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THE DOCENT NEWS

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DOCENT WINTER MEETING

—Dennis Bires

All docents are encouraged to attend the 2006 Docent Winter Meeting. The meeting will be on *Saturday, February 18, at 2:00 p.m.*, at The University of Tulsa College of Law, Room 203, on the TU campus (directions below). The meeting should last more than an hour, but less than two hours.

As in prior years, we'll discuss how things are going, and what we can do to improve the service we provide at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. These meetings have been most helpful to all of us in the past.

Please bring ideas, complaints, questions, and answers if possible. To make sure an item will appear on the agenda, please submit it to Dennis Bires, at dennisbires@lycos.com, or by phone at 341-3908 (home), or 631-2443 (office). We'll leave plenty of time to discuss topics not submitted in advance.

Directions to the Winter Meeting: The College of Law is in John Rogers Hall, on the north edge of The University of Tulsa Campus, at the corner of East 4th Place and Florence Avenue. We'll be in Room 203 on the main floor, a larger room than we had last year. There should be ample parking in the lot across East 4th Place. (The basketball game is away that day.)

See you there. Thanks for your active involvement.

ROAD-CREW CLEANUP: SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH

—Dennis Bires

Docents and friends of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve are all welcome to participate on the Prairie Road Crew on *Saturday, March 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.* Please assemble at the Visitors' Center for assignments. We'll break for lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m. at Preserve Headquarters. No need to sign up in advance.

This is an opportunity to make a visible improvement on the Preserve that we can all be proud of. The Nature Conservancy has done a wonderful job of restoring a tallgrass prairie ecosystem to very nearly its pre-settlement condition. We can advance that work by removing the 21st Century bottles, cans, and snack wrappers from the roadside. So mark your calendar to engage in prairie restoration on March 4.

DOCENT REORIENTATION: SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH

—Dennis Bires

Tallgrass Prairie Docent Reorientation will be later than usual this year: *Saturday, March 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*, in the Ecological Research Station at the Preserve.

That is the day that fits the schedule of our guest speaker, Dr. Michael Palmer, professor of botany at Oklahoma State University. Readers of the Docent Newsletter will recognize his name from the several articles about his research and that of his graduate students at the Preserve.

In addition to documenting over 700 plant species on the Preserve, Mike has initiated numerous specialized investigations, including a study of plant regeneration after tornado damage and a tree ring study of pre-settlement wildfire history. Mike has enough fascinating knowledge of Tallgrass Prairie flora keep us interested for a week, but we'll have to settle for part of an afternoon.

We will have all the usual Reorientation updates and fresh information about the coming season at the Visitors Center. Beginning last year when we moved Reorientation to the Ecological Research Station, we discontinued providing lunch, so please bring something to eat during our break from noon until 1:00 p.m. We'll arrange for balmy weather so we can make use of the picnic tables outside the Research Station.

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