



# Association of Friends of the Wichitas

## Monthly Bulletin

### January 2009



**January: Search the skies for our winter visitors. Rumor has it the Eagles are here!**

### December Notes

The annual Christmas party was once again a happy evening for all who attended. It is always such a nice evening, with little business to take care of, lots of good food and, this year, lots of thermos bottles exchanging hands---they did seem to be the "gift of the year"---but when all was done "Dirty Santa" did right by everyone! Of course it was wonderful to have Yolanda back from France, joining Wally in showing us some of their birds. Lawton is lucky to have such a caring raptor rehabilitator living here.

Orville and Jim will be representing Friends with a booth at the EE Expo at the OKC zoo this year at the end of January. Donna and Katherine will be representing FOW at the national "friends" conference in Washington DC in February.

Bill Sparks conducted a class on use of the scopes, the scopes add so much to so many of our tours that it will help to have some folks with extra training. Thanks to Bill and all those who participated!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

The In Search of Eagles tour orientation will be held Saturday January 3 at 1:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend and need no reservation. All members who come will be accommodated. Dress warm---no matter what the weather is like, it always seems colder in the special use area and much time is spent off the bus, searching the skies. There is only one walk included but it is in an area that seems to catch the wind.

The speaker at the January 21<sup>st</sup> business meeting at the Lawton Public Library will be Derek Beaver from Rocky Beaver Taxidermy. This should be a very interesting meeting, please plan on attending.

- **PLEASE NOTE: All monthly business meetings are open to all members---the more who are present the more we can accomplish!**

February 28<sup>th</sup> will be Tech Day at the Environmental Education Center at Quanah Parker Lake. In the morning we will do our History Tour Orientation followed by a potluck lunch, a presentation by refuge staff member, Chip Kimball on her adventures in Africa, followed by general tour information and February business meeting. It will be a full day but a

**chance for those who drive distances to take part in several events.**

### 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'Ana 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.
- You also need to see Lori or D'Ana at the VC and fill out a volunteer form.

#### OFFICERS

President: Orville Ducheneaux

Vice President: Donna Phillips

Treasurer: Helen Riley

Secretary: Katherine Hunt

Parliamentarian: Richard Jarrell

**Visitor Center: 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**

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Helen Riley has provided some interesting facts about Oklahoma from the Acres for Nature program of the Nature Conservancy:

Did you know?

More than 450 species of birds have been recorded in Oklahoma

SE Oklahoma has one of the most diverse freshwater mussel populations in the world

Oklahoma has more than 78,500 miles of streams and rivers, enough to go around the world 3 times

There are more than 2,400 plant species native to Oklahoma

Ownership of Oklahoma forests are 74% private, 14% corporate, and 12% public

At 766 miles the North Canadian River is the longest river in the state

Oklahoma has 11,644 miles of shoreline, about the same as the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific and Arctic Coasts combined

80% of stream water is lost through evaporation and percolation

It is estimated that Oklahoma loses 760 acres per day to Eastern Red Cedar

Oklahoma has 23 major aquifers and forests cover 17% of the land

The number one use of water in the state is irrigation