

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

October 1999

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

The shop was open every day in August. Sales for the month totaled \$4,396.75, \$169.11 over last year's total for the month. Sales for the year so far total \$35,862.29, \$4,255.15 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 703 sign-in visitors in August, down 26.8% from August 1998. 44 visitors were from 12 other countries: Canada (10), France (9), England (6), Australia and Germany (4) each. New countries were Argentina, Trinidad & Tobago, Burma and Taiwan. 228 were from 31 other states with Texas (31) and California (23) leading, followed by Iowa (18), Kansas (14), Arkansas (13) and Missouri (13)."

"431 Oklahomans visited the Preserve. So far this year, we have had visitors from 38 other countries and all 50 states."

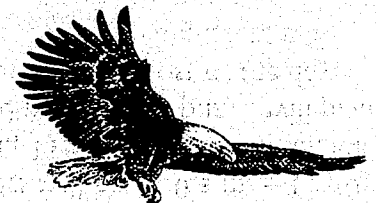
"Friday and Saturday were the days of highest visitation. 56.6% of visitors came from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 22.4% of visitors came between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m."

"The total of 7,518 visitors for the first 8 months of the year is up 3.0% over 1998. Visitation from other states is down 8.8%. The number of foreign visitors is up 21%."

"Hot weather undoubtedly caused the lowered visitation."

OEA Volunteers Needed

On October 21, the Oklahoma Education Association conference is being held in Tulsa at the Convention Center. The Nature Conservancy display will be there, and must be staffed from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. that day. If you would like to assist by working a three-hour shift that day, I would appreciate it!! Shifts will be 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. I will plan to be present most of the day. At the booth, volunteers will visit with teachers who stop in. We will have Tallgrass Prairie information and also information about our education materials, "The Spirit of the Last Great Places". Check your calendar and give me a call if you can help out! You will be reimbursed for parking expenses. (Mary, at 585-1117).



Prairie News

By Bob Hamilton

- Cowboys are at work expanding the bison corrals & spraying seresia lespedeza.
- 800 acres in 3 units was burned in bison unit in late August, plus 415 acres north of HQ in Spring Trap
- Still no information on July 29th shooting of the 3 bison. Reward is now \$5,000.
- New article just out in the Journal of Range Management, Vol. 52, No.5, Sept 99 by Mario Biondini, Al Stenter & Bob Hamilton: "Bison use of Fire-Managed Remnant Prairies."
- We need volunteer to help with the painting of bison corral expansion. Workday on Saturday, October 9, 9:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- The Monarch butterfly migration peaked in the 3rd week of September.
- September rains have given us a good late summer wild-flower showing. Lots of yellow: Maximillian sunflower, golden-rod, and broomweed.
- We have had recent troubles with Headquarters water system. Please don't water trees until further notice.
- The large hackberry tree in the Bunkhouse courtyard will be cut down on September 28th. After being struck by lightning in June, it gradually died this summer.
- Radio has been repaired – it was hit by the same lightning bolt that hit the tree.

This 'N That

From Mary McIntyre Coley

- We are beginning the final two months of our docent season! I hope that you will volunteer a day of your time during this beautiful (and busy) season.
- I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Docent Awards Dinner! You have received your invitations by now – and don't forget to RSVP. It will be a fun evening.
- When it came time to send out the invitations for the awards dinner, I was saddened at the high numbers of inactive docents we have. I realize that life sometimes keeps us from fulfilling our commitments. Still, with the exciting changes that this year has brought to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, I am surprised that so many of you (about 25%) have served only one or no shifts this year.
- I am hopeful that when you consider your commitment to the program for next year (Evaluations will go out with the November letter) you will seriously consider your available time and realize how much the Preserve's program depends upon you. You are much more than a shop clerk when you work as a docent. You are a representative of The Nature Conservancy and the Tallgrass Prairie. Your voice is heard as an advocate for nature and for scientific stewardship. Your contribution leaves a lasting legacy that will be enjoyed by our children and grandchildren. Thank you!

Roundup Information

Those of you who have signed up for the regular docent roundup day, Wed, Oct. 27, should plan to meet me at the Headquarters at 9:30. Lunch provided! See you there.

Calendar

September

30 Docent Roundup
Reservations Due

October

9 Corral Painting Work Day
16 Appreciation Dinner
27 Docent Round Up Day
28 Tenth Anniversary Event!

November

28 Inventory Day
Shop open weekends only
until Dec. 12

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.

Anniversary Celebration

The deadline has passed to make your reservations for the anniversary celebration. As of press time 125 people are expected, with 54 of those docents. Great representation! This should be an exciting day.

HELP NEEDED:

If you have not made plans to attend the anniversary celebration, and would like to help out in the gift shop that day, extra hands will be needed. With 125 people expected, we will be dividing the crowd into groups to go up to the corral. Those not at the corral will be given a tour of the HQ and will spend time in the visitors center. If you would like to help host this crowd, please call Mary at 585-1117.

DECEMBER Calendar:

You will not find a December calendar included in this mailing. However, we would like to be able to keep the visitors center open, as early December often has great weather. If you can help out (on a weekend, especially), please email, call, or leave a message for Barbara Bates, 298-7019. Thanks!

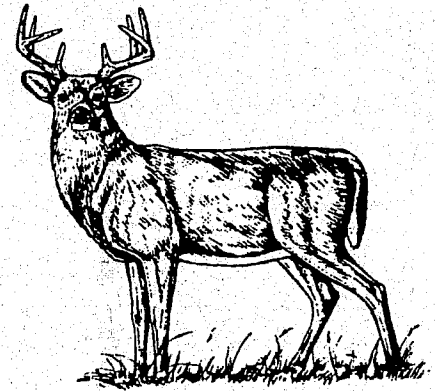
Corral Painting Workday:

As we go to press, Williams Company is planning to bring a crew up to the Preserve on Oct. 9 to paint the new corrals. If you would like to help, you are welcome to join them at 9:30 a.m. at the HQ. Bob Hamilton will head up this work party. Bring tube socks for painting, old clothes, hats, your lunch, etc. Paint, brushes, gloves and drinks will be provided. Call 585-1117 to let us know you are coming.

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

REMEMBER:

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



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.

Bison are rounded up, tested, vaccinated and inspected by Preserve cowboys and scientists.

OCTOBER 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	* *	* *	* *	* *	1 * *	2 Betty Turner David Turner * TG Jim Vester
3 Jo Brooks Marilyn Joplin *	4 Barbara Bates *	5 * *	6 Stu Marshall Pat Jaynes	7 Nyla Woody Randy Woody	8 Liz Medley Al Medley	9 Karin Armstrong Jeff Armstrong * TG Don Bruner
10 Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	11 COLUMBUS DAY Clara Swan *	12 Bill Leonard Pat Leonard	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 Bob Hawks Jan Hawks Phyllis Connally	18 Loretta Vives Van Vives Keatings w/Jenk Jones?	19 Jim Vester *	20 Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer	21 * *	22 Clara Swan *	23 Sandy Lanoue Rob Lanoue * TG Van Vives
24 Diane Fell Edith Haraught Iris McPherson 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 Maxine Manering 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 Bill Dinger * *
7 * * *	8 Barbara Bates *	9 * *	10 Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	11 VETERANS DAY Jo Brooks Marilyn Joplin	12 * *	13 * * * *
14 Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	15 Loretta Vives Van Vives	16 * *	17 Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson	18 Nyla Woody Randy Woody	19 Jenk Jones *	20 * * * *
21 Diane Fell * *	22 Bill Leonard Pat Leonard	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)