



The Docent News

For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

July 1998

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

Total sales for the month of May were \$6,824.16, bringing year-to-date sales to \$14,955.13. We were open all 31 days, and also sold books and items at the Oklahoma TNC membership meeting at Boiling Springs State Park. (Thanks, Sue, Doris and Iris!)

Records indicate that the credit card machine worked except when the phone was out. \$856.23 in sales were credit card. Please follow the instructions on the blue sheet attached to the form you use to count the money. Most people are not doing the second step in closing out for the day. This is when you press "Settlement" and enter the password. When you don't do this, the data is NOT transmitted to the credit card company!

It's been so easy keeping track of the books when the stickers are taken off the book and stuck on the sales slip! But, all of a sudden, some folks are not removing the stickers and are sending

me slips that read "Butterfly book -- \$7.50" or just "Book - \$7.50". Please help us keep up with inventory by using the sticker procedure with book sales!

HOURS UPDATE: Less than a dozen docents have expressed dislike of the new hours for the gift shop (primarily Tulsa folk with 1 1/2 - 2 hour drives). If you find the earlier half-hour an inconvenience, call your "partner" for the day and see if you can stagger your arrival times. If you prefer, show up at 10 a.m. The important thing is to be sure that the gift shop is open as many hours as possible. We realize that your commitment of time and energy has some limits!

Ice Cream Socials

Note the calendar dates for upcoming summer socials. You will receive an invitation for the event to which you are closest in proximity. Hope you can come, and meet more of our docent family. Remember to RSVP!

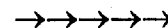
Visitation

from George Meyers

Visitation was low in May, with a total of 1456 registered visitors. 403 visitors came from 38 other states, but 72 visitors came from 22 countries - the highest monthly total ever of foreign visitors.

66.8 percent of those visitors were first-timers! 163 of the visitors came on Memorial Day. Texas led the list of states with 52 visitors.

This brings our totals to include visitors from 46 states and 33 other countries. To date for 1998, we have registered 3900 visitors. Although this number is less than the past three years, it may not reflect a decrease in visitation. Please encourage every visitor to sign the register! For large groups, you may make a note on the register yourself of an approximate number. This may make our bookkeeping more accurate.



Calendar

July

- 14 Bartlesville Area Ice Cream Social
- 23 Tulsa Area Ice Cream Social
- tba Pawhuska Area Ice Cream Social

September

- 19 Wildflower ID Training

October

- 3 Docent Appreciation Picnic

Prairie News

from Harvey Payne,
Preserve Director

- We are nearing the 200 number for baby bison. Official numbers will not be available until the October roundup.
- The bison are assembling into large herds, and rut will be starting soon.
- Some are still shedding their winter coats, and some of the young ones are starting to grow darker coats.
- The trail expansion (Prairie Earth Trail) is complete. New self-guided trail brochures are being printed, and should be available by the end of July. Both trails now have fewer stops, with year-round ecology information.

- The new garage/shop is finished, and all equipment has been moved in. A cement pad will be poured on the east side.
- The cowboys have been working on fencing projects and also spraying Johnson grass.
- Volunteer assistance is needed to clean up litter along the roads through the preserves.
- The prairie looks great! For Heritage Day, the grass was green and lush, with butterfly milkweed and leadplant lending color. Purple Coneflowers are hanging on, most are past their prime.

WISH LIST --

- We need a lockable display case for the gift shop. Too many items are disappearing... Any ideas?
-



The Docent News

This 'N That

by Mary McIntyre
Education and Outreach Coord.

We are nearing the midpoint of another gift shop season. Each year sees improvements to the program and to the gift shop and headquarters area. These are exciting times!

As summer continues, I am in a planning mode, setting objectives for the coming year. Please stop in or call to offer your input about the docent program. You will be heard!

Remember the docent award program? It will be back again at our Oct. 3 picnic! Hope you're working toward a new award level!

Docent pins are awarded to all who have completed four shifts after training. Cumulative awards include a keytag for those with ten shifts, a brass and leather coaster for those with twenty shifts, and a paperweight for those with thirty shifts! The forty-shift award will be a surprise!

Each award features the special Tallgrass Prairie Docent Logo - not available for purchase anywhere! Cut-off for hours to be applied to this year's award will be Aug. 30. Many of you are well on your way to a new level...Thanks!!

Summer Events at the Prairie

Tall grasses stretch above matted turf.

Blooms are white, purple and gold -- clovers and other legumes; larkspurs, gentian, aster, ironweeds and daisies.

Striped skunks range along rock outcrops, woodlands and forest edges looking for insects, eggs, berries and earthworms. Like most mammals, they are nocturnal.

Fruits form on buckbrush, choke cherry, plum and sumac.

Indiangrass, switchgrass and little bluestem thrive in soils too dry for big bluestem.

Harvest time for strawberries and plums, grass and sunflower seeds, prairie turnip, parsley, Jerusalem artichoke, prickly pear fruits, currants and sumac.

Bright orange butterfly milkweed attracts monarchs. Pale purple coneflowers attract regal fritillary and argos skippers.

Red-tailed hawks and northern harriers search for small rodents. One hundred pounds of grass seeds feed 10 pounds of mice, which feed one pound of hawk.

Skies swarm with mosquitoes, deer flies, cicadas, crickets, dung beetles and lightning bugs.

Huge flocks of cliff swallows migrate south in July, leaving nests under road culverts and ledges.

Bison face into the wind to blow away insects.

Bison rut peaks in August. Surly males guard cows, threatening competitors and unwary tourists.

Reasons to Save the Diversity of Life (reprinted from an educational flyer distributed by TNC)

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to preserve the diversity of life on Earth. A lofty goal, but haven't species always gone extinct naturally? Yes. The problem is that we are now witnessing extinction rates that are thousands of times higher than the rate prior to the coming of man. Historically, species died out on an average of one per year. Now, according to estimates by Prof. E.O. Wilson of Harvard University, and other world-renowned experts, species are vanishing at a rate of perhaps three per hour. (Because the great majority of species are still unknown to science, there is no way to precisely know the true rate of extinction). Here are 2 of 10 reasons to care:

1 - Dinner on the Table (The Agricultural Factor). A mere 20 species currently provide 90 percent of the world's food. All major food crops, including corn, wheat, and soybeans, depend on the introduction of new strains from the wild to resist disease and pests. If those strains are lost, the security of our food supply will be threatened. For example a wild relative of corn called *Zea diploperennis* is exceptionally disease-resistant and is the only perennial in the corn family. If successfully interbred with domestic corn, its genes could boost corn production by billions of dollars. *Zea diploperennis* grows on only one mountain in western Mexico.

JULY 1998

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
			1 <i>Stu Marshall</i> *	2 <i>Linda Anderson</i> <i>Pat Bumpas</i>	3 <i>Dan Vinyard</i> *	4 <i>Independence Day!</i> <i>Dan Vinyard</i> * *
5 <i>Doris Mayfield</i> <i>Robyn Stroop</i> *	6 * *	7 * *	8 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> *	9 <i>Doris Mayfield</i> <i>Christie Kennedy</i>	10 * *	11 <i>Wayne Middleton</i> <i>George Myers</i> <i>Vera Myers</i>
12 <i>Mary Cumming</i> * *	13 <i>Dean Johnston</i> <i>Mary Ellen Johnston</i>	14 <i>Carl Wilhite</i> <i>Karen Harris</i>	15 * *	16 <i>Randy Woody</i> <i>Nyla Woody</i>	17 <i>Dan Vinyard</i> *	18 <i>Liz Medley</i> <i>Al Medley</i> *
19 * * *	20 <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Vav Vives</i>	21 <i>Barbara Bates</i> <i>Sue Wheeler</i>	22 <i>Nancy Bobsein</i> <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i>	23 <i>Bill Rinehart</i> <i>Christy Kennedy</i>	24 <i>Bob Hawks</i> <i>Janet Hawks</i>	25 <i>Terra Groh 12-6</i> <i>Perry Crampton 12-6</i> *
26 <i>Marilyn Clarke</i> * * *	27 * *	28 <i>Karen Harris</i> *	29 <i>Joanne Colbert</i> <i>John Colbert</i>	30 * *	31	

RETURN THIS TO: Barbara Bates
5642 E 113 St
Tulsa OK 74137

Phone: 918 - 298-7019
(Leave your name and phone number on the answering machine)
E-Mail: bbates@webzone.net

Shift Hours: 9:30am - 5 pm

SEPTEMBER 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 * *	2 <i>Dave Dolcated</i> *	3 <i>Linda Anderson</i> *	4 * *	5 * * *
6 O FM * * *	7 Labor Day * *	8 * *	9 <i>Judy Barto</i> <i>Roberta Wherritt</i>	10 * *	11 * *	12 * * *
13 Grandparent's Day * * *	14 * *	15 <i>Barbara Bates</i> *	16 * *	17 <i>Randy Woody</i> <i>Nyla Woody</i>	18 * *	19 * * *
20 Jewish New Year (begins at sunset) <i>Mary Cumming</i> <i>Carol Redford</i> *	21 * *	22 <i>Sue Wheeler</i> *	23 * *	24 <i>Bill Rinehart</i> *	25 * *	26 * * *
27 * * *	28 * *	29 Yom Kippur (begins at sunset) * *	30 * *			

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AUGUST 1998

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
						1 * * *
2 <i>Janet Hawks</i> <i>Bob Hawks</i> *	3 * *	4 * *	5 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> *	6 <i>Linda Anderson</i> <i>Pat Bumpas</i>	7 0 FM <i>Dan Vinyard</i> *	8 * * *
9 * * *	10 * *	11 * *	12 <i>Dan Vinyard</i> *	13 <i>Doris Mayfield</i> *	14 <i>Liz Medley</i> <i>Al medley</i>	15 * * *
16 <i>Mary Cumming</i> <i>Carol Redford</i> *	17 * *	18 <i>Barbara Bates</i> <i>Sue Wheeler</i>	19 <i>Joanne Colbert</i> <i>John Colbert</i>	20 <i>Nyla Woody</i> <i>Randy Woody</i>	21 * *	22 * * *
23 * * *	24 * *	25 * *	26 <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> *	27 <i>Bill Rinehart</i> *	28 <i>Janet Hawks</i> <i>Bob Hawks</i>	29 * * *
30 <i>William Mosier</i> <i>Robyn Stroop</i> *	31 * *					

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