




FRIENDS OF THE WICHITAS
DECEMBER 2010



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7			10	11
12	13 Min. Boomer Hike 9AM VC			16	17	18 CHRISTMAS PARTY 6pm E.E. Center
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas 
26	27	28	29 Bird Count 5:30am	30	31	

Dirty Santa Rules:
Bring a gift for each person attending.
Each gift can be stolen twice.
The value of the gift is \$10 or more.
The gifts are nature or outdoors based gifts.
Come join the fun!

November Notes

The foliage tours went off without a hitch.

The colors were slow to come out but did make a good show in the end.

The Stars Tours were held the first weekend of Nov. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out and did their part.

We had our monthly meeting at the library on the 17th. The new refuge manager Tony Booth sat in and shared his thoughts. He seems very down to earth and we are looking forward to working with him.

Tony Booth Bio:

In case some of you want some background about me. I was born and raised in NE Oklahoma, near Miami. My parents just retired from farming about 3 years ago, and most of my family are still scattered around in that part of the state. I graduated from Oklahoma State Univ. and did grad school at New Mexico State Univ. Immediately after finishing grad school at NMSU, I drove to Alaska for a summer job as a bio tech with FWS. I have been here since, and after 33 1/2 years, I'm finally going back. I have two grown children who were born and raised here in Alaska. My son is a cop with the Anchorage PD, and my daughter is a junior at the Univ. of Minnesota.

Trash pickup at Lake Rush was very entertaining. We found all kinds of treasures. Lets see... 2 barrel carburetor 5 rod and reels, a lantern, kayak paddle, anchors, lures, lead by the pound, oh and the top brand of beer was Coors by a landslide.

We had beautiful weather for the trash pickup and the meet and greet luncheon. The food was great the company was great and a good time was had by all.

Refuge Update Susan Howell

The deer hunt was held the first week of November There were 86 permits, 15 no shows, 36 deer taken. 49% of the of the doe tags were filled and 40% of the buck tags were filled. We have been asked to send out volunteer forms with this months news letter.

The volunteer agreement must be filled out annually. This form can be used for 1 person, a family or a group. The signed form needs to be sent to D'Anna Mallow at 32 Refuge Headquarters, Indianhoma, OK 73552 or e-mailed to danna_mallow@fws.gov. For more information contact D'Anna Mallow, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Coordinator, at 580.429.2193.

The bridge is nearly complete at Sunset Picnic Area. Check it out.

DID YOU KNOW

A native of North America, the turkey is one of only two domesticated birds originating in the New World. The Muscovy Duck is the other.

European explorers took Wild Turkeys to Europe from Mexico in the early 1500s. They were so successfully domesticated in Europe that English colonists brought them back with them when they settled on the Atlantic Coast. The domestic form has retained the white tail tip of the original Mexican subspecies, and that character can be used to distinguish wandering barnyard birds from wild turkeys which have chestnut-brown tail tips.

The male Wild Turkey provides no parental care. When the eggs hatch, the chicks follow the female. She feeds them for a few days, but they quickly learn to feed themselves. Several hens and their broods may join up into bands of more than 30 birds. Winter groups have been seen to exceed 200.

Attempts to use game farm turkeys for reintroduction programs failed. In the 1940s wild birds were caught and transported to new areas, where they quickly became established and flourished. Such transplanted's have been responsible for the spread of the Wild Turkey to 49 states. (Alaska is the only U.S. state without turkeys.)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Christmas party is Dec. 18th

It will be a potluck dinner and Dirty Santa Gift exchange. We will be at the E.E. Center at 6pm. Bring a dish bring a gift and come have some fun!

BIRD COUNT

The annual bird count will be held Dec. 29.

Everyone interested will be meeting at The Small Town Cafe in Cache at 5:30am.

Saturday morning kid friendly hikes!

9am every Saturday weather permitting. Short hikes no one left behind!

We meet at the Visitors Center.

MTN. BOOMER HIKES

The 2ed Monday every month 9am from the visitors center.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Uniforms for all tours are blue denim shirt or the new polo shirts. An FOW patch can be purchased 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 fill out a volunteer agreement with D'ana Mallow at the visitors center.

If you are assisting with the tours you can obtain a Name Tag by contacting Paula Irwin at:580-355-6029

OFFICERS: President-Jim Stone, Vice President- Donna Phillips, Treasurer- Helen Riley, Secretary-Bobby Williamson, Parliamentarian- Bill Sparks

Visitors Center: 580-429-2197

2011 - Calendar of Public Interpretive Programs Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

Please note **orientation** dates for each interpretive program

IN SEARCH OF EAGLES

Sat/Sun 1:30 p.m. (Bus and short walk)

January 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 (Reservations taken 1/04/11)
February 5, 6, 12, 13 Depart from Visitor Center
(Orientation 1/8/11 @ 1:30 p.m.)

HISTORICAL SITES TOUR

Saturdays 1:30 p.m. (Bus tour)

March 5, 12, 19, 26 (Reservations taken 2/28/11)
Depart from Visitor Center
(Orientation 2/26/11 @ 10 a.m.)

STARS OVER THE WICHITA'S

Stars viewing program. Lawn chair suggested.

Fri/Sat 30 minutes after Sunset

Location: Boulder Gate

April 1, 2 (Reservations taken 3/28/11)
June 3, 4 (Reservations taken 5/30/11)
August 26, 27 (Reservations taken 8/22/11)
October 28, 29 (Reservations taken 10/24/11)

SPRING WILDERNESS HIKE

Saturdays 9:00 am (Strenuous hike)

April 9, 16, 23 (Reservations taken 4/4/11)
Depart from Visitor Center
(Orientation 4/02/11 @ 9 a.m.)

WILDFLOWER WALK

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. (Bus tour and moderate hikes)

May 14, 21, 28 (Reservations taken 5/9/11)
Depart from Visitor Center
(Orientation 5/07/11 @ 10 a.m.)

WILDLIFE TOUR

* 6:30 a.m. tour - June 18 ONLY

All other tours: Sat/Sun 5:30 p.m. (Bus tour)

June 5, 11, 12, 18*, 19, 25, 26 (Reservations taken 5/30/11)
Depart from Visitor Center
(Orientation 6/04/11 @ 5:30 p.m.)

UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS TOUR

Saturdays 8:00 pm (Bus tour and short walk)

July 16, 23, 30 (Reservations taken 7/11/11)
Depart from Visitor Center
(Orientation 7/09/11 @ 8 p.m.)

BUGLING ELK TOUR

Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays (Bus Tour)

* Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 8 ONLY - 6:30 a.m.

All other tours: 5:30 p.m.

All tours (a.m. and p.m.) depart from Visitor Center

(Reservations taken 8/29/11)
September 10, 11, 15, 17*, 18, 22, 24*, 25, 29
October 1, 2, 6, 8*, 9, 13
(Orientation 9/03/11 @ 6:30 a.m.)

FALL FOLIAGE WALK

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. (Bus tour and moderately strenuous hike)

All tours depart from Visitor Center

October 29 (Reservations taken 10/24/11)
November 5, 12
(Orientation 10/22/11 @ 10 a.m.)

TECH DAYS

Saturdays (Environmental Education Center)

February 26 @ 10 a.m.
August 27 @ 10 a.m.

These programs are intended for individuals and family groups. Reservations are limited to one family (up to six individuals) per telephone call. Children must be at least eight years old. Restrooms are not available on the tours. Wheelchair access is available if requested at time of reservation. Refuge tours are dependent upon wildlife and weather conditions. They may be cancelled or modified if adverse conditions exist. Program dates are tentative as of 11/10. Reservations are required. A \$5.00 per person reservation fee will be collected prior to each program. Reservations will be retained until 10 minutes before each program. After that time, stand-bys will be accepted. If the bus seating is filled after accepting stand-bys, late arrivals with reservations will not be able to participate in the program. For reservations call (580) 429-2151, weekdays from 8 am to 4:30 pm, starting on the reservation date indicated. For additional information visit:

www.friendsofthewichitas.org

Volunteer Services Agreement for Natural Resources Agencies for Individuals or Groups

Please print when completing this form

Site Name WMWR	Agency USFWS	Reimbursement (if any) n/a	
Name of Volunteer or Group Leader – Last, First, Middle	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code

IF VOLUNTEER IS UNDER AGE 18 – Name of Parent or Guardian	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code

I affirm that I am the parent/guardian of the above named volunteer. I understand that the agency volunteer program does not provide compensation, except as otherwise provided by law; and that the service will not confer on the volunteer the status of a Federal employee. I have read the attached description of the work that the volunteer will perform.

I give my permission for _____ to participate in the specified volunteer activity sponsored

by _____ at _____
(Name of Sponsoring Organization, if applicable) (Name of Volunteer Duty Station)

From _____ to _____
(Date) (Date) (Parent/Guardian Signature) (Date)

Emergency Contact Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL COMPLETES THIS SECTION

Brief description of work to be performed. *Include details such as minimum time commitment required, use of personal equipment, use of government vehicle, etc. Attach the complete job description to this form. If this is a group agreement, the leader is to provide the group name, a complete list of group participants to be attached to this form, and parental approval (above) completed for each volunteer under the age of 18.*

Government Vehicle required? Yes No Valid State Driver's License International Driver's License

Personal Vehicle to be used? Yes No Please verify that the volunteer is in possession of one of these documents. DO NOT keep a copy of the document for his/her file.

I understand that I will not receive any compensation for the above work and that volunteers are NOT considered Federal employees for any purpose other than tort claims and injury compensation. I understand that volunteer service is not creditable for leave accrual or any other employee benefits. I also understand that either the government or I may cancel this agreement at any time by notifying the other party.

I understand that my volunteer position may require a background investigation in order for me to perform my duties.

I understand that all publications, films, slides, videos, artistic or similar endeavors, resulting from my volunteer services as specifically stated in the attached job description, will become the property of the United States, and as such, will be in the public domain and not subject to copyright laws.

I do hereby volunteer my services as described above, to assist in agency-authorized work.

X _____
(Signature of Volunteer) (Date)

The above-named agency agrees, while this arrangement is in effect, to provide such materials, equipment, and facilities that are available and needed to perform the work described above, and to consider you as a Federal employee only for the purposes of tort claims and injury compensation.

(Signature of Volunteer Manager/Coordinator) (Date)

Termination of Agreement

Volunteer requests formal evaluation Yes No Evaluation Completed _____
(Date)

Agreement terminated on _____
(Date) (Signature of Volunteer Manager/Coordinator)

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