



Association of Friends of the Wichitas

Monthly Bulletin

April 2010



*Blossoms on trees, songs of birds and green peeping
around the rocks...SPRING!*

MARCH NOTES:

The Historical Sites tours were great this year. Thanks to all who gave the public so much information and such a positive experience. From the historic East Gate, Mount Scott, the Holy City, and the Parallel forest to headquarters the history of the Wichita Mountains is fascinating and worth sharing with others.



At the March business meeting Jeff Rupert, Refuge Manager, gave an update to the CCP (long range planning process for the refuge) The public has provided very diverse comments through a lot of public meetings. Everything is being looked at and being considered, seriously. Throughout the US the move is to look at eco regions and tap all sources of expertise and work together to produce better results. Issues are being broken up and categorized. The first draft of the report will be available in 2011 and the plan finalized in 2012. Surrounding communities are looking into economic benefit/impact from the visitation of the refuge.

Since the ice storm roads and campgrounds have been cleaned. Hopefully the downed limbs etc will be chipped/ground and moved out of the public area. Using arial photographs from 1943 compared to recent ones it was noted that there has not been much change in the acres of forested area but the canopy was 43% more closed. This caused a great deal of habitat change. The ice storm has made a great change. This will effect the fire management on the refuge.

Several members of Friends were able to assist with special classes and hikes during the Spring Break activities on the Refuge. An excellent program of activities for children and adults alike was presented by staff and volunteers.

FOW provided a luncheon for a Transportation meeting on the refuge this month and has been requested to provide lunch for some special visitors from Washington DC next month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The first aid and CPR renewal class will be held on April 3rd for those who have signed up. The 4 hour class will be held at 1PM at the EE building.

The orientation for the Spring Wilderness Hike will be held April 3rd. If you are interested in this hike be at the Visitor Center NLT 9AM. This hike will be rather strenuous going through Charon Gardens from Treasure Lake to Sunset with a drop off and pick up. Wear appropriate footwear, bring your own water and a snack/lunch. This is definitely a hike NOT a walk or stroll. We need assists on some of our public tours, if you take pleasure in hiking and could assist on some of these hike please attend the orientation and contact Donna to volunteer.

NEED HELP!

On April 18^h the Norman Little River Zoo is hosting a Kids for Kindness Earth Day Festival. They have asked us to bring a table display and be available to answer questions about the refuge, camping and hiking as well as FOW. Let Donna know if you would like to participate. The group will probably carpool to Norman and it is an all day event.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact information:

Donna Phillips, Vice President:

VC (580) 429-3222 then dial 1 or home (580) 429-8669

Katherine Hunt, Secretary:

kjhunt1@sbc.global or contact@friendsofthewichita.org

Orville Ducheneaux, President

Helen Riley, Treasurer

Richard Jarrell, Parliamentarian

FOW will provide tour leaders, assistants or drivers with a nametag contact: Paula Irwin at (580) 355-6029. Uniforms for tours are a light blue shirt. FOW patches can be purchased for the sleeve.

Don't forget you can present your membership card for a discount at the Visitor Center bookstore.