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DOCENT AWARD BANQUET

—Dee Brewster

You are cordially invited to the 2005 Tallgrass Prairie Docent Recognition Dinner.

In recognition of your many hours forwarding the mission of the Nature Conservancy and assisting with the ongoing work at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, you are cordially invited to the annual docent recognition dinner.

- Location: Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Research Building
- Date: Friday, December 2, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

The nights festivities will include appearances by Tallgrass Prairie and Nature Conservancy staff, a buffet dinner and recognition of docents.

- Please e-mail Deana Brewster at XSWBYSGIRL@aol.com or call 918-865-2799 to let her know if you will be attending the dinner and if you will be bringing a guest

or spouse with you.

- Please respond by November 25th, 2005

OFT-ASKED QUESTION

—Van Vives

Docents are often faced with that familiar question, “Where’s the tall grass?” What is your usual answer? I’ll give you mine and it usually works!



Monarch Butterfly by Van Vives

I tell them that the average adult bison eats thirty pounds or more of grass a day. Considering that we have about 2,400 bison, some of which are not adults, I will use the figure of 2000. If the information we have is correct our herd eats over 60,000 pounds of grass a day. That’s 30 tons of grass a day. If you calculate the yearly amount, it is 10,950 tons. So if you want to see tall grass take

the nature trails or travel up the north road where there are no hungry bison.

Visitors usually stand there in wonder and thank me for the explanation.

DOCENT OF THE PRAIRIE

—Andrew Donovan-Shead

As the year draws to a close, I would like to recognize Van Vives who has been a mainstay of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve docent program. He has been diligent in keeping the Visitors' Center open by gently reminding us of the need to fill the vacant days each month. And, each month Van has provided us with an article about, and accompanying photographs of, what bloomed through spring, summer, and fall; without Van, the content of the newsletter would have been thin.

On December 12th the Visitors' Center closes for the season. We need volunteers to staff the Visitors' Center on November 23rd and 30th. In December these days are open and in need of volunteer staff: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 8th, 9th, & 10th.



Autumn on the Prairie by Van Vives

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

—Andrew Donovan-Shead

Deadline for submission of articles for inclusion in the newsletter is the 10th of each month. Publication date is on the 15th. All docents, Nature Conservancy staff, and university scientists are welcome submit articles and pictures about the various preserves in Oklahoma, but of course the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in particular.

BACK ISSUES

—Andrew Donovan-Shead

You can find back issues of the Docent Newsletter in the green zip-binders in the Visitors' Center; they are stored in the Perspex rack next to the filing cabinet under the name-tag board. All issues that were published in color are printed in color. The pictures look good.



Autumn on the Prairie by Van Vives

Tallgrass Prairie Docent Coordinators

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