

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

October 2000

Visitation – August

from George Meyers

Only 597 visitors registered in August, down 15% from August 1999. 24 foreign visitors signed in, with Germany (7), Cameroon, West Africa (5) followed by England, Austria and Japan (3 each). 207 visited from 34 other states with Texas (38), Kansas (22), California (18), and New York (14) heading the list. 366 Oklahomans signed in. 100% of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 78.7% from other states, and 65.8% of Oklahomans.

More August visitors came on Saturday followed by Sunday and Friday. The hot weather in the last half of the month definitely slowed visitation.

Comments were very favorable, some were delighted to see the bison and impressed with the Preserve, "Awesome", "Wonderful vistas", "Amazing beauty but sad it is one of the last", "Lovely docent". Keep up the good work in giving information and interesting the visitors in the Preserve and Nature Conservancy.

Trail Guides Busy!

We have entered our busy fall season! Many dates are on the calendar for groups that have requested trail guides, and our guides have risen to meet the need! Thanks! Marilyn Keefer notes that she is in need of one more guide to work Tuesday, Oct. 17 with the Cleveland Middle School group that comes each year. If you are available this date, please call Marilyn at (918) 333-7761.

An additional two dates have been added to the calendar for trail guides:

- Two guides needed for Saturday, Oct. 28 - a group of vet med students who will be assisting with round-up, have requested a morning hike that day.
- Tuesday, November 14, a bus tour of senior citizens arriving at 10:15 would like one guide for a trail hike and one for a step-on tour around the bison loop.

Please notify Marilyn Keefer if you are available to help.

Gift Shop News

The Gift Shop sales:

4,832.05	August 2000
4,396.75	August 1999
<u>435.30</u>	Increase in Sales
39,626.83	2000 Year to Date
35,862.29	1999 Year to Date
<u>3,764.54</u>	Increase in Sales

Calendar

October

- 19 Prairie Road Crew
- 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 Awards Picnic (by invitation only)

Calendar

We hope to keep the shop open through the end of November, so please help out by filling in the empty shifts. If you are interested in working any in December, please let Barbara Bates know, particularly if you are available on weekends. Barbara Bates, 298-7019, Thanks!

Bison Roundup Docent Day

Many of you have already signed up for the docent roundup day, Thursday, Oct. 26. If you have not yet done so, please call the office to get on the list. I will be arranging for a 15-passenger van to transport our group up to the corral. This year, we will meet at 1 p.m. and observe the roundup until mid or late afternoon. Bring your lunch and come early if you'd like to enjoy a picnic and socializing with others. See you there.

Prairie News

from: Harvey Payne

- Planning a new sign at trailhead, work to start in early October.
- Approximately 1 acre burned Sept. 19 as a result of wildfire caused by electrical line.
- Recent babies born.
- Group size: many scattered bands.
- Continuing to work on expansion of bison corral.
- Extremely dry conditions prevail.
- Monarch's butterflies are starting to fly south.

Docent Fall Opportunities

by Dick Baker

All Docents and guests are welcome to join the Prairie Road Crew for the fall season. We are scheduled to clean the roadways on Friday, September 22 and Thursday, October 19. Several of you have commented that you would like "to get in on some real outdoor action ... like painting the corrals." These days will be your fall opportunities to not only visit the ditches but also to get your hands in the paint buckets, if that is your desired outdoor action. Those who would like to join in the PRC for either of these days, for either cleaning or painting, call Dick Baker @ (918) 747-2495, for the details.

Ancient Crosstimbers Field Trip: November 18th

Want 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.

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FALL EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

October 26, 27, 28 and 29, The Nature Conservancy will have a booth at Kid's World 2000, at the Expo Square in Tulsa. This event, hosted by the Tulsa Global Alliance, is an annual children's international festival. Each booth will provide an activity for children and will provide information of a global interest. Thursday and Friday many Tulsa school classes will attend the festival. We will be busy, and volunteers are badly needed! Shift times for Thursday, Friday and Saturday are 9 a.m. to noon, Noon to 3 p.m., 3 p.m. - 6 p.m., and 6 - 8 p.m. On Sunday, the festival shifts are from noon to 3 and 3-6.

On Thursday and Friday, volunteers are needed for the 3-6 and 6-8 p.m. shifts. On Saturday, volunteers are needed all day. On Sunday, volunteers are needed from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

Please check your calendars and see if you can help us out! Call us at 918/585-1117, and talk to Belinda or Mary for more information or to sign up!

HELP WANTED

from Mary Coley

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.

New Web Site!

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.

Docent Award/ Recognition System

An important part of our Docent Award Day is the presentation of service awards for the number of shifts served. Our tally begins once you have completed your official "intern" day with other veteran docents at the Preserve.

If you have worked the required three shifts by October 1, you will be invited to the Award Day.

Docent awards are cumulative over your years as a Docent. The recognized levels include: 4 Shifts, 10 Shifts, 20 Shifts, 30 Shifts, 40 Shifts, 50 Shifts, 60 Shifts and so on. This year, we expect to give several awards at the 60 and 70-shift levels for the first time!

(Shifts counted must be worked during the current calendar year, by October 1.) We hope to be able to see you at the Award Day!

A Docent Recognition Reminder:

Those of you who have worked the required three shifts this season (between mid-March and end of September) will receive an invitation to the annual Docent Awards Picnic. Watch for your special invitation, and RSVP card about mid-October. For docents who received training this year, your three qualifying shifts begin once you have completed your training, including the "intern" shift. I hope to see all of you there!

REMINDER TO ALL VOLUNTEERS:

Please LOCK the Cash Drawer and the DOOR when you leave!! We are frequently finding them left unlocked! Take your time when you close to be sure that our security procedures are followed! Thank you!

ALL DOCENTS, NATURE CONSERVANCY STAFF AND MEMBERS are invited to the second annual "Pawhuska on the Prairie" Silent Auction, Saturday, October 29, 2000. The Silent Auction is a major fundraiser for the planning and development of the Pawhuska Tallgrass Prairie Interpretative Center. The auction will be held in the back (south side) of the Pawhuska Visitor's Information Center, 222 West Main. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with a BBQ dinner from Bad Brad's. Tickets are \$15.00 per person and can be purchased from the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce, (918) 287-1208 or at the door.

OCTOBER 2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Mary Cummings Carol Redford	2 George McCourt *	3 Clara Swan Sue Wheeler	4 John Boxall *	5 Sally Baker Dick Baker	6 * *	7 Dorothy Buck * TG John Fisher
8 Gene Turner Marilyn Clark	9 Al Medley Liz Medley	10 Loretta Vives Van Vives	11 Roberta Wherritt Judy Barto Dave Dolcater	12 * * TG Jenk Jones	13 * *	14 Clara Swan Shirley Inglis TG Don Bruner
15 Nick Delgrosso Barbara Bates *	16 * *	17 Jim Vester Marian Bires	18 * *	19 * *	20 * *	21 Kim Hagan Phil Hagan TG Jim Vester
22 * * *	23 * *	24 * *	25 Marilyn Keefer *	26 Bill Rinehart Linda Anderson	27 Pat Jaynes *	28 Betty Turner David Turner *
29 Jo Brooks Liz Chandler *	30 * *	31 * * Halloween				

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

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

NOVEMBER 2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>Clara Swan</i> *	2 * *	3 <i>Sue Wheeler</i> *	4 <i>Gene Turner</i> * <i>TG Jim Vester</i>
5 <i>Peggy Sjoberg</i> <i>Gerald Sjoberg</i> *	6 <i>George McCourt</i> *	7 * *	8 <i>Roberta Wherritt</i> <i>Judy Barto</i>	9 * *	10 <i>Pat Jaynes</i> *	11 <i>Clara Swan</i> <i>Dean Johnston</i> <i>Mary Ann Johnston</i>
12 <i>Barbara Bates</i> <i>Jean Wagener</i> <i>TG Jerry Wagener</i>	13 <i>Al Medley</i> <i>Liz Medley</i>	14 <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i>	15 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> *	16 * *	17 * <i>TG Jenk Jones</i>	18 * * <i>TG John Fisher</i>
19 <i>Nick Delgrosso</i> * *	20 * *	21 <i>Jim Vester</i> *	22 <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i>	23 * * <i>Thanksgiving</i>	24 * *	25 * * *
26 * * *	27 * *	28 * *	29 * *	30 <i>Linda Anderson</i> <i>Bill Rinehart</i>		

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