

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

September 1999

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

The shop was open every day in July. Sales for the month totaled \$7,045.50, \$2,387.98 over last year's total for the month. Sales for the year so far total \$31,465.54, \$4,086.04 more than this time last year.

The great "failure to remove stickers from books and CD's" blight has struck. Must be the heat. I need everyone to remove any price sticker written in green ink from the merchandise and transfer it to the yellow sales ticket. Otherwise, I can't keep an accurate inventory of the books, CD's and tapes.

Please note that children's t-shirts sell for \$10 EXCEPT the new tracks and scat shirts. These are \$15.

Don't forget to lock the cash drawer at night and replace the key!!

Now that Eric is gone, everyone please take a turn with the dust mop across the sales floor and office. (Ann does not have a key to our shop to do cleaning.)

Thanks,
Sue

Visitation

from George Meyers

"We had 1,209 sign-in visitors in July, up 1.7% from July 1998. 56 visitors were from 15 other countries: Colombia (12), Canada (8), Holland and Ireland (5 each), Denmark and Ecuador (4 each) leading the group. New countries were Denmark, Liechtenstein and Singapore. 439 were from 37 other states with Texas (79) and Kansas (64) leading, followed by Missouri (26), Ohio (25), Arkansas (21) and Florida (19).

"712 Oklahomans visited the Preserve.

"Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday were the days of highest visitation. 62.6% of visitors came from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m."

"Hot weather probably contributed to the lowered visitation. Favorable comments predominate, though I did get a laugh out of a pair of comments. A couple of Ponca City folk commented "Rough gravel road?" On the next line a couple from Auckland, New Zealand commented "Grouch", with an arrow to the rough road comment."

Prairie News

By Bob Hamilton

- Summer burns started the week of August 16. About 800 acres in 3 patches of bison unit, plus part of Spring Trap north of Headquarters, will be burned.
- All the bison look sleek with their short summer coats.
- OU students are starting a project to determine at what scale bison are attracted to various sizes of burn patches.
- Frank St. Peter, contractor, has repaired 20 livestock pond dams that were eroding.
- A new 40' x 50' hay barn has been constructed at bison pens (hay for bison while in corral).
- Cowboys are just starting construction on new holding pens east of bison corral. New computer shed construction will start soon.
- In late September/early October, we will need volunteers for the painting of the new bison pens.
- The prairie has been very dry since early July.
- We are actively working with the Osage County Sheriff's office in their investigation of the July 29/30, shooting of three bison west of Pearsonia.

This 'N That

From Mary McIntyre Coley

**URGENT ----- All Docents,
PLEASE READ!!!**

Please refresh your minds as to our shop procedures! A new notebook has been made for the preserve's docent office listing ALL docent procedures from the time you arrive until the time you finish! Review and FOLLOW!! (It was great having Eric to take care of some docent responsibilities this past summer, but it's up to you again!)

Please follow procedures!! Most important, follow the steps related to locking doors, locking the cash box and returning the cash box key to its place! The key MUST be left in the appointed place so the next docent can find it! The doors AND the cash box MUST be locked when you leave the premises! NO ONE will do this if you don't!

Please DO NOT leave visitors alone in the visitors center! (even if you're just in the office area reading or whatever...) This invites shoplifting, not to mention that it is unfriendly! Talk to visitors! Put your reading material down and spend time with them when a visitor steps in. (I have received reports of docents who ignore visitors! This is not good!)

You will receive a call from Mary or Sue if something is amiss after your shift. You carry a lot of responsibility on YOUR shoulders when you work as a docent. It's an important job!

Our visitation is holding steady, and gift shop sales are way up! Our new facility, and the increased shop hours over the summer, have made a big difference! The Nature Conservancy holds you in high regard for the commitment that you have made. Please don't let us down!

Native Plant Garden

A committee is forming to begin work on the Native Plant Garden near the Visitors Center. First meeting will be Sept. 18 at 1p.m. at TGP HQ. Call Mary at 585-1117 if you'd like to help us plan and build this garden.

Anniversary Poster

Remember to point out the **new poster** to visitors. Every penny from the sale (\$10) of this poster goes back to the Preserve! It would be a super addition to any home's décor.

It may also be purchased at the Tulsa Office for \$10, or ordered by mail for \$15.

What's NEW?

This summer has seen a constant progression of changes and improvements to the visitors center! If you haven't been up to work in a while, here's a listing!

JUNE – New visitors center opened! Great new merchandise display areas (one made by William Mosier) as well as nature room displays. New "welcome" sign in place at south entrance to the Preserve (funding donated by Jenk Jones, Sr.)

JULY – New mural in progress on east inside wall of visitor center by artist Jeff Crow, funded by donation from Jenk Jones, Jr. New butterfly exhibit donated by Chuck Conaway. A memorial donation provided for purchase of new porch furniture.

AUGUST – New map case with preserve map placed on south outside wall of new visitors center (all made by Eric Huerter). Mural painted and sealed. Text blocks added to complete the mural as an educational display. Scat display added to nature exhibits. Insect display added to nature exhibits.

COMING THIS FALL - work to begin on the new natural garden area. Exhibit and education work continues inside. Doris Mayfield will soon complete a plant list and an animal list. Both will be offered for sale.

Roundup Information

You should have received your invitation to attend the special 10th Anniversary Celebration event, which includes observation of the roundup as well as a lunch. This anniversary event, when National TNC president John Sawhill will be present, will happen Thursday, Oct. 28. Don't forget to make your reservations with the office at 585-1117.

Docents will also have the opportunity to come on Wednesday, Oct. 27, in case you are not interested in the crowds and celebration on Thursday. If you would prefer to come on Wednesday, please contact the office and RSVP with Belinda for 10/27. We will meet at 9:30 at the HQ, then go up to the corrals. Lunch will be provided. Please make your reservations by Sept. 30.

Three of our bison (one bull and two cows) were shot and killed sometime July 29/30 at the Preserve near Pearsonia. The investigation continues and rewards for information leading to a conviction have been offered.

ALERT: We have no janitor service at the new shop. Please help by cleaning the bathroom and the shop when you have spare minutes.

UPDATE on Herd Size and Prescribed Burn Program

It was recently reported in the Tulsa World that the eventual size of the bison herd will be 3,200 animals. This is up 1,000 from the previous "cap" or carrying capacity that we've all been told.

According to Harvey Payne, the projected herd size was increased this summer after study of past years' successes. It has been determined that we are understocking the range, and that there is much leftover forage, which would indicate that our stocking rate should be increased. The new figures – which can be given to visitors – are that we will eventually have 3,200 bison grazing on 32,000 acres. As always, this new calculation is subject to review as the project continues.

A second adjustment to the management plan has also been made. Bob Hamilton has been conducting a five-year burn cycle within the bison unit, meaning that 20% of the unit is burned in any given year. We will now be on a three-year burn cycle for the bison unit, with 33% of the unit burned in any given year, still randomly selected.

REMEMBER:

Replace cash drawer key – don't select a new hiding place!!!
Lock cash drawer!
Lock door!

Calendar

September

- 18 (10 am) Wild Flower Identification Training
- (1 pm) Garden Committee Meeting
- 20 Anniversary Reservations Due
- 30 Docent Roundup Reservations Due

October

- 16 Appreciation Dinner
- 27 Docent Round Up Day
- 28 Tenth Anniversary Event!

November

- 28 Inventory Day
- Shop open weekends only until Dec. 12

Here's Eric's (summer intern) new address. He'd like to hear from you:
 Eric Huerter
 Rt. 4, Box 553
 Stillwater, OK 74074
 Email: JumpBack69@aol.com

SEPTEMBER 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	* *	* *	1 Stu Marshall *	2 * *	3 Maxine Manering *	4 John Fisher * * TG Jim Vester
5 Jenk Jones Robyn Stroup *	6 LABOR DAY Doris Mayfield Sue Wheeler	7 Barbara Bates Clara Swan	8 Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	9 Barbara Strahm John Beasley	10 Liz Medley Al Medley	11 Jo Brooks * * TG Don Bruner
12 Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	13 Clara Swan *	14 Jim Vester *	15 Pat Jaynes John Boxall	16 Nyla Woody Randy Woody	17 Barbara Strahm Maxine Manering	18 Dorothy Buck Pat Hair * TG John Fisher
19 Sandy Lanoue Rob Lanoue *	20 * * (Anniversary Reservation Due)	21 Sally Baker Dick Baker	22 Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer	23 Bill Rinehart Linda Anderson	24 * *	25 Jo Brooks Marilyn Joplin * TG Van Vives
26 Jenk Jones * * TG John Boxall	27 Doris Mayfield *	28 Liz Medley Al Medley	29 Dave Dolcater Judy Kishner	30 Van Vives Loretta Vives (Docent Roundup Reservation Due)		

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

OCTOBER 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	*	*	*	*	1 * *	2 Betty Turner David Turner * TG Jim Vester
3 Jo Brooks Marilyn Joplin *	4 * *	5 * *	6 Stu Marshall Pat Jaynes	7 * *	8 Liz Medley Al Medley	9 * * TG Don Bruner
10 Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	11 COLUMBUS DAY * *	12 * *	13 Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	14 Judy Kishner *	15 Barbara Strahm John Boxall	16 Pat Hair Doris Mayfield * TG John Fisher Docent Appreciation Dinner
17 * * *	18 Loretta Vives Van Vives Keatings w/Jenk Jones?	19 Jim Vester *	20 Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer	21 Nyla Woody Randy Woody	22 Jenk Jones *	23 Sandy Lanoue Rob Lanoue * TG Van Vives
✓ 24 * Edith * Iris * TG John Boxall	25 Dean Johnston Mary Johnston	26 * *	27 Sue Wheeler Dave Dolcater Docent Roundup Day	28 Linda Anderson Bill Rinehart 10 th Anniversary Event - National	29 Barbara Bates Doris Mayfield	30 * * * TG Betty Turner
✓ 31 * * *				10:00 Roundup / Luncheon		

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

NOVEMBER 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 * *	2 * *	3 Stu Marshall Pat Jaynes	4 * *	5 * * *	6 Pat Hair * * *
7 * * *	8 * *	9 * *	10 Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	11 VETERANS DAY Jo Brooks Marilyn Joplin	12 Liz Medley Al Medley	13 * * * *
14 Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	15 Loretta Vives Van Vives	16 * *	17 * *	18 Nyla Woody Randy Woody	19 Jenk Jones *	20 * * * *
21 * * *	22 * *	23 *	24 Dave Dolcater John Boxall	25 THANKSGIVING Bill Rinehart Linda Anderson	26 * *	27 * * * *
28 * * * Inventory Day Shop open weekends only until Dec. 12	29 * *	30 * *				

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 – 4:00 pm
(Stay until 5 if you can)