

FRIENDS OF THE WICHITAS
JANUARY 2012



DECEMBER NOTES:

In December we had an Elk hunt.

Only one due to circumstances.

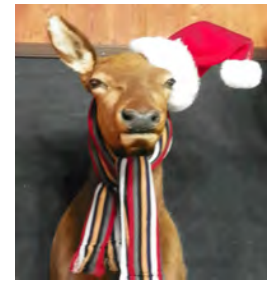
The Biologists set the number at 80

with the option to defer to next year if selected for this hunt. 49 hunters opted for this hunt and they had a 62% success rate. No numbers at the time the newsletter came out.

We had rain off and on in December. Very much appreciated. (no Tsunami!)

We had a great turn out for the Christmas Party. Plenty of food and conversations. There were even a few gifts stolen. After all it was a dirty Santa Party.

Wolly and his Mom Yolande brought several birds out to show the group. A red Winged Hawk, and several Owls. The Breaden Rehab Center has had a busy



year due to the extreme weather conditions in our area this year.

REMEMBER !

You can receive your newsletter by E-mail now and help us save postage , paper, and printing costs! If you would like to receive yours as an e-mail just let me know at "bwjeeper@yahoo.com" and I will add you to our mailing list.

The friends helped remove Mullein from several areas last month as well as searched areas for Salt Cedar.

"Life isn't about how you survived the storm...It's about how you danced in the rain! (author unknown)"

UPCOMING EVENTS:

We are in search of Eagles!

The next 2 months we will be searching the sky's and tree lines for Bald Eagles and golden Eagles. These magnificent birds have been spotted over the Refuge during December. Our Orientation is on the 7th of January. We will have our first Members Meeting that same day at 10:30am at the E.E. Center. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Bring chips, salad, or a desert and lets start the year off on a good note!



This is a list of events for 2012. The dates and times will be posted the month prior to the event. I just thought maybe this would give everyone an idea of how many events were coming. Some dates and times may also change during the year so check the newsletter each month to confirm them.

9 different Tours

Spring and Fall Trail Maintenance

Nature Quest

Invasive Species removal Red Cedar, Salt Cedar, Mullein.....

Long Horn Auction

Buffalo Auction

Cow Bird Trapping

Deer counts

Elk Hunts

Deer Hunts

Trash Pick-up

Picnic Area Maintenance (4)

Outdoor Expo in Guthrie

County Fair

Group Hikes or Field Trips

I know this is only a partial list. Other events will come up during the year. If you can help with any of these as they come up through the year please let us know. We have about 225 members but rely heavily on about 15 to be there over and over. I know a lot of our members live too far away to help regularly and that's ok. My favorite job is just assisting by playing pack mule. Hope to see everyone this coming year.

TRASH PICK-UP:

This months trash pick-up is Jan 16th.

We meet at the Visitors Center at 9am and put in a few hours and maybe squeeze in a hike. Bring a lunch and make a day of it. I will bring drinks, grabbers, gloves, bags, sanitizer.....

If you have questions call Bobby Williamson at 580-574-0661.



HIKING:

We hiked many miles last year and plan on discovering many new areas this year. If you can come out and hike with us on Saturday mornings you won't be disappointed. We meet at the Visitors Center at 9am every Saturday. 52 weeks a year.

No cost just show up. Hikes last about 2 to 3 hours. If the group wants to stay out longer we can do that. If you have an area you want to explore let us know. Remember the weather. It is a good idea to bring Water (2) bottles at least, a hat, light jacket, small pack, sunscreen, 1st aid, compass, snacks.

The Mtn Boomer Hike is on the second Monday of every month. 9Am from the VC. This month it will be on the 9th.



FROM THE BOOKSHELF:

Russell Butcher's "**America's National Wildlife Refuges 2nd Edition**" is more than a guide to over 530 of the 555 refuges that make up the National Wildlife Refuge System. It supplies the reader with a wealth of information about each refuge that includes natural history, wildlife viewing, birding opportunities, local management programs, as well as directions, accessibility, facilities, interpretive tours, etc. This is not only a great source to be used when planning trips to the great outdoors, but also a fitting tribute to the men and women of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who are charged with managing the over 150 million acres in the Refuge System.

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"

"Just Be Yourself, Everyone Else Is Taken"

January 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Members Meeting 10:30am EE Center
8 Eagle Tour 1:30pm VC	9 MTN Boomer Hike 9am VC	10	11	12	13	14 Eagle Tour 1:30pm VC
15 Eagle Tour 1:30pm VC	16	17 Trash Pick-up 9am VC	18	19	20	21 Eagle Tour 1:30pm VC
22 Eagle Tour 1:30pm VC	23	24	25	26	27	28 Eagle Tour 1:30pm VC
29 Eagle Tour 1:30pm VC	30	31				

Orientation
1:30pm
VC 7th

Saturday hikes:
January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
9am VC



Volunteer Services Agreement for Natural Resources Agencies
for Individuals or Groups

Please print when completing this form (Attach a separate sheet for those data that do not fit in the allowed spaces).

Site Name/Project Leader		Agency	Reimbursement (if any)	
Name of Volunteer or Group Leader – Last, First, Middle		Age (If Individual Agreement) <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 26-55 <input type="checkbox"/> 56 and Older		
Are you a U.S. Citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Visa Type	Email Address	Home Phone	Mobile Phone	
Street Address		City	State	Zip

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

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

Emergency Contact Name	Home Phone	Mobile Phone	Email Address	
Street Address	City	State	Zip	

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL COMPLETES THIS SECTION

Description of service to be performed. Include details such as time and schedule commitment, use of personal equipment, government vehicle, skills required (note certifications if necessary), level of physical activity required, etc. Attach the complete job description and job hazard analysis 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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Valid State Driver's License <input type="checkbox"/> International Driver's License
Personal Vehicle to be used? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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 service 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 reference check, background investigation, and/or a criminal history inquiry 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 understand the health and physical condition requirements for doing the work as described in the job description and at the project location, and certify that the statement I have checked below is true:

- I know of no medical condition or physical limitation that may adversely affect my ability to provide this service.
- I do know of a medical condition or physical limitation that may adversely affect my ability to provide this service and have explained it to _____

(Name of Agency Official)

I do hereby volunteer my services as described above, to assist in agency-authorized work. I agree to follow all applicable safety guidelines.

(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 service described above, and to consider you as a Federal employee only for the purposes of tort claims and injury compensation to the extent not covered by your volunteer group, if any.

(Signature of Government Representative) (Date)

Termination of Agreement

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

Agreement terminated on _____
(Date) (Signature of Government Representative)

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