

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

August 2000

Sue Wheeler Honored!

from Mary Coley

Sue Wheeler will be honored as one of eight Nature Conservancy Heroes in the organization's 50th anniversary magazine issue, due out in December! Sue was nominated in March. Notice was received in late July that Sue will be featured. Her brief article and photo will emphasize her dedication and hard work to benefit the state chapter, and especially the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve through her endless hours of work as the volunteer gift shop manager from 1994 until spring 2000. Congratulations, Sue!!

Gift Shop News

The Gift Shop sales:

9,429.50	June 2000
9,444.83	June 1999
(15.33)	Decrease in Sales

26,932.95	2000 Year to Date
24,420.04	1999 Year to Date
2,512.91	Increase in Sales

Visitation – June

from George Meyers

1,614 visitors registered in June, down 13% from June 1999. 58 foreign visitors - (28) Germany, (9) Canada, and (5) Denmark, (4) England, (4) Poland, (4) Sweden, (3) Brazil and (1) Australian. 776 visitors were from 37 other states, and 780 from Oklahoma. All of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 74% of other state visitors and 41.5% of Oklahomans.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday drew the largest number of visitors, though the rest of the week the daily number of visitors was about even. As usual, mid-day, 11:30 to 3:30 was the popular time. A number of visitors came after 5:30 and wished that the gift shop had been open.

Comments were favorable, "many were delighted to see the bison, and impressed with the wide open spaces." A number of compliments referred to "Great job being done by the Conservancy."

Open House at our New Offices!

from Mary Coley

Come see our new "digs!" Open House has been set for Sept. 14th from 5-7 p.m. at 2727 E. 21st St., in the Midway Building, first floor, suite 102. (Directly north of Border's book store, and just west of the Broken Arrow expressway on 21st Street, between Harvard and Lewis.)

Calendar

August

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

September

- 8-9 Okla. Academy of Science Meeting, Osage Hills/TGP
- 14 Open House at new Office
2727 E. 21st St., Suite 102
- 15-17 Bartlesville
Indian Summer
Celebration
(Volunteers needed)
- 23 General Members
Field Trip to Tallgrass

October

- 26 Docent Day at
Roundup 2000
(1 pm to 4 pm)
- 26-29 Expo Square (Tulsa)
Kid's World 2000 Event
(Volunteers needed)

November

- 11 Docent Picnic

Adopt-A Bison Program Loses Dave

from Mary Coley

With regret, we have accepted the resignation of Dave Dolcater as the volunteer manager of the Adopt-A-Bison program. Dave has nurtured the program since late 1996. His presence at the office and his calm efficient manner of dealing with all our adoptions will be missed. Dave's resignation is effective July 31.

Good News Travels fast....

Word has it that Pat Jaynes and Liz Medley were each treated to two tickets to the final concert of OK Mozart 2000 by a Tallgrass Prairie Preserve visitor! This visitor so appreciated their time, knowledge and friendliness during a visit to the preserve, that she presented them with the free tickets as a thank you! Great!

ICE CREAM SOCIALS

July 27 is the date of the Tulsa Ice Cream Social, to be held at Barbara Bates' home in south Tulsa. Reservations due Wednesday, July 26!

Bartlesville, and Pawhuska Ice Cream Socials – those in the B'ville area and Pawhuska area will be receiving notice about these events as they are planned. Stay tuned....

New Web Site!

from Mary Coley

A new web site is up for the Oklahoma Chapter. Jerry Wagener (docent class of 2000) has put a lot of time and energy into getting it up and running. You can access the site at the following address and see it for yourself: <http://www.tnc.org/oklahoma> Contact Mary Coley if you have any suggestions or comments about this site.

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!

Prairie News

from: Harvey Payne

- The rut is occurring now. The bison are occasionally in one large herd.
- The cowboys are enlarging bison corrals and spot spraying sericea lespedeza.
- We need volunteers to paint the bison corrals.
- Big bluestem is putting up seed heads.
- We haven't had rain for several weeks.
- Not many wildflowers now.
- The visitors' center looks great.

EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sept. 15 –17 in Bartlesville at the Indian Summer Celebration. Three hours shifts available from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. (4 p.m. last day)

October 26-29, Kid's World 2000 at Tulsa's Expo Square. International children's festival. Three hour shifts available, 9 a.m. to 5 or 8 p.m. (6 p.m. last day)

To help with either event, call Belinda at 585-1117. Recruit your non-docent friends!

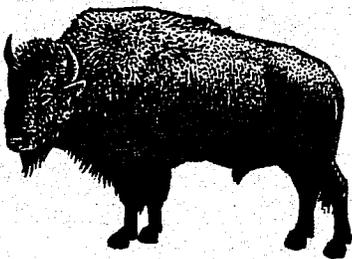
Ancient Crosstimber Field Trip: November 18th

Many of you have said you'd love to see the New Ancient Crosstimbers Preserve site west of Tulsa on Lake Keystone. Mark your calendar for November 18th! Get on the list by calling Belinda at 585-1117.

Field trip fee is \$5.00.

Volunteers --- Take the Initiative with Our Visitors!

They may not approach you with questions, so you need to approach them! Leave the safety of the counter or the porch and strike out into unknown territory! Engage visitors in conversation, supply information, and questions will come! This is what you are trained for, and why you volunteer!



HELP WANTED

from Mary Coley

Volunteer Manager -- Adopt-A-Bison program (volunteer) manager

Location: Tulsa office. Skills required: data entry, file management, organization skills. Time required: 8-12 hours weekly, except during November, December and January, when the position requires full-time attention. If you are interested in a larger role in our work, with a tremendous benefit to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, please contact Mary Coley or Deirdre McArdle (Development Director) at the Tulsa office, 585-1117.

Editor Needed-

We need to reprint the "Guide to the Tallgrass Prairie" compiled by intern Julie Shaw in 1997. Before reprinting, grammatical and spelling errors must be corrected. If you would like to serve as editor, we Need YOU. This guide is brought together from many sources and the update/edit will require some hours of work. If interested, call Mary Coley, 585-1117.

The Docent News

Do you have Education and Work Experience in Public Relations, Media Relations and Communications?

The Oklahoma Chapter is hiring a Communications Coordinator.

If you qualify, and are in a job search mode, call or send Mary Coley a resume soon!

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 3rd 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!

Summer Docent**Council Meeting - Summary**

from Eric Huerter

The Docent Council held its Summer meeting on Saturday, the 8th of July at the Preserve Headquarters area in the shop garage. Council members: Marilyn Clarke, John Fisher, Marilyn Keefer, Doris Mayfield, George McCourt, Bill Rinehart, Candy Thomas, David Turner and Sue Wheeler attended, as well as new docents Art Browning and Jim Neel.

Candy Thomas (docent class of 1999), who is involved with the Chamber of Commerce in Pawhuska, discussed the details of the Pawhuska Interpretive Center project. Anticipated to cost around \$5 –6 million, the project may entail a 2 or 3 story ramp walk showing the history of the prairie beginning at its origin and descending to present day. It will incorporate sights and sounds as well as interactive areas for personal in-depth learning. A WOW room with virtual reality booths is also being considered. The project is still in its organizational and planning stage.

Eric Huerter discussed several topics:

- Prairie Education Day, August 1st. A sign-up sheet for volunteer positions was made available.
- The Garden Project for the MEHAWH (Make Every Home a Wildlife Habitat) group. In 1999, the group gave a generous donation to the TGP to put in a garden walk around the Gift Shop, but various obstacles have prevented it from happening. A “short” trail with signage of native plants at the existing Nature Trail had been talked about but the MEHAWH group felt that this did not meet with their objectives. The project is not dead, however. The present idea, with the approval given by Bob Hamilton, is to use the corner space just West of the bunkhouse for the garden walk.
- A new kiosk at the trailhead. The present kiosk, if you have noticed it, is extremely faded from sunlight and weather damage. The signage is barely readable and is in desperate need of replacement. Eric’s idea is to build a gazebo to house three sign panels, which will provide protection from direct sunlight and the elements. The project is still in the planning stage and completion date is yet to be determined.

This year’s docent training was given high marks all around and the present format seemed to work well with the more relaxed schedule. Comments were also made about the new gift shop – noting an increase in wonderful books and merchandise, as well as the benefit of handling large groups of people.

There is an interest in ice cream socials this year so that everyone can socialize and get to know each other, especially the great new docent class of 2000. Keep your eye open and your spoon ready!