

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

October 1997

This 'N That

by Mary McIntyre
Education and Outreach Coord.

Another Docent season at the Tallgrass is almost over. Thank you for your commitment to the Tallgrass Prairie and to The Nature Conservancy.

Service awards will be presented at the Oct. 4 Appreciation Dinner. Don't forget to RSVP! If you haven't done so yet, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE. Our food numbers are due no later than Sept. 29.

If you are unable to attend, we will miss you! You'll receive a letter from me if you aren't there, as I will need to make arrangements to get your awards to you. You may also call me at the office.

At the Docent Dinner, some program changes will be announced, including spiffs for docents who have reached the "five shift" level of commitment to the Preserve. We want to reward you for the time you spend, and to make your volunteering a little easier. You are truly special to us - we could not keep the preserve functioning for our visitors without you!

Once you have served five shifts at the Preserve, you will be entitled to COOPS! You'll have to come to the dinner to find out, or ask someone who was there!!

Docent Council

What is the Docent Council?

During the winter months, interested docents assess how the past docent year went, and think about things we'd like to see happen next year. Some Docent Council members hold coordinating positions, while others serve as at-large members. December, January and February meetings are held on a Saturday morning from 9:30 until 12 noon, early in the month. If you're interested in being a docent council member, please call me! This is not an exclusive group. All docents are invited to attend. Your comments are welcome, as well as questions and concerns.

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

During the month of August, sales totaled \$4212! This compares to \$2,806.95 during August 1996.

Total sales for the year now total \$32,467.17!!!! That's terrific! This compares to last year's sales-to-date figures of \$26,665.65. Congratulations!

Visitation

from George Meyers

During the month of August, 1055 visitors came to the Prairie. These numbers were up slightly from June 1996. Total visitation year-to-date is 8701.

Ninety-five of our visitors came from 36 other states. We've had visitors from all fifty states.

Thirty visitors came from eight other countries. Residents from forty-two countries have visited.

Annual Awards

Congratulations to all of those who will receive awards at the Appreciation Dinner. The November Docent News will include a listing of award winners according to shifts worked by Aug. 31. In addition, special awards will be presented at the dinner for service above and beyond!!

5-Shift awards will be received by all docents who have worked at least five shifts since becoming a docent.

15, 25 and 30 -Shift awards will be received by docents who have worked the corresponding number of shifts. Total (cumulative) shifts have been calculated using records from Docent Logs and work calendars from the beginning of the program in 1994.

Notes from the Prairie

from Harvey Payne and Bob Hamilton

*The cowboys are currently working on the East side of the new bison holding trap, in preparation for the upcoming roundup. Other cowboy work includes work on the corrals, and spraying herbicides to control the growth of the invasive lespedeza species.

*Controlled burns were made on the preserve September 16 and 17.

*The bison are grazing all over the bison area in many groups. They are all fat! Some young ones, still burnt orange in color, can be seen.

*Rainfall amounts were smaller in September!

*The tallgrasses are glorious!! Eyewitnesses report big bluestem ten feet tall on the east leg of the long hiking trail, with Indian grass growing six feet and taller! It's an incredible sight! The seedheads (flowers of the grasses) are blooming!

*Wildflowers now blooming include several species of goldenrod, sunflowers and blazing star as well as blue sage and Snow on the Mountain.

*Recent trail work on the final leg of the hiking trails was completed by an Eagle Scout Troop last month. Troop 507 out of Sapulpa worked with Bob Hamilton to eliminate the rutted trail, regravels the path and insert some new landscaping timbers. The steps are now less steep, and the path more stable. Thanks!

BISON ROUNDUP NOTICE

If you are interested in watching the bison roundup, docents are invited to attend on October 31. Bring your own lunch, and drive up to the bison corral during the morning or afternoon for viewing. Come to the Stucco house to eat when the cowboys break for lunch. Please let Kay Krebbs at the Pawhuska office know the approximate time you'll be there.

Gift Shop Sale Set for November

Each November, a clearance sale is offered for Docents only. This year's sale extends Nov. 1 - 15. The shop officially closes on Nov. 15. You will receive 20 percent off any merchandise still left in the gift shop. This reduces our over-wintering inventory, and gives you that price break you've been waiting for all year.

Remember to note on your sales ticket the 20% discounted amount for our bookkeeper.

Thanks!

NOTE: Don't forget about the new pewter ornament for sale in the gift shop, part of a series that The Nature Conservancy hopes to develop for all of the Last Great Places. The first two locations picked from the original list of Great Places were the Tallgrass Prairie and the Florida Keys.

The ornaments were crafted in the USA by Dave Cusenza and are handmade, individually poured, then antiqued hand-finished and finally, numbered.

The Docent News Trail Guide Update

The Trail Guide program has received great interest from schools (we have four groups booked in for October!). There is also interest in Saturday tours...but our emphasis has to be on keeping the shop open. We need more people to help during the week to guide school groups during the peak months of May and October. More on this dilemma later. We will be offering trail guide information and training next spring. Meanwhile, your comments and suggestions are welcome!

Speakers Bureau

Requests keep coming in for speakers. We have met thirty requests so far since Jan. 97. If you are interested in helping out as a speaker, giving either a Tallgrass Prairie Program or the general state program, please call Mary. We will be having our next training in late January.

Meanwhile, the scripts are being updated to include the latest Conservancy statistics. Our January training will also be a refresher for our veteran speakers.

Scheduling

Please notice that there are still blank spaces for several shifts in **October and November**. We'd like to meet our goal of complete coverage if possible, but we need your help to successfully finish the year. The tour buses are still coming!

Please help Shirley out by calling to fill in an empty day - don't wait until she calls you!

OCTOBER

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | 1 Doris Mayfield Nune Richards <i>Trail guide</i> | 2 *1. *2. | 3 *1. *2. | 4 Dean and Mary Ellen Johnston Docent Appreciation Dinner |
| 5 Cheryl Kilpatrick Sandy Frazier | 6 Barbara Strahm *2. | 7 *1. *2. | 8 Stu Marshall Roberta Wherrit Judy Barto <i>Trail Guide</i> | 9 Bill Rinehart Pat Hair | 10 Jo Brooks *2. | 11 Mark and Marci Hendricks |
| 12 Don Bruner Dorothy Buck | 13 *1. *2. | 14 Lila Brierly Joan Fuller | 15 Dave Dolcater John and Joanne Colbert | 16 Nyla and Randy Woody | 17 George and Vera Meyers | 18 Sherry Beeker Maxine King |
| 19 Barbara and Don Sweeney | 20 *1. *2. | 21 *1. Iris's *2. <i>over weight</i> | 22 Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson | 23 Linda Anderson Pat Bumpas | 24 Al Beckert *2. | 25 David and Betty Turner |
| 26 Linda Irwin John Fisher | 27 *1. *2. | 28 *1. *2. | 29 Laban Miles *2. | 30 Barbara Bates *2. | 31 Van and Loretta Vives | |

NOVEMBER

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 Marilyn Fugate Jo Brooks |
| 2 Mary Cumming Carol Redford | 3 *1. *2. | 4 | 5 Roberta Wherritt Judy Barto | 6 Bill Rinehart Marilyn Keefer | 7 Doris Mayfield Stu Marshall | 8 Bill Dinger Renel Johnson |
| 9 John Fisher *2. | 10 *1. *2. | 11 | 12 Dave Dolcater *2. | 13 Laban Miles *2. | 14 *1. *2. | 15 Sue Wheeler George and Vera Meyers shop closes for season |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |