

# The Docent News



## For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

July 2000

### New State Office

#### Address

from Mary Coley

We've moved!! On June 22, the offices of the state chapter were moved to a new location. We are now located at 2727 East 21<sup>st</sup> St., Suite 102, Tulsa, OK 74114. Phone number = same! This location has better access for all, and is a first floor suite with no stairs or elevators to worry with when moving boxes and displays in and out.

The office is in the Midway Building, which is just west of the Broken Arrow Expressway on 21<sup>st</sup> Street. Our neighbor to the west is the Mexicali Café, and our neighbor across the street south is Borders Bookstore! Come and visit us in our new location!

### Gift Shop News

The Gift Shop sales:

9,030.75	May 2000
6,595.16	May 1999
<u>2,435.59</u>	Increase in Sales
17,503.45	2000 Year to Date
14,975.21	1999 Year to Date
<u>2,528.24</u>	Increase in Sales

### Visitation – April / May

from George Meyers

“We had 1,176 sign-in visitors in April, up 51% from April, 1999, and the second highest April sign-in (April 1998 had 1,178). 39 foreign visitors were from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Japan and United Arab Emirates. 357 visited from 39 other states with Texas, California and Colorado leading with 26 a piece, followed by Missouri (25), Michigan (24), Kansas (23) and New York (22).

776 Oklahomans signed in. 95% of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 64% from other states, and 64% of Oklahomans.”

1,624 signed in May, up 5.1% from May 1999 and the third highest May so far. 46 foreign visitors from 16 foreign countries, including Germany (16), Poland (5), Canada and Moldava (4), each and United Arab Emirates (3). 407 visited from 44 other states, with California (53), Texas (38), Kansas (31), Missouri (31) and Massachu-

sets (21) leading the list. 1,171 signed in from Oklahoma. 87% of the foreign visitors, 78% of other-state visitors, and 53% of Oklahomans were first timers.

In April more visitors came on Saturday followed by Sunday and Friday. Mid day was the most popular time.

In May, Sunday and Saturday had the largest visitation, with 11:30 to 1:30 the most popular time.

Comments were very favorable, most were delighted to see the bison and impressed with the Preserve. Several noted “Keep up the good work”, “Attendants very helpful”. You are doing great Docents, keep it up!

### Calendar

#### July

8 Summer Docent Meeting and Social at Preserve

#### August

1 Prairie Education Day  
19 Wild Brew Event  
Tulsa (Tickets Only)

#### September

23 General Members  
Field Trip to Tallgrass

#### November

11 Docent Picnic

## July 8 – Meeting and Social

from Mary Coley

In case you're wondering, the summer Docent Council meeting is set for Saturday, July 8 at the Preserve HQ. All Council members are encouraged to attend, but any docent is welcome.

The meeting will start at 10 a.m. We will gather in the south end of the shop barn, just northeast of the visitors center. (New docents: the Council is a group of docents who have volunteered for positions of responsibility, or to serve as at-large council members, assisting with decisions related to the Docent Program. They meet monthly during our "off" season, and once in the summer.)

The Ice Cream Social is open to all docents. Approximate time is 12 noon. The social will begin right after the Council meeting adjourns. Please bring your own lunch, and a pint of ice cream, sherbet or your favorite treat to share.

Hope to see you there!

## Prairie Education Day Volunteers Needed

from Mary Coley

Our first Prairie Education Day will be held August 1 at the Preserve. Eric Huerter heads up the committee. This special day is open to children in grades 4-6, and space is limited to 60 persons. Groups and individuals must make reservations to attend.

Information about the event will be delivered to summer education programs, and will appear in newspapers in the immediate Preserve area. The day will begin at 9:30 with registration. The groups will hike the trails from 10:00 - 11:30, when they will return to eat the sack lunch that they brought. Drinks will be provided all day.

After lunch, from 12-3:30, groups will circulate through different activity areas, including nature crafts, games and a Fire & Thunder video. The day will conclude by 3:30 p.m.

Twelve volunteers are needed to assist as trail guides as well as in the activity sessions. To volunteer, call Eric Huerter at the Visitors center by July 17<sup>th</sup>, 918/287-3623, Thursday through Monday.

## Prairie News

By Bob Hamilton

- New Hiking trail short loop moved & graveled north of parking lot. Cowboys installed new parking rail outside visitor center and new pipe rail on north side.
- 243 calves as of 6-21, but we won't know the final number of calves until the October roundup.
- The bison are usually in 1 or 2 big groups now.
- Most adults have now shed their winter coats; early spring 2000 calves are starting to change to dark brown color.
- Several new oil/saltwater remediation projects initiated in June in far NW corner of bison unit.
- The cowboys are finishing up on fence construction projects around HQ, will move up to corrals for expansion work soon. Sericea lespedeza spraying to start soon.
- Volunteers are needed for roadside trash removal; oil field junk removal.
- Rain has been plentiful.
- The wildflowers are glorious in the areas burned last summer and fall. Very productive growing season so far.

We continue to receive nice comments on the docent's work. The Prairie Road crew is doing a fantastic job,

### June's "8x12" Prairie Road Crew

from Dick Baker

Thanks for another good day of clean up at the Tallgrass Prairie. I thought that this should be the "8x12" team, since 8 of us cleaned the entire road system by 12 noon! It is amazing what can be accomplished in the rain. Your individual concern and commitment to improving the outward appearance of the Prairie is well noted and sincerely appreciated. The fact that 6 of the 8 addresses are in the Docent Class 2000 speaks highly of the "new guys".

I thought that Jim Neel was duly humble while accepting his award for being the champion cookie eater of the year. His acceptance speech was truly a masterful soliloquy... the reference to his hunting escapades at the age of four brought tears to the eyes of hundreds in the crowd, reminiscent of little Billy Clinton! Eat on, Jim. You will be the odds on favorite to repeat in the eat off next year.

We will regroup for more road cleaning around mid-September .... will get word to you, later. Thanks again, to all, for a job well done.

### Road Crew Take Rest

from Dick Baker

The Prairie Road Crew is taking a break during the months of July and August. We will regroup and hit the ditches again in September and October (the prettiest time of year at the Prairie). Our sincere thanks to the 35+ Docents (and guests) who have participated in this effort so far. To keep in shape (and to keep your technique tuned) during our off months of July and August, please carry a plastic grocery sack with you, as you come and go to the Prairie and pick up the really obvious / accessible, newly deposited stuff along the road ... sort of off season conditioning! Thanks.

For information, call Dick Baker (918) 747-2495. Jumps

#### NOTE for NO SHOWS:

Unless a severe storm is happening or imminent, the visitors center is open! If you cannot fulfill your promise to work at the Preserve, please try to find your own substitute, **even if you are a 3<sup>rd</sup> docent!!**. Contact the docents you are to work with, and see if they can assist in finding a sub. Contact the preserve office, or Eric if you reach no one at the Gift Shop. Contact Barbara Bates only in emergency situations. Our visitors are depending on you to be there!

### Wild Brew Event

You'll notice on the Page 1 Calendar that August 19 is the date for Wild Brew, a new Tulsa fundraiser for The Nature Conservancy that was a great success last year. The event is from 4-8 p.m., and will feature food booths, and music as well as the opportunity to taste the products of local and regional brewmasters who have competed for the chance to participate in the event!

Tickets are \$25 per person, and must be purchased ahead of time. Attendance is limited, and everyone at the event must be over 21.

Call 585-1117 to get on the list!

### Summer Ice Cream?

Our annual summer socials, usually held in the Tulsa area and the Bartlesville areas, are traditionally held in August. Date and time are at the discretion of the host/hostess. In the past, about 12-20 people have attended. The host/hostess provides drinks, while those who attend each bring a pint of ice cream or their favorite cookie/brownie or treat. TNC provides serving ware.

If you would like to host a summer social for docents in your area, please call Mary at the Tulsa office, 585-1117.

# JULY 2000

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
						<b>1</b> <i>Cheryl Smith Alfred Smith Shirley Inglis TG Jim Vester</i>
<b>2</b> <i>Mary Cummings Carol Redford *</i>	<b>3</b> <i>George McCourt Clara Swan</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Dennis Bires Marian Bires Beverly Atteberry Independence Day</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Mona Calvert Darryl Calvert Jeanna Cooper</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Mona Calvert Darryl Calvert Vivian Nemece</i>	<b>7</b> <i>Susan Jackson June Endres Marilyn Campbell</i>	<b>8</b> <i>Clara Swan Jean Wagener Jerry Wagener TG Don Bruner</i>
<b>9</b> <i>Peggy Sjoberg Gerald Sjoberg TG Brent Johnson</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Al Medley Liz Medley</i>	<b>11</b> <i>Loretta Vives Van Vives</i>	<b>12</b> <i>John Boxall Stu Marshall Phil Winslow (1:00)</i>	<b>13</b> <i>Nyla Woody Randy Woody TG Phil Allen</i>	<b>14</b> <i>Karen Harris Dorothy Buck</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Sally Conrath Mark Conrath * TG John Fisher</i>
<b>16</b> <i>Jim Hadley Sue Wheeler *</i>	<b>17</b> <i>Barbara Bates Yuki Roberts</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Jim Vester Bill Rinehart</i>	<b>19</b> <i>Dave Dolcater Karen Harris</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Jeanna Cooper Irene Ward</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Nancy Irby * TG Jenk Jones</i>	<b>22</b> <i>Betty Turner David Turner * TG Van Vives</i>
<b>23</b> <i>Irene Ward Marilyn Clarke *</i>	<b>24</b> <i>Karen Harris Pat Jaynes</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Karen Harris *</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer Ray Kelley</i>	<b>27</b> <i>Linda Anderson Mark Mueting</i>	<b>28</b> <i>Stu Marshall *</i>	<b>29</b> <i>Jo Brooks Marilyn Joplin Liz Chandler Shirley Inglis</i>
<b>30</b> <i>* * TG John Boxall</i>	<b>31</b> <i>James Cupps *</i>					

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)

Weekends call - Ann Whitehorn 918-287-4238  
Shift Hours: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
(Stay until 5 if you can)