
TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

WELCOME TO MARY, our Docent Coordinator. Mary McIntyre joined The Nature Conservancy last summer. She has a BS degree in Zoology/Communications as a double major from OSU. In December, she earned her Masters in Environmental Science from OSU. Mary is a native of Enid and moved here from Ponca City, where she lived for the past sixteen years. She lives in Broken Arrow with her fifteen year-old daughter, Heather and her twelve-year-old son, Brian. Mary is enthusiastic about The Nature Conservancy and the Tallgrass Prairie and brings energy and good ideas to our Docent program. -- Editor, Nyla B. Woody

"**THIS AND THAT**" from Mary McIntyre, Education and Outreach Coordinator, TNC

Greetings from the TNC Staff, and a Happy Valentine's Day!

Docent Reorientation will be held March 9 in Pawhuska. Make plans now to attend. Morning session will be at the Senior Citizens Center starting at 9:30 a.m. We will discuss program updates and new information to be inserted into your Docent Manual binder. Please bring it along. After lunch, there will be three or four options for tours to increase your knowledge of Pawhuska and Osage History. Lunch will be provided by The Conservancy. Donations to help with costs will be accepted. All returning docents should plan to attend this Reorientation. Final details in the March newsletter.

New Docents - How do we find additional docents? The answer is - through YOU! Currently we have about 40 names of interested people. We anticipate 65 existing docents will continue their commitment into 1996. We need

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to train at least 40 new docents in order to staff the Gift Shop and meet tours every day during the summer months!

New docent training will be held four Saturdays in April with all new docents required to attend two. Training format will be the same as that used in previous years.

You can help us recruit by talking to your friends about the program and passing the names of interested persons along to me. Your referrals are the most successful way to recruit. We will also hold several informational "brown bag, come-and-go lunches" from 11:30 to 1. Dates are as follows:

February 13 or 20.....Glenpool MidHigh
February 15.....Pawhuska Chamber facility
February 22.....Bartlesville Library
February 27.....Ponca City Chamber facility
February 29.....TulsaHardestyLibrary
March 1.....TulsaCentralLibrary

We will use videos and informational displays at these events, and need docents on hand to answer questions. Please pick an event and call me with your offer to help!

Speakers Bureau - We have over twenty volunteers who have offered to show slide presentations about the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and statewide TNC programs! We have four copies of each presentation, plus videos which can be used. Let clubs and organizations in your area know about the availability of these programs. Make all requests to me at the Tulsa office, and they will be forwarded to Tom Clark, SB Coordinator.

Docent Council - Our second meeting was held Jan. 13 with twelve members attending. These folks have some great ideas and will be sharing

THIS AND THAT - Continued 
them in our monthly newsletter.

In closing, I hope that you are all enjoying a restful winter. Here's a thought for the month: "The grand essentials for happiness are: something to do, something to love and something to hope for." --- Chalmers.

REALIZING A DREAM: 7 DAYS A WEEK!

In 1994 we started with three docent days each week. Now, if we can recruit forth docents, and we already have 40 prospects, we will be able to extend our docent coverage to seven days a week during this summer of 1996.

That first year we trained and planned for docent days and TGP visitors that would come. And they came. It was an exciting year. Most docents returned for the 1995 season and again, it was a good year. 12,432 visitors registered. Now we look to our 1996 season and plan to expand our docent coverage from three to four and hopefully seven days in summer!

Fifty-one percent of our visitors in 1995 came between May and August and 50% were on weekends, according to data developed by George Meyers. The majority came between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. As you can see, this information was invaluable as we began planning our 1996 docent season.

VISITOR COUNT, 1995 - George Meyers reports 12,432 visitors in 1995. There were 243 foreign visitors from 28 nations and 3745 Americans from the other 49 states. The rest were from Oklahoma. This is a 16% increase over 1994.

1996 WORKDAYS - The second Saturday of each month will again be our designated workday in 1996. Please note the one exception - March workday will be the third Saturday, March 16, due to Docent Reorientation on March 9.

Anyone interested in serving as a workday crew leader, contact Faye Andrews, (918) 749-6953 or Jan Holsomback (918) 865-

4808. (Still lots of painting to do!)

GIFT SHOP - The Gift Shop netted \$8500 in 1995! Sue Wheeler writes that while the Gift Shop lies under its winter wraps, she has flown off to Australia to care for her new grandson, born on New Year's Day in Perth.

At the fall training session at the Barnard House, someone mentioned a coaster that would be appropriate for sale. Please send that information to her at 5512 S. Newport, Tulsa 74105. Any merchandise suggestions are welcome. Editor's note: Congratulations, Sue on your new baby boy!

ADDITIONAL TRAINING - Enclosed are two flyers regarding spring training in botany. Both are great opportunities! Take advantage of them if you can!

PRAIRIE HAPPENINGS - News from Harvey Payne, Director, Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

There have been no burns since December 15. The bison continue to range in small groups and winter residents on the prairie are still present. Warm winter days have made for some beautiful times on the Preserve. Come visit during the winter months!

SCHEDULING - Linda Meistrell will be publishing a calendar after the March 9 Reorientation day. She notes that the gift shop and docent office are now air conditioned! It is important to notify her if you should have to miss your scheduled docent day and cannot find a replacement. Linda's number is 918-743-7067.

1996 DOCENT ACTIVITIES - Iris, Marilyn and Carolyn hope to plan at least two social activities this year, since it is often hard to meet and get to know docents other than those on our team. Suggestions, ideas, comments are welcome -- Contact Iris McPherson at Rt. 3, Box 830, Perkins, OK 74059. (405) 744-7860, office or (405) 547-2949, home. E-mail address is UCCXILM@OKWAY,OKSTATE.EDU