



Friends of Turnbull

Volume 4, Issue 3

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Fall 2002, 3rd Quarter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Now that summer is done and the children are back in school, it is time to pay attention to the things that keep our organization running. I hope you all had a wonderful summer. My husband and I have the privilege of being able to help with the bird science at Turnbull—point count surveys, breeding bird surveys, marsh bird surveys, duck pair counts and banding—but most of that is done now, so its on to fall and winter things.

Board Changes:

We have a new secretary—Pam Dixson. She replaces Lance von Marbod who left the Board after nearly 4 years of service. Pam has been a member of our Friends group for several years and comes to us with a background of bookkeeping for the Spokane Interplayers for 16 years. She says she also taught high school biology in a “former life” many years ago. We are pleased to have her join our board.

Andy Buddington resigned the end of August. He has done a wonderful job for us in doing the membership activities and was always a help to us on the board. We will miss him. We are looking at several candidates for replacing him, but if you would like to join the board, please contact one of us, as we are always looking for replacements for those of us who leave the board from time to time.

Friends Conferences:

A Regional Friends Conference is scheduled for October 4th, 5th and 6th in Portland. I hope a few more of our members will attend this one, as it is close by and should be geared toward our Northwest refuges and our own regional concerns.

The annual National Friends Conference will be held again in Washington, D.C., from January 31st to February 3rd this time. Although the last conference was good, this one should be better yet as they listened to our suggestions, and we will be getting ready to celebrate the Refuge Centennial.

Annual Meeting:

Our Annual Meeting potluck and program on August 13th was well attended. For those of you who did not attend, I will try to summarize the report we gave the attendees. Chuck Kerkering’s slide show was excellent, as always.

- **Environmental Education**—We funded an Americorps volunteer for the spring programs and has committed to funding another starting this fall. This will cost us \$6000 this year which is primarily funded through memberships and other donations.
- **Funding**—We are receiving about \$619 from the 2001 Combined Federal Campaign and our Endowment Fund grew to \$3120.42 as of the end of June. Our grant request to Charlotte Martin Foundation to bolster the Endowment Fund was denied, though we will look



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at resubmitting it again this fall and we are working on some other grants. (Grant writing is one of our biggest challenges—if you could help in this area, contact a board member. We would be grateful.)

- **Outreach**—the website was instituted last fall. We also had a booth at Cheney Rodeo Days and conducted several T-shirt sales and membership drives at Cheney Trading Co. since the last annual meeting. This year we will be helping at the Spokane Interstate Fair Refuge booth, which may happen before this issue comes out. They will need volunteers to help.
- **Refuge Support**—Our members continue to put in many hours as volunteers in various Refuge programs. Volunteers joined in both the spring and fall Riparian Planting Days. A number of board members attended the Refuge’s Comprehensive Conservation Plan Workshop on June 22nd to assist with interpreting their plans for the future. National Refuge Week is October 6-12. Look for the Refuge’s plans for this elsewhere in this issue. As the Centennial is 2003, the Refuge has activities planned for this celebration year and we will be assisting them with many of them.
- **Conferences**—The 1st Annual National Refuge Friends Conference was held in Washington, D.C., from 2/22-2/24. I attended this one and reported on the experience in our last newsletter.
- **Member Activities**—The following field trips were offered: Wetlands ecology field trip last August, Field trip to Kootenai NWR in October, Winter elk trip in December, Spring birding trip in May, and a Nature Photography Workshop in June. This last one was not reported on earlier, but Chuck Kerkering and Bob Griffith both taught this one, as the turnout was

greater than expected. Andy Buddington also arranged a series of lectures. These were: Historic Native American Use of the Turnbull Area and its Environs by Dr. Jerry Galm, Professor of Anthropology at EWU, in October; The Dynamics of Wetlands by Dr. Mike Folsom, Professor of Geography at EWU, in February; and Vascular Plants of Turnbull by Bob Carr, retired professor of botany and biology, in April. We also held our Second Annual Music Fest benefit in May at The Shop in south Spokane.

- **Store**—Our net profit for 2001 was \$203.32. This includes the Open House sale in December. Initial store stock and miscellaneous costs were donated, or we would not have had a profit. We are on track to make a profit for 2002, but have not reached that goal yet. Sales tend to slow in July and August, but they will probably pick up again in the fall. We are considering another holiday celebration and sale day in December, as the store officially closes for the year the end of October. We have had a faithful crew of volunteers to staff the store this year. Remember—if you’d like to be part of our volunteer crew, call MaryJane Booth at 235-4466.

Board Meetings:

For those of you who may be interested, we hold monthly board meetings the first Monday of the month at Spokane Community College in the Science Building, Room 111b. We currently meet at 5:00 p.m. On some occasions, we move the meeting date, such as Mondays that fall on holidays, etc. These board meetings are open to the membership and we encourage you to attend if interested, but call a board member ahead of time in case we have moved the meeting date.

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

President: Marian Frobe rrfrobe@msn.com
Vice President: Chuck Kerkering ... jkk2@cdc.gov
Treasurer: Robert Liepold rliepold@aol.com
Secretary: Pam Dixson pdixson@aol.com

Directors:
 Marie Fowler wilflower4@aol.com
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 John Phillips
 Joanne Powell powell@snapwa.org
 Ed Reynolds edndaisy@aol.com

Special Thanks

Special Thanks:

We wish to thank **Craig and Judy Corder**, who donated more than their membership fee. We truly appreciate your generous donation.

We wish also to thank the two board members that have left us this summer. We thank **Lance von Marbod** for his nearly 4 years of dedicated service and for stepping in as secretary when we needed one. We also want to thank **Andy Buddington** for his 3 years of service on the board. He was instrumental in getting our membership activities scheduled and obtaining some great lectures that highlighted the Turnbull area. If you see more of these lectures in our activity schedule, you can be sure that Andy is still actively pursuing these for us.

We would also like to thank the volunteers who have kept the Friends of Turnbull Store staffed and running this year. **MaryJane Booth** has done an excellent job of scheduling and I thank everyone who has filled in when needed.

Thanks to **Kevin Young** and **Nancy Curry** who both helped out at the Rodeo Days booth.

We greatly appreciate all of you who donate or contribute their time toward our programs. If we have overlooked anyone who should be acknowledged, please accept our apologies. Also, if you have renewed or donated recently, we hope to list you in the next newsletter.

Marian Frobe

For Newsletter information or news contributions, please contact Joanne Powell at 456-7111 x 204 or email powell@snapwa.org

WINTER BIG GAME REFUGE TOUR and HOLIDAY CELEBRATION & SALE

Saturday December 7th we will hold another celebration in the Friends of Turnbull Store and the Refuge Environmental Education Classroom similar to our Open House last year. We will be open from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with live music, refreshments, informational videos, and the opportunity to purchase T-shirts, books, stocking stuffers, etc. for Christmas. Come join us for our celebration at Turnbull Refuge.

Centennial Events - Turnbull NWR

October 6-12, 2002 - National Wildlife Refuge Week - Environmental education activities with a Centennial theme; *An appreciation for waterfowl in the new century.*

October 19, 2002 - Fall Community Riparian Planting Day at Turnbull NWR.

Establishing habitat for the next 100 years. Volunteers and staff will plant native deciduous trees and shrubs in riparian areas of refuge for improved migratory bird habitat.

November 20, 2002, 7 p.m. Wednesday - Mima Mounds of Eastern Washington

Sasquatch Room, LAIR Student Building, SCC
Dr. Ted Doughty, Professor of Geology, EWU

Mima mounds are named after the unique occurrence of regularly spaced mound-like features found at Mima Prairie in Thurston County of southwestern Washington. "Mima-like" mounds have been found throughout central and eastern Washington including numerous mound fields in southern Spokane County and the Turnbull area. The origin for these spectacular features has been debated for decades with no one hypothesis gaining significant acceptance. New research into the origin of the mounds is shedding light on how the mounds may have formed and the relationship to our geologic past.

December 7, 2002 - Developing an appreciation for resident wildlife in the new Century - **Winter Big Game tour** on the Refuge with interpretation by Refuge staff.

FIRE SEASON WARNING

from Refuge Manager, Nancy J. Curry

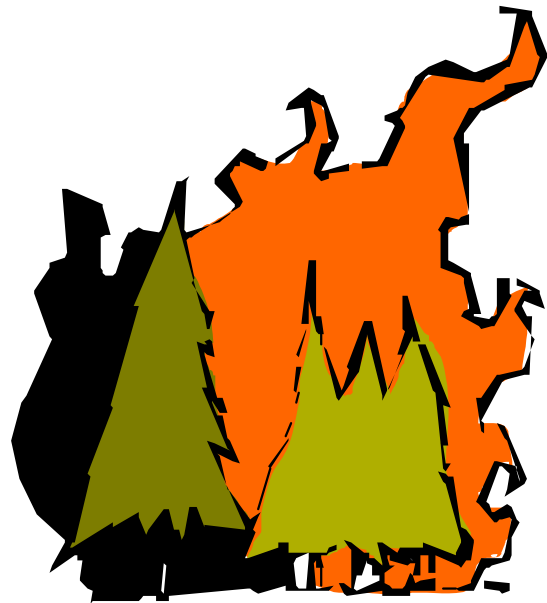
We are experiencing one of the worst fire seasons ever in the Western United States this year. Wildland fire has a new meaning these days. Because of the ever increasing encroachment of homes and businesses into the wildland areas, we are creating an area called the wildland urban interface. Fire after fire this year has been threatening the wildland urban interface and homes are being lost throughout the West. Even Smoky Bear is saying there is no such thing as FIRE PREVENTION anymore.

The US Forest Service has introduced a new icon *Reddy Squirrel* and his message is “Get Ready For Fire.” Fire is a natural part of our environment. What isn’t natural is the extreme fuel loads in our Western forests at this time. We are looking at a situation where is a matter of “when” not “if” a wildfire will occur.

This threat to human life and property is growing yearly. Even though we can’t control the weather, nor can we change the topography around our homes, we can modify the vegetation. And there are other ways we, as individuals and communities, can do to reduce the threat of wildfire to our homes.

Things like untreated wood shake roofs, narrow access roads, limited access, lack of fire-wise landscaping, inadequate water supplies and poorly planned subdivisions are all examples that increase the risk to homes during wildfire season. So how do we go about creating a “defensible space” against fires around our homes? Defensible space is that zone between a house and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat and provide an opportunity for firefighters to effectively defend the house.

Here are some things you can do. Keep a clearing of at least 30 feet around your home and outbuildings (this space increases depending on whether your house is sitting on a slope, or the type of vegetation around your home. If you have grass all around your home 30 feet might help, but with shrubs or ponderosa pine you’ll be safer creating a zone of 100-200 feet); Remove the “ladder fuels” which link grasses and ground level vegetation to the tree tops; mow dried grass. Maintain your irrigation system regularly making sure all trees and plants around your home are



green; prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6 to 10 feet from the ground.

Clean your roof and yard of leaf and pine needle clutter on a regular basis; remove dead or overhanging branches from any trees near your house and outbuildings; store firewood and any other flammable materials away from your house, dispose of cutting and debris promptly; store and use flammable liquids properly; don’t keep combustible materials under decks or porches; keep ample turnaround space near your house for fire equipment.

Creating this defensible space does make a difference. Homes with an effective defensible space are much more likely to survive a wildfire. Give me a call at 235-4723, and I’ll mail out a guide to Living With Fire and Wildland Home Fire Risk Meter that will help you analyze the hazardous fuels around your home and the steps you can take to reduce the threat of wildfire.

Congress has appropriated funds (grants) through the National Fire Plan to assist private landowners in reducing the hazardous fuel loads and creating that defensible space, see <http://www.fireplan.gov> for more information.

Does anyone remember Fire Storm 91 in Spokane County?

Nancy J. Curry, Project Leader
Turnbull NWR
26010 S. Smith Road
Cheney, WA 99004
509-235-4723



Summer Wildlife Observations at Turnbull NWR

by Mike Rule

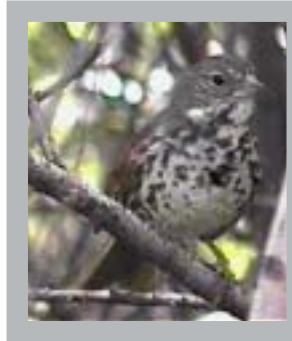


A bull moose provided the bird banding crew with a very close encounter on August 22. He bedded down within 15 feet of the trail we walk to check the mist-nets. After the fifth time we crept by trying but failing not to disturb him, he left with a snort for more peaceful pastures.



Other migrants coming through the area include Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks, white pelicans and the early, northern mallards.

Cinnamon and blue-winged teal have already gone south. Yet to come are the large flocks of northern pintail, wigeon, goldeneyes, and Tundra swans.



Slate-colored Fox Sparrow
Photo by Matt Hunter

Fall songbird migration is well under way. During the last songbird mist-netting and banding day of the season on August 22, several Wilson's and MacGillivray's warblers, a warbling vireo and cordilleran flycatchers were captured. All these species, and white-crowned and fox sparrows,

have also been observed in the alder patch near refuge headquarters. We are expecting hermit and Swainson's thrushes through any day now.

A group of around 100 white pelicans have been seen regularly on Cheever Lake as well as some Caspian terns.



A rather rare sighting of a male bobolink was reported to the refuge office by a pair of birders from the west-side on July 17th.



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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

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



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.”