

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

April 2001

Happy Spring!

This issue is full of news – so be sure to read it from cover to cover. Our March Docent News issue became a mailing only to those who did not attend Reorientation on March 3. So many of you attended (over 80!) that it seemed redundant to do a newsletter to cover information that was presented at this big event. Our speakers for the day were great, as was the food. If you were unable to attend, we hope you can make it next year.

Member Survey

Visit our website at nature.org/oklahoma and take our member survey! You can access the survey from our home page by clicking the Survey button. You can choose to download the survey, or take it on site and then print it off. The survey must be mailed to us here in Tulsa at the address given on the survey. Let your opinion count!

Visitation – February

from George Meyers

Slow visitation continues the trend set in January. 149 visitors signed in during February, the lowest February registration that we've had, 56% less than the seven-year average of 336 visitors. We had 15 foreign visitors from England (6), German (6), France and Austria (2) each. 49 visited from 13 other states, with top states being Texas, California, Kansas and Colorado, there were 85 visitors from Oklahoma. All of the foreign visitors were first timers, along with 90% from other states and 56% of the Oklahomans.

95 visitors (64%) came on the weekends, 31 on Saturdays and 64 on Sundays. 72% came between 11:30 and 3:30. No one signed in on 13 days, and 86 of the visitors (58%) came on 5 days.

Visitor comments were great. A German commented "Great day with my sister, son-in-law and friend." Other comments were "A great walk", "Fascinating", "Impressive", along with 5 comments complaining that the gift shop was not open.

Calendar

March

- 31 New Docent Training
Pawhuska Chamber of
Commerce

April

- 1 New Docent Training -
Pawhuska
- 21 Earth Day event at
Tulsa Zoo –
HELP NEEDED!
- Trail Building Workday at
New Nickel Preserve
- Prairie Chicken Field
Trip at TGP
(call 918/585-1117)
- 28 NEW Docent
Training Day
- 29 Trail Guide Training –
New Guides AM and PM
- Returning Guides:
AM Geology,
PM Mentoring

May

- 7 9 a.m. birding training
(Jim Thayer & John Fisher
new offering!)
- 1 P.M. Wildflower
identification
(Kim Shannon)
- 18 Prairie Road Crew
9 a.m. at preserve
- 19 Fence Removal / Trash
Pickup at Nickel Preserve

June

- 2 Annual Membership
Meeting and Field Trips –
Medicine Park (near
Lawton)

New Docent Class

Currently, 39 have joined our docent class of 2001. The first training event is March 31 at the Chamber of Commerce in Pawhuska. Additional training dates are April 1 (also in Pawhuska), then April 28 at the Preserve. A complete list of these new docents will be available sometime after May 1st. This class will be completing their internships during the month of May. Please expect to have these trainees present during your shifts that month, and allow the trainees to observe and learn from you.

HELP NEEDED !

Each year in April, we receive many requests for displays and information at Earth Day events. This year we REALLY need your help at a display at the Tulsa Zoo on Saturday, April 21st. Unfortunately, a work day and a field trip are also being held on this day, as well as a workshop at OSU! If you can help with our display at this event, please contact Mary Coley immediately at 585-1117.

Trail Guide Training

If you are one of the many docent who has indicated you want to help as a trail guide, your training has been set for April 29th. This training begins at 9 a.m. and goes until 3 or 4 p.m. In the morning, all guides who have been through the training before may attend a special onsite Geology training offered by Neil Suneson of the OK Geological Survey. Then, join up with the new guides at NOON and spend the afternoon as a mentor on the trails. Please RSVP with Belinda for this event by calling 918/585-1117.

Nick Delgrosso will be serving as our scheduling coordinator for the trail guides this year. Nick takes over from Marilyn Keefer. Marilyn maintained this leadership role for four years, helping with the beginning of the program in 1997! Her time and energy has been appreciated! Marilyn will continue to help at the Preserve as a docent and trail guide.

Birding and Wildflower Training

A new training on birding will be offered this year. Led by Jim Thayer and John Fisher, this training is for those wanting to learn how to identify birds by song and silhouette. The training will begin at 9 a.m. on May 7th at the Preserve headquarters. Please make a reservation by calling 918/585-1117.

Training will continue in the afternoon with Wildflower Identification, led by Kim Shannon. Set to begin at 1 p.m., the training will conclude about 3 p.m. Bring your lunch if you are attending both trainings. Also, please make your reservation by May 1st.

Trail Guides HELP!!

We need you in April! Please respond to your letter, which listed April Field trip dates! Nick and I are counting on you!

Mary Coley

Prairie News

- Just getting started on spring burn season – 1st large burn on 3-13
 - 2 new calves seen by visitors on 3-18
 - The bison groups are getting larger now 20-200
 - Some of the bison are shedding early
 - The cowboys are adding to corrals
 - Herps – chorus frogs calling
 - Turkey & vultures have returned / eagles gone
 - We need an oil field trash pickup in April (after burn)
- **WELCOME BACK DOCENTS**

Headquarters Building Now on Historic Register!

Thanks to the continuous efforts of Liz Medley over the past several years, the former Chapman-Barnard Headquarters building was nominated and then accepted for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places! The formal presentation will be made at a Preservation Conference in Enid on May 18th. Congratulations and an enormous thank you to Liz for all her work!

Check out the Docent Calendar on the Website!!!

The chapter's website has had a wonderful makeover in the past six months, since Jerry Wagener took it on as a personal project! Check out the site at nature.org/oklahoma!

One of the things you can find on the site is the Docent Calendar!!! This calendar is regularly updated, so that you can see who has signed up to work since the Calendar appeared in the docent news. You can check to see if we are needing immediate help, and volunteer at the last minute.

To reach the calendar, go to the Oklahoma Web site, and then click on "Tallgrass Prairie" on the left side menu. Then go to the "volunteers" button at the top of the page, and click there. On that page, scroll down to the "docent schedule" portion. Click on the month you would like to see, and note the open days. Then contact Barbara Bates by email, phone or mail to let her know when you are available.

Docents Win Awards!

Two of the Oklahoma Chapter's Annual Awards are being received by Docents this year! Our Annual Volunteer Award will be given to John Fisher and Jerry Wagener at the Annual Membership Meeting on June 2nd. This year's event will be held in Medicine Park, near Lawton and the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. Fisher will be recognized for his volunteer assistance in administering the Adopt A Bison program. Wagener will be lauded for his efforts to reconstruct and revitalize the Oklahoma Chapter's website. Congratulations!

Nickel Preserve Needs Spring Volunteers

Work will begin this spring on the new John Nickel Family Wildlife and Nature Preserve north of Tahlequah. Two volunteer work days have been set for the spring months: April 21st will be a Trail Building Day, and May 19th will be a trash pick-up and fence removal day. If you are interested in helping, please contact Chris Wilson at the Tulsa Office, 585-1117.

The Preserve will eventually contain 15,000 acres of the Ozark Plateau ecosystem. This beautiful site contains typical Ozark flora and fauna, as well as waterfalls and beautiful vistas of the Illinois River.

APRIL 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Carol Redford Mary Cumming TG John Boxall	2 George McCourt *	3 Clara Swan *	4 Clara Swan Stu Marshall	5 Maxine Manering George Meyers	6 Dick Baker Sally Baker	7 Rob Lanoue Sandy Lanoue
8 Nick Delgrasso Nancy Irby *	9 Wayne Middleton *	10 Pat Jaynes *	11 Dave Dolcater *	12 George Meyers *	13 Barbara Strahm Dean Johnston Mary Ellen Johnston Beverly Atteberry	14 Jean Wagener Clara Swan TG Jerry Wagener
15 Jean Wagener * TG Jerry Wagener	16 Van Vives Loretta Vives	17 Jim Vester *	18 * *	19 Phil Allen Ray Kelley Phil Winslow (p.m.)	20 Sally Conrath Mark Conrath TG Jenk Jones	21 * * TG John Fisher
22 Yuki Roberts * *	23 Bill Leonard Sally Leonard	24 Candy Thomas Linda Anderson	25 Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson	26 Bill Rinehart Maxine Manering	27 June Endres Phyllis Connelly	28 Liz Chandler Jo Brooks TG Van Vives
29 Dorothy Buck William Mosier TG Brent Johnson	30 Irene Ward John Boxall					

RETURN THIS TO: Barbara Bates
4142 E. 48th St.
Tulsa OK 74135

Phone: 918 - 748-9497
(Leave your name and phone number on the answering machine)
E-Mail: bbates@webzone.net

Weekends call - Ann Whitehorn 918-287-4238
Shift Hours: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
(Stay until 5 if you can)

MAY 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 * *	2 Nancy Irby *	3 George Meyers *	4 George Meyers *	5 * * *
6 Carol Redford Mary Cumming	7 George McCourt * TG Jenk Jones	8 Pat Jaynes *	9 Dave Dolcater Linda Anderson	10 Irene Ward Maxine Manering	11 Sally Baker Dick Baker	12 Peggy Sjoberg Gerry Sjoberg TG Don Bruner
13 Nick Delgrasso * *	14 Dean Johnston Mary Ellen Johnston Bill Leonard Pat Leonard	15 Jim Vester *	16 * *	17 Phil Allen Phil Winslow (p.m.)	18 Barbara Strahm Jim Thayer	19 * * TG John Fisher
20 Irene Ward William Mosier TG Brent Johnson	21 Van Vives Loretta Vives	22 Candy Thomas *	23 Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson	24 Bill Rinehart Maxine Manering	25 June Endres *	26 Dorothy Buck * TG Van Vives
27 * * TG Jenk Jones	28 * * Memorial Day	29 * *	30 John Boxall *	31 Jim Thayer *		

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JUNE 2001

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
					1 * *	2 * * *
3 <i>Jean Wagener</i> * <i>TG Jerry Wagener</i>	4 <i>George McCourt</i> *	5 <i>Pat Jaynes</i> *	6 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> *	7 * *	8 * * <i>TG Jenk Jones</i>	9 <i>Jean Wagener</i> <i>Jerry Wagener</i> <i>TG Don Bruner</i>
10 <i>Nick Delgrasso</i> * *	11 * *	12 <i>Jim Vester</i> *	13 * *	14 * *	15 * *	16 <i>Brent Johnson</i> * <i>TG John Fisher</i>
17 <i>Brent Johnson</i> * *	18 <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i>	19 <i>Candy Thomas</i> *	20 * *	21 * *	22 * *	23 <i>Betty Turner</i> * <i>TG Van Vives</i>
24 <i>Yuki Roberts</i> * *	25 * *	26 <i>Barbara Bates</i> *	27 <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i>	28 <i>Bill Rinehart</i> <i>Phil Allen</i>	29 * *	30 * *

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