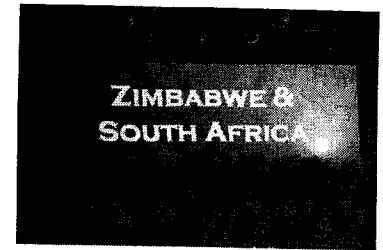




# Association of Friends of the Wichitas

## Monthly Bulletin

### March 2009




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March: Green is everywhere and buds are bursting on the trees!

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### February Notes

The History Tour Orientation was a bit cool weatherwise but everyone seemed to have a good time as we looked at special places on the refuge in the public use area. We traveled from the West side to the East side of the refuge and back and forth in time noting events and places.

The tour was followed by a great potluck lunch and Chip Kimball who gave an awesome, eye opening report on her Adventures in Africa. Everyone who attended found her enthusiasm for the subject contagious. Both the hunting and wildlife as well as the humanitarian efforts were well covered in her presentation.



We had a brief report of the Friends conference in Washington DC. Refuges from Alaska & Hawaii to Florida were all represented and each refuge "friend" was as proud of their resource as we are. It was good to exchange information and we have literature available on most of the ones represented. The Oklahoma delegation met with Senator Inhoff, and aide of Senator Colburn and Representatives Cole and Boren. It was a busy, informative week.

This briefing was followed by a business meeting and a discussion of the responsibilities of the tour leader, assistant, and driver positions.

Bill Sparks was able to find a great scope and tripod to add to our collection. They should be a good resource for those leading tours in the future.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**We still have some positions available for leads and assists on the History Tours, call Donna Phillips to volunteer.**

**Jeff Rupert will be the speaker at the March Business meeting. He will be addressing the Bison Management Program.**

**We still have a number of \$50 Grants available for schools planning field trips to the refuge. The money is ment**



to help pay for gas for the field trip.

**Please pass this information along to others who might have a need. Forms to apply are available on the FOW website.**

**Remember that there is a movement in education to get our youth back into nature and what better place than the Refuge to do so. When we learn to appreciate what we have, we learn to take care of what we have—let's pass it on to future generations!**

April will bring the Wilderness Hikes and there will be an orientation hike on April 4<sup>th</sup>. It is a strenuous hike and will leave from the Visitor Center at 9 AM sharp. If you attend please wear appropriate footwear, bring water and snacks. This is NOT a slow walk down a trail so be prepared. It IS a great opportunity to hike with good "friends" in a beautiful location (Charon's Gardens).

### 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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