



Friends of Turnbull

Volume 10, Issue 2

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Summer 2007, 2nd Quarter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Joanne Powell

Annual General Membership Meeting

Don't forget, coming up in August is our yearly General Meeting. It will be held at the Refuge on Tuesday, August 14, from 6-8:00 p.m. After dinner we will have Dr. John Dorwin as our speaker. He will give a very informative talk on the use of Columbia Plateau plants, for both food and medicine, by the early natives of the area.

Environmental Education and Refuge Support

Our First Annual FOT Auction this spring was a huge success. We took in almost \$4,000 for our Environmental Education program and had a lot of fun doing it. We want to thank all who attended for their wonderful support. We are all looking forward to next year's auction.

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.

National Pollinator Week: The first annual National Pollinator Week will be held June 24-30 to promote awareness of the importance of bees, birds, bats, butterflies, beetles, and other pollinators. The event is coordinated by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), a partnership among 120+ organizations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Next Spring we are planning a children's event at the Refuge, celebrating these insects and other pollinators.

For more information on National Pollinator Week on-line, you can go to www.pollinator.org.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Marsha Ellefson is our new Membership, replacing Voncie Parker, who has done a wonderful job over the years. Thank you more than I can say for all you've done, Vonice. Marsha as included a short biography to help the members know her better.

My husband Norm and I became involved with the FOT several years ago when we became volunteers monitoring bluebird box trails. I work full-time at Premera Blue Cross as the RN Case Management supervisor in our Care Management department. We live in Four Lakes on a couple of acres with our dog, Louis, and in my spare time, I enjoy gardening, sewing, baking and scrapbooking.

I'm excited to be the newest member of the FOT Board and appreciate the opportunity to be part of a very worthwhile organization.



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Visit our great website!

www.fotnwr.org

STORE NEWS - Summer 2007

By Marian Frobe

Our expenses for books and T-shirts this year so far have been \$1595.77 and our sales through the month of May were \$932.65, so we can hopefully look forward to a profit by the middle of summer. We ordered quite a few T-shirts and sweatshirts this year, as our stock was dwindling on some of the sizes. We tried to order more greens and blues, which more people seem to be looking for.

We also ordered a small shipment of the International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) T-shirts this year, so look for those out there. The design is printed on a sandy yellow T-shirt and features "Birds in a Changing Climate." I think you will like them. We also ordered a few booklets that explain the theme of the T-shirts in a little more detail and explain how you can get involved in slowing climate change. We are asking 50 cents each for the booklets to offset our cost.

Trying to guess how many books to buy is always a challenge. Although we have restocked the books, there are already a few titles that have sold out sooner than I expected, such as Sibley's Birding Basics and Sibley's Field Guide to the Birds of Western North America. The new Birds of Washington State is also close to needing to be reordered, but the books on plants and flowers aren't going as rapidly this year. The Sierra Club Spokane Trail Guide series are updated and have color photos on the cover this time. One of them has a picture taken at Turnbull gracing the cover. These trail guides are quite popular.

Thanks to all the new store volunteers, and the faithful returnees as well. I know there have been some challenges with the door handle and getting the alarm set, but I trust most of the starting problems have worked themselves out by now. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to call Linda Long at 235-4251 or at llong@asisna.com or me at 328-0621 or at rrfrobe@msn.com.

Spring Bird Walk Report

Marian Frobe

On May 26th, we had a very compatible group of 20 gathered to enjoy the birds on a warm Saturday morning at the Refuge. Almost our first bird was a Great Egret, one we do not expect to see here often. Our group enjoyed good looks at American Coot families, as the mother coots were out with babies that were not very old yet. The babies look so different with their "red hair" that they are always a treat to see. The swallows were cooperative, giving us good looks at the difference in color between Trees and Violet-Greens. We also saw quite a number of different duck species, all grouped in pairs, and our resident Trumpeter Swan also showed up for our group. We even got to see Common Yellowthroats singing in plain sight at the tops of reeds and an Eastern Kingbird nest.

We ended up seeing and/or hearing 54 species on a beautiful sunny morning, and also picked up a good number of ticks on the way.

American Coots



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Summer Activities 2007

General Membership Meeting, Tuesday, August 14, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

All are welcome to our General Membership meeting, at the Refuge headquarters, on August 14, 2007. We start at 6:00 p.m. with dinner, socializing and meeting your board members. This will be a potluck, with FOT providing the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments and beverages. After dinner we will have a report on FOT's past year, followed by a presentation by John Dormir, EWU, on the preparation of native plants for food and medicines by early native peoples. We hope to see you there!

For further information call Joanne Powell at 999-2090 (cell) or 456-7111 (work). You can also email me at jopowell39@aol.com

Donations to the Friends of Turnbull to aid in supporting the very active environmental education program at the Refuge are always appreciated. Donations to help support the environmental education activities at the Refuge can be made at the bookstore.

For any activities held at Turnbull NWR: if you have special needs, please contact Turnbull NWR at (509) 235-4723.

Notes From the Capital



House subcommittee proposes largest refuge budget in history!

The House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Environment held its fiscal year (FY) 2008 "markup" May 23rd, with Chairman Norm Dicks (D-WA) announcing in his opening address that the subcommittee had proposed an increase to the Refuge System operations and maintenance (O&M) budget from \$395 million in FY 2007 to \$451 million for FY 2008. If enacted, this would be the largest annual Refuge System budget in history.

NWRA, Friends nationwide and our partners in the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) have been delivering a strong and unified message to lawmakers to fund the NWRS at \$451 million for FY08.

As published in May's Capitol Flyer, five members of Friends Groups and the NWRA testified before the Subcommittee and at least 17 more submitted written testimony supporting \$451 million. This, coupled with Friends nationwide urging their decision makers to increase refuge funding, made an obvious difference to members of the subcommittee as Chairman Dicks made a specific point to mention that the focus of this bill is on the Parks and Refuge Systems.



Nature often has ways of hiding its creatures. I was walking through a riparian section of Deadman Creek on Peone Prairie when I heard Magpies scolding something high up in a tree. They kept diving past the trunk section of a large Ponderosa tree, but I couldn't see what it was with my naked eyes. So I raised my binoculars to the area they were concentrating on and there it was, this Great Horned Owl, just sitting there either trying to nap or in a hunting perch. When its head was turned to the side, it was even harder to see because the eyes didn't show.

Ron Dexter

REFUGE HAPPENINGS

by Sandy Rancourt

Volunteer Program

Riparian Restoration

Reeves Riparian Restoration Unit

Refuge staff members Sandy Rancourt and Mike Rule coordinated with Cheney High School (CHS) biology teacher, Tom Stralser, to complete a 2-day riparian restoration project at the refuge. Two hundred forty sophomore general biology students planted 60, 5-gallon native saplings, erected 30, 5' x 16' panels which protects a ¼ acre area at the Reeves Riparian Restoration Site, and participated in a wetland ecology program. Sandy and Mike instructed the students on the importance of riparian habitat, restoration and planting techniques, exclosure building, etc. Sandy, Mike, and AmeriCorps members, Dustin Cousins and Conor Giorgi, and SCA intern Gretchen Mallari, worked with the students directing and assisting them with preparing new planting sites, planting, watering, constructing elk exclosures, and catching and identifying aquatic invertebrates.



CHS students and refuge staff Mike Rule and Dustin Cousins erect exclosures (SR).



Pine Creek Riparian Restoration Unit

Turnbull NWR partnered with Audubon to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. One hundred volunteers participated in the Community Planting event held on May 12th. Volunteers from Spokane Community College, Discovery School, The Lands Council, Eastern Environmental, JUB, Inland Northwest Land Trust, Audubon, WA State Advanced Hunters Education, AmeriCorps representatives, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Good Sams Club, and numerous individuals participated in this very successful event. Volunteers planted over 80 native saplings. Discovery School generously contributed and prepared enough burgers and snacks for everyone to enjoy. Other very generous contributors who helped make this event such a huge success included ADM Milling Co., Cheney Federal Credit Union, and Mitchell's. Thank you everyone!



Refuge volunteer Joyce Alonso (r) lends a guiding hand. (SR)



Discovery School's Molly Zammit prepares enough burgers for the entire crowd. (SR)



International Migratory Bird Day at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. (SR)

Trail Restoration

West Boardwalk Trail

Sixteen students from Spokane Community College BIO 101 class, refuge staff member Sandy Rancourt and biological AmeriCorps intern Dustin Cousins replaced the bark on the Boardwalk Environmental Education Trail. The crew tackled 4, large dump truck loads of bark chips. This is a daunting task where individuals had to load chips in wheel barrows and spread it over a ½ mile long trail. Students did not go home until it was finished, and they all did an incredible job.



Spokane Community College BIO 101 Class. (SR)

Environmental Education Program

Thousands of children and adults were provided environmental education programs by refuge staff, FOT volunteers, and volunteer interns during spring. Programs given included; plant and bird identification classes and the refuge's Spring Field Trip Program. AmeriCorps member Conor Giorgi and SCA intern Gretchen Mallari, facilitated the Spring Trip Program for numerous school groups ranging in age from pre-school through high school. New SCA intern Gretchen Mallari quickly caught on and she is doing a great job assisting Conor with facilitating EE programs. Other refuge volunteers who provided great assistance included



Conor Giorgi instructing students on aquatics. (SR)

Linda Long, Dustin Cousins, Kylie Gaard, Kenneth Clark, Joyce Alonso, Jan Reynolds, Marian Frobe, and Seth Maier. Students and civic groups participated in aquatic ecology studies, classroom activities, and guided nature walks. The EE interns also facilitated several off-Refuge EE programs for local schools and organizations. These programs included; Owls, Animal Tracks, macroinvertebrates, Create-a-Creature, and Habitat.



5th grade students making tracks at Silver Lake Camp. (SR)

Turnbull participated for the 4th year in the Kids Run Fair. Sandy Rancourt, Mike Rule and Dustin Cousins set up for the event which outreached to over 2,345 children and family members. The interactive booth which represented the wildlife refuge included several touch table items, display board, mounts, an aquarium, track activities, stamps, informational handouts and more. Conor Giorgi, Gretchen Mallari, and Dustin instructed children on owl adaptations, aquatic ecology and animal tracks. Conor reported that the booth never had less than a dozen children at a time and that the refuge's booth was the most popular at the event.

Conor and Gretchen participated in a 2-day camp at Silver Lake where they conducted EE programs for Betz, Salnave, and Reed Elementary 5th grade students. The duo set up a track station where they instructed 160 students on animal track signs, activities and games. Students made animal tracks out of Plaster-of-Paris. While the tracks were drying, Turnbull's EE facilitators led the groups on a nature walk where they instructed students on different habitats, wildlife and plants found in the area. Both Conor and Gretchen conducted an exceptional program and feedback from the Director of the Camp was extremely positive.

2008 Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest

Washington, DC - The National Wildlife Refuge Association is pleased to announce that Toyota Motor Sales USA will become the Premier Sponsor of the 2008 National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest, an annual event that attracts thousands of outstanding wildlife and habitat photos from around the country. Specifically, Toyota will provide the grand prize, a 2008 Highlander Hybrid, and funding to support contest management.

"As a company that prides itself on environmental involvement and activism, Toyota has ramped up its traditional Earth Day activities, expanding its involvement throughout the *Earth-Month* of April," said Ernest Bastein, Vice President of the Vehicle Operations Group for Toyota. "Toyota is the industry leader in hybrid vehicle technology. It sees these programs as a natural extension of its commitment to bringing environmentally friendly transportation to mainstream consumers."

"By becoming the Premier Sponsor of the National Wildlife Refuge Photo contest, Toyota will play a valuable role in drawing attention to America's unique wildlife heritage, while encouraging public enjoyment and appreciation of our nation's most important conservation treasures" said Evan Hirsche, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. "We're pleased to have Toyota, the automotive leader in fuel-efficiency and low-emissions technology, as a sponsor and partner."

More than 2,200 images from 197 refuges across all 50 states were submitted to the 2007 Refuge Photo Contest, undeniable evidence that refuges are outstanding places to view wildlife and experience America's diverse heritage. As in the past, the winners will be featured in the June issue of *Wildlife Refuge* magazine.

To view the winning images and refuge image library, visit:

<http://www.refugenet.org/contest/2007ContestStatus.html>

"The contest photos are testimonial both to the wealth of talent possessed by amateur outdoor photographers across the nation, and to the spectacular beauty that can be found at our national wildlife refuges," said Hirsche. "With Toyota's help, the 2008 contest will allow us to educate more people than ever about the National Wildlife Refuge System." The NWRA will begin accepting images for the 2008 contest beginning in September, 2007.



Spring/Summer Wildlife Observations at Turnbull NWR

by Mike Rule



Elkhorn clarkia

We have had some crazy weather this spring, which has created some mixed up timing of wildflower blooming. Many of the later blooming species such as blanket flower, wild buckwheat, and elkhorn clarkia bloomed a few weeks early as a result of spells of warmer drier weather. Some of the early blooming species, notably bitterroot and onion, are still around because of intervening colder and wetter periods. This same weather may also explain the inordinate number of ticks that those doing field work on the refuge this spring have experienced first hand. My personal record this past month was 40 in one day.



Buckwheat

Refuge staff and volunteers have also just completed the second count of the refuges Pine and Aspen Point Count Survey for neotropical migrants, some of the less common species heard or seen included the warbling vireo, lazuli bunting, gray catbird, Cassin's vireo, and hermit thrush. The least flycatcher was, up to a few years ago, rarely heard on the refuge - represented by a transient or migrant bird. This species has been heard this year at 5 different



Yellow Warbler

We conducted our first day of songbird banding on May 31. We captured 11 birds representing 8 species, including a song sparrow, red crossbill, western wood-pewee, 2 hairy woodpeckers, red-naped sapsucker, Wilson's and yellow warbler, and a migrant Swainson's thrush. Two of the three yellow warblers were recaptures from last year. Not a bad first day



Lazuli Bunting

banding site during the peak of the nesting season.



Least Flycatcher

Both the annual waterfowl breeding pair survey and call -response surveys for secretive marsh birds have been completed. Although wetlands are in better shape than 2006, pair numbers appear to be down from last year. A one year lag is common since a portion of our breeding population is made up of the young hatched and recruited into the adult population from the previous year; 2006 was not a great waterfowl year.

Some other noteworthy wildlife observations this spring included a Great Egret, Caspian terns, several adult bald eagles, and a new osprey nest about 1/2 mile south of the entrance road and just east of the Cheney/Plaza Road.



Caspian Tern

A sure sign of summer is the break up of the larger elk herds as cows go off to calve.



Elk Calf



Friends of Turnbull
 Friends of Turnbull NWR
 P.O. Box 294
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“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

Don't forget us in your estate planning