

Foreword

This issue of the *Oklahoma Native Plant Record* contains floristic inventories of two areas in Oklahoma County and an article on the distributions of two non-native invasive species in eastern Oklahoma. These papers provide evidence of the current distribution and status of the native flora of Oklahoma as well as non-native invasive species and how land-use changes and other anthropogenic disturbances affect their distributions. Also included is a paper on the genetic structure of a native species that evaluates whether it should be divided into its traditionally-recognized varieties.

Sarah Short's Honors Thesis at Oklahoma State University, published here with co-authors Mark Fishbein and Sierra Hubbard, documents the distributions of two non-native invasive honeysuckle species, *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle) and *L. maackii* (Amur honeysuckle), in the 47 counties of eastern Oklahoma. Although their study shows that the earlier-introduced *L. japonica* is currently more widespread, the authors question whether, given enough time, *L. maackii* could become as widespread or if invasive species management practices could prevent it from further negatively affecting biodiversity.

Adjoa Richardson Ahedor, Jenna Messick, Wayne Elisens, and Abigail Moore report an analysis conducted at the University of Oklahoma on *Mecardonia acuminata* (axilflower) across its range in the southeastern US. The authors determine whether the groups identified from molecular data agree with those based on geography and morphology and evaluate whether the data support the division of the species into its three traditionally-recognized varieties.

Micah Friedman and Jenna Messick from the University of Central Oklahoma conducted a vascular plant survey of the area north of Arcadia Lake in northeastern Oklahoma County. This area is dominated by Crosstimbers forest, grasslands, and wetlands. This species-rich area provides habitat for a species tracked by the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory that had not been recorded in the state since the 1980s!

A second paper by Micah Friedman and Jenna Messick reports results of a vascular plant survey of the Belle Isle at Deep Fork area in the heart of Oklahoma City. The survey area included semi-natural areas consisting of mowed fields, forests, grasslands, two streams, a pond, and a section of the Deep Fork River. A third of the species were non-native, which is not surprising for an area that has been subjected to much anthropogenic disturbance.

An essay on invasive species terminology by Karen Hickman from Oklahoma State University is our Critic's Choice essay. As we continue to document and publish studies on the distributions of invasive species, it is a good reminder of the appropriate terminology to use.

Please consider publishing your work in the *Oklahoma Native Plant Record*. It is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals, is abstracted by the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International, and can be accessed by researchers around the world.

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