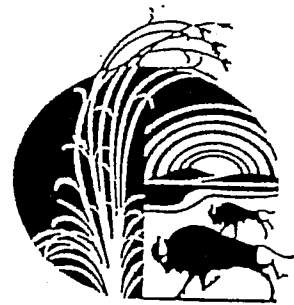


The Nature Conservancy

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE



Docent Newsletter - - - -

March 1997

This n' That - Mary McIntyre, Education and Outreach Coordinator

On your mark, get set, GO! Hey, that's how I'm feeling going into this next docent year! We have 75 docents returning, and many of you have already committed to work days in March, April and even May!! Your continued support is so wonderful... I expect this year to be the best yet!

Recruitment in Bartlesville on Feb. 20 went great! In spite of the monsoon, we had 15 people in attendance, plus five docents. Of those fifteen, nine completed docent applications on the spot and many of the others indicated that they would return their's by mail. We expect this year's docent class to be heavy with Bartians! Pawhuska and Tulsa recruitment events were not well attended. It is a guessing game to select the "right" time and place for events.

Mailings to names of others expressing interest from the Tulsa area will be sent early in March. We may advertise more in the Tulsa area if it appears to be necessary. I expect a class of about thirty, which will give us over 100 participating docents. How exciting! Even with those interested in specializing as Trail Guides branching off to do their own "thing", we should be able to provide full coverage of the gift shop this year!

Please note the card included in this mailing! This is your reservation to attend Docent Reorientation on March 15. Please fill it out and drop it in the mail.

Deadline for reservations (so we can get the count for box lunches) is March 7. Read on for the full agenda for reorientation. Hope to see you there!

Visitation - George Meyers

Good weather in January brought us an increase in visitation of 34.7% over Jan 1996. There were 291 sign-in visitors - the highest in any year we've kept records. 68 visitors represented 15 states other than Oklahoma. Twenty of our visitors were from foreign countries. The entire month, there were only four days with no recorded visitors. These numbers get us off to a terrific start with visitation!

Gift Shop Report - Sue Wheeler

The figures are in	Gross sales	\$35,879.57
	Interest (Bank)	26.43
TOTAL GROSS SALES		\$35,906.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>-22,897.20</u>
NET INCOME		\$13,008.80!

What a terrific year! We'll be discussing where the money will go at Docent Orientation, and report that to you in the April Docent News!

Speakers Bureau - Tom Clark

Requests for speakers for the spring months are beginning to come in. Encourage the organizations you belong to, or that your friends belong to, to call us for a program. This helps get the word out about Conservancy projects and needs!

MEMBERSHIP - Remember that the purpose of both the docent program and the Speakers Bureau is "support" for The Nature Conservancy. Conservation work relies completely on donations from membership! Encourage people you talk with to join the Conservancy. Their dollars support the docent program as well as the efforts of the crew up at the Tallgrass Prairie and at the other preserves across the state. Membership donations of \$100 or more automatically stay in Oklahoma. Those who contribute at a lesser level must REQUEST that their money be given to the Oklahoma chapter - otherwise it is applied to National project needs. If you don't know the answer, refer any questions to the Oklahoma Field Office, 918/585-1117.

Trail Guide Program - The program is taking shape! Details will be revealed at Docent ReOrientation, where there will be a questionnaire for you to fill out if you want to be a trail guide. As it stands now, guided walks will be available to school groups (grades 4 and 5 only) on Wednesdays by reservation only; and on Saturdays for 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. treks only, beginning the last week in April. Group size is limited to ten people. Training will be held April 20 at the Preserve. Those taking this training are invited to spend the night at the Stucco house on April 19, so we can get an early start!

Trail guide shifts will be scheduled separately from regular docent duty. Our first priority will always be to staff the gift shop with two docents. Once that is accomplished, we will fill slots for trail guides on Wednesdays and Saturdays in May. During the summer months, additional days may be added - we'll just have to see how many trail guides we have and how many requests we get!

Information about this new docent program will be sent out to schools and area newspapers in March and April.

Notes from the Prairie - Bob Hamilton, Dir. of Science and Stewardship

New bison - two bull calves and one heifer calf were donated from the Sedgwick County (Wichita, KS) Zoo on Jan. 31. They are now in the quarantine pasture until April. Ten more bison were purchased at the Maxwell Refuge sale, and were released in mid-January after the 60 day quarantine and TB/Brucellosis recheck. The herd will continue to grow - and the docent program donation has helped!

We received another 6 x 6 vehicle from the OK. Forest Service. This will be equipped with a 30-gallon sprayer to assist with prescribed burning.

BISON REPORT - The bison are scattered all over the preserve, typically in ten or twelve separate groups. The Bulls are keeping to themselves in their own group. They look great, and have wintered well.

The list of ongoing research project has exceeded forty! (A complete list will be provided at ReOrientation)

Our cowboys are hard at work with fencing projects, adding another 1500 acres to the bison unit. Currently, they are at the 3-mile point in a 4-mile project, as they fence down the abandoned Midland Valley railroad right-of-way.

Volunteer needs for spring will include roadside clean-up, trail maintenance and corral painting. At this time, a public work day for March is not planned. We hope to be able to rely on volunteer work groups to meet work project needs. If that doesn't happen, some public days will be organized and publicized. Stay tuned!!

Scheduling - Shirley Miller

Please review the enclosed calendars! We have had a great response already with scheduling. Check the March calendar to confirm your work times. April and May are also included. To sign up for a date in April or May, return a copy of the calendar page to us, with your desired shift times (first and second choices) indicated on the appropriate date(s). We will continue to work at least two months ahead.

Office and Annual Meeting Volunteer Needs

If any of you are available or interested in working some volunteer time at the Tulsa office on special projects, please let Mary know. We will be putting together the new docent manuals the last week of March and first week of April (prior to April 5 training). These require good collators! Also, our annual meeting is coming up on May 31, so there will be registration confirmations to go out in late April and early May (100 anticipated). Anyone interested in helping on site at the Annual Meeting (to be held in Pontotoc! near our preserve) please let Mary or Nora Jones know! We need you.

ReOrientation Information

This is your invitation to attend! Please mark and return the enclosed post card! Thanks!

1997 Docent Reorientation

Saturday, March 15, 1997

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pawhuska Senior Citizens Center

(yellow building behind Police Station on West Main)

- 9 a.m. Registration (for door prize)
Coffee, social time
- 9:20 a.m. Welcome and Introductions Dick Baker
- 9:30 a.m. What's Happening Now? Bob Hamilton, Director of Science
- 10:00 a.m. - **Review of 1996**
Visitation George Meyers
Gift Shop Sue Wheeler
Docent Survey Results Mary McIntyre
Plans for 1997 Docent Program Mary McIntyre
- 10:45 Break (scheduling time)
- 11:00 Osage Tribe Information Geoffrey Standingbear
- 11:45 Tallgrass Prairie Slide Show Tom Clark
- 12:30 p.m. Catered lunch (provided by TNC) - scheduling time
- 1:15-2:15 p.m. - Guided tours - (Tentative schedule) (select one to attend at this time)
Tour 1 - Osage County Museum/Osage Tribal Museum
Tour 2 - Constantine Theater Tour
Tour 3 - Catholic Church Tour - Father Higgins
Tour 4 - The Bronze Horse Foundry
Tour 5 - Pawhuska Historic Homes
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. - All tours to be repeated from list above (each person attends a second tour)
- 3:45 p.m. Return to Senior Citizens Center for Door Prize, Final comments

Those who are unable to attend will receive copies of information which is distributed at the Reorientation, but you will miss out on all the comraderie and side comments! We hope that you will attend. PLEASE return your reservation card as soon as possible. If you have questions, please call 918/585-1117.

March

1997

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Sue Wheeler Doris Mayfield	17 Liz and Al Medley	18	19 Floyd and Virginia Pharris	20 Randy and Nyla Woody	21.	22 Laban Miles Edith Haraughty
23 Sandy Frazier William Mosier	24 Bob and Mary Reeves	25	26 Dave Dolcater Stu Marshall	27 Bill Rinehart George Meyers	28 Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson	29 Carolyn Mathews Alan Beckert
30 Carol Redford Mary Cumming	31 Van and Loretta Vives					

Please review this calendar. Is your name listed? Are you available on that day if it is? If the answer is YES, plan to show up for your shift and mark your calendar. If the answer is NO - Call Shirley Miller immediately at 836-5349. If your name is not listed, select a first and second choice of open days, mark them on the calendar, and return this form to Shirley at 4635 E. 13th Pl., Tulsa, OK 74112. Thanks for your help.

April

1997

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Doris Mayfield Phyllis Connally	2 Dean and Mary Ellen Johnston	3 Vera Meyers 2.	4 Stu Marshall Barbara Strahm	5 Sherry Beeker Dorothy Buck NEW DOCENT TRAINING
6 Nune and Tom Richards	7 George McCourt 2.	8	9 Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	10	11 Laban Miles 2.	12 Sandy Frazier Louise Magruder
13 Edith Haraughty 2.	14 Van and Loretta Vives	15 Lila Brierty Joan Fuller	16 Floyd and Virginia Pharris	17 Randy and Nyla Woody	18 1. 2.	19 Sue Wheeler Sherry Beeker NEW DOCENT TRAINING
20 Marilyn Fugate William Mosier TRAIL GUIDE TRAINING	21 Al and Liz Medley	22	23 Dave Dolcater Vada Robertson	24 Bill Rinehart George Meyers	25 Carol Eames 2.	26 Karen Harris Carolyn Mathews
27 Barbara and Don Sweeney	28 Bob and Mary Reeves	29	30 Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson			

May

1997

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1. 2.	2 Stu Marshall 2.	3 Louise Magruder 2.
4. 2.	5 Barbara Strahm 2.	6 Doris Mayfield Phyllis Connally	7 Dean and Mary Ellen Johnston	8. 2.	9. 2.	10 Carolyn Mathews 2.
11 Sandy Frazier Sue Wheeler	12 Van and Loretta Vives	13 Lila Brierly Joan Fuller	14 Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	15 Randy and Nyla Woody	16. 2.	17 George Meyers Dorothy Buck
18 Ken and Shirley Miller	19 Liz and Al Medley	20. 2.	21 Dave Dolcater 2.	22. 2.	23. 2.	24 Karen Harris 2.
25. 2.	26 Bob and Mary Reeves	27. 2.	28 Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson	29 Bill Rinehart 2.	30. 2.	31 Mary Cumming Carol Redford