



Friends of Turnbull

Volume 4, Issue 1

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Spring 2002, 1st Quarter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We planned to have the last issue out before Christmas, but, of course, you can see that didn't happen. In this issue we will be looking ahead to our spring field trips and the spring Environmental Education season. We will be funding an EE facilitator for this spring season for the Refuge. At this time, we aren't sure if this will be an SCA or a contract employee. Your memberships and several special donations allow us to help the Refuge keep this program going.

Look in this issue for upcoming Field Trips and Special Events for the Spring quarter. Come to our activities and bring friends!

Open House:

In the last issue we told you briefly about the Open House which we organized for the first weekend in December. We decided to do this too late to make our fall newsletter issue, so we apologize to any of our members who would have liked to attend and didn't know about it. With the help of Marie Fowler, our newest board member, we were able to get it publicized in the newspapers and radio, so the attendance both Saturday and Sunday was very good, despite the snowstorm that made driving to the Refuge from Cheney on Saturday very interesting. Marie was the organizer of the entertainment and we were treated to music from the various groups, plus video presentations and talks by Nancy Curry, the Refuge Manager. Those of us who were working the store enjoyed the background music from Keith Milligan (Occasional Strings), Jadis (Medieval Renaissance music), Nah'joom Dancers (Mid-east dancing), Brad Keeler (blues and folk), John James (button accordion), Blue Skies (Bluegrass folk), and Dulaman (Celtic). It appeared that quite a few people came to hear the entertainers and the refuge presentations. Of course, we were hoping for sales of books and T-shirts for Christmas and we were pleased with the results. We had sales and donations of over \$650.00 for that weekend and a number of new members signed up or took the information

to sign up later. The winter elk field trip was on this same weekend, and pairing the two seemed to work well.

Membership Renewals:

Our membership is slowly growing. Welcome to all our new members. Don't forget to send in your renewals. If the date on your address label shows January 2002, you need to renew your membership. If you feel your expiration date is incorrect, please call Vonice Parker, our Membership Chairperson, at 235-4611 or E-mail her at Depotsprings@netscape.net. All our members are important to us. Memberships have enabled us to open the store and to lend our support to the Refuge's Environmental Education Program. **Please don't let your membership lapse!**

Friends Conference:

By the time you are reading this, I will have attended the First Annual National Refuge Friends Conference in Washington, D.C., from February 22nd through the 24th. I hope to meet and learn from representatives of other Friends groups throughout the nation. I hope to get ideas for our store, for Centennial celebrations and merchandise, and, of course, the ever-popular fundraising ideas. (Yes, that is not one of my favorite things.) We are also encouraged to meet with our legislators while we are there to keep

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them aware that the Refuge system also has many funding needs that should be addressed in the Federal budget, and I have appointments with both senators and with Congressman Nethercutt for this purpose. I will report on the Conference in the next issue.

Friends Store:

We will be reopening the store the first weekend in April. Any of you who would like to work as volunteers at the store should call MaryJane Booth at 235-4466. We will have added Centennial theme mugs to our stock and a few new books. We should also have our stocks of T-shirts in good shape by then. We carry most of the popular North American bird guides, including the Sibley Guide to North American Birds. So if there is one of the guides you don't yet have, check us out.

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

Vice President:

Chuck Kerkering

Treasurer:

Robert Liepold

Secretary:

Lance von Marbod

Directors:

Andrew Buddington

Marie Fowler

Vonice Parker

John Phillips

Joanne Powell

Ed Reynolds

F. Lance von Marbod

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

Special Thanks

Our special thanks go to **Ken Meinhart** and to **Margaret A. Pearson** for their generous donations this fall and winter to help support our Environmental Education program.

A special thank you to **Dr. Robert Stockton** for his donation to the Endowment Fund.

And special thanks to **Rosalie and Ian Napier** and **Robert Strong** for renewing and/or joining at the Patron level.

We greatly appreciate all of you who donate 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.

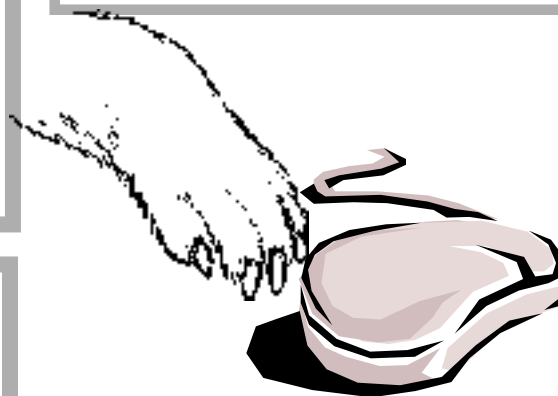
Marian Frobe

Friends of Turnbull Online

Please visit our new website at:

<http://www.tincan.org/ftnwr/>

Check the site periodically for activities updates and announcements. If you have any questions or comments regarding the website, please contact Andy Buddington (abuddington@scc.spokane.cc.wa.us).



Friends of Turnbull Activities Guide - 2002

March

(no activities planned)

April



Vascular Plants of Turnbull
Wednesday, April 10th 7 p.m.

Spokane Community College
LAIR Student Union Building Sasquatch Room

Bob Carr, retired professor of botany and biology, will give an informative and interesting slide presentation on the plants of the Turnbull area. Bob is an active member of the Inland Northwest Native Plants Society and has studied the plants of the region as well as authored and published a guide to plants of the Inland Northwest. Join Friends of Turnbull for a colorful and educational presentation on the plants of our area.

May

Spring Birding Field Trip at Turnbull NWR
Saturday, May 18, 7:30 a.m.

Marian Frobe will lead a walking trip around the Pine Lakes area to see the colorful ducks and returning songbirds. Last year's walk gave us wonderful looks at a beautiful male Bullock's Oriole, and the ducks and coots were all displaying their fresh spring colors, the marsh wrens were in fine voice, and we even spotted a great horned owl with a young one. Please join us in this year's walk. No experience is necessary. We will probably be done by noon, but bring lunch in case you wish to stay and do the Auto Tour route after our walk. Please call Marian at 328-0621 by May 15th if you plan to attend so we know how many people to expect.

MUSIC BENEFIT FOR TURNBULL

The Second Annual Music Benefit for Friends of Turnbull will take place on Saturday, May 18th, from noon until 5 p.m. This year, ***THE SHOP***, a coffee house and music venue (924 South Perry Street in Spokane) will sponsor the location. Renown local musicians **LARAE WILEY, STEVE SIMMONS, and BRAD KEELER** will provide an entertaining afternoon of Native American folk music, children's songs, love songs, and the blues. Turnbull refuge staff and FOT will present information about the refuge and encourage new memberships and volunteer involvement.

Please come and help support and celebrate the Wildlife Refuge Centennial with your family and Friends!

June

Nature Photography Workshop
Saturday, June 8th, 9-12 a.m.

This hands-on workshop will "focus" on close-up photography of nature. The workshop will discuss techniques for photographing flowers, mosses, mushrooms and other natural features at close-up distances. Natural lighting, composition, contrast and lens types will also be addressed. Chuck Kerkering, established local nature photographer, will be teaching this program at the Refuge. If you plan on attending this free workshop, call Chuck (354-8086 days, 624-3608 nights) to sign up. To view some of Chuck's work, visit the FOT website at: <http://www.tincan.org/ftnwr/>

Refuge Happenings

by Sandy Rancourt

Another eleven months has flashed by. WSC Americorps members, Beverly Glover (EE), and Vincent Barthels (Biological), have recently completed their term of service at Turnbull. It is obvious from working with these volunteers this past 11 months, that they share a common love and dedication for their chosen field of study. Our thanks to Beverly and Vincent for not only doing a great job but for also making our jobs all the more enjoyable.

Reflections of Beverly Glover

As an AmeriCorps member in the environmental education program at Turnbull NWR, it was my job to light up the eyes of school children with interest in their natural world. Lighting that spark was the part of my job I liked best. On field trips and in outreaches, being part of an "aha!" moment for a student is wonderful and powerful. To help facilitate more such moments, Sandy suggested that the curriculum we use be reworked. Over my term of service, figuring out how to write such a curriculum became a major focus of my efforts. The impact that rewriting the curriculum will have on the community in the coming years will be a positive one. Teachers will continue to use Turnbull NWR as a site where their students can have hands-on opportunities to explore abstract concepts in a concrete manner, with a curriculum provided by Turnbull NWR that complies with Washington State academic standards. I consider rewriting the curriculum to be my greatest success during my time here and I believe that with the feedback provided by area teachers, the curriculum can be used for many spring field trip seasons to come.

Along with major accomplishments come smaller successes that are no less important. Indeed, such little moments of triumph were essential to the completion of my term of service because they reminded me why I was doing this and they encouraged me to keep at it. Success was getting the girl who was afraid of even looking at a harmless aquatic invertebrate to be excited about staring into the microscope to see a scud's rapid movements up close. Success was getting the children who have a hard time concentrating in the classroom to focus on figuring out how fast Pine Creek is flowing, how deep it is, and what asking such questions can tell a field biologist. Success was calling in a Great Horned Owl for a class of fifth-graders and the bigger success was that the students understood proper wildlife etiquette and were perfect birders. Successes such as these ensure that there are always opportunities for someone to spark the light of wonder of ecology in a student's eyes; success stories for many more years and volunteers to come.

An Americorp's Reflection:

By: Vincent Barthels 2/08/02

Some days start at sunrise listening to Virginia rails
gawking at one another.

Other days end judging science projects at a local elementary fair.

There is no doubt that one will receive a diverse experience,
Educating oneself and others along the way.

Americorps is a service institution providing opportunities,
To people both young and old,
To strengthen their communities,
Through hard work and dedication.

One's time is not interpreted as a trade-off for monetary profits,

Although, benefits do come in many shapes and sizes,

They can be seen in children's smiling faces,

And in feelings that one has learned and grown in a positive fashion.

Turnbull's Biological Program houses a variety of projects,

As seasons come and go,

Surveys start and conclude,

Knowing that next year's projects have hopeful expectations.

My experience has been nothing but inspiring,

It has fueled my passion for science,

And re-directed my efforts,

To further and enhance my career in the environmental field.



Turnbull Wildlife Observations

by Mike Rule



As waterfowl begin to migrate through the refuge, many Bald Eagles have been observed on lakes below Refuge Headquarters.

By the time you receive your newsletter, Bluebirds will be vying for the bluebird houses along Pine Creek.



Coyotes are on the move, and they really stand out against the snow.

Huge flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds gather at the marshy areas.

Photo by Peter S. Weber



Photo courtesy of Peter B. Weber
website: www.wildbirdphotos.com



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

Have You Renewed For 2002?



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.”