



Association of Friends of the Wichitas

Monthly Bulletin

May, 2007



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

April Notes

Mike Carroll, ODWC Game Ranger for Comanche County was the speaker at the April Business Meeting. His information about game laws and game law enforcement was very interesting and some accounts were humorous. The field work done by these rangers is very important and Mike was a great representative with experience that helped us all understand their role.

Several hardy souls came to the refuge on a morning that was cool enough to see your own breath to go on the Spring Wilderness Hike Orientation. Reports were that they had a very good hike and it was enjoyed by everyone. The hikes were well attended this year. Thanks to Helen, Bill, and Blaine as well as all those who assisted in making this program a success. There has been more and more interest in hiking on the refuge and that has been evidenced by the numbers who sign up for our scheduled hikes.

Orville, Karen and Richard have represented the organization well at two recent events for kids. As we all know, children will be the guardians of the future of the refuge and we need to encourage them to enjoy and care for it. The first event was the Caddo County youth Fair and, most recently, Lawton's Kid's in the Kitchen project sponsored a day at Central Jr. High. The FOW booth was a highlight for many of the visitors. Several of the mounts that were recently donated to the FOW were displayed and the kids were very impressed by the opportunity to see a "real turkey".

We are seeking members who would provide programs or speakers for the meetings in September and October this year. If you could do so please contact Donna Phillips.

Upcoming Events:

*The May 16th program at the Lawton Library will be presented by Lori Jones, the new Liaison officer for FOW. Lori is very knowledgeable and this should be a program well worth attending. See you at 7PM in the Library!

*The Wildflowers on the refuge are really showing themselves this year and it's worth a drive through just to see them, but even better is the member's orientation Wildflower Tour on May 12th Helen Riley and Donna Lindsay will bring their expertise to the group. The tour bus will leave the Visitor Center promptly at 10 AM and no reservations are required for this member's only tour.



General Information

A CHANCE FOR GIVING

Members of FOW have risen to the challenge and are making donations to help fund kiosks for refuge trailheads. One special donation was made in memory of Steven Bravo, grandson of a member.

The kiosks will have lots of information for hikers including an appeal to "leave no trace". 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!

FOW IS ON THE WEB!

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 Kimball 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!

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 D'Ana Mallow at Refuge Headquarters.

Nametags: 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

Contact officers or the organization through the website email address: contact@friendsofthewichitas.org
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