
Nancy Keller, Gove  
Arnold Lloyd, Del City

Doyle and Donna Orrell, Oklahoma City  
Keith and Linda Schemmer, Kingfisher  
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**Oklahoma Master Naturalist Program**

The Oklahoma Master Naturalist Program is an educational program developed and presented by the Oklahoma State University Extension Service in cooperation with numerous natural resource agencies. Through a series of classroom sessions and field trips you will be trained as an Oklahoma Master Naturalist. Similar to the Master Gardeners Program, a Master Naturalist would be expected to provide services after completing the course.

**Oklahoma Master Naturalist Program Basic Workshops Dates announced:**

Oklahoma City: May, 3, 10, 17 and 24 (all Tuesdays) from 9:30am-4pm at the Oklahoma County Extension Office.

Tulsa: May 5, 12, 19, 26 (all Thursdays) from 9:30am-4pm at the Tulsa County Extension Office.

If you are interested in registering for these classes, or for more information, please contact Sharon Bennett at [sharon\\_bennett@mindspring.com](mailto:sharon_bennett@mindspring.com) or phone 580-335-2289, or visit :[www.okmasternaturalist.org](http://www.okmasternaturalist.org).

## *Oklahoma Native Plant Record*

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