



Friends of Turnbull

Volume 6, Issue 4

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Winter 2004, 4th Quarter

REFUGE HAPPENINGS

by Sandy Rancourt

Greetings everyone! The community once again demonstrated a tremendous support for the refuge and its programs. Due to severe budget constraints experienced over the past several years, the refuge has been struggling to maintain its great programs and we are still doing that largely because of your support. Six hundred twenty-seven volunteers contributed over 18,000 hours to Turnbull NWR this year. This is amazing and represents nearly a third more volunteers than the previous year. Again, we can't thank all of you enough. Volunteers assisted with wildlife and habitat monitoring, habitat and trail restoration, environmental education, outreach, grounds keeping, facilities maintenance, construction, visitor contact, fundraising, grant writing, clerical work, mural painting, fence removal/repair, and carpentry. The following is a summary of their accomplishments this past year.

Volunteers assisted biological staff with spring and fall waterfowl surveys, marshbird surveys, songbird point counts, MAPS (Monitoring Avian Production and Survivorship), waterfowl pair surveys, breeding bird surveys, forest monitoring, fire monitoring in ponderosa pine and aspen forests, pit fall trapping, raptor/shorebird surveys, aquatic amphibian surveys, invasive species monitoring, data entry and wood duck, barn owl and bluebird nest box construction and monitoring.

Boy Scouts of America Troops 419 and 333 built over 30 bluebird boxes for the refuge's biological program and Friends of Turnbull NWR. The boxes were extremely well built and they are much needed by the refuge. The refuge has 130 blue bird boxes that volunteers monitor and many old ones need to be replaced. Friends of Turnbull, give bluebird boxes as gifts for new memberships.



Jeff Genung from Troop 333 constructed over 20 bluebird boxes as part of his Eagle Scout Project

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Biological AmeriCorps member Autumn Carlsen uses GPS unit for an invasive species survey conducted on the refuge.

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The SeeCoast Binoculars Have Arrived!

These stationary binoculars, one regular model and one handicapped model, are manufactured for all weather outdoor public or private use. The automatic focus feature allows for viewing of all objects beyond 50 feet without any need to focus. The 10- power 10x40 optics are custom made to provide clear three dimensional views. The viewer rotates 360 degrees and 45 degrees up and down.

Our grant request to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the SeeCoast binoculars was approved; we sent for them and have received them. However, due to the lateness of the season, they will not be installed until spring.

These viewers will become part of the trail enhancement and improvement projects that are currently underway at the refuge, and we hope will be of benefit to the visitors and students who come to your refuge to see the wildlife and their habitat.



Hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season!

Friends of Turnbull NWR



Special Thanks

Thank you to the following members who joined/renewed above their regular level and included an extra donation along with their membership fee.

Ruth Slichter
James and Betty Kintschi
Lee and Donita Walker

Please forgive us for any names left off this quarter's list. There were some serious computer problems resulting in loss of data. Thank you for your patience.

An open letter to Professor Galm:

Professor Jerry Galm
Dept. of Geography and Anthropology
Isle Hall 103
Eastern Washington University

Dear Professor Galm:

The Friends of Turnbull are appreciative of your excellent public lecture on November 16, 2004 at Spokane Community College reporting on the "Paleoindian Adaptations at the Allerod-Younger Dryas Transition: The View from the Columbia Plateau". The lecture was well attended with nearly 50 interested members of the public attending. We all learned a great deal about the history of early man in the Columbia Plateau from your new and exciting research. Thank you for sharing your "state of the art" knowledge with the general public and helping to publicize Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge.

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

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

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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.

February 10. "Cycles of Drought and Water Abundance and Their Effect on Turnbull Refuge."

Dr. Robert Quinn, meteorologist and climatologist at EWU will present an evening program on the EWU campus in Isle Hall, room 138 at 6:30 p.m. (see map below). Learn about our dynamic weather patterns here in the Pacific Northwest and what the future holds in store. Parking on streets with meters is free after 5:00 p.m.

April 2, Saturday. Join EWU biologist Heather Mckean for an all day workshop (9a.m. - 2p.m.) at the Turnbull Educational Center. The workshop will focus on three techniques commonly used in the illustration of the natural world. No previous experience in drawing is required. Materials will be supplied at the workshop. Participants should bring their own lunch. Fee for materials - \$10.00 for each participant. Limit of 18 participants and all participants must be 12 or older. Call 509-359-6512 or email Heather.McKean@mail.ewu.edu to preregister.

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 or MaryJane Booth at 235-4466.

WINTER FESTIVAL

by Marian Frobe

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 that we have before. Both the morning tour and the afternoon tour saw large numbers of elk on the closed part of the refuge, and at least one of the tours also saw Bald Eagles. Due to no-shows, there was room on the morning tour for more people, but the afternoon tour was filled to capacity. If you missed signing up for the elk tours, you were still treated to a wonderful Raptor Demonstration by Jane Westervelt, Aubrey Lafferty, Heather Brund, and Lisa Edinson from the WSU Raptor Club. They brought with them 3 hawks and 3 owls, all different species. My personal favorite was the beautiful Barred Owl, though the small Western Screech Owl was a close second. Not only did they show these magnificent birds, but they also walked around the audience with them so you could see them up close and personal. This was a real treat.

We served chili and cornmeal muffins this year, 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 during the day for us; they were the West Plains Drifters (bluegrass and folk), the Blue Ribbon Tea Company, and Heather McKean (guitar) and Brian Houser (flutes) playing wonderful Peruvian music. The bookstore had good sales and people were generous with donations. Several people said their store purchases were for someone for Christmas, which is always great.

Thanks to Costco, Cheney Safeway, Ben Franklin, Mitchell's IGA, and Chet's Flowers for their generous donations.

If you missed coming out this year, remember to check local papers and the Fall FOT newsletter for information on our next Winter Festival, the first weekend in December next year.

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.

REFUGE HAPPENINGS (Continued)



Nearly 200 people showed up for the bat presentation hosted by the refuge's Friends Group and given by refuge staff members, Sandy Rancourt and Mike Rule.

Eastern Washington University's spring mammalogy class monitored 14 of the refuge's pitfall traps during the spring. Twenty-two students helped staff set up pitfall traps to monitor small mammal and amphibian populations in forest restoration units.

Volunteers and refuge staff facilitated environmental education on and off refuge for 8,000 students this past year. The public of all ages including school groups, scouts, and senior citizens enjoyed field trips, classroom activities, aquatic ecology studies, fire ecology studies, night hikes, tours, guided nature walks, bird and bat presentations, and habitat and endangered species activities.

Turnbull NWR volunteers and staff outreached to over 12,000 individuals at several fairs and festivals that the Refuge participated in including; Sunrise Elementary Science Fair, Cheney Rodeo Parade, West Plains Community Fair, Kids Run Sports Festival, Spokane Sports Festival and Children's Fair, and the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.



AmeriCorps members, Rusty Ruchert and Brian Walker, staff a refuge booth at the Sunrise Elementary Science Fair.

Rain or shine, Joyce Alonso donates many hours of her time to the refuge's riparian restoration project and the environmental education program.



Over 5,000 students participated in the Sportsfest and Children's Fair held at the Spokane Convention Center. Activities and displays offered to festival participants by the refuge included: a track station where children could make their own animal prints, track identification and match-up table, touch table, an aquatic discovery table with invertebrates, fish and microscope, coloring station, mystery box station, and a refuge display board. The refuge received high reviews and was asked to participate in the Kids Run event. (Previously named, Junior Bloomsday). Sportsfest/Children's Fair representatives waived a \$750 booth fee in order for Turnbull to participate in their event.

Turnbull NWR partnered with Audubon to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day and National Wildlife Refuge Week by hosting its semi-annual community planting event at the Refuge this May. One hundred twenty-five volunteers from Audubon, Boy Scouts of America, 4-H, Eastern Washington University's EWU (EWU) Circle K International Club, EWU's Black Student Union, Cheney High School Ecology Club, Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, WA State Master Hunter Program, Friends of Turnbull NWR (FOTNWR), AARP, WSC and EWU AmeriCorps, Spokane Community College,



Volunteers from EWU Black Student Union planting a native sapling along the Pine Creek Stream Corridor.

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Campfire, Discovery School, Spokane Community Natural Resource Association, and numerous individuals participated in these very successful events. Volunteers planted 90 native saplings and 300 propagated willow and red-osier dogwood cuttings. They also weeded existing trees, prepared new planting sites, fixed hardware cloth around the saplings, and watered. Volunteers and refuge staff erected 4 exclosures to protect the saplings from deer,



Discovery School supplied all the burgers for the spring community planting event.

elk and moose browse. Volunteers baked over 20 dozen cookies for these events, and Discovery School supplied and cooked enough buffalo and sirloin burgers for all individuals attending IMBD event. The school had a special fundraiser to purchase meat and snacks just for this community planting event.



Cheney High School's biology teacher Tom Stralser and students erecting an exclosure

Cheney High School sophomore biology students completed a 2-day riparian restoration project at the refuge. One hundred forty students planted over 20 native saplings, erected 4 elk exclosures, and participated in a wetland ecology program. Refuge staff and AmeriCorps volunteers worked side by side with the students directing and assisting them with preparing new planting sites, planting, watering, building elk exclosures, and catching and identifying aquatic invertebrates. Three elk exclosures

(16' x 48', 16' x 64', 16' x 32') were erected at the Pine Creek Restoration Area. A 64' x 16' exclosure was erected at a new restoration site south of Reeves Lake. Black Hawthorne was planted inside this new exclosure.

Students, parents and teachers from Discovery School came out weekly during the summer to tend the native saplings in the refuge's Pine Creek Riparian Restoration Unit. Discovery School renewed their partnership this year with Turnbull and has been a great asset to the refuge. The group was assigned a section of the stream reach to tend and monitor.



Director Rick Grant from Inland NW Assoc. General Contractors of America instructing apprentices.

The refuge now has a beautiful environmental education shelter thanks to the efforts of Inland Northwest Associated General Contractors of America (AGC). AGC, under the direction of the Apprenticeship Director Rick Grant, spent several weeks erecting the shelter at no cost to the refuge. Bids from contractors averaged \$25,000-\$30,000 to erect the complicated shelter but AGC graciously accepted the task and did an outstanding job. The group even installed 5 benches. The shelter is located at refuge headquarters and is already being put to good



School groups appreciate the finished project especially in the rain.

use by many school groups and the general public.

Over 60 students from Upper Columbia Academy's Hope Task Force Team and Lewis and Clark High School tackled 3 refuge trail restoration projects. Despite very warm weather and enormous piles of wood chips, several dump loads of chips were loaded onto wheel barrels, and dumped and raked along three, 0.5 mile long trails. The trails are used by students and visitors. Both Upper Columbia Academy and Lewis and Clark High School have partnered with the refuge for the past several years on trail restoration and invasive species control projects.



UCA High School students preparing for a trail restoration project.

Thanks to the refuge's Friends group, Friends of Turnbull NWR, and their financial support, the refuge was able to keep AmeriCorps member Brian Walker for a 2nd term of service and recruit Student Conservation Association intern Angela Howell for the spring field trip program. This was a great help in keeping up with the high demand for the refuge's successful environmental education program.

The Friends group sponsored many field trips for members and the public including the following programs; Winter Big Game Tour, Wild Edibles of Turnbull, Nature Photography Workshop, plant identification classes, Railroad History Bike Tour, and Bats of the World and Channeled Scablands. They also hosted lectures on the "Monitoring Program at Turnbull" and the "Plants of Turnbull." Marian Frobe, President of the Friends group attended the Conservation in Action



New FOTNWR president, Joanne Powell

Summit in West Virginia, a workshop for gathering ideas for guiding the Refuge System into the 2nd millennium. This was quite an honor for Marian (and well deserving) who was one of the few selected to attend this prestigious event. After 5 years as President, Marian resigned this fall and Board member Joanne Powell graciously accepted this position.

Special thanks and our deepest gratitude go out to the following volunteer groups and individuals and to all the volunteers not named for your help in making this refuge a "crown jewel" in the Refuge System. There are truly no better people to work with. Have a wonderful holiday everyone!

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|---|------------------------------------|
| <i>FOTNWR</i> | <i>Campfire</i> |
| <i>Washington Service Corps</i> | <i>Geiger Correction Facility</i> |
| <i>EWU AmeriCorps</i> | <i>Virgil and Priscilla Bowen</i> |
| <i>Student Conservation Assoc.</i> | <i>Rick Grant</i> |
| <i>EWU Students Offering Services</i> | <i>Gini Hinch</i> |
| <i>Spokane Audubon Society</i> | <i>Tom Stralser</i> |
| <i>Inland Northwest Associated
General Contractors
of America</i> | <i>Joyce Alonso</i> |
| <i>Boy and Girl Scouts of America</i> | <i>Marian and Russell Frobe</i> |
| <i>4 H</i> | <i>Mary Jane Booth</i> |
| <i>Inland NW Wildlife Council</i> | <i>Norm and Marsha Ellefson</i> |
| <i>Graham Road Recycling and
Disposal Facility</i> | <i>Brad and Fran Haywood</i> |
| <i>West Valley Outdoor Learning
Center</i> | <i>Don and Catherine Richter</i> |
| <i>Childrens Sportsfest</i> | <i>Linda Long</i> |
| <i>Spokane Kids Run</i> | <i>Shawn Kostelec</i> |
| <i>West Plains Fair</i> | <i>Bridget Gies</i> |
| <i>Washington Parks & Recreation</i> | <i>AmeriCorps volunteers,</i> |
| <i>Washington State Advanced
Hunter Education Program</i> | <i>Brian Walker,</i> |
| <i>EWU Circle K Int'l Club</i> | <i>Rusty Ruchert,</i> |
| <i>EWU Black Student Union</i> | <i>Autumn Carlsen</i> |
| <i>Cheney High School</i> | <i>SCA volunteer Angela Howell</i> |
| <i>Cheney H. S. Ecology Club</i> | <i>Karen Yong</i> |
| <i>Upper Columbia Academy
High School</i> | <i>Martin and Mike Hepp</i> |
| <i>Lewis and Clark High School</i> | <i>Mary O'Reilly</i> |
| <i>Discovery School</i> | <i>Peggy O'Connell</i> |
| <i>Spokane Community Natural
Resource Association</i> | <i>Bill and M'Lou Safranek</i> |
| <i>Spokane Community College</i> | <i>Rod Hoover</i> |
| | <i>Sally and John English</i> |
| | <i>Tom Munson</i> |
| | <i>Allen McCoy</i> |
| | <i>Sandi and Mike Beus</i> |
| | <i>Allen Conrad</i> |
| | <i>Cheryl Conn</i> |



Fall Wildlife Observations at Turnbull NWR

by Mike Rule

Refuge wetlands are as dry as we have seen in the past 10 years. Despite extremely low water levels, several hundred tundra swans were observed throughout the fall with large numbers observed on Kepple Lake in the Public Use Area. Most swans moved out by Thanksgiving when most of the remaining wetlands froze over. A hardy group of 50 swans was observed on a small patch of open water on Upper Turnbull Slough during the annual elk tour.



Herbert Clarke



Several bald eagles have been observed on the refuge mostly in the area of Lower Turnbull where carrion from a deer and elk wounded during the hunting season were providing sustenance.



Northern shrikes have been observed at refuge headquarters throughout the month of November and as recently as December 7. Common red polls and pine siskins have also been observed at the headquarters feeder along with the usual flocks of chickadees, American goldfinches, nuthatches and house finches.



The river otter family has been active in the Pine Creek chain below headquarters.

We had a very successful elk tour this

year on December 4th. Forty individuals were treated to several sightings of large groups of elk. One group of elk contained over 100 animals. Only a few bulls were seen, mostly spikes and a couple raghorns. A recent aerial survey conducted by state WDFW biologist found 256 elk on the refuge but only 10 white-tailed deer. Two years of bluetongue outbreaks has greatly reduced refuge populations of this species. The refuge elk population increases substantially this time of year as animals seek security cover in the refuge during the hunting season.



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.”