

Foreword

This issue of the *Oklahoma Native Plant Record* contains a floristic inventory of a wildlife management area and articles that address the conservation status of a native herbaceous species, the effects of year and various geographic and climatic factors on flowering time of a native herbaceous species, and the effects of fire and floods on the vegetation of a degraded grassland. These papers provide evidence of the current distribution and status of the native flora of Oklahoma and how land-use changes and abiotic factors influence it over time.

Amy Buthod from the University of Oklahoma conducted a vascular plant survey of the Lexington Wildlife Management Area in central Oklahoma. This area is dominated by Crosstimbers forest, woodland, and prairie, with some riparian woodland and wetlands. It provides habitat for four species tracked by the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory, including two species that are critically imperiled in the state.

Tim Springer and Corey Moffet from the USDA Southern Plains Range Research Station conducted two recent censuses of *Phlox oklahomensis* (Oklahoma phlox) in the Gypsum Hills of northwestern Oklahoma and adjacent Kansas. Their goals were to identify factors that influence its presence, determine whether its occurrence had changed since earlier censuses twenty and forty years ago, and assess its current conservation status.

Lynn Nguyen and Jennifer Messick from the University of Central Oklahoma investigated the flowering phenology of herbarium specimens of *Collinsia violacea* (violet blue eyed Mary) collected since the late 1800s. Their goal was to determine whether flowering dates were related to year of collection as well as to various geographic and climatic variables.

Erica Corbett from Southeastern Oklahoma State University documented the changes that took place over 20 years in a grassland on the shore of Lake Texoma as natural and human-caused disturbances impacted the site.

A note by C.R. "Randy" Ledford documents the resurgence of the ceremonial use of a native sumac/tobacco mixture by the Pawnee. Traditional cultivation of a tobacco plant native to the U.S., *Nicotiana quadrivalvis*, was abandoned after the introduction of *Nicotiana tabacum*, but it is now being grown again and utilized in Pawnee ceremonies.

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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