

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

March/April 2002

Calendar

April

- 19 Birding and Wildflower Training at TGP - AM/PM
- 20 New Docent Training Day
- 21 Trail Guide Training Day
- 27 Nickel Open House for members and volunteers.

May

- 18 Pontotoc Festival (at Pontotoc Ridge Preserve south of Ada)

June

- 8 Field Trip Day at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve
- 15 TGP Butterfly Training

Greetings to all new and returning Tallgrass Prairie Docents.

The Docent News continues! We'll try the bi-monthly approach with newsletters for volunteers at the Tallgrass and Nickel, respectively.

This is the March/April issue, being distributed in late March. Your patience is appreciated as we work through the challenges of maintaining our growing volunteer programs!

Visitation –

Jan/Feb 2002

from George Meyers

January – 217 visitors signed in! 101% more than in Jan. 2001! Visitors came from Italy, Norway and Switzerland, as well as from 12 other states. 184 Oklahomans visited, with 115 of them being first time visitors. 65% of visitors came on the weekend and between the hours of 11:30 and 3:30. The log sheets recorded no visitors' names on five days.

February – 114 visitors signed in, 5% less than Feb. 2001. 17 visitors from six additional countries visited, England, Australia, Russia, Spain, Canada and Norway. Visitors came from 12 other states as well. 94 Oklahomans visited, 40 of them for the first time. 72% of our visitors came on Saturday and Sunday, most all between 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. No visitors were recorded on 12 log days.

Many visitors recorded the comment, "Sorry you aren't open!"

Reorientation Success

The March 9 Reorientation event for returning Tallgrass Prairie docents was another success! The Pawhuska Senior Citizen's Center was at full capacity.

More than eighty of our returning 107 guides attended the event. Information was provided by Harvey Payne and Bob Hamilton from the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, Steve Forsythe from the Oklahoma TNC Chapter office, Dr. Jim Shaw from OSU, David Keathly from the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce, and Kathryn RedCorn from the Osage Tribal Museum.

A great sandwich lunch was provided by the ladies of the Senior Citizen's Center as a fundraiser.

All those who did not attend should have received a packet of handouts that were distributed at the event, including the updated docent roster, and updates to your Docent Manual. If you did not receive this, contact Mary Coley at 293-2922.

First New Docent Training Weekend Complete

Members of the 2002 Class of Tallgrass Prairie Docents have begun their training, successfully completing the "book" session at the Tulsa office on March 23 and the "history" session in Pawhuska on March 24.

There are twenty members in the class, interested people who responded to newspaper articles, public service announcements, and an announcement in the Chapter's quarterly newsletter, "The Conservator."

Following the full day of training at the preserve on April 20, the group will be scheduled in as Interns. Returning docents can expect to have an intern with them on shifts during May and June. Please be helpful and respectful of our new volunteers!

Spring Training Opportunities

Notice on the calendar that there are opportunities for training on birds, wildflowers and butterflies scheduled for the spring! These training events are for docents only! If you plan to attend, please contact Wendy, 585-1117. April 19, 9 a.m. Birding (led by Jim Thayer)

April 19, 1 p.m. Wildflowers (led by Kim Shannon)

June 15, 9 a.m., Butterflies (led by Jim Thayer)

June 8 – Field Day at the TGP

In place of the annual membership meeting, in 2002 the Oklahoma Chapter is holding three open-house or field trip events at our three major preserves. June 8 is Field Trip Day at Tallgrass.

Extra volunteers will be needed to work at the Visitors Center from 7 a.m. through 6 p.m. that day. Please contact Barbara Bates and help us cover this long day!

You will receive information about this day if you are a TNC member. For volunteers who are not, please contact Pam Lucas for information and to make your reservation, at 585-1117 by May 17. Several field trip options are available, and space on these field trips is limited. Cost for the day is \$5.

ZOO EARTH RIDE needs volunteers

The Nature Conservancy is staffing a rest stop during the Tulsa Zoo's Earth Ride event, set for April 20. Volunteers are needed!

If you can assist (from about 8:30 a.m. until noon) on that day, please contact Mary Coley, 293-2922, or mcoley@tnc.org. Refreshments will be provided.

(Yes, this is the on-site training day for new volunteers!)

The Docent News

TRAIL GUIDE NEEDS

If you are a trail guide with email, you are aware that we have MANY needs coming up. If you don't have email, check your calendars, NOW! As of today, I still have needs for trail guides to assist on the following days.

Wed., April 10 – NEED 1

Wed., April 24 – NEED 2

Friday, May 3 – NEED 2

Wed., May 8 – NEED 4

Tuesday, June 11 – NEED 3

If you can help, please call Mary Coley at 293-2922.

New Procedures

Before you work at the Preserve for the first time this year, please review your new procedures section! You will note some important changes, primarily the location of the KEY. Also, you will not be making a deposit to the Pawhuska bank as you return through town. All monies will be left in a safe on site, per instructions.

Ann Whitehorn is on site most mornings, and will probably be available to talk with you about these changes as you begin your shift.

We are glad to have you as a Docent, and appreciate your support of the Nature Conservancy and the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve through your donation of TIME and ENERGY as well as \$\$\$\$.

Thanks!!!

APRIL 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Art Browning Judy Barto	2 Bob Hawks Jan Hawks	3 Art Walsh John Boxall	4 Sally Conrath Mark Conrath	5 Barbara Strahm Jim Thayer	6 Mary Bernd TG Monica Murray
7 Jo Brooks Lynette Thompson Nancy Irby	8 Dean Johnston Mary Ellen Johnston	9 Gene Harrison Fred Allen Joanie Allen	10 Clara Smith	11 Jerry Wagener Jean Wagener	12 Jerry Wagener Jean Wagener	13 Betty Turner David Turner TG Don Bruner
14 TG John Boxall Bob Hawks Jan Hawks	15 Loretta Vives Van Vives	16 Jim Vester Gene Harrison	17 Carolyn Kuykendall Bill Rinehart	18 Sally Baker Dick Baker	19 Larry Myers Don Baird	20 TG John Fisher Dorothy Buck
21 Nicholas Delgrasso Jim Deming	22 Peggy Selman Hugh Selman	23 Fred Allen Joanie Allen	24 Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer	25 Irene Ward Elinor Hill	26 June Endres Irene Ward Nancy Irby	27 TG Van Vives Barbara Bates
28 Kim Hagan TG Phil Hagan	29 Jenk Jones Pat Jaynes	30 Alfred Smith Cheryl Smith				

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)

MAY 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>Dave Dolcater</i>	2	3 <i>Barbara Strahm Roger Clark Joyce Clark</i>	4 <i>TG Van Vives Gerry Sjoberg Peggy Sjoberg</i>
5 <i>Jo Brooks Lynette Thompson</i>	6 <i>Art Browning Jenk Jones</i>	7 <i>Pat Jaynes</i>	8 <i>Art Walsh Clara Swan Smith</i>	9 <i>Larry Myers Don Baird</i>	10 <i>Nancy Irby</i>	11 <i>TG Don Bruner Irene Ward Dorothy buck</i>
12 <i>Irene Ward</i>	13 <i>Kim Hagan</i>	14 <i>Fred Allen Joanie Allen</i>	15 <i>Beverly Atteberry</i>	16 <i>Sally Baker Dick Baker Phil Winslow</i>	17 <i>John Boxall Stu Marshall</i>	18 <i>TG John Fisher Jim Deming Mary Bernd</i>
19 <i>Nicholas Delgrasso Yuki Roberts</i>	20 <i>Peggy Selman Hugh Selman Loretta Vives Van Vives</i>	21 <i>Jim Vester Gene Harrison</i>	22 <i>Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson</i>	23 <i>Bill Rinehart Elinor Hill</i>	24 <i>Jerry Wagener Jean Wagener Nancy Irby</i>	25 <i>Jean Wagener TG Jerry Wagener</i>
26 <i>TG John Boxall Mary Cumming Carol Redford</i>	27 <i>Barbara Bates</i>	28 <i>Alfred Smith Cheryl Smith</i>	29 <i>Dave Dolcater Beverly Atteberry</i>	30 <i>Mary Ann Davis Cela James</i>	31 <i>June Endres Roger Clark Joyce Clark</i>	

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JUNE 2002

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
						1 <i>David Turner</i> <i>TG Betty Turner</i>
2	3 <i>Art Browning</i>	4 <i>Jeanna Cooper</i>	5	6	7	8 <i>TG Don Bruner</i>
9 <i>Nicholas DelGrosso</i>	10 <i>Mary Ann Davis</i> <i>Cela James</i>	11	12 <i>Beverly Atteberry</i>	13	14	15 <i>TG John Fisher</i> <i>Mark Conrath</i> <i>Sally Conrath</i>
16 <i>Jim Deming</i>	17 <i>Jenk Jones</i>	18	19	20	21	22 <i>TG Van Vives</i>
23	24 <i>Kim Hagan</i>	25 <i>Mary Ann Davis</i> <i>Cela James</i>	26 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i>	27 <i>Bill Rinehart</i>	28 <i>June Endres</i>	29
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Spring Events at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve
The Nature Conservancy
Pawhuska, OK

- 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.