



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Tallgrass Prairie  
National Preserve

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## Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

For Immediate Release  
Wendy Lauritzen, (620) 273- 6034  
August 4, 2009

### **Dan Riggs Receives Special Service Award from the Preserve**

The first recipient of a unique service award issued to Dan Riggs was announced today from Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Superintendent Wendy Lauritzen. In providing Dan with a set of spurs inlaid with an NPS arrowhead medallion, Lauritzen stated, “Dan has certainly earned his own spurs.” The spurs are a symbol of his many years of dedication and contributions to the preserve and his tireless community work.

Dan started with the preserve as a volunteer in 1995 when land was under the care of the National Park Trust. His primary duties were to greet visitors and to lead house and barn tours during the monthly open house special events. When the National Park Trust expanded their visitor services to include guided bus tours, Dan was hired to lead the bus tour groups into the prairie. On March 26, 2000 Dan was hired as a seasonal park ranger for the National Park Service. For the next eight years, Dan continued sharing his knowledge of the prairie with visitors to the preserve.

Dan plans to continue volunteering at the preserve, sharing his talents with new audiences. The park has expanded the trail system in the park and there is much work to be done. Dan will be a roving trail volunteer, providing resource preservation along the trails and greeting/ informing visitors he comes into contact with along the way. As visitors enjoy the natural beauty of the prairie and hiking trails, they may have the opportunity to experience Dan’s knowledge of the prairie. Now he will continue to impart some of this knowledge and inspiration to our visitors. Chief of Interpretation Heather Brown stated, “It has been an honor working with Dan these many years and we look forward to our continued work at the preserve as we help our visitors

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appreciate the vast tallgrass prairie ecosystem, its many treasures, inspirational views, and greater recreational opportunities.”

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway). For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve’s website at [www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr), email [tapr\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:tapr_interpretation@nps.gov), or call the preserve at (620) 273- 8494. Superintendent Wendy Lauritzen can be reached at the Cottonwood Falls office headquarters at 620- 273- 6034.

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