



AN ORCHID CONSERVATION PROJECT

The overview of the rare orchid restoration project of the *Cypripedium kentuckiense* on USFS lands

(Although this conservation project is in Louisiana it can only help in the future with the restoration of native orchids no longer found in Oklahoma – Thank You SWROGA!)

Native Orchids of Oklahoma

Did you know there are at least 34 known native species of orchids that grow in Oklahoma?



Primarily wetland
plant.

Endangered

Flowering time: June

Calopogon oklahomensis (Oklahoma
Grasspink)



**Seasonally wet, alkaline
tropical and subtropical
conifer savannas,
meadows, and grasslands**

Endangered

Calopogon tuberosus var. simpsonii



Flowering time: late
April through May

Corallorhiza
wisteriana. Found
growing in the Oak leaf
debris of Oak Forests
(Spring Coral Root)





Due to its beauty, the plant has been dug for gardening use and the species has declined in the wild.

Endangered

Flowering time: mid April through early June

Cypripedium calceolus var. *parviflorum* (Yellow Lady's Slipper)



Flowering time: April

Epipactis gigantea – grows near streams and creeks



Flowering time: mid
April through mid May

Galearis spectabilis - rich woods (primarily beech and maple woods with limey soil), swamp margins – (Showy Orchis)



Flowering time: early fall

Partial to full shade in deciduous, coniferous or mixed woods, particularly in woods dominated by Red Oak. Often found in humus-rich soil overlying sand, especially on or beside portages and other old wood's trails or roads. Most common in mesic sites, but occasionally occurs in wet-mesic sites in swamps.

Goodyeara pubescens (Jewell Orchid)



Flowering time: late spring to early winter

Habenaria repens - terrestrial/aquatic grows in very wet, open places (Water Spider Orchid)



In Oklahoma, populations of *Hexalectris spicata* var. *spicata* growing in decaying *Juniperus* needle litter over sandstone are far more robust. Endangered

Flowering time: mid to late July

Hexalectris spicata var. *spicata* – (Crested Coral Root)



Prefers partial shade or partial sun;
soil should be moist.

Endangered

Flowering time: late March to
early April

Isotria verticillata – (**Whorled Pogonia**)



Prefers partial shade or partial sun; soil should be moist. Rarely found in dry soils.

Flowering time: mid June through early July

Liparis lilifolia (Lily-Leaved Twayblade)



Found in deep shade in wet woods.

Flowering time: February through May

Listera australis – (Southern Twayblade)



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Open to well-shaded sites, including roadside ditches, abandoned sand or gravel pits, old fields (sometimes beneath Bracken), lush mossy areas on granite or gneiss ridges, mixed woods, coniferous woods and bogs.

Flowering time: early July through late August

Malaxis unifolia – (Green Adder's Mouth)



Flowering time: July to
August

Platanthera ciliaris - wet meadows and forests
Endangered (Yellow Fringed Orchid)



Bogs, shores, damp woods

Flowering time: July to August

Platanthera clavellata – Endangered (Small Woodland Orchid)



Found along the margins of lakes, rivers and ponds, and in moist meadows or prairies.

Flowering time: late June through late July

**Platanthera flava var. flava – Endangered
(Pale-Green Orchid)**



**Swamps, marshes, thickets,
wet woods.**

Flowering times: July

Platanthera lacera (Ragged Fringed Orchid)



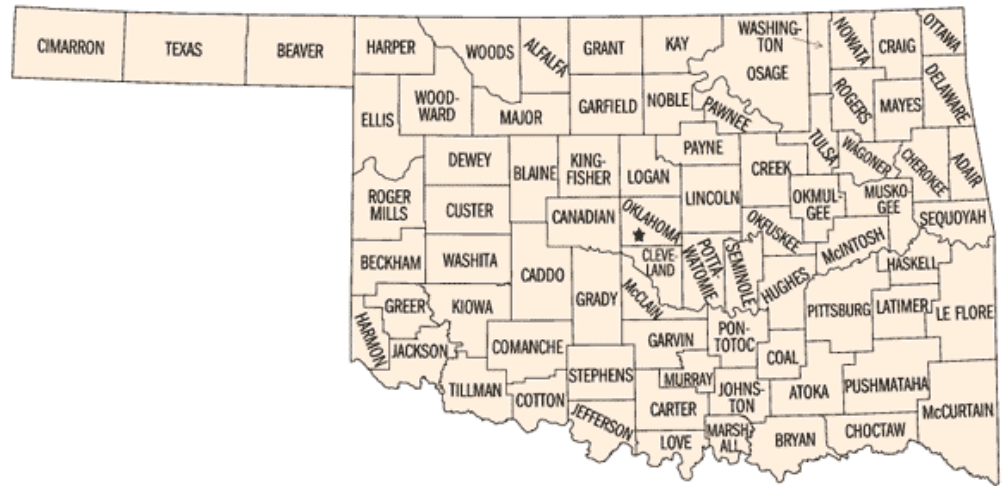
Flowering time: July

Platanthera leucophaea – Endangered (Eastern Prairie Fringed-Orchid)

Is almost exclusively found in moist, hay meadows.



Richard Reeves



Was once found in grassy swales and meadows from Manitoba south into Oklahoma. Now, with the tallgrass prairie reduced to less than two-percent of its formerly vast range, this beautiful and unique grassland orchid is threatened with extinction.

Flowering time: mid to late June

Platanthera praeclara – Endangered (Western Prairie Fringed Orchid)



Found in acidic situations
such as open sphagnum bogs
and wet meadows.

Flowering time: mid August
through September

Pogonia ophioglossoides – Endangered (Rose
pogonia, snake-mouth)

Spiranthes cernua var. *cernua* (Nodding Ladies' - tresses)

Habitat: moist prairie hay
meadows

Flowering time: mid August through October





Typically found on dry bluff
or hill prairies over limestone
or dolomite.

Spiranthes cernua var. *magnicamporum*
(Great Plains Ladies'-tresses)



Found in moist soils,
bogs or swamps.

Flowering time: August through
September

Spiranthes cernua var. *odorata* (Nodding Ladies'-
Tresses, Fragrant Ladies'Tresses)



Is found in moist to dry,
typically sandy, acidic soil.

Flowering times: early July through
mid September

Spiranthes lacera Raf. Var. *lacera* (Northern
slender lady's-tresses)



Dry to moist meadows,
prairies, barrens, open woods,
dunes, old fields, roadsides,
cemeteries, lawns

Flowering time: August through
October

Spiranthes lacera var. *gracilis* (Southern Slender
Ladies'-tresses)



Moist, rich woodlands, thickets,
wooded hillsides

Flowering time: late September
through early October

Spiranthes ovalis var. *ovalis* (October
Ladies'-tresses)



Found in groups in dry,
sandy, sunny fields.

Flowering time: August to
September

Spiranthes tuberosa (Little Ladies'-tresses)



Wet meadows, moist prairies, ditches, and floodplains, usually where sandy.

Endangered

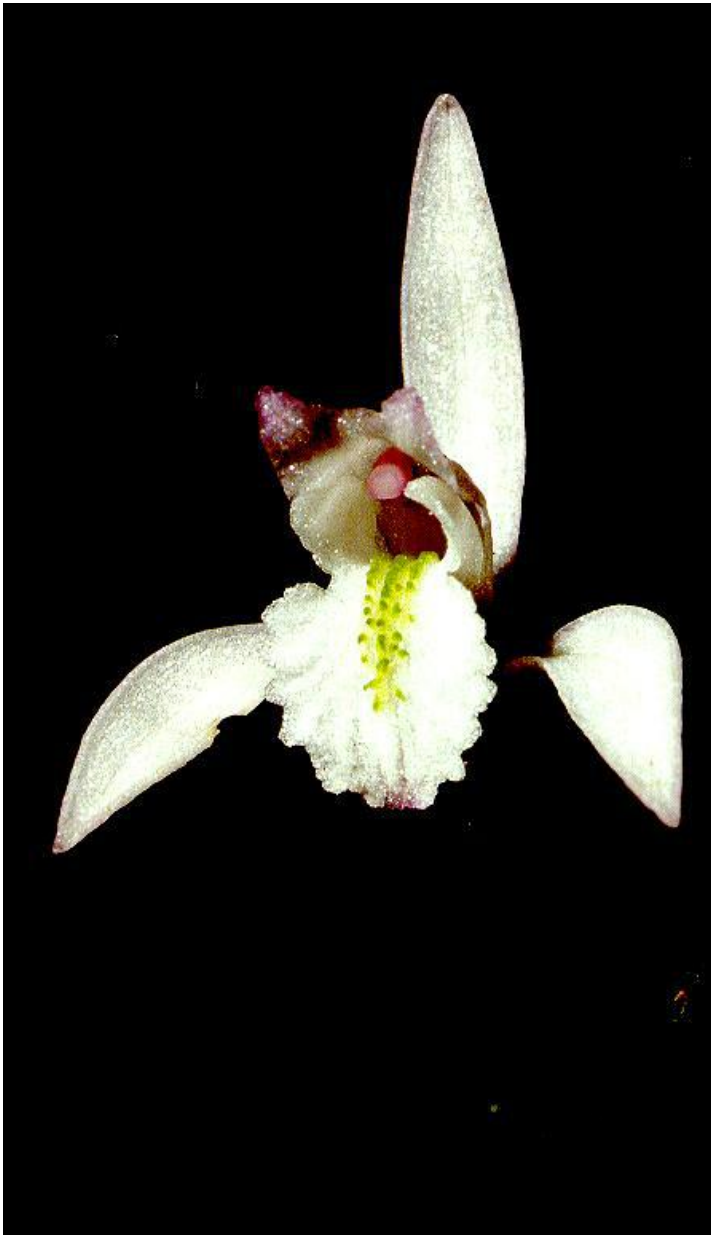
Flowering time: June through mid August

Spiranthes vernalis (Spring Ladies'-tresses)

Closer look



Spiranthes vernalis



Rich humus under loose
dead leaves in hardwood
forest.

Flowering time: July to mid-
August through September

Triphora trianthophora (Three Birds Orchid)

“Help conserve
Oklahoma’s native orchids
by leaving them where you
find them.”

References

Thanks go to:

L.K. Magrath, Ph.D. The Native Orchids of the Prairies and Plains Region of North America. Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Department of Botany, University of Kansas, 1973.

Magrath, L.K., and J. Taylor. Orchids and other new and interesting plants from Oklahoma. Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Herbarium Publication Number 2. 1978

Paul Martin Brown, The Wild Orchids of North American, North of Mexico, 2003

Flora of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Native Plant Society

SWROGA Web Site

USDA Web Site

Various other Web Sites

For up close and personal information, you can join the Oklahoma Native Plant Society.