

The Docent News

For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

Jan. 1999

Gift Shop News

from Sue Wheeler

Gift Shop sales for the month of November totaled \$2,231.70! We were open 20 days and had no sales on one day. Last year's total for the month was \$1,839.21.

This brings our total sales to date to \$44,240.99, exceeding last year's sales of \$43,714.87!

Visitation

from George Meyers

"We had 667 sign-in visitors in November, up 15.6% from November '97. 22 were visitors from other countries, 243 from other states and 402 from Oklahoma. Nice weather helps!

"Year-to-date we have had 9984 visitors, 3366 from 49 other states and the District of Columbia, 6270 from Oklahoma, 4 from Puerto Rico, and 344 from 47 other countries. 60.7% of our visitors were first timers.

"Visitation is down 14%."

Calendar

January

- 9 Docent Council, 10 am
Wildflower Slide review,
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- 23 TNC "Spirit" project for
educators for all kinds!
\$10 fee. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Call Mary to enroll.

February

- 5 Recruitment - Glenpool
- 6 Docent Council, 10-12 am
- 9 Recruitment - B'ville
- 27 Speaker's Training, 1 - 4
p.m.

March

- 13 Reorientation
- 14 Gift Shop Opens
- 20 New Docent Training I
- 27 New Docent Training II
- 28 Trail Guide Training

April

- 24 Spring Wildflower ID and
Wild Hog Creek Hike

June

- 4,5 Annual Meeting, Beavers
Bend State Park
- 19 Heritage Day, Tallgrass
Prairie Preserve

Calendar Notes

Please note a few changes in the calendar. Our Wildflower slide review will be in January, not February as earlier indicated. Take this opportunity to review some of the blooms we saw in 1998.

The "Spirit" project training on Jan. 23 is at Oxley. This workshop for educators reviews our chapter's educational materials for teachers, which focus on Biodiversity in Oklahoma. Geared for 4th through 8th grades, the 20 activities we'll go over are interdisciplinary. If you're interested, call Mary at 585-1117.

Recruitment is being handled by members of the Docent Council this year. We need your help! If you know of people who would be active and interested docents, please encourage them to call and find out more about the program. Better yet, bring them to a recruitment event! More about these upcoming events in the next News.

WANT LIST

We're look ahead to moving into our new shop in the spring! Don't throw IT away! Could we use it in the shop? We'll need: telephone, CD/Cassette player, stools, bar seats, kitchen table and chairs, lamps, small tables, chairs... etc! Ask Sue first!

Reason Nine to Save the Diversity of Life - -*Respect for Creation**(The Ethical Factor)*

Does every species have a "right" to exist? If so, then our duty to the creation is clear. But even if not, humility in the face of our capacity to despoil the land is called for. In Biblical history, God instructed Noah to take along on the ark two of every living thing that they would not be lost forever. Many believe our Judeo Christian heritage enjoins us to be responsible stewards of the creation, and similar themes run deep in other religious traditions as well.

Do you have an email address? If you want yours listed with your address next year, please email me at MMcint2415@aol.com.

Secret Santa?

A special thank you to a terrific seamstress who delivered some beautiful lightweight vests for our docents to wear! Made of a beige and black fabric featuring bison, the southwestern style vests include a special tab where you can hook your name tag. An anonymous donor left the vests and a Christmas card, addressed to all the volunteers at the TNC Gift shop. We don't know who you are, but THANKS!

IS THIS GOOD-BYE?

Have you returned your docent evaluation form or called? If not, this is your LAST Docent News.

We have appreciated the time and support which you have given the Docent program since your involvement began. Although I wish we weren't losing you, I know that sometimes we all need to make changes and move on. I would be happy to visit with you about your docent experience, and would welcome your comments.

If I don't hear from you, here's wishing you the best in your future endeavors. I hope that we will cross paths again!

The Docent News

*To all of you
from all of us
here at*

*The Oklahoma Chapter
of*

The Nature

Conservancy:

Happy Holidays!

*And a Safe and
Happy New Year!*



1999 Docent Reorientation

Saturday, March 13

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Pawhuska Senior Citizens' Center

(yellow building behind Police Station on West Main)

- 8:30 a.m. Registration, coffee and reunions
Research Project Poster Display in place
- 9 a.m. Welcome, introductions and presentations**
- 9:05 What's Happening - the Update!**
Harvey Payne, Preserve Director, Tallgrass Prairie Preserve
"Land, Bison, Fire and Visitor Center"
- 9:45 PAPER REVIEW of 1998 - 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. **"Oil, Gas and Reclamation Research in Osage County"**
Kerry Sublette
University of Tulsa, Professor of Chemical Engineering
- 11:45 a.m.** Catered lunch (provided by TNC) - scheduling, liability
releases
- 12 p.m. Statewide TNC Slide Show
- 12:30 p.m. Osage Hills State Park - Ranger Mike Vaught
- 1 p.m. Update: Trail Guide program/Training (30 min.)
- 1:30 p.m.- 2:15 p.m.
Tours and talks - select one to attend
Tour 1: Osage County Museum
Tour 2: Catholic Church Tour - Father Higgins
Talk 1: **Dr. Jim Shaw - "Bison Behavior and Research"**
at Sr. Citizens' Center
- 2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Tours and talks - select one of the above tours to attend, or
Talk 2: **Jenk Jones, Jr. - Osage County History**
at Sr. Citizens' Center
- 3:15 p.m.** Return to Sr. Citizens' center for final door prize.

Calendar for 1999

March

- 13 Reorientation - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 14 Gift Shop Opens - hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 20 New Docent Class - first training - in Pawhuska 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 27 New Docent Class - second training at preserve 9:30 a.m.- 4 p.
- 28 Trail Guide training at preserve 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April

- ? 10th Anniversary Poster and Visitor Center Opening
(Media event)
- 17 Tallgrass Prairie Workday - Litter pickup
- 24 Spring Wildflower Training

May

- ? When e/o intern starts:
Gift Shop Hours expand to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

June

- 4/5 Oklahoma Chapter Annual Membership Meeting and
Field Trips, Beavers Bend State Park, Broken Bow.
- 19 Heritage Day at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

September

- 11 Fall Wildflower Training

October/November

- 16 Docent Appreciation Dinner
- 27 Ten Year Anniversary Celebration at TGP