

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

April 2000

Visitation - February

from George Meyers

"282 signed the register in February, down 32% from February 1999, and the lowest February sign-in since 1994. 5 foreign visitors were from Canada, Mexico and Japan. 92 visited from 18 other states with Missouri (19), Minnesota (14), Texas (13), Ohio (6) and New Mexico and North Carolina (5 each) heading the list of states. 185 Oklahomans signed in. All of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 80.4% from other states, and 58.9% of Oklahomans."

"More visitors came on Sunday (38.7) followed by Saturday (33.3%) and Monday (10.3). 63% of visitors came between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. with another 23% coming after 3:30 p.m. No visitors signed in on seven days."

Comments were favorable, "Great", "Beautiful", "Enjoyed the openness and quietness", "Very unique". Several were excited about seeing the bison and other wildlife. A number were disappointed that the gift shop was not open. No a single negative comment. With good weather and spring coming, we can hope for more visitors.

Tulsa Zoo

Earth Day - April 22, 2000

April 22, 2000 signifies an important event to all conservation minded individuals. That day will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the first EARTH DAY. To celebrate that important event, the Tulsa Zoo, in conjunction with the MET will host an EARTH DAY 2000 at the Zoo.

The Nature Conservancy will have a booth to display Statewide photos, newsletters and information.

Saturday, April 22, 2000
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

All volunteers will receive a pass to let you into Mohawk Park and the Zoo for free.

If you would like to work the booth, please call Mary Coley or Belinda Robertson at 585-1117. By April 1st, if you can help.

Calendar

April

- 1-2 New Docent Training - Pawhuska
- 29 New Docent Training Preserve
- 30 Trail Guide Training Preserve

May

- 6 Wildflower Identification (a.m.) Hike (p.m.)

June

- 10 Annual Meeting
- 30 Gift Shop Inventory

July

- tba Summer Docent Meeting at Preserve

You've Got MAIL

Do you have an email address? If you'd like it included on the Docent Roster, drop me an email at mmcintyre@tnc.org. This is my new email address and reaches me at the office. My old email address, mmcint2415@aol.com, now reaches me only at home!

Prairie Road Crew

from Dick Baker

How about joining the PRAIRIE ROAD CREW? 22 Docents did at the Reorientation Meeting! The PRC will be responsible for picking up the roadway trash at the Prairie throughout this year. We will Work scheduled days (the next two being Thursday, April 20 and Tuesday, May 16, more to be scheduled soon), from 9am – 3pm, welcome your friends / guests (car pool, when/where possible), receive "Docent credit" for our labor, enjoy being a part of the Prairie from a new perspective from the bar ditches. No Experience Needed. We will provide training and equipment. For more details, call Dick Baker at (918) 747-2495

Prairie News

By Bob Hamilton

- The Tallgrass Road clean-up crew is a great development.
- Wildfire caused by broken power lines on 3-8-00.
- The bison are scattered in many bands.
- The cowboys are removing old corrals at Kevin Chouteau's house. Will construct a small set of corrals there for handling bison.
- The ground at the prairie is saturated with moisture.
- The vultures are back and eagles are gone.
- Blue & wild plums are blooming. The redbud trees are almost ready to bloom.

This 'N That

from Mary Coley

We are scrambling to prepare new docent manuals for 63 new docents. This new group of folks have great interest and enthusiasm. With their commitment we can accomplish great things at the preserve!

Over fifty of you were able to attend the Reorientation training on March 11. The weather was uncertain, but not as hazardous with ice as the 1999 event, which had to be cancelled. The snow made for a beautiful early morning drive! Those who couldn't make it should have received a packet with all of the information that was distributed at reorientation.

Be sure to read the PROCEDURES section before working! There are a few changes in steps. The most important step is to MAKE COPIES of all personal checks as well as the deposit slips. There is now a tabletop copier in the docent office.

The other major change, is that all paperwork (sales summaries, copies and cash tickets) will be left in a folder marked ANN on the docent desk. You will still make the deposit as you go home through Pawhuska, but nothing will be mailed to anyone after your shift.

If you have questions about procedures or about the shop, please contact Ann Whitehorn, who is the Gift Shop Manager. Should there be

weekend problems, you can reach her at her home number, 918/287-4238. This number is posted in the docent office.

I'm glad you're back with us! Please call me if you have any concerns or suggestions for the program. I am especially interested in additional support activities that docents would like to be involved in (like the trash pickup crew). Put on your thinking caps, and let me know what you come up with, and if you would like to head up that new effort!

See you soon! *Mary*

Trail Guide Training

Training for trail guides will take place on April 30. If you have worked as a trail guide in the past, you are not required to return for this training unless you want to. In the next few weeks, I will be sending a letter and a recommitment sheet to all previous trail guides with more information about that program. The majority of our new docents have also committed to becoming trail guides. Please consider committing to work a regular day of the week as a trail guide! Requests for trail guides, and use of trail guides, should increase dramatically if we have a designated guide available EVERY DAY! Marilyn Keefer will continue to serve as coordinator for trail guide requests. Barbara Bates is making some contacts with area schools to increase awareness about trail guide availability. Contact Marilyn, Barbara or me (Mary) if you have suggestions for the docent trail guide effort!