



# The Docent News

For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

June 2001

## Have You Taken The 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. Mail it to us here in Tulsa. Let your opinion count!

## Gift Shop News

### The Gift Shop

7,486.92	April 2001
6,393.27	April 2000
<u>1,093.65</u>	Increase in Sales

7,486.92	2001 Year to Date
<u>8,472.70</u>	2000 Year to Date
(985.78)	Decrease in Sales

## 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!

## Visitation – April

from George Meyers

Visitation was just fair in April. 910 visitors signed in, 22% below last year 1,176, but just under the 7 year average of 914. Year to date, visitation of 2,045 is 12% less than the 7 year average of 2,320. We had 42 visitors from 13 other countries, with England (14), France (5), Norway (5). Australia (4) heading the list. 253 quests from 36 states other than Oklahoma signed in, headed by Texas (46), Kansas (23), Oregon and Wisconsin (12 each) and Arkansas (11). 615 Oklahomans signed in. 41 of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 185 of out-of-state visitors and 253 Oklahomans. Year to date, we have had visitors from 43 states and 23 other countries.

As usual, Friday, Saturday and Sunday were the most popular days to visit, and mid day the most popular time. We had one day when 183 visitors signed in. The docents were BUSY!

Visitors comments included, "Beautiful, I'll come again!", "Didn't realize what was in my backyard." A Belgian commented "Bigger than in the movies!" Other comments, "Wild and wonderful", "Wow", "Awesome", "Glad to see places this wide open still". A middle school science club instructor commented "Outstanding, Great instructors."

## Calendar

### June

- 2 Annual Membership Meeting and Field Trips – Medicine Park (near Lawton)
- 23 Butterfly Count at TGP

### July

- 7 Nickel Seed Harvest Day
- 12 Prairie Road Crew
- 14 Butterfly Count at Nickel Preserve

### August

- 4 Nickel Seed Harvest Day
- 18 Wild Brew fundraiser, Tulsa Expo Center

## **SNAKE LECTURE – by Mary Coley**

I rarely give lectures, and would rather instruct in other ways. But....

The **EVENT**: Recently, a long, black snake was found basking in the sun on the veranda of the headquarters building. Anxious docents rushed for help to identify the snake. Someone identified it as a cottonmouth, (witnesses said due to the white lining of its open mouth).

*A cottonmouth is a heavy-bodied, dark colored, semi-aquatic snake that is dark olive-brown to nearly black. The head is noticeably wider at the neck. A black stripe may be present from the snout through the eye and onto the neck. Most specimens have a white upper lip. The belly is cream colored and heavily mottled with dark brown blotches and smudges. Adults range in length from 30 to 42 inches. When in a defensive posture, they gap their mouths, showing the white lining, and vibrate their tails. Classified as a pit viper, they eat a variety of animals, from fish to snakes and birds, and prefer cool, rocky creeks and small rivers.*

The snake was beheaded. The remainder of the snake was saved for our nature room coordinator, Doris Mayfield.

The **INVESTIGATION**: Uncertain as to the true identity of the snake, Doris took the snake to Rusty Grimpe, reptile curator at the Tulsa Zoo. After inspection, even without the lost head, Grimpe identified the snake as a Black Rat Snake.

*The black rat snake eats a variety of rodents, killing by constriction. The Black Rat Snake is slender and shiny black, with a white upper lip and chin. The belly has a black and white checkerboard pattern anteriorly (toward the head), changing to a mottling of gray, brown and white or yellow posteriorly (toward the tail). They usually range in length from 42 to 72 inches as adults.*

**SNAKE FACT**: Most snakes have a white lining inside their mouths. The cottonmouth only has that name because it tends to hold its mouth open more often, displaying this white interior.

The **MORAL**: We are all learning. This lesson was toughest for the Black Rat Snake. In the future, please don't rush to kill a snake. They are an important part of the natural prairie ecosystem. Give them the space, and the respect, that they deserve.

**REMINDER**: The Tallgrass Prairie Preserve is a **PRESERVE!** Snakes and other creatures are supposed to be living here. **Do NOT kill anything!** If you encounter a species you think may be harmful, back away and leave it alone! In public areas, encourage the snake to move on. They are frightened of people, and are not aggressive unless surprised.

**FACT**: The WESTERN COTTONMOUTH has NOT been found by biologists on the Preserve. It is not listed in our brochure of animal species found here.

**END OF LECTURE**

# JUNE 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> <i>Jim Walker</i> *	<b>2</b> <i>Cynthia Graves</i> <i>Carolyn Mathews</i> * * <i>Annual Meeting</i>
<b>3</b> <i>Carol Redford</i> <i>Mary Cumming</i> *	<b>4</b> <i>George McCourt</i> <i>Charlotte Evans</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Peggy Selman</i> <i>Hugh Selman</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Dave Dolcater</i> *	<b>7</b> <i>Elinor Hill</i> <i>Joyce Clark</i> <i>Roger Clark</i>	<b>8</b> <i>Steve Welter</i> * <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 Delgrosso</i> <i>Jean Wagener</i> <i>Ruth Ratliff</i> <i>TG Jerry Wagener</i> <i>TG George Ratliff</i>	<b>11</b> * *	<b>12</b> <i>Jim Vester</i> <i>Irene Ward</i>	<b>13</b> <i>John Boxall</i> *	<b>14</b> <i>Charlotte Evans</i> <i>Joyce Clark</i> <i>Roger Clark</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Jo Brooks</i> <i>Liz Chandler</i>	<b>16</b> <i>James Deming</i> <i>Irene Ward</i> * <i>TG John Fisher</i>
<b>17</b> * * <i>TG John Boxall</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i>	<b>19</b> <i>Pat Jaynes</i> *	<b>20</b> <i>Kim Hagan</i> <i>Stu Marshall</i>	<b>21</b> <i>James McUSIC</i> <i>Larry Myers</i> <i>Don Baird</i>	<b>22</b> * *	<b>23</b> <i>Betty Turner</i> <i>Mary Bernd</i> * <i>TG Van Vives</i>
<b>24</b> <i>Yuki Roberts</i> <i>Irene Ward</i> <i>TG William Mosier</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>TG Phil Allen</i>	<b>29</b> <i>Ray Kelley</i> <i>June Endres</i>	<b>30</b> <i>Mark Conrath</i> <i>Sally Conrath</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)

# JULY 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Carol Redford Mary Cumming	<b>2</b> George McCourt *	<b>3</b> Clara Swan *	<b>4</b> Clara Swan Dave Dolcater  Independence Day	<b>5</b> George Brenner *	<b>6</b> * *	<b>7</b> Celia Clowe * * TG Sherrin Watkins
<b>8</b> Nick Delgrosso Irene Ward *	<b>9</b> * *	<b>10</b> Pat Jaynes *	<b>11</b> Stu Marshall *	<b>12</b> * TG Phillip Allen	<b>13</b> Irene Ward *	<b>14</b> David Turner Betty Turner * TG Don Bruner
<b>15</b> James Deming * *	<b>16</b> Loretta Vives Van Vives	<b>17</b> Jim Vester Peggy Selman Hugh Selman	<b>18</b> Stu Marshall *	<b>19</b> Peggy Selman Hugh Selman	<b>20</b> * *	<b>21</b> * * * TG John Fisher
<b>22</b> Lynn Dickason Brent Johnson *	<b>23</b> * *	<b>24</b> Candy Thomas *	<b>25</b> Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer	<b>26</b> Bill Rinehart Liz Chandler Jo Brooks TG Phil Winslow (pm)	<b>27</b> June Endres Ray Kelley * TG*	<b>28</b> * * * TG Van Vives
<b>29</b> William Mosier Irene Ward *	<b>30</b> * *	<b>31</b> Barbara Bates *				

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)

# AUGUST 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> * *	<b>2</b> * *	<b>3</b> * *	<b>4</b> * * *
<b>5</b> <i>Yuki Roberts</i> * *	<b>6</b> <i>George McCourt</i> *	<b>7</b> <i>Clara Swan</i> *	<b>8</b> <i>Clara Swan</i> <i>Dave Dolcater</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Phillip Allen</i> *	<b>10</b> * *	<b>11</b> * * <i>TG Don Bruner</i>
<b>12</b> <i>Nick Delgrosso</i> <i>James Deming</i> *	<b>13</b> * *	<b>14</b> * *	<b>15</b> * *	<b>16</b> * *	<b>17</b> * *	<b>18</b> * * <i>TG John Fisher</i>
<b>19</b> <i>Brent Johnson</i> * *	<b>20</b> <i>Van Vives</i> <i>Loreta Vives</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Jim Vester</i> *	<b>22</b> <i>Iris McPherson</i> <i>Marilyn Keefer</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Bill Rinehart</i> *	<b>24</b> * *	<b>25</b> <i>Betty Turner</i> <i>David Turner</i> <i>TG Van Vives</i>
<b>26</b> <i>William Mosier</i> * * *	<b>27</b> * *	<b>28</b> * *	<b>29</b> * *	<b>30</b> * *	<b>31</b> * *	

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)