



# Friends of Turnbull

Volume 6, Issue 3

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Fall 2004, 3rd Quarter

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**This will be my last column as your president. Although I have enjoyed the challenge, I have come to realize that I have been doing this for 5 years and it is time for a change—both for me and for your board. Although people are willing to be Board members, it is difficult to find someone to accept the position of president. I am confident that one of your board members will step up and be willing to do this for awhile—perhaps not for 5 years! There are several board positions open currently, so if you can help, please call one of us. I will still be active in the Friends group and will still help manage the Bookstore, so I'm not entirely gone.**

### The Year in Review:

At our Annual Meeting in August, we presented the yearly accomplishments and I will list some of them here. Those of you who came to see Bob Griffith's program were not disappointed. His wonderful pictures of Arctic flowers, mammals, birds, and ice and snow scenery were a welcome touch after 90-degree weather and lots of yellow jackets that were after our potluck food.

### Environmental Education and Refuge Support:

- In Environmental Education (EE), we were able to fund an Americorps volunteer again for the fall 2003 programs. We were lucky to have Brian Walker accept this position again, plus the refuge was able to rehire Nicole Bronson through a cost challenge grant, and the remainder of this fund came to us after the fiscal year, and we were able to keep her on as an EE specialist using these funds and some of our own until 11/28/03. With both Brian and Nicole returning, the EE program enjoyed some continuity. We funded a Student Conservation Association (SCA) person this spring and will be able to fund another Americorps beginning this fall.
- We were also able to help this fiscal year with an Americorps and SCA in the biological program. Funding became available through challenge grants

the refuge obtained. Some of this was channeled through the Friends, so we helped mostly with paperwork. Mitigation funds paid to us for the logging process on the refuge will pay for another Americorps for the biological program this fall.

- We provided money for gas for the EE program this spring so they would be able to bring the EE program out to various schools and fairs, etc., as the refuge's budget has been cut and they have no discretionary spending in their current budget. If we are successful in our planned fundraising, we may be able to assist more with some of these items.
- Volunteers have continued to put in many hours in various programs at the refuge and at the bookstore, and always join the refuge for both the spring and fall Riparian Planting Days. Look in the Activities Schedule for the date this fall.
- We applied for a grant to obtain Seecoast Binoculars, the large stationary ones for both regular and handicapped viewing. These will not be coin-operated. Our grant request was accepted and we have currently signed and returned the grant agreement. Look for these binoculars to be installed overlooking Winslow Pool and Pine Lake in the near future.



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- The refuge is in the process of making their trails handicapped accessible, starting with Kepple Peninsula trail, and the Interpretive Trail Project will be completed along with this upgrade.

**Funding:**

- We receive quarterly payments from the 2003 Combined Federal Campaign. Look for our name in the 2004 CFC as well, as we have been accepted for another campaign. We are slated to receive about \$1391.12 from the 2003 CFC, a number that helps tremendously.
- Bookstore income for 2003 was \$767.80. Our current profit in mid-August is a little over \$800.00. We have had good sales volume this spring—wildflower books always sell well after the classes we sponsor on the refuge’s wildflowers.
- New memberships and renewals are doing well this year. We are grateful to those of you who donate at a higher level, such as patron, or who donate a few more dollars over their membership fee.

**Outreach:**

- The website has been moved to [Http://www.dc4pc.net/ftnwr](http://www.dc4pc.net/ftnwr). We are still working on making this a little more user-friendly.
- Last fall we helped the refuge man their booth at the Spokane Interstate Fair. We also had a booth at Cheney Rodeo Days this July and conducted a T-shirt and membership drive this spring at the Cheney Trading Co.
- We continued offering field trips for members and the public, sponsoring 7 classes and field trips and 3 programs or lectures.

I think we had a good year and were able to accomplish most of our goals, mainly keeping the EE program going, through welcome funding from a grant and from your generous memberships. Thanks for all your support.

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas, please don't hesitate to call any one of the board members listed in this newsletter.

# Special Thanks

The following people renewed at the Patron level or donated more than their membership fee this quarter. We truly appreciate your generous donations:

- James & Carolyn Ashay**
- Jon & Jodi Gosse**
- Alan & Kay Hale**
- Cindy McCormack**
- J. Michael Scott**
- Robert H. Strong**

Thank you to **Geri Damrow** and **Charmaine Gural** for helping us man the table at the West Plains Fair on August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks are due to the following people who donated their time and expertise to providing activities and programs to make the refuge more known and visible in our community:

- Dr. Charles Mutschler**, for his June 19<sup>th</sup> Railroad History on Bikes
- Sandy Rancourt**, for her July 20<sup>th</sup> presentation on the Bats of Turnbull
- Robert Griffith**, for his program, North of Norway, at our Annual Meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>

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

*Donors of \$500.00 or more will receive an etched Centennial glass coffee mug in return for their generous donation.*

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

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# FOT Activities 2004

*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.*

**October 9, Saturday. Fall Riparian Planting** at the Refuge. This is a twice yearly project at Turnbull NWR. Meet at the Refuge Saturday morning about 9 (or whenever you are able to get there) and plant trees and do maintenance work on the trees already there. There is a potluck after the work party finishes. Bring a main dish, salad, or dessert. **The week of October 10-16 is National Wildlife Refuge Week.**



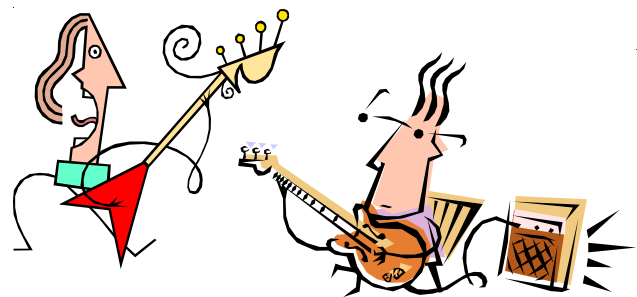
**October 16, Saturday. Geology on Bikes.** How was the eastern Washington landscape developed through the past billion years of Earth history? Many of the clues can be seen along one of



Washington's newest State Parks, the Columbia Plateau Trail State Park. Professor Emeritus Gene Kiver will point out important rocks and details of their emplacement along the many exposures produced by the SP&S Railway during its construction. The huge Ice Age floods that swept across eastern Washington as recently as 12,800 years ago produced the final touches to the landscape. The bicycle route will traverse through part of the Channeled Scabland and its myriad of unusual landforms. Class size is limited to 18. Call 235-6448 or 328-0621 to register and for more details. Donations to support the Friends of Turnbull environmental education activities are appreciated.

**November 16, Tuesday.** Professor Jerry Galm is "Mr. Archaeology" in the Columbia Plateau and will share with us some insights into the archaeological story in eastern Washington. His topic is "**Paleoindian Adaptations at the Allerod-Younger Dryas Transition**" The View from the Columbia Plateau". The evening presentation will begin at 7:00 P.M in the Sasquatch Room in the Lair Student Center at Spokane Community College.

**December 4, Saturday.** Big Game Tour and Winter Festival. Join our elk safari and educational and entertainment festivities from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Seating in vehicles for the elk tour are limited, call the Refuge at 235-4723 to make reservations for the morning or afternoon tours. Light refreshments will be provided, bring a lunch and spend the day! Kids are welcome.



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

The Fundraising and Promotions committee is seeking volunteers to help with various activities, including operation of the bookstore at the Refuge, T-shirt sales at local (Cheney) grocery stores, and informational booths at community events. If you have time, and would like to be involved in these important outreach endeavors, please contact Marie Fowler at 509-569-2044 or [Wilflower4@aol.com](mailto:Wilflower4@aol.com) or MaryJane Booth at 235-4466.

# REFUGE HAPPENINGS

by Sandy Rancourt

The refuge staff has been very fortunate to work with Marian Frobe as President of FOTNWR for the past 5 years. It is with great sadness (but probably to her relief) to see such a wonderful lady step down from her position this September. Anyone who has had the pleasure of working with Marian knows her as a hard working, devoted individual who truly makes a difference. Marian stepped up to the plate to accept the Presidency of



FOTNWR when no one else could make this commitment. A commitment is just what it is. I know this, because I have spent many hours on the phone, by e-mail, or in person discussing with Marian budget, cooperative agreements, grants, etc. I believe there were a few pleas to her for things on my part as well. Marian was always available to help out regardless of the requests. Marian's devotion to the refuge has not just been in her role as President of FOTNWR. She and her husband, Russell, have been active refuge volunteers for 12 years now. Marian and Russell first

came to the refuge in 1993 to help finish up point count surveys in refuge aspen stands. They came

highly recommended and have definitely lived up to their reputation. They have branched out considerably from those modest beginnings, participating in marsh bird surveys, song bird point counts, waterfowl surveys, breeding bird surveys and MAPS (Monitoring Avian Production and Survivorship). Because of their company, MAPS is one of

my favorite work days. The couple oversee the Friends' bookstore on the refuge and are often seen doing inventory, restocking shelves and bookkeeping. They also are involved in various Friends and refuge outreach events; leading tours, staffing booths at fairs, and providing moral support during the infamous bat presentations (thanks, Russell). Fortunately, Marian and Russell will still be volunteering in the biological program and for other activities as well, but we will miss Marian in her role as President. We commend and thank you, Marian, for a job very well done!

***Brian Walker, an Environmental Education AmeriCorps member, wrote the following article about his experiences at Turnbull.***

It's amazing how fast 2 years at Turnbull can go. It seems like just yesterday that I was just starting work out here. But as they say, time flies when you are having fun. And fun I did have! Facilitating numerous field trips, helping band all kinds of birds through the MAPS program, working on the riparian restoration project, wading chest deep in some pretty foul water to check on waterfowl nests, collecting water invertebrates for school programs, watching elk out the

bunkhouse windows and many, many more experiences than I can possibly write about.

My main project at the refuge was the Environmental Education Program. I remember the last time I wrote this article that I focused on a single young child who stuck in my mind, and his first trip out to the refuge and his eventual excitement about the trip. This time I want to say what an EXCELLENT program the Environmental Education program is and how very important it is.

I don't recall how many students I taught over the last two years, but I'm guessing it's somewhere around 16,000. Some had been to the refuge before and were

(continued from page 4)

still very excited to come back. But many more of those students were experiencing their first trip to the refuge. Some were also experiencing their first trip outside the city limits, and some were having their first experience with nature. Without a program like this, some of these students may have gone through their entire schooling years without actually experiencing nature and its wonders, simply learning about it from a book. Luckily the Education program at Turnbull is available and many teachers are able to take advantage of it.

It's hard to say how many of the students I taught will go on to make a significant impact on our environment. But I would guess the numbers are high. Some may grow to love the natural world more than myself and make some significant contributions. Others may take their children into nature and show them some of the wonders they learned while in school. Still others may just remember what they learned and apply it in some fashion to a decision they make regarding an environmental decision. And I know that there were several of the kids that wanted to take my job; more power to them! We need more volunteers like them.

Angie, the spring SCA volunteer for the Education program, and me had a blast this spring with all the field trips. Teachers were constantly thanking us for our contribution to their classes and for sharing our knowledge. Little did they know that Angie and I were having just as much fun as they were. There was always the possibility of finding a cool new bug in one of the ponds or maybe getting to see an interesting animal as we took the nature walk. And then there were always the kids. As the saying goes, kids will say the darndest things. Many times Angie or I would have to bite our tongues to keep from laughing at a crazy comment from one of the kids.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who made it possible for me to be out here. AmeriCorps and Terri Jack for a wonderful program and excellent guidance along the way. Sandy and Mike for all the time they took to teach me about different aspects of the refuge, your knowledge is amazing. The Friends of Turnbull for the funding for both years. And definitely all the teachers, students and everyone else who came out to the refuge to give me something to do. I loved working with everyone.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS FOR THE SPRING & SUMMER

### Spring Bird Walk—

Over 20 people signed up for this walk around Winslow Pool and the Pine Lakes, but the day dawned rather rainy and blustery, so only about 8 hardy souls showed up. We actually were not rained on during the walk, except at the very end. We saw 47 species and heard another 7. Some of the highlights were a very cooperative Wilson's Snipe, Black Terns, most of the expected duck species, and rather poor views of 4 different warblers: Townsend's, Wilson's, Yellow and Yellow-rumped. As several of our group were from other parts of the country and were visitors here, they were treated to some species that were new to them.



Black Tern by James Cole

### Bats of Turnbull—

Well, this was a very interesting evening. Although we advertised, we didn't expect nearly as many people as attended. There were close to 200—we lost count after the first 100! Quite a few children were in attendance and Sandy Rancourt did an admirable job of putting on her slide show under trying circumstances, as it was standing room only in the building. Then everyone walked across Pine Creek to view the nets set up for bats. Most were able to see the bats Sandy and Mike had captured the evening before and get quite good looks at them. As an added attraction, 40 white pelicans flew overhead in formation just before people started their walk toward the bat demonstration site.



Historical Cycling Tour—by Dr. Charles Mutschler  
The Friends of Turnbull cycling historical tour of the Columbia Plateau Trail from Fish Lake to the Refuge and back along the trail was a sell-out again this year. The people who signed up met me at the Fish lake trail head on Saturday, June 19th. We cycled west along the Columbia Plateau Trail, which is the roadbed of the Spokane Portland & Seattle Railway, to a point about seven and a half miles west of Fish Lake. At frequent intervals we paused to allow the tour guide to explain the historical features visible, or the historic events which occurred at each stop. These included the history of the railroads in the region, the development of the ranching and dairy industries in Spokane County, and the role of the railroad in economic development. A full class signed up. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and I received several kind notes and phone calls from people who participated.

# Weather and Migratory Birds

## **Weather Radar Has Another Use: Bird Conservation**

Recently developed radar technology proved to be a great asset for the conservation of migratory birds. Using new WSR-88D type radars, scientists can measure the density of migrating birds aloft and use the speed of movement relative to the winds aloft to roughly determine the types of birds involved. Then, observing the birds, scientists documented that small songbirds flew considerably slower than shorebirds and waterfowl.

This information revealed that not all birds in trans-Gulf flights are songbirds. A typical flight contains not only songbirds, but also flocks of herons, waterfowl, shorebirds, gallinules and allies and, every once in a while, raptors.

## **Where Do They Stop?**

One of the most exciting discoveries from the WSR-88D work is the detection of important migration stopover areas along the northern Gulf coast. Migrant birds take off 30 to 45 minutes after dark — an exodus event — and climb into the early evening sky. As they climb to altitudes sampled by the radar beam, they become “visible” as echoes in the radar image. For a brief period of time the locations of echoes from concentrations of migrants indicate the geographical locations of the stopover areas.

Radar has given similar insight to bird biology in many other places, such as Nebraska’s Rainwater Basin, where you can find waterfowl, sandhill cranes and others.

## **Bad Weather Causes Bird to Collide with Towers**

An estimated 5,000-10,000 Lapland Longspurs were killed as they crashed into the guy wires of lighted radio transmission towers near Syracuse, KK, Jan. 22, 1998. The kill, termed “one of the largest ever in Kansas” by state wildlife officials, apparently occurred because the guy wires were obscured by fog and blowing snow. Thousands of similar, albeit smaller, collisions take place across the country.

## **Weather Affects Migratory Birds and Ultimately the Military**

By classifying radar signatures, military meteorologists can examine and predict bird movements and advise pilots about the potential for hazardous bird collisions. Through complex imagery, they can “turn off” weather and other signatures like sunspurs, leaving only signatures of birds and other biological features. All this is

plotted on GIS to illustrate bird movement patterns and potential hazards.

## **Weather Affects Hawk Migration and Birdwatcher’s Fun**

Each fall, as thousands of hawks migrate south at Hawk Mountain, PA, thousands of birdwatchers come to see the spectacle. The largest spectacle involves Broadwing Hawks, whose migration peaks around mid- to late September. During this time, lucky watchers will see thousands of Broadwings in one day. Hawks wait for cold fronts and northwest winds to begin each stage of their migration. Because these weather events tend to cycle in one-week periods, visitors need to spend several days at the mountain to catch a peak.

## **Friends Are Making Things Happen. . .**

Twenty-four Friends groups will receive more than \$100,000 in grants under the National Wildlife Refuge Friends Group Grant Program’s spring 2004 cycle. Funded by the Refuge System and administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the Service, National Wildlife Refuge Association and National Audubon Society, the grant program builds support and visibility for the Refuge System by providing money for start-up and program activities. The community-based Friends groups can use the grants for community outreach, conservation education, habitat restoration and other visitor services. This year, priority was given to proposals that facilitate wildlife-dependent recreation on refuges and reach new audiences. To date, the program has awarded more than \$1.1 million under 290 grants to more than 160 Friends groups that support more than 175 refuges, wetland management districts and national game preserves. Applications are due Sept. 15 for the next round of grants. For more information, contact Trevor Needham, 703-358-2392, or go to <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/nwrgp.htm> for program guidelines and an application form.

Nancy J. Curry, Project Leader  
Turnbull NWR





# Summer Wildlife Observations at Turnbull NWR

by Mike Rule



Bull elk are starting to pull together their harems and can be heard bugling in the early morning and evening hours — a sure sign that fall is on its way.

An increase in the number of observations of the relatively rare mountain cottontail indicates an increase in populations of this species on the refuge. Several individuals, including young of the year, have been observed along the first 1/4 mile of the Auto Tour Route.



A large group of white pelicans (50 or more ) has been using the refuge since mid-summer. They can be seen regularly on the Pine and Cheever Lakes below Headquarters, Kepple Lake, and McDowell Lake across Cheney/ Plaza from the Entrance Rd. These birds are responding to the expansion of populations of non-native fish, the brook stickleback



and pumpkinseed in Refuge wetlands. Although pelicans and cormorants are benefitting from this exotic fish invasion, the Refuge staff is concerned about their impact on the aquatic food chain, and direct predation of native amphibian species.

Moose continue to be seen within the public use area on a daily basis. Bulls are losing the velvet on their antlers and are beginning to become more territorial.



The refuge biological staff and volunteers wrapped the 11 th year of songbird banding. 155 birds were captured this year, 119 were new birds and 30 were recaptures from previous years. Captures on the last two days of banding in August indicated that fall migration is in full swing, with several captures of Wilson’s and MacGillivray’s warblers, warbling and Cassin’s vireos, gray catbirds, and Hammond’s and Western flycatchers. Both hermit and Swainson’s thrushes usually captured by the end of August have yet to arrive in the area.

Gray Catbird



## 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.”*