

The Docent News

For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

October 2001



Docent Work Day

Bob Hamilton has asked for your help with the preparations for the upcoming bison roundup. New sections of the bison corral need to be painted. So, there will be a painting workday to get that task completed.

When: Saturday, October 13, at 1:00pm

Where: Meet at the gift shop, Bob will meet you there.

What: Wear old work clothes, maybe a hat. Bob will provide all the painting tools that you will need.

If October 13th ends up being a rainy and/or windy day than the painting will be postponed to a more appropriate time.

If you are interested in helping at the corral, please RSVP to Kim at (918) 585-1117 or via email at kshannon@tnc.org.



August 2001

Visitation

from George Meyers

638 visitors signed the registration book in August, 6.9% more than in August 2000. We had 40 visitors from 8 other countries with France (10), Russia (9), and Canada (6) heading the list. New countries this month were Russia, South Korea, and Guatemala. We had 270 visitors from 31 other states with California (27), Texas (25), Virginia (22), Missouri (20), and Kansas (1) heading the list. We had 328 visitors from Oklahoma. 37 of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 220 of out-of-state visitors and 233 Oklahomans. Year to date, we have had visitors from 49 states, Washington D.C., 3 U.S. possessions and 44 other countries. 56.8% of the visitors were first-timers, 83.8% of foreign visitors, 73.1% of visitors from other states, 46.8% of Oklahomans, and 100% from Guam.

Visitors were spread over the week, with Thursday, Friday and Saturday being the heaviest visitation days. As usual,

mid day was the most popular time to visit (77.5% visit between 9:30 and 3:30pm).

Visitor comments included: "This place is so peaceful compared to California.", "Amazing place", "Never saw such open land", "Neat gift shop, great tour, friendly docent", "Hot, dry, but best natural feel", "I would like to have same preserve in Russia", from a Barnard "looking great". From a grouch, "Money unwell spent".

Gift Shop

Sales Summary

3,740.80	August 2001
4,832.05	August 2000
<u>-1,091.25</u>	Decrease in Sales
43,129.72	2001 Year to Date
39,626.83	2000 Year to Date
<u>3,502.89</u>	Increase in Sales

November and December Shifts

As in recent years we hope to keep the gift shop open through November and into December. Please help out where you can by working a vacant November shift. If you are interested in working during the month of December (especially on the weekends),

please contact Barbara Bates at (918) 748-9497 or bbates@webzone.net

OK Chapter Calendar

October

- 8 Fall Wildflower ID session
- 13 Wild Spirits (OKC fundraiser)
- 13 Docent Corral Painting Day
- 20 Pawhuska Community Fdn. Dinner and Silent Auction

November

- 14 Docent Roundup Day
- 15 TNC Art Show

December

- 8 Docent Recognition Dinner

Docent Roundup Day

This year's Docent Roundup Day is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2001.

Like last year we will meet at 1:00pm at the gift shop and groups will be taken up to the corral by van until mid afternoon to see roundup up close and personal! Come early with a sack lunch if you'd like. Please RSVP to Kim or Mary at (918) 585-1117.

TGP Plant Brochure

Just a reminder that there is a detailed plant brochure available for visitors. Don't forget to offer this to folks when they visit the gift shop either before or after they walk the trail or just drive around. You might be nicely surprised by the number of people who are interested in the plant life at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

Wildflower ID Session

The fall session of plant ID will focus on the grasses. **Monday, October 8th** is the date set for this session. We will meet at the gift shop at 9:30am. We will start by talking about the grasses, their characteristics, and some basic terminology. We will also look at any flowers we can find during a walk. *Please bring a magnifying lens of some sort if you can.* Please come if you are interested!

Pawhuska News

You are cordially invited to attend the third annual "Pawhuska on the Prairie" BBQ Dinner and silent auction benefiting the Pawhuska Community Foundation and the development of the Pawhuska Tallgrass Prairie Interpretive Center. The event will be held on **Saturday, October 20th at 7:00pm** at the Pawhuska Community Foundation Building (222 West Main, Pawhuska, OK). Tickets are \$15.00 each; children are welcome at no charge. Attire is casual.

October Trail Guide Activities

The month of September saw many requests for trail guides at the Tallgrass Prairie. I appreciate the response for the many field trip dates. Currently I am not accepting any

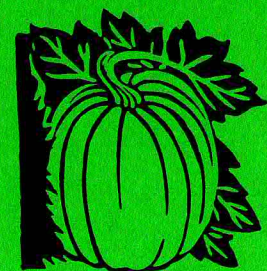
more dates for October. November dates will more than likely be slim since the bison will not be visible to the public until later in the month. Most groups that have contacted me recently for November trips have decided to wait until spring once they know the bison will not be visible for the most part. Some other groups have opted to come to the Prairie on weekends during October and take advantage of the trail guides that regularly work on Saturdays and Sundays.

While most of the trail guide shifts for October have been filled but there is 1 day that could still use a few more people to help out.

I still need 2 more trail guides for Thursday, October 11th.

If you are able to work one or both of these days please call (918-585-1117) or email (kshannon@tnc.org) Kim ASAP. I will then forward more information to you regarding times and activities for each group.

Once again, much thanks to all of you for your help with these October field trip dates!



Mark your calendar for this year's Docent Recognition Dinner



This year's docent recognition event will have a holiday theme since it will be taking place on the evening of **Saturday, December 8, 2001**. The event will be held at the new Hampton Inn between Tulsa and Sand Springs. The evening's activities will include dinner and award presentations. For those interested, the hotel will offer a special rate to docents who wish to stay overnight. Amenities of the hotel include an indoor pool, sauna, and hot tub, complimentary continental breakfast, small fridge in each room, cable TV, and more. You can check out this new facility via a virtual hotel tour at www.showhotel.com\hamptoninn\7412701.

Specific information and RSVP cards will be in your invitations. Invitations will be mailed in early November.

Nickel Guides at Work

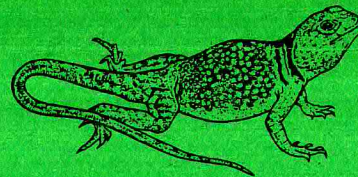
The first docent-training event for the J.T. Nickel Preserve took place on Saturday, September 22, 2001 in Tahlequah. Twenty-eight people attended and began the training process.

Following an October training date, 40 trail guides will be at work at the Nickel Preserve. Guided hikes are by reservation only and at least 48 hours of advance notice is required.

Hikers will see Sawmill Hollow on the eastern side of the preserve and can enjoy the Savanna Trail, or Pine Ridge Trail, totaling 3 miles.

Future plans include an office and visitors center in Sawmill Hollow. Education events in 2002 may include hikes into other areas of the preserve. For more information call Mary Coley at 585-1117.

Prairie News



- The cowboys have been busy spot spraying *Sericea lespedeza*. Since June approximately 6,300 acres have been sprayed with 34,600 gallons of spray mix, using 1,160 man-hours.
- The next bison unit addition (3,900 acres) is being fenced this fall and 2.5 miles of old fence is being removed.
- The bison will be moved into the spring trap and the gates on the nature trail will be locked as of October 29th.
- Roundup will begin November 10th.
- The TGP crew safely conducted 7 summer prescribed burns over 1,670 acres.
- The summer drought continues to deepen. The Mesonet weather station on the preserve has recorded only 2.2 inches of rain since June 1st, only 22% of normal.

OCTOBER 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Hugh Selman Peggy Selman	2 Jim Walker *	3 Clara Swan Dave Dolcater	4 Sally Baker Dick Baker	5 Jenk Jones *	6 Jo Brooks Lynette Thompson Liz Chandler
7 * * *	8 * *	9 Pat Jaynes Don Owen	10 Bob Hawks Jan Hawks	11 Liz Medley Al Medley	12 Joanie Allen Fred Allen	13 Jim Deming Irene Ward TG Don Bruner
14 Nick Delgrosso Dorothy Buck *	15 Loretta Vives Van Vives	16 Jim Vester Irene Ward	17 * *	18 Gary Watson Jane Watson Phil Winslow (pm)	19 Gary Watson Jane Watson	20 * * TG John Fisher
21 Brent Johnson Irene Ward *	22 Peggy Sjoberg Gerald Sjoberg	23 Dean Johnston Mary Ellen Johnston	24 Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson	25 Bill Rinehart *	26 June Endres *	27 George Ratliff Ruth Ratliff TG Van Vives
28 Kim Hagan * *	29 * *	30 * *	31 Dave Dolcater *			

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)

NOVEMBER 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 * *	2 * *	3 Jo Brooks Lynnette Thompson Liz Chandler
4 Peggy Sjoberg Jerry Sjoberg *	5 Jenk Jones *	6 Pat Jaynes *	7 Dave Dolcater *	8 * *	9 * *	10 Jean Wagener * TG Jerry Wagener
11 Jean Wagener Nick Delgrasso TG Jerry Wagener	12 Jo Brooks *	13 Jim Walker *	14 Stu Marshall *	15 * *	16 * *	17 Dorothy Buck * TG John Fisher
18 Brent Johnson * *	19 Loretta Vives Van Vives	20 Hugh Selman Peggy Selman	21 * *	22 * * THANKSGIVING DAY	23 * *	24 George Ratliff Ruth Ratliff *
25 * * *	26 * *	27 * *	28 * *	29 * *	30 * *	

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