



Gaillardia

Oklahoma Native Plant Society

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

Volume 41, Number 3
Fall 2026

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Signage at each home on the T.O.N.Y. tour gave details about the homeowner and their garden. See pages 4-6 for story.

Upcoming Events/Activities

(check the ONPS website or Facebook for more details)

- Aug 21 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below).**
- Aug 23 - OK Monarch Conservation Action Plan, 1-5 pm Anthem Brewing, Okla. City**
- Aug 30 - OK Monarch Conservation Action Plan, 1-5pm, Heirloom Rustic Ales, Tulsa, OK**
- Sep 3 - Central Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and 7 pm program at OCU Dawson-Loeffler Building.**
- Sep 13 - Okies for Monarchs events in Tahlequah. NE Chapter informational booth.**
- Sep 14 - NE Chapter meeting, Tulsa Garden Center**
- Sep 18 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays canceled.**
- Sep 18-19 - ONPS Annual Meeting Lake Arcadia Education Center, Edmond, OK (see insert).**
- Sep 19 - Monarchs on the Mountain. Chandler Park , 6500 W. 21st St., Tulsa, OK 9 am-1 pm ONPS booth.**
- Oct 3 - ONPN Native Plant Fest and plant sale at Heirloom Rustic Ales, 2113 E. Admiral Boulevard, Tulsa, OK 11 am till 5 pm,**
- Oct 5 - NE Chapter meeting, Tulsa Garden Center**
- Nov 2 - NE Chapter meeting, Tulsa Garden Center**
- Nov 5 - Central Chapter meeting, 6:30 socializing and 7 pm program at OCU Dawson-Loeffler Building.**
- Nov 20 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below).**
- Dec 7 - NE Chapter meeting, Tulsa Garden Center**
- Dec 18 - Fabulous Wildflower Fridays (details below).**

Central Chapter, 6:30 pm socializing and 7:00 pm meeting at Oklahoma City University in the Dawson-Loeffler Science Center, Room 208.

NE Chapter, 6:30 pm socializing and 7:00 pm meeting at Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S Peoria Ave, Tulsa

Fabulous Wildflower Fridays, 3rd Friday monthly, 5:30 pm, casual, at Panera Bread, 5601 E 41st Street, Tulsa

Preview Chapter meeting topics inside. All members are invited to all meetings, including board meetings, and are encouraged to bring guests.

Gaillardia

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Micah Friedman	Central

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President's Message

by Shalini Chitturi, ONPS President

"Golden Summer"

A yellow sea of swaying radiant suns, across the prairie. The million constellations of tiny rays and mighty pollen till my eyes can fare. I stare in awe, wondering "Did the galaxies descend down, to witness this gala of Goddess Gaia?" The sweet little coreopsis, the beaming black eyed susan, the tall encloides and the grey headed ratibidas hurrying to paint the summer yellow! The prairie sunflowers, the compasses and the rosin weeds shoot out, as the reddish carpet of gaillardias and castillejas starts to fade. An ocean of yellow, mirrors the mighty sun. As the botanists decipher the confusing dazzling blooms of the "yellow composites"

The most stunning Goldfinches, the Warblers and the Orioles feast at these amber floral carpets in disguise. The tiny Yellow Sulfurs, the Checkerspot and the huge Tiger Swallowtails sprinkle shimmer as they glide over the golden nectars. The fireflies starts to glitter after dusk, just like their cosmic cousins.



The bright *Vernonias*, the committed verbenas, the basket flowers stand tall bracing the sun, while the wine cups, coneflowers, and bee balms pop into contrasting colors on this golden prairie. A terrain of Earthly natives, where Mother Nature walks unhindered.

What a golden sight it is! Why not we plan for such a view in our own backyards.

Anthony Wright supplied this photo of the Cherokee Elementary School's Junior Master Garden Club. The children were thrilled with their lessons and to plant these native wildflowers to continue their efforts at growing plants that attract pollinators.

Woodward Park Planting

by Gianna Spear

In partnership with the Route 66 - Make Oklahoma Beautiful Project, volunteers with the ONPN, Oklahoma Native Plant Society, and the Tulsa Perennial Club completed the installation of a native planting bed at Woodward Park in Tulsa. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers, approximately 460 native plants now fill a 500-square-foot bed, creating new habitat for pollinators and adding native species to a traditionally formal landscape.

This project would not be possible without the dedication and passion of our volunteers, especially Gaurav Kampani, who spearheaded the project by obtaining the grant funds, collaborating with the Tulsa Garden Center and the Tulsa Perennial Club, and maintaining the native bed through the hot summer.

If you are interested in having an impact on one of Tulsa's most historic landmarks, we are looking for volunteers to help with maintenance. Email us at oklahomanativeplantnetwork@gmail.com if interested.



Northeast Chapter Update

Tiane Christy, Northeast Chapter Chair

The NE Chapter had a busy spring and has participated in several events this summer. This fall is looking busy as well. Our chapter will participate in Okies for Monarchs events in Tahlequah on Sep 13th and the wonderful Monarchs on the Mountain event in Chandler Park on Sep 19th.

Our monthly meetings have been very well attended. We'll start again on Sep 14th with John Barthell and Juniper Tapia from the University of Central Oklahoma. They will be sharing about their study of native bees in urban environments.

Our Oct 5th meeting will be Kara Joy McKee with the Sierra Club, sharing about getting kids involved.

On Nov. 2nd, Karen Watkins will be talking on the interconnectedness of our native plants, insects, and birds.

Our December meeting will be a seed swap and planning session. More information to come as we get closer.

Central Chapter Events

September 3rd

Artist Sarah Hearn will present her work and discuss some inspirational and essential partners of the plant world. This will include a visual tour of the microbial worlds that inhabit our bodies, our food, and ecosystems.

November 5th

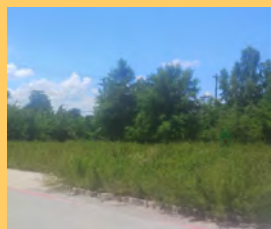
The Quachitas are one of Oklahoma's most biodiverse areas, a center of endemism for plants, animals, and the unique east-west trending mountains. From orchids and salamanders to unique trees and vast amounts of accessible public land, this ancient mountain range deserves special attention. Gus Barksdale will discuss the plant ecology of the Quachitas and the surrounding areas in southeast Oklahoma.

See oknativeplants.org for updated information.



We plant natives because we love them, but also as food and shelter for wildlife. You can become a citizen scientist by uploading your butterfly photos of the Arogos skipper to document this imperiled species.

<https://www.ou.edu/biosurvey/get-involved/arogos-skipper>



A unique opportunity! The Harn Homestead in OKC has a bumper crop of Illinois Bundleflower and it is shading out other plants. They want it all pulled. It is a great plant to use as insect repellent. Come and pull all you want before the seeds drop!

PLANTS IN THEIR HANDS and GARDEN PLANS IN THEIR HEADS (Notes on the 2nd Annual T.O.N.Y. Tour of OKC Native Yards)

Article and Photos submitted by Juliette Hulen

May 30th the second annual 2026 TONY tour went off without a hitch? This year, the five featured home gardens were located in and around the Paseo and Mesta Park neighborhoods, with three native gardens planted in Crown Heights Park, Edgemere Park and Sparrow Park as noted as destinations on the TONY ticket/map.

Despite hot, humid weather, tour attendance was up by 25% compared to 2025, with over 600 in attendance. Best of all, 42 children attended for free! Folks took note of plants in peak state such as pale coneflower, purple coneflower, giant coneflower, rattlesnake master, blanket flower and frogfruit, and browsed the nine plant vendors who participated in the tour and plant sale.

Over 30 volunteers, garden hosts and partner organization staff members greatly enjoyed the pre-tour on Friday night with Katie Huskerson hosting the reception at her home as the final stop. This year's yards were really impressive. You wouldn't be surprised to see any of them in a home and garden magazine.

Photo top right and at right: The home of Dylan Bergey, featuring frogfruit, purple coneflowers, Black-eyed Susans, false gaura and native rocks.



Photo at left:
Volunteers, garden hosts and partner organization staff members enjoyed a pre-tour and reception on Friday evening.

(Plants in their hands....
continued on Pages 5-6)

(PLANTS IN THEIR HANDS...

continued from Page 4)

To thank the homeowners, we purchased long-lasting metal plant signs for their gardens to highlight the common and scientific names of each native plant. Proceeds from TONY ticket sales are being donated to the Wildlife Habitat Grant Program which reviews detailed applications. Two ONPS board directors are now a part of the committee that selects recipients!



We're all looking forward to next year, reach out if you'd like

to volunteer or help organize next year's tour, see you there in May 2027!

www.okiesformonarchs.org/wildlifehabitatgrantprogram

Clockwise from upper right: (1) Joel Dixon's yard features signage to help neighbors learn about the plants of Giant coneflower, Oklahoma's state wildflower Indian Blanket, purple and pale purple cone-flowers, and more. (2) Katie Huskerson discusses the native plants in her garden with ONPS Board Secretary Carol Smith and her husband, Sam. (3) Giant cone-flowers, *Rudbeckia grandiflora*, standing proud. (4) Winecup mallow, rattlesnake master, pale purple cone-flowers, *Baptisia* and other native plants in Joel Dixon's yard.





Above and right: Katir Huskerson's home showcases some native grasses and trees. Below center, left and right: Lesa Bowman's home with giant coneflowers and native species framing her home.



Below left: Plant vendors enjoyed vigorous sales throughout the tour. Below right: Long-lasting metal plant signs were given to homeowners to highlight the common and scientific names of each native plant.



Oklahoma Native Plant Society

2026 Annual Meeting
Arcadia Conservation Education Area
7401-8489 E 33rd St, Edmond, Oklahoma
September 18th-19th (20th optional)

The 2026 ONPS Annual Meeting will be held at the Arcadia Conservation Education Area near Edmond. Tucked into the southwestern side of Arcadia Lake, the Arcadia Conservation Education Area offers a hiking trail, walk-in fishing opportunities and more. With a focus on providing outdoor educational opportunities for the public, this area is a unique management area for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Tentative Schedule of Events

Friday, September 18th

6:00-7:00 pm Registration/Check In with finger food hors d'oeuvres at Arcadia Outdoor Education and Training Center.
7:00-8:00 Nature Jeopardy game and socializing
8:00-10:00 Campfire and moth night

Saturday, September 19th

Breakfast on your own
8:00 am-9:30 am Walk #1
10:00 am-12:00 pm Walk #2
12:30 pm-1:30 pm Lunch (order below) in the Outdoor Education and Training Center
2:00 pm-3:30 pm Walk #3
6:00 pm Dinner and evening program by Bryan Reynolds, nature photographer. Bryan is an professional photographer of Oklahoma plants and the wildlife that utilize them. He is working on material for a book on Oklahoma Wildflowers!
8:00 pm General Membership Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, September 20th

Breakfast on your own
9:00 am No board meeting, no organized activities. Optional morning plant walk for the willing, able, and caffeinated.

You can register any time up to the event, including at the door,
but you will have to arrange your own meals if you register after Sept 9th.

Friends, guests, children are all very welcome!

Detach registration information for each person attending and mail to address below

or complete online registration at www.oknativeplants.org

Contact Joe Roberts at (405) 820-6851, or at joeroberts13@cox.net

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone (cell or home): _____

Check all that apply below: registration must be received by **Wednesday, Sept. 9th** to ensure you get meals.

_____ \$15.00 Registration ONPS members, \$18.00 non-Members, \$5.00 Students

_____ \$15.00 Saturday sack lunch _____ Veg _____ Ham _____ Turkey

_____ \$18.00 Saturday dinner (beef, chicken, cheese enchiladas, beans & rice, salad, praline) **or** _____ Veg

Bring your own mess kit, water bottle, and beverages! We are sustainable!!!

_____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Register online or Make check payable to **Oklahoma Native Plant Society** and mail registration to:
Joe Roberts, 8113 Cloverdale Way, Yukon, OK 73099-8866, - confirmation will be sent by email

Accommodations:

Camping is available around the lake. Scissortail Campground is the closest, operated by the City of Edmond. RV hookups, restrooms, and water.

Many hotels near Lake Arcadia. Near 2nd Street and I-35, and others along I-35 or further in towards Edmond, Oklahoma.

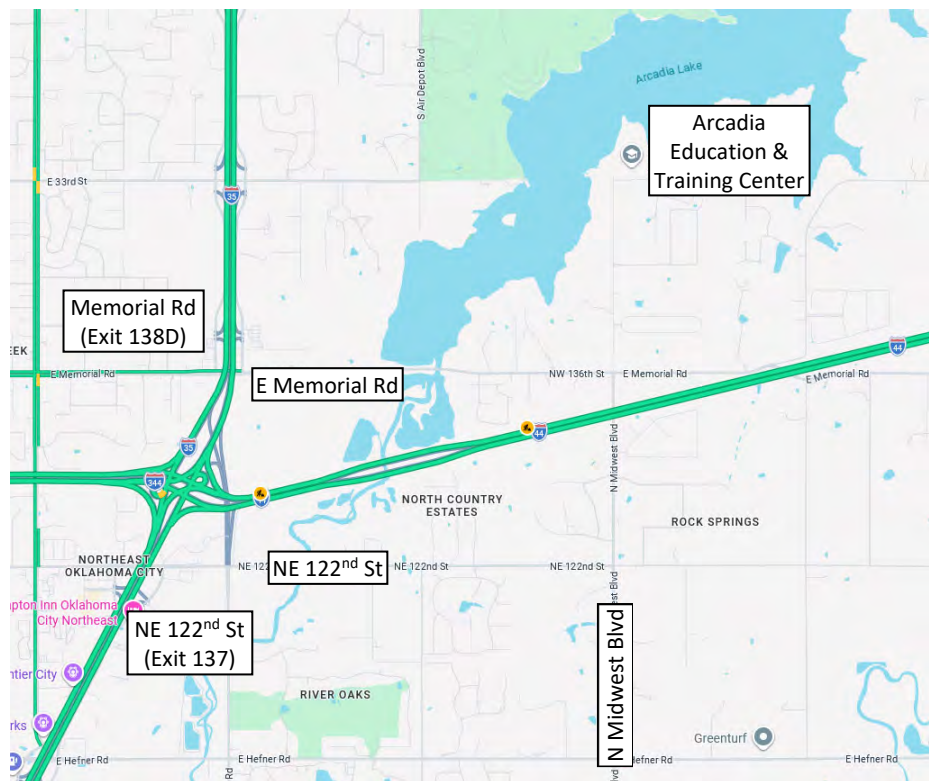
Directions to Arcadia Outdoor Education and Training Center

7401-8489 E 33rd St, Edmond, OK 73013

The Center is on the **south** side of Arcadia Lake. Although the address says “E. 33rd St.”, that street is not accessible from I-35. Instead, from I-35 exit at either NE 122nd St. (exit 137) or Memorial Rd (exit 138D).

From the Memorial Rd exit, head south to NW 136th St./E. Memorial Road. Go east on E. Memorial Road, over the lake bridge. About 1 mile after the bridge, turn north on Midwest Blvd. From Memorial Road and Midwest Blvd intersection, go north 1 mile to a parking lot. turning east before the lot. Go through the gate at the intersection, continue about 328 feet (100 meters) on E 33rd St., and turn left (north) at the “Education Building” sign into the parking lot of the Center.

From the NE 122nd St exit, head east about 2½ miles to Midwest Blvd. turn north on N. Midwest Blvd. Go left (north) to Memorial Road. From Memorial Road and Midwest Blvd intersection, go north 1 mile to a parking lot. turning east before the lot. Go through the gate at the intersection, continue about 328 feet (100 meters) on E 33rd St., and turn left (north) at the “Education Building” sign into the parking lot of the Center.



Cacti to the Rescue

by Becky Emerson Carlberg

Plains Prickly Pear (*Opuntia macrorhiza*) has widely distributed populations from southern California to Ohio and Kentucky, but doesn't quite reach the east coast. The Eastern Prickly Pear (*Opuntia humifusa*) takes care of that, as its area extends westward into the Plains Prickly Pear domain. Oklahoma has both species. To distinguish between the two, if the roots are thicker and more spines point down on pads, it is probably a Plains Prickly Pear.

The cacti world has its own terminology. Cacti have succulent stems (pads) with areoles (nodes) from which spines (modified leaves) and glochids (tiny modified hair-like barbed spines) emerge. All clear? In one to two years the jointed pads produce flashy yellow daytime flowers that last one to two days. But since the prickly pear is polymorphic, the pads, spines and flower colors may vary and not follow protocol. Good luck in figuring out what you are looking at without digging the cactus up. Those glochids are vicious, nearly invisible and barbed! Keep a pair of thick leather gloves handy.

The prickly pears growing along the roadside near my house have taken a hit from the extremes in weather, allowing opportunistic fungi to invade. Many of the pads have withered, turned black or died, but there's hope. Some pads are still very much alive.

I rescued an *Opuntia* from the Phillips 66 Station in Chandler. After two years, new pads sprouted from the mother pad. Months later, one of the smaller pads was laying on the ground. The attached end was soft and mushy. The pad was dissected by the bluest caterpillars ever. The mush was caterpillar frass. The culprit was probably the Eastern Cactus Borer, one of the species of native prickly pear borer snout moths (*Melitara* sp.).



The Queen has yet to suffer such indignities. Cactus moths don't target *Epiphyllums*. The Queen of the Night (*Epiphyllum oxypetalum*) is a Jungle Cactus, one of several tropical cacti, including the familiar Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*). All grow in tropical rainforests of Southern Mexico to the coasts of southeast Brazil. They have no wicked sharp spines as do the desert cacti. But the Queen attracts our native pollinators and has her own story to tell.

Queens of the Night reach ten to twenty feet in height in the tropics. My Queen is five feet tall, draped over a Juniper and living in a protected sun-dappled spot. Queen buds form as a genetic response triggered by changes in temperature and daylight. In the early summer the flowers will open only for one night and close before sunrise.

Flowers usually have sepals around the bud to protect it, but with *Epiphyllum* cacti such as the Queen of the Night, the sepals are light, designed like narrow petals and are called tepals. At midnight the bronze-colored outer tepals peeled back to expose pure white inner petals. After midnight, in the hot sultry stagnant air, all four flowers had opened in consecutive order from south to north. Each was beyond seven inches in diameter with a white star-shaped female stigma rising deep from the center, far above the hundreds of thin male stamens with anthers covered in yellow pollen. The intense fragrance was of sweet lemon verbena and honeysuckle with a musky afterthought that permeated the entire area.

(Cacti to the Rescue continued on page 10)

(Cacti... continued from page 9)

If pollinating bats and moths couldn't see the brilliant white blooms in the dark, the white petals reflect ultraviolet light and the flowers (to pollinators) would appear to glow. If the pollinators missed that, they should have been overwhelmed by the powerful floral aroma. Pollinators have very sensitive receptors on their antennae that guide them to their quests. Bees detect light, fruity odors, butterflies home in on strong sweet scents, flies go for the lovely rotting smell of death, but moths and bats are excited by heavy, intense fragrances. Pollinators can smell their targets over a half mile away!



Before sunrise the flowers were spent. An awesome display of nature. Next year I hope to see both sets of cacti in bloom. The Queen with her one-night only blooms and the Prickly Pears with their one to two day blooms. No blue caterpillars please.

***Liatris pycnostachya* – Prairie Blazing Star**

by Keith Cole

As the Oklahoma summer drags on, your native plant garden can start to look a bit ragged and beaten. The spring and early summer superstars like blanket flower, coreopsis, yarrow, and Mexican hat look past their prime as the brutal heat and wind take their toll. Perhaps it is time for a new actor to come on stage. Might we suggest *Liatris pycnostachya*, the Prairie Blazing star? There is nothing subtle about the arrival of this native as it takes the stage in late summer, wowing the crowd with foot-long spikes of pinkish-purple flowers hovering over its neighbors.

The audience will love it—and we don't mean the human audience (though they are important, too). Butterflies, bees, and a wide assortment of other pollinators will arrive, and the sound of their wings will echo through the garden like applause. The show goes on through September, allowing other actors like goldenrods and asters to take the stage.



Hummingbirds are big fans of prairie blazing star, and its 4-foot height makes them easy to watch as they flit about the flower spikes.

Prairie blazing star is a member of a large family that has a lot to offer the native plant gardener. It tends to like things a little wetter than most other *Liatris*, though if you really need a "wet liatris," we would recommend dense blazing star (*L. spicata*). It prefers full sun, which enables it to reach its full height and produce longer flower spikes, and it will do so in most soils, even the clay many of us deal with. The famous flower spikes are truly striking plumes of pink-purple color and give it its other common name, gayfeather.

The flowers bloom from the top down, unlike its earlier-blooming and shorter friend, purple prairie clover, which blooms from the bottom up. It is a friendly plant that gets along well with others, and once it is established, it is easily divided by separating the tough roots (called corms) so it can be planted elsewhere or given to a friend. The tall stature and bold presence of prairie blazing star add beauty and structure to any planting. It looks great with many other popular natives, but one favorite combination is pairing it with the yellow flowers of *Ratibida pinnata* and grasses like little bluestem or sideoats grama, which add texture and support to help prevent flopping.

We hope that you will give *Liatris pycnostachya* a starring role in your garden. If you need plants or have questions, reach out to one of our great Oklahoma Native Plant Network professional growers. They would be happy to help you.

Asclepias incarnata – Swamp Milkweed

by Keith Cole

Maybe it's just me, but I kind of feel sorry for *Asclepias incarnata*. After all, it's beautiful, it helps feed our endangered monarchs, and it smells like vanilla. Sounds great. But then someone went and called it "Swamp Milkweed." Seriously? A weed? And nobody wants a swamp in their backyard pollinator garden.

Well, I am going to stand up and defend this great Oklahoma native plant. *Asclepias incarnata* does not need to grow in a swamp. The name simply means that it will tolerate, and even prefer, wetter soils than most milkweed species, which is great for gardeners who have a low, wet area where it is hard to get things to grow. Like all native milkweed species, it is vital to the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, as well as many other beneficial native insects. Its ability to thrive in wet soil means that you can make that annoying low, wet "swamp" in your yard come alive with butterflies and pollinators. But it does not have to be super wet, as this versatile plant can tolerate drier conditions as well. Just remember that it likes sun and won't do well in full shade, though partial shade should be fine.

Unlike its more famous cousin, the common milkweed, *A. incarnata* is not aggressive and is well behaved in a garden setting. It typically grows to a height of 2–4 feet and flowers in midsummer. It can often bloom twice in one growing season. Its flowers are a beautiful pinkish-purple, which is why many people (especially up North) call it rose or red milkweed—a name that I much prefer. Its large green leaves and pink florets make a great addition to a native planting, providing contrast, structure, texture, and protection for showy native wildflowers.

Swamp milkweed can be harder to find than the more popular common or butterfly milkweed, but don't let that stop you. It has large, flat seeds and is pretty easy to grow after cold stratifying them for 30 days. There are a few online sources for plants, but your best bet is to contact one of our experienced ONPN native plant growers, who can provide healthy, Oklahoma-grown plants that are adapted to our harsh environment.

Hopefully, I have done a good job defending swamp milkweed, and I hope that you will join me in promoting and planting this great Oklahoma native plant.

FUN FACT: Milkweed floss was used to make survival flotation vests for the U.S. Navy during World War II. The fibers are extremely buoyant and lightweight, and these vests saved the lives of many sailors and airmen.



Monarch Conservation Action Plan

by Holly Robison

The Oklahoma Monarch and Pollinator Collaborative (OMPC) has developed the Statewide Monarch Conservation Plan, a 49-page document that outlines Oklahoma's strategy to address the dramatic decline in monarch butterflies. Because monarchs are a migratory species, these changes also affect monarchs across the continent. I will do my best to highlight key elements of the plan. If you want to read it in its entirety, visit:

<https://www.okiesformonarchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/OMPC-Monarch-Conservation-Plan.pdf>

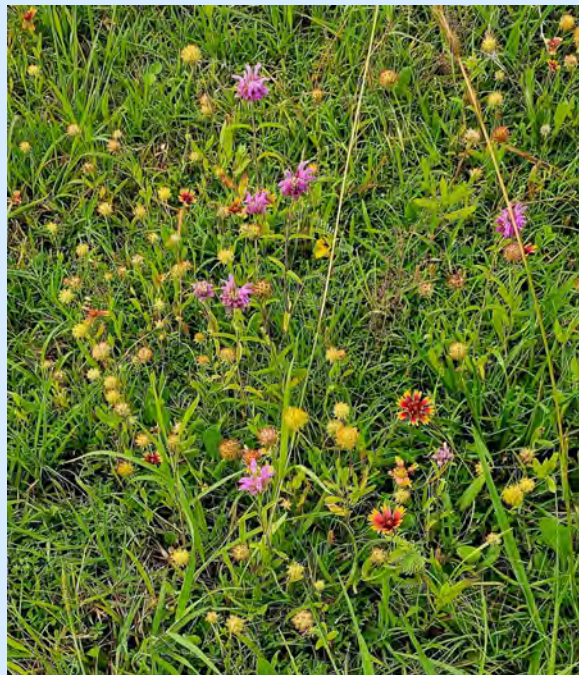


CELEBRATE AMERICA 250 BECOMES CELEBRATING 40 YEARS WITH ONPS!!!

ONPS will continue distributing seeds to be planted in public places for 2027! Go to oknativeplants.org for a new application form and submit it by

September 1, 2026. Here are some blooms from this year's

Celebrate America 250 project that were planted before December 31, 2025.



Top left: Vicki Thompson sent this photo of the Pawnee County project at Escape Ministries in Cleveland, Oklahoma. Above, top and center right: Dennis Martin shows that The Botanical Garden at OSU got a wonderful mix from their seeds planted in Payne County. "We tilled and seeded in Mid-November, lightly raked into the surface and had an outstanding establishment at both planting sites at the OSU botanic garden. Dr Lou Anella, OSU Botanic Garden Director, performed the tillage, seeding, and taking in at both sites. This is Lou seeding the OG&E pollinator planting right next to one of the Celebrate Oklahoma 250 plots. He had already seeded our plots by the time I arrived with camera to photograph. I did the weeding during winter, spring and continuing forward. Image also shows seed on surface prior to raking." Bottom right: Jason Pruitt shows early blooms from Madill Daycare in Marshall County.



COLOR OKLAHOMA EXPANDS BOARD AND APPROVES NEARLY \$18,000 IN NATIVE WILDFLOWER PLANTINGS

Article and photos by Monica Bartling

Color Oklahoma, a committee of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society (ONPS), has strengthened its Board of Directors with the addition of three distinguished leaders who will help advance the organization's mission of making Oklahoma a more beautiful place through education, beautification, and preservation of the state's natural landscape.

Color Oklahoma promotes the use of native Oklahoma plants and supports planting projects along highways, turnpikes, and public spaces across the state. The organization works to increase awareness of the value of native plants while creating vibrant landscapes that benefit pollinators, wildlife, and local communities.

The newly appointed directors bring exceptional professional expertise and a shared commitment to conservation and public education:

Dr. Rhonda Fair, Director of Community Engagement and Tribal Relations for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Evelyn Schaefer, Executive Director of Keep Oklahoma Beautiful

Dennis Martin, Professor and Turfgrass Extension/Research Specialist at Oklahoma State University

Martin is returning to the board after previously serving in a leadership role with Color Oklahoma.

"The addition of these accomplished professionals strengthens our ability to build partnerships, expand educational opportunities, and promote native plantings throughout Oklahoma," said Monica Bartling, Chairman.

The Board of Directors recently met to review grant applications for the Winter 2026 planting season. Approved projects are currently undergoing final review to ensure compliance with ODOT requirements and to verify that proposed planting locations do not conflict with upcoming highway improvement projects.

Approved enhancement plantings at existing Color Oklahoma sites include:

Waurika

Marlow

Walters

Duncan

Okemah

Rush Springs

Sac and Fox Nation (south of Stroud) photo at right

New planting locations approved for 2026 include:

Talihina

Kingfisher

Nowata

Lawton

Coweta

The board approved nearly **\$18,000** in total project funding for the 2026 planting season. This figure includes both Color Oklahoma grant funds and matching contributions pledged by participating organizations.

Through these partnerships, Color Oklahoma continues to expand its statewide impact, helping communities add native wildflowers and grasses that showcase Oklahoma's natural heritage while supporting pollinators and enhancing roadside and public landscapes for future generations.



MEET THE MEMBERS: Tiane Christy

by Fran Stallings

Tiane Christy grew up in Iowa farm country, the eldest of five. The large family garden supplied vegetables that kept the family fed. In the virgin forest that surrounded their place they picked gooseberries and black raspberries for jelly. Growing up in those woods, Tiane learned to love the outdoors and wild plants. Her family went camping often, and she was active with Girl Scouts all through school.

After graduating HS, Tiane worked as a veterinary technician before moving to Tulsa in 1980. She continued working in veterinary hospitals while she attended college. She met a handsome police officer and it was love at first sight. They have now been married over 40 years and have a daughter and granddaughter. Tiane worked in various veterinary hospitals until 2001, when she went to work for the Tulsa Animal Shelter until her retirement in 2019.

While Tiane loved working with animals, after 45 years she was emotionally and mentally drained. It took a couple of years to recover; then she started getting out to plant festivals. She visited an ONPS booth, came to a meeting, and never stopped. Now she's doing all the things she hadn't had time to do, like becoming a Master Gardener.

She lives near Claremore and has an acre, with huge native trees. While only about 10% of the yard gets sun, she has planted lots of milkweed and other pollinator plants. Passion flower, Liatris, and poke are some of her favorite natives.

Now chairing ONPS' NE chapter, Tiane is most proud of going from quarterly to monthly meetings, which has "made a world of difference." Because she believes outreach is so important, the chapter has been setting up booths at every event they can. She attends most of our statewide events, as well as events in AR and KS.



CONTRIBUTIONS 1/2026 through 8/8/2026

Color Oklahoma Donations

6/30/2026 Owen, Penny

Contributions to General Fund

7/2/2026 Cheadle, Cheryl

OVERALL TOTAL \$72.00

Welcome New Members Added 5/9/2026 thru 7/28/2026

Elizabeth Fletcher, Zachery Skipps, Madeline Pendergrass,
Sarah & Brandon Daniels,
Amber Thompson,
Gianna Spear, Keith Cole, Brenda Hass,
Chelsey & Jeff Simpson,
Frances Smith, Anna Swearengen (student)
Bryan, Kelly & Jessica Cauthon,
Mina Coyle, Tracy Brotherton,
Victor Brown, Sara Moore,
Laken Collie, Tyler Gosdin

For joining or renewing use this form

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A Naturalist's Guide to OKLAHOMA

Priscilla H. C. Crawford



It has been proposed, and will be voted on at the annual meeting, that dues be increased. Proposed dues would be Student \$10 (free with Faculty sponsor); Individual \$30; Family \$35; Lifetime Individual \$350; and Lifetime Family \$400.

Class of 2027-2029 Directors to be voted on at the annual meeting are Steve Owens and Sherri Bruce. Nominations from the floor will be accepted.

It is proposed that the following by-laws change be adopted at the annual meeting: Art. X, Sec. 3: An Audit Committee shall be formed every year at the first Board meeting of the fiscal year. The Board will appoint three ONPS members, including at least two of the Directors-at-Large, to conduct an audit of the Society's approved Minutes, Financial Reports, and other pertinent documents from the previous year. Their report will be completed before June 30, and presented to the board.

[A Naturalist's Guide to Oklahoma](#) by Priscilla H. C. Crawford, has been added to the ONPS inventory. "Oklahoma teems with biodiversity and surprisingly variable topography. More than 2,000 species of plants and 800 vertebrate animals, including 450 different birds, fill the state's distinct ecoregions. In *A Naturalist's Guide to Oklahoma*, the first comprehensive exploration of these ecoregions, professional biologist Priscilla Crawford celebrates the natural diversity found across the state and in residents' own backyards." Everyone that loves Oklahoma should have this book which highlights much of the flora, fauna, and geography from the different ecoregions of Oklahoma. Stay tuned for special events in Tulsa and Oklahoma City to hear Priscilla speak in 2026 & 2027.