



Turnbull Wildlife Refuge

Fall 2011, 3rd Quarter

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Volume 14 Issue 3

Auction Italiano

Joanne Powell

Your board has decided to make our yearly auction more family-friendly. The venues we have used - Northern Quest Casino and the Lincoln Center were very nice but very expensive. In these tough economic times a Friends' function that is offered at a more reasonable price seems attractive to me!

We thought we would try a spaghetti buffet - spaghetti, lasagna, pasta salads, green salads, garlic bread, and desert. Of course we will have something for anyone who doesn't care for Italian food (I know there are a few out there!). There is a large church in Cheney on 6th off of Betz that has a licensed kitchen and plenty of room for auction items. We would like people to be able to bring their children and enjoy a family Sunday. The price per ticket would be \$15 with children under 5 free. We would really like to know how you all feel about this plan. Is it something you would enjoy attending? Would you like your children to be there? Would you prefer no children? Please let us



know your opinion. You can call me at 509-999-2090 or email me at jopowell39@aol.com.

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**Friends of Turnbull Bookstore
and Gift Shop Report**
Marian Frobe

Summer sales have not been as strong as our sales this spring, but we are still ending the year with a profit. As of the middle of October we are running a profit of over \$700.00 for the year, not counting two weekends in October, plus the Winter Festival where we often sell quite a bit.

Are you coming to the Winter Festival? If you come for the Elk Tour, the chili feast, or the 11-12 raptor presentation, the Store will be open for you to browse for Christmas gifts. There are lots of children's books and booklets, including sticker books and the Golden Guide series. We still have a fair inventory of the Audubon Bird Toys with authentic sounds. For the adults, we have many good ID books, including the popular local guide, Birds of the Inland Northwest and Northern Rockies. We have a new book for sale to see if it is of interest to the geologists among you—Bretz's Flood—about the Ice Age Floods. It is more a biography, but I read it and found it to be interesting. And don't forget the T-shirt and sweatshirt that you need. We have 3 designs to choose from in T-shirts, and a pretty good assortment of colors.

For next year, I plan to order a few new book titles, mostly birds but not entirely. I also had a discussion with one of our younger members and she thinks we should look into stocking those fleece vests and shirts that the younger crowd wears, with only a small logo on them, probably the same logo that is embroidered on our sweatshirts now. (It's always good to have younger eyes looking at our offerings.) If any of you has ideas for the Store, I always welcome your input.

President: Joanne Powell...jopowell39@aol.com
Treasurer: Robert Liepold .rliepold@aol.com
Secretary: Linda Long.....lindakl@centurytel.net

The alarm system seems to be working for everyone this year. 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. We have had trouble finding enough volunteers during the summer months. MaryJane and I really appreciate those who have stepped up and done more than their share of shifts.

Board Announcement

To all FOT members:

We would like to invite you to join the FOT board. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at EWU's Isle Hall at 5:30. The meetings are usually one hour long. Please feel free to just show up or call me beforehand if you would prefer. Children are welcome.

Joanne Powell
509-999-2090
jopowell39@aol.com

Visit our great website!

www.fotnwr.org

Membership: Just a reminder to renew your membership. We depend on your support to continue our important work with the Environmental Education program at Turnbull.

If you would like to receive your newsletter through your email, please let us know. It not only saves paper but you can enjoy all the pictures in living color! Email jcorder@hughes.net.

Directors:
Louise O'Leary looezoleary@netscape.net
Peter Porter..... drpporter@yahoo.com
Robert Quinn rquinn@mail.ewu.edu

Friends of Turnbull
Winter Festival
at
Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge
(four miles south of Cheney)
Saturday, December 10, 2011

Live Raptors
11-12 noon
presented by the
West Valley
Outdoor Learning Center

Refreshments
Chili and cornbread,
side dishes
Muffins and cookies
Hot spiced cider, coffee,
tea, hot chocolate

Elk Tour
9:00 a.m.
call 509-235-4531
looezoleary@netscape.net
to pre-register...trip fills up fast!

Friends of Turnbull store open - great Christmas gifts!
Selected items at reduced prices



News from Washington

NFWF Report Underscores Economic Benefits of Conservation, Refuges

You'll be fascinated by a new report commissioned for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), which reveals that investments in natural resource conservation have a real impact on local jobs and economies. The first phase of the report, completed in September, found that the economic value of all U.S. natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation and historic preservation came to \$1.06 trillion. Specifically, the report said, "the total value of ecosystem services provided by the acreage of natural habitats in national wildlife refuges totaled \$32.3 billion per year," and "the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contributed about \$4.2 billion in economic activity and supported more than 32,000 jobs through its management of refuges and thousands of smaller natural areas." That caught the eye of National Wildlife Refuge Association president Evan Hirsche, who noted that the study "demonstrates what we in the conservation arena have been saying for years. Conservation, recreation and preservation of America's tremendous natural resources provide economic benefits to communities far greater than most Americans can imagine."

A second phase of the report, designed to focus on gaps that exist in natural resource conservation, is scheduled to begin this fall, according to NFWF.

Fee Free Days in 2012

To encourage Americans to explore America's natural beauty, rich history and culture, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced that national wildlife refuges that charge a fee – as well as other public lands within the Department of the Interior – will waive entrance fees on January 14-16 (Martin Luther King Jr. weekend), June 9 (Get Outdoors Day), September 29 (National Public Lands Day), October 14 (in recognition of National Wildlife Refuge Week) and November 10-12 (Veterans Day weekend). Sites that charge entrance fees are encouraged to develop a flyer or other material to inform visitors of the Fee Free Day. Automated fee machines and "Iron Rangers" used

to collect entrance fees should be turned off and/or covered and notice of the Fee Free Day posted. Special use fees are not required to be waived; however, if it is administratively feasible and consistent with contractual obligations, refuges and hatcheries have the option to waive use fees. A news release about 2012 Fee Free Days is available on the DOI Web site. If you have questions, contact your regional recreation fee coordinator or national fee coordinator Phil LePelch (703-358-1974, Phil_LePelch@fws.gov).

Did You Know ...

... that each day the sun first rises on the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Pacific and last sets on the System in the Pacific, too? On any given day, the first refuges to see dawn are Wake Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. The last to see dusk are Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Alaska Maritime.



Wake Atoll



Alaska Maritime NWR



Refuge Happenings

by Sandy Rancourt

This Past Year

Data have been entered and summarized leaving us with another year with a large presence at the Refuge. Seven hundred and sixty volunteers contributed over 15,000 hours in 2011. Volunteers played an integral role in all refuge programs assisting with habitat restoration, invasive species monitoring and control, bird banding and monitoring, elk radio telemetry, small mammal, reptile, and amphibian population monitoring in the refuge's forest restoration units, environmental education facilitation and outreach, the youth waterfowl hunt, construction and carpentry, Friends of Turnbull (FOT) activities, FOT bookstore operations and staffing, visitor services, grounds keeping, facilities maintenance, visitor contact, nest box construction, grant writing (thank you SAS), data entry, water level monitoring and a lot more that I am leaving out.



The Veterans Corps and students from SCC constructed the bulk of our last EE shelter (SR)



What would we ever do without the Frobes? (SR)



Our dedicated FOT board members Joanne Powell, Robert Liepold, & Louise O'Leary. Not pictured - Linda Long, Robert Quinn, and Pete Porter (SR)

Our environmental education program also had a spectacular showing this past year. Over 6,000 students were facilitated environmental education on and off refuge and several thousand individuals were outreached to through service learning fairs, festivals, and other special events. The classes coming to Turnbull are increasing in size and the help from the long term refuge volunteers has been greatly appreciated. Although the bulk of our volunteers assist with the biological program, over 25 volunteers helped with

environmental education alone last year. We are truly grateful to all our volunteers although a thank you just doesn't seem enough for everyone's contribution.

This Season

Fall has been a very busy time of year at Turnbull for staff and volunteers. During National Wildlife Refuge Week, 250 Cheney High School sophomore biology students participated in a 2-day environmental education stewardship program, our largest EE program of the year, and 100 volunteers came out to plant native trees and erect protective fencing for our community planting event. This was the first year of many that we didn't experience rainy, frigid weather on the 2nd day with the high school students. The biology students were rotated between 3 stations and experienced science hands on collecting, counting, and identifying aquatic invertebrates, performing water quality tests, planting over 70 native trees and erecting ¼ acre of protective fencing. Mike and I had a lot of great help from Marian and Russell Frobe, Louise O'Leary, Kylie Gaard, Brian Walker and our new AmeriCorps members Erica Keene and Sean Koester. These events were also great training opportunities for the new interns.

Marian and Russell also assisted with our fall community planting and Joyce Alonso, Chris Janett, and Molly Zammit were there as well providing their usual great assistance. Virgil and Priscilla Bowen saved the day by supplying most of the food for the event. It was greatly appreciated by all.



CHS students had a lot of fun wading in a wetland for the first time (SR)



EWU staff and graduate students really jumped in and lent a hand at the community planting (SR)



Student Conservation Association intern, Carly Kendall, assisted with many classes this spring (SR)



Spokane Audubon volunteer, Chris Janett, has been our best tree planter over the years (SR)

The Trawick family, new volunteers, have been assisting with bluebird monitoring, tree planting, environmental education, and they found time to build a much needed storage shed for the environmental education program. Jared Trawick is a master carpenter and, with help from his family, has done an incredible job on this project. The large wooden shed replaces the broken plastic one and has ample room to store all the chairs and tables that take up needed space in the classroom. The new shed has plenty of room to store all our aquatic nets too since the old one does not have adequate space.



The Trawick family and the new EE shed (SR)

New AmeriCorps members

Environmental education AmeriCorps member Erica Keene and biological AmeriCorps member Sean Koester have been kept busy participating in a lot of training. The interns have been assisting with environmental education and outreach, biological surveys, water monitoring, and invasive species monitoring. The interns staffed a refuge booth at Camp Cowles and interacted with over 400 cub scouts and family members during this event. Our booth had aquatic invertebrates for the scouts to see, touch table activities, and informational handouts.

The Case of the Terrorist Turkeys

Courtesy of NWF

Once driven nearly to extinction in much of the United States, wild turkeys are back—with a vengeance. As growing populations of the birds move from forestlands into suburbia, big tom turkeys—or gobblers—are harassing homeowners, shoppers, baby-walkers, joggers, bicyclists, school kids and mail carriers in towns from coast to coast, often within sight of big-city skyscrapers.



The wild turkey is North America's second largest bird after the trumpeter swan, and the toms are truly handsome creatures with feathers that shimmer in hues of red, green, copper, bronze and gold. A mature gobbler may stand 4 feet tall and weigh around 24 pounds, with wings spanning 5 feet.

Then there are the bird's spurs—sharp bony appendages about 2 inches long, one on the back of each reddish orange leg. Toms use those spikes for defense or to establish dominance over other toms, but they can also leave a nasty gouge on a human arm or leg.

How did the turkeys get there? And why are the males so aggressive? "The flocks simply wandered down river corridors and power-line rights-of-way," says Jim Cardoza, a biologist with Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife "and people are changing wild turkey behavior by feeding them. They soon lose their fear of humans and incorporate us into their view of society. The lordly toms think they're the boss, and humans are lower in the pecking order."

Today some 6.5 million turkeys inhabit woodlands in 49 states and 6 Canadian provinces. The credit goes to management programs by wildlife agencies and, in the East, to the recovery of mature forest habitat. Massachusetts alone has an estimated 20,000 wild turkeys. What should you do if confronted by an aggressive turkey?

You need to reestablish dominance, say wildlife biologists. Be bold. Chase them right back. Brooms and umbrellas are good turkey deterrents. And turkeys don't like dogs.

Help keep wild turkeys wild! Don't feed the birds. Avoid scattering bird seed on the ground and clean up spilled seed under feeders.

Summer/fall Wildlife Observations

by Mike Rule

Summer/Fall Wildlife Observations 2011

It has been a glorious fall with a prolonged Indian summer and wonderful fall colors, a fitting end to a great field season. Although July and August brought one of the longest dry spells we have seen in awhile, refuge wetlands fared well after a near record run-off year (see graph below). Fall water was abundant throughout the refuge supporting fair numbers of migrating mallards, pintail and wigeon. The usual group of nearly 100 white pelicans spent the late summer on Cheever Lake. Several wood ducks have been observed on ponds in the Pine Creek Chain. The aspen and alder patches on the refuge were alive with migrating fall warblers well into September and numerous flocks of western bluebirds were common throughout the month of October. A mountain bluebird was observed near the end of October out near Stubblefield Lake. Winslow Pond, held low because of water control problem, continued to host a number of shorebirds including a semi-palmated plover, lesser and great yellow legs and long-billed dowitchers.

Our last banding day at the MAPS station, September 1, ended our 18th banding season with a bang. We captured 65 birds over half of which consisted of fall warblers including mostly juvenile Wilson's, Orange Crowned, Nashville, Townsend's, Yellow and MacGillivray's warblers. We also caught our first Blackpoll warbler. It was juvenile male and it took us a while to separate it from a fall bay-breasted warbler. Other notable captures of the day included

Blackpoll Warbler



Lesser and Greater Yellow-Legs



Long Billed Dowitcher

Lincoln and white crowned sparrows, western tanagers and a gray catbird. Our banding season up to this day had been below average with only 116 captures, about 30 birds below the long-term average.

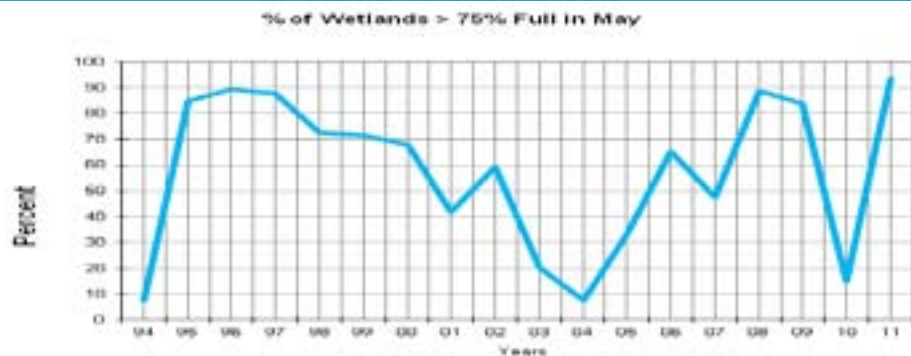
Although we lost Solo this past winter and we didn't get the chance see another brood of trumpeters this spring and summer, on 11/9/2011, 15 trumpeter swans were observed south of Refuge HQ on Cheever Lake. Trumpeters have been scarce on the refuge since late April. There were 2 swans together, likely Solo's mate and one of his young, who have been on the refuge all summer. A group of 6 swans were flying near HQ. These may have been Solo's 3 offspring from 2009 and the 3 from 2010 who have been missing since late April. In addition, there was a group of 3 adults and another group with 3 adults and 2 juveniles. None of the swans were marked so it's hard to say where the extra 7 swans originated. Lets hope that this use of the refuge by trumpeters continues until Solo's legacy reach breeding age and start looking for mates in 2013.



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 _____
 Daytime Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Annual Membership: (Circle one)
 Individual \$15
 Family \$25
 Business/Group \$35
 Patron \$100
 Benefactor \$500
 Donation \$ _____
 Endowment Fund Donation \$ _____

Amount Enclosed _____
 New _____ Renewal _____
 I would like to volunteer _____

My check is enclosed payable to:

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R.
P.O. Box 294
Cheney WA 99004