

# The Docent News



August 1999

## For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

### Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

The shop was open everyday in June. Sales for the month totaled \$9,444.83, \$1,678. over last year's total for the month. Sales for the year total \$24,420.04, about \$1,700 more than this time last year.

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

### Calendar

#### September

18 Wild Flower Identification Training

#### October

16 Appreciation Dinner

28 Tenth Anniversary Event!

#### November

28 Inventory Day

Shop open weekends only until Dec. 12

### Visitation

from George Meyers

"We had 1,857 sign-in visitors in June, up 55.6% from June 1998. 42 visitors were from 12 other countries: Angola, Australia, Brazil, England, Germany, Holland, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway, Russia and Switzerland. 569 were from 39 other states with Texas (95) and California (64) leading, followed by Arizona (39), Kansas (37) and Missouri (30).

"1,246 Oklahomans visited the Preserve.

"Friday, 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 5,606 for the first 6 months of the year, the next to the lowest we have recorded in the last 6 years. Visitation from other states is down substantially."

With improving weather, and the availability of the bison calves, we hope that visitation will increase. The new gift shop should help, too.

### 'BYE to Eric

Our summer education intern, Eric Huerter, leaves the Preserve on August 10/11. He has been a great asset to the Preserve this summer.

Always pleasant as well as knowledgeable, Eric has helped Docents as well as the Tallgrass Staff. He will be remembered not only because of his contributions to the nature area and on-site exhibits, but because his presence allowed increased open hours for the shop, as well as increased visitor interactions.

We will miss you, Eric.  
(See you next summer?)

### Mural Looks Great!

Much thanks to artist/naturalist, Jeff Crow for the beautiful Visitors Center mural. Depicting the Tallgrass ecosystem, this eye-catching mural will eventually include informative text placed right on the wall. Jeff plans to add more animal species to the mural during future trips to the Preserve. (PS - Can you find the purple earthworms?)

## Award Deadline Approaching!

By Mary Coley

The tally of 1999 docent shifts, used to order our 1999 awards, is made on Sept. 1! To be invited to our annual banquet (Oct. 16) you must have worked two shifts by Sept. 1.

Call Barbara Bates to reserve your dates now!

### Ice Cream Socials?

Is ice cream out this year? So far, Marilyn Keefer is the only person who has inquired about the summer social. Marilyn has hosted the Bartlesville social for the past two years, and is willing to do so again. Is there any other interest? Please call Mary at 585-1117 and indicate your willingness to assist, host or attend an event for your area!

**A committee will soon form to begin work on the Native Plant Garden near the Visitors Center. Grant money was received from the 'Make Every Home a Wildlife Habitat' group of Tulsa. Call Mary at 585-1117 if you'd like to help us plan and build this garden.**

## This 'N That

By Mary Coley

Twenty-five docents attended the Docent Council meeting and enjoyed ice cream and cookies at the Open House on July 10. It was good to see you all!

We had great discussion about the beautiful new gift shop. Bob Hamilton attended the meeting and shared information about current projects at the Preserve. A recent "visual" showed 224 calves born so far this year. A true total won't be available until Round-Up.

Have you seen the new entry sign? This new addition on the south defines the boundary of the Preserve and provides a gracious welcome to visitors. A special thanks goes out to the Jones' families from all of us for the contribution that paid for the new sign.

We will continue to develop the headquarters site. Discussion at the meeting included: a sidewalk from the new center to the old HQ complex; more highway signage to the Preserve; landscaping; and the new 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary poster.

Remember to point out the **new poster** to visitors. Every penny from the sale of this poster goes back to the Preserve! It would be a super addition to any home's décor.

Remember to bring a few of your plastic grocery bags when you come to work at the Preserve. Recycle! Council meeting discussion favored this packaging, rather than paper bags with a Preserve or TNC logo.

## Hackberry Tree struck by lightning

In June, our beautiful headquarters' hackberry tree was struck by lightning and appears to be dying.

We will miss the shade this tree has provided for the yard and Headquarters veranda!

## Round-Up and 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Round-up week 1999 will have two opportunities for docents.

First, our regular time for docents to view the corrals and round-up process will take place Oct. 27 (am). Bring your lunch. RSVP later in October.

Second, our special anniversary celebration, to which each docent will receive an invitation, will be Oct. 28 (am). Dignitaries will be present at this "By Invitation Only" event - Watch for yours!

# AUGUST 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Jenk Jones * *	<b>2</b> Sandy Frazier Jeri Maberry	<b>3</b> Karen Harris *	<b>4</b> John Boxall Doris Mayfield	<b>5</b> Pat Bumpas Linda Anderson	<b>6</b> Maxine Manering George McCourt	<b>7</b> * * * TG Jim Vester
<b>8</b> Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	<b>9</b> Dean Johnston Mary Ellen Johnston	<b>10</b> Barbara Bates Christie Kennedy	<b>11</b> Stu Marshall Iris McPherson	<b>12</b> Karen Harris *	<b>13</b> * *	<b>14</b> Jo Brooks Marilyn Joplin * TG Don Bruner
<b>15</b> Jenk Jones Robyn Stroup *	<b>16</b> Loretta Vives Frank Lacey	<b>17</b> Jim Vester Marilyn Keefer	<b>18</b> Dick Baker Sally Baker	<b>19</b> Nyla Woody Randy Woody	<b>20</b> Barbara Strahm Pat Jaynes	<b>21</b> George Meyer * * TG John Turner
<b>22</b> Marilyn Clarke * *	<b>23</b> Doris Mayfield Frank Lacey	<b>24</b> Al Medley Liz Medley	<b>25</b> Dave Dolcater George McCourt	<b>26</b> Bill Rinehart Marilyn Keefer	<b>27</b> Maxine Manering *	<b>28</b> Betty Turner David Turner * TG Van Vives
<b>29</b> Jan Hawks Bob Hawks  TG John Boxall	<b>30</b> Dan Vinyard *	<b>31</b> Dean Johnston Mary Ellen Johnston				

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

# SEPTEMBER 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	*	*	<b>1</b> *	<b>2</b> *	<b>3</b> Maxine Manering *	<b>4</b> * * * TG Jenk Jonesr
<b>5</b> Jenk Jones * *	<b>6</b> * *	<b>7</b> Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	<b>8</b> John Boxall *	<b>9</b> * *	<b>10</b> Liz Medley Al Medley	<b>11</b> * * * TG Don Bruner
<b>12</b> Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	<b>13</b> * *	<b>14</b> Jim Vester *	<b>15</b> * *	<b>16</b> Nyla Woody Randy Woody	<b>17</b> Barbara Strahm Maxine Manering	<b>18</b> Dorothy Buck * <i>E. Buck</i> * TG John Fisher
<b>19</b> * * *	<b>20</b> * *	<b>21</b> Sally Baker Dick Baker	<b>22</b> Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer	<b>23</b> Bill Rinehart Linda Anderson	<b>24</b> * *	<b>25</b> Jo Brooks Marilyn Joplin * TG Van Vives
<b>26</b> Jenk Jones * * TG John Boxall	<b>27</b> * *	<b>28</b> Liz Medley Al Medley	<b>29</b> Dave Dolcater *	<b>30</b> * *		

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# OCTOBER 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	* *	* *	* *	* *	<b>1</b> * *  TG Jenk Jones	<b>2</b> Betty Turner David Turner * TG Jim Vester
<b>3</b> Jo Brooks Marilyn Joplin *	<b>4</b> * *	<b>5</b> * *	<b>6</b> Linda Anderson *	<b>7</b> * *	<b>8</b> Liz Medley Al Medley	<b>9</b> * * * TG Don Bruner
<b>10</b> Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	<b>11</b> * *	<b>12</b> * *	<b>13</b> Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	<b>14</b> * *	<b>15</b> Barbara Strahm *	<b>16</b> * * * TG John Fisher Docent Appreciation Dinner
<b>17</b> * * *	<b>18</b> Loretta Vines *	<b>19</b> *	<b>20</b> Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer	<b>21</b> Nyla Woody Randy Woody	<b>22</b> * *	<b>23</b> * * * TG Van Vives
<b>24</b> * * *	<b>25</b> * *	<b>26</b> Jim Vester *	<b>27</b> Dave Dolcater *	<b>28</b> Linda Anderson Bill Rinehart 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event – National	<b>29</b> * *	<b>30</b> * * * TG Betty Turner
<b>31</b> * * *						

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

# NOVEMBER 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 * *	2 * *	3 * *	4 * *	5 * * *	6 * * * *
7 * * *	8 * *	9 * *	10 Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	11 Jo Brooke Marilyn Joplin	12 Liz Medley Al Medley	13 * * * *
14 * * *	15 Loretta Vives *	16 * *	17 * *	18 Nyla Woody Randy Woody	19 * *	20 * * * *
21 * * *	22 * *	23 *	24 Dave Dolcater *	25 Bill Rinehart Linda Anderson	26 * *	27 * * * *
28 * * *  Inventory Day Shop open weekends only until Dec. 12	29 * *	30 * *				

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