

**FRIENDS OF THE WICHITAS**  
**FEBRUARY 2012**

**JANUARY NOTES:**

Our Eagle tours have started. The weather has been warm but the Eagles are in and we are getting sightings from several places on the Refuge.



The Friends had their first Members Meeting Jan 7<sup>th</sup>. Very good turn out.

The Frank and Mae Rush Award was given to Bobby Williamson.

We started our Red Cedar eradicating and as of the 21<sup>st</sup> we had removed over 7000 Red Cedar. Thank you to all who are helping with this.

We had the help of 15 Cameron students on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>. MLK Day They removed 3469 Red Cedar from the Refuge. Thank you to all who came out and Volunteered!

**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](mailto:bwjeeper@yahoo.com)" and I will add you to our mailing list.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Our Eagle Tours continue in February.

Our History Tour Orientation is Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. Remember all you need to attend an Orientation is show up. No need to call and there is no cost.



*"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike". -- John Muir*



### **TRASH PICK-UP:**

This month's trash pick-up is on Feb 15th. 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.

### **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.

If you have an area or place you would like to see let us know and we will try to make that our destination.

The Mountain Boomer Hikes are still on the second Monday of every month. This month it will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am from the Visitors Center.

### **FROM THE BOOKSHELF:**

Stan Tekiela, a professional naturalist and wildlife photographer, spent over three years studying and photographing our national symbol, the Bald Eagle.



The culmination of that study and those extraordinary photographs can be found in his book: **Majestic Eagles, Compelling Facts and Images of the Bald Eagle.** Published by Adventure Publications. The photographs are truly amazing in every detail from featherless chicks in the nest to magnificent mature Balds catching fish on the wing. Accompanying the beautiful photographs are small blocks of information that give the reader an intimate look at Bald Eagles and their behavior. This is an easy read, actually a ready reference, for the naturalist and especially the eagle enthusiast.

"Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, There is a field. I'll meet you there." Rumi

## **REFUGE REPORT:**

Susan has informed the Friends that we finally received a grant! The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded the Friends \$4960 to purchase birding and bird related equipment for Nature Quest and other Environmental Education activities.

The Refuge has also requested money from PLIA (Bookstore) for new scopes and tripods.

The Bunk House is available for “Friends” who want to come out and volunteer. It is located next to the Head Quarters Office. See Quinten Smith at the VC or call him at 580-429-2197

Great place to stay. Sit on the porch and watch the animals at the end of a hard day of Volunteering.

D'Anna Mallow reported a \$500 donation from the Rebecca Lodge for Duck Stamp competition.

The Friends have been asked to possibly help with some restoration work on the Buffalo Lodge. A water pipe burst last winter and it is in bad shape. This is not confirmed yet but I wanted to get a little feedback from anyone interested in helping when it becomes official. Call me at 580-574-0661 or email me at “[bwjeeper@yahoo.com](mailto:bwjeeper@yahoo.com)”.

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> will be the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count.



You can check out the details at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org)

The Friends Awards Banquet is planned for Feb but no definite date yet. I will try to let everyone know if and when it happens. Great time to get your newsletter by Email. I could let you know sooner.

### **OTHER NEWS:**

We are looking to create a new Friends Logo and would love to hear from our members if they have any suggestions. We have our patch and we have our Banner but we need some creative input. If you would like to help design a new logo contact Bobby Williamson at "[bwjeeper@yahoo.com](mailto:bwjeeper@yahoo.com)" with any comments or suggestions.



### **ACTIVITIES:**

We are continuing to look for invasive species. We are meeting at the VC on Saturday mornings to go out and cut Red Cedar trees in areas that can't be burned. EE C enter has been our focus lately. Come out and join us. Any Questions contact Bill Sparks at 580-585-2195 or [bonbillsparks@att.net](mailto:bonbillsparks@att.net).

We are looking into having t-shirts made.

We will be doing a raffle later this year for a \$500 Visa card or Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License.

We have talked to the "***Friends***" in Salt Plains State Park about a visit from us in the near future. They are a new group and have very few members. They have some projects ready but lack manpower. Some of us were considering a working visit to help them promote their group to the area residents by providing manpower for a few days. Not sure yet but will keep everyone informed.

### **FYI:**

Otter have been spotted in several lakes this month. Six at Caddo Lake (4 were pups) and three at Burford Lake. (all pups)

**Web Site of the month:**<http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildside/jan2012.pdf>

Thank you Jim Stone for sharing this.

*Photo of the Month:*



This photo was taken by Larry Smith. One of our members.

Larry Smith's photo was taken on the refuge that won "people's choice award" by fellow photographers at the Wichita Wildlight Photographic Society during the January meeting. It is an honor to have fellow photographers pick your picture as the best for that particular monthly meeting.

One last item of business: We will be having a **"Friends"** hike on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am. We will meet at the VC and there will be 2 hikes one strenuous and one laid back fun! Bill Sparks is providing lunch. MRE's (If you want you can bring a lunch!) I will bring drinks. Come out and visit and have fun!

*"Them hills just keep calling me back." Earl V. Shaffer*

## **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](http://WWW.friendsofthewichitas.org)"

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4 Eagle Tour 1:30pm VC
5 Eagle Tour 1:30pm VC	6	7	8	9	10	11 Eagle Tour 1:30pm VC
12 Eagle Tour 1:30pm VC	13 Mtn Boomer Hike 9am VC	14 Valentines Day	15 Trash Pick-up 9am VC	16	17	18
19	20 Presidents Day	21 Full Moon	22	23	24	25 Members Hike 9am VC  Orientation History Tour 1:30pm
26	27	28	29			

Saturday Hikes in February  
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th,  
9am VC

