

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

November 1999

Awards Presented!

Thank you to all of our docents who have worked so hard this year at the Preserve. Thanks to you and your devotion, we have kept our shop open nearly every day during the docent season, talked with many more visitors, and exceeded all previous years of sales. Award winners were recognized at the 1999 Docent Appreciation Dinner, held at the Mercantile in Pawhuska on October 16. (To be invited to attend, docents must have worked at least two shifts during the current year (March – August) after completing docent training.) Those presented with awards, and the shift level that they have reached were:

4-shift awardees:

Dennis Bires, Marian Bires, Nancy Bobsein, Jerri Maberry, Connie Murray, John Boxall, Pat Jaynes, Frank Lacey, Maxine Manering and Jim Vester.

10-shift awardees:

Gary Weyl, Renee Weyl, Pat Bumpas, Robyn Stroup, Marilyn Clarke, Jan Hawks, Bob Hawks, Betty Turner and Jim Vester.

20-shift awardees:

Dick Baker, Judy Barto, Karen Harris, Harold Murnan, Roberta Wherritt, Phyllis Connally, Edith Haraughty, Loretta Vives, Linda Anderson, Barbara Bates and John Fisher.

30-shift awardees:

Al Medley, Barbara Strahm, Nyla Woody, Randy Woody, Dave Dolcater, Dean Johnson, Mary Ellen Johnson, David Turner, Doris Mayfield, Bill Rinehart, Van Vives and John Fisher.

40-shift awardees:

Marilyn Keefer, Iris McPherson, Stu Marshall, Doris Mayfield, and John Fisher.

50-shift awardee:

Sue Wheeler.

Congratulations!

(Service Awards are based on shifts worked from Sept 1 of the previous year to Sept. 1 of the current year, and are cumulative over your years of service as a docent. If you did not receive an award this year, and would like to check your service shift totals, please call Mary at 585-1117.)

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

The shop was open every day in September. Sales for the month totaled \$5,275.50, \$1,384.05 over last year's total for the month. Sales for the year so far total \$41,137.79, \$5,639.20 more than this time last year.

Sale !!!!!

Remember, during the month of November, docents receive a 20% discount on items in the gift shop! Do your Christmas shopping early this year!

Thanks,
Sue

ALERT : MANY NOVEMBER WEEKEND SHIFTS ARE OPEN.

**WE NEED YOU !!!
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL
BARBARA BATES NOW!
ENJOY THE FALL WEATHER
AND YOUR DISCOUNTS!**

PLEASE HELP!

Calendar

November

28 Inventory Day
Shop open weekends only
until Dec. 12

December

04 Docent Council Meeting

Visitation

from George Meyers

"We had 754 sign-in visitors in September, down 14.7% from September 1998. 37 visitors were from 8 other countries: Canada, England and Germany (6) each, followed by Japan and Holland with (5), New Zealand (4), Egypt (3) and Australia (2). New country was Egypt. 246 were from 31 other states with Texas (38) and Kansas (35) leading, followed by Missouri (20), Arkansas (18) and California (17)."

"471 Oklahomans visited the Preserve. So far this year, we have had visitors from 39 other countries and all 50 states."

"Mid week days, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday were the days of highest visitation. 71.3% of visitors came on those days. Saturday and Sunday visitors were down, accounting for only 15.5% of our total visitors. 58.1% of visitors came from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 23.1% came between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m."

"The total of 8,272 visitors for the first 9 months of the year is up 1.1% over 1998. Visitation from other states is down 10.8%. The number of foreign visitors is up 24%."

"Favorable comments predominate. Perhaps inclusion of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in the book of 10 best preservations will increase our visitation."

Prairie News

By Bob Hamilton

- Horse barn exterior all finished, new computer shed & 40'x 40' roof over corrals all completed.
- All the bison were gathered out of 10,400 ac unit on Oct. 18 & 19 with 8 ATV's & 3 Pick-ups.
- Kevin Chouteau and John Hurd traveled 3,200 miles to pick up 12 yearling bulls, which we purchased by sealed bid at the National Bison Range, Montana (Oct 5 - 9).
- Cowboys have finished up the new holding pen and corrals (400' x 165').
- October has been a dry month for the preserve.
- Asters are still blooming.
- Christmas Bird Count - 2nd Annual Tallgrass Count. Scheduled for Sunday, January 2, 2000. Meet at HQ Bunkhouse at 7:00, 7:30 or 8:00 am to join a survey group. Or, 5:00 am if you want to call outs. Bring a side-dish for evening chili feed at Stucco house. \$5.00 registration fee.

Help is needed for groups scheduled to come to the Prairie on Nov. 9 (4-6 pm) and Saturday Nov. 13, including a trail guide. Please let us know if you can help.

State Director Resigns

Brita Cantrell, director of the Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, has resigned. Her last full day of work was October 7. She is now working with the chapter on a part-time basis, pending the hiring of a new director. Brita plans to take the next year off to spend time with her two daughters.

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!

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.

REMEMBER:

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

DOCENT COUNCIL – What's That?

From Mary McIntyre Coley

The Docent Council is a group of docents who are interested in taking a leadership role in the Tallgrass Prairie Docent Program. Some members hold positions on the council, others serve as at-large members (no responsibilities except attending meetings and providing input.)

The Council meets in December, January, and February at the Tulsa Field Office and in June or July at the Preserve. These two hour meetings provide time to review the program, smooth out rough edges, consider changes and new opportunities. If you want to be more involved – here's your chance!

(All Docent Council meetings are open to any docent wanting to attend, even if you do not wish to be considered a Council member.)

Positions:

Activities Coordinator – assists with planning Docent Reorientation, Socials and the Docent Dinner. Organization of additional events optional.

Recruitment Coordinator – assists with planning pre-season recruitment events for new docents. Events are generally held in Tulsa, Bartlesville, Pawhuska and Ponca City in February.

Training Coord. – assists with planning and carrying out Reorientation for returning docents in March, and training for new docents in March/April.

Pawhuska Liaison – assists with contacts in Pawhuska with Chamber of Commerce and others.

Nature Exhibit Coord. – monitors nature exhibits, considers improvements and additions to this area.

Scheduling Asst. – assists with filling in work calendars by making phone calls as necessary.

Trail Guide Coord. – assists with trail guide training, and schedules trail guides to work when requests come in.

Historian – maintains docent scrapbook, keeps related newspaper clippings, takes photographs, etc.

Visitor Records – monitors the visitor log and provides monthly reports noting numbers of visitors, place of origin, time of visit, etc.

Gift Shop Bookkeeper – tabulates monthly sales records and provides yearend report to shop manager and field office.

Workday Supvr. – assists in planning Preserve workdays for painting, litter pickup, shop work.

Speakers' Bureau Coord. – Assists with training of volunteer speakers, maintains slide programs, schedules volunteers to meet requests.

At-large member – Attends Docent Council meetings to offer suggestions and help with special projects. Up to five at-large members.

EVALUATION/REVIEW Included

The annual docent evaluation and review is included with this issue of The News. Please complete and return to the Tulsa office, 23 W. 4th St. All reviews are read, and your suggestions are taken seriously. If you would like me to call you to discuss something, please make a note on the evaluation, or come to the December 4 Docent Council meeting!

Gift Shop Manager Position Open

Many years of dedicated volunteer service from Sue Wheeler, our gift shop manager, has seen the gift shop inventory grow, and sales to increase, until our "Little Shop on the Prairie" has become a full fledged store!! After much discussion by Sue, Mary, Brita and Harvey this summer and fall, it has been decided to add the position of Gift Shop Manager as a paid Conservancy position. The full extent of the job description and weekly work hours are yet to be determined. An office will be established at the Preserve's Pawhuska office, where inventory will be stored.

Sue Wheeler has assured us that she will continue to assist this new staff person in an advisory capacity, and will continue to be an active docent.

This is an exciting change for the Preserve, and an indication of our successful volunteer efforts! If you have questions or comments about this change, please call Mary. More details will be available in the December issue of the Docent News.

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

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 (Gilcrease Docents)	9 Marilyn Keefer (4-6 p.m) (Bandana Tour)	10 Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	11 VETERANS DAY Jo Brooks Marilyn Joplin	12 * *	13 (Boy Scouts Group) * Iris & * Edith *
14 Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	15 Loretta Vives Van Vives	16 Closed	17 Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson	18 Nyla Woody Randy Woody	19 Jenk Jones *	20 * * * *
21 Diane Fell * *	22 Bill Leonard Pat Leonard	23 Closed	24 Dave Dolcater John Boxall	25 THANKSGIVING Bill Rinehart Linda Anderson	26 * *	27 * * * *
28 Sue Wheeler * Inventory Day Shop open weekends only until Dec. 12 <hr/> Dec 5 * *	29 Closed	30 Closed	Dec 1 Closed	Dec 2 Closed	Dec 3 * * <hr/> Dec 10 * *	Dec 4 * * <hr/> Dec 11 * *

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)