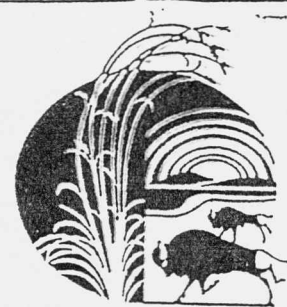


The Nature Conservancy

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

Docent Newsletter - - - -



November 1996

This N' That from Mary McIntyre, Education and Outreach Coordinator

The third Docent season at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve is winding to a close. From all of the Conservancy staff, a big **thank you** to all of you who have contributed so much of your time this year to the Docent Program. We have covered more days, and made more sales in the gift shop than any previous year. Visitation numbers continue to rise. You are in great part responsible for the continued public interest in this project. **Thank you!**

If you did not attend the **Docent Dinner** --- we missed you. We enjoyed the decor at Prairie Flower in the Pawhuska Mercantile Building, and the food was delicious. The beauty at the unique Constantine Theater took my breath away! I wish that we had filmed our docent performers on stage! Thanks for participating and adding to our fun.

A reminder to all those who have not yet turned in an **evaluation**: another copy is enclosed. Please tell us what you think about the program and the training. Also indicate your interest in participating in the program next year. Return your evaluation to me at the Tulsa field office. A summary of the results of this evaluation/survey will be handed out at the spring re-orientation. NOTE - **Docent Re-orientation** has been tentatively set for March 15, 1997. It will be held at the Pawhuska Senior Citizens Center.

Another reason to turn in your evaluation is to indicate your interest in the **Docent Council**. This group of volunteers assists as planners and coordinators of different aspects of the program. Job descriptions will be reviewed December 14 at a 10 a.m. meeting in the Tulsa Field office. We will also discuss the evaluations and how we can improve the program. Additional Council meetings will be held in January and February. No meetings are held when Docent season is in full swing. Council members perform their job duties with assistance from Tallgrass and Tulsa field office staff. Council members must have served as a Docent for one year, and commit a few extra hours each month in addition to regular docent duties. If you are interested in the Council, please contact me at the Field Office.

Mary

Big Bluestem - The long awaited book about the tallgrass Prairie, Big Bluestem, from Council Oaks Publishing in Tulsa, is now available. This book, written by Annick Smith, features Harvey Payne's incredible photography of the prairie. Retail cost is \$34.95. However, if you are interested in a copy, The Chapter would like to offer you one copy at \$19.00 (nearly half price). This offer is limited to docents and staff only, with a limit of one copy at the reduced price per docent or staff member. To order your copy, notify Sue Wheeler, gift shop manager, or Connie at the Tulsa office.

Gift Shop News - Sue Wheeler, Gift Shop Manager

Remember the End of Season sale which will be underway at the Gift Shop during November. All docents and staff of the Oklahoma Chapter will receive a 20 percent discount during this month, including commission art work. Fill out the yellow ticket as usual, and put your name on it!

September sales in the gift shop totalled \$2,799.10, bringing our total sales for the year figure to \$29,464.75! This compares to our 1995 total at this time of \$22,963.26! Congratulations on a great year! As we close the season, we will deduct our inventory expenses from this figure and let you know exactly how much gift shop sales have contributed to the Preserve. Harvey and Bob will notify us soon as to which (of many) possible Preserve projects this money has been designated for.

Official close date will be November 20!

Scheduling - You will find the November shift schedule enclosed. As you can see, we are covered nearly every day in November. Please note your workdates and be sure to cover your shift. In case of inclement weather, or an emergency, please notify Connie or Mary at the Tulsa field office. Remember, you are responsible for finding your own substitute. Anyone who would like to fill in an open shift, please call the office and talk to Connie.

Help Wanted! You may have noticed that comments from our editor, Nyla Woody, are absent from this issue. Nyla and Randy have been called out of state to visit a very ill relative. Randy is also suffering from some health problems. We miss her assistance. Nyla has indicated that she will be unable to assist as editor of the newsletter next year. We want to thank her for her help this year, and send along our best wishes. With Nyla's departure, we are looking for a new editor. Please let us know if you're interested! We need you!