

Foreword

This year we have a special Critic's Choice Essay, "A Cavalcade of Field Botanists in Oklahoma" by Ron Tyrl and Paula Shryock. It is a tribute to all those botanists who have contributed to the database of native plant species in Oklahoma. Many are native Oklahomans. Many have been members of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society. All have been dedicated to documenting the state's botanical diversity. They have been compiling biographical and professional information to write this article for us for several years. We are excited to share it with you in Volume 13.

One of those botanists Ron Tyrl writes about is Connie Taylor, author of our historical article in this volume. A Professor Emeritus at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, she submitted her Master's thesis to the University of Oklahoma in 1961, based on research done in the Water Canyon Complex. It is a taxonomic comparison of the canyons, based on their ecology; their geology, microclimate, and habitat. She has revised her thesis and updated her species list so that we can make the data globally available. Her figures and detailed descriptions of the canyons help the reader picture the landscape and hypothesize about the causes and effects of the environmental conditions with which the species interact. Data from this study could provide an important building block for long term ecological studies and future research in climate change effects.

While many researchers have reported on the effects of fire, a common environmental factor in Oklahoma, Stan Rice and Sonya Ross have been looking at several different effects of fire, including the effects of chemicals in smoke on plant establishment after a fire. It is a preliminary report that looks at germination rates of *Phacelia strictiflora* seeds that have been watered with smoke-produced chemicals dissolved in water.

Also in this issue, Amy Buthod, of the Oklahoma Biological Survey and Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory, provides us with another valuable flora; that of the Oxley Nature Center in Mohawk Park in Northwestern Tulsa County. This study has provided voucher specimens for Oxley personnel to use in education and outreach, as well as a species list for their use and for your enjoyment when you visit there.

Open access journals published by non-profit or not-for-profit organizations can provide a quick way to share data and bring valuable feedback to the author. They are a valid way of ensuring conflict of interest is not the issue that it can be when publication is profit driven. However, it depends heavily upon authors to review each other's articles and upon volunteer editorial staff to proof-read and format them. Please volunteer to write, review, or serve on the editorial board of the *Oklahoma Native Plant Record*. We need your help to get more of Oklahoma's native plant research out to the world.

Remember to tell everyone that all volumes of the *Record* are now available online through Oklahoma State University's Edmon Low Library as an e-journal publication. Our abstracts are indexed by the Centre for Agricultural Biosciences International (CABI). The journal is listed in the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (DOAJ). It can be accessed globally at <http://ojs.library.okstate.edu/osu/>

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