

Foreword

The search for historic articles that would be important to botanical research often leads us down surprising pathways to sources that are sometimes hidden in plain sight. Lynn Nabb mentioned her grandmother's 1959 Master's thesis from the University of Tulsa in a Facebook post that honored her work and her life. Until then, Maxine Clark's "A Study of the Flowering Plants of Tulsa County, Oklahoma" had been quietly sitting in the university library for almost 60 years. Maxine was a student of Dr. Ralph Kelting and a friend of Dr. Harriet Barclay. We are grateful to the University's library staff who helped us obtain the thesis.

This year *The Record* offers a number of important works from a wide variety of sources. It brings together several articles that have to do with species interactions and a couple of articles that offer readers the opportunity to know something "first."

We chose Paul Buck's "Allelopathy" from a previous issue of *The Gaillardia* for our "Critic's Choice Essay," because it explores deeply the "War in the Garden" and the "vicious world in nature." Dr. Buck's 2004 article may help us better understand several issues discussed in "Laboratory Studies of Allelopathic Effects of *Juniperus virginiana* on Five Species of Native Plants" by Erica Corbett and Andrea Lashley. This work involved undergraduate students in an important research opportunity and explores possible negative interactions between plant species.

As for the firsts, urban species have historically been overlooked by botanists because their habitats had been altered by human activity. Researchers have changed that perspective. Urban studies are now valued because they address the effects that humans have had on species. Urban parks can be surprisingly biodiverse. "Vascular Flora of E. C. Hafer Park, Edmond, Oklahoma" is from Gloria Caddell and students Katie Christoffel, Carmen Esqueda, and Alonna Smith at the University of Central Oklahoma. It is the first species list for Edmond's Hafer Park, which was established in 1979.

For another first, Clark Ovrebo reports on an interesting earth star fungus that, until now, was known only in Texas and Japan! Be on the lookout for it. Evidently, it has a much wider distribution than previously thought. Speaking of wide distribution... *The Oklahoma Native Plant Record* is getting more widely distributed every year. Because it is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals and abstracted by the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International, it can be accessed by researchers around the world.

And here's another "first." *The Record* has a new editor this year. Gloria Caddell is joining the editorial board as Co-Editor. It's time for a change of leadership, and she has graciously agreed to begin taking over the helm and her new responsibilities.

Sheila Strawn and Gloria Caddell
Co-Editors