



Friends of Turnbull

Volume 7, Issue 4

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Winter 2005, 4th Quarter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Joanne Powell

Greetings to everyone for the new year. We hope 2006 will be as successful for our Friends efforts on behalf of Turnbull NWR, as 2005 has been.

Board Changes

We are happy to announce two additions to the Board. We have a new Activity Chair, Dr. Robert Quinn (see page 2) and a new Vice President, Jaime Farr. Jaime's bio will appear in our next issue. We are looking for a Membership chair. Vonice Parker is still helping with the thank-you letters and the new/renewing membership data but really needs someone to take over for her. We also are in need of a Recording Secretary. All that is required is to attend meetings once a month at EWU (5:30-7:00p.m.), take notes, then type them up and email/mail them to the board members before the next month's meeting. Again, thanks to Pete Porter, our webmaster, for keeping our website up and running.

October Riparian Restoration Event

This is part of an ongoing community effort to restore native riparian habitat to benefit birds and other wildlife species. Many trees are now thriving due to the efforts of the volunteers who have helped us with this project. This year, we planted 40 saplings and removed exotic weeds and grasses from around the existing trees to increase their chance for survival. We erected one enclosure on the site to protect saplings from deer, elk, and moose browsing. Story on page 3.

Winter Festival

Once again, the **Winter Festival** was a great success. Both Elk Tours filled up quite early, with a large waiting list. A few people came out "just in case" and were rewarded by having a seat on the tour. Some tour sign-ups didn't show because of the really REALLY cold weather. The West Valley Conservation Center presented a great program on raptors and the problems they face. A number of birds were available for viewing. The saw-whet owl was neat but wasn't too crazy about all the people and decided

to spend most of the visit inside a nice, dark carrying case. The red tailed hawk was much more at ease in the crowd and we were able to view it for the whole show. A very entertaining and informational slide show was also presented.

We had a lot of chili available this year and still ran out. The cornmeal bread and muffins disappeared in no time, not to mention the terrific cookies baked by Priscilla. 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 2006, held as usual on the first Saturday in December. To be sure to get on the list for the Elk Tour, the end of October would not be too early to call the Refuge to sign up!

Bookstore Report

We took in \$733.26 at the Winter Festival. This represents \$313.30 in store sales, \$24.96 in taxes, \$145.00 in memberships, and \$250.00 in donations. The bookstore report shows income of \$3,856.03 for the year, expenses of \$2058.23 for the year, and a net profit of \$1797.80 for 2005. This includes the Winter Festival income.



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WELCOME, LINDA LONG
BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR

Many thanks to **MaryJane Booth** for her years of dedication as the Bookstore Volunteer Coordinator. She was responsible for all the volunteers who manned (and womaned) the bookstore during the April to October season. Without her efforts we would not have had a bookstore.

Linda Long, a FOT member for some years, has volunteered to be the Coordinator. Thank you so much, Linda. We all appreciate your taking on this very important position.

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).

New Activity Director

Please welcome **Dr. Robert Quinn**, FOT's new Activity Director. Dr. Quinn has been a Professor of Geography at EWU since 1967. His primary expertise is in Pacific Northwest Weather Patterns and Wetland Science. He teaches three courses in weather and is coordinator of the new Wetlands Certificate Program at EWU. Dr. Quinn lives with his wife, Sue, on 60 acres of wetland paradise south of Cheney.

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 4th Quarter memberships (October/November/December).

Renewal/New /Extra Donation:

Dr. Ian & Rosalie Napier, Patron
Bob Kuwik and Jude Martin, Patron
Lee and Donita Walker, Family+
Gary and Geri Proctor, Family+
Bill Youngs, Individual+
Joyce Grunewald, Individual+
Heather Carling-Smith, Individual+

FOT Activities Winter 2006

“The Drought is over in Eastern Washington” by Dr. Robert Quinn. Recent rains have filled ponds and wetlands in Eastern Washington and has brought much needed relief from a four year drought. Come and see what this may mean for Turnbull wetlands and wildlife and a review of previous cycles of drought and water abundance. How does El Nino and La Nina fit into the picture and global warming. The presentation will be on EWU campus in Isle Hall 138 at 6:30 PM on Sat Feb 11th. Call 359-7050 for more information

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

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

President: Joanne Powell ... jopowell39@aol.com
Vice Pres.: Jaime Fair jaimefair@aol.com
Treasurer: Robert Liepold .. rliepold@aol.com
Secretary:

Directors:
Logan Greene lgreene@mail.ewu.edu
Charmaine Gural cpgural@juno.com
John Phillips
Peter Porter drpporter@yahoo.com
Robert Quinn rquinn@mail.ewu.edu

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

Notes From the Capital



Partners for Fish and Wildlife Legislation – On June 28, the Senate unanimously passed the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (S. 260). The bill authorizes \$75 million a year for the FWS' Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program from 2006 to 2011. The Program provides incentives and assistance for private landowners to improve the natural habitats on their own land. In 17 years, the program has protected more than 670,000 acres of wetlands and produced over 33,000 agreements with private landowners. Similar legislation (H.R. 2018) is currently being considered by the House Resources Committee. The NWRA strongly supports this legislation and hopes to see it become law in 2006.

Transportation – After prolonged consideration stretching back to 2004, Congress finally passed the Transportation bill July 29. The bill was deemed a victory for the Refuge System, which was allocated \$29 million annually for the maintenance and upkeep of roads on national wildlife refuges. Originally, the Senate version called for \$29 million, while the House version allocated \$20 million. However, as a result of FWS efforts to educate members of Congress and lobbying by the NWRA and Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), the Senate figure was adopted in the final bill. Although the Refuge System continues to face a backlog of more than \$2 billion for transportation needs, getting the full \$29 million is a victory for the Refuge System, and a considerable increase over the past Refuge Roads funding level of \$17 million. In addition to Refuge Roads, the Transportation bill also allocated \$20.2 million for specific refuge projects across the country.

Arctic NWR – In November, the Senate approved a Budget Reconciliation bill that included language allowing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Following the Senate vote, the House approved a Budget Reconciliation bill that did not include the Arctic drilling language. Faced with the reality that they could not pass a Budget bill if it included drilling in the Arctic, Republican leaders were forced to drop the provision from the final bill.

However, as soon as the Arctic provision was dropped from the Budget bill, Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, added the language to a “must-pass” Defense Appropriations bill in the final days leading up to Christmas. However, with letters and calls pouring in to Congressional offices from people all across the country, the Senate Republican leadership could not overcome a filibuster threat, and was forced to, again, drop the Arctic drilling provision. As something the NWRA and its members have been tirelessly fighting throughout much of 2005 (as well as past years), this was a huge victory and a great way to close out the year.

Riparian Restoration Event

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and Spokane Audubon Society hosted a community work party on Saturday, October 15, 2005. The event was attended by many groups of volunteers; Audubon, Friends of Turnbull, college student groups, Discovery School (whose donation of time and food, as well as work party groups, increases everyone's enjoyment), Scout groups and families from the area. This is part of an ongoing community effort to restore native riparian habitat to benefit birds and other wildlife species. Many trees are now thriving due to the efforts of the volunteers who have helped us with this project. This year, we planted 40 saplings and removed exotic weeds and grasses from around the existing trees to increase their chance for survival. We erected one enclosure on the site to protect saplings from deer, elk, and moose browsing.

After lunch, all that were interested went on a birding tour of some closed areas of the refuge. A number of mammals as well as 39 species of birds were seen; 3 moose, 5 white tailed deer, 30 elk, a coyote. 2 turtles, 2 playful otters, and the usual abundance of chipmunks and squirrels.





Winter Wildlife Observations at Turnbull NWR

by Mike Rule

As is typical this time of year when hunting season is in full swing, large numbers of elk are observed on the refuge. One group consisting of approximately 100 elk was seen in mid December primarily on the eastside of the refuge. Several other sightings were made of large groups on the southside of Upper Turnbull Slough and near Reeves Lake. I conducted 2 Elk tours the first weekend in December in conjunction with the FOT NWR's Winter Festival . The tours consisted of a 2 hour drive through the closed portion of the refuge that normally host the majority of the elk in the refuge vicinity during the hunting season. Two vans and a Chevy Tahoe were used to transport around 28 people. Approximately 60 elk were observed during both tours given that day. On the morning tour large numbers of elk were observed between McDowell Lake and Upper Turnbull Slough. A smaller group including a few rag horn bulls was observed in the Hale-Issacson Forest Restoration Unit. During the afternoon tour elk were a little shy. A few small groups were observed north of the Turnbull Sloughs and a larger group was finally observed just inside Gate 7 at the very end of the tour. Although most participants were happy with the tour, the crowded conditions often made observation of elk difficult. Putting 15 individuals in a 15-passenger van is pretty tight quarters. We may have to reduce numbers per vehicle in the future to make it a bit more comfortable.



Several sightings of northern shrike have been made on the refuge throughout the winter.

The recent warming trend and heavy rains have resulted in a lot of standing water especially in the shallow wetland areas on the refuge. The result has been an increase in the number of waterfowl using the refuge. Several large flocks of Canada geese are using the large wetlands of the refuge and groups of golden-eyes, ring-necked ducks and hooded mergansers have recently been observed in the Pine Creek wetlands below Refuge Headquarters. If this wet weather keeps up this could be an excellent year for spring migrants.



Male Hooded Merganser



Tundra Swan, courtesy Herbert Clarke

Tundra swan numbers were considerably lower than normal as a result of the 2005 drought with less than 100 seen prior to freeze up at the end of November. With the intense cold of early December only a hardy few were seen in Upper Turnbull Slough and even these had moved on shortly before Christmas.

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.”