

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

Oct. 1998

Visitation

from George Meyers

“WHEW! As the weather heated up fewer visitors signed our visitor log. 960 visitors for the month was the lowest August visitation we have recorded. We are down 9% from last year.

“39 visitors came from other countries, 338 came from other states and 583 came from Oklahoma.

“Year-to-date figures show that we have had 7,300 visitors- 2488 from 49 other states and the District of Columbia, 4551 from Oklahoma, 4 from Puerto Rico, and 257 from 39 other countries.

“62 percent are first time visitors, according to the registration sheet. Comments were complimentary. Docents are doing a great job!

“Saturday and Sunday are still the most popular days, followed by Wednesday and Thursday. Mid-day was the most popular time to visit.”

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

Gift Shop sales for the month of August totaled \$4,227.64, slightly more than last year's total of \$4,212. Only one day of the month reflected no sales.

This brings our total sales to date to \$31,607.14. At this time last year, sales totaled \$32,467.17.

NOTE: Fall hours will begin October 1. Gift shop will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (You may stay longer if you like.)

Calendar

October

- 3,10,24 Guided trail walks
- 3 Docent Appreciation Picnic
- 28 Trail Dedication, 9 a.m.
Docent Round-up Day

November

- 15 Shop inventory
- 21,22,28,29 Shop open

December

- 5,6,12,13 Shop open

Fall Guided Walks Set -

Remember that Trail Guides will be available to the public on Oct. 3, 10 and 24. Groups are encouraged to make reservations. Small parties who want a trail guide should arrive in the morning, if possible.

If you can help, please call the office, 585-1117 or check with Marilyn Keefer, Trail Guide coordinator, 333-7761.

Roundup Video

Remember the video of the 1997 bison roundup made by docent Bill Rinehart? That video is now available for docent purchase. Copies are \$10. Let Mary know if you want one. We have had ten copies made. After these are sold, we'll order more according to demand.

On Sept. 19, wildflower training, led by TNC staffer Kim Shannon, gave participants a chance to see 31 fall (and spring!) plants up close and personal! Thanks Kim!

Prairie News

from Bob Hamilton, Director of Science and Stewardship, TGP.

- Roundup will begin the week of Oct. 19, with the herd being slowly moved into the "Spring" trap.
- The cowboys are preparing the corrals for the upcoming roundup.
- There were two controlled burns on Sept. 2, 188 and 62 acres plots near the Headquarters. Summer burn totals: 5 burns and 820 acres.
- All '98 calves are a new dark brown adult color.
- Bill Dinger is completing his work on the architectural plans for the new gift shop and nature room.
- The cowboys have been building new bison fence on the south side of the "107" pasture. When it gets done, the bison will be turned into this additional 2500 acres.
- Ms. Kyoki Robertson, from Neb., has been volunteering at the TGP since Sept. 10, painting cattle guards and bison fence.
- A wonderful 4 inch rain on Sept. 13, plus showers since, have replenished moisture on the prairie.

- The goldenrods are in peak bloom. Ragweed pollen is abundant, too!

Roundup-

RSVP Now!

RSVP deadline for lunch on Docent Roundup Day (Oct. 28) has been moved up. If you want to join us, please RSVP to Rita, 585-1117 by **October 12**. We will be providing lunch for many people, and food must be ordered early!

The designated docent day for the annual bison roundup is Wednesday, Oct. 28. You may come by 9 a.m. for the dedication of the new Prairie Earth Trail, visit the corral, and then join the cowboys for lunch (provided if RSVP'd).

Remember to dress for the weather!



Fall Events

Chiggers are no longer a problem after the first frost. Eastern cottontails turn from reddish brown to grayish, and frequently nest around corrals and stacks of oilfield pipes. Jack rabbits prefer open prairies and fields of short grasses. Seed dissemination from grasses happens now. In moist seasons, the "turkey foot" seed stems of the big bluestem reach up 10 feet or more. Roots reach that far down. Grasshoppers are eaten by voles, mice and woodrats. They, in turn, are eaten by coyotes, foxes and weasels. Lightning-causes fires burn red cedars and other brush off the grasslands and back into the breaks and hillsides. Leadworts and phlox attract large, yellow cloudless sulphur butterflies. Goldenrods and sunflowers peak in September. Moths and butterflies flutter south, hibernate, or lay eggs. Fall colors peak in October. Migrating monarch butterflies encloud oaks on October evenings.

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Reason Six to Save the Diversity of Life - -

Diversity is Beauty (The Aesthetics Factor)

Strip malls have their utility, but imagine how boring it would be to see nothing but sameness each day. Humans are intrinsically drawn to variety in landscapes, and wild places provide beautiful variety that enriches our lives. It is hard to imagine art flourishing without nature to act as muse.

"Where has nature spread so rich a mantle under the eye? Mountains, forest, rocks, rivers. With what majesty do we ride there above the storms!"
- Thomas Jefferson, describing the view from Monticello in *Notes on the State of Virginia*, 1782.

OCTOBER 1998

BISON ROUNDUP TIME
Oct. 19 - Nov. 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>Linda Anderson</i> *	2 * *	3 <i>Docent Dinner 6pm</i> <i>Docent Awards 6:45</i> <i>Mary Ellen Johnston</i> <i>Dean Johnston</i> <i>Edith Haraughty</i>
4 <i>Doris Mayfield</i> <i>Phyllis Connally</i> *	5 * *	6 <i>Carl Wilhite</i> *	7 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> <i>Larry Myers</i>	8 <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> *	9 * *	10 <i>John Fisher</i> * *
11 <i>Liz Medley</i> <i>Al Medley</i> *	12 * *	13 * *	14 <i>Sue Coyle</i> <i>Judy Barto</i>	15 * *	16 * *	17 <i>Connie Murray</i> * *
18 * * *	19 <i>Bison: Spring Trap</i> <i>North hiking trail closed.</i> <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i>	20 <i>Bison: Spring Trap</i> <i>North hiking trail closed.</i> * *	21 <i>Bison: Spring Trap</i> <i>North hiking trail closed.</i> <i>Stu Marshall</i> <i>Roberta Wherritt</i>	22 <i>Bison: Spring Trap</i> <i>North hiking trail closed.</i> <i>Bill Rinchart</i> *	23 <i>Bison: Spring Trap</i> <i>North hiking trail closed.</i> * *	24 <i>Bison: Spring Trap</i> <i>North hiking trail closed.</i> * *
25 <i>Bison: Spring Trap</i> <i>North hiking trail closed.</i> * * *	26 <i>Herd: holding traps</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i> *	27 <i>Herd: holding traps</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i> *	28 <i>Herd: Corrals</i> <u>TRAIL DEDICATION</u> <u>Docent ROUND-UP Day</u> <i>Joanne Colbert</i> <i>John Colbert</i>	29 <i>Herd: Corrals</i> <i>Barbara Bates</i> *	30 <i>Herd: Corrals</i> <i>Sue Wheeler</i> <i>Doris Mayfield</i>	31 <i>Sort keepers/</i> <i>yearling bulls</i> <i>Sue Wheeler</i> <i>Doris Mayfield</i>

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: 10 am - 4 pm

SHOP CLOSED

NOVEMBER 1998

BISON ROUNDUP TIME
Oct 19 - Nov 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 * *	2 <i>Test Sellers / Preg Check, Seller Cows / Vac Heif. calves</i> * *	3 <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> *	4 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> *	5 <i>Linda Anderson Stu Marshall</i>	6 * *	7 * *
8 * *	9 <i>Jan Hawks Bob Hawks</i>	10 * *	11 <i>Roberta Wherritt Judy Barto</i>	12 * *	13 * *	14 <i>Al Medley Liz Medley</i>
15 *Reg. Season Ends* DO INVENTORY <i>Sue Wheeler Doris Mayfield</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21 SHOP OPEN * *
22 SHOP OPEN * *	23	24	25	26 <i>THANKSGIVING</i>	27	28 SHOP OPEN * *
29 SHOP OPEN * *	30					

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