

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

July 1999

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

The shop was open all but one day in May, and it was a "rain out." Sales for the month totaled \$6,595.16, just a little under last year's total for the month. Sales for the year total \$14,975.21, about \$20.00 more than this time last year.

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

Calendar

July

10 Docent Council Meeting at
Prairie - 10:00
Docent Open House - 12:00

TBA Ice Cream Social
Bartlesville Area
Tulsa Area

September

TBA Wild Flower Identification
Training

October

16 Appreciation Dinner
27 Tenth Anniversary Event!

Visitation

from George Meyers

"We had 1,712 sign-in visitors in May, up 17.6% from May 1998. 65 visitors were from 13 other countries: Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland and Venezuela. 20 were from Germany. 450 were from 37 other states with Kansas (68), Texas (62) and California (42) leading, followed by Arkansas (32), Arizona (20) and Missouri (18).

"1,197 Oklahomans visited the Preserve. We only had one day with no sign ins."

"Saturday and Sunday are the days of highest visitation. Visitors came fairly evenly through the day from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m."

"To date we have had 3,749 visitors. Visitation from other states is down substantially."

With improving weather, and the added attraction of the bison calves cavorting, we can hope that visitation will increase.

The summer intern and the increased publicity releases should help.

Eric (Education Intern) Is Busy

Many of you have now had the chance to meet Eric Huerter, our education intern at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

At home in the north "little white house," Eric has an assortment of duties to perform to help us meet our education needs with visitors. Eric opens the gift shop at 9 (an hour before docents are due to arrive), and closes at 5 (an hour after you are scheduled to leave). He helped make final preparations for our move into the new visitors center, (sealed floor cracks), and was part of the moving crew. He monitors the trails weekly and is working on several new nature displays, including insects of the prairie, and scat found on the trail. He has been meeting groups and giving guided trail walks, and has also made presentations about the prairie to several groups. He assists with some stewardship work at the headquarters area.

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

Eric's last day of work is August 9th!

Visitor Center Update!

By Mary Coley

Everyone knows that as of **June 9** the new visitors center was open! Thanks again to the team of movers who assisted. I'm still amazed at how quickly the work was accomplished!

Although our initial arrangement looks great, we will continue to fine tune placement of displays, particularly in the nature display area.

Over the next week, you will find that a **colorful mural** of the prairie is being painted on the east wall! This mural, designed and being painted by Tulsan Jeff Crow, formerly of Oxley Nature Center, will depict the prairie's web of life, as well as the panorama of sky, clouds, fire and grass that is tallgrass prairie. We anticipate the mural to be finished by July 4 weekend.

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.

Council Meeting

A Docent Open House and Docent Council meeting will be held at the Prairie on Saturday, July 10! This will be a chance for you to peruse the new center and learn where things are, if you haven't had a chance to.

The Docent Council will meet at 10 a.m. on the veranda of the headquarters complex. Our agenda has one item: to discuss the procedures at the new shop, any changes needed or problems that have developed.

You are invited to attend this meeting, or just bring your lunch and join us on the veranda about noon. Dessert will be provided. (In order to have enough dessert, PLEASE let me know if you are coming.) RSVP to 585-1117 or email me at Mmcint2415@aol.com.

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 July, August and September. A third docent is desirable on Saturday and Sunday, so don't hesitate to request that date! 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

Prairie News

from Harvey Payne

The visitors center is complete and looks great!! The new south entrance area has been constructed, and the new entry sign is in place. A vandalism proof (hopefully) masonry base was constructed to hold the new sign.

The bison are still shedding, and the coats of the new ones are changing from orange to brown. They are starting to assimilate into two or three large herds. A final count on the number of calves born will not be available until roundup in October.

The cowboys will soon begin work on additions to the bison corral in preparation for roundup. Right now they are busy repairing water gaps, and removing old fence.

The rain totals are much above normal, and wildflowers are profuse. The prairie is very green!

HOSTS NEEDED

Summer is ice cream social time! If you would like to host a social for docents in your area, please call Mary at 585-1117. Pick your own date in July or August.

JULY 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Alfred Smith Cheryl Smith	2 John Boxall Frank Lacey	3 Doris Mayfield Sue Wheeler * TG Jim Vester
4 Barbara Bates Robyn Stroup *	5 Barbara Bates Karen Harris	6 Iris McPherson Sandy Frazier	7 Stu Marshall *	8 Pat Bumpas Linda Anderson	9 Liz Medley Al Medley	10 Connie Murray Jeri Maberry * TG Don Bruner
11 Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	12 Dean Johnston Mary Ellen Johnston	13 Nancy Bobsein *	14 Pinkie Tolson *	15 Randy Woody Nyla Woody	16 Barbara Strahm *	17 Pat Hair * * TG John Fisher
18 Manon Smith Laban Miles *	19 Maxine Manering *	20 Jim Vester Pat Jaynes	21 Dennis Bires Marian Bires	22 Bill Rinehart Karen Harris	23 Marilyn Keefer Maxine Manering	24 David Turner Betty Turner * TG Van Vives
25 Marian Bires Dennis Bires Linda Irwin 11-4 TG John Boxall	26 Dan Vinyard Maxine Manering	27 Liz Medley Al Medley	28 Dave Dolcater Christie Kennedy	29 Barbara Bates Karen Harris	30 Jan Hawks Bob Hawks	31 Marilyn Clarke Maxine Manering * TG Phyllis Connally

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: 10:00 am - 4 :00pm
(Stay until 5 if you can)

AUGUST 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 * * *	2 Sandy Frazier *	3 Karen Harris *	4 John Boxall *	5 Pat Bumpas Linda Anderson	6 * *	7 * * * TG Jim Vester
8 Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	9 * *	10 Barbara Bates Christie Kennedy	11 Stu Marshall * <i>Irwin?</i>	12 Karen Harris *	13 Al Medley Liz Medley	14 * * * TG Don Bruner
15 * * *	16 Loretta Vives Van Vives	17 Jim Vester *	18 Dick Baker Sally Baker	19 Nyla Woody Randy Woody	20 Barbara Strahm *	21 * * * <i>Fisher</i> TG John Turner
22 * * *	23 * *	24 Al Medley Liz Medley	25 Dave Dolcater *	26 Bill Rinehart Marilyn Keefer	27 * *	28 Betty Turner David Turner * TG Van Vives
29 Jan Hawks Bob Hawks Linda Irwin 11-4 TG John Boxall	30 Dan Vinyard *	31 * * <i>Irwin</i>				

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SEPTEMBER 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	*	*	1	2	3	4
	*	*	*	*	*	*
						TG Jim Vester
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
*	*	*	*	*	Liz Medley	*
*	*	*	*	*	Al Medley	*
*						TG Don Bruner
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mary Cumming	*	Jim Vester	*	Nyla Woody	*	*
Carol Redford	*	*	*	Randy Woody	*	*
*						TG John Fisher
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
*	Loretta Vives	*	Iris McPherson	Bill Rinehart	*	*
*	Van Vives		Marilyn Keefer	Linda Anderson	*	*
*						TG Van Vives
26	27	28	29	30		
*	*	*	Dave Dolcater	*		
*	*	*	*	*		
*						

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