Foreword

Looking back over the last 10 years of publishing the Oklahoma Native Plant Record gives us an honest sense of accomplishment. It has been an uphill struggle to establish our journal, but with the turning of the decade, the Record has also turned the corner. As of this year all volumes are available online through Oklahoma State University’s Edmon Low Library as an e-journal publication. It can be accessed globally at http://ojs.library.okstate.edu/osu/.

This year the historic paper is one of the chapters of Linda Gatti Clark’s 1997 Ph.D. dissertation for Oklahoma State University (OSU). We will have to wait for an update to this flora of Boehler Seeps from another source, but it should provide an important comparison of changes in species over time in this unique habitat.

Marian Smith is from Southern Illinois University and Paul McKenzie is Endangered Species Biologist and Coordinator for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Their paper on hybridization of two local species of sedges is the first to be submitted entirely online, a good sign that we are finally getting established. Incorporating online submission and publishing seems to be one of the most effective ways to connect with out-of-state scientists. Yet, this article is also a link to the past, being inspired by Dr. Larry Magrath, late member of Oklahoma Native Plant Society.

Molly Parkhurst, Andrew Doust, Margarita Mauro-Herrera, Jeffrey Byrnes, and Janette Steets from OSU have introduced a brand new topic for the Record; a population genetics study of Scribner’s panicum, one of our native grasses. This up-to-date molecular research paper is likely to be cited in larger journals and is yet another sign of our progress.

Jerad Linneman, one of Michael Palmer’s former students, addressed some of the redcedar controversies in his M.S. thesis from OSU, but was hired by the U.S. government before he could publish it. Matthew Allen, also from OSU, was recruited to update and co-author it for our journal. We appreciate Michael Palmer’s initiative and assistance in acquiring the manuscript. It is very timely, considering the redcedar controversies and their role in recent wildfires. This paper discusses the effects of removing redcedar from old field grasslands.

Richard Thomas’s paper is also a “hot” topic. It is an interdisciplinary study based on climate change and biogeographic interaction. This article can be used by local botanists and teachers to relate environmental science and climate change to local consequences. It is a comparison of the composition of the Cross Timbers before Euro-American settlement.

Remember and tell everyone you know that the Record is now available online. If you want a printed copy of any of our future volumes, get your order in early. Only 50 copies will be printed each year.

Sheila Strawn
Managing Editor