The Docent News

For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

Summer Docent Meeting and Social
You are invited to attend the Summer Docent Meeting and Ice Cream Social, set for Saturday, July 14 at 10 a.m. Join us in the HQ yard (bring your lawn chairs) for a 10 a.m. meeting under the shade trees. Bring a sack lunch and stay for ice cream! Please RSVP by calling Mary Coley or Belinda at 585-1117 July 11. If you would like to bring ice cream, cookies or toppings, let us know when you RSVP. The meeting will be discussion, a program update. Bring any of your thoughts or concerns to the table. Staff attending will include Mary Coley and Kim Shannon. Effective July 1, Kim will be taking over most management duties of the Docent program, as Mary Coley pulls together a volunteer program for the new Nickel Preserve, including trail guides and plans for the visitors center. (The awi-gana fundraiser set for Sept. 8 will provide funds for use in constructing a visitors center.)

Visitation – May from George Meyers
May visitation was great, 1811 visitors signed-in, the third highest May in our 8 years of records, and 11.6% over May, 2000. We had 51 visitors from 21 other countries, with France (10), England (7), Holland (4), Nigeria (4), Mexico (3) and Ethiopia (3) heading the list. We had 512 visitors from 35 other states with Kansas (61), California (60), Texas (56), Colorado (28), Arkansas (27), Florida (23) and Illinois (22) leading. We had 1248 from Oklahoma. Of the foreign visitors were first-timers, along with 358 of out-of-state visitors and 524 Oklahomans. Year to date, we have had visitors from 43 states and 36 other countries. 51% of the visitors were first-timers, 80% of foreign visitors, 70% of visitors from other states, and 42% of Oklahomans. Many are coming back a second time. Saturday, Sunday and Monday were the most popular days to visit (55% of visitors), and mid day the most popular time (81% from 9:30 to 3:30). We had two days with 157 and 147 visitors signed in and eight with over 100 visitors!
Visitor comments included, “God lives out here!” “Thanks for pulling the tick out of my leg.” “Can I get married here?” “Wild and Wonderful”, “We saw a big tom turkey struttin’ his stuff!” “A unique national treasure!”

July 12 Next Road Crew Date
Don’t forget that the next Road Crew Day is July 12! If you’d like to help with beautification of the Preserve’s open access roads, please contact Dick at 918/747-2495 by July 5.

Gift Shop
Sales Summary
10,332.12  2001 May
9,030.75  2000 May
1,301.37  Increase in Sales

23,224.39  2001 Year to Date
17,503.45  2000 Year to Date
5,720.94  Increase in Sales
(Note: Last months’ Docent News gift shop summary was incorrect.)
Nickel Preserve Info
Events Set for Volunteer Recruitment

In early September, several public events will be held to showcase the Nickel Preserve north 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 (7:00-8:30), 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.

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<td>7 Nickel Seed Harvest Day</td>
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<td>12 Prairie Road Crew</td>
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<td>14 Docent Meeting and Ice Cream Social 10 a.m. Butterfly Count (Nickel)</td>
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<td><strong>August</strong></td>
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<td>4 Nickel Seed Harvest Day</td>
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<td>18 Wild Brew fundraiser, Tulsa Expo Center (tickets required)</td>
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<td><strong>September</strong></td>
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<td>4 Nickel info (Tahlequah)</td>
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<td>5 Nickel info (Muskogee)</td>
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<td>6 Nickel info (Tulsa)</td>
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<td>8 awigana fundraiser (Tulsa - advance tickets)</td>
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<td>22 Nickel trail guide training</td>
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Busy Spring for Trail Guides!

THANK YOU to all the trail guides who assisted with groups this spring! It has been a busy one. Here's a list of those groups (since March 1):

- March 10 - Girl Scout Ecology Day
- April 14 - Pryor "Expanding Horizons" program
- April 18 - Addams Elementary (Tulsa)
- April 21 - family group
- April 26 - Jenks 5th Grade "Education Day"
- April 28 - Ketchum Science Club
- April 30 - Bandana Tour Group
- May 5 - Oklahoma Outdoor Network
- May 5 - Skiatook Girl Scout Group
- May 9 - McKinnley Elementary 4th grade (Tulsa)
- May 15 - Salk Elementary (Tulsa)
- May 31 - Madeleine Church (Tulsa)
- June 8 - Woodland Elementary (Fairfax)
- June 11 - OK Mozart/Bixler Tour
- June 13 - O'Brian Summer Camp
- June 29 - Stillwater Church Group

And, another thank you to all of the trail guides who serve regularly monthly shifts. They have been busy guiding small groups on the trail as well. We appreciate you!

The Docent News

State Office Staff Updates

Several changes are taking place at the Oklahoma Field Office in Tulsa. Please note these changes in your docent manual.

- Membership Coordinator - Pam Lucas
- Development/Special Events Coordinator - Wendy Ogle (new position)
- Nickel Preserve Director - Chris Wilson (new position)

(Chris has been our Director of Conservation, and is making the move over to Nickel. The position of Director of Conservation is open, and should be filled later this summer.)

Merchandise Questions/Suggestions?

Please direct all of your questions about inventory to staff member Ann Whitehorn, Gift Shop Manager. Ann is at the visitors center most mornings, or you can leave her a note, or send her an email at the Preserve office address, tallgrass@mmind.net. Your suggestions are welcome.

TU Freshmen to Hold Preserve Workday

Incoming freshmen from Tulsa University will hold a workday at the Preserve on August 18. Their project will be painting the bison corral. We're glad for their help.
ANNOUNCING:
The Oklahoma Chapter’s first ever – Amateur Photography Contest!!
Entries may be made in three age categories, and three photo categories. Black and white entries will be judged separately. No cash prizes. First, second, third and honorable mention will be awarded.

Age categories are: Ten and Under, 11-18, and adult. Photo categories are:
- “Naturally” Oklahoma – Places, Animals and Plants;
- Oklahomans In Nature – People at Play; and
- Conservancy Preserves – Photos featuring TNC’s state projects.

Rules:

1. All Photos must be taken at Oklahoma locations.

2. Submitted contest photos must be 5x7 or larger, and must include the location and date of the photograph, as well as the photo category and age category of the photographer.

3. All entries must be submitted with a stamped, self-addressed return envelope, or they CANNOT be returned.

Contest Entries are DUE: September 1. Winners will be announced in the Winter Issue of the Conservator. Winning photos will be published in the 2002 issues of The Conservator. For more information, contact Mary Coley or Grant Gerondale at 918/585-1117.

Preserve Fire Management Summary
Here’s some fire facts from Bob Hamilton’s latest Fire Management Report

In FY 2001 (7/1/00 to 6/30/01):
- 19,320 Preserve Acres have been burned (includes wildfires)
- 14,440 Neighbor Acres have been burned
- 33,730 Total Acres have been burned during 46 fire events (includes wildfires)

Of the prescribed burns, 25 were spring burns, 1 was a summer burn and 6 were fall burns. Thirteen wildfires were suppressed, all human set, burning 794 preserve acres.

TNC assisted with suppressing six wildfires on neighboring property this past year.

From Dec. 1, 1990 to the present, there have been 257 prescribed burns, burning 167,051 preserve acres and 101,590 neighbor acres (to total 268,641 acres). There have been 42 wildfires, 7 lightning set, and 35 human set, burning a total of 5,207 preserve acres. TNC has assisted with suppression of 40 wildfires on neighboring ranches.

Prairie News
- Spending much time spot-spraying sericea lespedeza
- There should be approximately 400 new calves.
- We are making final plans for the Research Project.
- The cowboys are building fence and spot-spraying.
- There are still many wildflowers.
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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.  
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