

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

March 1998

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

Our profit and loss statement for twelve months, ending Nov. 30, 1997, showed gross sales of \$43,714.87. Our beginning inventory was valued at \$4,149.93; purchases throughout the year cost \$22,961.80; and ending inventory was valued at \$4,569.32. Our net income for the year was \$17,964.07! This income purchased bison last fall, as reported in an earlier Docent News. Thanks for all your hard work!

Visitation

from George Meyers

The visitors don't stop coming even though we aren't open at the Gift Shop!

According to the register, 317 visitors came in January, 85 from 21 other states, 14 from three foreign countries and 218 from Oklahoma. 55.2% were first time visitors. This was the highest number of visitors in any January, only seven days had no visitors! Saturdays and Sundays were the days of highest visitation, followed by Fridays.

Calendar

March

- 14 Re-orientation - Pawhuska - 8:30 a.m.
- 15 Gift Shop opens for season
- 28 New Docent Training - 1

April

- 4 New Docent Training - 2
- 5 Trail Guide Training
- 11 Workday - litter pickup

May

- 29/30 Conservancy Annual membership meeting and field trips, Woodward, OK

June

- 20 Heritage Day at TGP!

Recruitment

Influenza A kept me away from events in Ponca City and Bartlesville, but thanks to Iris McPherson in Ponca City, and Marilyn Keefer and others in Bartlesville, we have some new possible docents from those areas. Eight "Possibles" attended our Tulsa event, which was great fun. Thanks to Barbara Bates for being our hostess. Our "possible list" contains 45 names!

This 'N That

by Mary McIntyre

Education and Outreach Coord.

Don't forget Docent Reorientation, March 14! An agenda for the day is included, as well as an RSVP card which you need to fill out and return by March 10!

Please note that we are starting EARLIER than in previous years!! We have lots of new info to cover, including Nature Room information, and the opportunity to view the bison roundup video created by Bill Rinehart last October.

Coffee is on at 8:30 a.m., with speakers to begin at 9 a.m. It will be a full day, lots of information to pass on to you! Check your agenda. Hope you can be there!

You will note that with this issue, we are again including the calendars so that you can self-schedule for March, April and May. A majority of the days are already taken, but we still need you! Please help by filling in your first

(continued, page 2)

THIS 'N THAT

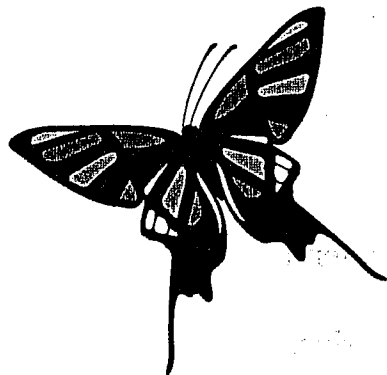
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and second choice of the blank days and returning the calendars to Barbara Bates.

Remember that our new docents will be working with you after completing training on April 4, so there will be many days in April and May when three people will be scheduled. The new docents will be watching you, learning the ropes, and getting comfortable at the headquarters. They appreciate your expertise and help (as I do!)

Many of you have returned the self assessment. I hope that you found this exercise helpful. I appreciate your feedback, as well as the overwhelming voice that tells me how much you love the prairie!

Notes from the Prairie from Harvey Payne and Bob Hamilton will be back next month. The survey slipped through the cracks!



Trail Guides

The Trail Guide program is alive and well. You may sign up for the program at Docent Reorientation. Training will be held on April 5. Our main focus at this time will be the Children's program. There is already a demand for these tours, and we have several volunteers to meet this need.

However, the adult program is not dead. Last year we had a Catch 22 - not enough volunteers to advertise, but because we didn't advertise there was not a demand for volunteers!

Is an adaptation of the Children's tour appropriate for adults? There are two trains of thought on this issue: Do we offer something different and thought-provoking that helps someone understand interrelationships and concepts of prairie ecology, or do we give them the scientific names that they want and forget about trying to get them to understand concepts?

Learning all the names of our plants requires much more time on the part of the guides. Concepts aren't as difficult to remember as scientific names. People forget scientific names mentioned once or twice on a tour; concepts,

The Docent News

if truly understood, stay with you for a lifetime.

However, to be fair, I know that some adults "think" all they need to know is the name of the plant. They act irritated if that is not what they get.

If you are a proponent of the "name it" philosophy, do you have suggestions on helping our guides learn these names? Much self-training must occur. Are you willing to take the time to be self-taught regarding plant names?

Hope to hear from you about this issue!

Office Volunteer Needs

We are heading into our busiest time of year, when office support is crucial. In addition to preparing for docent training, we're also at work planning our annual membership meeting, set for May 30 in Woodward at Boiling Springs State Park. There is a registration flyer to be designed. Then a database of attendees will be created as registrations come in, and confirmation mailings will be sent out. Would you like to be involved? If so, please contact Mary at the office, 918/585-1117. We need you!

1998 Docent Reorientation

Saturday, March 14

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pawhuska Senior Citizens Center

(yellow building behind Police Station on West Main)

- 8:30 a.m. Registration, coffee and reunions
- 9 a.m. **Welcome and introductions**
- 9:05 **What's Happening - the Update!**
Bob Hamilton, Director of Science and Stewardship/or
Harvey Payne, Preserve Director, Tallgrass Prairie Preserve
- 9:45 PAPER REVIEW of 1997 - handouts- visitation, sales and
surveys - Stretch break
- 10 a.m. Gift Shop Preview
Sue Wheeler
Gift Shop Manager (Volunteer)
- 10:45 a.m. Break (scheduling, liability releases)
- 11 a.m. Ranching in Osage County
Frederick Drummond
Osage rancher, member of Oklahoma Board of Trustees
- 11:45 a.m. Catered lunch (provided by TNC) - scheduling, liability
releases)
- 11:55 a.m. Tallgrass Prairie Slide Show - Tom Clark, volunteer
- 12:45 p.m. Adjourn to Visitor's Center for:
Roundup Video (15 minutes)
Updates on: Nature Room and Trail Guide program (30 min.)
- 2 p.m.- 3 p.m.
Tours and talks - select one to attend
- Tour 1 Osage County Museum -
- Tour 2 Osage Tribal Museum -
- Tour 3 Historic Pawhuska - Barbara Straum
- Tour 4 Catholic Church Tour - Father Higgins
- Talk 1 Jo Brooks - "Growing up on the ranch" - at
Sr. Citizens Center
- 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.
Tours and talks - select one of the above to attend
- 4:30 p.m. Return to Sr. Citizen's center for final door prize.

MARCH 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 ☺ FM	13	14 Reorientation
15 Gift Shop Opens Sandy Frazier Sue Wheeler Doris Mayfield	16 Loretta Vives Van Vives	17 Barbara Bates *	18 Joanne Colbert John Colbert	19 Nyla Woody Randy Woody	20 Nyla Woody Randy Woody	21 Carolyn Matthews Wayne Middleton
22 Linda Irwin John Fisher	23 Mary Reeves Bob Reeves	24 George McCourt Phyllis Connally	25 Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer	26 Bill Rinehart George Meyers	27 Stu Marshall Barbara Strahm	28 Carolyn Matthews Dorothy Buck Edith Haraughty
29 Nune Richards William Mosier	30 Dean Johnston Mary Johnston	31 Linda Anderson Judy Kishner				

RETURN THIS TO: Barbara Bates
5642 E 113 St
Tulsa OK 74137

Phone: (918) 298-7019
(Leave your name and phone number on the answering machine)
E-Mail: bbates@webzone.net

Shift Hours: 9:30am - 4 pm

MAY 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 * *	2 Dan Vinyard Wayne Middleton
3 John Fisher Robyn Stroup	4 Nune Richards Barbara Strahm	5 George McCourt Doris Mayfield	6 Dave Dolcater *	7 Linda Anderson *	8 Liz Medley Al Medley	9 Carolyn Matthews Dorothy Buck
10 * *	11 FM Carol Redford *	12 Mary Johnston Dean Johnston	13 Roberta Wheritt Judy Barto	14 Stu Marshall Judy Kishner	15 * *	16 George Meyers * *
17 Sandy Frazier * *	18 Loretta Vives Van Vives	19 Barbara Bates Sue Wheeler	20 Joanne Colbert John Colbert	21 Nyla Woody Randy Woody	22 * *	23 Jo Brooks David Turner Betty Turner
24 Linda Irvin Edith Haraughty <u>31</u> William Mosier * *	25 Mary Reeves Bob Reeves	26 * *	27 Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer	28 Bill Rinehart *	29 Carol Eames *	30 Barbara Jean Marashi * *

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AFTER MAY 14
SHIFT HOURS: 9:30 am - 5 pm

APRIL 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Dave Dolcater *	2 Dick Baker Sally Baker	3 * *	4 Dan Vinyard Wayne Middleton
5 Robyn Stroup *	6 G. McCourt *	7 Phyllis Connally Doris Mayfield	8 Roberta Wherritt Judy Barto	9 Linda Anderson *	10 Liz Medley Al Medley	11 ☺ ^{FM} Carolyn Matthews George Meyers
12 * *	13 Carol Redford Nune Richards	14 * *	15 Joanne Colbert John Colbert	16 Stu Marshall *	17 Barbara Strahm Carol Eames	18 Dorothy Buck Jo Brooks
19 Sandy Frazier John Fisher	20 Loretta Vives Van Vives	21 Barbara Bates *	22 Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer	23 Bill Rinehart *	24 * *	25 Bill Dinger Edith Haraughty
26 Linda Irwin Judy Kishner William Mosier	27 Mary Reeves Bob Reeves	28 Mary Johnston Dean Johnston	29 * *	30 Sue Wheeler *		

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