

# The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

Nov. 1998

## Docent Awards Given!!

Congratulations to those who received docent awards for their work! These cumulative awards were presented at the Docent Awards Picnic on Oct. 3. If you couldn't be there, and find your name listed, contact Mary about picking up your beautiful award! You may also pick them up at Reorientation in the spring, or by visiting the Tulsa office.

Honorees achieved a new level this year. There are many of you who are working your way up, and received your current level award last year. The level indicates that between September of last year and Aug. 31 of this year you were within the given level.

Those honored for serving **FORTY** shifts during their career as a docent were: Sue Wheeler and George Meyers.

**THIRTY** shift awards (30-39 shifts served) were received by: Marilyn Keefer, Iris

McPherson, Liz Medley and Stu Marshall.

**TWENTY** shift (20-29) honorees are: Doris Mayfield, Bob and Mary Reeves, Van Vives, Dorothy Buck, William Mosier, David Turner, Nyla Woody, Randy Woody, Carolyn Mathews, George McCourt, Bill Rinehart, Vera Meyers and Dan Vinyard.

**TEN** Shift awards (10-19) were earned by: Barbara Bates, John Fisher, Linda Anderson, Don Bruner, Judy Barto, Wayne Middleton, Nune Richards, Joanne Colbert, Sally Baker, Tom Clark and Judy Kishner.

**FOUR** shift (first level, 4-9 shifts) pins were earned by: John Colbert, Robyn Stroup, Carl Wilhite, Perry Crampton, Herb Skidmore, Marilyn Clarke, Bob and Jan Hawks.

*Congratulations* to all of our award winners. Your support of the prairie and the Conservancy's work there is a noble effort! Your suggestions for improving the experience are always welcome. Give Mary a call! (585-1117)

## Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

Gift Shop sales for the month of September totaled \$3,862.95. We had no sales (no visitors!) on one day and were closed one day for lack of a volunteer. Last year's total for the month was \$5,161.79.

This brings our total sales to date to \$35,498.59. At this time last year, sales totaled \$37,628.96.

NOTE: Although the season ends officially on Nov. 15 with inventory, we would like to stay open on weekends into December, weather permitting. If you are interested in working during this extended period, please call or email Barbara Bates and reserve your day. Shop hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**SALE!!!** Remember, during the month of November, docents receive a 20% discount on items in the gift shop! Do your Christmas shopping early and help fund the new shop!!

## Calendar

### November

15 Shop inventory  
21,22,28,29 Shop open

### December

5,6,12,13 Shop open

## Visitation

from George Meyers

“WOW! Again, as the temperature stayed up (one of the hottest Septembers recorded), fewer visitors signed our visitor log. 884 visitors signed in, down 14.3% from last year.

“Twenty-three visitors came from ten other countries, 333 from 38 other states and 528 from Oklahoma.

“Year-to-date figures total 8184 visitors, 2821 from 49 other states and the District of Columbia. Visitation is down about 15.9% from last year.

“62.9 percent are first time visitors, according to the registration sheet. Comments were complimentary. Docents are doing a great job!

“Saturday and Sunday are still the most popular days, followed by Thursday and Monday this month! Mid-day was the most popular time to visit.”

## Roundup Video

Remember the video of the 1997 bison roundup made by docent Bill Rinehart? I have five copies available for docent purchase. Copies are \$10. Let Mary know if you want one.

## Prairie News

from Harvey Payne, Director,  
Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

- As of Oct. 19, the herd was slowly moving into the “Spring” trap (720 acres, just north of the headquarters) as the Roundup began.
- The bison have their winter coats and are in prime condition!
- We’re getting closer to the construction phase of the new gift shop/nature room. Bill Dinger has prepared final plans and will be completing cost estimates. \$35,000 has been received in donations, and profits from gift shop sales in 1998 will be added to this to fund the work. Some additional fundraising may be necessary.
- Many asters are blooming! Also, the sumac is beautiful!

## The Docent News

### Reason Seven to Save the Diversity of Life - -

*Living History Books (The Heritage Factor)*

We will never recapture the Virginia that greeted John Smith, where oysters formed reefs that rose above the surface of the Chesapeake Bay, and rockfish were so plentiful that settlers scooped them from the water in frying pans. Where the Dismal Swamp spanned hundreds of square miles, longleaf pine ruled the coastal plain, and hardwood forests stretched unbroken across the Piedmont and the Blue Ridge. But we can and should preserve examples of these characteristic landscapes. They help us to understand the past and the people that shaped us, and in turn are a legacy we can hand to our heirs.



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## Docent Evaluation

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find the annual Docent Evaluation. This is your chance to let us know your thoughts about the program and offer suggestions for next year.

This evaluation also includes your first opportunity to commit to serving as a docent in the coming year. Checking YES on this form keeps you on our mailing list for the coming year. You will receive newsletters during the winter and information about spring Reorientation and work schedules. It will also keep you informed about Spring Workdays as we prepare to open our NEW SHOP!

When you make your commitment to us for 1999, we expect you to commit to at least two shifts to be considered active.

We are depending on you to show up. NO SHOWS will be contacted and dropped from the program after a second offense. If you have an emergency and cannot find your own replacement, please let someone know as soon as possible.

I hope you will be a member of our docent family in 1999!

***DON'T FORGET TO SEND  
IN YOUR EVALUATION!!***

## Docent Council

You will also notice an opportunity to indicate interest in a Docent Council position. This is a level above a regular docent, and indicates a commitment to help guide the program in a leadership role. Indicating your interest will result in an invitation to the Docent Council meetings, which are held on a Saturday morning in December, January and February in the Tulsa Office. These two hour meetings provide time to review the program, smooth out rough edges, consider changes and new opportunities.

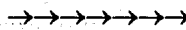
Briefly, council positions are:

Activities Coordinator - assists with planning Docent Reorientation, Socials and the Docent Dinner. Organization of additional events optional.

Recruitment Coord. - assists with planning pre-season recruitment events for new docents. Events are generally held in Tulsa, Bartlesville, Pawhuska and Ponca City in February.

Training Coord. - assists with planning and carrying out Reorientation for returning docents in March, and Training for new docents in March/April.

Pawhuska Liaison - assists with contacts in Pawhuska with Chamber of Commerce and others.



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Nature Exhibit Coord. - monitors nature room exhibits, considers improvements and additions to this area.

Scheduling Asst. - assists with filling in work calendars by making phone calls as necessary.

Trail Guide Coord. - assists with trail guide training, and schedules trail guides to work when requests come in.

Historian - maintains docent scrapbook, keeps related newspaper clippings, takes photographs, etc.

Visitor Records - monitors the visitor log and provides monthly reports noting numbers of visitors, place of origin, time of visit, etc.

Gift Shop Bookkeeper - tabulates monthly sales records and provides yearend report to shop manager and field office.

Gift Shop Mgr. - purchases all merchandise for sale in the gift shop. Manage all inventory. Designs displays. Provides monthly reports.

Workday Supvr. - Assists in planning Preserve workdays for painting, litter pickup, shop work.

Newsletter/comm. Editor - Assists with production of monthly docent news letter. Computer layout, envelope stuffing and mailing.

Speakers Bureau Coord. - Assists with training of volunteer speakers, maintains slide programs, schedules volunteers to meet requests.

At-large Member - Attends Docent Council meetings to offer suggestions and help with special projects. Up to five at-large members.

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**SHOP CLOSED**

# NOVEMBER 1998

BISON ROUNDUP TIME  
Oct 19 - Nov 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> * *	<b>2</b> Test Sellers / Preg Check, Seller Cows / Vac Heif. calves * *	<b>3</b> Marilyn Keefer *	<b>4</b> Dave Dolcater *	<b>5</b> Linda Anderson Stu Marshall	<b>6</b> George Meyers *	<b>7</b> Bill Dinger Linda Irwin Wayne Middleton
<b>8</b> Marilyn Clark *	<b>9</b> Jan Hawks Bob Hawks	<b>10</b> George McCourt *	<b>11</b> Roberta Wherritt Judy Barto	<b>12</b> Randy Woody Nyla Woody	<b>13</b> * *	<b>14</b> Al Medley Liz Medley
<b>15</b> *Reg. Season Ends* DO INVENTORY  Sue Wheeler Doris Mayfield	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> SHOP OPEN * *
<b>22</b> SHOP OPEN * *	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> THANKSGIVING	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> SHOP OPEN * *
<b>29</b> SHOP OPEN * *	<b>30</b>	Dec. 5 Sat. * *	Dec. 6 Sun. * *	Dec. 12 Sat. * *	Dec. 13 Sun * *	

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](mailto:bbates@webzone.net)

Shift Hours: 10 am - 4 pm