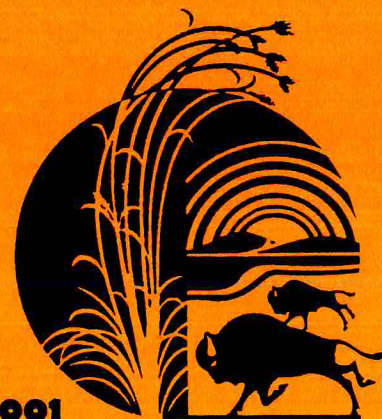


The Docent News

For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

August 2001



Summer Docent Ice Cream Socials

Temperatures are soaring, the cicadas are calling, and the trees are folding their leaves for protection from the blazing sun. All this means only one thing; it's summer in Oklahoma! And what's better in late summer than ice cream to help keep cool?! We have 2 dates and places for ice cream socials so far.

Bartlesville Ice Cream Social

Hosts: David & Betty Turner
When: August 16, 2001, 7pm
Where: 3008 Montrose Drive

Ponca City Ice Cream Social

Hosts: Maxine Manering
When: Sept. 20, 2001, 7pm
Where: 11 Sherman Lane

Please RSVP soon to Belinda at (918) 585-1117. If you would like to bring ice cream, cookies or toppings, let us know when you RSVP. I am still looking for a host/hostess for a September social in the Tulsa area. Interested? Call or email Kim soon!



June 2001 Visitation

from George Meyers

June visitation was not up to par. 1,550 visitors signed-in, the third lowest June in 8 years, and 31% less than June 2000. We had 29 visitors from 13 other countries, with Australia (6), Germany (5), France (4), and Argentina, Canada, Italy and Lichtenstein (2 each) leading the list. We had 532 visitors from 36 other states with Texas (64), California (53), Kansas (43), Missouri (40) and Ohio (32) leading. We had 987 from Oklahoma and 1 each from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. 22 of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 364 of out-of-state visitors and 499 Oklahomans. Year to date, we have had visitors from 48 states, Washington D.C., 2 U.S. possessions and 41 other countries. 57% of the visitors were first-timers, 76% of foreign visitors, 68% of visitors from other states, and 51% of Oklahomans. Many are coming back for a second and third time.

Visitors were quite evenly spread over the week, with Tuesday being the slowest day. As usual, mid day was the most popular time to visit

(80% visit between 9:30 and 3:30pm). We had one Sunday with 103 visitors signed in.

A sampling of visitor comments included: "Made me want to sing; Blackberries are ripe, south end; Long road to get here (visitors from Ohio), Bison are huge!; Love your gift shop; Friendly volunteers; Love the wildflowers; Too many chiggers; Get rid of the gravel; Need more signs; and Why isn't someone here to answer questions (late on a Monday afternoon).

Gift Shop

Sales Summary

9,542.65	June 2001
9,429.50	June 2000
113.15	Increase in Sales
<hr/>	
32,767.04	2001 Year to Date
26,932.95	2000 Year to Date
5,834.09	Increase in Sales

Shift Shape?

If you haven't served any shifts at the Visitors Center yet this season, *it's time to get up and go!* Total shifts will be tallied soon for this year and the 2001 Docent Recognition Event will soon follow.

Nickel Preserve Info Events Set for Volun- teer Recruitment

In early September, several public events will be held to showcase the Nickel Preserve northeast 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.

OK Chapter Calendar

August

- 4 Nickel Seed Harvest Day
- 16 Bartlesville Ice Cream Social
- 18 Wild Brew fundraiser, Tulsa Expo Center (tickets required)
- 25 Vickery Bat Cave field trip

September

- 4 Nickel info (Tahlequah)
- 5 Nickel info (Muskogee)
- 6 Nickel info (Tulsa)
- 8 *awigana* fundraiser (Tulsa - advance tickets)
Prairie Road Crew
- 20 Ponca City Ice Cream Social
- 22 Nickel trail guide training

Prairie Road Crew Update

A band of fearless docents set out for another round of trash removal on July 12. Dick Baker reports that there was less trash than normal and he

speculates that the regular litterbugs have finally realized that our TGP is a world-class place that doesn't deserve to be trashed. *The next prairie road crew day is Sept. 8th.*

Congrats to Ray Kelley, the new leader in the PRC cookie eating contest!

Muchos Gracias!

A big thank you to the trail guides who assisted with a large group of kids from Hoover Summer Care of Bartlesville on Thursday, July 12th. We had relatively little preparation time for this group and your quick response to the call to duty was greatly appreciated!

The group had a great time thanks to James Cupps, Iris McPherson, George McCourt, John Fisher, Larry Hicks, Marilyn Keefer, Barbara Bates and Charlotte Evans.

And, another thank you to all trail guides who regularly serve monthly shifts. We appreciate you all!

State Office Staff Updates

Interviews for the Director of Conservation position have begun. We hope to have a candidate in the very near future.

After 10 years of service to the Oklahoma Chapter, Holly Farris Erwin has decided to pursue new endeavors, chiefly her wonderful 8-month old son, Guthrie Erwin.

Shane Feirer, Conservation Specialist and GIS guru, in the Tulsa office is leaving us to work with the Alaska Chapter of TNC!

We wish these two the best of luck with all their future endeavors. You will be missed!

Vickery Bat Cave Field Trip

On August 25th a field trip to western Oklahoma will be held at a site that features a gypsum cave that is home to 2 million+ Mexican free-tailed bats. We will watch the bat flight that evening and learn about the bats with Dr. Bill Caire of UCO in Edmond. This bat flight is an amazing natural phenomenon; a must see! *For more information or reservations contact Kim or Chris Hise in our OKC office (405) 858-8557.*

Regular Wildflower ID Sessions

I am curious to know if there is sufficient interest for regularly scheduled wildflower ID sessions? If you would be interested in such sessions beginning this fall, please email (kshannon@tnc.org) to let me know what you think. If you don't have access to email you can call me at the Tulsa office (918) 585-1117 or drop a note in the mail.



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.

**Project WET and Project WILD
Workshops**

August 8 and 9, 2001

What? Learn how to use the Project WET and Project WILD curriculum to teach about water, wildlife and the environment.

Where? Rogers County Conservation Reserve in Claremore, OK

Who? Teachers, Scout Leaders, Youth Leaders, College students, and others interested in water and wildlife (docents and trail guides).

When? August 8-Project WET and August 9-Project WILD. Both run each day from 9:00am to 3:00pm with a working lunch.

How much? \$20.00 per person workshop fee, \$10.00 if attending only one day. Fees include books, lunch, and certification for teachers.

To sign up for the workshops please contact either the Tulsa County Conservation District office (918) 280-1595 or the Rogers County Conservation District office at (918) 341-4147

Prairie News

- The cowboys are building fence for an addition to the bison unit and spraying Sericia Lespedeza.
- There should be approximately 400 new calves. The herd is assimilating into large groups.
- A large pledge was received for the Research Facility which made for a significant gain in the fundraising efforts.
- It has been very dry and dusty at the Prairie.

AUGUST 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>Pat Jaynes</i> <i>Karen Harris</i>	2 * *	3 <i>Bob Hawks</i> <i>Jan Hawks</i>	4 * * *
5 <i>Carol Redford</i> <i>Mary Cumming</i> *	6 <i>George McCourt</i> <i>Art Walsh</i>	7 <i>Linda Anderson</i> <i>Don Owen</i>	8 <i>Clara Swan</i> <i>Dave Dolcater</i>	9 <i>Phillip Allen</i> *	10 <i>Jan Hawks</i> <i>Bob Hawks</i>	11 <i>Mary Bernd</i> * <i>TG Don Bruner</i>
12 <i>Nick Delgrosso</i> <i>James Deming</i> *	13 * *	14 <i>Beverly Atteberry</i> <i>Karen Harris</i>	15 <i>George Brenner</i> <i>Stu Marshall</i>	16 <i>Karen Harris</i> *	17 * *	18 * * <i>TG John Fisher</i>
19 <i>Brent Johnson</i> <i>Cheryl Kilpatrick</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 <i>June Endres</i> *	

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)

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 <i>John Boxall</i> *	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 * * *
30 * * <i>TG John Boxall</i>						

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