

# The Docent News



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

December 2001

## Bison Roundup Notes

Another successful bison roundup has come and gone at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. The bison were worked in the corral from Nov. 10 – 15. The process was a bit slower this year because the ear tags in each animal had to be replaced with a newer model. There was also a lot of media coverage and visitors again this year.

### Bison statistics from the 2001 roundup include:

- 2001 born calves: 371 (175 female, 196 male)
- 2001 red calves: 0 (as compared to 17 in fall 2000)
- Calving Rate: 68%
- Bison worked in corral: 1519
- Known roundup escapees: 2 cows and 1 bull
- Over-wintering herd size: 1475
- Bison held for sale: 54
- Maximum weight: 1652lbs, 1996 born bull
- Minimum Weight: 144lb female calf
- Year-round pasture acres: 14,352 acres by year end
- Bison purchased with Adopt-a-Bison funds: 7 bulls from Ft. Niobrara NWR, Nebraska

## October 2001

### Visitation

from George Meyers

1,250 visitors signed in during October, 22% more than in October 2000. We had 18 visitors from 7 other countries with England (4), Australia, Indonesia, and New Zealand (3 each), Czech Republic and Scotland (2 each) topping the list. New countries added to this year's list were Czech Republic, Indonesia and Sweden. There were 285 visitors from 35 other states with Kansas (44), Texas (33), California (29), Colorado (18) and Washington (12) at the top of the list. We had 947 visitors from Oklahoma. 17 of the foreign visitors were first-time visitors, along with 223 of out-of-state visitors and 486 Oklahomans. Year to date, we have had visitors from all 50 states, Washington D.C., 3 U.S. possessions and 50 other countries. (last month we reported that Vermont was the only missing state but since then a docent informed me of an encounter with visitors from Vermont.) Of the 9,443 visitors so far this year, 57.8% were first-timers including 84.2% of foreign visitors,

73.8% of visitors from other states, 49% of Oklahomans, and 100% from Guam. With luck we might have 10,000 visitors this year!

This month more visitors came on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, totaling 76.9% of our visitors. 85.2% of visitors came between 9:30 and 3:30pm. We had one day with no visitors at all.

Some visitor comments were: "Best kept secret in the U.S." From a Czech, "Amazing! Buffalos are very friendly" "Cool bones!!", "Thanks Conservancy", "Not like Staten Island", "Amazing, so glad it's being brought back", "Thank God someone cares!", "Enjoyed picnic in the field". Again there were many "great, wonderful, beautiful, and interesting comments along with a few "cools" and one "Super Day-Super Tour" comment.

## New Phone Numbers

The phone system of the Tulsa office was recently updated. Each staff member now has a direct phone line. The general office and fax numbers remain unchanged. New phone numbers for Kim and Mary are:

**Kim Shannon: 918-293-2919**

**Mary Coley: 918-293-2922**

## Gift Shop

### Sales Summary

6,810.43	October 2001
<u>5,997.30</u>	October 2000
813.13	Increase in Sales
54,502.31	2001 Year to Date
<u>51,465.63</u>	2000 Year to Date
3,036.68	Increase in Sales

## Docent Meeting



We are planning a general docent meeting to be held this winter. We can use this time to discuss any issues, ideas or questions regarding the past docent season and the upcoming 2002 season.

**When:** Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002

- 9:30 am-12:00pm

**Where:** Tulsa TNC Office  
2727 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, suite 102

If the weather is especially uncooperative on January 19<sup>th</sup> we will use the next Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> as an alternate date for the meeting.

Please RSVP to Kim at 293-2919 if you plan on attending the meeting.

### OK Chapter Calendar

#### December

4	Book signing in Tulsa
8	Docent Recognition Dinner

#### January

19	General Docent Meeting
26	alternate meeting date

## Gentle Reminders

- ✓ It is your responsibility to find substitutes if you are not able to work a shift. If you need a new list of docent contact information please let me know so I can mail a list to you. Barbara Bates, Mary Coley or I can help you with last minute changes.
- ✓ Changes in your scheduled shifts should be reported to Barbara Bates first. Please call Kim or Mary only if you cannot reach Barbara. Her contact information is at the bottom of the calendar pages.
- ✓ At the end of your shift, please put your completed Daily Activity Log in the second drawer of the file cabinet just inside the office doorway. There is a folder specifically for these completed forms. *Please do not include them with the daily sales transactions!*
- ✓ Has your email address changed? If so please update us so we can contact you.
- ✓ Do you need an updated or new name badge? Let us know if you do.

## Your Evaluations are Needed!

I have included another copy of the docent evaluation in this month's issue. I would appreciate your input regarding the docent program. The evaluation form lets me know if you

will continue with the TGP docent program during 2002 and what you think needs improvement. Please complete the enclosed evaluation form ASAP and return it to Kim at The Nature Conservancy, 2727 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, suite 102, Tulsa, OK 74114.

*Gracias!*

## Winter Shifts

As in recent years we hope to keep the Visitor center open into December. So far there are only 3 shifts covered in December. If you are interested in working during the month of December, please contact Barbara Bates for scheduling at (918) 748-9497 or [bbates@webzone.net](mailto:bbates@webzone.net)

## A Natural Suspect

Tulsa author Bill Bernhardt is contributing to the Oklahoma Chapter with a new book! After trips to Black Mesa and the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, author Bernhardt put together this book project with some colleagues. "Natural Suspect" is a mystery tale that opens with clues from Bernhardt. Several contributing guest authors take it from there, with each author attempting to solve the mystery.

Help celebrate the release of Tulsa novelist Bill Bernhardt's "Natural Suspect" by attending a book signing. **The signing will take place at Novel Idea bookstore, 7104 S. Sheridan in Tulsa from 11am-12:30pm on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.**