



# Friends of Turnbull

Volume 5, Issue 1

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Spring 2003, 1st Quarter

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The exciting year of the Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuges is here. Celebrations are planned for the entire refuge system and Turnbull is well into their plans for a memorable year also. Our official celebration is planned for May 17<sup>th</sup>, although the Time Capsule will be buried on March 14<sup>th</sup>, the official date when the first refuge, Pelican Island in Florida, was established. See our Activities Schedule for more details about May 17<sup>th</sup> and don't miss the celebration. We plan to have a Centennial theme for all our activities this year. We have developed a new T-shirt with a Centennial logo that was designed by Nicole Bronson, who has been working in the Environmental Education program at the refuge. We think you will enjoy this design and it should be available by the time we open the Store. Also, if you take the Auto Tour Route you will notice new Interpretive Panels at the Blackhorse Lake Boardwalk next time you are out there. This is not the interpretive trail the Friends group is developing—that will come later.

### Refuge Friends Conference

I attended the Second Annual Refuge Friends Conference on February 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had excellent workshops about growing your membership, fundraising, etc. Guest speakers included Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior, who spoke to us at a 7:30 a.m. breakfast meeting! The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also addressed us, but at more reasonable evening hours. President Bush sent a letter of support which was read to us. On that Monday, we all went to visit our respective Senators' and Congressperson's staffs to advise them of the need for increased funding for the Refuge System. At the time of our visit, the FY 2003 Appropriations had not yet been passed, so we were unaware of the amount that Congress would appropriate,

even though we had been promised an increase. The FY03 Omnibus spending bill has now been passed and an increase in the funding for the operations and maintenance of the Refuge System has been approved in the amount of \$50.8 million. Although this sounds like a lot, the Refuge System is operating at a deficit of \$2 billion. We feel even this increase was due to the fact that so many of us were there to address the needs of the refuges with our Senators and Congressional Representatives. For FY 2004, we have asked for an increase of \$100 million to help with the funding backlog. Our rallying point was "\$100 million for the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday."

### Board Changes

We are still in need of another board member and if you would like to join the board, please contact one of us. We are always looking for replacements for those of us who drop off from time to time.

### Bookstore

We are opening the Store a little earlier this year, partly because of the weather being so mild. We plan to open March 15<sup>th</sup>. As stated above, we will have a new



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line of T-shirts for this Centennial year only. We have also ordered a few glass mugs etched with the same Centennial design that is on the white mugs, but these will be in clear, green, and cobalt blue glass in a larger size. We are restocking the books and T-shirts so should have a complete supply. We have also added Sibley's Birding Basics and Kaufman's new Butterflies of North America. We will also order the new 2003 International Migratory Bird Day T-shirts sometime this spring.

### Renewal

We appreciate that most of you have already sent in your renewals. Please don't forget to renew your memberships for 2003. We rely a lot on memberships and donations to keep the EE program going. It is valuable to our community and all our members are valuable to us. Please renew if you haven't already—you can tell by the date on your newsletter label.

*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](mailto:abuddington@scc.spokane.cc.wa.us)).

## FUNDING REQUEST

We are in need of funds to pay the start-up fees for the Centennial T-shirt and the new Centennial mugs. We received a matching challenge of \$50.00. Through this challenge, we were able to order the T-shirts and have raised \$225.00 so far toward our costs of about \$1050.00 for both the new T-shirts and the new Centennial mugs. If you can add a small amount to your renewal, or match the \$50.00 challenge, that would really help. If we can have most of the funding for these items donated, we will be able to meet our obligations to the Environmental Education program without delay. Please indicate that your donation is to go toward the Centennial T-shirt Fund and mail to our Post Office Box address:

Friends of Turnbull NWR  
P.O. Box 294  
Cheney, WA 99004

Thanks to all who are able to participate in the fund drive.

For Newsletter information or news contributions, please contact Joanne Powell at 456-7111 x 204 or email [powell@snapwa.org](mailto:powell@snapwa.org)

## Friends of Turnbull N.W.R.

### Board of Directors

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# Special Thanks

We wish to thank the following people who either renewed this quarter at the patron level or who donated more than their membership fee. We truly appreciate your generous donations:

**Brian Donahue & Tracey McHenry**  
**Andrew & Teresa Buddington**  
**Bill & M'Lou Safranek**

We have had donations from several people to enable us to order the Centennial T-shirts. As there is considerable cost involved in setting up a new design and ordering an initial supply, we are looking for funds and we thank the following people for their contribution towards this initial cost:

**Nancy Curry**  
**Pam Dixon**  
**Vonice Parker**

Special thanks are also due the musicians who gave their time and talent for the Winter Festival. Their music really added a bright spot to our weekend:

<b>Michaela Alden</b>	<b>Dulaman</b>
<b>Connie Fletcher</b>	<b>John James</b>
<b>Jadis</b>	<b>Lyle Morse</b>
<b>Laddie Ray Melvin</b>	

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



# FOT Activities

**APRIL 23. SpringWildflowers of the Turnbull Region.** An illustrated presentation by Dr. Suzanne Schwab Professor of Biology at Eastern Washington University will be given at 7:00 p.m. in the Sasquatch Room (Lair Building) at the Spokane Community College campus. Help welcome spring to the Inland Empire as Dr. Schwab shares with us the delightful wildflowers that are blooming or soon will be blooming in our own backyard.

**MAY 17. Centennial Celebration at Turnbull** headquarters. See details on Page 5

**MAY 24. Wild Edibles of the Turnbull Area.** Paul Decker will provide a short presentation at 9:00 a.m. at the Turnbull Environmental Center at Refuge Headquarters. A walk will follow where people can examine and sample a few of the native edible plants that grow in the Inland Northwest. To limit impact the class is limited to the first 15 people to register. Call the Refuge at 509-235-4723 to register for the class.

**MAY 31. Walking Trip around the Pine Lakes Area.** Marian Frobe will lead a walking trip around the Pine Lakes area to see the colorful ducks and the returning songbirds. At this time of the year the spring flowers are blooming and the birds are singing and we will have a very enjoyable walk. No experience is necessary in identifying birds—beginners to experts are all welcome to enjoy the day. Children are welcome. We usually finish our walk by noon, but bring your lunch in case you want to extend the day on your own on the Auto Tour Route or another walk. Please call Marian at 328-0621 by May 29th for details of where to meet and what to bring.

**JUNE 14. Nature Photography Workshop.** This field workshop will be conducted by Chuck Kerkering, a well-known Spokane nature photographer. Meet at the environmental classroom at Refuge headquarters at 9:00 a.m. From there we will proceed to various Refuge localities where we will explore different aspects of nature photography including close-up, landscape, and telephoto photography. Bring a lunch and your cameras and equipment. The workshop will continue all day for those who wish to remain. People at all levels of camera expertise are welcome. Please register by June 11 by calling 354-8086. Participation is limited to 25 people

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

by Nancy Curry, Refuge Manager

In 2003 our vision for Turnbull NWR is that the refuge will be key to preserving the unique Channeled Scabland habitat of Eastern Washington, with its broad diversity of plants and animals.

The area will serve as an important link in migrations for at least 139 species of birds but its best function will be as a production area for at least 100 bird species. Habitat diversity will provide a stable, productive and flexible resource to ensure the native faunal diversity of the refuge is maintained. Maintenance of bio-diversity will be further supported by the conservation of threatened and endangered species. Partnerships with neighbors, and other agencies will ensure the maintenance of biological effective landscape linkages and corridors between the refuge and other intact areas of vegetation zones representative of this ecoregion. Efforts will be made to conserve and restore additional Channeled Scabland habitats and wetlands.

Wetland habitats will have a legally secure water supply based on annual precipitation and runoff. Quality of water entering the refuge will be monitored and maintained at a standard suitable for ensuring ecological integrity. Water management facilities make for more efficient use of water, bypassing high flows, maintaining desired food and cover plants, and providing optimum diversity.

Grassland steppe habitats will be healthy and diverse, sustaining a variety of both migratory and resident birds as well as other indigenous plants and wildlife. Healthy forested uplands managed by the reintroduction of fire will provide a natural distribution and diversity of structural and successional stages to benefit forest dependent wildlife.

Research and environmental education opportunities will be provided. A visitor and education center will assist with interpreting the values of wildlands and wildlife to the public. Visitors will experience the quiet solitude that only nature can provide. Opportunities for outstanding aesthetics, wildlife observation, and other compatible uses will be provided.

Refuge volunteers will support refuge public use programs, refuge monitoring and research, and habitat restoration. Partnerships with Friends of Turnbull NWR, and other non-profit organizations, neighbors, other federal, state and county agencies will enhance opportunities to realize refuge goals and objectives.

The Refuge staff would like to invite you to participate in a special celebration.

This month, on March 14, we celebrate a very special day, the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Back in 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt established the very first National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) when he established the Pelican Island NWR in Florida.

Today there are 540 national wildlife refuges scattered across the United States. Turnbull NWR, established in 1937, will help celebrate this anniversary. We are preparing a time capsule to be opened by future refuge staff in the year 2103. Included in this time capsule will be documents, photos, letters, artwork and other mementos of the first 66 years of Turnbull NWR's existence.

We will be dedicating the time capsule on May 17, 2003, with our special Centennial celebration. Starting at 9:00 a.m. on May 17 we will have our annual spring community tree planting day as we continue with our project to restore riparian vegetation along Pine Creek near the Refuge headquarters. You are encouraged to join us in planting, and maintaining the previously planted native trees and shrubs along the creek.

The dedication of the time capsule will occur at 12:15 pm. We are hoping that this ceremony will be attended by our Pacific Region US Fish & Wildlife Service Director, Dave Allen, along with representatives from our Congressman or Senator's offices. Being dedicated along with the time capsule will be the Pine Creek Centennial Legacy Riparian Project.

After the dedication we'll be having a special catered luncheon. If you would like to attend the luncheon you will need to pre-register by calling or stopping by the Refuge office and purchasing a meal ticket. Luncheon tickets are for sale for \$10.00 each. Meal choices include barbeque chicken, barbeque tri-tip, meatless lasagna or eggplant parmesan. Make your check out to Friends of Turnbull NWR. Volunteers helping with the tree planting in the morning will have their luncheon costs covered by the Refuge, but they will still have to pre-register to guarantee a seat at the luncheon.

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*Mindy Howard completed her 11-month AmeriCorps position at Turnbull this February. Mindy's contribution to the Refuge's EE program was truly outstanding. Our many thanks to Mindy for making a difference.*

## Reflections by **Melinda Howard** (AmeriCorps Service March 25, 2002 – February 25, 2003)

### Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Environmental Education

Choosing to become an AmeriCorps volunteer could quite possibly be one of the best decisions I have made for myself. I have gained an immeasurable amount of experience and skills that will set myself apart from competitors in the job market as well as help me succeed in my career. My service has also helped me to grow personally and better understand my future career goals through the invaluable work experience I have gained. Despite my own personal gains, however, my community has also received a great impact through the AmeriCorps program. In my eleven months of service alone, I have reached approximately six thousand children, young adults, and senior citizens, instilling a sense of environmental awareness in their everyday lives.

Throughout my service, my eyes have begun to open to the amount of ignorance people have about their natural surroundings and caring for the environment. This, of course, is through no direct fault of their own, but rather a lack of being appropriately educated on environmental concerns. This is why environmental education is so vitally important to our community, for if we have none, our children may someday have no environment to live in. It continues to amaze me how many children have never held a bug in their hands, smelled a pine forest, heard coyotes calling in the night, or closely examined a feather. It amazes me how many children think that hunting, not habitat loss, is wildlife's biggest concern for survival, that predators are bad, and that the resources they use and waste have no effect on the environment. Many children are so removed from any outdoor settings that visiting Turnbull is their first experience in nature. Since the future health of our environment depends on the knowledge, understanding, and awareness of these same children, I feel that I have made a huge contribution to society by educating these children, even though it may not seem like it outwardly so. It is a great feeling to know that I have made an impact in the young lives of children, who will in turn make an impact on this earth.

I am very thankful for the many lessons I have received myself through teaching children and adults alike and can only hope that my efforts to create environmental awareness in the community continue to carry forth in the future. I am very satisfied with the outcome of my service and feel a sense of pride in helping to open new doors in many people's lives.

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The Spokane Audubon Society chapter, co sponsoring the luncheon, will have a guest speaker Andy Stepniewski, author, Yakima fruit grower and Washington bird authority. Andy will speak from 2-3pm. From 3-5pm afternoon tours and bird walks will be provided to the public.

If you are able to attend our celebration luncheon, please contact Turnbull Refuge, phone number 509-235-4723. If you have any special needs you can let us know at that time.

### **Walkin' Jim Stoltz is Back**

On Thursday, May 1st, at 7:00 pm, the Wild Washington Campaign will present, in concert, Walkin' Jim Stoltz, performing "Forever Wild," a multi-media celebration of wilderness. It's a one-of-a-kind program, combining Jim's original folk-style music (written on his long, back country treks across America) with slides from dual projectors. The Concert will be held at Spokane Falls CC Music building (No. 15).

Walkin' Jim has been performing his unique music for over 25 years, but in the mid-80's began combining the songs with his photography. The resulting concert is a powerful program sharing the magic and inspiration of the wilderness. Having walked through more than 25,000 miles of America's wild country, Walkin' Jim's music conveys a great love and respect for the earth and her creatures.

Tickets for the show are available at all Tickets West outlets (325-seat) or at the door the evening of the show. \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students.

This is not a Friends-sponsored event but thought it would be of interest to members. For more information, please call the Kettle Range Conservation Group at 747-1663.



# Spring Wildlife Observations at Turnbull NWR

by Mike Rule



Biweekly spring waterfowl migration surveys were initiated on February 19th. Several thousand migrating duck have been observed to date. Northern pintail, canvasbacks, redheads, American wigeon and lesser scaup, large flocks of mallards are beginning to arrive. Large numbers of tundra swans have been

## American Wigeon

photo by Luther Goldman



Photo by Chan Robbins



## Lesser Scaup

photo by Chan Robbins

observed on Philleo Lake, Stubblefield Lake, Long Lake and the Turnbull Sloughs.

Say's Phoebes arrived the third week in February and the first Western Bluebird was observed on February 27th.



## Say's Phoebe and Western Meadowlark

photos by George Jameson



Overall wetland conditions are looking pretty good for this spring's nesting season despite last year's drought and the mild winter. All the large permanent lakes are near capacity and recharge from January rains is starting to bring up water levels in the smaller isolated potholes. Killdeer are here and western meadowlarks can be heard singing every morning

- River otters have been seen regularly in the Pine Lakes and at Swan Pond.
- Several adult bald eagles have been seen on and around the refuge during the past few weeks.

The first scabland buttercups were seen in bloom on February 25th, as well as the first emerging Columbian ground squirrel, indicating that spring is on its way.

## 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.”*