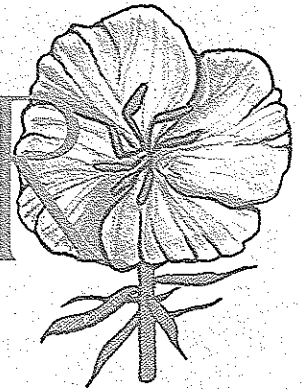


# WILDFLOWER



A nonprofit organization dedicated to researching and promoting wildflowers to further their economic, environmental, and aesthetic use.

## Wildflowers In Bloom

**Wildflowers Across America**  
by Lady Bird Johnson and  
Carlton B. Lees  
Abbeville Press, 288 pp, 1988.

*Wildflowers Across America* is a lavishly illustrated book that successfully combines inspirational writing with technical information. Co-authored by Carlton Lees, an expert horticulturist, and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, a name synonymous with beautification and the environment, this book proves to be well researched. Although enough horticultural information exists to serve as a basic text for a freshman horticulture class, with over 200 spectacular photographs and words of inspiration from Mrs. Johnson, it also makes a lovely edition for display on a coffee table.

The authors collaborated in a special way, by complementing each other's expertise. Mrs. Johnson's writing is filled with personal impressions and memories. She writes of her successes and failures at growing wildflowers and her driving desire to know more about how to propagate some of her favorite species. Special highlights include an insightful account of her work in the White House and how the beautification movement started with the Committee for a More Beautiful Capital, and culminates with her current work with the National Wildflower Research Center. She writes in a poetic

but informative style, which reveals the amount of time she has spent observing wildflowers and learning about the flora of different regions.

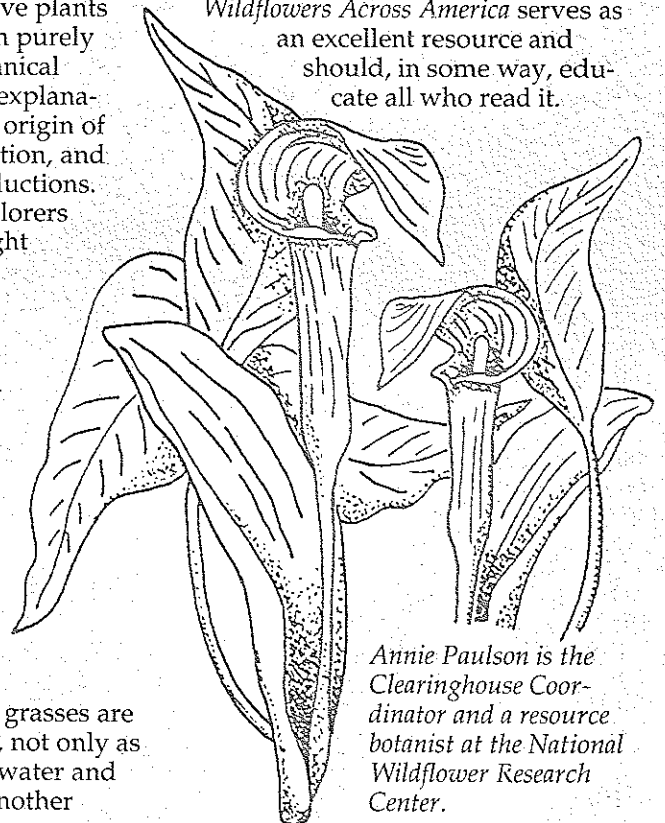
Carlton Lees provides historical and technical information about wildflowers. The detailed history of the wildflower movement includes events from the founding of the first Wildflower Preservation Society, to the emergence of the ideology espousing the use of native plants for ecological, rather than purely decorative reasons. Technical information includes an explanation and examples of the origin of wildflowers, plant migration, and the effects of plant introductions. The chapter on plant explorers of the past provides insight into the history of the American people as well as pre-settlement native plants. Any modern day explorer will enjoy learning of the expeditions of these early botanists.

The movement back to nature, including the recent demand for more "natural" products, has further extended into the landscape. As Lees phrases it, "Native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses are being seen in a new light, not only as roadside beautifiers and water and labor conservers but as another

expression of 'the real thing'."

After reading this book, one should have an understanding of the possible uses of wildflowers and native plants in a planned landscape. Many people do not realize that developing a meadow, roadside, or low-maintenance wildflower planting that both restores and stabilizes the ecology of an area requires more than throwing out seeds from a typical regional mix.

*Wildflowers Across America* serves as an excellent resource and should, in some way, educate all who read it.



Annie Paulson is the Clearinghouse Coordinator and a resource botanist at the National Wildflower Research Center.

# Director's Report: Education and Tours

Each spring the anticipation of wildflowers in bloom causes a tremendous increase in the number of visitors to the National Wildflower Research Center. We have daily visitors throughout the year, but between early April and late May, they come by the bus load. We look forward to this time because it provides us with an opportunity to share what we are doing with several thousand people.

One of the primary goals of the Wildflower Center is to educate the public about the need to conserve and reestablish our nation's wildflowers and native grasses, shrubs, and trees. Spring visitors to the Center see an audio-visual presentation, pick up free fact sheets, tour our green houses, and visit landscape plantings and test plots. We also have a small book and gift shop where wildflower identification guides and books on native plant propagating and landscaping are available for purchase.

Our entire staff is involved in our education program. In addition to their research areas, our botanists prepare fresh plant displays and the Clearinghouse keeps the wildflower fact sheets up-to-date and available. Alane Snider spends hundreds of hours in the gift shop seeing to the

needs of our visitors, whether they want to purchase a reference book, a set of note cards, or a tee shirt as a reminder of their trip to the Center. Barry Gore designs and prepares our educational displays and makes signs for the greenhouse and field tours. Susan Leal answers hundreds of phone calls each week from people wanting information or directions to the Center. Susan is usually the first person to greet our visitors from her receptionist's desk near the front doors. Our Facilities Director, Wendy Wood, is constantly in motion seeing to the grounds, the appearance of the visitor's gallery, and a myriad of other details. R.L. Burnett, Tony Martinez, and Stephen Bruce are Wendy's arms and legs in the efficient operation of our nine structures and 60 acres of grounds.

Coordinating the visits, finding volunteers to act as docents, running the audio-visual show, scheduling speaking engagements away from the Center, meeting and greeting, and taking care of all the needs of our educational programs is the realm of Peggy Budd. Officially our Volunteer Coordinator, Peggy also handles our Speaker's Bureau, giving many of the local talks herself. Ever cheerful and full of energy, Peggy has recruited what we feel is the most dedicated and talented group of

volunteers in the nation.

We are only able to handle the thousands of spring visitors each year because of the time and talents of volunteers Stephanie Little, Anne Carey, Jane Leff, Lisa Rodman, Marty James, Waldi Browning, Bernice and Bill Schnerr, Frankie Clark, Dale Albright, Melanie Zurinski, Colleen O'Leary, Mary Bellamy, JoAnn Hornung, Carol Sain, Lil Flaigg, Wanda Lancaster, Donald Nelson, Donita Haden, Eileen Irion, Patricia Hornsby, and Rose Lynn Scott.

If you have been a visitor to the Wildflower Center, especially in the spring, I know you will agree that the education program is in able hands with our staff and volunteers. If you have not yet come for a visit, we encourage you to give us a call and plan a trip out to see us next spring.

David K. Northington, Ph.D. is Executive Director of the National Wildflower Research Center.



## Welcome to Membership

More wildflower enthusiasts joined the National Wildflower Research Center in the months of April and May 1988 than joined in the first three years of existence of the Wildflower Center. This outpouring of interest has lifted the spirits of the staff and the Board of Trustees. Our national membership is now over 12,000.

"Welcome!" says Executive Director Dr. David Northington. "As a botanist and wildflower proponent, I am excited by the interest shown in this beautiful and hardy part of our country's landscape. The Center is here to help: so do write to the

Clearinghouse to learn more about how to plant, how to maintain, and how to enjoy wildflowers."

Most of our new members joined as a result of a direct mail campaign, which explained the programs and goals of the Center. Unfortunately some current members received this mailing, as their names appeared on the rented mailing lists. While it may be difficult to believe, it is less expensive to send direct mail packages to a predictable percentage of current members than it is to have their names deleted from rented lists using a costly computer program. So if you received several mailings

asking you to join the Center during this past April, please forgive us the inconvenience and understand that it was a consequence of budget limitations, rather than a wasteful expenditure.

All of us at the Center welcome and thank all members for their support and confidence. Members are a crucial support network throughout the country. You make wildflowers work!

Mae Daniller is Director of Membership Services at the National Wildflower Research Center.

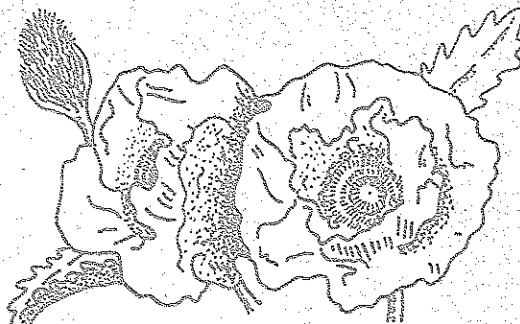
# Poppies Brighten Barren Places

As warm summer breezes begin to blow, it is easy to imagine the hot, arid lands of the southwestern United States. Although this image may evoke scenes of cactus to some, for many it will bring to mind fields of poppies in vivid color. Poppies grow from southern Utah, west to California, and southeast toward New Mexico and West Texas. The family Papaveraceae is made up of 25 genera, consisting of 200 species. A common characteristic shared by most members of the poppy family is an acrid sap or latex, often yellow, orange or red in color, though sometimes white or milky. Poppies come in a variety of vivid colors including white, gold, yellow, orange, red, and purple.

The genus *Papaver* has over 100 species located mostly in the north temperate zone. In most of this genus, the latex is whitish or colored. The notorious *Papaver somniferum*, or opium poppy, is a member of this genus. The flowers of *P. somniferum* may be purple, red, or white. The seeds of this plant are edible and also contain an edible oil. The opium, which is used for the production of morphine and heroine, comes from the milky juice of the unripe fruit. Although this poppy is widely cultivated, in the United States it is strictly controlled. Another member of the *Papaver* genus is the corn poppy, or *Papaver rhoeas*. This plant, with a bright scarlet, purple, or white blossoms, flowers from April to June.

The genus *Eschscholzia* contains 12 species of poppies, mostly in western North America. *Eschscholzia mexicana*, or Mexican gold poppy, can be found from West Texas to southern Utah and California. It blooms from

March to May, painting the landscape with orange and yellow. *Eschscholzia californica*, the ever popular California poppy, though usually a bright orange can have yellow flowers. Named the state flower of California, this poppy gives visitors a colorful welcome. The sap from *E. californica* was reportedly used by Native Americans as a treatment for toothache. *Eschscholzia caespitosa* is a small, light-yellow poppy found predominantly in California. The genus *Eschscholzia* is named after Dr. J. F. Eschscholtz who lived from 1793 to 1831. He performed duties as a surgeon and naturalist with Russian expeditions to the Pacific Coast from 1816 to 1824.



The white prickly poppy, *Argemone albiflora*, blooms from March to June, and can be found in open areas with gravelly soil from northern Arkansas and southern Missouri to Texas. The genus *Argemone* has 12 species in the Americas, all of which have prickly leaves and a yellow to orange sap. The flowers can be white, yellow, lavender, or pink.

The Papaveraceae family, which contains showy flowers often growing in barren, arid environments, brightens up land where few wildflowers will grow.

*Elinor Crank is a research horticulturist at the National Wildflower Research Center.*

# From the Field

July 9 and August 13, 1988  
*Growing Native Plants*; Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania. Classes cover propagating from cuttings and attracting wildlife with native plants. **Contact:** Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, P.O. Box 103, Washington Crossing, PA 18977 (215) 862-2924.

July 27, 1988 *Restoration and Applications of Native Vegetation, Second Annual Meeting of A.N.V.I.L.*; Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Illinois. Topics include wetlands update, golf course applications, and open land projects. **Contact:** A.N.V.I.L., 871 Shawnee Avenue, LaFayette, IN 47905 (317) 463-1943.

July 28 - 30, 1988 *Conference on Landscaping with Native Plants*; Cullowhee, North Carolina. Program includes wildflower planting, new natives to use, and basic landscaping. **Contact:** Sue DeBord, Division of Continuing Education, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

August 7 - 11, 1988 *Prairie Pioneers: Ecology, History and Culture, Eleventh North American Prairie Conference*; University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Events include field trips and presentations. **Contact:** Thomas B. Bragg, Department of Biology, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182-0040 (402) 554-3378.

October 11 - 13, 1988 *Fifth Annual National Roadside Vegetation Management Association Conference*; Dallas, Texas. Call for nominations for Roadside Excellence contest. **Contact:** Jack Mello, Dorf & Stanton Communications, Inc., 111 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003.

## Wildflower

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## Pamela Alane Jones

Pamela Alane Jones, 25, a former Wildflower Center research botanist, died April 9, 1988 in Athens, Georgia, from injuries received during a motorcycle-pedestrian accident.

Pam established the Wildflower Center's herbarium and native seed collection, formatted the seedling identification program, and designed the Center's native plant landscape.

Last fall, Pam entered the master's program in landscape architecture at the University of Georgia. An accomplished student, she received an assistantship from the university, and won a logo design contest for *Georgia Landscape* magazine.

## Invaluable Volunteers

The National Wildflower Research Center could not function without its dedicated corps of volunteers. Although most volunteers live in the Austin area, some drive as far as 60 miles to give a day of volunteer labor.

The volunteers span all ages:

- Teenage boy scouts have planted trees and shrubs, and built benches and demonstration plots for outdoor classes.
- Two dynamic wildflower advocates travel to area classrooms to speak about the care and nurture of wildflowers.
- Several mature volunteers, who

stated they had no knowledge of, or need for computers, are now enthusiastically entering data into the Wildflower Center's computers.

- Each month ten members of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) spend a day at the Center, working on membership renewals.

We cherish all of these priceless volunteers. Without them we could not plant field plots, count seedlings, mail products, or process mail as promptly or efficiently.

*Peggy Budd is Volunteer Coordinator at the National Wildflower Research Center.*

## Gift Membership Application *Send a gift membership to someone special!*

Members of the National Wildflower Research Center support wildflower work across the nation. You will receive *Wildflower*, the newsletter and *Wildflower, Journal of the National Wildflower Research Center*, 10% discount on unique Center products, special advance notice of and discounts to Center seminars, wildflower tours, a membership card and priority handling of requests to the Center's Clearinghouse of wildflower information.

- \$25 Supporting Member.** All privileges listed above.
- \$50 Sustaining Member.** All of the above plus a set of specially commissioned wildflower notecards.
- \$100 Key Member.** All the above plus wildflower garden apron and invitations to special events.
- \$250 Center Sponsor.** All the above plus annual limited edition wildflower poster.
- \$500 Trust Member and \$1000 Benefactor.** All the above plus special privileges.

• Thank You! Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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- Make your check payable to: NWRC
- Mail to: Membership, National Wildflower Research Center, 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, Texas 78725-4201

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## Wildflowers Work!

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