

# The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

May 2001

## Birding and Spring Wildflower Training on May 7<sup>th</sup>

Remember to RSVP by calling Belinda at 585-1117 for the trainings on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Birding will begin at 9 a.m. at the headquarters. Wildflower Training will begin at 1 p.m. If you plan to attend both trainings, please bring your own lunch! Hope to see you then.

## Member Survey

Visit our website at [nature.org/oklahoma](http://nature.org/oklahoma) and take our member survey! You can access the survey from our home page by clicking the Survey button. You can chose 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 – March

from George Meyers

Visitation picked up in March! 855 visitors signed in, the second highest March registration we have had, exceeded only by March, 1997 when 912 signed our register. We had 36 visitors from 14 other countries, with Germany and Japan (6 each), Latvia (4) and Scotland and Thailand (3 each) heading the list. 249 guests from states other than Oklahoma signed in, headed by Kansas (32), Illinois (27), Georgia (15) and Arkansas and Tennessee (13 each). 570 Oklahomans signed in. 24 of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 182 of out-of-state visitors and 247 Oklahomans. As usual, Saturday and Sunday were the most popular days to visit, and mid day the most popular time. We had only one day with no visitors signed in.

Visitor comments included, "Please consider adding wapiti", "Loved those prairie chickens", "Wow", "Great", "Wonderfully kept large herd of bison", "Very different from the northwest, you can see forever", "Wow, saw buffalo birth".

## Calendar

### April

- 28 NEW Docent Training Day
- 29 Trail Guide Training – New Guides AM and PM  
Returning Guides:  
AM Geology,  
PM Mentoring

### May

- 5 Oil Site Cleanup Day  
call Bob Hamilton or Kay  
at 287-4803
- 7 9 a.m. birding training  
(Jim Thayer & John Fisher  
new offering!)  
  
1 P.M. Wildflower  
identification  
(Kim Shannon)
- 11 Annual Meeting  
Reservations Due
- 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)

## Trail Guide Training

If you are one of the many docents who has indicated you want to help as a trail guide, your training has been set for April 29<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## Dick Baker Wins Chapter Award

Dick Baker, longtime Tallgrass Prairie Docent, Volunteer Speaker and Trainer is being honored with the Oklahoma Chapters Pete Wilkerson Conservation Leadership Award. Baker has volunteered his time to the Tallgrass Prairie and the state chapter since the Bison Release in 1993. Through his service as a trainer for each annual docent class, and a speaker in the Tulsa area, Dick has taken part in informing hundreds of people about The Nature Conservancy's mission and the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. In 2000, he added another commitment to his years of service, he organized the Prairie Road Crew. That crew accomplished the formidable task of keeping the Preserve's roads clean, and had fun at the same time. The Crew continues in place this year, with dates already set for cleanups. (See calendar!)

Dick will receive his award at the Chapter's annual membership meeting June 2 at Medicine Park near Lawton. Congratulations – and THANK YOU – to Dick Baker.

## Prairie News

- Total of 24 controlled burns this spring on TGP, totaling 17,000 TNC acres plus 15,000 neighbors' acres in coop burns. Size of burns ranged from 5 to 640 acres (7>1000 ac). 11 arson fires set along county road late at night, 9 in one night.
- First calf born in mid-March. More than 110 calves now.
- They are in large band and are heavily grazing the new growth in burned acres.
- They are starting to shed winter coats.
- The cowboys are expanding the corrals.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> workday & oil-field clean up. Meet at 9:30 a.m. @ HQ; bring a lunch and work gloves.
- Many wildflowers are blooming.

## Gift Shop News

### The Gift Shop

5,405.35	March 2001
2,079.43	March 2000
<hr/>	
3,534.17	Increase in Sales

5,405.35	2001 Year to Date
2,079.43	2000 Year to Date
<hr/>	
3,325.92	Increase in Sales

### Oil Field Site Cleanups Set

Bob Hamilton needs volunteers to assist in cleaning up small debris and litter around three of our oil field sites at the Preserve. Meet at the headquarters on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. to assist. Those helping should bring their lunch. Cleanup may take through mid-afternoon. Please call Kay at 287-4803 by May 3<sup>rd</sup> if you are planning to come.

### Nickel Work Day

May 19<sup>th</sup> will be another workday at the new Nickel Preserve north of Tahlequah. Volunteers will be removing fence and picking up trash. If you can help, please call Mary Coley or Chris Wilson at 585-1117.

### All Docents – Intern shifts Underway!

Remember that the 2001 Class of Docents will begin completing their intern shifts on April 30! If you have an intern present during your shift, please be helpful and show them the ropes! They need to learn the closing procedures, so they can complete them the next time! Thanks for your help!

### Annual Meeting

Don't forget to RSVP for the annual membership meeting by May 11<sup>th</sup>. Information was inserted into the Winter issue of the Oklahoma Conservator, which was mailed in early April. We're looking forward to a full and exciting day on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Spring Events

Ranchers burn their pastures. The fires, like those caused by lightning, turn the matted dead grasses into fertile ashes and delectable, celery-green growth; open the sod to sunlight; promote lateral shoots; kill non-native species and clear space for animal plants, bird nests and rodents.

Spring azure butterflies appear even before plum buds open.

Lovestruck greater prairie chickens, one of the Preserve's most common birds, gather at hilltop leks to dance and boom at dawn from April to mid-May.

Coyotes, foxes and bobcats patrol prairie chicken leks.

Spring rains percolate through limestone, dam up above layers of impermeable shale, and flow out in seeps and springs.

Cinnamon-colored bison babies frolic. Adults are shedding.

Owls, hawks and snakes search for new-born evening bats.

Common nighthawks lay mottled eggs on barren rocks. Mourning doves and upland sandpipers nest in grasses.

Nine-banded armadillo babies (quadruplicates!) are born.

Redbud trees and ground-level flowers bloom in blues, whites and yellows -- edible onions, strawberries and plums; bluets, anemones, field pussytoes, johnny jumpup, phlox and milk vetch.

Delicate white-tailed deer babies -- twins that weigh four to seven pounds each -- are born in May.

Butterfly and moth larva eat leaves, fruits and flowers, lichens, dry leaves and wood, or bore into plants and trees.

Henslow's sparrows call "tsi-lick" from unburned grass plots.

Bison hooves cut the banks of streams and ponds, trampling sedges, duckweeds and water ferns, and scattering frogs, garter snakes, dragonflies, butterflies, mosquitoes and the occasional opossum.

Cattle can get hit by lightning. Cowboys on horseback warily watch the clouds.

Eastern meadowlarks, dickcissels, grasshopper sparrows and other prairie songbirds teach their babies to fly during June.

Western Massasauga rattlers, timber rattlers and copperheads sunbathe.

# MAY 2001

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

RETURN THIS TO: Barbara Bates  
4142 E. 48<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tulsa OK 74135

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

# JUNE 2001

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

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# JULY 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <i>Carol Redford</i> <i>Mary Cumming</i>	<b>2</b> <i>George McCourt</i> *	<b>3</b> <i>Clara Swan</i> *	<b>4</b> <i>Clara Swan</i> <i>Dave Dolcater</i>  <i>Independence Day</i>	<b>5</b> * *	<b>6</b> * *	<b>7</b> * * *
<b>8</b> <i>Nick Delgrasso</i> * *	<b>9</b> * *	<b>10</b> <i>Pat Jaynes</i> *	<b>11</b> * *	<b>12</b> <i>Phillip Allen</i> *	<b>13</b> * *	<b>14</b> <i>David Turner</i> <i>Betty Turner</i> *
<b>15</b> * * *	<b>16</b> <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i>	<b>17</b> <i>Jim Vester</i> *	<b>18</b> * *	<b>19</b> * *	<b>20</b> * *	<b>21</b> <i>Brent Johnson</i> * <i>TG John Fisher</i>
<b>22</b> <i>Lynn Dickason</i> <i>Brent Johnson</i> *	<b>23</b> * *	<b>24</b> <i>Candy Thomas</i> *	<b>25</b> <i>Iris McPherson</i> <i>Marilyn Keefer</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Bill Rinehart</i> <i>TG Phil Winslow</i> (pm)	<b>27</b> * *	<b>28</b> * * <i>TG Van Vives</i>
<b>29</b> * * *	<b>30</b> * *	<b>31</b> * *				

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