



Friends of Turnbull

Volume 5, Issue 2

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Summer 2003, 2nd Quarter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I'm writing this, we are well into spring and the start of the monitoring activities at Turnbull. My husband and I get to help with some of the monitoring of birds and ducks, so this is always an exciting time of the year for us. On our first Marsh Bird Survey, we heard and saw a Bittern!! Hearing them is nice, but we hardly ever see them because they are so secretive and cryptically colored, so this was a real treat. Those of you who love to bird will know how hard they are to find. Then this morning we saw a pair of Western Grebes on the Turnbull Sloughs, along with lots of Eared Grebes. I've never seen Western Grebes on the Refuge before. And we saw 5 groups of elk, for a total of 26 elk, in case you think we're only looking at birds. And last weekend, Sandy Rancourt and I helped lead a bird walk for the Spokane Parks Department. We only walked a little ways around the Headquarters Pond and then through the wooded area and across the dikes at Pine Lake, but managed to see 49 species of birds and ducks. We heard another 10 species that we didn't see, so there's lots out there. By the time you read this, all the migrants should be back from their wintering grounds.

Refuge Centennial Day:

On the Centennial Celebration on May 17th, the morning planting went well. There were lots of people signed up to plant trees and most of them stayed through the Time Capsule dedication and the Riparian Project dedication, of course, as all you planters have been helping with the Riparian Project for some time. I must say that the dedication ceremony was one of the coldest I have ever attended and the speeches were shortened accordingly. Then most stayed for the catered lunch, luckily under a canopy, as it rained and snowed along with the cold wind by that time. Andy Stepniewski's slide show presentation on the Shrub-steppe habitat of Eastern Washington was very good and was set up inside the big maintenance building, and afterwards the hardy souls who had lasted through the cold wind and snowflakes were treated to van

tours of the closed area. Despite the weather, which had been ideal in the morning for the planting part, the celebration was enjoyable and I think everyone had a good time. Nancy had a beautiful Centennial cake for the visitors, and Blue Goose cookies made with the cookie cutters that we sell at the store. Everyone agreed that the reason the cookies were blue was because of the cold weather.

Nationally, we have joined the National Wildlife Refuge Association Affiliation for Friends groups. This costs us \$150.00, but it gives the national organization a little more influence with Congress when it comes to representing the interest of Refuges and Friends groups and shows that we are serious in our mission of supporting the refuge system. Some of the benefits of joining the Affiliation besides that, are support to the NWRA for its Friends Conferences and other training programs, and helping Friends groups with information on board development, fundraising, insurance questions, etc. If anyone would like more information about the Friends Affiliation, please call me at 328-0621 and I will try to answer your questions.

Membership Activities:

Gene Kiver has been arranging and scheduling some interesting activities for the membership. See inside for the next quarter's activities.



In this issue...

President's Corner	1
Special Thanks	3
FOT Activities	3
Centennial Celebration Day	4
A Birthday Present for Turnbull	5
Volunteer Opportunities	6
Wildlife Observations	7

Continued from page 1

I attended Suzanne Schwab's interesting slide show on the spring wildflowers of the Turnbull area. Her pictures were great and I loved her commentary. In May we had Paul Decker's Wild Edibles presentation, which was filled to capacity and was enjoyed by everyone who got to participate. The Spring Bird Hike was poorly attended, but it came after the big rain on Friday evening. There was only one person who joined me, but we saw 53 species of birds, including Gray Catbird, Forster's Tern, and Least Flycatcher. Catbirds are apparently increasing on the Refuge, but the tern and the Least Flycatcher are uncommon.

Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting is coming up in August. Please see the insert for more information. Gene Kiver will give a program on "Ice Age Floods in the Turnbull Region." We will have a potluck and the Friends group will provide dessert and beverages. We will have a brief meeting, and will introduce board members that you may not have met yet. Please write us in your calendars and join us on August 12th.

Financial Things:

We received a grant from New Priorities Foundation for \$5000.00 to use for the Environmental Education program. We are extremely grateful for their support. There are 4 young men and women working in the EE program this spring. Several of them have been there since last summer, so are very experienced at their jobs. We and the Refuge are grateful for any continuity in the program that we can sustain.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed this year. Many of you responded to our pleas to increase your donation and we have had quite a few new members, so our financial situation has improved. We are hopeful that with the bookstore income and the additional memberships, we can go into next year with a bigger cushion than we had this year and still meet our obligations to provide EE support for the Refuge.

We have been accepted for the 2003 Combined Federal Campaign again. Our income from that source is

down a little this year, but it all helps, so keep us in mind if you are employed where you can help us in this way.

Board Changes:

Steven Siegfried has joined your Board. His interest and concern in maintaining our natural areas prompted him to help Turnbull with volunteering for the board and other activities. He has a history of volunteering with the Seattle Mountaineers Forest Watch and Pilchuk Audubon. Since returning to the Spokane area he has become involved with the Kettle Range Conservation Group, the Lands Trust and Riverside State Park. We are anticipating that he will bring some new ideas to our board. We are pleased that he joined our group.

Although we now have a full board, if any of you are interested in serving as a board member, don't hesitate to call one of us. Board members leave our board from time to time and if we have a list of interested persons, it is easier to fill a vacancy.

Bookstore:

Store sales have been quite steady this spring and our volunteer staff are faithfully keeping the store open on the weekends for visitors. The Centennial T-shirts designed by Nicole Bronson are beautiful—if you haven't gotten yours yet, you should hurry while we still have all the sizes and colors. We also have some new pins. These are Refuge Centennial pins featuring the blue goose over the red and white stripes of the U.S. flag. We even have nice copper Blue Goose Cookie Cutters for this Centennial year. And don't forget the Centennial glass mugs and the Centennial cups. After restocking books and stocking a few new items, such as the Centennial items mentioned above, we are still operating about \$530.00 less than we have made in income so far. This should, however, put us on the way to a profit sooner in the year than last year.

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

Marian Frobe

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@comcast.net

Directors:
Eugene Kiver froghollow@sisna.com
Vonice Parker depotsprings@centurytel.net
John Phillips
Joanne Powell powell@snapwa.org
Steve Siegfried
Kevin Young spokanekevin@hotmail.com

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:

James Matthews

Ed & Jan Reynolds

John Cooley

Robert Liepold

Gale Mueller

Dale Stradling

E. L. & Kay B. Lester

Northern Quest Casino

Leonard J. Weber

Special thanks are also due to several individuals who have made donations to our cause in payment for work done by **Robert Griffith**. In lieu of payment to him, he suggested they make donations to the Friends of Turnbull and we are grateful for this help and for Bob's suggestion:

Dr. Otto O. Stevens

John R. Dean

We also wish to thank Safeway Stores in Cheney for allowing us to hold a membership drive and T-shirt sale in their store in March.

Thanks are also due to **Suzanne Schwab** for her informative slide show on April 23rd on Spring Wildflowers of the Turnbull Region and to **Paul Decker** for his class on the Wild Edibles of the Turnbull Area. Both these presentations were well attended and we are grateful to the presenters for doing these classes for us; it helps bring our organization to people's attention.

We greatly appreciate all of you who donate or contribute toward our programs. If 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

July 22. Bats of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. Sandy Rancourt, wildlife biologist at Turnbull, will present an illustrated talk on "Bats of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge" at 7:30 P.M. at the environmental center at Refuge Headquarters. This interesting presentation will be followed by an evening bat walk where special sound detectors will be used to identify bats. A few bats may be caught for identification and examination before being released unharmed back to the environment to continue their nightly forage for mosquitos and other insects. Bring a sweater or jacket and a flashlight. A wonderful opportunity for those who want to see a bat "up close" or have a "hands on" experience! Kids are welcome.

August 12. General Membership Meeting. Our Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner. Please see flyer (page 3) for details. The meeting will be followed by an illustrated presentation by Professor Emeritus Eugene Kiver on the Ice Age floods of eastern Washington and the Pacific Northwest. Come to the meeting and learn how one of the largest catastrophic floods to ever occur on earth made remarkable changes to the topography of Turnbull and the entire Pacific Northwest.

October 4, 2003 (date tentative). **Railroad History on Bicycles.** Dr. Charles Mutschler will recount the fascinating history of the SP&S and other local railroads while traveling by bike along the Columbia Plateau Trail State Park (a rails-to-trails park). The trip will begin at the Fish Lake Trailhead and travel a few miles into the Refuge. Total round-trip mileage is about 16 miles. The roadbed is paved for four miles and has a finely crushed gravel surface on the remainder. For safety reasons, the number of participants is limited to 15. Call 235-6448 or 328-0621 for more details and to sign up for the trip.

Fall 2003 /Spring 2004

Gene Kiver – **"Ice Age Floods in the Turnbull Region"** Evening talk at SCC

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

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

Turnbull NWR Centennial Celebration Day

May 17, 2003, the day of the National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Celebration, dawned with extreme cold, strong winds and occasional rain, hail and snow! Yet, despite the weather, we had a great turnout for the tree planting along the riparian area by the Refuge headquarters, and in the burn area at the intersection of the Auto Tour Route and the Headquarters road. According to Refuge Volunteer signup sheets, about 141 people of all ages - Refuge staff, Audubon members, Boy Scouts from Troops 419, 210 and 11, Friends of Turnbull members, the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, EWU students including Circle K Club, EW Americorp members, Gear-Up Scholarship Program, 4H, students from Central Valley High School, and local citizens -- planted 140 trees and shrubs, and 300 propagated red-osier dogwood and willow cuttings. To help give the workers lots of energy, volunteers Virgil and Priscilla Bowen, Cathy Richter and Brian Walker baked the great cookies everyone enjoyed. Joyce Alonso (Audubon Vice-President) and Sandy Rancourt (Refuge Volunteer Coordinator) have worked on this riparian project for many years. Other staff members and volunteers have also dedicated many hours. These trees, many of which have been the recipients of years of tender loving care, were dedicated as the Turnbull NWR *Centennial Legacy Riparian Grove*. Congratulations to everyone for all their hard work on this important project. This on-going effort will help restore riparian habitat, benefitting warblers and other riparian species now and in the future.

Special guests at the ceremonies were past Refuge Managers Jon Malcon and Don White. Ellen Proctor (wife of past maintenance worker, Charlie Proctor, was also a guest. The keynote speaker from the Portland Regional Office was Dave Wesley, Deputy Regional Director of the Pacific Region (USFWS). Other speakers were Turnbull manager, Nancy Curry, who spoke of both the history and future of Turnbull NWR. Sandy Rancourt spoke of the riparian restoration project, the volunteers



Dave Wesley, Deputy Regional Director of the Pacific Region (USFWS).



impact on the Refuge programs, and the importance of Turnbull to the staff and community. Joyce Alonso of Spokane Audubon talked about the history and present day standing of the Riparian Restoration Project. The ceremonies continued with a Centennial Time Capsule dedication ceremony. The time capsule was buried beneath a small boulder of native rock. Nicole Edwards from the EWU art club presented the beautiful framed collection of hand-painted tiles. These tiles, representing different aspects of the Refuge, were created by local artists and are now on exhibit in the Environmental Education Building.

After a chilly BBQ, we had a wonderful presentation on shrub-steppe habitat and associated bird species by Andy Stepniewski, author of *Birds of Yakima County*. It was a special opportunity to glean information about the status of shrub-steppe habitat in Washington, see great pictures of shrub-steppe birds, and learn about habitat associations of these birds and their distributions. Andy offered a enjoyable, informative and educational program.

A tour of the Refuge was the final activity of the day and was not for the fainthearted. Fourteen hardy souls, plus Refuge drivers Nancy Curry and Mike Rule, braved a snowstorm to tour the closed areas in search of birds. Group One, with Nancy, lasted the longest, until about 8:00 p.m., and saw 68 species. Group Two, with Mike, called it good with 35 species at about 6:00 p.m. They would have hung in there but some members had other commitments.

It was a day to be remembered. When you visit the Refuge be sure to check out the time capsule and see the framed tiles in the Environmental Education room.



So many people volunteered whose pictures didn't get to the editor in time for inclusion; your dedication was greatly appreciated!



Volunteers from EWU

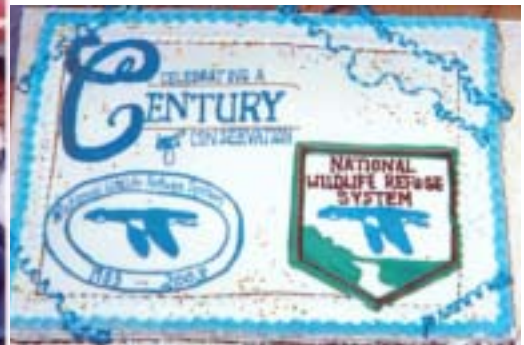


Brad



John and Sally English

THE CAKE!!



Braving the wind and cold are Sandy Rancourt, Marian Frobe, Mike Rule and Joyce Alonso

CONSIDER A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR TURNBULL NWR!

Give a National Wildlife Refuge a Birthday Present this Centennial year- Buy your Golden Eagle Passport from your National Wildlife Refuge!

The Golden Passports are your annual pass for entrance and parking fees For almost all public lands- including Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and others. By purchasing a Golden Eagle (\$65) Passport from Turnbull NWR, you will be supporting that NWR's visitor services programs.

Turnbull is authorized, as part of the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, to spend the funds they collect for visitors services projects on their refuge. For more information on purchasing the Golden Eagle Passport call:

Turnbull NWR 509-235-4723

Thanks for your support of national wildlife refuges!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Many of you check on your membership form that you would like to be called when we need volunteers. This has been a source of store volunteers, but some of you do not get called, or find that we are looking for someone with skills or interests that you don't have. So I thought we might do something a little different by telling you some of things that we need done and seeing if you want to participate in these activities:

- **Store Volunteers.** This entails opening and closing the store on weekends, selling merchandise, and trying to help visitors with questions and allowing them to look through the Environmental Education displays in the same building. We have a number of volunteers who are willing to do this, but there is always need for a few more, such as when everyone seems to go out of town at once. To sign up for Store Volunteer, call MaryJane Booth at 235-4466, or E-mail her at cbooth@centurytel.net.
- **Promotional Events Volunteers.** We are constantly looking for ways to get our organization known in the community and one of the ways is

through our presence at Community Events such as the Cheney Rodeo, the Spokane Interstate Fair, Valleyfest, etc. The Board is spread rather thin and it is difficult to commit to some of these without help from the membership. It usually involves setting up tables and displays, maybe some interactive children's displays if you are so inclined, bringing some sale items and giveaways from the store to sell and keeping track of these. (It isn't difficult.) And, of course, being at the booth for a period of time. If we have enough people volunteering, 2-4 hour shifts are all that are needed. We also need someone for this committee who could help decide which events we should attend and if they would be worth our while. Some have a hefty fee to participate and some will let us participate free because of our non-profit status. If you could help us in this area, either with taking a shift now and then, or helping on the committee, please call Marian Frobe at 328-0621 or E-mail her at rrfrobe@msn.com.

- **Biological Volunteers.** From time to time the Refuge needs people who are willing to help in their biological program. For instance, this spring they needed additional people who are able to distinguish birdcalls and songs to help with songbird monitoring, and may need someone to do habitat monitoring, e.g. measuring and counting plants in a plot. They are going to need people willing to help pull invasive weeds or otherwise deal with this problem. They indicate they usually have enough volunteers to do most of the biological stuff (it's fun, after all), but still occasionally have a need for someone to help. If you have a particular talent, or would just like to help pull weeds, let us know and we can put you on a list to call when needed. Call Marian Frobe at 328-0621 or E-mail her at rrfrobe@msn.com.

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).



Summer Wildlife Observations at Turnbull NWR

by Mike Rule



Several Moose have been observed in the Public Use area this Spring, including a cow with her yearling, a young bull, and a single cow (that maybe the same one observed the third week of May) with twin newborn calves. This is only the second time that we have observed newborns on the refuge.



Black Tern by James Coe

Spring songbird migration was a little delayed this year with several migrants that breed further north showing up on our point counts during the week of May 18th including: MacGillivray's, orange-crowned, Wilson's, Nashville, Townsend's and yellow-rumped warblers, Warbling and Cassin's vireos, and hermit and Swainson's thrushes. Cassin's finch breeding pair numbers as well as red crossbills are noticeably higher this year.



Red Crossbills by Larry McGowan

dabblers (mallards and teal especially) may be slightly below the average. Good populations of eared grebes were observed in several wetlands as were large concentrations of black terns. Overall wetland conditions are good with only the seasonal and temporary wetlands appearing to be drier than normal. The large deeper wetlands are in excellent condition.



This year we completed the full refuge waterfowl breeding pair survey which we use to expand the sample count

numbers during the intervening 3 years to a full refuge estimate. Data has not been summarized, but the first look at the data indicate that diving duck (redhead, canvasback, ruddy duck, etc.) numbers are up and



The population of the exotic fish species brook stickleback and pumpkinseeds appear to be thriving with their range expanding throughout the east-side of the refuge according to work done this last year by the EWU Biology Department. Although this invasion has resulted in increased observations of fish eating birds such as double-crested cormorants and Caspian terns, we are concerned that they may significantly alter the ecology of refuge aquatic invertebrates — important food for many bird species.

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.”