The Docent News

For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

Gift Shop News
from Sue Wheeler

On May 16 gift shop hours extended until 5 p.m., and the third shift option began for weekends on May 30! This extra coverage should bring extra sales.

Total sales for the month of April were $4,730.71, bringing year-to-date sales to $8,130.97, $795 dollars more than during this period for 1997. We were open 29 out of 30 days.

Hope everyone is having good experiences with the VISA/MC machine. Let us know how you like it, and about your successes as well as any problems.

Don’t forget, the credit card procedure is posted and the red operations booklet is nearby, with a help number. Don’t be afraid to give it a try! Unfortunately our biggest problem to date has been with the phone lines. When the lines are out, the machine will not process sales. In those cases, take cash or check, please!

Visitation
from George Meyers

Visitation during the month of April was 1178 registrants! Of those, 438 came from 40 other states, 44 came from 11 foreign countries and 696 were from Oklahoma! This brings our visitor data figures to include visitors from 44 states and 19 other countries already.

Visitors from Texas, Missouri, Kansas and California still lead the list of states, with England and Germany tied among the foreign countries with 11 visitors each.

About 185 of this month’s first time visitors were Pawhuska first and second graders! All reports indicate that they and their teachers and parents had a great time!

Ice Cream Socials

Planning is beginning for our annual regional ice cream socials, to be held in late July or early August. If you’re interested in hosting or helping, call Mary at 918/585-1117.

Calendar

June
20 Heritage Day at TGPP
27 Butterfly Count at TGPP

July/August
6-8 Ice Cream Socials

October
3 Docent Appreciation Picnic

This ‘N That
by Mary McIntyre
Education and Outreach Coord.

Included with this addition of the Docent News is the new Docent Roster, incorporating the 1998 Docent Class with all of our returning docents. Take a minute to look over this listing to make sure your entries are correct in our database. Please call me if there are corrections (585-1117).

This list is useful when you need to find a partner or to find a substitute - or to find a new friend. Please use it!

We have started the longer hours with the advent of summer. Your opinions on
This ‘N That - continued
how this is working are wel-
come! I would like to take a
POLL regarding the length
of shift. Please call my ex-
tension (22) at the Tulsa of-
fice and leave me a brief
message. If the longer hours
are causing problems for
some of you, please let me
know. I would rather find
another solution for covering
longer hours than to lose you
as a docent because you feel
overworked!

BAD NEWS ------
Three of the four
“scrimshaw” items which
were ordered for gift shop
inventory have been “lifted”
from the shop, where they
were on display. Although
this is a beautiful item, we
cannot continue to keep it for
sale with such a high theft
rate. If anyone has any in-
formation about where the
items may have gone, please
contact Sue Wheeler or Mary.

Heritage Day - June 20
Don’t forget this special day
at the Prairie! Extra docents
are needed as there will be a
good crowd on hand! Our
book sale in the yard is al-
ways successful! Contact
Barbara Bates to sign up for a
partial shift if you plan to at-
tend. There will be great mu-
ic, and as always, Bad
Brad’s BBQ for lunch!!

Prairie News
from Harvey Payne,
Preserve Director, and
Bob Hamilton, preserve director of
Science and Stewardship

- Over 130 baby bison have
  been born as of early-
  May! The bison are
grazing the large burn
  patches. With the arrival
  of the calves, the groups
  of adults are starting to
  come together. They are
  also starting to shed their
  winter hair.

- The trail upgrade is now
  complete. Both loops
  have been graveled, with
  berms installed on the
  stretches which are erod-
ing. A steel bridge has
  been installed over the
creek on the long loop,
  and the long loop has
  been expanded. This long
  loop is now officially
called the “Prairie Earth
  Trail.”

- Alan Brown, a volunteer
  from Atlanta, returned
  this year and has been
  painting the bison corrales.
  He will finish the paint
  job by May 30!

- There have been no burns
  or wildfires recently.

- Peter Pruett, a new Mas-
ters candidate under Dr.
  Jim Shaw at OSU, has
  started a research project
  focusing on the use of

The Docent News
shed bison wool by bur-
rowing rodents.

- In the TU project, the re-
searchers are starting to
test different plant species
for revegetation of reme-
diated oil spill sites.

- The structure is now
  complete for the new ga-
rage. Electrical and water
will be installed by the
end of May.

- The cowboys have been
  removing old fence and
cattle pens, and building
work benches and shelv-
ing for the new shop.

- Volunteer assistance is
  needed to clean up litter
along the roads through
the preserves.

- Plant growth got off to a
good start this spring, al-
though, prior to last
weekend, it had been a
little hot and dry. Wild-
flowers are coming on,
with a good display visi-
table along the nature trail.

- Special thanks to Jan and
Ted Holsembach and
their crew of volunteers
for cleanup along the
roadside on April 11.

New Docent Roster included
in this issue!
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E-Mail: bbates@webzone.net  
Shift Hours: 9:30am - 5 pm
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