

Foreword

After 15 years, we are more than pleased with the variety of excellent articles submitted and accepted for publication in the *Oklahoma Native Plant Record*. This year, as most years, together, they meet all ONPS goals.

“Encouraging the study of native plants.” We never know how the record of a single study will encourage future research, but we are sure our historic article will be of special value to today’s botanists and ecologists studying historic species distributions and environmental changes. In 1934, Ben Osborn may not have been aware of how valuable his list of flowering dates would be to the issue of global warming, but his article, “First Flowering Dates for Central Oklahoma” fills that role. In his preface to that article, Dr. Wayne Elisens contributes the history that puts that data into perspective. Floristic surveys, like that of Black Mesa by Amy Buthod and Bruce Hoagland from the Oklahoma Biological Survey, and descriptions like those in *Forest Structure and Fire History at Lake Arvadia* by Chad King, from the University of Central Oklahoma, make future comparative studies not only possible, but likely.

“Encouraging the protection of native plants.” Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) has long been described as an invasive species, but like many exotic species that have been introduced without thought of how they would interact with native species, it didn’t start out that way. Marli Claytor and Karen Hickman from Oklahoma State University summarize the current extent of Kudzu and what might be done to protect our native species.

“Encouraging the propagation of native plants.” The risks of monoculture plantings and the benefits of planting multiple species within gardens is the topic of the article by Oklahoma State University’s Bonner, Rebek, Cole, Kahn, and Steets. This research is important for landscapers and gardeners because of plant species’ effects on arthropod abundance, a main point of Douglas Tallamy’s recent presentations at the Society’s events in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Their article provides the data and reasons to heed his advice.

“Encouraging the appreciation of native plants.” For enthusiasts and plant lovers, this year we have started a new tradition, by choosing our Critic’s Choice Essay from previous “Botanist’s Corner” articles published in the *Gaillardia*, the Society’s newsletter. This year’s essay, by the late Paul Buck, about an often maligned native species, is entitled “Mistletoe, *Phoradendron serotinum*”.

“Encouraging the use of native plants.” In the past, we have published articles about how Native Americans used native plant species. “Antifungal Activity in Extracts of Plants from Southwestern Oklahoma against *Aspergillus flavus*” shows us how plants can be used for more current medicinal purposes. It is also a great example of research projects that can inspire students who are involved to continue in botany. This year’s student research project is from Tahzeeba Frisby and her students at Cameron University in Lawton.

As you can see, articles for all interest groups of our membership (gardeners, academic faculty, landscapers, and enthusiasts) are represented. It is the wide variety of authors who contribute to our journal that helps us bring those many interests together in ways that best promote our goals. Why not consider submitting your manuscript next year? Remember that our editorial board includes a manuscript editor, Dr. Mark Fishbein, who can find help for first time and citizen-scientist authors. Tell us about your ideas and submit your articles early, so we can see that your work gets the most helpful reviews and comments.

Don’t forget that *The Oklahoma Native Plant Record* is a professionally reviewed publication, listed globally in the “Directory of Open Access Journals”, and our abstracts are indexed in the “Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International”, which is based in the U.K.

Sheila Strawn, Managing Editor