

# The Docent News



June 1999

## For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

### Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

The shop was open all but three days in April, and one of those was a "rain out." Sales for the month totaled \$4,713.00, just a little under last year's total for the month. Sales for the year total \$8,380.05, about \$250 more than this time last year.

Thanks to many "last minute" volunteers, the shop was open most of April, and has been open most of May. PLEASE sign up in advance for your shifts. We need your help to be open!

### Calendar

#### June

- 4,5 Annual Meeting, Beavers Bend State Park
- 9,10 Inventory Moving Day - New Visitors Center
- 19 Heritage Day, Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

#### October

- 16 Appreciation Dinner
- 27 Tenth Anniversary Event!

### Visitation

from George Meyers

"We had 777 sign-in visitors in April, down 34% from April 1998. 66 visitors were from ten other countries: Canada, England, Germany, France, Ghana, Japan, Marquises Islands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Almost half, 32, were from England. 254 were from 38 other states with Texas (24) and Ohio (23) leading, followed by Kansas (19), Illinois (16) and Florida (15).

"457 Oklahomans visited the Preserve. We only had one day with no sign ins.

"Saturday and Sunday are the days of highest visitation.

"To date we have had 2037 visitors, down 16.7% from 1998. While visitation from other countries is up, visitation from other states is significantly down."

Visitors have noted that the gravel in the parking lot is very hard to walk on, and impossible to maneuver a wheel chair through.

### Eric (Education Intern) Is At Work (5/13)

Eric Huerter is now at work as our education intern at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. A senior in Rangeland Management at Oklahoma State University, Eric began work with training in the Tulsa office on May 13. He lives in the north "little white house."

Remember, his work includes public speaking in Pawhuska and other Osage County communities, school presentations, guiding hikes when trail guides aren't present, opening and closing the visitors center to greet early and late visitors, helping with nature room display development and assisting preserve staff with some stewardship work. So far, he's doing a great job!

Although he is there to assist docents and keep the shop open when we lack volunteers, he is not a replacement docent!

His days off will be Tues/Wed each week. Take time to talk with Eric!

## Visitor Center Update!

By Mary Coley

Delays with the delivery of construction materials have moved the completion date of the new Visitor Center into late May. By the end of this week, the kitchen and the bathroom in the docent area should be complete, and the bookshelves installed. The floor is being cleaned and the cracks filled with caulk (by Eric). Next week, the room will be thoroughly cleaned, and new fixtures will be moved into place.

On **June 9 and 10**, the shop will close and all merchandise, shop and office fixtures, as well as the nature room exhibits, will be moved to the new visitors center. Staff from the chapter office and preserve will assist any willing volunteers with this move. If you can help on either day, please let me know by calling 585-1117 or email me at [MMcint2415@aol.com](mailto:MMcint2415@aol.com).

**Thank you's - to William Mosier** for refinishing the table in the gift shop and also the display cubes.

- to **Sue Wheeler, Doris Mayfield** and **John Fisher** for their devotion to the Tall-grass Prairie Preserve. All three have spent endless hours on the project this winter/spring.

## Prairie News

from Harvey Payne

The bison are still shedding, and are ranging the preserve's bison unit in four or five large scattered bands.

There are too many bison babies to count! Most have been born by this time (expected number is about 250.)

On 5/14, the last spring burn was completed, a 40-acre burn with OSU, part of the fire/Crosstimbers study.

The cowboys are tearing out old fences and building spray rigs to be pulled behind four-wheelers.

There has been a lot of rain, and many wildflowers are now blooming on the prairie, including Prairie Parsley, Spiderworts, Prairie Iris, Yarrow, Milkweeds and many more!

### Where are YOU?!!!

Less than half of our listed volunteers have served a shift at this point in the year. We **NEED** you! This News contains shift calendars for June, July and August. Return the calendars to Barbara Bates, or contact her by phone or email (all numbers are listed on the calendar pages). Your shift reminder card will be sent about a week before.

## The Docent News

### What A Sight!

From Al Medley

Al Medley recently shared a great story about something that happened during his shift at the Preserve on 3/30/99.

It seems that Al went for a walk on the 2-mile trail on this warm, windy day. The area had recently been burned. Watching the distant horizon for birds, he noted two large birds perched on a far away snag, making frequent bustling hops to the ground near an adjacent snag. After watching them with binoculars off and on for 30 minutes, he went to his car, located the snag, and crept up to it to see what was happening.

Al says, "it proved to be a most unusual experience. A full-grown Golden Eagle, accompanied by an immature Golden Eagle, had a flock of wild turkeys under siege."

Returning later with Liz, he counted 17 turkeys, lots of turkey feathers, but no evidence that one had been killed. The mature eagle was gone, and the immature was soaring up in the sky.

Note: Al checked bird books to be certain the large brown birds were goldens, and noted that Golden Eagle legs are fully feathered all the way down to the feet, as these were.

### Mayfield Garden Featured in Tour, Helpers Needed

Doris Mayfield's garden will be one of five featured in the annual "Make Every Home A Wildlife Habitat" groups' garden tour on June 12 and 13. Take time to stop at her home, 3539 S. Zunis Place., on this weekend to see her beautiful gardens.

MEHAW is needing volunteers for the tour that weekend. If you have some time to sit and sell tickets at Doris' home or any of the others, let her know. Working a 4-hour shift on Saturday morning, afternoon or Sunday afternoon gets you a free ticket to all the other gardens, and nets The Nature Conservancy a \$25 donation from MEHAW. Check your calendars and call Doris Mayfield at 743-6922 if you can help.

#### SURVEYS

Thanks to the seven of you who returned the recent docent survey about additional activities. These have been sent to Iris McPherson. If you would like to respond, and have not yet done so, please send the activities survey to Iris McPherson, RR3, Box 830, Perkins, OK 74059.

### Reminder from Harvey Payne:

**When you are giving tours of the Headquarters, please limit your tour to the dining room only. Do not remove the chain and show the bedrooms or cooks' apartment.**

**Thank you.**

### When Busses Full of Kids Arrive....

Recently, docents expressed concern when two busloads of school kids arrived. They took these precautions to protect the property:

- Disconnect the weight from the gate closer.
- Lock the shop and open only for kids interested in making a purchase who had money, when one docent could remain with them.
- Open the nature room only when one person was available to monitor the kids as they viewed displays.
- Ration preserve and adopt-a-bison brochures.

Note: The Preserve is protected from lawsuits related to onsite injuries by liability insurance .

## The Docent News

### After June 11: The new visitor center is open - What Now?

When the new visitor center opens, we will be tasked with working out the kinks which any move of this type brings. Your patience and help are needed.

Please use the docent daily log form to report any problems and ask any questions. Our intern, Eric Huerter, will be on site daily (except Tuesday and Wednesday). Ask for his help, bounce ideas off of him, and KEEP In TOUCH with me. Call 585-1117 with any suggestions, comments, concerns, etc.

The Docent Council will meet in early July to discuss any ongoing problems.

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER!** It would be great to have three docents working per day, so that one could be stationed at the headquarters to show the dining room and discuss the maps and displays in the passageways.

Our first priority continues to be having **TWO** docents in the visitors center. If we continue to have problems getting this complete coverage, we will have to again limit the number of days that the shop is open. (And decreasing our ability to meet and talk with visitors.) Thanks!

# JUNE 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> <i>John Fisher</i> <i>Dorothy Buck</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Dave Dolcater</i> <i>John Boxall</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Pat Bumpas</i> <i>Linda Anderson</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Pat Leonard</i> <i>Bill Leonard</i>	<b>5</b> * *  <i>TG Jim Vester</i>
<b>6</b> <i>Manon Smith</i> <i>Laban Miles</i> *	<b>7</b> <i>Dan Vinyard</i> *	<b>8</b> * *	<b>9</b> * *	<b>10</b> <i>Judy Kishner</i> *	<b>11</b> <i>Jo Brooks</i> * * <i>TG Jenk Jones</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Connie Murray</i> * * <i>TG Betty Turner</i>
<b>13</b> <i>Mary Cumming</i> <i>Carol Redford</i> *	<b>14</b> <i>Mary Ellen Johnston</i> <i>Dean Johnston</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Pat Jaynes</i> *	<b>16</b> * *	<b>17</b> <i>Nyla Woody</i> <i>Randy Woody</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Barbara Strahm</i> *	<b>19</b> <i>Sue Wheeler</i> <i>Doris Mayfield</i> * <i>TG John Fisher</i>
<b>20</b> <i>Manon Smith</i> * *	<b>21</b> <i>Van Vives</i> <i>Loretta Vives</i>	<b>22</b> <i>Jim Vester</i> *	<b>23</b> <i>Iris McPherson</i> <i>Marilyn Keefer</i>	<b>24</b> <i>Bill Rinehart</i> <i>Linda Anderson</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Connie Murray</i> *	<b>26</b> * * * <i>TG Van Vives</i>
<b>27</b> * * *	<b>28</b> * *	<b>29</b> * *	<b>30</b> <i>Dave Dolcater</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](mailto:bbates@webzone.net)

Shift Hours: 10 am - 5 pm

# JULY 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Dan Vinyard *	2 John Boxall *  TG Jenk Jones	3 * *  TG Jim Vester
4 * *	5 * *	6 Iris McPherson *	7 * *	8 Pat Bumpas Linda Anderson	9 Liz Medley Al Medley	10 Connie Murray *  TG Don Bruner
11 Mary Cumming Carol Redford	12 Dean Johnston Mary Ellen Johnston	13 * *	14	15 Randy Woody Nyla Woody	16 Barbara Strahm *	17 Pat Hair *  TG John Fisher
18 Manon Smith Laban Miles	19 Loretta Vives *	20 Jim Vester *	21 * *	22 Bill Rinehart *	23 * *	24 David Turner Betty Turner * TG Van Vives
25 John Boxall *	26 * *	27 * *	28 Dave Dolcater *	29 * *	30 * *	31 * * *

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AFTER MAY 14  
SHIFT HOURS: 9:30 am - 5 pm

# AUGUST 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> * *	<b>3</b> * *	<b>4</b> * *	<b>5</b> <i>Pat Bumpas</i> <i>Linda Anderson</i>	<b>6</b> * *	<b>7</b> * * *
<b>8</b> <i>Mary Cumming</i> <i>Carol Redford</i>	<b>9</b> * *	<b>10</b> * *	<b>11</b> * *	<b>12</b> * *	<b>13</b> <i>Al Medley</i> <i>Liz Medley</i>	<b>14</b> * * *
<b>15</b> * *	<b>16</b> <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i>	<b>17</b> * *	<b>18</b> * *	<b>19</b> <i>Nyla Woody</i> <i>Randy Woody</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Barbara Strahm</i> *	<b>21</b> * * *
<b>22</b> * *	<b>23</b> * *	<b>24</b> *	<b>25</b> <i>Dave Dolcater</i> *	<b>26</b> <i>Bill Rinehart</i> *	<b>27</b> * *	<b>28</b> <i>Betty Turner</i> <i>David Turner</i> *
<b>29</b> * *	<b>30</b> * *	<b>31</b> * *				

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