



Association of Friends of the Wichitas

Monthly Bulletin

August 2009



Getting ready for a spectacular fall, hot days cooler nights and a bit of moisture.

July Notes

At this month's meeting Walter Munsterman provided more excellent information from the biological perspective. We learned more about the exclosures, vegetation studies (we have over 640 "vegetation alliances" on the refuge) and some of the interns are "ground truthing" the units. There are 34 square meter transect exclosures which are moved each year, they are designed to prevent grazing within them so that statics can be gathered about the habitat on the refuge. Not only did we learn more about the refuge but some new vocabulary as well! Refuge staff have provided us with some wonderful information at our meetings this year!

Undercover of Darkness tours have been going well, with the EE building getting a new roof we have had all of the tour presentations outside. Everyone seems to be adaptable and we have gained several new members as a result of the tours.



Chad Williamson and his "awesome" laser pointer has added a lot to the tours, pointing out constellations for us. Thanks to all who have helped this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 15th will be our "Tech Day" and this year will feature a special demonstration by Lifelight. We will begin in the corral area at 11 AM with a rescue demonstration. We will have a potluck lunch at the EE center, do a short briefing on tour responsibilities, demo our new scope and have a business meeting. Come on out and meet some of your fellow members and enjoy the good food!



Elk Tours are upcoming in September and October. The sign up sheets will be available at

Tech Day.

Start reading up on Rocky Mountain Elk so you will have info to share on the Elk Orientation and Members Tour, September 5th. Public Tours begin September 6th.



All the Bulls we have seen in velvet this summer (above picture taken mid July) promise to make spectacular viewing this fall.

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.

OFFICERS

President: Orville Ducheneaux
Vice President: Donna Phillips
Treasurer: Helen Riley
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Visitor Center: 580-429-3222

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