



Association of Friends of the Wichitas

Monthly Bulletin

April, 2007



**1907-2007: The Centennial Celebration of both
Oklahoma Statehood and the return of the Buffalo to the Wichitas**

March Notes

The photos above feature members Donna Lindsay and Monte Ginnings who were responsible for both our History Tour orientation as well as leading all of our History Tours this year.



The orientation was on a beautiful, if a bit chilly day. This picture shows the group heading off to the arrastra through the "parallel forest" near the Meers gate.

Donna has done a lot of historical research including interviewing members of the community and families who lived in some of the residences on the refuge and Monte

has done research into the cattle drives and other historical events associated with the development of the refuge. Donna has put together a collection of materials which she shared with tour goers. So this years History tours presented even more information and more points of view than ever before. Kudos to all those who participated in the History Tours for 2007.



WELCOME LORI JONES:

The refuge has a "new" employee. We were able to meet Lori Jones at this month's business meeting. Lori says she requested an opportunity to work in Oklahoma when the Albuquerque FWS office was downsized. She brings familiarity with the program, enthusiasm for her job, and willingness to work with volunteers...who can ask for more. FOW is lucky to have her as their new liaison.

BIG NEWS: FOW IS ON THE WEB!

Due to the wonderful efforts of Chip Kimball, Refuge Biologist we now have our own website: you can find us at <http://friendsofthewichitas.org/> it is work in progress but it looks very good. Chip has done a lot of work and she is willing to make changes and additions, so any suggestions should be emailed to the address on the site.

A chance to "GO GREEN" is available. If you want to pick up your monthly bulletin and calendar from the web rather than snail mail, let us know. The money we save on stamps and copying can be used for other projects.

Please let us know how you feel about the site, contributions are not only welcome but encouraged!

A CHANCE FOR GIVING

The Refuge came to FOW to ask for some help. They are interested in placing information kiosks at the trailheads at three locations. They will have lots of information for hikers including an appeal to "leave no trace". We plan on helping as

an organization but are invited to participate: On the back of the label sheet is a diagram and list of materials. If you would like to fund a 4x4, some nails, etc. we invite you to send a check to FOW including what the donation is for. It will be placed into a special fund and used for the kiosk. There will be several upcoming projects that will encourage participation by giving or by giving of time. Volunteers/ "Friends" will help keep our refuge the special place it is now, but even better!

Upcoming Events:

+Jack Japp will be arranging the program for the April meeting on the 18th at the Library. Be sure to come if you can, the programs are always informative and enjoyable.

*The Wilderness Hike Orientation will be April 7th at 9:00 AM. Meet at the Visitor Center. Members do not need reservations for the orientation tours. This is a strenuous hike between Treasure Lake and Sunset. It covers some rough areas but is a great hike. If you decide to participate be sure to dress appropriately for the weather and with appropriate footwear (no flip flops, please!) and bring some water and snacks. Note that the calendar has openings for assists on several tours. Call Donna or send us an email if you wish to participate as an assist.

General Information

Uniforms for drivers, tour leaders and assistants are light blue "denim" type shirts. You may purchase a FOW patch for the sleeve and after you have completed 50 hours of service the refuge will provide a volunteer patch for the other sleeve. You will need to sign a volunteer agreement with Dana Mallow at Refuge Headquarters.

If you are helping in any way on the tours you will be provided a nametag. Call Paula Irwin at (580) 355-6029 and she will order one for you.

OFFICERS

President: Orville Ducheneaux
 Vice President: Donna Phillips
 Treasurer: Helen Riley
 Secretary: Katherine Hunt
 Parliamentarian: Richard Jarrell

Refuge headquarters (Lori Jones): 580-429-3222

Don't forget your membership card entitles you to a discount at the Visitor Center Bookstore. Show your card and get a discount on your bookstore purchases