

FRIENDS OF THE WICHITAS

DECEMBER 2011

NOVEMBER NOTES:

This has been quite a year for extremes. We had a Drought, Heatwave, Fires, Earthquake, and this month was a Tornado. All we lack is a Tsunami!

We canceled the Fall Foliage Tours in November due to the fires and drought, and replaced it with a new tour "Fire Ecology Tour" It did very well and was a learning experience. Aaron Roper, D'Anna Mallow, and Dan Moore all did a great job educating the groups on the good and bad aspects of wild fires compared to controlled burns.



Our maples were hit hard by the heat and drought and provided no color this year but our Oaks came through for us. If you visited the Refuge in November you saw magnificent colors. We never know what color is going to appear till the chlorophyll stops flowing through the leaves.

Some things that were hidden were uncovered by the fire. This wagon wheel has been rediscovered and the Oak tree is alive and well.



The Deer hunt was held Nov 8th-10th : 52 hunters paid fees, 46 hunters made it to Orientation, and 45 hunters participated in the hunt. 34 hunters were successful. 16 bucks, 18 doe tags were filled. 76% success rate. During the hunt two bucks were harvested by doe hunters illegally.

We canceled trash pick up in Nov. We scheduled during the hunt. OOPS!

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."

John Muir

UPCOMING EVENTS:

We have a quiet month this month. Get out and enjoy the colors, take a hike, or maybe camp a little.

Our big event for December is the **Christmas Party**. The party will be at the E.E. Center which is located about ½ mile west of the Visitors Center. The date is Sunday the 18th at 4pm. It will be a “pot luck dinner” Bring a friend bring a dish!

We also are asking for nominations for the Frank and Mae Rush Award this month. If you have someone in mind let Jim Stone know. His contact information is on the “General Information' page.

We are sending out the 2012 Tour Schedule.

We are sending out the “Gift Membership” form with this issue.

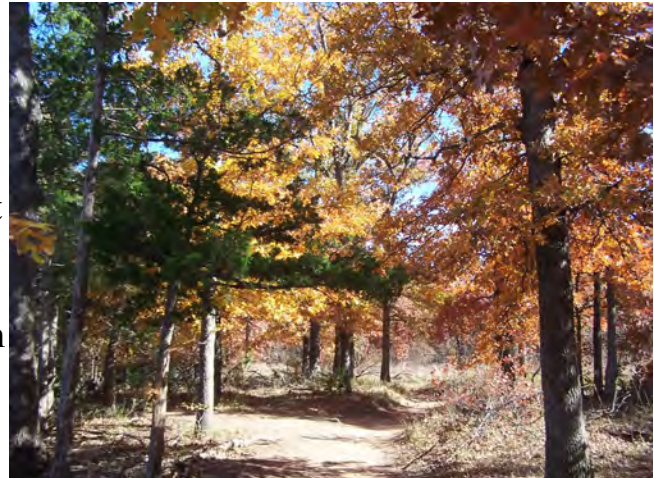
We have finalized the schedule for 2012 Members Meetings.
January 7th, April 7th, June 2nd, September 1st, and November 3rd.

The one and only Elk Hunt is December 8th – 10th. There are only 80 permits for this one. (24 bulls and 56 cows) Remember if you go hiking or whatever, during this time be aware of the posted areas.



Trash pick-up:

This months trash pick-up is on December 6th. We meet at the Visitors Center at 9am and stay out about 2 or 3 hrs. Bring a lunch and make a day of it. I'll bring drinks, grabbers, bags, and vests. If you have questions call Bobby Williamson at 580-574-0661.



NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!

If you would like to receive your newsletter by E-mail we can now do that. Send me an E-mail at “bwjeeper@yahoo.com” and I will add you to the list.

HIKING:

The Saturday morning hikes are going great! We have hiked to 7 Falls, Crab Eyes, Prospectors Stone.... We hike every Saturday morning at 9am. There is no cost, just show up. We leave from the Visitors Center. You still need to bring water, a snack, sunscreen, and maybe a jacket.



The Mountain Boomer Hikes are still on the second Monday of every month. This month it will be on the 12th 9am from the Visitors Center.



Book review:

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has published a Third Edition, 2011 of “A Field Guide to Oklahoma's Amphibians and Reptiles” by Greg & Lynnette Sievert. This is the perfect guide to help nature lovers identify the 58 amphibians and 99 reptile species and sub species in Oklahoma. The full color pictures along with the accompanying descriptions and range maps make identification almost a snap for the amateur naturalist, as well as the budding herpetologist. If you don't know the difference between a plastron and a carapace, there is a glossary to make identification easier. The water resistant paper and spiral binding make this guide an ideal take along on your next hiking or backpacking trip.

Refuge News:

The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge has a continuing project that requires support. I have worked on “the Article Project” (my words) for several years. Printed items related to the refuge, FOW, and any print that mentions these are collected, mounted, and used for reports and such. A file is kept on the current year. Monthly, last year's file is purged for the filing of this year's articles. The purged items are then forwarded to be scanned and archived digitally.

Copies of local newsprint and others (the Lawton Constitution, the County Times, Cotton Electrics Current, Outdoor Oklahoma, and such) are easy to obtain, as I subscribe to them. Others are harder to find, or even know about. Wichita Falls, OKC, Tulsa and other places have in the past done refuge articles – but the archive inclusion is spotty.

It is requested that if you see such a printed article in newsprint, a magazine, or another organization's newsletter that you forward it to me for inclusion in the refuge archives.

Items of interest in the past have included outreach talks about or for the refuge, obituaries of folks that mention their involvement in the refuge, animal sales, and activities with the public or for the public.

Digital news items can also be collected using my FWS email (it is not checked daily, so links that limit time for retrieval of info are not as useful as attachments of some sort). Articles may be left at the refuge headquarters (label “for Carol” and have placed in the mailbox I share) or brought to meetings and left with an officer to drop off at the headquarters. Email digital attachments may be sent to Carol_Stayer@fws.gov

THANK YOU in advance for helping this project grow.

Carol Stayer

2012 – Calendar of Public Interpretive Programs Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

Please note reservation dates for each interpretive program

IN SEARCH OF EAGLES

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

January 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 (**Reservations taken 1/2/12**)
February 4, 5, 11, 12 Depart from Visitor Center
(**Orientation 1/7/12**)

HISTORICAL SITES TOUR

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

March 3, 10, 17, 24 (**Reservations taken 2/27/12**)
Depart from Visitor Center
(**Orientation 2/25/12**)

STARS OVER THE WICHITAS

Stars viewing program. Lawn chair suggested.
Fri/Sat 30 minutes after Sunset
Location: Boulder Gate

March 23, 24 (**Reservations taken 3/19/12**)
May 18, 19 (**Reservations taken 5/14/12**)
August 17, 18 (**Reservations taken 8/13/12**)
October 12, 13 (**Reservations taken 10/8/12**)

SPRING WILDERNESS HIKE

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. (Strenuous hike)

April 14, 21, 28 (**Reservations taken 4/9/12**)
Depart from Visitor Center
(**Orientation 4/7/12**)

WILDFLOWER WALK

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

May 12, 19, 26 (**Reservations taken 5/7/12**)
Depart from Visitor Center
(**Orientation 5/5/12**)

WILDLIFE TOUR

* 6:30 a.m. Tour – June 16 ONLY
All other tours: Sat/Sun 5:30 p.m. (Bus tour)

June 3, 9, 10, 16*, 17, 23, 24 (**Reservations taken 5/21/12**)
Depart from Visitor Center
(**Orientation 6/2/12**)

UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS TOUR

Saturdays 8:00 p.m. (Bus tour and short walk)

July 14, 21, 28 (**Reservations taken 7/9/12**)
Depart from Visitor Center
(**Orientation 7/7/12**)

BUGLING ELK TOUR

Sat/Sun (Bus Tour)
* Sept. 15, 29, & Oct. 6, 20 ONLY - 6:30 a.m.
All other tours: 5:30 p.m.
All October tours: 4:30 p.m.

(**Reservations taken 8/27/12**)
September 2, 8*, 9, 15*, 16, 22, 23, 29*, 30
October 6*, 7, 13, 14, 20*, 21
(**Orientation 9/1/12**) Depart from Visitor Center

FALL FOLIAGE WALK

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. (Bus tour and moderately strenuous hike)
All tours depart from Visitor Center

October 29 (**Reservations taken 10/29/12**)
November 10, 17
(**Orientation 11/3/12**)

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 canceled or modified if adverse conditions exist. Program dates are tentative as of 11/11. 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.

FRANK AND MAE RUSH AWARD

(Guidelines revised August 2007)

The Frank and Mae Rush Award is for recognition of outstanding contributions to the stated purposes of The Association of Friends of the Wichitas (FOW). The purpose of FOW is to promote public appreciation of and support for the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FOW Bylaws Article II).

1. The president of FOW shall appoint an award committee consisting of a chairman and two members to be in charge of the award. The chairman and two members will be appointed **at the October business meeting**. The president is an ex officio member of the award committee.
2. A call for nominations for recipients shall appear in **the November and December** issues of the monthly newsletter. Nominations may include individuals, groups, or organizations. Nominations will be due by December 1st.
3. Nominations for the award may be made by any FOW member. **No single member of the committee may make a nomination while serving on the committee**. If this so happens then the president will appoint another member **to replace that committee member**.
4. **The award committee as a group has the authority to present the award to an individual, group or organization not formally nominated (with supporting documentation). There is no requirement that the award be made every year. One or more awards may be given per year.**
5. Nominations shall be mailed to the FOW post office box (P.O. Box 7402, Lawton, OK 73506) and marked Attn: Frank and Mae Rush Award Committee **and shall be delivered to the committee chairman unopened**.
6. Nominations shall include documented supportive materials. Submission of a name only will not result in consideration by the award committee.
7. **The president will be responsible for contacting the media and notifying the winner in writing. These two events should occur on the same date, and no later than January 3rd. The president will seek advice from the committee regarding what information to share with the media.**
8. **Members of the Frank and Mae Rush Award Committee will keep winner information confidential until after the winner has been notified by the president.**
9. **The president will be responsible for having a plaque prepared.**
10. The plaque shall be presented at the January FOW business meeting. The cost of each plaque shall not exceed \$75.
11. Those currently serving as members of the award committee are not eligible to receive the award.
12. The decision of the award committee will be final.
13. Records of all award recipients shall be kept by the president and secretary for future reference **by the current awards committee**. Non-winner nominations will be destroyed.

General Information:

Remember to wear either blue denim or the new polo shirts when helping on the tours.

Remember to fill out a volunteer form and give it to D'Ana Mallow at the Visitors Center.

You may purchase a F.O.W. patch for the sleeve and after 50 hrs of service the refuge will provide a volunteer patch.

If you are helping on the tours you will be provided with a name tag.

Call Paula Irwin at (580)-355-6029 and she will order it for you.

F.O.W. OFFICERS

President: Jim Stone 405-620-4717 jim@belleislerrestaurant.com

Vice President: Donna Phillips 580-429-8669

Secretary: Bobby Williamson 580-574-0661 bwjeeper@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Helen Riley

Parliamentarian: Bill Sparks

Visitors Center phone number: (580)-429-2197

Your Membership Card entitles you to a discount at the Visitors Center Bookstore.

If you did not receive a members card when you joined you can contact Bobby Williamson or pick one up at the Visitors Center front desk.

The E.E. Center is just west of the Visitors Center. Turn left at the Environmental Education Center sign.

Check us out on the internet at : "WWW.friendsofthewichitas.org"

THE LONGER YOU LIVE... THE OLDER YOU GET!



Share Friends with a Friend for Christmas

Gift Memberships for Friends of the Wichitas are available for the holidays.

A special designed card will convey your gift.

It will include a Membership Card and a letter explaining the Goals of the Organization and the benefits of Membership.

Give one, two, or a dozen!

Individual (\$25) Family (\$40) Lifetime (\$500)

Membership for: _____

Address: (Street) _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Gift From: _____

Please send your check and this form to:

Friends of the Wichitas

P.O. Box 7402

Lawton, Ok 73506



**Friends of the Wichitas
2011 Christmas Party!**

When: December 18th 4pm - 7ish

Where: Environmental Education
Center

This is a Dirty Santa Party (Gifts
can be stolen twice) A gift should
be valued at \$10 or more. Outdoor
is the theme of the gifts. One gift
for each person attending.

The meal is a pot luck dinner.
Bring a dish bring a friend!
A good time to be had by all.

Merry Christmas to all our
"FRIENDS"
This Holiday Season!

December 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 HIKE 9AM VC
4	5	6 Trash Pick-up 9am VC	7	8	9	10 HIKE 9AM VC
11	12 Mtn. Boomer Hike 9am VC	13 ELK HUNT	14 ELK HUNT	15 ELK HUNT	16	17 HIKE 9AM VC
18 Christmas Party 4pm EE Center	19	20	21	22	23	24 HIKE 9AM VC
25 Christmas DAY	26	27	28	29	30	31 HIKE 9AM VC

I'm working on the Calender layout.