



Friends of Turnbull

Volume 7, Issue 3

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Fall 2005, 3rd Quarter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Joanne Powell

Annual General Membership Meeting:

The Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2005. We're sorry more members were not able to attend but below is the report for the year (September 2004 to September (almost) 2005).

The faces on the board have changed a lot this past year. Marian Frobe is our Political Advocacy Chair and Manager of the bookstore and all the work that entails. Gene Kiver has decided to step down as Activities Chair. He has done a really wonderful job with lining up activities for our members. Our new Activities Chair is Charmaine Gural. Marie Fowler, our previous Public Relations Chair, left the board due to family and business pressures. We are lucky to have Logan Greene taking her place and doing a great job. We decided to change the title from PR to "Public Awareness Chair" as we felt that was more descriptive of her duties. Logan is also willing to work on fund raising along with Bob Liepold, our Treasurer. Bob's fine work is appreciated more than we can say in this short message.

We are still looking for a Membership chair. Vonice Parker has other projects she wishes to devote her time to but has agreed to keep up the thank you letters, and send me the information on new/renewing members so I can keep the data base updated. Our most pressing need now is for a new Recording Secretary as Kevin Young, who has been an excellent recording secretary, is moving on to other pursuits. All that is required is to attend meetings once a month, take notes, then write them up and send them off to the board members before the next month's meeting. We now actually have an up and running (and updated) website thanks to Pete Porter, our new webmaster.

We've accomplished some goals and are still working on other. There are two new sets of stationary binoculars erected above Winslow Pool; one of which is wheelchair accessible.

A small visitor facility enhancement grant allowed the USFWS to contract with Jerry Morrison Inc., of Medford Oregon to pave the Pine Lake Loop Trail.

This newly accessible trail will allow individuals greater mobility in getting out to Pine Lake and enjoying the variety of waterfowl and other wildlife that can be seen near or on the lake this time of year.

The 1.25 mile long loop trail can be accessed from the parking area by the comfort station. The trail makes an easy switch back down to the lake level and follows along the old road bed and dikes adjacent Winslow Pool and Pine Lake.

The photo blind placed by Boy Scouts along the southeast side of the lake is still there for visitors to use for photography or simply as an observation blind.

Some interpretive signs are up along the boardwalk. The refuge, the Audubon Society and the FOT have been working very hard on this project. The signs are attractive and informative so check them out the next time you're at the refuge.

Future Project:

Future project not yet finalized but in production: Logan Greene's technical writing class produced 2 activity books for younger and older students. They are in the process of being edited and will be ready for the

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Junior Ranger program when that activity becomes available. Gene Kiver, Logan Greene and Sandy Rancourt have been working on this program. More to come on that project.

Some popular yearly activities:

Many of the activities Gene Kiver organized for FOT were well attended; especially popular have been the Geology tours by bike. We're hoping that with a new Public Awareness Chair more advertising will get out earlier to increase participation is some of the other activities.

Our yearly **Winter Festival** was a great success. We tried something new this year—we ran the festival on just one day, Saturday, December 4th. We offered the elk tours in the morning and the afternoon, so we were able to accommodate the same number of people as before. Both the morning tour and the afternoon tour saw large numbers of elk on the closed part of the refuge. The wonderful Raptor Demonstration by the WSU Raptor Club was very popular

We served chili and cornmeal muffins this time, instead of just cookies, and it seemed to be a big hit with everyone. Offering a hot lunch enabled more people to stay longer, both for the Raptor program and to listen to the three groups that played some great music.

We are really looking forward to Winter Festival 2005, the first Saturday in December.

Marian Frobe attended **the NWRA Friends in Action Conference** in Washington, DC, this year, representing our Friends group. She attended classes and addresses on Saturday and Sunday and then visited our senators and representatives on Monday. Most of the classes and talks were about the current budget woes and what we can expect in the next budget. Marian visited the offices of Senators Murray and Cantwell, and the office of Congresswoman McMorris, to explain how the budget will affect the FWS and Turnbull in particular.

In May, despite poor weather, 100 volunteers participated in the **Community Planting** event.

Volunteers from Discovery School, Frog Hollow 4-H Club, EWU's Circle K International Club (Kiwanis), EWU's Track Club, Audubon, Student Conservation Association & AmeriCorps representatives, Friends of Turnbull NWR, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Quest Youth Group, WSU and University of Idaho students, Good Sams Club, and numerous individuals participated in this very successful event. Volunteers planted over 50 native saplings and 300 propagated willow and red-osier dogwood cuttings. Discovery School's generous contribution and preparation of enough burgers and snacks for everyone to enjoy, helped make this event such a huge success. Frog Hollow 4H contributed \$360 to help purchase native saplings.

Before the meeting we all had a delicious dinner, with some great potluck main dishes and really terrific salads and desserts!

At the end of the General Meeting Bob Griffith, noted wildlife photographer, entertained everyone with a terrific slide show on his trips to Florida for wading birds and to Antactica for an incredible penguin adventure. Not to mention a short introductory presentation on the Cheney Rodeo, with some spectacular shots. Thank you, Bob, for your wonderful show.

We really hope more of you members will join us next August for the 2006 General Membership Meeting. I know it's a ways to drive on a week night but I think your effort will be amply rewarded.

Don't forget—The Friends of Turnbull has been accepted into this fall's Combined Federal Campaign, so look for our organization in the list. If you designate your donations to our organization, it helps us provide the Refuge with Environmental Education funds. Last fall's (2004) CFC campaign will bring us around \$1,050.00 this year, so this is a big help. We receive this in quarterly payments.

Regards. Joanne

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

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The Turnbull NWR general email box is fw1turnbullnwr@fws.gov

FOT Activities 2005

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 12, Wednesday. WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS ON THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION: That lecture has been cancelled as the speaker will be out of state. The talk will be rescheduled and we'll let you know the new date as soon as possible.

October 15, Saturday. FALL RIPARIAN PLANTING AT THE REFUGE. This is a twice yearly project at Turnbull NWR. We meet at the Refuge Saturday morning about 9 a.m. (or whenever you can get there) and help 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. Call Sandy at the Refuge (235-4723) for more information and to register.



BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEEDED

MaryJane Booth is leaving the program next month and we need a Bookstore Volunteer Coordinator. You don't have to attend meetings, just maintain and call a list of volunteers to see which day/shift of the weekend they would like to work at the store. The store is open from April until October. Call Marian Frobe 328-0261 or MaryJane Booth at 235-4466.

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 Charmaine Gural at cgural@juno.com or Logan Greene at lgreene@mail.ewu.edu (359-7053 office).

November 1, Tuesday. PONDEROSA PINE RESTORATION EFFORTS at TURNBULL NWR. wMike Rule, Wildlife Biologist at TNWR will summarize the management program initiated to correct the abuses of past logging and half a decade of fire suppression in the Turnbull Ponderosa forest. A landscape was created that contains overstocked stands prone to disease, insect damage, and catastrophic fire. Mechanical thinning, a series of fuel reduction treatments, and a fall underburn are giving encouraging improvements to forest structure and response of wildlife. The program will begin at 7:00 PM in the Sasquatch Room, Lair Student Union Building at Spokane Community College, N. 1810 Greene Street.

December 3, Saturday. WINTER FESTIVAL. Big Game Tour and Winter Festival for 2005. Join our elk safari, and educational and entertainment festivities, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Seating in vehicles for the elk tour is limited so call the Refuge at 235-4723 to make reservations for the morning or afternoon tours. The chili and cornbread lunch was so popular last year that we are bringing it back. Cookies, muffins, coffee, tea and hot chocolate are also provided. Kids are welcome. *For any activities held at Turnbull NWR: if you have special needs, please contact Turnbull NWR at (509) 235-4723.*

Special Thanks

Thank you to the following members who contributed to our Endowment Fund, joined/renewed at the Patron level or joined/renewed and included an extra donation along with their membership fee. These are the 3rd Quarter memberships (June/July/August).

Renewal/New Extra Donation:

Joyce Alonso
Dale Stradling

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 me at jopowell39@aol.com.

STORE NEWS, FALL 2005

By Marian Frobe

Your Friends of Turnbull Store sales remained strong through the summer, and we have had to do some reordering of books and shirts in August. At the time of this writing our net profit for this year through the 3rd weekend in August is \$702.25. We were down to 3 of the Audubon birds left, so reordered these from Wild Republic. As they require that we order a fairly large number, we have some new birds for your enjoyment. Along with the ones we ordered before, which are great birds for our area, we also ordered California Quail, Northern Flicker, Song Sparrow and Canada Goose. They have many species they offer that really sound like great birds to have, but I have to restrain myself and keep our order down to a manageable amount. This latest order on the Audubon birds will probably take us through next year before we need to reorder again.

The books are still selling well, especially the Lone Pine books. We completely sold out their Mammals of Washington/Oregon and Bugs of Washington/Oregon, which is why we ended up reordering books in August. We still have sufficient books from our other distributors at this writing. Sales of sweatshirts and T-shirts have been steady, but we still have a good selection of the International Migratory Bird Day T-shirts for 2005. Remember, the design this year is done by David Sibley, who wrote the very popular bird guides. The theme is Collisions, reminding us how many birds are lost to collisions with windows, power poles, etc., every year. The price of the shirts is \$12.00 each.

I appreciate all our Store Volunteers who keep us open on weekends for public outreach and sales. Entries in our guest book show that we receive many visitors from far away places as well as close to home. The last weekend we worked out there, we had visitors from Massachusetts, California, Washington D.C., and Kansas. If you have questions or suggestions, feel free to call me at 328-0621 or E-mail at rrfrobe@msn.com.

BUFFER ZONES NEEDED BY REFUGES

A new report by the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) cites an urgent need to implement strategies that conserve lands outside national wildlife refuges. The lands and waters surrounding refuges, known as buffer zones, need protection from the threats of subdivision and other human activity. Evan Hirsche, president of the NWRA states, "The protection of buffer zones is absolutely critical to the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since many of the lands within buffer zones are privately held, we must work closely with landowners to ensure the long-term protection of these national treasures."

The NWRA is urging Congress and the Administration to implement five solutions: strengthening incentives for private landowners to practice conservation; conserving more land through acquisition and easements; allocating more funds at the state level; conducting more research to determine priorities; and establishing preventative systems for shipping disasters near refuges.

Although the last one wouldn't apply to Turnbull NWR, refuges are threatened nationwide. Turnbull is trying to look ahead with their current Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) to protect the buffer zones around this jewel of a refuge. Current agricultural use is not a threat, but the more subdivisions, gravel pits, etc., that move closer from Spokane and Cheney, the more threatened the water supply and water quality and the more difficult it will be to protect the habitat of the wild plants and animals that now use the refuge as just that—a refuge. Land listed in the Approved Refuge Boundary and/or the Stewardship Area means the refuge would only seek to protect these areas as an informally designated conservation zone surrounding the refuge. No lands would be acquired as part of the refuge itself unless there are willing sellers. Please support Turnbull's chosen alternative in their CCP.

REFUGE HAPPENINGS

by Sandy Rancourt

When I was asked recently to write another article about Turnbull's Environmental Education (EE) Program and why it is so successful, I immediately thought of our volunteers. With increasing demand for our EE and outreach programs and base erosion to a budget that has always been inadequate, volunteers have made the difference at this refuge. Volunteers provide the bulk of the facilitation for our spring and fall field trips on the refuge and outreach to local schools through in-classroom presentations. The refuge relies heavily on AmeriCorps and SCA volunteers, funded annually by the refuge's Friends group. These programs are invaluable to the refuge because it is difficult to find non-stipend volunteers who are able to commit daily or weekly to the EE program. After AmeriCorps and SCA members' term of service is completed, however, these great individuals move on, and we are challenged to find good replacements to maintain continuity. New volunteers also need extensive training to sustain our high quality Program. I train with the assistance of volunteers, notably retired educators and past volunteers who are truly committed in the hope of sparking yet another student's interest in the natural environment. Of course, there is also an upside. We get to work with new volunteers who bring unique talents and insights. The rewards are obvious and the accomplishments of these amazing individuals are truly outstanding. Last year, Turnbull conducted EE programs for 8,000 students and outreached to over 12,000 people at fairs and festivals. This was accomplished without paid temporary help and very little money for supplies. I am not advocating running a program of this size with a minimal number of paid staff and volunteers. It has taken many difficult years to develop a program like we have. Much can be accomplished though with dedicated volunteers who love what they do. Their enthusiasm is contagious.

Besides facilitation, volunteers have contributed to the success of the EE program in many other ways. In 2000 and 2001, over 100 volunteers renovated the

refuge's EE facility converting a run down building into a showcase classroom and museum. The building also provides much needed office space for EE facilitators and the refuge's Friends bookstore. A volunteer has been painting a beautiful instructional mural in the classroom to augment our Program. Every year, Scouts, 4H members, and students replace the bark on the refuge's EE trails. These trails are used by the public and thousands of students who learn about the refuge's wildlife and habitats on guided nature walks. The refuge now has a beautiful EE shelter thanks to the efforts of Inland Northwest Associated General Contractors of America. The shelter is located at refuge headquarters and is already being put to good use by many school groups and the general public.

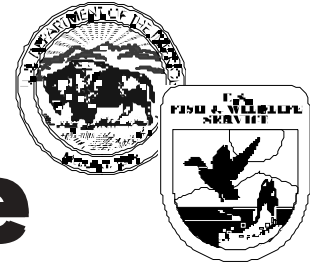
The refuge has formed over 28 partnerships in support of its EE program. Long term partnerships are essential to the success of any refuge and we are very fortunate to have such sound ones. One such partnership is with Eastern Washington University which operates Turnbull Laboratory for Ecological Studies, a research and teaching facility located on the refuge. This is an unique situation in the Refuge System and Turnbull makes the most of it. The refuge's biological program has worked closely with Eastern conducting studies on the ecosystem to assist in the development of refuge objectives. Annually, nearly 3,000 students are taught college level courses at TLES, supplementing the refuge's EE program.

Overseeing the refuge's Environmental Education and Volunteer Programs at Turnbull has become a highlight in my career because of the volunteers I have worked with and come to know. I recently told another Service employee inquiring about our Program that it doesn't take hundreds of volunteers to make it successful. A few can make a difference. Turnbull has definitely found those few.

**Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge
26010 S. Smith Road
Cheney, WA 99004**

**Phone: 509/235-4723
Fax: 509/235-4703**

News Release



HELP US CELEBRATE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

Turnbull NWR Community Work Party

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and Spokane Audubon Society will host a community work party on Saturday, October 15, 2005. 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 year, we will plant 20 saplings and remove exotic weeds and grasses from around the existing trees to increase their chance for survival. We will also be erecting 1 enclosure 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: October, 15, 2005.

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.

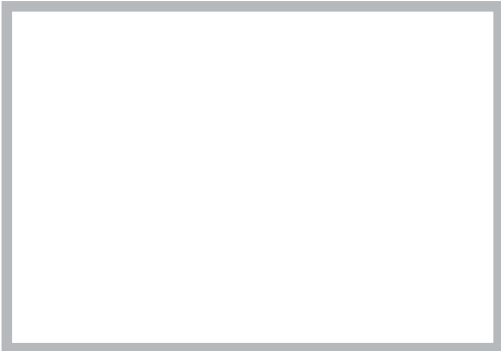
Clothing: Long-sleeved shirt, work pants, sturdy boots or shoes, gloves.

Equipment: (If you can) shovels, hoes, trowels, rakes, needle-nose pliers, mallets.



Fall Wildlife Observations at Turnbull NWR

by Mike Rule



American bittern

Virginia Rails

Least flycatcher

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.”