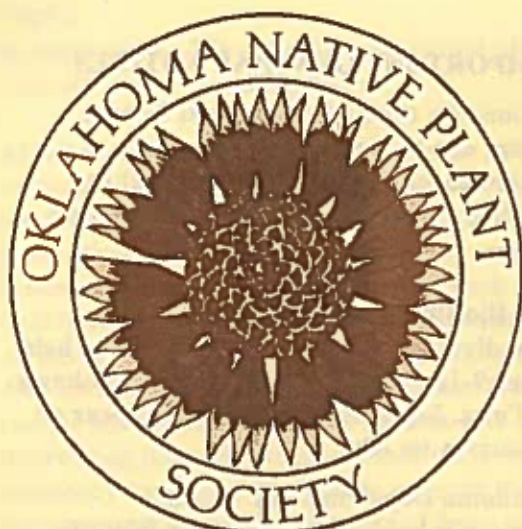




The purpose of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society is to encourage the study, protection, propagation, appreciation and use of Oklahoma's native plants.

Volume 20, Number 2
Summer 2005

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FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 August 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.

June 4: Board Meeting, Tulsa Garden Center, 10 AM.

June 11: NE Chapter trip to Rogers State University's Conservation Education Reserve. Page 10

June 17: NE Chapter Happy Hour. Page 10

June 25: NE Chapter trip to Pryor Creek Trails. Page 10

June 25: Central Chapter Trip to Carolyn Lilly's Home. Page 11

July 18. Central Chapter trip to Bebb Herbarium. Page 11

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

Mary Korthase

General Fund

Ruth Boyd, in memory of John Taylor

Color Oklahoma Fund

Mrs. Gerald G. Stamper

Barry L. Redlinger

Virginia B. Morehead, in Honor of Husband

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

Greetings Fellow Weed Watchers,

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 Tall Grass 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 also possible donors. Kim promises to be the first donor with a Gaillardia hooked pillow. Look for details in the August Newsletter.

Do something 'wild' this summer!

Connie Murray

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

Nominations for the Anne Long and Service Awards are due by August 31. For more information check out the website or call Pat Folley or Sue Amstutz, respectively. See page 5 also.

The 2005 BioBlitz, a 24 hour survey of the biological diversity at a specific area, will be held September 9-10 at Oxley Nature Center/Mohawk Park in Tulsa. More information will appear on www.biosurvey.ou.edu.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is holding the first ever Wildlife Expo on August 27th, 8 AM to 6 PM and 28th, 10 AM to 4 PM. This event will be held at the Lazy E Arena, near Guthrie, and will have a wide variety of activities and educational booths about outdoor recreation, such as camping, fly-tying, birding, archery, rock climbing, wildlife watching, wildscaping, canoeing and outdoor cooking. The ODWC is asking for our help as volunteers to install and remove the wildscapes and act as guides for the Expo visitors wishing to learn more about how to wildscape their landscapes. This would consist of explaining how each plant in the landscape fits into the habitat, i.e. as food or shelter. They are asking for a volunteer for each of the four wildscapes for each day of the expo. There will be a period of a few days for putting the exhibits in place and two days to remove the exhibits. Volunteers may participate in set-up, removal or as guides.

If you are interested, please contact Susan Chambers at tinroof@gbronline.com and give your name, phone and/or email contact information.

BOTANY BAY

Paul Buck
Fall Leaf Color

Like many Botany Bay readers, for years I have been under the impression the fall color change of leaves is clearly understood. It is the result of pre-winter breakdown of chlorophyll pigments exposing the earlier, brighter but masked, carotenes and xanthophylls. I remember reading and being told that many important portions of the chlorophyll molecules are salvaged and transported to over-wintering tissue for utilization the following spring. I accepted that explanation.

It made sense. Why should a perennial plant lose vital minerals via falling leaves?

At the same time, through the years as a field botanist, I developed the idea many woody plants lowered their guard in late summer and early fall permitting pests to attack when the growing season is basically over. Many native trees such as elms, hackberries, oaks and hickories successfully fend off herbivorous insects early in the season. In August and September it appears insects begin to, ravage leaves, chewing holes in them and burrowing through the mesophyll. It is not necessary to go into the field to observe this, look at the common exotic Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*). Introduced from Asia, the species is frequently confused with the fall flowering Chinese elm (*U. parvifolia*). Be cautious, this is another example of confusing common names.

The late season attacks do not seem to harm the trees but do make them look bad. Plant collectors generally avoid such unsightly specimens and try to collect only typical and untouched parts for herbarium specimens. I recall having been chastised years ago by an entomologist, Dr. Svata Lauda of the University of Nebraska, for failing to collect insect damaged specimens. She had a good point since her interest centered on which insects had been interacting with the plants.

But back to fall leaf color. Recently an additional hypothesis for the beautiful bright fall colors has been proposed.

Researchers found evidence plants actually synthesize carotenes and xanthophylls in the fall, at a time when, theoretically, they are not needed. We know the synthesis of these pigments is metabolically expensive and requires valuable raw materials. The obvious question is why go to the expense of manufacturing new ones when apparently they are no longer needed?

The recently proposed hypothesis suggests the bright colors are a signal to discourage egg-laying insects seeking a site to deposit their overwintering eggs. Hatching in the spring, those eggs produce multitudes of herbivorous larvae. Trees laden with such eggs are ravaged after hatching occurs.

From these observations it is evident there is an advantage to discouraging egg-laying insects. Evolutionary biologists propose the bright autumn leaves communicate a warning to insects to stay away.

In the spring many trees produce poisons that effectively control insects but there is a lag-time. An interval is necessary for the plant to recognize the presence of the invader, synthesize the poison and release it and then for it to act upon the target. Obviously it would be more advantageous to warn the potential invader of the consequences so egg deposition does not take place. An autumn declaration of the aggressiveness of the potential host and lethal results would, according to evolutionary biologists, result in co-evolution of the herbivore-host. If the hypothesis is correct, by natural selection surviving plants should become more brightly colored.

Researchers looked at autumn leaf color and the number of herbivorous pest species present and specialized for the species under consideration (aphids on birches). They found a correlation supporting the leaf-signal hypothesis. Additional research showed egg-laying aphids preferred green leaves to either yellow or red. The evidence gathered in these experiments support the hypothesis but is certainly not conclusive.

To this point the evidence presented to support the hypothesis makes sense. Is the hypothesis a valid one? I suspect many readers remain skeptics and that is good. Based on the scientific method a hypothesis does not become a theory without the accumulation of extensive data. The amount of evidence necessary probably depends upon the hypothesis.

Not all agree with the leaf-signal hypothesis. In many cases the objections appear to have merit. For example it is suggested that at higher latitudes, where fall leaves are most colorful, by the time fall color changes take place there are no remaining herbivorous insects. Could that mean the egg laying processes have been completed? Often sexually mature insects lack functional mouth parts. They emerge from the metamorphosis process only to court, mate, lay eggs and die.

There are others who propose different reasons for fall leaf color. One is since chlorophyll is being

inactivated, dismantled, transported and stored for the winter, the carotene and xanthophyll pigments are important in capturing sunlight as an energy source to power chemical reactions. There is even the suggestion dark pigmentation functions to prevent damage to genetic material exposed to solar radiation, radiation that was filtered out earlier by chlorophyll.

There is the possibility no single hypothesis for fall leaf color is correct. Perhaps the answer is a combination of several explanations.

Keep your eyes and mind open; your eyes to new research and your mind to new possibilities. I recall seeing a bumper sticker stating: 'The mind is like a parachute. It works only when open.' I wonder if anyone really knows what is taking place in fall leaf color change.

Anne Long Award

The time to nominate is now! On the first of September, someone will be chosen to receive the Anne Long Award for best serving the stated purpose of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society. Anyone working toward the conservation, appreciation, and provenance of native plants in Oklahoma is eligible, with the exception of past winners and present elected officers. Committee members who do not hold other offices are eligible, as are non-members and all other members.

Past winners are: 1988, Ninnekah High School Science Club; 1989, Doyle McCoy; 1990, John Miller; 1991, Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy; 1992, Joanne Orr; 1993, Sydney Dobson of Oklahoma City Beautiful; 1994, Paul Buck; 1995, no award made; 1996, Ruth Boyd; 1997, Jim Norman; 1998, Connie Taylor; 1999, Patricia Folley; 2000, Bruce Smith; 2001, Sue and Dale Amstutz; 2002, Ron Tyrl; 2003, no award made, 2004, Susan Chambers. .

I can sit here at my computer and name a dozen people who deserve recognition. Some are current officers, but not all of them. I'm sure that you know several more. We have never given the award to a County Extension Agent, or to a grower and producer of native plants, for example. So think about those movers and shakers in your own community, and send your nomination today. No

need to wait for the last moment, when the press of other duties may intervene.

Nominating is simple: send a letter to Patricia Folley, Chair, 15100 Etowah Road, Noble, OK 73068, stating the reasons why the person of your choice should receive this award (a beautiful framed photograph of one of their favorite wildflowers, plus \$50 cash and the distinction). You may send your nominations by e-mail if you prefer: pfolley7@juno.com. That's it. The committee will sort the entries, check whether eligible, and make up the award. If you know your nominee's favorite flower, please mention it.

Patricia Folley, Chair, Anne Long Award Committee

Color Oklahoma Update

By Kim Shannon

Color Oklahoma is offering t-shirts to help support our annual seed purchase. The t-shirts were sold for the first time at the Wildflower Workshop in Ponca City and they were very popular. The major portion of the design is on the back of the shirt with the words, "Color Oklahoma" above an image of the state filled with flowers. There is a dragonfly and the words Color Oklahoma on the front of the shirt. The shirts are available in green, yellow and light purple in a variety of sizes. They will most likely be available again at other ONPS functions or contact Kim (see info below).

In conjunction with the Wildflower Workshop, Color Oklahoma and ODOT will be planting wildflower seeds in the Ponca City area as a little thank you for hosting the annual event.

There were at least 250 Color Oklahoma specialty license plates ordered, so many that the tags had to be produced in two separate batches. Some folks received their new plates in early April and others did not receive them until May. We regret that it took so long for some of you to get your new tag, but we hope that you are enjoying it now. Because the tag was so successful Color Oklahoma will be receiving \$5,000.00 to spend on plantings. Do you have any recommendations for sites to be planted? You can pass along your suggestion to Kim via email at kshannon@ou.edu or call 918.697.3488.

Shhhh... it's an auction

by Kim Shannon

In conjunction with this year's Annual Meeting in October there will be a new event. The Oklahoma Native Plant Society will hold its first silent auction as a fundraiser!

Between now and then start thinking about things you could donate to help ONPS raise some funds. You could donate a personal item you have made such as a quilt, crocheted or knit items, yard sculpture, a painting, etc. Or maybe you are a good photographer. Frame one up and donate it in October! Members of the ONPS board will be soliciting various businesses for donation items such as gift certificates or services our members would find enjoyable and useful.

One rule-of-thumb: if you would sell an item or if you could buy it at a neighborhood garage or yard sale, *don't* donate it for the auction!

At the Annual meeting, during the Saturday evening meal and festivities, items will be on display with bid sheets. You can write down your bid for an item or a variety of items. Minimum bid amounts and retail value of the item will be included on each bid sheet. At the end of the evening our host will announce the close of bidding, sheets will be tallied and the winners of each auction item will be announced. So, remember to bring your checkbook or your stash of "mad-money".

Plus, the donation of auction items may be tax-deductible. If you itemize on your tax return, you can deduct the price of the items that you purchase if they are greater than the fair market value of the goods and services you receive. More information regarding tax-deductible items will be available for auction participants at the annual meeting.

Do you have more questions? There will be more information about the silent auction with the annual meeting registration in a few months. If you would like to ask a question now (and hopefully get an answer), contact Kim at 918.697.3488 or via email at kimshannon@ou.edu.

See you in October!

Is Color Oklahoma Really About Coloring Our State Wild?

Susan Chambers

At the Wildflower Workshop in 2002, a group of ladies approached ONPS about adopting their program of roadside planting of wildflowers. My first reaction was "Yes!" This seemed the quintessential way to spread the natural beauty of our native flowers so that almost anyone could get to know them and enjoy them, no matter their reluctance to wade into the chiggers, ticks and mosquitoes.

The more I began to hear about this group though, I began to have some questions. I decided the best way to have an influence on how this program was implemented was to volunteer my time and be on the CO committee. These are hard-working people! Many things have been accomplished in the last year and a half. Through their fund-raising efforts, a new seeder was purchased and donated to the Department of Transportation. A license tag bill was shepherded through the state legislature and adopted that will fund the seeding program. The beginnings of an advertising program have been made.

But, in my opinion, things have begun to go awry. There was talk at first, and then actual usage of European imports to seed some of the most visible roadsides in the state. After protesting this at the annual meeting in 2004, the ONPS board voted against allowing the planting of non-natives with funds received through the CO program. Good, back on the track of preserving, protecting and educating the public about native plants. Those opposed to this founding purpose came back to the board in December of 2004 and persuaded the board to rescind the vote and allow the planting of non-natives (one of which is listed as an invasive species in the USDOT manual on roadside use of native plants) in some of the most highly traveled by-ways in the state.

I fail to see how this promotes the appreciation of native plants and suspect that it will undermine the credibility of ONPS as a 'serious' organization bent on preserving our wild species of flora. In the private landscape, the owner is there to tell passers-by that something is not a native plant. On our public roadsides, there is no one there with a sign big enough to be read at 45, 55 or 65 mph that these flowers are not native, but European imports. If the general public sees ONPS supporting a planting program using Bachelor's

Buttons, poppies and red clover, how are they supposed to know that these plants did not originate in North America?

If we cannot, as a society, live up to the standards we have set for ourselves in our founding, we should seriously reconsider our charter and mission statement to read "the preservation, protection and education of plants", period.

Editor's note: bachelor's buttons are on the ONPS invasive plants list.

28th ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

Joanna Orr

Mother Nature was in a fine mood during the 28th Annual Wildflower Workshop. After providing a thunder, lightning and rain demonstration on Friday during the seminar, Saturday dawned sunny and perfect. A glorious day to admire herds of woolly bison and gamboling baby buffs (who are a lovely light orange color), and wander through the superb Bivin Garden in Shidler. This little known 6-acre gem was in full bloom and should be more widely known. The Bivins waived the entrance fee and spent three days gussieing up the flower beds. Perfection! With its mixture of domestic and wildflowers, the garden provided a lovely setting for lunch, a charming gift shop and great hospitality by the Bivins, who had moved in chairs and tables to seat all 96 of us on the bus tour. The field trip included the Headquarters of the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve, its fine gift shop, a tour of the Bison Trail, and several hours hiking the preserve.

The Friday seminar took place in a most congenial facility, both floors of the new Ponca City Townsite Company Restaurant in Ponca City. Vendors had the first floor all to themselves and wildflower plants, and the new Color Oklahoma t-shirts were flying out the door along with herb cookbooks and NPS tote bags and shirts. The homemade ice cream from the restaurant was the hit of the day for the 164 registrants.

Morning speakers included Harvey Payne, director of the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve and Dr. Carl Whitcomb, both of whom wowed the audience.

David Keathly, Director of the Marland Mansion showed a rare National Geographic video of the Tall Grass Prairie and discussed Gov. Marland's interest in landscaping. Dr. Larry Magrath reminded us of the many lovely wild orchids in Oklahoma, always a treat to see. Mark Howery presented a very useful and informative talk on attracting wildlife with native plants.

Mary Anne Potter made a special Italian salad, including herbs and wildflowers which she served during her talk. While we munched, one of her comments caught everyone's attention when she said to stop treasuring those old bottles of herbs/spices that say 15 cents or thereabouts on the bottom. She said you are really eating dust and dried stalks with no flavor remaining. . . . Lots of guilty looks around the room! Dr. Bruce Hoagland gave his usual upbeat presentation of beautiful regional wildflowers that would be seen during the field trip. Several speakers provided the audience with some exercise as they cocked their heads to view sideways or upside down slides. A good time was had by all.

Dr. Harvey Payne was honored with the 15th Annual Bess Snodgrass Award. It is given each year by John Snodgrass, son of Bess Snodgrass. Bess and her Ardmore garden club originally planted the coreopsis that have spread throughout the Arbuckles. The award recognizes those who carry on Oklahoma's legacy of wildflowers. Dr. Payne was honored for his work in the restoration of the prairies and the wildflowers that are a major part of the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. The Preserve has a pioneering and very effective burn program which enables the wildflowers to multiply naturally. Dr. Payne received a framed photograph of native grasses and wildflowers with a brass plaque attached. Also, an acre of wildflower seed will be planted at a site of his choice during the 2005 fall planting season. The Native Plant Society presented its annual awards for the ONPS Photo Contest at the Friday dinner and urged everyone to enter next year. The winners are listed below.

Four reenactors from the Ponca City History Players provided a fascinating picture of the early days starting with the Run and ending with the oil hey-days. A local banker, undertaker,

businessman, and a former mayor dressed the parts and portrayed Gov. E. W. Marland, B. S. Barnes, Lew Wentz, and Colonel Zack Miller, telling little known vignettes about the early days. Did you know that Lew Wentz paid to bring back the bodies of Will Rogers and Wiley Post after their Alaska crash?

Next year the Wildflower Workshop will be held in the northeast part of the state, possibly in the Grove area. The Workshop is co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the State Garden Clubs and the Oklahoma Native Plant Society. The Ponca City Council of Garden Clubs and the North Central Garden Clubs also were local sponsors this year.

2005 ONPS Photo Contest Winners

Beginners

1	John Cleal	Choctaw	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-Pulpit
2	Marion Homier	Choctaw	<i>Spiranthes</i> sp.	Nodding Lady Tresses
3	Carolyn Lilly	Norman	<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	Maximilian's Sunflower

Amateur Close-up

1	John Cleal	Choctaw	<i>Tradescantia ohimensis</i>	Ohio Spiderwort
2	Marion Homier	Choctaw	<i>Impatiens canadensis</i>	Spotted Jewelweed
3	John Cleal	Choctaw	<i>Diodia virginiana</i>	Virginia Buttonweed

Advanced Close-up

1	Pat Folley	Noble	<i>Tradescantia ozarkensis</i>	Ozark Spiderwort
2	Pat Folley	Noble	<i>Cirsium horridulum</i>	Bull Thistle
3	John McKnight	Midwest City	<i>Allium canadense</i>	Wild Garlic

Habitat

1	Harry Henson	Weatherford	<i>Nelumbo lutea</i>	Water Lily
2	Lynn Michael	Claremore	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	Dutchman's Breeches
3	Sanja Jo Hahn	Bixby	Field Scene near Mounds	

Best Photo

John Cleal	Choctaw	<i>Tradescantia ohimensis</i>	Ohio Spiderwort
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Our thanks goes to:

Judges: Harvey Payne, The Nature Conservancy at Tall Grass Preserve and Kim Shannon, Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory and Amy Buthod, Robert Beeb Herbarium, both at University of Oklahoma.

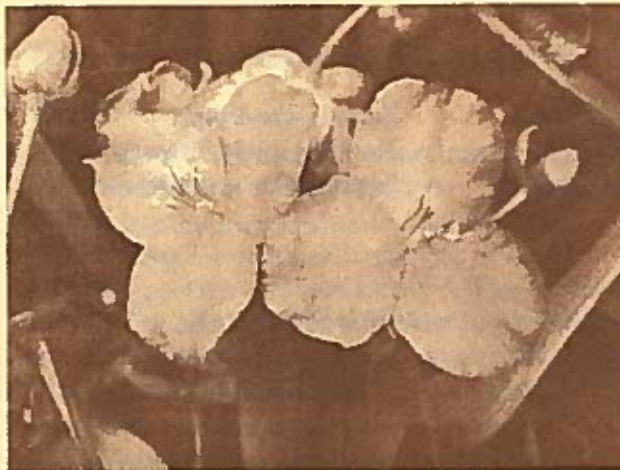
Identification of plants: Kim Shannon, Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory and Amy Buthod, Robert Beeb Herbarium, both at University of Oklahoma. Clark Ovrebo identified the mushrooms.

Pat Folley constructed the award certificates.

Total pictures submitted, 59, one ruled non native, 58 judged.



Beginners First Place



Advanced Close Up First Place

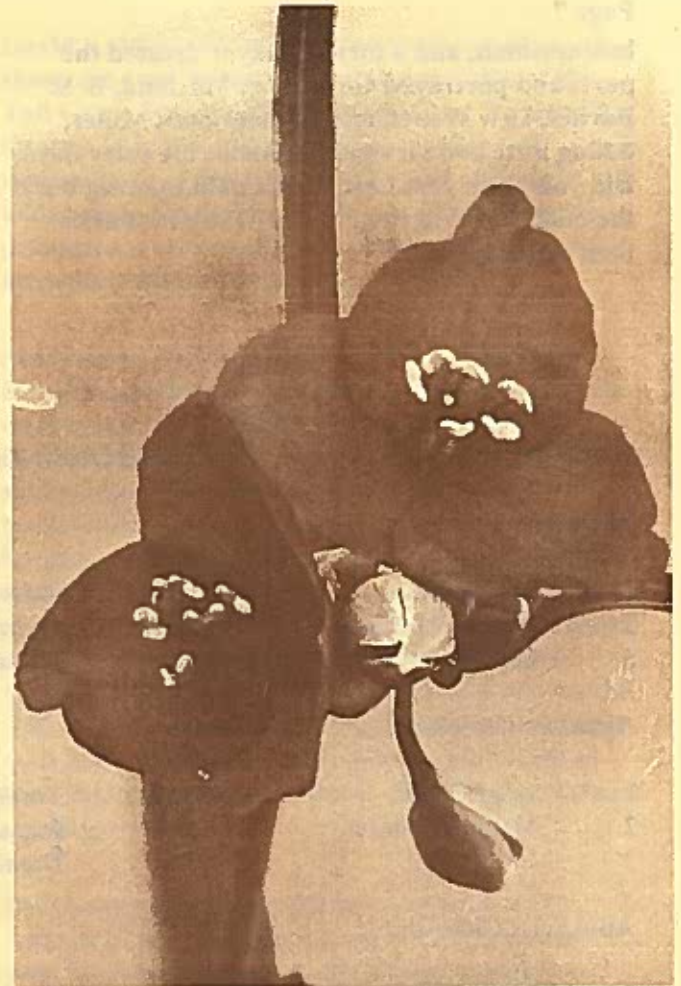


Habitat First Place

CONSERVATION CORNER

Chad Cox

Extinction is not a certainty when humans commit an effort to compensate for their extravagances. Chances are you can rattle off several examples of saving animal species such as bison, eagles and condors. How about plants? The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma and the Tulsa office of the US Fish & Wildlife Service are teaming up to reintroduce western prairie fringed orchid,



Amateurs Close Up First Place and Best Photo

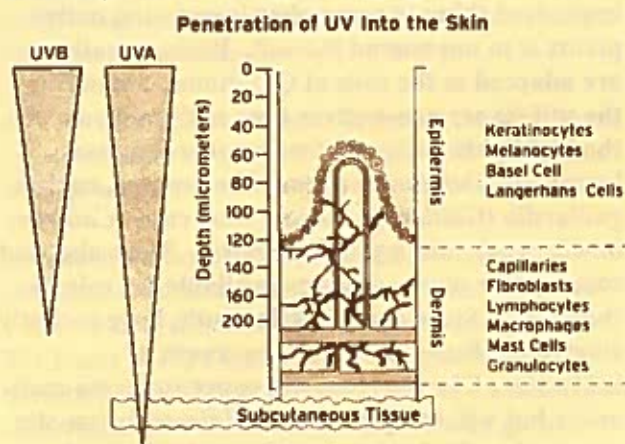
Platanthera praeclara, back into northeastern Oklahoma. We wish them well. But what of an effort to save a major plant species that has been brought from possible extinction back to its major status.

The American Chestnut Foundation has just that in mind as their 2004-2014 goal. Their plan is to backcross the blight resistance from the Chinese chestnut into the American chestnut and raise these in orchards. Actually the process has already begun and a part of the project is to keep backcrossing two established resistance trees into American chestnuts to remove further Chinese chestnut genetic material. The final product will be a group of American chestnuts that can be used to populate forests at least of the Appalachian mountains.

The American chestnut was a major forest tree of enormous economic value before the blight. The Foundation hopes that this economic value will serve as an economic incentive for replanting forests of these trees. Although this may sound a little crass, I can not recall hearing so many people lament the loss of a species of tree as those speaking about their chestnuts. We certainly wish Foundation best of luck.

Here's a conservation tip but for your body. With the increasing intensity and length of sunshine, we need to protect ourselves from the harmful effects of the ultraviolet rays on our skin. Dermatologists that I know suggest you stay out of the sun from about 10 AM to 3 PM and wear sunscreen on exposed skin the rest of the time. If your clothing is particularly thin (How much light comes through?), apply sunscreen under those areas as well.

The rating system of sunscreens readily convert to a proper choice. An SPF of 15 means you can remain in the sun for 15 times the length of time that would be safe without it. Be sure to select one with both UVA and UVB protection. While UVA rays are more penetrating and lead to sunburns, UVB rays are still very damaging to your skin.



Protecting your skin may keep you from having a tan but your skin will remain much more youthful for many more years. Compare how the skin that is exposed almost all of the time (hands) with areas covered all the time. For those like me that grew up before these modern sunscreens, I still might benefit from the most important reason for sunscreens; preventing more skin cancers. If nothing else, at least they prevent me from getting burned.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Northeast Chapter Sue Amstutz

Spring has been a very busy time for the members of Northeast Chapter. At our March 7 meeting, we heard Dr. Bruce Hoagland of the OU Biology Department describe the activities and work of the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory, an organization in which Dr. Hoagland is intensely involved as its Chair. Our May 3 meeting featured Donna Horton, Senior Staff Naturalist at Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa, who brought us the most current updates on plans for developing portions Mohawk Park in ways which would greatly impact the more naturalistic appeal of Tulsa's largest municipal park.

We have had several field trips already this spring and additional excursions are planned for May and June. On the cold and windy but clear Sunday afternoon of March 13 18 of the ladies of Northeast Chapters (too cold for the guys????) trekked through Oxley North Woods in search of the early-blooming Trout Lily (*Erythronium albidum*) which inhabits large tracts in the old-growth forests along Bird Creek. We were fortunate to find the lilies approaching their peak bloom!

On April 8 nine members of the chapter traveled to Claremore to visit Stonebridge Garden Center. Our hostess for the event was Jolene Stone, owner of the nursery and one of the speakers at last February's Indoor Outing. Our field trip to Lake Eufaula State Park was attended by six Tulsans, two members from Eufaula, Oklahoma, and a gentleman from Siloam Springs, Arkansas. This April 16 event was scheduled with the hope of finding the dogwoods along Dogwood Drive at their peak bloom, and we were not disappointed! In addition, many other spring-blooming wildflowers, several fern species, and three varieties of fungi, including morels were noted on the trails of the park. We also observed an 18" long green snake make its way from the ground to eye level in a small trail-side tree.

Sue and Dale Amstutz invited the chapter to tour their backyard native plantings, and sixteen members of Northeast Chapter visited the Amstutz gardens on April 22. Shrubs, wildflowers, and an assortment of bird-feeding apparatuses were of interest.

The Chapter provided a community service on April 13 by providing early and midmorning refreshments for Barry Fugatt's Linneaus Gardens training seminar at the Tulsa Garden

Center. Approximately 100 people (including trainees, Garden Center personnel, and mentors to the trainees) were present. ONPS received acknowledgment via signage on the refreshments tables and by an announcement of appreciation from the podium. We also made available membership forms as well as information about gardening with native plants.

The chapter continued its regular schedule of Happy Hours, with these events taking place on March 18, April 15 and May 20. Panera Bread on East 41 St Street in Tulsa is the site of these sessions which feature planning, identification of plants, trading of books, and general socializing. The next Happy Hour is set for June 17.

Several field trips are planned through the end of June. These include trips to

Natural Falls State Park on May 27, a "Backroads Ramble" with Charles Lewallen on

June 11, Rogers State University's Conservation Education Reserve on June 20, and

Pryor Creek Trails on June 25.

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 Elaine Lynch

The Crosstimbers chapter hosted our spring potluck dinner on March 11th, at the Life Science East building on the Oklahoma State University Stillwater campus. Our speaker was Dr. Karen Hickman, Associate Professor from the Plant and Soil Sciences Department at OSU. Dr. Hickman talked about the competition between native and introduced European bluestems and how, in almost every case, the European bluestems triumph over the natives. She also discussed the government and extension policies which promoted, and in some cases still promote, planting European bluestems for cattle pastures. During the business meeting the chapter membership approved a 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. The members also voted to retain the current officers until the next election.

On May 7th, we visited the native Oklahoma wildflower garden collection of Steve Owens, host of the popular PBS television program *Oklahoma Gardening*. Steve discussed growing native plants in a garden setting. According to Steve, the most important thing to remember in growing native plants is to not amend the soil. Because natives are adapted to the soils of Oklahoma, amending the soil favors non-natives over natives. Some of the highlights of the visit were several native larkspurs (*Delphiniums*) and *Penstemons*, rayless gaillardia (*Gaillardia suavis*), wine cups (*Callirhoe involucrata*), and a yellow *Baptisia*. Steve also had some native plant seedlings available for sale to the group. Steve and his wife, Ruth, have recently started the Bustani Plant Farm south of Stillwater. The business will concentrate on mail-order but will be open at special times for on-site plant sales. To learn more about the Bustani Plant Farm, visit their web site: www.bustaniplantfarm.com.

We are planning a September field trip to one or more local gardens of members who have featured native plants in their landscaping. At the present time the specific time and place(s) have not been finalized, but we will notify members prior to the date. We would also like to plan for a pot-luck and dinner speaker in November. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.

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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 April 17, about 15 members of the Central Chapter met at Sutton Park in Norman for a scavenger hunt. Even though there had been little rain in the area we found several spring bloomers and identified some of the exotics that have established themselves in the area. The Black Locust *Robinia Pseuda-Acacia* were blooming and VERY fragrant, also found Rusty Blackhaw *Viburnum rudifolium* and several milkweeds, some even had Monarch eggs. Thanks to Lou Duke and her sister for taking the pictures and Bruce Smith for being such a knowledgeable guide.

There was no May field trip due to the Wildflower Workshop.

On June 25, at 9:00, we will meet at the home of Carolyn Lilly. Her home is east of Norman at 3000 Blue Ridge Drive. Go to the intersection of Hwy 9 and 72 Ave, go south one mile to East Cedar Lane, then west about 1/4 mile and then go

north on Blue Ridge. We will be sending a postcard in the near future.

On July 18 at 10:00 we will enjoy the air-conditioning of the Bebb Herbarium, located in George Lynn Cross Hall, 770 Van Vleet Oval, Norman. Our own Pat Folley will give us the grand tour. Afterwards, we will go out for lunch.

There will be no field trip in August, when the September plans are finalized, we will send out a card.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Phillip and Carol Comp, Oklahoma City
Patricia A. and John Cotton, McAlester
Joella Hundley, Weatherford
Danita Hundley, Yukon
Beth Rooney, Tulsa
Julie Strauss, Tulsa
Nelson L. Wolfe, Collinsville

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