

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

December 2000

Visitation – October

from George Meyers

1,125 visitors signed our registered in October, down 33.8% from October 1999, and the lowest October in the seven years we have been keeping records. (Note: the 10th Anniversary celebration held Oct. 1999 really boosted both visitors numbers and sales last year.) 33 foreign visitors signed in, with England (15), Ireland (5), Germany (4) followed by Australia, Norway, Spain and Switzerland (2 each). 281 visited from 37 other states with Texas (31), Colorado (25), Kansas (19), California (18), and Illinois (16) heading the list. 711 Oklahomans signed in. 85% of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 72% from other states, and 65% of Oklahomans.

More visitors came on Thursday (2 large classes of school children helped) followed by Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The beautiful Indian summer weather the last month has definitely helped visitation.

For the year we have had visitors from 36 foreign countries, and 48 states and the District of Columbia. Hawaii and North Dakota are still to be heard from.

Comments were very favorable, some were delighted to see the bison and impressed with the Preserve, "A marvelous nature trail", "Wonderful vistas", an Italian "Bello", Nature Conservancy members from Arkansas "Thank you for making it possible", "Nature lovers paradise!" Docents are doing a great job in interesting the visitors in the Preserve and Nature Conservancy.

Gift Shop News

The Gift Shop sales:

5,997.30	October 2000
<u>11,310.75</u>	October 1999
5,313.45	Decrease in Sales
51,465.63	2000 Year to Date
<u>52,448.54</u>	1999 Year to Date
982.91	Decrease in Sales

A Personal Note

from: Harvey Payne

"Congratulations and Appreciation to all of the docents for a wonderful year at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Recently, a personal friend of mine from out of state visited the preserve for the first time and had an excellent experience. Your work is so important, and very much appreciated."

Needed! Docent Evaluations!

The Docent Evaluation is again included in this newsletter. As of Nov. 17, only 39 of 150 docents have responded. We need your input on the program, as well as your recommitment for next year. Please let us know if you will participate, if you would like to join the Docent Council, and if you would like to order a denim docent shirt (project coordinated by John Fisher). Thank you.

Calendar

December

- 1 Evaluation Due
9 Advisory Council Meeting
(Tulsa Office)

March

- 3 Docent Reorientation
Training Day
31 Docent Training Day

April

- 28 Docent Training Day
29 Trail Guide Training Day

December Shifts

Please help us keep the shop open through the end of December. Call Barbara Bates at 748-9497, particularly if you are available on weekends. Eric Huerter will continue working weekdays thru Dec. 29th and would enjoy your company.

REMINDER TO ALL VOLUNTEERS:

Please LOCK the Cash Drawer and the DOOR when you leave!! We are frequently finding them left unlocked! Take your time when you close to be sure that our security procedures are followed! Thank you!

Scientific American

**Mark Feb. 6, 2001
on your calendar!**

A film crew from Scientific American Frontiers recently spent hours on the Preserve both during the roundup (Oct. 25) and again on Nov. 9. The crew included host Alan Alda. The result of these shootings (plus footage shot by our own Communications Coordinator Grant Gerondale prior to their visit) will be an 18 minute feature on the Preserve. This is the longest segment on one story that they have aired in 11 years as a program. Their 63-year-old camera man (from Holland) stated to Harvey that in all his years of filming, "this day (Nov. 9) is the most memorable." Quite a statement from a veteran "shooter". Don't miss this program!

The Nature Conservancy would like to express our sympathy to John Ferguson on the death of his wife, Billie Ferguson on 11/14. The Fergusons' were members of the Docent Class of 1997. John can be reached at home in Bartlesville, 1401 Manor Drive, 74006.

Prairie News

from: Harvey Payne

- Planning several late fall burns.
- 299 calves this year.
- Many scattered bands. They are heavily grazing the site of the Aug. 23, 2000 burn west of the south scenic turnout.
- We are in good shape regarding moisture.
- Short-eared owls are abundant.
- Thanks for another great year!

Round-up Notes

Bison herd total = 1223
67% calving rate, with 299 new calves

Current acres in bison range = 10,486

Attending McPherson Bison Auction to purchase and sell animals, trading and buying from Cross Ranch, trading animals with Konza Prairie as well.

Docent Recognition Awards Presented

Congratulations to all of you who have served at the Tallgrass Prairie this year. Many of you surpassed recognition levels, and have earned various awards. Those who did not receive their award at the Docent Recognition Lunch/Picnic on Nov. 11, will receive the award at the Docent Reorientation Training day (March 3, 2001). Or, if you prefer, call me and then stop by the office to pick up your award. Please know that you are appreciated, and that we value the time you have donated to the Preserve and to the Conservancy. A complete list of Award Winners and Awards follows. All awards are cumulative over your life as a docent.

Docent Pin (4 shifts after training):

Phillip Allen, Darryl and Mona Calvert, Marilyn Campbell, Mark and Sally Conrath, June Endres, Kim Hagan, Marilyn Joplin, Rob and Sandy Lanoue, Bill and Pat Leonard, Mark Muetting, Alfred and Cheryl Smith, Clara Swan, Jim Thayer, Jerry Wagener and Phillip Winslow.

Medallion Key Tag (10 shifts – cumulative):

Karin Armstrong, Dennis Bires, John Boxall, Pat Jaynes, Mark and Marci Hendricks, Jenk Jones, Maxine Manering, Larry Myers, Clara Swan.

Medallion Coaster (20 shifts):

John Boxall, Don Bruner, Mary Cumming, Cheryl Kilpatrick, Wayne Middleton, Carol Redford, Betty Turner, Jim Vester.

Medallion Thank You Paperweight

(30 shifts): Barbara Bates, Jo Brooks, Dorothy Buck, Karen Harris, Carolyn Mathews, George McCourt, Loretta Vives, Roberta Wherritt.

Medallion Round Marble Box (40 shifts):

Barbara Bates, Dave Dolcater, Dean Johnston, Mary Ellen Johnston, Al Medley, Liz Medley, Bill Rinehart, David Turner, Van Vives.

Medallion Rectangular Box (50 shifts)

Dave Dolcater, John Fisher, Marilyn Keefer, Stu Marshall, Doris Mayfield, Iris McPherson, George Meyers, Van Vives.

Medallion Marble Clock (60 shifts):

John Fisher, Marilyn Keefer, Doris Mayfield, Iris McPherson, Sue Wheeler.

Medallion 4-Coaster Set w/stand (70 shifts):

Doris Mayfield, Sue Wheeler.

In addition to these awards earned by working a day-long shift, many of our docents spend extra time helping with various administrative type duties for the program which are **not** recognized as shift time.

A special thank you goes out to these docent council members for efforts above and beyond:

Sue Wheeler (gift shop book orders), Doris Mayfield (nature area), Marilyn Keefer (trail guide scheduling), Barbara Bates (shift scheduling), George Meyers (visitation records), and John Fisher (bookkeeper and temporary Adopt-A-Bison assistant.)

END OF DOCENT SEASON EVALUATION

(Please return to Mary at TNC, 2727 E. 21st St., Suite 102, Tulsa, OK 74114)

New (2000) Docents: How would you evaluate the training you received during this season?
(1 is poor, 5 is excellent)

1 2 3 4 5

Returning (1-7 year) Docents: How would you evaluate the training you received during this past year?
(1 is poor, 5 is excellent)

1 2 3 4 5

What topics have you used the most in assisting visitors? (Check as many as apply.)

- Bison Information Indian (Osage) history Ranch History
 Nature Information (Flora, fauna, seasonal info) Geology information

Other : _____

Are you comfortable performing all required docent tasks? _____

If not, what tasks do you want more training on? _____

What additional topics would you like to see emphasized in 2001 re-orientation/training?

Has your participation in the Docent program met your expectations?

- No Somewhat Yes

Please Explain: _____

How can we improve the Docent program?

- More training More options for involvement
 Monthly Docent meetings More hours staffed at prairie

Other _____

Approximately how often did you serve as a Docent during our eight-month 2000 season?

- Once a month Once every six weeks More than once per month
 Every other month Other _____

(over)

Was that frequency: about right too much not enough

Do you intend to serve as a Docent during the 2001 season? Yes No (If no, please sign your name at the bottom of this form, and return it to the office. We have appreciated your help!)

If yes, would you prefer to: work a regular scheduled shift (i.e. 2nd Wed., etc.)
 schedule your own shifts by using return calendars
 be telephoned when needed

If you desire to commit to a regular shift, what is your preferred day?

DAY:

Sunday
 Monday
 Tuesday
 Wednesday
 Thursday
 Friday
 Saturday

WEEK OF MONTH:

First week
 Second week
 Third week
 Fourth week
 Fifth week

Would you like to serve as a Trail Guide during 2001? Yes No
If yes, do you prefer weekdays weekends

Are you interested in taking on a larger role in the program by serving on the Docent Advisory Council for 2001? Meetings are held on one Saturday in December, January, February & July. Yes No

If yes, please indicate which areas/positions you are interested in:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> docent activities | <input type="checkbox"/> scheduling | <input type="checkbox"/> book selection/purchase |
| <input type="checkbox"/> new docent recruitment | <input type="checkbox"/> trail guide coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> workdays/road crew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> training | <input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks | <input type="checkbox"/> at-large member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pawhuska area promotion | <input type="checkbox"/> visitor records | <input type="checkbox"/> speakers bureau coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nature exhibits, info. | <input type="checkbox"/> bookkeeper | |

other _____

Are you interested in purchasing a Docent denim shirt with embroidered logo? _____ If so, please **indicate your size** (cut is big, men's sizes), and include your **check** for \$30 per shirt made out to The Nature Conservancy. Men's sizes in S M L XL XLL

Thank you for returning this survey. Please do so by December 1, 2000.

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ email _____