



# Friends of Turnbull

Volume 10, Issue 1

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Spring 2007, 1st Quarter

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Joanne Powell

# 104th Anniversary National Wildlife Refuge System

*Here is a letter from Geoff Haskett, National Wildlife Refuge Chief in Washington DC., to Refuge staff:*

In his December 1904 Message to Congress, President Theodore Roosevelt took the opportunity to urge lawmakers to authorize the setting aside of certain forest reserves and public lands as game refuges for the preservation of the “bison, wapiti and other large beasts once so abundant in our woods and mountains and on our great plains, and now tending toward extinction.” By the time of his speech, Roosevelt had established just two national wildlife refuges — Pelican Island in Florida and Breton Island in Louisiana. He was just getting started.

By the end of his Presidency, he had created 53 refuges, including Three Arch Rocks Refuge, the first on the West coast; the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge; and a total of seven refuges in Alaska, including protection for the Pribilof Islands that today are part of Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

On this, the 104th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System, I can say that what we do every day is important for our country, the resources that we are pledged to protect, and for our fellow citizens.

The growing Refuge Friends movement – with 30,000 to 40,000 members in more than 200 Friends organizations – is one clear indication that people believe our work is essential. One hundred twenty-nine members of the House of Representatives, from both sides of the political aisle, have told us our work is critical by their membership on the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus, which is growing every month. The 40 million people who visit national wildlife refuges each year show us just how important refuges are to communities and to those who value our nation’s resources.

On this anniversary, I thank you for your work, your imagination, your diligence and, most of all, your enthusiasm. You bring pride to the uniform you wear.

Sincerely,  
Geoff Haskett



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**Visit our great website!**

**[www.fotnwr.org](http://www.fotnwr.org)**

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# FRIENDS OF TURNBULL AUCTION

April 15, 2007



Our FOT Auction planning is well underway. I've added the text of the invitation below, in case your invitation went astray. Volunteers are needed to help with the paperwork at the end of the auction itself. If you're able to volunteer please call me, Joanne Powell, 999-2090 cell, 456-7111 ext 204 work or at home, 928-4673. Or you can email me at jopowell39@aol.com.

*Come join the Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge for an hors d'oeuvre bar and auction benefiting the Environmental Education program at the refuge.*

*The auction will be held April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Northern Quest Casino, from 1 to 4 p.m. A live auction will follow the silent auction. Tickets are \$25 and include hors d'oeuvres, a raffle ticket and a bid card. Auction items range from airplane rides to artwork to a private tour of the closed area of the refuge, plus wildlife art-themed baskets, and coffee and wine packages*

*Proceeds fund the refuge's Environmental Education program, which teaches area children the importance of environmental awareness and conservation. Every year, over 8,000 children benefit from this outreach program, which is funded by grants and donations.*

*A no-host bar will be available*

*Please purchase your tickets in advance from*

***Molly Zammit at 509-487-3358 or Charmaine Gural at 509-235-2760, by April 6<sup>th</sup>.***

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## STORE NEWS - Spring 2007

**By Marian Frobe**

By the time you receive this, the Store will be open for the season. We have restocked and are ready. We will be opening on March 31<sup>st</sup> as April starts the next day, obviously, and we don't want to miss any visitors. Linda opened the store for a few hours during a special event earlier in March, and we were able to sell a few books then. I will probably wait until mid-April to reorder new T-shirts and sweatshirts, and I have yet to see the International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) T-shirt design for this year, so don't know if we will want to order them this year or not. I wasn't sure I liked last year's design, so we didn't order IMBD T-shirts last year. Sometimes they sell well and sometimes they don't, so I don't like to overstock.

We are trying out a new spot where we are selling either used books at a discount, or books that have not sold for one reason or another, also at a discount. We don't have many, but if anyone has some gently used bird books, or other nature books that they would like to donate to the cause, you can take them in to the store and tell whoever is on duty that you are donating the book. I know I

definitely have an abundance of bird books, and have already donated several that I never look at any more.

One of the new books we are stocking this year is Kaufman's Insects of North America. We now have four titles in his series, which I think are great books for nature lovers. The other three titles are Birds of North America, Butterflies of North America, and Mammals of North America.

Linda tells me she has some more store volunteers on tap this year, so thanks to all who called to volunteer. I'm sure there is still room for more if you would like to spend a morning or afternoon on a weekend helping sell books and answering questions. (Most answers are in the Turnbull NWR brochure, if you don't know the answer. And you will find that you know more than you think, anyway.) If you are interested in volunteering for working the store, please contact Linda Long at 235-4251 or at [llong@asisna.com](mailto:llong@asisna.com), or if you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me at 328-0621 or contact me at [rrfrobe@msn.com](mailto:rrfrobe@msn.com).

# SPRING Activities 2007

## FOT AUCTION, Sunday April 15

We will be having an exciting fund-raising event at Northern Question Casino on April 15, from 1 to 4 p.m.. See article on page 2.

## SEASONAL RESOURCE USE on the COLUMBIA PLATEAU by Native Americans in Pre-settlement times.

**Wednesday, April 18.** 7 to 8 PM at EWU, Isle hall room 138. Archeologist Stan Gough will present an illustrated lecture of Native American land use. Information will be drawn from a large body of archaeological work in the Columbia Plateau and will highlight specific investigations conducted at Turnbull Wildlife Refuge and other local sites in the Channeled Scablands. Call Dr. Robert Quinn at 359-7050 for more information.

## RIPARIAN RESTORATION. Turnbull Community Work Party. Saturday, May 12

from 9-12. Potluck at noon. See News Release on page 6.

## SCABLAND FLOOD MOTOR TOUR.

**Saturday, May 19.** 8 AM to 12.30 noon  
**Scabland Flood Landscapes & Interpretation; Four Lakes to Cheney to Badger Lake to Sprague** by Dr Robert Quinn. Join Dr. Quinn in your own car for a series

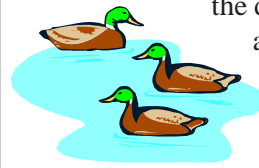


of stops and discussions of the spectacular landforms and climate and vegetation associations created by the Ice Age flood events. We will end

the trip in Sprague and all are welcome to have lunch at a local establishment. Call Dr. Robert Quinn at 359-7050 for more information or email him at [rquinn@ewu.edu](mailto:rquinn@ewu.edu).

## SATURDAY BIRD WALK at Turnbull with Marion Frobe. May 26. 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon.

Join Marion Frobe on the Turnbull Refuge headquarters for a walk around the Pine Lakes area to see



the ducks in their spring colors and look at and listen to returning songbirds. No

experience is necessary in identifying birds - beginners to experts are all welcome. Bring binoculars, camera, water, and a lunch if you want to extend the day. Please RSVP to Marian at 328-0621 so we have an idea of how many people will be coming.

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

## Membership Chairperson Needed

The Friends of Turnbull is in need of a new Membership Chair; someone who is willing to come to our monthly meetings (1st Thursday of the month, 5:30, at EWU), and write thank-you letters to new members and those who renew their membership. You would be provided with a Microsoft Word template of the letter format and a copy of our stationery in electronic form or paper copy. Your duties would take less than 3 hours a month and they are extremely important to the Friends. If you are interested, please call or email me, Joanne Powell. You can call me on my cell phone 999-2090, work 456-7111 x 204, home 928-4673 or email me at [jopowell39@aol.com](mailto:jopowell39@aol.com). Hope to hear from you.

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

President: Joanne Powell ... [jopowell39@aol.com](mailto:jopowell39@aol.com)  
Vice Pres.: Jaime Fair ..... [jaimefair@aol.com](mailto:jaimefair@aol.com)  
Treasurer: Robert Liepold .. [rliepold@aol.com](mailto:rliepold@aol.com)

Directors:  
Charmaine Gural ... [cpgural@juno.com](mailto:cpgural@juno.com)  
Peter Porter ..... [drppporter@yahoo.com](mailto:drppporter@yahoo.com)  
Robert Quinn ..... [rquinn@mail.ewu.edu](mailto:rquinn@mail.ewu.edu)  
Molly Zammit ..... [mollyz@discovery-school.org](mailto:mollyz@discovery-school.org).

The Turnbull NWR general email box is [fw1turnbullnwr@fws.gov](mailto:fw1turnbullnwr@fws.gov)

# REFUGE HAPPENINGS

by Sandy Rancourt

## *Environmental Education Program*

AmeriCorps interns Conor Giorgi and Dustin Cousins and refuge volunteer Linda Long facilitated several off-Refuge EE programs for local schools and organizations. These programs included; owls, animal tracks, and macroinvertebrates and special presentations for scouts.

Conor Giorgi and Dustin Cousins participated in Sunrise Elementary Science & Technology Presenter's Night. Many organizations participated in this annual event and several hundred people attended. The AmeriCorps members had 2 tables set up with a variety of activities including a display board of the refuge and its programs, touch table with mounts and other specimens, brochures, posters, animal tracks, stamps, and coloring activities. The refuge's booth was so popular, that Q6 news, a local television station, broadcasted it on the evening news. Dustin and Conor returned as judges for the Sunrise Elementary Science Fair Committee. The interns had a great time viewing and judging 15 displays each out of the 70+ exhibits. Members judged experiments based on a given criteria.



Conor Giorgi, Dustin Cousins, and Linda Long facilitated several presentations for students in the BEST (Behavioral Education Skills Training) and PCCA (Psychiatric Center for Children and Adolescents) Programs at Sacred Heart Adolescent Psychiatric Ward in Spokane on animal tracks, owls, and macroinvertebrates. For students in the P.C.C.A. program the EE facilitators provided live aquatic invertebrates and microscopes so they could identify and analyze the specimens.

The new and improved "Now You See It Program" underwent a trial run at Southside Christian School for Mrs. Devries' Kindergarten and Mrs. Beils' 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes. Judging from the smiles and laughter from the 24 children, the show was a huge success. Both teachers enjoyed it as well. One of the highlights was when Dustin emerged from the bathroom in the bluebird costume that refuge volunteer Priscilla Bowen made. The teachers commented that Conor and Dustin did such a good job with the children that they thought they each had 10 children of their own.

**Dustin Cousins explains the touch table items to the children (SR)**



## **Volunteer Program**



Refuge volunteer Sid Harty and his son Justin spent a Saturday sheet rocking the office's basement ceiling that had numerous exposed wires. The father and son team did a great job on the project and the refuge staff is very grateful for their expertise and assistance.

## Notes From the Capital



### **WASHINGTON DC ADVOCACY TRAINING EVENT**

**Joanne Powell**

On March 2, Charmaine Gural and I left for Washington DC to attend Advocacy Training (Saturday and Sunday) and meet with our national representatives, or their staff, on Monday morning. This training was hosted by the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA), whose efforts on behalf of all the refuges are tireless.

There were 85 attendees from various refuges around the United States - from Alaska to Hawaii (representing Guam). The training lasted from 8 a.m.

until 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. both weekend days, and was quite intense. It was really helpful to share information with other Refuges, seeing how they handled similar problems and learning about the many issues all the refuges are facing.

We were not able to meet with our actual representatives as Congress was in session and they had to be on the floor. Our Congresswomen; Patty Murray (D) and Maria Cantwell (D), and our Representative Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R) had their staff members who specialized in environmental issues meet with us in their respective offices on Capital Hill. We explained the funding problems facing all refuges, after years of underfunding, and asked for an increase in next year's budget to \$450 million to bring funding up to workable levels.

Charmaine and I feel this was an extremely profitable trip in terms of ideas garnered to help work on some of Turnbull's needs, and bringing information before our Congresswomen from a grass roots level.

# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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: 03/22/2007

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### *HELP US CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD WEEK*

#### Turnbull NWR Community Work Party

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and Spokane Audubon Society will host a community work party on Saturday, May 12, 2007. This is part of an on going community effort to restore native riparian habitat to benefit birds and other wildlife species. Over the past ten years, Audubon Society members, Scouts and other youth groups, community volunteers, and Refuge staff have joined together to plant and maintain native saplings. Many trees are now thriving due to the efforts of volunteers who have helped us with this project. This May, we will plant 40 saplings and remove exotic weeds and grasses from around the existing trees to increase their chance for survival. We will also be erecting 2 exclosures on the site to protect saplings from deer, elk, and moose browsing.

**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:** May, 12 2007.

**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) shovels, hoes, trowels, rakes, needle-nose pliers, mallets.



# Spring Wildlife Observations at Turnbull NWR

by Mike Rule



**Spotted Towhee**



**Western Bluebird**  
courtesy of Ron Dexter

A spotted towhee was observed on 3/3/2007. Western bluebirds were first seen on 3/6/2007. This is about a week later than normal. Northern pintail and American wigeon came through rather quickly that first week of March, too.

River otters were observed on Cheever Lake on several occasions this winter. At the end of January, perhaps sick of dealing with the cold, 2 were found in the old Dairy Barn at HQs. A well traveled path led to a hole in the back wall.

## American River Otters



Canada geese are paired up and several have been seen on nests the week of 3/19.



**Common Goldeneye**

Good numbers of hooded mergansers, common golden-eyes, lesser scaup, canvasbacks, and ring-neck ducks have been observed on the Refuge the week of 3/19. The first blue-winged teal was observed on 3/21



**Canada Geese**

Buttercups were first observed in bloom the week of 3/12. A Says Phoebe was also seen on the 12th. The grass widows are coming up and should be in bloom within the week.

Although elk sightings have been few and far between from about mid-January, several have been seen lately, including one group of over 40 that has been using the area around Reeves Lake.

There has been pretty decent water this spring although recharge is still below normal. It's hard to find a small wetland, however, without a pair of mallards on it.



Tundra Swans arrived in good numbers in the first week of March. As many as 200 were in the refuge vicinity up until 3/16. Come Monday morning 3/19, most had moved on to points north; a refuge-wide count on 3/23 resulted in a count of zero. A few trumpeter swans have been passing through the area this spring. One has been keeping our old male company and a group of 3 was seen on several occasions on Cheever Lake and Upper Turnbull.



**Tundra Swans**



**Friends of Turnbull**  
**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

Don't forget us in your estate planning