

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

August 1998

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

Gift shop sales for June totalled \$7,766.85 as compared to \$9,305.45 last year! This brings our total sales to date for the year to \$22,721.98, about \$1000 less than last year. \$258.30 in sales were from the mail order opportunity which appeared in the last Oklahoma Conservator newsletter for members. Another mail order opportunity will be offered this fall.

Are you interested in working weekends until Dec. 15 after the shop closes officially on Nov. 15? We would have some traffic from people wanting to purchase Christmas presents, as well as the usual late fall weekend visitors. Let Sue Wheeler, Barbara Bates or Mary McIntyre know if you are willing.

HOURS UPDATE: Remember, the shop should be open from 9:30 or 10 until at least 5 p.m. this summer! Unless the weather turns threatening, please complete your entire shift!

Visitation

from George Meyers

Visitation in June was low, with a total of 1258 visitors. We have no explanation for the drop. Anybody have any ideas, other than the heat?!

480 visitors came to us from other states, and there were 39 foreign visitors from 12 other countries. 64.4 percent were first time visitors. Visitors have come from every state except for North Dakota.

Saturdays and Sundays saw the most visitors, with visitation evenly spaced throughout the week.

Total visitation for the year is at 5158, with visitors from 49 other states and 34 foreign countries.

Calendar

September

19 Wildflower ID Training

12,19,26 Guided trail walks

October

3,10,24 Guided trail walks

3 Docent Appreciation Picnic

This 'N That

by Mary McIntyre

Education and Outreach Coord.

Plans are proceeding for renovating the old shop/barn just north of the parking area into a new gift shop and nature room, including a great south porch and a bathroom for the docents! The committee met recently with our own Bill Dinger, docent and architect from Oklahoma City, to discuss the project. Plans should be completed within the next two months, with construction projected to begin in October. Every attempt will be made to save and reutilize the unique siding and maintain the original architectural style. Although we still need to raise some funds for this project, we are well on our way to having it paid for.

1998 Gift Shop proceeds may partially be used to pay for this project, as well as for the purchase of additional bison in the fall.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary".

FALL GUIDED WALKS SET -

Are you a trail guide? If so, we need you! In September and October, we want to advertise to special days where a host of trail guides will be available to take groups. Several TNC staff will be on hand to assist, or lead individual groups if needed..

On the afternoon of Sept. 19, after we have done some wildflower training in the morning, guided walks will be offered. Also, on Oct. 3, in the afternoon prior to the Docent Appreciation Picnic staff and volunteers will lead hikes. Combined with our trail guides Don Bruner and Van Vives, who regularly provide public tours on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, most of our best fall weekends will offer guided walks.

Please call the office, 585-1117 or check with Marilyn Keefer, 333-7761, if you would like to assist with these special fall opportunities.

The New and updated Tallgrass Prairie Preserve brochure is now available, showing current preserve boundaries. Check it out!

Prairie News

from Harvey Payne,
Preserve Director

- On June 30, Bob counted 192 calves - and there may be more since only 500 adults were seen at that same time!
- This is the rut season. The bulls are bellowing and tending the cows. The shedding process has just about finished.
- As of 7/20, the painting of the corral was finished. It took a total of about 500 gallons of primer and top coat. This project began in August of 1995!
- The trails are in great shape. A new Self-Guided Trail brochure has been printed and is now available for pickup at the trailhead. This brochure shows the new Prairie Earth Trail and has several fewer stops than the previous brochure. Seasonal references have been eliminated.
- The cowboys have been working on gates for the new spring trap, and also completing the set-up of the new machine shop.
- Volunteer assistance is still needed to clean up litter along the roads through the preserves.

The Docent News

- There have been no prairie fires since the lightning strike on 5/22.
- June and July were hot and dry at the preserve. If it wasn't for several modest showers in July, the prairie would be browning up.
- Cliff swallows are in huge flocks, perching on fences. They will depart soon, making their southern migration.
- Not much is flowering at this time.

WISH LIST --

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

Docent Picnic/ Awards

Have you marked Oct. 3 on your calendar? Our annual appreciation dinner will be a picnic at the preserve featuring fine food and entertainment extraordinaire. You **MUST** RSVP after you receive your invitation. Awards will be presented! A new forty-shift award will be announced!

Only those who have worked two regular shifts prior to Sept. 1 will be invited.

Hope to see you there!

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 reasons 2, 3 and 4 of 10 reasons to care:

2. An Unopened Treasure Chest - (The Medicine Factor)

Forty percent of all prescriptions dispensed in the United States are for substances derived from plants, animals, or microorganisms. The list of wonder drugs originated from wild species includes aspirin for pain relief (from meadowsweet), penicillin for antibiotics (from the penicillium fungi), digitoxin for cardiac treatment (from common foxglove), L-dopa for Parkinson's disease (from velvet bean), taxol for ovarian cancer (from the Pacific yew), and quinine for malaria (from yellow cinchona). Like unread books in the library of the universe, who knows what treasures await us in as yet undiscovered species?

3. Do It For The GNP (The Economics Factor)

We derive most of life's necessities - food, clothing, medicine - from just a small number of plants and animals. Thousands of natural products are used routinely by industry to produce everyday goods. Consider just one wild source, the humble seaweeds. Compounds derived from seaweeds are used in plastics, polishes, paints, deodorants, detergents, dyes, fire-extinguishing foams, lubricants, meat preservatives, and chicken feed, to name a few among hundreds of products. By preserving the diversity of life, we act as trustees for the planet, preserving genetic capital for use by future generations.

4. Life Support for the Planet (The Ecosystem Services Factor)

Ecologists and economists are only beginning to understand the value of the services that healthy ecosystems provide to our planet. Bacteria break down organic material, building and fertilizing the soil. Wetlands filter pollutants from drinking water, trees and plants return oxygen to the air through photosynthesis. Vast South American forests create rainfall on a continental scale. If it were even possible for man to artificially duplicate these services, the cost would run to trillions of dollars.

AUGUST 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 * * *
2 <i>Janet Hawks</i> <i>Bob Hawks</i> *	3 * *	4 <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> *	5 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i>	6 <i>Linda Anderson</i> <i>Pat Bumpas</i>	7 0 FM <i>Dan Vinyard</i> *	8 <i>Doris Mayfield</i> * *
9 * * *	10 <i>Edith Haraughty</i> *	11 * *	12 <i>Dan Vinyard</i> <i>Dorothy Buck</i>	13 <i>Doris Mayfield</i> <i>Karen Harris</i>	14 <i>Liz Medley</i> <i>Al medley</i>	15 * * *
16 <i>Mary Cumming</i> <i>Carol Redford</i> *	17 <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i>	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 <i>Robyn Stroup</i> * *	24 <i>Dean Johnston</i> <i>Mary Ellen Johnston</i>	25 <i>Phyllis Connally</i> *	26 <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> <i>Stu Marshall</i>	27 <i>Bill Rinehart</i> <i>Dick Baker</i>	28 <i>Janet Hawks</i> <i>Bob Hawks</i>	29 * * *
30 <i>William Mosier</i> * *	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 Dave Dolcater *	3 Linda Anderson *	4 * *	5 * * *
6 O FM * * *	7 Labor Day * *	8 Marilyn Keefer *	9 Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	10 * *	11 * *	12 Doris Mayfield * *
13 Grandparent's Day * * *	14 Nune Richards *	15 Barbara Bates *	16 Stu Marshall *	17 Randy Woody Nyla Woody	18 * *	19 * * *
20 Jewish New Year (begins at sunset) Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	21 Loretta Vives Van Vives	22 Sue Wheeler *	23 Joanne Colbert John Colbert	24 Bill Rinehart *IRIS	25 * IRIS *	26 Doris Mayfield * *
27 Linda Irwin * *	28 Mary Ellen Johnston Dean Johnston	29 Yom Kippur (begins at sunset) * *	30 * *			

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OCTOBER 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>Linda Anderson</i> *	2 * *	3 <i>Mary Ellen Johnston</i> <i>Dean Johnston</i> *
4 * * *	5 * *	6 * *	7 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> *	8 * *	9 * *	10 * * *
11 * * *	12 * *	13 * *	14 <i>Robert Wherrit</i> <i>Judy Barto</i>	15 * *	16 * *	17 * * *
18 * * *	19 * *	20 <i>Barbara Bates</i> <i>Sue Wheeler</i>	21 * *	22 <i>Bill Rinehart</i> *	23 <i>Barbara Bates</i> <i>Sue Wheeler</i> *	24 <i>Barbara Bates</i> <i>Sue Wheeler</i>
25 * * *	26 * *	27 * *	28 * *	29 * *	30 <i>Barbara Bates</i> <i>Sue Wheeler</i> *	31 <i>Barbara Bates</i> <i>Sue Wheeler</i>

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