



Friends of Turnbull

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Friends of Turnbull NWR Quarterly

Fall 2010. 4th Quarter

Turnbull is Going GREEN

By Dan Matiatos, Refuge Manager

I think most people would consider the Fish and Wildlife Service a GREEN agency and I would tend to agree. However, buildings on many long established Refuges are old and nearing the end of their life cycle. This includes some old farm houses that were converted into Refuge offices. These older structures are not very energy efficient. The exciting news is Turnbull has made a big energy efficiency leap forward over the last year.

The new office at Turnbull has won the 2010 Federal Energy and Water Management Award presented by the Department of Energy. Some of the energy efficient features of the new office include a geothermal heating/cooling system, a solar photovoltaic array to produce electricity, solar thermal water heating system, daylighting features, and energy efficient windows and lighting. Native vegetation was also planted around the building to eliminate the need for watering. Is the system working? Yes, data from the company that installed the solar array shows that

from January through August the solar array on the office roof offset 7.530 pounds of carbon and generated 4.4Mwh of energy, enough to power 13,305 light bulbs or 4,391 computers for a day.

A new state of the art solar/geothermal heating system was installed at the maintenance shop. Energy efficiency is the primary reason these systems were installed. However, investing in these approaches also allows the government to lead the way by showing the savings that can be achieved and thereby encourage the private sector to consider energy efficient building designs. The heating system at the shop has already received interest from the private sector. Testing has indicated this system is going to be extremely efficient, but monitoring this first winter will tell the story. A solar array will also be placed on the shop roof and many energy efficient updates were installed including new insulation, energy efficient windows and lighting, and new insulated overhead doors.

The new bunkhouse, scheduled to be completed by the end of December, will include a geothermal heating/cooling and solar thermal water heating systems. It will also include many of the energy efficient features that were installed in the office.

These new systems allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to better achieve its conservation mission by saving energy and by putting less pollutants like carbon into the environment.

Inside this issue:

Turnbull is Turning GREEN I	
Store News	2
Fall Community Planting	3
Kestral Karma	4
The Big Sit	4
Friends Facebook & Twitter	5
Winter Festival	6



Store News—Fall 2010

By Marian Frobe

Well, you have two more months this year, September and October, to purchase your bird books, T-shirts, sweat-shirts, mugs, and other assorted goodies before the store closes for the season. Where has the spring and summer gone? This is the 9th year that the Friends have had our store at the Refuge! Where have the years gone?

The summer months have not been big sales months, but we are running a profit, so that's encouraging. Through the month of August, our profit is currently \$1044.98. It doesn't look like we will have to do more reordering, or at least, not much, so our sales for the remaining two months should give us a good profit for the year. Our sales seem to be pretty even across the board—books, T-shirts, and other things selling almost equally. Children's books and other children's items seem the slowest sellers this year, but sometimes they pick up in fall.

Just so you have an idea how it works, my husband and I usually try to work the store at least one full day a month, which gives us the time to do a partial inventory, using the sales slips, and see if something has sold out that we need to reorder. We also go out to collect the weekend money sometime during each week and make the deposit to the credit union. If those of you who work the store leave us messages, we usually get back to you or take note of your suggestions. I haven't had any calls about the alarm system for awhile, so I think the volunteers have gotten used to how it works. In some ways, I find it easier than the old alarm system.

As always, if you are interested in volunteering for the Store, please call MaryJane Booth at 235-4466 or me, Marian Frobe, at 328-0621 or at rrfrobe@msn.com.

Seeking FOT Board Members

Here is your opportunity to be an active part of Friends of Turnbull. We are seeking board members to fill several vacant positions. If you can attend monthly board meetings and enjoy supporting our wonderful local refuge, this is your chance to make a difference.

While no special skills are needed, we could use at least one person who has a legal background. For more information, or to volunteer for the board, contact Judy Corder, jcorder@hughes.net.

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Board of Directors

President: Joanne Powell..jopowell39@aol.com
Treasurer: Robert Liepold...rliepold@aol.com
Membership: Judy Corder...jcorder@hughes.net
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The Turnbull NWR general email box is fw1turnbullnwr@fws.gov

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge
26010 S. Smith Road
Cheney, WA 99004

News Release



Phone: 509/235-4723
Fax: 509/235-4703

Date: 09/07/2010

Help Us Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week

Turnbull NWR Community Work Party

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and Spokane Audubon Society will host a community work party on Saturday, October 16, 2010. This is part of an ongoing community effort to restore native riparian habitat to benefit birds and other wildlife species. We have hundreds of native saplings to plant, and fencing to build at the project site to protect the trees from deer, elk, and moose browsing. Everyone is welcome!

Attention Groups: Please call in advance to register. It helps us in our planning if we know how many are coming. The Refuge will also host a “potluck” lunch. Please feel free to bring your favorite dish. Ask for Sandy.

When: Saturday, October, 16 2010.

Planting Time: 9 am to 12 p.m.

Lunch: Potluck 12 p.m.

Where: Turnbull NWR Headquarters, 5 miles south of Cheney on Cheney-Plaza Road: turn left on Smith Road and drive 2 miles on gravel road to headquarters.

Clothing: Long-sleeved shirt, work pants, sturdy boots or shoes, gloves.

Equipment: (if you can) pliers, shovels



The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.



Kestral Karma

From Lisa Langelier



Wind in their wings, buoyed and buffeted but steadfast, three American kestrels recently reminded me that I am not a kestrel. In their deft manner they crystallize, the beauty and uniqueness of the Palouse steppe habitat on Turnbull. Aloft, aloof, alive - but subtle. One danced between fence posts, dropped into grass and lifted its light aerodynamic body clutching some thing that trailed a long grass stem. Hovering, stooping, and then rising. I

hoped it was for my enjoyment but no. I was just a witness, an innocent bystander, peeping into their private lives.

As fall approaches I feel loss, longing, and a wistful yearning for the species that move on seasonally. Did you get your fill of them? Gone is the Columbian ground squirrel, whose subterranean hibernation keeps them below ground until late April or May. Hawks and coyotes have to dine on alternate prey. The osprey nests are empty. The large platform stick nest near my house trails orange bailing twine. Grass, bark, vines and even plastic are used to line the nest. Sometimes these man-made items can be deadly. I think of the lifeless osprey suspended like a kite by fishing line from the tall pine near Middle Pine Lake. I miss the traffic-like call of the yellow-headed blackbird and the buzzy “peeer” of the western wood peewee. I lament that once sodden wetlands are now grassy puddles. I cannot forget the perfection of the delicate pink petals of the ephemeral bitterroot.

My revelry over, I returned to my desk, email, and some of the other grounded aspects of “management.” There was the rehabilitation plan related to the recent fire at Little Pend Oreille Refuge (LPO), the Kootenai Comprehensive Conservation Plan planning team meeting coming up, and the follow up necessary for the land acquisition program at Turnbull. Not to mention data calls, end of year budget balancing, and other juggling. Reflecting back on the past few months of work takes my breath away. Our complex staff continues to amaze, achieve and make me proud to be their coworker.

Okay I feel it. Wind in my wings, sometimes I perform better with a headwind, maybe I can be a kestrel after all. If anyone asks I am out hunting grasshoppers. . .

16th Annual Big Sit! Set for Sunday, October 10

You still have time to register your wildlife refuge for The Big Sit! as a Refuge Week kickoff event. Hundreds of people at nearly 40 national wildlife refuges participated last year in the event coordinated by *Bird Watchers Digest* magazine. The activity is pretty straightforward and fun for all ages: People sit around a circle – 17 feet in diameter – to report how many birds they can spot in a 24-hour period. Many refuges hold the event for less than 24 hours. To register for a Big Sit! on your refuge, go to <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/>

[bwdsite/connect/bigsit/index.php](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit/index.php).

For a state-by-state listing of the registered 2009 Big Sit! locations, visit

http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/funbirds/bigsit/results09/circles_registered.php

For more information, contact Mike Carlo (Michael_Carlo@fws.gov, 703-358-1938).



Facebook May Bring New Friends to Friends

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As of mid-September, about 140 people have responded to the Refuge System's Facebook awareness campaign, which encourages people to go to the Refuge System Web site to find local refuges and Friends organizations. The Facebook notice – headlined “Love Wildlife?”-- has been posted on more than 700,000 Facebook pages of those who have shown an interest in wildlife conservation.



While the Refuge System can't measure whether people who clicked on the ad actually joined a Friends group, it is another opportunity to put the mission of the Refuge System and Friends organizations front-and-center before a vast audience. Interesting note: The response rate went up after the accompanying photo was changed from a pelican to cuddly polar bear cubs.

Facebook notices are inexpensive ways for Refuge Friends groups to highlight membership. A special issue of the Refuge System's quarterly *Friends Forward* newsletter – mailed in early October – focuses on how Friends can use such “new media” tools as Facebook and Twitter, to increase awareness about national wildlife refuges.

Refuge System Facebook Following Is Growing

Just three weeks after the Refuge System's launched its Facebook site, <http://www.facebook.com/USFWSRefuges>, more than 760 people were following the conversation. And the number of Facebook followers is growing significantly each week. Be sure to become a follower of the page – and ask your friends to do the same.

And Twitter, Too

The Refuge System is pumping out news on its own Twitter site as well: <http://twitter.com/USFWSRefuges>.

It's a great way to get spread the word about events and accomplishments across the country. Give your Twitter and Facebook ideas to Karen Leggett in the Refuge System Branch of Communications (Karen_Leggett@fws.gov).



From Friends Newswire

FRIENDS OF TURNBULL

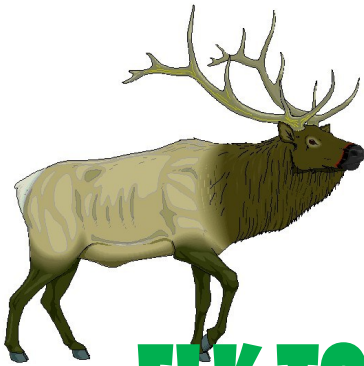
WINTER FESTIVAL

at

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

(four miles south of Cheney)

Saturday, December 4, 2010



ELK TOURS

9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Call 509-235-4531

looezoleary@netscape.net

Register early—trips fill up fast!



LIVE RAPTORS

**Presented by the
West Valley Outdoor
Learning Center 11-12**



REFRESHMENTS

**Chili and cornbread, cookies
muffins, coffee, tea, hot
chocolate, hot spiced cider**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Friends of Turnbull store open—great Christmas gifts!

Selected items at reduced prices



Friends of Turnbull NWR
P.O. Box 294
Cheney, WA 99004

The Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, a nonprofit organization, supports the mandate of the refuge to protect and enhance wildlife and their habitats through education, research, habitat preservation and restoration.

Got email? Add it to your membership form for quick activity updates!

Membership Application

YES! I want to support the Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and its programs with my membership.

 Name

 Address

 City, State and ZIP

 Phone

 Email

Annual Membership: (Circle one)

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Business/Group \$35
- Patron \$100
- Benefactor \$500
- Donation \$ _____
- Amount enclosed \$ _____

New _____ Renewal _____

I would like to volunteer _____

 Credit card number/expiration date

My check is enclosed payable to:

Friends of Turnbull NWR
 P.O. Box 294
 Cheney WA 99004