

# ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF THE WICHITAS

## Monthly Bulletin



### November 2008

#### **October Notes:**



The Elk bugled, the coyotes howled, the bison wallowed and the longhorns grazed...in other words this year's Elk tours were superb. Participating as a lead, assist or driver is awesome on any tour. Try it if you have not done so and if you are one of the "regulars" then our hat's are off to you. Next year's calendar has been approved and there are even more opportunities for you to share your love of the Wichitas. If you need a mentor, just ask we have folks who are more than willing to share their knowledge, stories, and skills!

Those who turned out for Chili this year had a great meal and a chance to enjoy other members in an outdoor setting. We must not be intimidating because a local 10 year old came in sat down and visited with us. Everyone took home food for the next day and nobody left hungry!

Our application for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was approved and we will be looking for materials to put in a Resource Trunk that can be checked out by teachers to use in schools as well as materials to educate ourselves about these majestic critters. If you have suggestions, please share them with us!

According to all who were there, this year's Bison Auction was a great day. The weather was a bit cool, but better than too hot. Lots of animals to sell and all the help was very valuable.

The refuge staff all enjoyed the our appreciation luncheon, food/caterers lived up to their reputations and it turned out to be a great way to say thanks!

We discussed next year's budget at this month;s meeting. We made a lot of suggestions and will vote on the final product next month.

#### **SPECIAL EVENT:**

Eagle Tours are upcoming and we are looking for people who are interested in assisting AND who are willing to take some extra training. If you are interested in assisting you are invited to attend a scope workshop on Saturday December 27<sup>th</sup>. The class will begin at 12:00 and will meet at the visitor center. Come Early, bring your lunch and eat with us "in the parking lot" at 11:30 AM. After a class on set up, tripods, etc. we will tour the Eagle Area. New scope operators will get some hands on experience finding birds, raptor identification, reference points, etc. The workshop will conclude about 5 PM. Space is

limited so call Bill Sparks (home) 580-536-1141, (cell) 580-585-2195. This workshop is for training people who are serious about assisting our 11 In Search of Eagle Tours between January 4<sup>th</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup>. You will be asked to sign up to assist on a minimum of one tour if you attend.

#### **Upcoming Events:**



Fall Foliage Orientation will be November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Meet in the Visitor Center Parking lot at 10 AM. Wear the proper footwear for a hike and you are welcome to bring a snack and a water bottle. The maples in Hollis Canyon should be lovely this year. We need volunteers to assist and drive the two regular tours this year, please check your calendars and if you have time to give, call Donna Phillips at (580) 429-8669.

December is coming and the annual Christmas Party is approaching. Traditionally we have a potluck and eat so much we can barely laugh over the Dirty Santa game that follows....so drag out those recipes and start looking for a gift of at least \$10 value that will create burning desire in the hearts of fellow outdoor people and make the game a roaring success!!!!

#### **General Reminders:**

Uniforms for drivers, leaders and assists are a light blue denim shirt. You may purchase a FOW patch for the sleeve and after 50 volunteer hours you will receive a volunteer patch from the Refuge.

You will need to sign a volunteer agreement with D'Ana Mallow at the Visitor Center before serving as a volunteer.

Your nametag will be provided for you , you will need to call Paula Irwin at (580) 355-6029 to have it made.

#### **OFFICERS**

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

Visitor Center: 580-429-3222 (then choose option 1)

**Remember: Your membership card entitles you to a discount at the Visitor Center Bookstore.**