

Foreword

This issue of the *Oklahoma Native Plant Record* contains reports of efforts to document the biological diversity of Oklahoma, including vascular plant surveys of two Nature Conservancy preserves, an account of the discovery of a population of a critically imperiled plant species that had been thought to be extirpated from Oklahoma, and an article that will facilitate identification of Oklahoma's common *Amanita* species. Also included is a summary of an investigation that might lead us to question the wisdom of planting non-native milkweeds as part of the conservation effort to protect monarch butterflies.

Amy Buthod and Bruce Hoagland from the University of Oklahoma conducted vascular plant surveys of two biologically diverse Nature Conservancy preserves in south-central Oklahoma: the *Hottonia* Bottoms Preserve and the Oka' Yanahli Preserve. The *Hottonia* Bottoms Preserve contains several forest and herbaceous vegetation types with a high number of obligate and facultative wetland taxa. The preserve is named for one of the wetland plants, *Hottonia inflata* (American featherfoil), pictured on the cover of this issue. The Oka' Yanahli Preserve, located along the Blue River, contains a variety of grassland, forest, shrubland, and wetland vegetation types. The cobble bars and riparian areas of this preserve provide habitat for the imperiled shrub *Alnus maritima* (seaside alder).

Audrey Whaley, Monika Kelley, and Allison Holdorf of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Project report their discovery of a population of *Palafoxia callosa* (small palafox) in Washita County, Oklahoma. Previously reported only from Caddo and Pontotoc counties several decades ago, this species had been listed as possibly extirpated from Oklahoma. In a time when we hear more often about the disappearance of species, it is heartening to hear of a discovery of a new population of a critically imperiled species in our state.

Clark Ovrebo from the University of Central Oklahoma and Jay Justice from the Arkansas Mycological Society describe and illustrate twenty of the most frequently encountered species of *Amanita* in forests of Oklahoma. They explain the morphological characters that are most important in the identification and classification of the species of this charismatic genus of gilled mushrooms.

Kayleigh Clement and Priscilla Crawford from the University of Oklahoma investigate the utilization of the non-native tropical milkweed versus native milkweeds by migrating monarch butterflies in the fall. They suggest the availability of non-native tropical milkweed until late fall could be detrimental to monarch conservation by stimulating the monarchs to break reproductive diapause, compromising their ability to continue their journey to Mexico.

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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