

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

August 1997

This 'N That

by Mary McIntyre

Education/Outreach Coordinator

August is here, and the hottest days of the year tend to reduce slightly the number of visitors we have at the Gift Shop/Preserve. However, we still need you because they're still coming! Thanks for your continuing commitment.

We have had more trouble this year than ever before with docents forgetting or simply not showing up for a scheduled shift! How can we reduce this problem?

I have mentioned this in every newsletter, and hate to continue to harp about it, but we have to solve this problem. We have many visitors that come expecting us to be open - because we are telling them that we are open daily. When you forget your shift, or don't find a replacement, we are left in a bind. Please take your commitment seriously!

The gift shop moneys support our work at the Tallgrass, and we have been proud of that contribution! Don't let us down!

DATE RESET: The annual Docent Appreciation Dinner will be held **Saturday, Oct. 4** at a site in Pawhuska, location and program are yet to be determined.

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

During the month of June, there were sales totaling \$8343.36! This is slightly under last year's sales for the month of June.

Total sales for the year total \$23,688.61!!! That's terrific! This compares to last year's sales to date figures of \$19,212.65. Good job!

At a recent planning meeting of the State Chapter, it was decided that all proceeds of the gift shop will be funneled back into the preserve in two ways: (1) to buy bison in the fall to continue to expand the genetic diversity of our herd, and (2) support of the Docent program through supplies, and recognition of our volunteers.

Annual Awards:

At this year's banquet, awards will be presented according to years of service, and for those who have volunteered five or more times during the season.

We are indebted to our docents for their many hours of service and dedication to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Project. Finally, thanks to your hard work, we have funds to let you know how much we appreciate you! More about this later!

FLASH - DOCENTS PLEASE BE SURE TO LOCK THE DOOR OF THE GIFT SHOP WHEN YOU LEAVE! The Shop has now been left open overnight - we are lucky that nothing disappeared. Please be certain that all doors are locked when you leave!

Visitation

from George Meyers

During the month of June, 1877 visitors came to the Prairie. These numbers were down about 9.8% from June 1996, but up from the previous two years. Total visitation year-to-date is 6345, about .2% more than cumulative at this time last year, and higher than all previous years.

720 of our visitors came from 43 other states. Visitors from all fifty states have now visited the Preserve this year.

52 visitors came from 12 other countries.

Wednesdays through Sundays continue to be our biggest visitation days.

SOCIALIZE!

Check your mail for your invitation to an area ice cream Social! Please RSVP and plan to come! Get to know other nearby docents, and possible carpool partners!

New Ornament For Sale in Gift Shop -

A new pewter ornament is now for sale in the gift shop. It is part of a series that The Nature Conservancy hopes to develop for all of the Last Great Places. The first two locations picked from the original list of Great Places were the Tallgrass Prairie and the Florida Keyes.

The ornaments were crafted in the USA by Dave Cusenza. They are handmade and the molds are individually poured. The ornaments are then antiqued and hand-finished and finally, numbered. The artist has crafted ornaments for the national parks and his most recent work, the State of Washington Capital ornament, was a gift to the Clinton White House holiday tree from the governor of Washington.

TRAIL GUIDES UPDATE

New trails, and crossovers are in the works! Due to the success of our first school group trail guide attempts this past spring, work will soon begin on some crossovers and also a new addition to the existing discovery trail.

All current trail guides will soon receive letters about changes and needs of the program this fall. Anyone interested in joining in as a trail guide should call Mary, or Marilyn Keefer for an update. Small group training sessions may be arranged for this fall.

We would still like to provide Saturday trail guides for adults if there are volunteers !

SPEAKERS BUREAU Training

Most of you are aware that we have a special group of volunteers who have been trained to give slide presentations and programs on both the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and the statewide efforts of The Nature Conservancy. Since the program originated in January 1996, we have held three trainings. It is time for a fourth training, if enough people are interested.

Please call the Tulsa office and let Mary know that you would like to attend training. Tentatively, the date for this training will be August 26 or 28 at the Tulsa office. If you have already been trained, but need a refresher, you are welcome to attend as well.

A complete script, full of information about the Conservancy and the slides, is available at the training, as well as other information to help you answer questions from the audience. The training will consist of a review of the slides and the script information. You will be asked to fill out a sheet telling us when you are available to serve as a speaker, and what age groups you would prefer to address. Speakers boxes are available in Tulsa, Pawhuska, and Bartlesville, with sets of slides and Conservancy information. When we have a request from your community, you may be called to see if you can serve as the speaker.

We recently advertised the Speakers Bureau through a letter sent out to area clubs, and calls have been coming in.

Volunteer speakers do not have to be docents, so recruit your friends and RSVP for the training!

Call 918/585-1117.

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Scheduling

Please notice that there are many blank spaces on the attached time schedules. Your help is badly needed to keep the shop open during the month of August!! The tour buses are still coming!

Please help Shirley out by calling to fill in an empty day - don't wait until she calls you!

FALL SCHEDULING

Because of the difficulty we are having in filling our work shifts, we will have to drop down to covering fewer days of the week. Our emphasis must continue to be weekends - so please schedule a weekend work shift. By far the majority of visitors come on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. We need your help!



AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Loretta and Van Vives	2 *1. *2.
3 Don and Barbara Sweeney	4 George McCourt Barbara Strahm	5 Phyllis Connally Barbara Bates	6 Dean and Mary Ellen Johnston	7 Lina Anderson Pat Bumpas	8 *1. *2.	9 *1. *2.
10 Sandy Frazier *2.	11 Iris McPherson *2.	12 Lila Brierly Joan Fuller	13 Stu Marshall Dorothy Buck	14 Karen Harris *2.	15 *1. *2.	16 George Meyers Wayne Middleton
17 *1. *2.	18 Al and Liz Medley	19 *1. *2.	20 Dave Dolcater Marilyn Keefer	21 Randy and Nyla Woody	22 Sue Wheeler Doris Mayfield	23 Mary Cumming Carol Redford
24 Linda Irwin *2.	25 Bob and Mary Reeves	26 Judy Kishner *2.	27 Joanne and John Colbert	28 Bill Rinehart *2.	29 *1. *2.	30 Wayne Middleton Betsy Fitzgerald

31 Sherry Beeker
Maxine King

Is your name listed on this calendar? If it is, check your calendar, mark the date down, and show up at the Preserve! To change a date, or schedule a day, call Shirley Miller at 836-5349. You may also select a first and second choice of open days, mark them on the calendar, and return the calendar to Shirley at 4635 E. 13th Pl., Tulsa, OK 74112, Thanks!

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Doris Mayfield	2	3	4 *1. *2.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Lila Brierly and Joan Fuller	15 Dave Dolcater	16 Nyla and Randy Woody	17	18
19	20	21	22 <i>Shirley</i> <i>Marilyn</i>	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 George McCourt Barbara Strahm	2 Phyllis Connally Doris Mayfield	3 Dean and Mary Ellen Johnston	4 Barbara Bates Stu Marshall	5 *1. *2.	6 *1. *2.
7 *1. *2.	8 Loretta and Van Vives	9 Judy Kishner *2.	10 Judy Barto Roberta Wherritt	11 Linda Anderson Pat Bumpas	12 *1. *2.	13 Wayne Middleton *2.
14 Diana Childs Mary Jane Hansel	15 Al and Liz Medley	16 Lila Brierly Joan Fuller	17 Dave Dolcater John and Joanne Colbert	18 Randy and Nyla Woody	19 *1. *2.	20 George Meyers Robyn Stroup
21 Sherry Beeker Maxine King	22 Bob and Mary Reeves	23 Barbara and Don Sweeney	24 Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson	25 Bill Rinehart	26 *1. *2.	27 *1. *2.
28 Linda Irwin Edith Haraughty	29 *1. *2.	30 *1. *2.				

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