

# The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

July/August 2002

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

## Visitation – May/June

from George Meyers

1745 visitors signed in during May. 65 visitors came from 18 other countries, including Germany, Norway, England, South Africa and Sweden. There were 411 visitors from 43 other states, with Texas, Illinois, California and Colorado at the top of the list. There were 1,269 visitors from Oklahoma.

A total of 1383 sign-in visitors came to the Prairie Preserve in June, 10.8% less than June 2001. 42 came from 14 other countries, including Canada, Singapore, Mexico, Kazakstan, Austria and England. 507 visitors came from other states, with highest representation from Texas, Kansas, California, Pennsylvania, New York and Missouri. 834 were from Oklahoma.

Comments from the two months included, "Praise the TNC", "Mind Boggling", "Magic", "Great birding", "Keep up the Amazing Work", "Hurray for places such as this", "Nature's gift", "Prairie heaven", "Fabulous, keep it wild!", "Where's Sweet Pea?", "A great part of history", "One of the greatest preserves in the nation", and many "Beautiful" and "Great!"

## Preserve Update

from Bob Hamilton

- ⇒ Have initiated the annual *sericea lespedeza* spot spraying program. A typical crew of four men with ATV sprayers will work until mid-October.
- ⇒ Have completed base fencing preparations on the west side of the Mary L pastures, prior to the bison unit expansion this fall.
- ⇒ Conducted the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Tallgrass Prairie Preserve butterfly count with volunteers (identified 27 different species, and 544 individuals)
- ⇒ Completed ¾ miles of new bison-grade boundary fence between TNC and Seller's in-holding tract. (May)
- ⇒ Completed the annual spring Greater Prairie Chicken lek count/survey on the preserve. Results: 84 males on 15 leks, which is a 7% increase in males compared with last year. (May)
- ⇒ Conducted a 55-acre prescribed burn in the OSU crosstimbers fire research area near the HQ. (May)
- ⇒ Installed new information signage at all four scenic turnouts. Replaced several dozen U-channel posts for "Private Drive – Do Not Enter" signs

with concreted 4 ½" drill stem to thwart vandals and bison rubbing damage. (May)

- ⇒ The drought that began in spring 2001 is over. After receiving only 1.6" of rain from January through March, have received 10.1" of rain in April and May. (May)

## 2002 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 and 2002 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 new!

Please leave the tapes at the visitors center so that others can enjoy them!

## June 8 – Field Day at the TGP

About 200 members attended the TNC Field Trip Day held at the Preserve on June 8. Thank you to all the docents who helped at the Visitors Center and on the trails.

## Completed Trail Guide Opportunities

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

June 9 – Zoo group	4
June 11 – Christ UMC Summer Camp	16
June 11 – TU	24
June 19 – Ponca City Garden Club group	10
June 20- Calif. Educator	1

Thank you, Trail Guides!

No group requests for trail guides have been received for the months of July or August.

## Calendars Attached – Scheduling Notes

Please check the enclosed calendar for August and help us fill in the empty days.

Jerry Wagener has been on vacation, and so the web site is not always current. Barbara Bates is your scheduling contact. Even messages sent via the website go to both Barbara and Jerry.

Barbara and I appreciated everyone's prompt response to the crisis that developed as July approached and we had MANY open days! Without the monthly reminder of the Docent News, I'm sure it is hard to keep up. I will go ahead and send Calendar pages on the in-between months, to help you stay current. Meanwhile, check August!

A big thanks to Barbara for continuing as our scheduler. It is a big job. She will be teaching again at Jenks this fall, but can be reached by email at [bbates@webzone.net](mailto:bbates@webzone.net), or leave a message on her home phone at 918/748-9497.

## The Future Volunteer Program at TGP

I have been researching various options for the volunteer program, and our Conservation Program director, Steve Forsythe, along with Harvey and Bob, have been discussing how best to structure this program under the new guidelines from the national organization.

We will be finalizing our plan soon. Meanwhile, I have had very little input from docents. Have you adopted a "wait and see" attitude?

Here's what I believe to be true at this point: There will be a volunteer program. That program will be operated by volunteers, with minimal oversight by preserve staff and training assistance from the state chapter. The purpose of the volunteers will be to interact with visitors. There may or may not be a merchandise/sales component. There may or may not be a school group trail guide component.

**Please respond to the survey** which is enclosed, as your responses will help us gauge how changes to the program may affect volunteer participation.

If you have thoughts or suggestions after reading this information, or answering the questionnaire, please call me as soon as possible.

Mary Coley, 293-2922, or 585-1117, ext. 22.

*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!!!**

## The Docent News

### New State Director Hired

Tim Grogan, Tulsa, has been hired as the new State Director of the Oklahoma Chapter.

Tim has an extensive background in business, and has been involved in the chapter since he returned to Tulsa two years ago. He trained as a Nickel Trail Guide in Fall 2001, and has been active at the Nickel Preserve.

Welcome, Tim!

Please  
Respond  
To  
The  
Survey!!  
The  
Future  
Of The  
Volunteer  
Program  
Depends  
On  
You!!



# AUGUST 2002

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

RETURN THIS TO: Barbara Bates  
4142 E. 48<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tulsa OK 74135

Phone: 918 - 748-9497  
(Leave your name and phone number on the answering machine)  
E-Mail: [bbates@webzone.net](mailto: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 2002

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <i>David Turner</i> <i>TG Betty Turner</i>
<b>8</b> <i>Jean Wagener</i> <i>TG Jerry Wagener</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Jean Wagener</i> <i>Jerry Wagener</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>Beverly Atteberry</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>TG Don Bruner</i> <i>Kim Hagan</i> <i>TG Phil Hagan</i>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Gene Harrison</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Beverly Atteberry</i>	<b>19</b> <i>George Brenner</i>	<b>20</b> <i>George Brenner</i>	<b>21</b> <i>TG John Fisher</i>
<b>22</b> <i>Nicholas DelGrosso</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Bill Rinehart</i>	<b>27</b> <i>June Endres</i>	<b>28</b> <i>TG Van Vives</i>
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