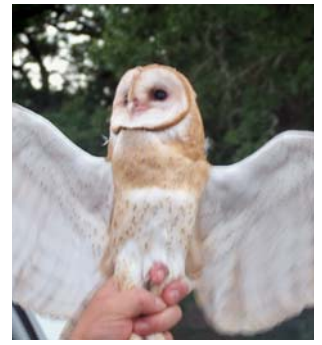




Association of Friends of the Wichitas Monthly Bulletin August, 2007



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

July Notes

*About 12 brave members attended Orientation of the Undercover of Darkness Tour and were rewarded to a treat. Wally Breden of the Breden Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Lawton brought three winged “visitors” to enhance the experience of our groups. Two of them can be seen above—these young birds were wonderful to see, hear and learn about. Wally’s knowledge of raptors, owls in particular, was a welcome addition to the tour. Members also experienced an opportunity to use night vision scopes, test their night vision and learn about many of the refuge night time “critters”. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. All of this years tours went very well and seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended. A night hike which wakes a flock of 20+ vultures and causes them to fly from their perch has to be an exciting (if not heart stopping) experience.

*July’s business meeting brought us excellent information from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in the person of Jeff Steele. Jeff reminded of us of the goals of the RMEF and of the preservation of habitat that they have accomplished. He followed a short film on the RMEF with a demonstration of his excellent elk calling skills and he shared his experiences hunting and assisting hunters on the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. Jeff will probably be back with us in the future to share more elk information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

*August Tech Day will begin at 10 AM on the 4th at the Visitor Center. It will include information provided from a variety of Refuge staff members and information about tour procedures. After this we will move to the Quanah Parker EE Center so that all members present will have an opportunity to see and enjoy the wildlife mounts that have been donated to FOW and are being used in EE Programs. We will have a potluck lunch so bring a “covered dish” and your appetite. We will follow up with our monthly business meeting in the afternoon.

*We still need volunteers to present or assist in finding presenters for program for the October and November meetings this year. If you have suggestions or are willing to volunteer, please contact Donna Phillips.

*The Visitor Center has new hours: It is currently open from 8 AM to 6 PM 7 days per week. They are looking for more volunteers to help man the center. Contact Lori Jones.

NEEDED: Tour assistants for the STARS tours. Please call Donna Phillips if you can help.

FOW IS ON THE WEB!

A chance to “GO GREEN” is available the bulletin and calendar are on our website (and the pictures are in color!). I will notify members when the bulletin and calendar are available on the web. If you are interested in taking advantage of this please send us a message through: www.friendsofthewichitas.org

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