



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

Volume 24, Number 4
Winter 2009

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FOR NEXT ISSUE IS
15 February 2010**

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.

- Dec 7: NE Chapter Meeting. Page 6
 - Dec 18: Fabulous Wildflower Friday. Page 6
 - Jan 15: Fabulous Wildflower Friday. Page 6
 - Jan 30: Cross-Timbers Chapter Field Trip to Stillwater's designated natural areas. Ron Tyrl.
 - Feb 6: Indoor Outing on OU campus. Page 5
 - Feb 19: Fabulous Wildflower Friday. Page 6
 - Feb 28: Photo Contest Deadline. Page 11
- Note: all members are invited to all meetings, including board meetings, and are encouraged to bring guests.

ONPS THANKS THESE DONORS

General Fund

In Memory of Nicholas Michael

Ken & Marilyn Stewart
Mary Korthase
Sheila Strawn
Paul E. & Alice R Richardson
Gloria Caddell
Chadwick & Patricia Cox

Color Oklahoma Fund

Patricia L. Stamper

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

Lynn Michael

A short while back I was taking a Field Zoology class at Rogers State University. My teacher commented that Botany was boring, or words to that effect. He said plants were just there and you didn't have to go hunt for them like you would a good amphibian, reptile, insect or mammal. I couldn't rebut his remark in the middle of the class, but he was mistaken. We've all had our favorite location of wildflowers destroyed by a new housing development. Then you have to worry if conditions will be too wet or too dry, or you miss the three days that particular ephemeral species bloomed last season and have to wait another year to try and find it at the right time again. Then you finally find a new patch, and just before it blooms the mowers come along and it's gone. And there are so many more species of plants in Oklahoma than, say, mammals.

Just what does ephemeral mean? The thesaurus lists these characteristics: short-lived, transient, passing, fleeting, brief, momentary, and temporary. There are more things than we know that are ephemeral, fleeting. We need to enjoy them, appreciate them, before they are gone. Have you ever tried to catch a sunrise, a rainbow, the light dusting of snow on the tree branches? Our lives have become so cluttered and we are all covered up with obligations, work, possessions, etc. Don't get so busy that you forget to look for the short-lived, momentary and quite remarkable things around us in the natural world.

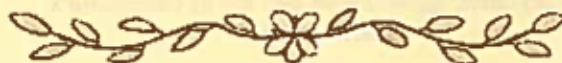
Wintertime brings a pause. Most plants are dormant so attention is diverted to the structures and supports for our environment. Look at the bark of trees and the particular pattern of the branches. Check out the colors and shapes of rocks. Look through the pages carefully and slowly of your plant field guides. Find a species or two that you haven't seen before and study its native habitat, bloom times and requirements so that you may be able to locate it this coming year.

We had a remarkable time during the Annual meeting at Eufaula in October. The weather was perfect and we all trudged up and down and around and around, finding all sorts of plants. I think everyone saw something new to them. The great thing about the Oklahoma Native Plant Society is that you can always learn something. In the movie "City Slickers" they discuss that the meaning of life is just one "special thing" but each person has to decide what that one special thing is to them. It seems that each field trip has its one special thing that makes it worthwhile. They each

contain knowledge, beauty, friendship, charity, exercise, and/or tranquillity. My three-year-old grandson and I just went for a walk in our backyard and found berries of Wahoo and deciduous holly and Trumpet Creeper pods. He had the best time breaking open the pods and watching hundreds of seeds swoosh into the air. Plan your own field trip or attend the next one of your local chapter in the spring.

IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES

Due to the amount of material submitted, a more elaborate Annual Meeting report will be in the Spring issue. The officers and Directors are listed on the back page. Sue Amstutz presented our long-term Treasurer, Mary Korthase the Service Award and Ron Tyrl awarded the Ann Long to Pearl Garrison for all her contributions to wildflower promotion.



BOTANIST'S CORNER

The Flora of Oklahoma Project

The Flora of Oklahoma Editorial Committee

As a member of ONPS you can't help but know the remarkable botanical diversity that occurs within our state. It only takes one or two field trips for one to appreciate the beauty of Oklahoma's wildflowers, and those of you conducting the society's surveys of the Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden and Lake Stanley Draper perhaps have an even greater understanding of the tremendous number of different species that can be present in small areas. Ponder for just a moment the diversity for the state as a whole. The vascular flora of Oklahoma — flowering plants, conifers, ferns, horsetails, and clubmosses — comprises 173 families, 851 genera, and about 2,463 species. It is a complex assemblage of plants representative of different phytogeographic regions. Species characteristic of the eastern deciduous forest and central grasslands are the most common; however, species from the Rocky Mountains, the Chihuahuan and Sonoran Deserts, the Gulf Coastal Plain, and the Ozark Mountains also occur in the state.

As might be expected, this diverse flora has long been of interest to plant taxonomists. The first floristic study of the state's plants was a doctoral dissertation submitted to Harvard University by G.W. Stevens in 1916. Never published, his treatment included keys and generic descriptions,

but lacked descriptions for the 1,500 listed species. In 1929, T.R. Stemen and W.S. Myers published *Spring Flora of Oklahoma*, which was followed by their more comprehensive *Oklahoma Flora* in 1937. In the latter book, they treated 640 genera and 1,626 species; however, they did not include the graminoid families Poaceae, Cyperaceae, and Juncaceae. Illustrations accompanied abbreviated descriptions of families, genera, and species. Taxonomic treatments of portions of Oklahoma's flora were prepared by G.J. Goodman and D.A. McCoy. In 1958, Goodman published his *Keys To The Spring Flora Of Central Oklahoma*. As the title indicates, the treatment is restricted both for area and season. *A Study of Flowering Plants* was published by McCoy in 1968. It is a treatment providing descriptions of the major families. In 1952, U.T. Waterfall, a taxonomist at Oklahoma State University, undertook the writing of a comprehensive treatment for the flora of Oklahoma. Recognizing that there was an immediate need for a means of identification, he first prepared keys to all of the state's plants and personally published four editions of *Keys to the Flora of Oklahoma* (later editions are only re-printings of the fourth edition). Simultaneously with publication of the keys, he began to write diagnostic descriptions of each genus and species. Sadly, his manuscript was not completed because of his untimely death in 1971.

The last edition of Waterfall's *Keys* (1969) was the primary taxonomic reference for studies of the state's flora for more than two decades. During this time, numerous taxonomic revisions of families and genera were published and many nomenclatural changes were made. In addition, additional native species were discovered and numerous introduced species became naturalized. An up-to-date treatment of the state's flora was clearly needed.

In the fall of 1983, ten botanists from throughout the state initiated an effort to write and publish a modern floristic treatment for the identification of Oklahoma's vascular plants. At present, the editorial committee comprises 12 ONPS members quite familiar to you: Susan Barber, Wayne Elisens, Jim Estes, Patricia Folley, Connie Murray, Adam Ryburn, Bruce Smith, Connie Taylor, Rahmona Thompson, Ron Tyrl, Jay Walker, and Linda Watson. Founding members Paul Buck and Larry Magrath were major contributors to the project until their deaths.

Initial steps in our effort included the establishment of an editorial committee; formation of *Flora Oklahoma Incorporated*, a non-profit corporation; development of an editorial

format; production of a computerized data base for families; solicitation of contributors; and a search for funding to support the endeavor. Ultimately, we concluded that we had devoted too much time seeking funds rather than writing descriptions. In November 1992, we decided to *Just Do It (Nike[®])* and wrote the first couplet of our keys:

1. Plants trees or shrubs or woody vines or woody epiphytes.
1. Plants herbs, some woody at the base.

In order to make sustained progress, we decided to meet one Saturday a month in the Bebb Herbarium at OU for a marathon session of examining specimens, writing, and editing. Individuals prepare drafts of keys and descriptions to be reviewed by the committee as a whole. Twelve editors have to agree on every sentence and technical term used. As you might expect, from time to time, we have lengthy discussions (arguments?) on how words are defined, how they should be used, and how the novice user of our keys will interpret them. If there isn't a consensus of opinion, we sometimes vote to resolve the issue. The advantages of such a seemingly cumbersome approach is that 12 different perspectives are presented and incorporated. In addition, if we start to deviate from our guiding principles, someone always reminds the rest of us that we have gone astray.

Like Waterfall, we wanted to provide keys and descriptions as quickly as possible to the state's students, resource managers, scientists, plant enthusiasts such as you, and other individuals interested in identifying plants. Our plan, therefore, was to complete sequentially: (1) a key to families, (2) descriptions of families, (3) keys to the genera of each family, (4) keys to the species of each genus, and finally (5) descriptions of all genera and species. Our key to families, titled *Keys to the Vascular Plants of Oklahoma*, appeared in 1994. It was combined with Waterfall's 1969 *Keys* in a book titled *Identification of Oklahoma Plants*. Waterfall's heirs had kindly granted the corporation permission to reprint his book and combine it with our efforts. Subsequent completion of the family descriptions resulted in 1997's *Keys and Descriptions for the Vascular Plant Families of Oklahoma*, also combined with Waterfall's *Keys*.

Concurrent with the publication of the keys and descriptions for families, work was begun on keys to the genera and species of all families. In 2005, this task was completed and *Keys and Descriptions for the Vascular Plants of Oklahoma* appeared.

Unlike most floristic works, *Keys and Descriptions* is still evolving. The advantage of publishing the book ourselves on 8.5 x 11 paper and using spiral binding is that it is easy to revise. Each time it is used in taxonomy or field botany courses, we receive feedback on ambiguities, troublesome wording (our meaning was perfectly clear to us), typos, and worst of all, errors. We revise the keys and descriptions and typically publish revisions once or twice a year. ONPS members Monica Macklin and Gloria Caddell have been especially helpful in bringing problems to our attention and we greatly appreciate their assistance.

Work is now commencing on the descriptions and illustrations of the 851 genera and 2,463 species. We have decided that the most effective way of completing them is to divide the work into fascicles that can be published separately and then eventually brought together in the final *Flora*. We have begun work on the first fascicle, *The Asteraceae of Oklahoma: Keys and Descriptions*. It will likely be followed by fascicles on the graminoids, the ferns, and the legumes.

You might be wondering why there is such an effort to write *The Flora of Oklahoma*. The answer is quite simple. Oklahoma economy is dependent upon its natural resources and the vegetation of the state constitutes a most important component of that resource base. Productive agricultural and biological research as well as effective management and development require the rapid and accurate identification of all plants and a thorough understanding of their geographical and ecological distribution. In addition, an increasing number of Oklahoma residents are beginning to be aware of the diversity of the state's plants and want to be able to identify them. ONPS members, of course, have been the vanguard of public awareness. We hope that publication of *The Flora of Oklahoma* will meet these needs.

Should you want to start identifying unknown plants now, you can purchase copies of the most recent *Keys and Descriptions* for \$30 via the project's website www.biosurvey.ou.edu/floraok.

DOROTHY ANN RANDLE
Frank Carl

This is a tribute to Dorothy Ann Randle, a former ONPS Board Member and Vice President during the mid 1990's. Ann passed from this life on September 24, 2009.

Those of us who knew and worked with Ann and her husband Bill were most fortunate. I've been asked to share information and provide some

insight into who Ann really was with those of you who never had the pleasure.

Ann was a Master Gardener and as many of us do, she joined ONPS to fill the vacuum between domestic and native plants. She was a quick and enthusiastic learner, eager to become involved in all aspects of ONPS activities and would tackle any project with enthusiasm.

Ann was a graduate of Kansas State University, an artist and a teacher of art in the Duncan Public School System prior to moving to Norman. She was also a garden designer and landscaping professional. In addition to this and many other activities, she was a volunteer for the first docent class at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History at Oklahoma University.

She was a pleasure to work with and it was a treasured gift to become her friend.

Our condolences to Bill, their children and family. We have all lost a friend and fellow nature enthusiast.

Sue Amstutz gleaned the following from past *Gaillardias*.

Column in the Winter, 1993 *Gaillardia* entitled "Meet Your New Board Members" stated Ann was born in Alabama and finished her schooling in Kansas. She received a dual degree from KSU, a BA in architecture and a BS in education. Her husband, Bill, is a veterinarian. After moving to Duncan for Bill to open a clinic, Ann taught in the public schools before obtaining a position with a landscape architecture firm and nursery. The training she received there, plus her drawing and design skills developed in college and post-graduate college courses like plant taxonomy allowed her to open her own business in garden design, 'Colorscape'.

From other *Gaillardias*: Ann became a Director-at-Large of ONPS in 1993, a post she held until the Annual Meeting of 1996 at which time she was elected State Vice President (when Frank Carl was President). While a Director, Ann coordinated the events of the ONPS Annual Meeting held on October 21-22, 1995. The meeting was held at Quartz Mountain, with portions of the schedule held in nearby Altus. Ann handled all arrangements with the venues in Altus, planned field trips at Quartz Mountain, and handled reservations and registrations.

An article written by Ann in the Autumn, 1995 *Gaillardia* appeared in the "Gardening On the Wild Side" column which was a regular feature of the newsletter in the mid- 1990's. The article,

entitled "Love Liatris" presented Ann's particular fascination and interest in the varying types of liatris in Oklahoma.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Chad Cox

In the Autumn, I mentioned the suggestion made at a board meeting that we might undertake some restoration projects. Although apparently fortuitously, the Cross-Timber Chapter is planning a version of this that Elaine reports in her chapter report.

Tom Creider, Director of State Parks, will be meeting with OkIPC board members December 4 and I will talk with him about ONPS doing restoration projects in state parks. These talks would only be to explore the restrictions associated with projects by nonprofits within state parks. Remember, Tom supported our wildflower pamphlets we produced for some state parks already. Of course, the inventories and the pamphlets do not alter the park as would a restoration. More on this in the next issue.

COLOR OKLAHOMA

Tina Julich

Seed has been planted for the grant awardees for 2009. The CO committee is researching other ways to use the grants, perhaps in city or state parks. The Turnpike Authority has agreed to plant several sites along different turnpikes in Oklahoma and we look forward to the beauty of the wildflowers next spring.



INDOOR OUTING

Sheila Strawn, Mycology Chapter Chair

Hosted by the Mycology Chapter, our next INDOOR OUTING will be Saturday, February 6, 2010 on the OU Campus. The main theme will be "Interactive Kingdoms: insects, fungi, plants, algae, and bacteria", with talks lead by Ken Hobson, Clark Ovrebo, and Steven Strawn. The afternoon will include lunch on Campus Corner and a trip (plan to carpool) to a mushroom farm east of Norman. Mark your calendars now and get ready to learn about some interesting relationships.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

8:30 - 9:00 Registration
9:00-9:45 Ken Hobson's talk
9:45-10:30 Clark Ovrebo's talk
10:30-10:45 Break

10:40-11:30 Steven Strawn's talk

11:30-1:00 Lunch on your own on Campus Corner

1:00-2:00 First group visits mushroom farm while second group attends a special presentation (TBA)

2:00-3:00 Second group visits mushroom farm while second group attends the special presentation.



AMBASSADORS

Pat Folley

Dear ONPS Members

There are so many ideas buzzing around in this old grey head that I hardly know where to start. Let me introduce one now: Every member an ambassador. Yes, we appreciate the folks who pay their dues and read their newsletter, because they contribute to our everyday existence, too. But, you joined this organization because you are appreciative of the beauty and ecological role of native plants. And there are other ways to further the work of ONPS than leading field trips and writing to the *Gaillardia*. So, here and now, I am appointing each of you an Ambassador to the Neighborhood, representing native plants to the people you deal with in some way every day.

How can you carry out this mission? Watch for announcements of local planting projects, such as the Urban Forestry program and maybe a civic improvement in the planning. Know a few local native plants (the list should not be over ten items long) and kindly offer that list to the people in charge. You will be amazed at the amount of ignorance out there! I often meet people, including garden club members, who think that all wildflowers are weeds. So I suggest one of our seven species of native *Coreopsis*, all beautiful, or the peppervine (*Ampelopsis arborea*), related to Virginia creeper but far easier to live with, or the wonderful Shumard's oak, (*Quercus shumardii*) as landscaping alternatives. You will have others to offer.

When you discover a wild plant that is attractive, but unknown to you, take a specimen about a foot long and containing flowers and/or fruit, dry it in a newspaper under a book or in a press, and bring it to the next ONPS meeting. There will be someone there who can identify it. When you are sure that a plant is for you, learn how to propagate it and begin to save seeds. Maybe you can find enough seedlings to put a dozen into small pots and offer them on call. We are sorely in need of local growers who will make native plants available to local people: only in Clinton and

Peggs (now in Seminole too!), both remote from the population centers, do we have dedicated native plant growers who will sell retail.

Then, let me know what you are doing. This newsletter, your local chapter, and the nearest OSU Extension center are all good ways to offer the resources you have generated. Native plants will never become natural selections for home and landscaping use until they are available.

24 October 2000 President's letter for November 15 *Gaillardia*.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Northeast Chapter Sue Amstutz

Northeast Chapter will meet on Monday, December 7, at the Tulsa Garden Center/ The evening will begin with our regular potluck supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by a business meeting at which the Nominating Committee, chaired by Connie Murray, will make its report culminating in election of chapter officers for 2010.

The evening's program. "The Wildflower Photography of John Miller", will reprise a presentation originally included on the agenda of the 2008 ONPS Annual Meeting in Idabel. John Miller, first chairman of the ONPS Photography Committee, was an excellent photographer in his own right. When the Millers moved from Oklahoma to Arizona in the mid 1990's. John donated his extensive collection of Oklahoma wildflower slides to ONPS. In 2008 the slides were scanned into CD format by Paula Shryock and Dr. Ron Tyrl at OSU. It is this format which was employed at the 2008 Annual Meeting and will again be utilized at the December 7 Northeast Chapter meeting.

Several Chapter members participated in an October 17 field trip to Sahoma and Pretty Water Lakes. These two lakes supply water for the city of Sapulpa; recreation areas at the two adjoining lakes are managed by the Sapulpa Parks Department. For so late in the season, a surprising amount of botany—forbs, grasses, fungi, trees and shrubs, berried plants, vines, and water plants—were identified during the several - hours long outing.

The Chapter's final field trip scheduled for 2009 took place on November 14. Site of the excursion was Chandler Park in west Tulsa.

In addition to the chapter meeting on December 7, the group will get together socially at Panera Bread on December 18 for the final Fabulous

Wildflower Friday of 2009 Other FWF events at Panera are scheduled for January 15 and February 19 in the new year. Our members extend holiday greetings to the rest of our friends in ONPS and wish for all of you great wildflowering in 2010.

Cross-Timbers Chapter Elaine Lynch

On September 19th, about 20 members and guests met at the Bustani Plant Farm south of Stillwater. The Bustani Plant Farm is owned by Steve and Ruth Owens. Steve is the former host of the television show "Oklahoma Gardening." Steve met us in the drizzling rain and showed us the garden beds planted with Oklahoma native wildflowers. He described planting techniques for native plants and pointed out some of the more successful displays as well as describing some notable disappointments. After the rain stopped, we generally wandered around the planting areas and he answered questions about individual plants in the beds. The Owens grow and propagate many native plant species. Unfortunately, we can remember only a few: *Liatris* (gayfeather), *Allium stellatum* (pink or prairie wild onion), *Eupatorium* (boneset or cudweed), *Euphorbia marginata* (snow-on-the-mountain), and *Artemisia ludoviciana* (white sage).

We held our fall potluck dinner on November 6th. Our speaker was John McClenny, director of Stillwater Parks, Events and Recreation (PER). McClenny spoke about the Designated Natural Areas program in five Stillwater parks. He explained that the original reason for establishing the Natural Areas was economic rather than ecological. Stillwater maintains six times as much parkland as the national average. The national average is 11 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. Stillwater has 65 acres per 1,000 people. However, Stillwater does not have six times the budget as the national average. When fuel cost rose to record levels last year, PER had to find a way to reduce operating costs. They came up with the Designated Natural Areas program. The idea is to allow more remote areas of certain parks to return to native vegetation. Those areas are mowed only twice per year: late winter/early spring before spring growth begins and fall after blooming is over. Doing this decreased PER mowing by 25% with a corresponding reduction in fuel costs. It also allowed an increase in the mowing rotation in higher use and more visible areas of PER properties. Besides saving money, PER also reduced pollution through fewer

emissions, dust and noise, and they received editorial praise in the *Stillwater NewsPress*. There were complaints from some residents near Natural Areas who were concerned that wild animals, especially skunks, would use the areas to come into their yards. These concerns were addressed by increasing the mowed buffer between the Natural Areas and nearby houses. McClenny also said that PER needs to monitor the areas due to fire issues and to manage eastern red cedars.

After McClenny finished his presentation, there were several questions from the audience, as well as some suggestions that were welcomed by Mr. McClenny. Chapter members agreed that we would work out a plan to help with the Natural Areas. We may adopt a particular Area or spread our help over more than one. There were also suggestions of other groups who might be interested in the program that PER might contact.

Following the discussion, chapter members had a short business meeting. Ron Tyrl agreed to act as Chair for the next year. Elaine Lynch will continue as Secretary/Treasurer. Possible locations for future field trips were suggested.

Central Chapter Betty Culpepper

Sept. 5, Dr. Bruce Smith led members of the Central Chapter of ONPS on an exciting and educational trip through the town park of McLoud, where he lives. Areas on either side of the woods cleared for a path had been left to grow naturally so that we were introduced to the much of the native flora of that area. The group needed to be alert because we never knew when Dr. Smith would quiz us about the structure of a leaf or the identification of a plant.

The weather was pleasant and our group had a very good time learning to recognize plants by their diagnostic characteristics such as: Catclaw Sensitivebrier, (*Mimosa quadrivalvis*) with its sprawling stems armed with recurved prickles; 2-pinnately compound leaves opposite each other with numerous small leaflets that fold when touched.

On Oct. 26, Marilyn Stewart presented a program on ecology held at OSU-OKC. She posed the question: Does what we plant in our yards really

matter? Pictures of native plants and the fauna that depend on them were pictured in a film as Marilyn spoke of the co-relationship of plants and animals that evolved together over eons. She explained that all nature is interdependent; take away a key plant or insect and a whole ecosystem collapses.

Urban expansion around the world eats away at native plants, thus the natural environment of wild plants and those insects that feed on them disappear. Around eighty percent of plants depend on insect or animal fertilization. Some must be fertilized by a certain moth or pollen-eating bat, an insect or animal with a long proboscis reach the edible reward flowers whose corolla tubes are too long or narrow for bees or flies to enter.

On November 7, several members of the Central Chapter with a few guests went to the Bebb Herbarium in the Botany Building at the University of Oklahoma where Curator Dr. Wayne Elisens and Botanical Associate and ONPS member Pat Folley welcomed us. As a special treat Dr. Elisens had prepared a table set with refreshments and orchids that he brought up from the department's greenhouse.

After a short history of the herbarium and its place in the education of botanists, we toured the herbarium itself. This is a room full of steel cabinets in which are stored the specimens of all Oklahoma native plants that have been collected for study during the past 100 years. He explained that the more than 150,000 specimens have been added since the first collection was destroyed by fire in 1901.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Brandon Scott and Margaret Lee, Tulsa
Kay and Donna Magruder, Seminole
Barry L. Redlinger, Tulsa
Beverly Sipes, Tulsa
Edward L. Smith, Stillwater

Oklahoma Native Plant Record

Volume 9 Number 1, December 1, 2009

The 2009 issue is being offered to members, non-members, libraries, colleges, and universities at a subscription rate of \$10.00. It is also available in electronic format (CD) at \$10.00. Rates include shipping and handling. If you would like to receive the journal please return this notice with your payment. Journals will be shipped in December.

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F. H. Means Ph.D. thesis in 2009 *Oklahoma Native Plant Record*

For this year's *Record* we were able to obtain F. H. Means' 1969 doctoral thesis, "Vascular Plants of Southeastern Oklahoma from San Bois to Kiamichi Mountains. Dr. Means retired as Academic Vice-President from Rose State College in 1997 and has only recently retired from teaching botany there part-time. I interviewed him in his home in Midwest City.

Though not always engaged in agricultural or botanical research, he has had some extraordinary experiences and has worked with several of the state's top botanists, whose names you will recognize. It was a pleasure to talk with him about his professional life and about teaching, his favorite activity.

He was born in 1932 in Newkirk, Oklahoma in Kay County where his father farmed. With no plans of his own to do anything other than farm, his mother and his Vo-Ag teacher convinced him to go to OSU where he received a B.S. in Agronomy in 1954. After later receiving his M.S. in Agronomy in 1959 from Kansas State University (on Switch Grass- his brief digression was very interesting) he did a short 6 months active duty in the military reserves before turning down several government jobs (another interesting conversation) to take a less lucrative position teaching botany and agronomy at Eastern Oklahoma State College at Wilburton from 1956-67. But he didn't "just teach". He accepted an NSF opportunity to earn a M.Ed in Botany

Education from Mississippi State University by attending summer institutes. After receiving his Ph.D. in Botany from OSU in 1969, Eastern asked him to serve as Academic Dean and then Vice President for Academic Affairs, which he did until 1985. Then he served in that capacity at North Western Oklahoma State University for two years, before turning to serve as Academic Vice-President at Rose State College.

And now the interesting part...

While a graduate student at OSU he joined a team of faculty and students from Oklahoma and Kansas who studied the tallgrass prairie at the request of Kenneth S. "Boots" Adams, who owned a ranch near Foraker. The team collected, identified, and mounted prairie plants that were to be illustrated in a series of 6 pamphlets for distribution to "researchers, educators, students, youth groups, and a host of farmers, ranchers and other business men as well as to libraries in every state". They also found their way into the hands of federal and state organizations and 40 foreign countries. These are the pamphlets that proved so valuable that Phillips Petroleum published them as the book, "Pasture and Range Plants" which found its way onto my own bookshelf, thanks to Veterinarian Leslie Cole-Jackson. It was THE pasture grass and forb book until last year when the Noble Foundation published, "Grasses of Southern Oklahoma and North Texas, a Pictorial Guide." By the way, he was working with Umaldy Ted Waterfall (yes, that's U.T.), who was his major professor at the time. His memories of UT include tall boots racing across the prairie and a big Buick everyone complained about having to park around. He also related stories about Charles Wallis, George Goodman (an enviable instructor), and his friend Paul Nighswonger as well as Kling Anderson, professor at Kansas State University and artist of grasses, who worked on the Donaldson Ranch Pastures, which later became the Konza Prairie.

I'd tell you a more about what's going to be in the 2009 *Oklahoma Native Plant Record*, but it's not all in yet. So far we have Rice & Gibson's paper about seaside alder almost ready to go, Bruce Smith's fern article, and another good species list from Bruce Hoagland at the Biological Survey. But they're all still under wraps, so I'd have to swear you to secrecy and I promised my mom I wouldn't swear. You'll have to wait and see.

Sheila Strawn
Managing Editor
October 15, 2009

FOR JOINING OR RENEWING USE THIS FORM

Fill out this form or supply the same information. Make checks payable to Oklahoma Native Plant Society and mail to Oklahoma Native Plant Society, 2435 South Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114.
Membership is for Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 of current year and dues include subscription to *Gaillardia*.

Name: _____

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Renewal ☐ or New Member ☐ Dues are tax deductible.

Annual Membership Choice: \$15 Individual ☐ or \$20 Family ☐ or \$5 Student ☐

Life Membership Choice: \$250 Individual ☐ or \$350 Family ☐

Add \$5.00 ☐ to cover cost of copying and mailing a complete ONPS directory if desired.

OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY: 2010 PHOTO CONTEST

This annual photo contest is open to the ONPS members, their friends and family, and the public. All photos entered become the property of ONPS and may be used for displays, publications, and/or educational purposes. ONPS will credit photographers. All entries accepted for judging will be displayed on poster boards.

Photo Categories:

Close-Up - Images should show subject(s) as measuring less than one foot (12 inches) across.

Habitat - may show one plant or a group of plants, with emphasis on the plant's natural habitat or plant community.

Special - a changing category for each year, designated by the ONPS board.

The 2010 Special category is Fruits.

A fruit is formed on a flowering plant from its fertilized and ripened ovary; you must have had a flower first in order to have a fruit.

Your fruit photo could be of a grass grain, a melonette, a Hibiscus capsule, legumes, wild grapes, etc.

Not included in this category are cones from coniferous / evergreen trees, fungus, ferns, and other non-flowering plants.

Within each category (close-up, habitat, or special) photographers may enter their photos as either a "First Time" submission or a "Regular" submission. "First Time" submissions are for those entrants who have not entered the ONPS photo contest previously; all others must be submitted as "Regular".

A total of six awards, two in each category, may be presented with awards. Awards include: \$50.00 for first place entries; \$25.00 for second place entries, and \$15.00 for third place entries. Honorable mentions may be awarded at the judges' discretion. A special prize of \$75 may be awarded for the best photo from a "botanical" perspective, at the judges' discretion. All entries are automatically considered for special awards. Winners will be announced online and in the summer issue of *The Gaillardia*, the ONPS quarterly newsletter. Awards will be presented at the Wildflower Workshop in May, 2010. Prizes will be mailed to those who cannot attend the Wildflower Workshop.

About Submitted Photos:

All judged photos will be mounted onto poster board and are available for display for limited periods of time. The number of posters in a set will vary based on the number of entries. To reserve a set of posters for display, please contact Sue Amstutz, 4190 E. 46th Place, Tulsa, OK 74135, (918)742-8374, or Marilyn Stewart, 114 Quail Run, Seminole, OK 74868.

Rules:

Photographs entered must be of native plants and/or fungi growing wild in Oklahoma.

Each photographer may enter a maximum of two unmounted color prints in each category, for a total of six photos.

Photos must measure between 4" x 6" and 5" x 7" inches in size.

Photographs entered in previous contests are not eligible.

Photographs need not have been taken during the past year.

Photographs not meeting all requirements will be disqualified.

Winners will be announced in the summer ONPS newsletter and online.

To Enter:

In addition to completing the Entry Form below, please attach the following information to the back of each photo: contestant's name, category entered, orientation of the photo unless obvious, plant name, and Oklahoma County where photo was taken.

Entries should be submitted on or before February 28, 2010. All Entries and a \$2 entry fee should be mailed to:

ONPS Photography Contest,
c/o Kim Shannon
5216 E 41 St N.
Tulsa, OK 74115

for additional information email Kim at: okpenstemon@cox.net

ENTRY FORM

Please include a check for \$2.00 made payable to ONPS

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phones _____

Email _____

	Entry Category	First Time Submission? <i>Yes or No</i>	Plant Name (if known)	Photo Location: Oklahoma County
PHOTO 1				
PHOTO 2				
PHOTO 3				
PHOTO 4				
PHOTO 5				
PHOTO 6				

HARRIET BARCLAY AWARDS

Monica Macklin

Award winners from the 2009 Oklahoma Junior of Academy of Sciences Competition held in at East Central University in Ada.

Harriet Barclay ONPS Award Junior High Botany Botany a \$50 award

Wesley Tomlin from Rosary, The effects of grey-water on plants

Harriet Barclay ONPS Award Senior High Botany Botany a \$50 award

Racheal Hole from Grove High School, Sorghum halepense's Allelochemical Influence on Various Germination rates of alfalfa, fescue, rye & wheat in Johnson grass leachates

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
c/o Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

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The Gaillardia

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2012: Clare and Buddy Miller

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Betty Culpepper Central
RonTyrl Cross-Timbers
Sheila Strawn Mycology

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Lynn Michael at (918) 341-0743 or
zebraweeds@sbcglobal

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