

Native Orchid of the Month—March

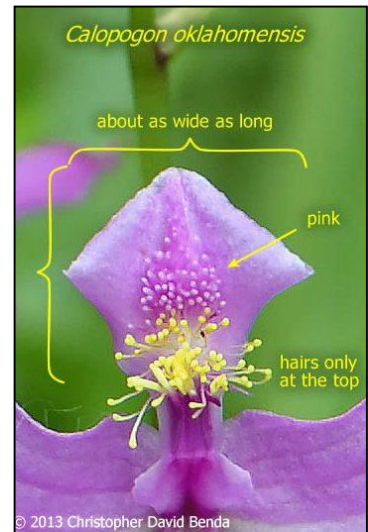
Calopogon oklahomensis
(Oklahoma grass-pink)

Calopogon oklahomensis, Oklahoma grass-pink, has a stem from 5 to 15 inches tall with a bright cluster of 2 to 7 pale to deep pink (rarely white) flowers 1 to 1½ inches across, widely spaced and opening simultaneously in a raceme at tip of the stalk. The flowers are irregular, 6-parted and atypical to most orchid species, the lip, a modified petal, is situated at the top of the flower rather than the bottom.



The lip is fiddle shaped with an inflated tip, somewhat rounded triangular with a cluster of long, yellow tipped, stamen-like bristles. The lip is flanked by two broadly, lance oval sepals, then a pair of somewhat smaller lance-elliptic petals with another single lance-elliptic sepal below.

The single leaf is very long and linear, grass-like, 2¾ to 13½ inches long and typically between ¼ to just over ½ inch wide, the leaf often as long as or longer than the flowering stem.



Oklahoma grass-pink flowers from March to July. It frequently is found in acidic, sandy to loamy prairies, pine savannas, oak woodlands, edges of bogs, and frequently mowed meadows.

