

Association of Friends of the Wichitas

Monthly Bulletin September, 2007



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

August Notes

*Several members of FOW attended the orientation briefing given as part of the FOW Tech Day in August. Everyone was treated to a DVD presentation by Lori Jones with general briefing information and then to specific information from the Biologist, Fire Management Specialist and Law Enforcement Officer. It was an opportunity to get current, up to date information on refuge management policy as well as specific items of interest. FOW then moved to the Environmental Education Center for its business meeting and potluck lunch. As always, if we could not have left the building til we had eaten it all, we would still be there! We all agreed that the mounts donated to us are very impressive and they make a fine addition to the teaching tools of the Environmental Education Department. The group returned to the Visitor Center to learn the location of our scopes and other items used on the tours. It was a long but enjoyable day.

*At the business meeting the guidelines for the Frank and Mae Rush award were approved. FOW presents this award each year in January. The guidelines for the award will be found on the website and nominations are open for this year's award/s.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*September 8th is a day you should mark on your calendar. The Elk Tour Orientation will be a 6:30 AM tour but it has always been a special tour! It is definitely worth setting that alarm clock and crawling out of bed early. This year's forage on the Refuge has been extraordinary and elk seen in June had antlers that rivaled some of the best we have ever seen so no telling what is in store for us to see and enjoy. The deer, the elk, the longhorn and the buffalo have all fattened up, this year's young ones are growing fast. Come on out and join the group, We **will** pull out of the Visitor Center parking lot at 6:30 sharp!

*There are still lots of opportunities to lead or assist on tours available. You can volunteer by calling President, Orville Ducheneaux to volunteer (see the calendar for available dates). You may call Orville at: (580) 667-4292 (Donna is out of town)

*We still need volunteers to present or assist in finding program presenters for the October and November meetings this year.

*To volunteer to help out at the Longhorn Auction you should call Lori Jones at the number listed below or talk to Donna in September at the same number. We will need people to man our booth as well as those who wish to assist the staff in the actual auction.

*Starting immediately there will be a \$5 discount on first time members who purchase memberships on a tour. This is a one time only discount and it is a \$5 discount no matter what level of membership is purchased.

FOW IS ON THE WEB!

A chance to "GO GREEN" is available the bulletin and calendar are on our website. 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 the Visitor Center.

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

Visitor Center: (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