

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

July 2001

Summer Docent Meeting and Social

You are invited to attend the Summer Docent Meeting and Ice Cream Social, set for Saturday, July 14 at 10 a.m. Join us in the HQ yard (bring your lawn chairs) for a 10 a.m. meeting under the shade trees. Bring a sack lunch and stay for ice cream! Please RSVP by calling Mary Coley or Belinda at 585-1117 July 11. If you would like to bring ice cream, cookies or toppings, let us know when you RSVP.

The meeting will be discussion, a program update. Bring any of your thoughts or concerns to the table. Staff attending will include Mary Coley and Kim Shannon. Effective July 1, Kim will be taking over most management duties of the Docent program, as Mary Coley pulls together a volunteer program for the new Nickel Preserve, including trail guides and plans for the visitors center. (The *awigana* fundraiser set for Sept. 8 will provide funds for use in constructing a visitors center.)

Visitation – May

from George Meyers

May visitation was great, 1811 visitors signed-in, the third highest May in our 8 years of records, and 11.6% over May, 2000. We had 51 visitors from 21 other countries, with France (10), England (7), Holland (4), Nigeria (4), Mexico (3) and Ethiopia (3) heading the list. We had 512 visitors from 35 other states with Kansas (61), California (60), Texas (56), Colorado (28), Arkansas (27), Florida (23) and Illinois (22) leading. We had 1248 from Oklahoma. Of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 358 of out-of-state visitors and 524 Oklahomans. Year to date, we have had visitors from 43 states and 36 other countries. 51% of the visitors were first-timers, 80% of foreign visitors, 70% of visitors from other states, and 42% of Oklahomans. Many are coming back a second time.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday were the most popular days to visit (55% of visitors), and mid day the most popular time (81% from 9:30 to 3:30).

We had two days with 157 and 147 visitors signed in and eight with over 100 visitors!

Visitor comments included, "God lives out here!" "Thanks for pulling the tick out of my leg." "Can I get married here?" Other comments, "Wild and Wonderful", "We saw a big tom turkey struttin' his stuff!" "A unique national treasure!"

July 12 Next Road Crew Date

Don't forget that the next Road Crew Day is July 12! If you'd like to help with beautification of the Preserve's open access roads, please contact Dick at 918/747-2495 by July 5.

Gift Shop

Sales Summary

10,332.12	May 2001
<u>9,030.75</u>	May 2000
1,301.37	Increase in Sales
23,224.39	2001 Year to Date
<u>17,503.45</u>	2000 Year to Date
5,720.94	Increase in Sales
(Note: Last months' Docent News gift shop summary was incorrect.)	

Nickel Preserve Info Events Set for Volunteer Recruitment

In early September, several public events will be held to showcase the Nickel Preserve north of Tahlequah and to recruit volunteer trail guides. Dates are: Sept. 4 at Tahlequah Public Library (6:30-8 p.m.), Sept. 5 at Muskogee Public Library (7 - 8:30), Sept. 6 at Hardesty Library in Tulsa, (7-8:30 p.m.)

If you would like to help with refreshments or as a greeter at any of these events, please contact Mary Coley at 585-1117.

Calendar

July

- 7 Nickel Seed Harvest Day
- 12 Prairie Road Crew
- 14 Docent Meeting and Ice Cream Social 10 a.m.
Butterfly Count (Nickel)

August

- 4 Nickel Seed Harvest Day
- 18 Wild Brew fundraiser, Tulsa Expo Center (tickets required)

September

- 4 Nickel info (Tahlequah)
- 5 Nickel info (Muskogee)
- 6 Nickel info (Tulsa)
- 8 *awigana* fundraiser (Tulsa - advance tickets)
- 22 Nickel trail guide training

Busy Spring for Trail Guides!

THANK YOU to all the trail guides who assisted with groups this spring! It has been a busy one. Here's a list of those groups (since March 1):

- March 10 – Girl Scout Ecology Day
- April 14 – Pryor “Expanding Horizons” program
- April 18 – Addams Elementary (Tulsa)
- April 21 – family group
- April 26 – Jenks 5th Grade “Education Day”
- April 28 – Ketchum Science Club
- April 30 – Bandana Tour Group
- May 5 – Oklahoma Outdoor Network
- May 5 - Skiatook Girl Scout Group
- May 9 – McKinnley Elementary 4th grade (Tulsa)
- May 15 – Salk Elementary (Tulsa)
- May 31 – Madelene Church (Tulsa)
- June 8 – Woodland Elementary (Fairfax)
- June 11 – OK Mozart/Bixler Tour
- June 13 – O’Brian Summer Camp
- June 29 – Stillwater Church Group

And, another thank you to all of the trail guides who serve regularly monthly shifts. They have been busy guiding small groups on the trail as well. We appreciate you!

State Office Staff Updates

Several changes are taking place at the Oklahoma Field Office in Tulsa. Please note these changes in your docent manual.

Membership Coordinator – Pam Lucas

Development/Special Events Coordinator – Wendy Ogle (new position)

Nickel Preserve Director – Chris Wilson (new position) (Chris has been our Director of Conservation, and is making the move over to Nickel. The position of Director of Conservation is open, and should be filled later this summer.)

Merchandise Questions/Suggestions?

Please direct all of your questions about inventory to staff member Ann Whitehorn, Gift Shop Manager. Ann is at the visitors center most mornings, or you can leave her a note, or send her an email at the Preserve office address, tallgrass@mmind.net. Your suggestions are welcome.

TU Freshmen to Hold Preserve Workday

Incoming freshmen from Tulsa University will hold a workday at the Preserve on August 18. Their project will be painting the bison corral. We're glad for their help.

ANNOUNCING:**The Oklahoma Chapter's first ever – Amateur Photography Contest!!**

Entries may be made in three age categories, and three photo categories. Black and white entries will be judged separately. No cash prizes. First, second, third and honorable mention will be awarded.

Age categories are: Ten and Under, 11-18, and adult. Photo categories are:

- “Naturally” Oklahoma – Places, Animals and Plants;
- Oklahomans In Nature – People at Play; and
- Conservancy Preserves – Photos featuring TNC's state projects.

Rules:

1. All Photos must be taken at Oklahoma locations.
2. Submitted contest photos must be 5x7 or larger, and must include the location and date of the photograph, as well as the photo category and age category of the photographer.
3. All entries must be submitted with a stamped, self-addressed return envelope, or they CANNOT be returned.

Contest Entries are **DUE**: September 1. Winners will be announced in the Winter Issue of the Conservator. Winning photos will be published in the 2002 issues of The Conservator. For more information, contact Mary Coley or Grant Gerondale at 918/585-1117.

Preserve Fire Management Summary

Here's some fire facts from Bob Hamilton's latest Fire Management Report

In FY 2001 (7/1/00 to 6/30/01):

- 19,320 Preserve Acres have been burned (includes wildfires)
- 14,410 Neighbor Acres have been burned
- 33,730 Total Acres have been burned during 46 fire events (includes wildfires)

Of the prescribed burns, 25 were spring burns, 1 was a summer burn and 6 were fall burns.

Thirteen wildfires were suppressed, all human set, burning 794 preserve acres.

TNC assisted with suppressing six wildfires on neighboring property this past year.

From Dec. 1, 1990 to the present, there have been 257 prescribed burns, burning 167,051 preserve acres and 101,590 neighbor acres (to total 268,641 acres). There have been 42 wildfires, 7 lightning set, and 35 human set, burning a total of 5,207 preserve acres. TNC has assisted with suppression of 40 wildfires on neighboring ranches.

Prairie News

- Spending much time spot-spraying sericea lespedeza
- There should be approximately 400 new calves.
- We are making final plans for the Research Project.
- The cowboys are building fence and spot-spraying.
- There are still many wildflowers.

JULY 2001

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

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)

AUGUST 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 * *	4 * * *
5 <i>Carol Redford</i> <i>Mary Cumming</i> *	6 <i>George McCourt</i> <i>Art Walsh</i>	7 <i>Clara Swan</i> *	8 <i>Clara Swan</i> <i>Dave Dolcater</i>	9 <i>Phillip Allen</i> *	10 * *	11 * * <i>TG Don Bruner</i>
12 <i>Nick Delgrosso</i> <i>James Deming</i> *	13 * *	14 * *	15 * *	16 * *	17 * *	18 * * <i>TG John Fisher</i>
19 <i>Brent Johnson</i> * <i>TG John Boxall</i>	20 <i>Van Vives</i> <i>Loreta Vives</i>	21 <i>Jim Vester</i> *	22 <i>Iris McPherson</i> <i>Marilyn Keefer</i>	23 <i>Bill Rinehart</i> *	24 <i>Ray Kelley</i> *	25 <i>Betty Turner</i> <i>David Turner</i> <i>TG Van Vives</i>
26 <i>William Mosier</i> * *	27 <i>Larry Myers</i> <i>Don Baird</i>	28 <i>Dean Johnston</i> <i>Mary Ellen Johnston</i>	29 <i>John Boxall</i> *	30 * *	31 * *	

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SEPTEMBER 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 * * *
2 <i>Mary Cumming</i> <i>Carol Redford</i> *	3 <i>George McCourt</i> *	4 <i>Clara Swan</i> *	5 * *	6 * *	7 * *	8 * * <i>TG Don Bruner</i>
9 <i>Nick Delgrosso</i> * *	10 * *	11 * *	12 * *	13 * *	14 * *	15 * * <i>TG John Fisher</i>
16 <i>Brent Johnson</i> * *	17 <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i>	18 <i>Jim Vester</i> *	19 <i>Mark Mueting</i> *	20 <i>Mark Mueting</i> *	21 * *	22 <i>Jean Wagener</i> * <i>TG Jerry Wagener</i>
23 <i>Jean Wagener</i> * <i>TG Jerry Wagener</i>	24 * *	25 * *	26 <i>Iris McPherson</i> <i>Marilyn Keefer</i>	27 <i>Bill Rinehart</i> <i>Phil Winslow (pm)</i>	28 * *	29 * * *
31 * * *						

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