

The Nature Conservancy

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

Docent Newsletter ----



February 1997

This n' That - Mary McIntyre, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Winter greetings! Seventy-three docents have indicated interest in continuing with the docent program in 1997! I'm looking forward to working with each of you, and happy that you are supporting The Nature Conservancy with your time and energy for another year. Hopefully it will be a year with great benefits to both you and to the Prairie Program!

Exciting things in store - the new trail guide program, greater emphasis on "education" at the gift shop, groundwork for the education center, and more things that you will have to come to Docent Reorientation to hear all about! I hope that you have March 15 on your calendar already. Reorientation will be at the Pawhuska Senior Citizens Center. We'll start at 9:30 a.m. and go until 3:30 or 4 p.m. Morning sessions will include Geoffrey Standingbear of the Osage Tribe, and an update by Bob Hamilton, Director of Science and Stewardship for the Preserve as well as comments from me and your fellow Docent Council Members. Following a box lunch and a chance to review the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Slide Show (unbelievably full of great facts about the Prairie), you'll choose two of five different Pawhuska tour options. These tours will allow you to learn more about Pawhuska's hidden treasures and give you tidbits to share with Preserve visitors. The official agenda and your RSVP card will be arriving in the mail about mid-February - so watch for them and return by the deadline. I hope you'll plan to spend the day with us!

Scheduling

Please note that the volunteer schedules for March and April are included! Over thirty docents elected to sign up for a regular day or week of the month (this was a question on the 1997 season evaluation form). These people will find that they are already on the schedule on their desired day. All other docents should follow the procedure we initiated last year. Let's cover Sun., Mon., Wed., Fri., and Sun first. After noting your first and second work shift choices on both the March and April calendars, return the calendar page to Shirley Miller (note address at top of calendar page). The revised March work roster will be sent with the March newsletter in late Feb. Please notify Shirley at 836-5349 if your desired regular shift time has changed! Unless we hear from you, you will be plugged in each month at that time!

There will also be an opportunity to schedule yourself through the Docent season at the Reorientation meeting. Bring your calendar and save us postage and phone expenses!

Visitation - George Meyers

The annual totals are in. Each of you will receive a complete copy at Docent Reorientation. Meanwhile, here are a few of the more important totals:

Total Visitation in 1996: 12,265

Number of Oklahoma Visitors: 8331

Number of visitors from other states (all 50 were represented): 3715

Number of Visitors from Foreign Countries: 217

Number of Foreign Countries: 34

Self-Assessment Report

Thirty-one of you have turned in a Self-Assessment. Hopefully, the rest of you have completed this survey for your own benefit. This exercise is designed to help you focus on your docent experience, what you enjoy or do not enjoy, and what changes can be made (by you and/or TNC) to make it a more enjoyable experience. If you've placed this task on the back burner, take a minute in the coming month and complete it. These forms will also be available at the Preserve in the desk at the Gift Shop, and may be filled out and left whenever you feel a need to consolidate your thoughts. Thanks!

Speakers Bureau Update

Seven persons attended the Speakers Bureau training held Jan. 25. The statewide slide program and accompanying script were reviewed as well as the Tallgrass Prairie slide program. A flyer detailing our Speakers' Bureau is being created, and will be sent to libraries and civic clubs in northeastern Oklahoma during the next two months. Speaking engagements will be accepted on a first come-first served basis, if the demand exceeds the speaker supply!

Trail Guide Program Report

The foundation work for this new docent program option is coming along well. A full report on this new branch will be provided at Reorientation. Training is planned for Sunday, April 20, so that newly trained docents may participate as well. Briefly, trail guides will be available on Wednesdays for scheduled school groups only. 4th and 5th grade groups will be accepted for the tours. Guides will handle no more than 10 people on a tour. Trail guides will also be available to give tours to the general public on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the spring. Reservations are preferred for groups larger than four people! These details will be promoted in Pawhuska area newspapers in the spring.

Trail guides will attend a full-day of training on April 20 featuring use of "interpretation" in the prairie setting. Guides will learn questioning strategies and be provided with a framework for helping each visitor have a positive prairie experience. Training will also include walking the trails, looking at tracks, plant identification, etc., although our concentration will NOT be on learning facts. We anticipate accepting our first school group on April 30 and offering public trail guides on Saturday, May 3. Two docents will continue to staff the gift shop on all open days - that's our first priority. The trail guide program is offered in addition to regular docent duties.

Forms indicating interest in being a trail guide will be sent in the next Docent Newsletter, and will be available at Reorientation as well. Reservations to attend Trail Guide training will be due April 10.

Recruitment

Each of you is invited to attend the Tulsa Feb. 12 event when Bill Howard, one of our "caving" volunteers, will receive a national Nature Conservancy Volunteer award. We will provide information on volunteering at this event. Hopefully, we can drum up new docents as well. Please plan to attend if you can.

Also, don't forget that events have been scheduled in Bartlesville at the Public Library meeting room on Feb. 20 (arrive at 6:30, event from 7 to 8:30) and in Pawhuska at the Chamber of Commerce facility on Feb. 25 (arrive at 6:30, event from 7 to 8:30). Please plan to attend any sessions you can and help us talk to potential docents. Encourage your friends and neighbors to attend! We are hoping to have a Docent Class of 30 people in 1997! Everyone's help is needed!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Feb. 12 Tulsa Recruitment Event
- Feb. 15 Docent Council Meeting (final)
- Feb. 20 Bartlesville Recruitment Event, 7-8:30 p.m., Public library meeting room
- Feb. 25 Pawhuska recruitment Event, 7-8:30 p.m., Chamber of Commerce meeting room
- March 15 Docent REORIENTATION, Pawhuska Senior Citizen's Center, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- April 5, 19 New Docent Training in Pawhuska and at Preserve, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- April 20 Trail Guide Training at Preserve

"TRIP TO THE TALLGRASS" PUZZLE

This is an activity to help keep the drive to the Prairie interesting. If you are like I, you sometimes find yourself "on automatic" when driving a road you often travel. This puzzle will require you to pay new attention to your surroundings, slow down a bit, and enjoy the scenery.

The puzzle begins on Hwy 75N at I 244, heading North to Hwy 20; 20 West to Hwy 11, on up to Hwy 99 to Pawhuska. "Targets" are on either side of the road, and are somewhat in order. Some seem to be more findable on the return trip, but maybe that's just me. Good luck, drive carefully, and Happy Hunting!!

1. This street is evergreen.
2. A well known Southwestern tribe.
3. Whether Daniel Day's last, or Carroll's first, for both it's the same.
4. This Hwy takes you to the flyway.
5. Name two creeks besides Bird Creek you will cross today.
6. Blue ribbon tanks. _____
7. Which tribe is "the most industrial"?
8. Who is putting up trees?
9. $X + Y + Z = 348$
10. Oh my, no!, don't go too slow. This is the speed that you should go.
11. A good place for Fido's bones.
12. How far to the Will Roger's Museum?
13. Eddie Albert and Eva Gabor would like this place.
14. How many miles to get some grits?
15. How far to Woolaroc?
16. Name three highway adoptees from along the trip.
17. They're nuts about pecans.
18. I'm quite aghast, you drive too fast. This is the speed at which you'll last.
19. The street name for Hwy 11 is ...
20. What kind of patients does Dr. Hargis see?
21. How many times do you cross Bird Creek today, one way?
22. What three symbols are on the historical marker signs?
23. Which counties have you been in on the trip today?
24. Life on this ranch isn't hard.
25. A bridge with a name.
26. You might say life is sweet here.
27. If you add an "i", this would be a model of old Studebaker.
28. The largest building here is a barn.
29. This is a gem of a place.
30. 10-1-80. He's gone but not forgotten.

31. Jct. number _____ will take you to the burg of B.
32. What happened to Bigheart, OK? Who was James Bigheart?
33. If you're taller than _____, stay off the yellow bridge road.
34. What is this big smokestack made of? What letter is on it?
35. American Legion Post # _____ is right of the light.
36. How many feathers?
37. Pick a year on a building.
38. You could make and paddle a canoe here.
39. This is Barnsdall's claim to world fame.
40. What is the name of the motorized howitzer?
41. One could prepare a really big one-egg omelet here.
42. This small town is spelled:

a. Nelagony	d. All of the above.
b. Nelogany	e. a and b only
c. Nelagoney	
43. This sign brings a WWI general to mind.
44. A Judd, a President, a nation's capital.
45. How far to Ponca City?
46. Bobby, Frank, George and ??
47. Who are the Martin Brothers?
48. When was the Battle of Wooster Mound?
49. What symbols are on the Osage Trading Post sign?
50. What all does the Osage Ostrich ranch raise?
51. Who's "Bad" in Pawhuska?
52. What year were the Huskies #1?
53. This restaurant would be a hit with bison.
54. The road to the TGP has three names. What are they?
55. You can buy more than apples here.
56. This is the center in town.
57. Name the park at the water tower.
58. This road isn't very long.
59. This street could be Red, White, or Post.
60. It's fifteen miles to get where?
61. Cows of low morals.
62. Stops, scenic turnouts and school bus stops are all here.
63. Bimbolo??