

The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

September 2001

Summer Docent Ice Cream Socials

Our first ice cream social was held on August 16th in Bartlesville at the home of David and Betty Turner. We all enjoyed a cool evening (yes, believe it or not it was *very* pleasant outside that night!), good company, tasty snacks, and a lovely water garden. Many thanks to the Turners for their hospitality. The next ice cream social will be held in Ponca City. See below for details and *please RSVP if you plan to attend!!*

Ponca City Ice Cream Social

Host: Maxine Manering
When: Sept. 20, 2001, 7pm
Where: 11 Sherman Lane

Please RSVP soon to Kim or Belinda at (918) 585-1117. If you would like to bring ice cream, cookies or toppings, let us know when you RSVP.

I have had no offers for a site for a Tulsa ice cream social so at present, none is planned.

July 2001 Visitation

from George Meyers

July visitation continued the downward trend of the last seven years. 1,100 visitors signed-in, 10.6% less than July 2000. We had 40 visitors from 14 other countries with Germany (11), England (8), and Hungary (4) heading the list. New countries this month were Hungary, China (with 3 including 2 from Hong Kong), Pakistan and Singapore. We had 453 visitors from 40 other states with Texas (73), Kansas (42), California (29), Florida (27), Illinois (26), and Missouri heading the list. We had 605 from Oklahoma and 2 from Guam. 31 of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 340 of out-of-state visitors and 284 Oklahomans. Year to date, we have had visitors from 49 states, Washington D.C., 3 U.S. possessions and 41 other countries. 59.7% of the visitors were first-timers, 77% of foreign visitors, 75% of visitors from other states, and 46.9% of Oklahomans. Many visitors continue to return to the Prairie for a second and third time.

Visitors were quite evenly spread over the week, with Tuesday being the slowest day.

As usual, mid day was the most popular time to visit (80% visit between 9:30 and 3:30pm). One Saturday saw 74 visitors that signed in and one Monday had 72 visitors.

A sampling of visitor comments included: "Spiritual!" "Hard to find such sweeping vistas with nary a manmade thing in sight." From Connecticut, a truth "Always grant right of way to crossing bison." A visitor from Hong Kong wrote in Chinese, "Beautiful, natural and peaceful-quiet." (Translation courtesy of Stu Marshall) A Spanish visitor wrote, "thanks for helping reproduction of the bisons." "After city living, vast openness is amazing." A Pakistani, "It smell very good." Other comments included, "really well done, great people" "Camo the oil tanks and put utilities underground." Many people remarked "beautiful, great, or wonderful" and one with no further explanation wrote, "nearly killed by a bull." (yikes!)



Gift Shop

Sales Summary

6,621.88	July 2001
7,861.83	July 2000
-1,239.95	Decrease in Sales
39,388.92	2001 Year to Date
34,794.78	2000 Year to Date
4,594.14	Increase in Sales

Adopt-A-Bison Sales

Adopting these big brown critters continues to be popular. At the end of our 2001 fiscal year the program has brought in over \$81,000.00 to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and the bison herd!

Nickel Preserve Info Events Set for Volunteer Recruitment

Here's one last and late reminder of the upcoming events to begin the recruitment of docents for the Nickel Preserve. In early September, several public events will be held to showcase the Nickel Preserve northeast of Tahlequah and to recruit volunteer trail guides. Dates are: Sept. 4 at Tahlequah Public Library (6:30-8 p.m.), Sept. 5 at Muskogee Public Library (7 - 8:30), Sept. 6 at Hardesty Library in Tulsa, (7-8:30 p.m.) If you would like to help with refreshments or as a greeter at any of these events, please contact Mary Coley at 585-1117.



OK Chapter Calendar

September

- 4 Nickel info (Tahlequah)
- 5 Nickel info (Muskogee)
- 6 Nickel info (Tulsa)
- 8 *awigana* fundraiser (Tulsa - advance tickets)
- Prairie Road Crew
- 20 Ponca City Ice Cream Social
- 22 Nickel trail guide training

October

- 8 Fall Wildflower ID session
- 13 Wild Spirits (OKC fundraiser)

November

- 2, 3 Fishing Tournament
- 14 Docent Roundup Day

December

- 8 Docent Recognition Dinner

Bloomin' News

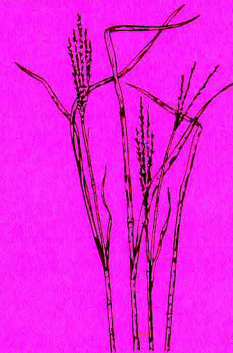
Here's a quick list of what you and visitors can expect to see blooming at the Prairie: Goldenrod, Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, and other warm season grasses, Ragweed (unfortunately), Asters, Late Boneset or Joe Pye Weed, Cardinal Flower, and Blue Sage.

TGP Plant Brochure

Just a reminder that there is a detailed plant brochure available for visitors. Don't forget to offer this to folks when they visit the gift shop either before or after they walk the trail or just drive around. You might be nicely surprised by the number of people who are interested in the plant life at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

Regular Wildflower ID Sessions

From the input I have received from many of you I will begin scheduling regular wildflower/plant ID sessions. **The fall session will be October Monday, October 8th.** Let's meet at the gift shop at 9:30am. I plan on concentrating on the fall grasses, their characteristics, and some basic terminology. We will also look at any flowers we can find. I also hope to hold a winter session. More on that in upcoming newsletters. Please RSVP to Kim by October 1st for the fall session at (918) 585-1117 or at kshannon@tnc.org.



Andropogon gerardii
Big Bluestem

Prairie Road Crew

Another PRC clean up date is set for **September 8th** but the regular leader of the group, Dick Baker, will be out of town. So, do other members of the PRC want to coordinate efforts for Saturday, September 8th? Please call Kim ASAP if you want to help!



Mark your calendars for this year's Docent Recognition Dinner

This year's docent recognition event will be taking place on the evening of **Saturday, December 8, 2001**. The event will be held at the new Hampton Inn between Tulsa and Sand Springs. The evening's activities will include dinner and award presentations. For those interested, the hotel will offer a special rate to docents who wish to stay overnight. Amenities of the hotel include an indoor pool, sauna, and hot tub, complimentary continental breakfast, small fridge in each room, cable TV, and more. You can check out this new facility via a virtual hotel tour at www.showhotel.com\hamptoninn\7412701.

Specific information will be in an upcoming edition of the Docent News and in your invitations.

Docent Roundup Day

This year's Docent Roundup Day is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2001! Watch for more information in the October issue of the docent newsletter!

Trail Guides Needed!!

The last few days of August have brought a flurry of interest from school groups regarding field trips to the Tallgrass Prairie. I need to recruit trail guides for the following dates.

Friday, September 21, 2001: 2 guides needed

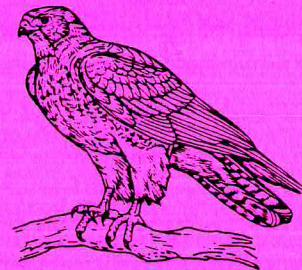
Tuesday, September 25, 2001: 8 guides needed

Oct. 2, 4, 9, & 11: 5-6 guides needed for each day!

If you are able to work one or more of these days please call (918-585-117) or email (kshannon@tnc.org) Kim ASAP. I will then forward more information to you regarding times and activities for each group.

As always, your assistance and dedication is greatly appreciated!

Prairie News



- Roundup will begin this year a bit later than previous years. Bob and the cowboys will begin working at the corrals in mid November.
- A controlled burn was done in early August and more late summer burns are planned.

SEPTEMBER 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Marilyn Clarke Charlotte Evans *
2 Mary Cumming Carol Redford *	3 George McCourt *	4 Linda Anderson Pat Jaynes	5 Clara Swan Stu Marshall	6 Jo Nowlin Fred Nowlin Eleanor Hill	7 Jay Ross *	8 Jim Deming * TG Don Bruner
9 Nick Delgrosso Cheryl Kilpatrick *	10 * *	11 Joyce Clark Roger Clark	12 * *	13 Jenk Jones Carolyn Kuykendall	14 John Boxall Carolyn Kuykendall	15 George Ratliff Ruth Ratliff TG John Fisher
16 Brent Johnson * *	17 Loretta Vives Van Vives	18 Jim Vester Gene Harrison	19 Art Walsh *	20 Carolyn Kuykendall Eleanor Hill	21 * Iris McPherson *	22 Jean Wagener * TG Jerry Wagener
23 Jean Wagener * TG Jerry Wagener	24 Larry Myers Don Baird	25 Carolyn Kuykendall *	26 <i>Stu Marshall</i> Iris McPherson Marilyn Keefer	27 Bill Rinehart Eleanor Hill Phil Winslow (pm)	28 June Endres Ray Kelley	29 Jo Brooks Liz Chandler TG Van Vives
30 * * TG John Boxall						

RETURN THIS TO: Barbara Bates
4142 E. 48th St.
Tulsa OK 74135

Phone: 918 - 748-9497
(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)

OCTOBER 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>George McCourt</i> *	2 * *	3 <i>Clara Swan</i> <i>Dave Dolcater</i>	4 <i>Sally Baker</i> <i>Dick Baker</i>	5 <i>Jenk Jones</i> *	6 * * *
7 <i>Mary Cumming</i> <i>Carol Redford</i> *	8 * *	9 <i>Pat Jaynes</i> *	10 * *	11 <i>Liz Medley</i> <i>Al Medley</i>	12 * *	13 <i>Jim Deming</i> * <i>TG Don Brunner</i>
14 <i>Nick Delgrosso</i> * *	15 <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i>	16 <i>Jim Vester</i> *	17 * *	18 <i>Gary Watson</i> <i>Jane Watson</i> <i>Phil Winslow (pm)</i>	19 <i>Gary Watson</i> <i>Jane Watson</i>	20 * * <i>TG John Fisher</i>
21 <i>Brent Johnson</i> * *	22 <i>Peggy Sjoburg</i> <i>Gerry Sjoburg</i>	23 * *	24 <i>Marilyn Keefer</i> <i>Iris McPherson</i>	25 * *	26 <i>June Endres</i> *	27 * * <i>TG Van Vives</i>
28 * * *	29 * *	30 * *	31 * *			

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NOVEMBER 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 * *	2 * *	3 * * *
4 * * *	5 <i>George McCourt</i> <i>Jenk Jones</i>	6 * *	7 <i>Dave Dolcater</i> *	8 * *	9 * *	10 <i>Jim Deming</i> * *
11 * * *	12 * *	13 * *	14 * *	15 * *	16 * *	17 * * *
18 <i>Brent Johnson</i> * *	19 <i>Loretta Vives</i> <i>Van Vives</i>	20 * *	21 * *	22 * *	23 * *	24 * * *
25 * * *	26 * *	27 * *	28 * *	29 * *	30 * *	

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