

## Foreword

This issue of the *Oklahoma Native Plant Record* includes articles that deal with some threats to our native plant communities from both native and non-native species. It also contains an article about a "hidden gem" population of a native plant and another about a relative newcomer to our state.

Chad King and graduate student Joseph Buck, at the University of Central Oklahoma, used dendrochronological techniques to quantify the population structure and growth of *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (green ash) in a bottomland hardwood forest at Arcadia Lake in Oklahoma County. Populations of green ash in the state are being threatened by the non-native *Agilus planipennis* (emerald ash borer). This baseline study, conducted prior to the range expansion of emerald ash borer to this area, might help identify traits of ash trees that survive infestation by this borer.

Issac Walker of Holland Hall High School and Paulina Harron, an Oklahoma State University graduate student, report a large and apparently long-established but previously undocumented population of *Pueraria montana* (kudzu vine) in Tulsa County. Their article reiterates that, although kudzu has so far had a relatively minor impact on Oklahoma's native communities, we need to be vigilant in documenting populations and managing it.

Adjoa Ahedor of Rose State College and undergraduate students Bethany Spitz, Michael Cowan, J'nae Miller, and Margaret Kamara investigated transpiration in *Juniperus virginiana* (eastern redcedar) compared to adjacent trees of other species. Although it is native, eastern redcedar's range expansion is threatening Oklahoma's prairie communities because of many factors, which might include higher transpiration than other species.

Bruce Smith of McCloud High School summarizes the status of *Myriopteris lindheimeri* (fairy swords) in southwestern Oklahoma. This fern had been documented in Comanche County in 1942, but over time the lack of additional specimens led the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory to list it as a species that might have been extirpated from the state. In Bruce's article, you will read how, on a visit to Kiowa County, he recently discovered a population of fairy swords that he admits he first confused with another species. His article should alert us that as we take field trips, we could be overlooking populations of rare species, especially if they resemble more common ones.

Jim Estes of the University of Oklahoma reports an unusual number of anthers in *Calypsothecium vialis* (straggler daisy) and describes aspects of its pollination and breeding system in a North Texas population. Native to eastern Mexico and southern and south-central Texas, straggler daisy has spread to the north and was recently documented in southern Oklahoma. It is a shade-loving and mat-forming species that can become very abundant in lawns. This is certainly another plant to watch for in our state.

This issue's Critic's Choice essay was written by Paul Buck for the Botany Bay section of the Fall 1999 *Gaillardia*. Like many articles written by Paul Buck, it encourages us to slow down and notice the myriad interactions taking place right in front of us. This one describes myrmecochory, i.e., ant dispersal of seeds, of two of our earliest spring lawn plants, *Viola* (violets) and *Lamium* (henbit).

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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