

The Docent News



December 1997

For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

Round-up RESULTS!

The numbers are in!! 652 animals officially "attended" the roundup, 168 males and 484 females. 195 calves were born this year, 88 bull calves and 107 heifer calves.

Animals to be sold this year include 26 older cows, 26 bull calves and seven older bulls. Thirty-two heifer calves and one yearling bull were purchased as an addition to the herd, using money from the Gift Shop proceeds and the Adopt-a-Bison program. Twelve of these calves came from Niobrara Valley, a TNC Preserve in Nebraska.

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

The Gift Shop was closed four days in October due to lack of volunteers. Sales for the month totaled \$4246.70, compared to \$4158.07 last year. Total sales for the year now total \$41,875.66!!! Last year's sales-to-date figures were \$33,622.82!

Docent Council Update

It's not too late to join the Docent Council as an at-large member. The Council is a volunteer group which oversees the docent program!

John Fisher (Sand Springs) has joined the Council as Gift Shop Bookkeeper for 1998, and Barbara Bates (Tulsa) has joined as the new Scheduling Coordinator. New at-large members include Don Bruner (Enid) and Sandy Frazier (Bartlesville).

Meeting dates are Dec. 6, Jan. 10, and Feb. 7 from 9:30 until 12 noon.

All docents are welcome to attend the meetings. Comments, questions and concerns are welcome.

For more information, call Mary at 585-1117.

Speakers' Bureau Training Time

Mark Feb. 7 on your calendar if you're interested in being trained as a volunteer speaker! 1-4 p.m. at the Downtown Tulsa office. Join our busy team!

Visitation

from George Meyers

During October, 1304 visitors came to the Preserve, 336 from 37 other states, 41 from 10 foreign countries and 927 from Oklahoma. 62 percent were first time visitors.

We've had 11,036 registered visitors to date this year, 300 less than last year. Foreign visitors are still up (372 to 206, up 80.6%) and other-state visitors are still up (3559 to 3378, +8.7%).

To date we've had visitors from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico and 49 other countries. Texas, Kansas, California, Arkansas, Missouri are still the top five states bringing visitors, with England, Germany, Canada, France and Japan as the top five foreign countries. New countries represented this month were Kosova (formerly Yugoslavia), Sweden and Columbia.



Notes from the Prairie

from Harvey Payne and Bob Hamilton

- The bison are currently grazing in small bands all over the Preserve!
- The roundup went very well! 652 bison participated (see page one for details)
- The cowboys are now starting to build fence for the new bison area which will be added in the spring.
- Volunteers will be needed in the spring to pick up roadside trash. Date will be set later!
- The bald eagles and rough-legged hawks are back at the Preserve!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

The Best of Tulsa Showcase has asked us to be part of the historic Tulsa birthday celebration on January 16 and 17 with a display booth at the Tulsa Convention Center.

If you would like to help us staff the booth for a 3-hour shift during the time period of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. either day, or to set up on Jan. 15 or tear down on Jan 18, please contact Mary at 585-1117.

We need your help!

Calendar

December

6 Docent Council Meeting

January

10 Docent Council Meeting
(9:30 a.m.-12)

February

7 Docent Council Meeting
(9:30 a.m. - 12)
Speakers Bureau Training
(1-4 p.m.)

tba Bartlesville Recruitment

tba Ponca City Recruitment

tba Tulsa Recruitment

March

14 Re-orientationn -
Pawhuska - 9:30 a.m.

28 New Docent Training - 1

April

4 New Docent Training - 2

tba Trail Guide Training

PLEASE RETURN YOUR SURVEY!

Don't forget to complete the Annual Evaluation and Intent to Participate in 1998. Those who have not responded to the survey by mail or phone as of Nov. 30 will receive a reminder letter. The letter will be followed by a phone call, and then your name will be taken off the docent list. (If you've lost the survey, give me a call!) Please let me hear from you!

The Docent News

This 'N That

by Mary McIntyre
Education and Outreach Coord

I'm back from Arizona! The good news is - the preserves I visited are envious of our great program! They want you all to move to Arizona! I'm really not kidding. The staff were happy to hear of our success at the Tallgrass, and wanted all the info I could provide about what's happening in OKLAHOMA! It was a busy, information packed trip. I was very proud of all of your super work as I talked with staff managing other programs. We have an exemplary program here. Keep up the good work! I am working up my notes into a report for Harvey and Brita. If you're interested, call me and I'll send you a copy.

Enjoy the holiday season as a chance to relax and regenerate. I'm hoping to see each of you next year!

FLASH!!

An end-of-season inventory check reveals up to 15 books missing (not paid for) at the gift shop. If you have any information, please contact Sue Wheeler, 918/743-4272.

TALL GRASS PRAIRIE PRESERVE -- 1997 SIGN IN VISITATION

SUMMARY -- DECEMBER, 1997

We had 417 visitors in December, 134 from 26 other states, 11 from 4 foreign countries and 272 from Oklahoma. 62.6 % were first time visitors. For the year, the total of 12030 visitors is 235 less than last year (down 1.9%), though foreign visitors are up (395 to 217, up 82.0%) and other-state visitors are also up (3896 to 3715, +4.9%).

Visitors have come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico, and 49 other countries. Texas, Kansas, California, Arkansas, Missouri are the top five states with England, Germany, Canada, Japan and France the top five foreign countries. Foreign visitors this month were from Bangladesch, England, Japan, and Scotland. The top five states provided 42.1% of our visitors from other states. The top five foreign countries provided 51.9% of our visitors from other countries. A tabulation of the number of visitors by state and country is included in the attached report.

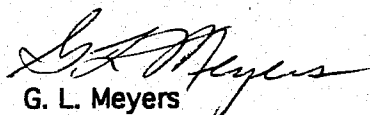
In December, Thursday had the highest average number of visitors (30.5) with Saturday second with an average of 24.2 and Friday third with 12.2. The mid-day periods were the preferred (11:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. accounted for 78.2%). There were seven days with no sign-in visitors at all.

Visitor comments were generally favorable, though some lamented the gift shop not being open, and one or two complained that the bison should be more available.

The average percentage distribution of visitors by time of day and day of the week was calculated from the monthly data for the 45 months that we have kept records. The results are:

Average % of Visitors by:	Time Of Day	Day Of The Week	
Before 9:30	1.1%	Monday	10.8%
9:30/11:30	15.6%	Tuesday	8.3%
11:30/1:30	29.1%	Wednesday	10.9%
1:30/3:30	33.1%	Thursday	10.6%
3:30/5:30	18.1%	Friday	11.4%
After 5:30	3.1%	Saturday	25.6%
		Sunday	21.9%

The results are quite uniform from year to year with deviation of less than one percent.


G. L. Meyers

10-4-98 GLM

TALL GRASS PRAIRIE PRESERVE -- SOURCE OF SIGN-IN VISITORS --- 1997

UNITED STATES & POSSESSIONS			FOREIGN COUNTRIES		
OKLAHOMA	OK	7734	ENGLAND		77
TEXAS	TX	505	GERMANY		61
KANSAS	KS	397	CANADA		29
CALIFORNIA	CA	278	JAPAN		20
ARKANSAS	AR	238	FRANCE		18
MISSOURI	MO	221	SWITZERLAND		15
FLORIDA	FL	154	RUSSIA		14
PENNSYLVANIA	PA	131	BRAZIL		14
OHIO	OH	122	NORWAY		13
COLORADO	CO	121	PERU		10
SOUTH CAROLINA	S	116	SCOTLAND		8
ILLINOIS	IL	113	NEW ZEALAND		8
NEW YORK	NY	94	CHINA		8
MICHIGAN	MI	86	ISRAEL		7
GEORGIA	GA	86	MEXICO		6
TENNESSEE	TN	82	LICHTENSTEIN		6
LOUISIANA	LA	79	IRELAND		6
VIRGINIA	VA	71	AUSTRALIA		6
ARIZONA	AZ	66	TURKEY		5
NORTH CAROLINA	N	63	SWEDEN		5
INDIANA	IN	62	DENMARK		5
OREGON	OR	57	ECUADOR		4
WISCONSIN	WI	55	SPAIN		3
WASHINGTON	WA	53	ITALY		3
MARYLAND	MD	53	FINLAND		3
KENTUCKY	KY	51	EGYPT		3
IOWA	IA	51	CZECH REPUBLIC		3
CONNECTICUT	CT	51	BANGLADESCH		3
NEW MEXICO	NM	50	ZIMBABWE		2
ALABAMA	AL	45	SOUTH AFRICA		2
MISSISSIPPI	MS	33	PORTUGAL		2
NEW JERSEY	NJ	31	POLAND		2
MASSACHUSETTS	M	30	NETHERLANDS		2
MAINE	ME	30	MOROCCO		2
DIST OF COL	DC	29	KOREA		2
MINNESOTA	MN	23	JORDAN		2
WEST VIRGINIA	WV	17	GUATEMALA		2
NEBRASKA	NE	16	DOMINICAN REP		2
VERMONT	VT	15	CHILE		2
UTAH	UT	14	VENEZUELA		1
NEVADA	NV	14	UKRAINE		1
ALASKA	AK	14	SLOVAK REP		1
SOUTH DAKOTA	SD	13	OMAN		1
HAWAII	HI	11	LAOS		1
NEW HAMPSHIRE	NH	9	KOSOVA (FM Y UGOSLAVIA		1
DELAWARE	DE	9	ESTONIA		1
RHODE ISLAND	RI	8	COLUMBIA		1
NORTH DAKOTA	ND	8	BELGIUM		1
IDAHO	ID	8	BAHAMAS		1
MONTANA	MT	7			
WYOMING	WY	6			
GUAM		3			
PUERTO RICO		2			
			TOTAL VISITORS:		12030
			UNITED STATES		11630
			U. S. POSSESSIONS		5
			FOREIGN COUNTRIES		395

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE GIFT SHOP
PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
TWELVE MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1997

INCOME

Gross Sales	\$43,714.87	
Credits, Miscellaneous	59.87	
Interest, Bank	36.90	
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TOTAL GROSS INCOME		\$43,811.64

EXPENSES

Cost of Goods Sold*	\$22,542.41	
Sales Tax	2,129.00	
Freight	532.29	
Telephone	35.37	
Postage	87.95	
Vehicles	14.73	
Office Supplies	326.48	
Display	34.50	
Bank Charges	100.00	
Charge Off	44.84	
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TOTAL EXPENSES		\$25,847.57

NET INCOME		<u>\$17,964.07</u> =====
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*BEGINNING INVENTORY	\$ 4,149.93
PLUS : PURCHASES	22,961.80
LESS: ENDING INVENTORY	4,569.32

COST OF GOODS SOLD	<u>\$22,542.41</u> =====
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Harvey Payne, Dave Dolcater (AAB)

CC: OKFO Staff

FROM: Bob Hamilton

DATE: November 26, 1997

SUBJECT: Fall 1997 Bison Purchases

Bison were acquired from four sources this fall for additions to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve herd. Objectives were to add to the genetic diversity of our herd and replace the 26 old cows (13-15 years old) that were culled this fall.

1. One yearling bull and five heifer calves were purchased at the 11-12-97 Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Buffalo Auction. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Department sells surplus bison from three of their bison herds at this annual auction. All six head we purchased were from their Garden City, Kansas herd. Total purchase cost was \$10,450 paid out of the Tallgrass Stewardship account.

2. Ten heifer calves were purchased from TNC's Cross Ranch Preserve, ND. This 6,000 acre preserve located 30 miles north of Bismarck has 2 separate bison herds. The heifer calves we purchased all came from the South Unit herd which was developed from Theodore Roosevelt National Park, ND bison - a genetic source that is far removed from our Tallgrass herd. Dakotas stewardship staff transported these calves to Ordway Prairie for us (see below). Purchase price was \$2017/head totaling \$20,170. Proceeds from the Tallgrass Adopt-A-Bison program purchased these bison.

3. Five heifer calves were purchased from TNC's Samuel H. Ordway Memorial Prairie, SD. This 9,000 acre preserve is located about 10 miles west of Leola, in northeastern South Dakota. Purchase price was \$2017/head, totaling \$10,085. Proceeds from the Tallgrass Adopt-A-Bison program also purchased these bison (total of 15 heifer calves @ \$30,255 for Cross Ranch & Ordway). Dakotas stewardship staff transported all 15 head to Niobrara on November 10.

4. Twelve heifer calves were purchased from TNC's Niobrara Valley Preserve, NE. This 54,000 acre preserve is located about 30 miles east of Valentine in northcentral Nebraska. Purchase price was \$1650/head, totaling \$19,800. Proceeds from the Tallgrass Gift Shop/Merchandise account purchased these bison.



The Work of the Oklahoma Chapter 1997

- The Nature Conservancy added 838 acres in 1997 to the existing 84,000 acres that it currently protects either through purchase or through its partnership agreements with private and public landowners.
- A new preserve was added with the completion of the purchase of 150 acres in Delaware County. The Eucha Nature Preserve protects two highly defensible cave systems that contain the globally rare Ozark cavefish.
- Over one hundred volunteers operated the gift shop and the trail program at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve seven days a week from March through November. They travel the distances from Oklahoma City, Perkins and Stillwater, Ponca City, Bartlesville, Tulsa, and Pawhuska.
- In 1997 the Oklahoma Registry program protected 15,525 acres at 40 different sites across the state. The Registry Program is a cooperative project between the Oklahoma Chapter and the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation. This program gives private and public landowners the opportunity to participate in the protection of rare and/or endangered species in such a way that involves no loss of land or change of ownership. Landowners agree to protect their area and its unique natural elements to the best of their abilities.
- At the Cucumber Creek Nature Preserve in the Ouachita Mountains we began work to survey and mark the boundaries of our property. This survey is critical to protecting this unique piece of Oklahoma deep in the heart of the Ouachita timber logging country.
- In 1997, 12,030 individuals signed the guest book at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Of those visitors 395 came from 49 foreign countries with England, Germany, Canada, France and Japan heading the list. All fifty states were represented and there were 7,344 Oklahoman visitors.
- Work continues to expand the bison unit at the Tallgrass Prairie in order to accommodate a target herd of 2,200 bison. This last year 1,500 acres were added with the removal of interior fences and the placement of the sturdy bison fence. The bison herd, currently at 652 head with the addition of 192 calves in 1997, freely roams 8,600 acres.
- Inventories continue at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and the Pontotoc Ridge Preserve to identify the varieties of birds and butterflies. These species are indicators of the health of the natural systems and their inventories are an important part of the work of The Nature Conservancy.