

August 30, 1995

Dear Docents:

Prairie News for September as We Start Into the Fall

Names in the News

- After receiving over 50 applications and conducting more than 17 interviews, the staff has selected the new Community Outreach/Education Coordinator, who will be our Docent/Volunteer leader. Mary McIntyre has moved from Ponca City to Broken Arrow and effective August 28, will work in/out of the Tulsa office. Mary will be getting to know you at the events noted below.
- Thanks to Judy Roberts for doing a great job of Docent Scheduling for the last few months...not an easy task. Sue has already filled most of the Docent Schedule for October and November. We have Docents scheduled for Fridays thru September, but will drop Fridays for October and November. Our last scheduled Docent Day for this fall will be Sunday, November 12th. If you want to serve on a Docent day and are not yet scheduled, call Sue.
- Those of you who remember Sarah Clausen from the Bison Release will be happy to know she and Dan were married August 26th in Boulder, Colorado. Sarah has resigned her job in Portland, and in case you want to drop her a card it could be sent "c/o Joy Princeton, 2720 14th St., Boulder, CO 80304."
- Mark Andrews' tick born disease (mentioned in the last newsletter) was finally diagnosed as Ehrlichiosis. After treatment, he is doing well. Incidentally, we now have some Avon Skin So Soft for sale in the Gift Shop - at cost.... \$1.50/1.2 oz. container.
- Thanks to Jo Brooks and Carol Eames for mounting the Docent pix in the office. When on duty, take a look to see who your co-workers are. A few are missing, but most are there.

Dates to Remember

- Volunteer Work days will be September 9th, October 14th and November 11th...9:30-3:30. We will be painting the 40,000 square feet of surface in the new Bison corral... that includes about 7.5 lineal miles of posts and rails. So, we need handsss. We had a group of 16 T.U. Freshmen community service volunteers on 8/24, who initiated this project. We learned a lot - the bottom line being that this is a BIG project. Bring your grubby clothes, lunch, tick preventatives and a friend for Volunteer Work Days. Again, we need your help. The weather should be improving. So come on up.



Our ANNUAL DOCENT APPRECIATION Dinner will be at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 7th, at 1800 Leahy St. in Pawhuska, at the home of Cathy and Jessie Worten. To find Leahy Street, go north on Kihkah St. (route to the Prairie) to 18th St., then one block east. Jody Diehl (TGP Docent, from Pawhuska) has worked with/on Pawhuska Team Tourism to provide our Docents with this appreciation dinner. The meal will be an authentic Osage indian feast, with the significance and history of each course explained by a tribal member. We also have a great program scheduled. Jim Ronda, who is the Horace G. Barnard Professor of Western American History at Tulsa University and his very capable wife, Jeanne, will be our featured speakers. Jim will be discussing the significance of the Barnard Ranch/the Osage to western American history. Jeanne will tell us how to find authoritative sources on our Western History and hopefully give us her review of the Oil Boom in Osage County...A very interesting, fact filled resource book. The price for the evening is right - FREE. Car pooling will be arranged for those interested. Call the office(s) now, to make your reservation..585-1117 in Tulsa, or 287-4803 in Pawhuska.

- During the period October 25-28, the Avian Research Center is sponsoring an International Conference on Conservation and Ecology of Grassland Birds at the Doubletree Hotel in Tulsa, with an expected sign in of 300 visitor/participants. For Saturday, October 28th, they have scheduled an all day tour of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Our Docents will be helping host this event.; We will be calling for Volunteers for numerous activities. So, if possible, please leave October 28th open.

Gift Shop News

- Mr. Kirt, an Illinois botanist specializing in prairie restoration visited the prairie and gift shop in July. He hiked the short nature trail and jotted down a list of plants he identified. We have copied this list and it is in a folder on the docent office desk available for distribution to interested visitors. We also are carrying his field guide for sale at the Gift Shop.
- Our list of Birds of the Osage is done by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife and is currently being revised. It should be finished "momentarily."
- We now have free Oklahoma roadmaps to distribute. We asked for 36 from the Department of Tourism and received 400--so, do be generous.
- Sales in the Gift Shop have been great thanks to all your efforts. However, we have recently noted some "shrinkage" from our merchandise. Items such as specific books and carved bird wing pins, etc... have departed without an accompanying yellow sales slip having been sent in. So, when you are on duty, please insure that when visitors are in the Gift Shop there is always a Docent present in the gift shop. By opening the office and Gift Shop window blinds, you can easily note when vehicles drive up...and with the new storm door (see below) you can easily see visitors on the walkway. So, please be attentive. With docents always being present in the gift shop

our shrinkage should decline.

Miscellaneous

- Royce Shieldknight (Ranch Foreman's wife) is now maintaining the supply in the headquarters pop machine. When it runs low, notify Royce 287-4378. If the machine has mechanical problems, advise Bob Hamilton or his answering machine at 287-4440.
- We have (thanks to William Mosier) just installed a glass/screen storm door on the Gift Shot Door (to the breezeway). So, the wooden door can be left open and the glass portion of the storm door opened/closed as weather dictates... and while on Docent Duty you will have better vision of what is going on outside.
- When on Docent Duty, review George Meyers' monthly Visitor sign in report, which is posted on the bulletin board in the office. It is always quite interesting. Like, thru July, for the year to date we had 7,324 total visitors representing all 50 states and 24 foreign countries. For the month of July we were off 80 visitors from last year, but year to date we are up 11%. Thanks George, for your useful/interesting reports.
- As you have probably noticed, the Docent office phone (287-3623) has an answering machine attached. The machine has been reprogrammed to pick up after 4-5 rings. When you are on Docent Duty please answer the phone when it rings and respond to the caller. However, do not be concerned with any recordings on the machine. Those recordings will be taken off and responded to by the staff.
- This year's 900 acre addition to the Bison pasture has been opened - it is shown on the updated preserve map on the outside bulletin board. A portion of the long nature trail goes into the bison pasture. Hopefully, the long trail hikers are appropriately warned.
- Thanks to the nineteen Docents who attended Linda Fritts "Interpretive Training" last Saturday at the Barnard House. None of us really knew what to expect, but enjoyed and learned from her presentation on how to "find the child in every visitor" and how to communicate about our resource (TGP) by leading visitors to think and question. Linda's ability to convey her deep interest and appreciation for the Prairie and its many critters is an enviable trait.

Join us, if you can, for the volunteer work days. Call in, for sure, to make your reservations for the Docent Appreciation Dinner.

Dick Baker