

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

May/June 2002

Calendar

June

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Tallgrass Prairie Road Crew and Clean up Day |
| 1 | Pontotoc Festival (at Pontotoc Ridge Preserve south of Ada.) |
| 8 | Field Trip Day at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve |
| 15 | TGP Butterfly Training |

The Docent News continues! This is the May/June issue, being distributed in late May.

Crucial Workday Near!

Your help is needed at a crucial workday to be held June 1 in preparation for the June 8 field day.

The Road Crew will be doing cleanup, but other volunteers will work at freshening up the place.

If you can assist with Road Crew, call Ray Kelley, (918) 245-7229 for details.

If you can help with other tasks at the Preserve, please contact Kay at the Pawhuska office for details. (918) 283-4803.

Preserve Update

from Bob Hamilton

- ⇒ Attended TNC Fire Manager's meeting in Albuquerque, NM., to learn about TNC's Fire Initiative.
- ⇒ Toured oil field remediation sites on the preserve with Turner Ranch managers to share information.
- ⇒ Initiated annual spring Greater Prairie Chicken lek count/survey on the preserve.
- ⇒ Completed spring burn season. In March and April, conducted 12 prescribed burns on 7,510 preserve acres and assisted neighbors in burning an additional 10,520 acres (18,030 acres total). Reduced burn plans this spring due to persistent drought, primarily limited to OSU experimental patch-burn pastures and un-grazed areas.
- ⇒ Completed concrete bases and grates for three new bison/cattle guards needed for this fall's bison unit expansion (Mary L. and Stish pastures).
- ⇒ Continued fencing to replace $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of derelict boundary fence between TNC and Carla Sellers' in-holding tract.

Visitation – March/April

from George Meyers

March – 761 visitors signed in. Seventy-one of those were from 16 other countries, including Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Belgium and Canada. 232 visitors came from 37 other states. 458 visitors were from Oklahoma. Happy comments from most visitors, who were thrilled with the bison, the views and the volunteers.

April – 725 visitors signed in. Twenty-two were from other countries, including Germany and Canada, France, Japan and others. There were 241 visitors from 36 other states, with Kansas, Colorado and California at the top of the list. 462 visitors were from Oklahoma. Great comments included, "Would love to see less traffic on Preserve roads."

Video Tapes Available

For the past two years, David Turner, docent, has made video recordings of the lectures given at the Docent Reorientation sessions. The tapes from the 2001 training session are now available, and can be watched at the Preserve. The tv/vcr is stored in the metal cabinet in the docent office, and the tapes are shelved beside it. Feel free to plug the tv in (there is an outlet in the visitors center, by the table at the front window) and learn something!

Please leave the tapes at the visitors center so that others can enjoy them! Tapes from Reorientation 2002 will be available soon.

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 8 a.m. through 6 p.m. that day. Please contact Barbara Bates and help us cover this long day!

Training Opportunity

Notice on the calendar that there is an opportunity for training on butterflies scheduled! These training events are for docents only! If you plan to attend, please contact Wendy, 585-1117.

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

New Director Search Under Way

Mary Collins, state director, left the Oklahoma Chapter May 10 to return to the Zoo as the director of Zoo Friends, the Zoo's fundraising arm.

The search for a new director has been under way since late April, and includes both internal (TNC) and external arenas. The job has appeared in the Tulsa World and other regional papers.

Staff has been told to expect the position to be filled within 2-5 months. During that interim, Nancy Delamar, state director for the Arkansas chapter, is serving as our state director in a consulting capacity. Nancy plans to be in the office four to five days a month, or more often if needed.

If you'd like more information, contact Nancy, or Eileen Jobin at our Tulsa office, 585-1117.

State Chapter Reorganization News

Reorganization began at the national level for The Nature Conservancy in Spring 2001, shortly after Steve McCormick became President/CEO. Slowly, changes have trickled down to the state chapter offices (now called operating units).

As part of this reorganization, the Education/Outreach department has been moved into the Conservation Programs division, effective July 1. Our education and outreach efforts will primarily target opportunities to abate threats to Oklahoma's biodiversity. The structure of our Volunteer programs will also change.

These changes are being made as part of the national effort to focus all of our work efforts and support dollars on achieving success in protecting biodiversity (the Mission of the Nature Conservancy.)

You may have additional questions about the reorganization, and what it means to the chapter and the organization as a whole. Read on for information about the changes in the volunteer programs. For more information about any of the changes, please contact a staff person!

Will You Be A "Friend of the Preserve"?

The future of the Volunteer Program at TGP may lie in a new, volunteer-run group called "Friends of the Tallgrass Prairie". Details of this group are being outlined based on similar groups that operate visitors centers for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Refuges like Oklahoma's own Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

"Friend" memberships are available at varying levels, with all contributed dollars used to fund the operations of a Visitors Center. All volunteers are members of the

"Friends" organization, but all "Friends" don't necessarily volunteer their time in outreach.

Volunteers run the 501 (c) 3 organization and also the Visitors Center, with some staff input. An advisory board oversees the program, and includes key volunteers and TNC representatives.

At the Tallgrass Prairie, the following volunteer positions may be available:

- Program Coordinator
- Membership Coord.
- Newsletter Coord.
- Inventory Coordinator
- Bookkeeper
- Volunteer Scheduler
- Trail Guide Scheduler

As we consider this new program, meetings will be held over the summer requesting input from you, our dedicated volunteers. Positions will be defined and filled in the fall and early winter, and take over management of the program in January 2003.

A similar "Friends" program will be phased into the existing Nickel Trail Guide program. The volunteer program at the new Keystone preserve will begin as a "Friends" program.

As you process these changes and evaluate your time and level of involvement, please feel free to call Mary Coley with questions or input. It's all "on the drawing board" at this point, and suggestions are welcome.

Also, please contact Mary if you are interested in playing a leadership role.

Thank You to TRAIL GUIDES

It has been a busy two months! Thank you to all of the trail guides that have assisted in serving these school groups and others! A complete listing follows!

Completed Trail Guide Opportunities

Here's a listing of the groups that have been served:

- 4/10 Coffeyville (45 students)
- 4/17 Mannford (15 students)
- 4/24 Grace Fellowship (23)
- 4/25 Tour group (busload)
- 5/3 Ponca City (20+)
- 5/8 Jenks (48 students)
- 5/13 Salk Elem. (72 students)
- 5/16 Home Schoolers (20)
- 5/18 Tour group (30)
- 5/21 Garden Club (15)
- 5/21 Tour group (20)

In addition, several of our guides served as mentors during Trail Guide training on April 21. Thanks so much to: Van Vives, John Fisher, Phil and Kim Hagan, Bob Hawks and Dennis Bires.

As you can see, our trail guide program has reached a lot of people in the past two months! Thanks for helping us!

Additional requests for trail guides in the coming weeks include the following, listed with the guides who have offered to assist:

June 9 – Zoo group (new) – need 1 or 2 guides)

June 11 – Christ UMC Summer Camp (Bires, McPherson, Jaynes, Clark and Harris)

June 11 – TU request (new) – need 2 guides.

If you can help, please contact Mary Coley as soon as possible.

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!!!

JULY 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 <i>Beverly Atteberry</i>	4	5 <i>Barbara Strahm</i> <i>Kim Hagan</i>	6 <i>Mary Cumming</i> <i>Carol Redford</i>
7	8	9 <i>Gene Harrison</i>	10 <i>Clara Swan Smith</i>	11 <i>Karen Harris</i>	12 <i>Jeanna Cooper</i>	13 <i>TG Don Bruner</i> <i>Irene Ward</i>
14 <i>Nicholas DelGrosso</i>	15 <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i> <i>Pat Jaynes</i>	16 <i>Jim Vester</i> <i>Hugh Selman</i> <i>Peggy Selman</i>	17 <i>Beverly Atteberry</i>	18 <i>Karen Harris</i>	19	20 <i>TG John Fisher</i>
21	22	23 <i>Hugh Selman</i> <i>Peggy Selman</i>	24 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i>	25 <i>Bill Rinehart</i> <i>Karen Harris</i>	26 <i>June Endres</i>	27 <i>TG Van Vives</i>
28	29	30 <i>Jeanne Cooper</i>	31 <i>Beverly Atteberry</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)

JUNE 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 David Turner TG Betty Turner
2 John Beasley	3 Art Browning	4 Jeanna Cooper	5 Jay Ross	6 Liz White	7 Jan Hawks Bob Hawks Dorothy Buck	8 TG Don Bruner David Hairston Jim Deming Van Vives Phyllis Connally
9 Nicholas DelGrosso TG John Boxall TG Monica Murray	10 Mary Ann Davis Cela James	11 Gene Harrison	12 Beverly Atteberry Stu Marshall	13 Jim Walker George Brenner Karen Harris	14 Joyce Clark Roger Clark	15 TG John Fisher Mark Conrath Sally Conrath Rick Burton Carole Mobley
16 Jim Deming David Hairston	17 Jenk Jones Dale Sevcik	18 Gene Harrison Dean Johnston Mary Ellen Johnston Karen Harris	19 TG John Boxall Bonita Warren	20 Doris Mayfield Larry Myer Don Baird	21 Charles Pyle Pamella Rowlan	22 TG Van Vives Kara Morgan
23 Kirsten Harbeson Sharon Harbeson	24 Kim Hagan Pat Jaynes	25 Mary Ann Davis Cela James	26 Dave Dolcater Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson	27 Bill Rinehart	28 June Endres	29 Hugh Selman Peggy Selman
30 John Beasley						

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AUGUST 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>Karen Harris</i>	2 <i>Barbara Stahm</i>	3 <i>Betty Turner</i> <i>David Turner</i>
4 <i>Nicholas DelGrosso</i>	5 <i>Jeanna Cooper</i>	6	7	8 <i>Karen Harris</i>	9	10 <i>TG Don Bruner</i>
11	12	13 <i>Gene Harrison</i>	14 <i>Clara Swan Smith</i> <i>Beverly Atteberry</i>	15	16	17 <i>TG John Fisher</i>
18	19 <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i>	20 <i>Jim Vester</i>	21 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i> <i>Beverly Atteberry</i>	22 <i>Bill Rinehart</i>	23	24 <i>Irene Ward</i> <i>TG Van Vives</i> <i>Gerry Sjoberg</i> <i>Peggy Sjoberg</i>
25	26	27	28 <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i>	29	30 <i>June Endres</i>	31 <i>Mary Cumming</i> <i>Carol Redford</i>

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