



# Association of Friends of the Wichitas

## Monthly Bulletin

### March, 2007



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

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### February Notes

The photos above feature Professor Mike Husak of Cameron University as he spoke at Tech Day. On the left is one of the specimens he used to illustrate his presentation on woodpeckers that can be found in the Wichita Mountains. Mike's enthusiasm and knowledge was contagious. I know that whenever I hear one of the local species tapping on a local tree or pole I cannot help but think about the long tongue and extra bone in his jaw that prevent brain damage and I wonder if his noisy manners are getting the attention of some pretty female or if he is running competitors from his home territory.

The lunch was great as always and my guess is that some of those who went on the afternoon Eagle Tour had a "post feast" nap in the back of the bus (ha!).

We did not follow up with a business meeting but the officers met and agreed to take up member Carol Stayer's offer to assist the organization in doing whatever is necessary to file grant applications in the future. Since then Carol has done a lot of the footwork to make this process smoother for FOW.

**\*A Ssecond Reminder:** At the January business meeting it was voted to raise dues for individual members to \$15 and families to \$25. The membership applications are being revised. We are in hopes that the added funds this will allow us to be even more involved with refuge projects, beginning with providing materials with information kiosks to be located at some of the more used trailheads. These will be used to teach the public ways to use the resource without abusing. More proposals for FOW involvement in projects will be forthcoming.

**+A Second Reminder:** Tour fees have been raised to \$5 person. Once again, this is so that FOW can be better able to support efforts of the refuge.

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### Upcoming Events:

+The speaker at our March meeting is Fred Gray, a member of the local Buffalo soldiers group. He will be presenting information about this historically important unit that was so much a part of the history of Ft. Sill.

\*The History Tour Orientation will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. This tour will be the beginning of a new era for FOW in that this will be the first of the tours to begin at the VISITOR CENTER, rather than Headquarters. It will leave promptly at 1:30 PM. This is an excellent opportunity for volunteerism—assistants are needed on all three tours, so come along, refresh your memory and talk to Donna Phillips about volunteering as an assist on the tour.

+Another chance to volunteer...Bill Sparks has two groups of youth coming to the refuge and needs some help with supervision and to ensure safety. The first group comes on March 13<sup>th</sup>. A group of 30+ will meet at Sunset at 9:00 AM for an all day hike/rock climbing adventure. On March 22<sup>nd</sup> a group of 15+ will meet at Sunset at 10 AM for hiking and rock climbing. If you are interested in helping, give Bill a call at home: (580) 536-1141 or at work (580) 536-3929. \be sure to bring cookies for Bill!

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### **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 D'Anna 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.

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