



# Friends of Turnbull

Volume 9, Issue 4

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Winter 2006, 4th Quarter

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Joanne Powell

### WASHINGTON WILDLIFE REFUGES REORGANIZATION

Nancy Curry, Refuge Manager

National Wildlife Refuges in WA are being reorganized through a 3-year work force plan. Two new refuge complexes have been proposed. The N WA/ID Complex will consist of Turnbull NWR, Little Pond O'Reille NWR and Kootenai NWR (in north Idaho). And the Mid-Columbia Complex which will include Hanford National Monument, Saddle Mountain NWR, Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, McNary NWR, Toppenish NWR, Conboy Lake NWR, Umatilla NWR, Cold Springs NWR and McKay Creek NWR. The N WA/ID Complex headquarters office will be at Turnbull NWR. Within the N WA/ID complex there will be four positions eliminated, two equipment operators, an administrative person and an assistant manager. There will be a complex manager at the complex headquarters, one station manager at each Refuge, one administrative position and one maintenance person for each station as well as the other remaining staff. Turnbull will maintain its wildlife biologist and park ranger positions, as well as its fire program staff.

Here are notes about changes nationwide (from our Washington D.C. office):

The National Wildlife Refuge System is restructuring to manage effectively in an era of tightening Federal budgets. While the Refuge System's annual budget remains higher than it has been for most of the past decade, the Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that it needs \$16 million in additional funding each year just to meet increases in permanent salaries, energy, and other uncontrollable inflationary costs. Since 2001,

funding for the Refuge System has increased from \$300 million to \$383 million in FY 2006, an overall increase of \$83 million, or 28 percent. Despite this, continued increases in permanent salaries, energy, and other uncontrollable inflationary costs continue to erode base funding for resource management and public use programs throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System.

If the Service does not act decisively now, it will become unable to effectively operate most national wildlife refuges within a few years - even if budgets remain level. To cope with this reality, the Service's leadership decided to reduce its permanent Refuge System workforce and increase management efficiency to free up funding for refuge management and operations.

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[www.fotnwr.org](http://www.fotnwr.org)



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# STORE NEWS WINTER 2006

By **Marian Frobe**

As most of you are aware, the store is closed from the last weekend in October to the first weekend in April, so this time of year is more of a reflection on our past year. Our net profit in 2006 was \$1306.85, which is not our highest year's profit but is still a good year. It seems there were a lot of very hot weekends where we didn't get the visitors that we do when the weather is good. Included in this profit are the sales we took in at the Winter Festival, the one day we are open during the winter.

Along with regular sales, there were donations of \$706.09 and memberships of \$530.00 taken at the store during the year. Almost half the donations were taken in during the Winter Festival and quite a few memberships were taken in then, too. Some would probably have renewed their memberships anyway, but others either weren't aware of our organization previously, or found it convenient to join at the store, especially when a free birdhouse box was offered for joining at the store. Special events that brought people to the refuge, such as the flower classes, the annual meeting, bird walks, Winter Festival, etc. always tend to increase our sales. I haven't yet looked at our stocks of books and T-shirts, but will be doing so soon. We are out of several book titles and will be reordering before we open in April.

A big thank you is offered to all the faithful Store Volunteers that worked for us in 2006 and especially Linda Long, who calls and coordinates all the volunteers. If you are thinking of volunteering for working the store, please contact Linda Long at 235-

4251 or at [llong@asisna.com](mailto:llong@asisna.com). I find that the days my husband and I volunteer are days I look forward to and we usually work the whole day. As both of us are there, one of us can take a walk while the other minds the store. We always see birds of many kinds and sometimes have had moose and porcupine encounters. And each season brings new flowers and blooming plants. You never know what you may find there. Join us as a volunteer and if you have questions or suggestions, feel free to call me at 328-0621 or at [rrfrobe@msn.com](mailto:rrfrobe@msn.com).

## Volunteers Needed

A new bookstore year is starting in April. Volunteers are needed for our FOT Bookstore. The stores hours are Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The shifts are 11:00 to 1:30 or 1:30 until 4:00, with the volunteers usually working one day a month. Experience not necessary! All that is needed is for a person to accept money for sales and/or donations, write receipts and answer questions. If you're not too sure about locations within the Refuge, there is a map available in the Turnbull brochure.

Please call Linda Long at 235-4251 to sign up.

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

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The Turnbull NWR general email box is [fw1turnbullnwr@fws.gov](mailto:fw1turnbullnwr@fws.gov)

# WINTER/SPRING Activities 2007

## Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer

**Study. January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007, 7:00 pm, Wednesday.**

LAIR Student Auditorium, Building 6  
Spokane Community College

Guy Gregory, Washington State Department of Ecology

The Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer system has been categorized as a "sole source" aquifer for the greater Spokane-Coeur d'Alene region. This sole source designation means that the aquifer system is the primary source of water for over 400,000 users from Spokane to Coeur d'Alene. Understanding the dynamics of this precious resource is critical with regards to present and future use, and ultimately toward the future development and growth of the region. This discussion will present the latest scientific findings from a three-year, \$3.5 million study on the aquifer system. The talk will address such questions as: how large is the aquifer? How much water moves through the system? Where are the primary sources for the system? What are the hydrologic interactions of the aquifer with the Spokane River? Join us for a discussion on the most up-to-date study of our most important geologic resource, the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

This lecture is free and open to the public. Please visit the Geology Lecture Series website at:

<http://www.scc.spokane.edu/artsci/sci/geol/gls.htm>

## Spring Bluebird Walk

**Saturday, early March (date-to-be-announced).** Marian Frobe will lead her annual Spring Bluebird Walk at the Refuge.



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

**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](mailto:jopowell39@aol.com).**

## GREAT WINTER FESTIVAL!

Our Winter Festival was a big success. The WSU Live Raptor Rehab group came up from Pullman, bringing live raptors to demonstrate and talk about their work; rehabilitating raptors who have been hit by cars, shot, or otherwise injured. While many of these birds at the rehab center are able to return to the wild, those at the demonstration were ones whose injuries made it impossible for them to fend for themselves. Over 100 people enjoyed the program, held in the Environmental Education classroom.

We also had some of our old friends back to entertain us with their wonderful music; many of the songs were written by these talented musicians, and people enjoyed both the music and the opportunity to chat "up close and personal" with "Lonesome" Lyle Morse, Laddie Ray Melvin (sometimes accompanied by his wife, Marlene - a member of FOT and a musician in her own right); and Mark Kreilkamp, who has written moving songs about the land.

As usual the hot lunch was well received. Many, many people brought chili and all the fixings so this time we didn't run out of food, although an amazing number of cookies did disappear quickly!

Here is Mike Rule's report on the popular Wildlife Tour:

"The winter elk tour was very successful, with over 50 individuals participating in the 2 tours. The morning tour started off with one van getting stuck. The second van continued on with the tour, eventually seeing a group of over 60 elk between McDowell Lake and Upper Turnbull.

Once the stuck van was freed up they were taken on the tour and had the good luck to see the same herd as it moved towards the northwest corner of the refuge. The afternoon tour was not quite as fortunate. More ground was covered and a couple of small groups were seen including a close encounter with a group of 5 nice bulls north of the Auto Tour Route near Reeves Lake. A fairly large flock of wild turkeys (> 30) were observed scraping through the forest litter looking for food, north of West Tritt Lake."

Reminder for next year: RESERVE YOUR SPOT ON THE WILDLIFE TOUR EARLY! LATE OCTOBER IS NOT TOO SOON.



# REFUGE HAPPENINGS

by Sandy Rancourt

## A Tribute to 2006

The following is a summary of last year's volunteer contribution to Turnbull. It was a record breaking year for number of volunteers, hours contributed, and projects accomplished. Eight hundred fifty-five volunteers contributed 27,735 hours at Turnbull last year alone, a savings of nearly a half a million dollars to the Refuge. Volunteers played an integral role in all Refuge Programs assisting with wildlife and habitat monitoring, habitat restoration, invasive species monitoring and control, trail restoration, environmental education facilitation on and off Refuge, outreach at fairs and festivals, Friends group activities, visitor services, facilities maintenance, construction and carpentry, fence repair, administration, law enforcement, intern training, nest box construction, fund raising, data entry, water level monitoring and much more. In addition, volunteer groups constructed a wildlife observation blind, built and EE shelter, painted the fire management office with donated supplies, built an interpretive sign, developed brochures for a refuge interpretive trail, designed and sewed a bluebird costume for the EE program, and contributed nearly 4,000 hours to Turnbull's 2 riparian restoration projects.

Over 8,000 students were provided environmental education on and off Refuge by volunteers and refuge staff. Another 68,000 individuals were outreached to at local fairs and special events. With assistance of Washington Service Corps (WSC) AmeriCorps members Benjamin Wells and Christie Blackman, SCA volunteer Jamie Bronleewe, and refuge volunteers Linda Long, Joyce Alonso, Brian Walker, Kylie Gaard, Marian Frobe, and Virgil and Priscilla Bowen, 165 school and civic groups enjoyed field trips, classroom activities, guided nature walks, aquatic ecology studies, night hikes, tours, and off refuge EE programs.

Saying thank you to everyone after writing up these accomplishments seems diminutive at best. To be honest it is pretty hard to adequately express our appreciation for such an outstanding effort from everyone. Our appreciation and gratitude is deeply felt though for all the volunteers and their support, not only for the refuge but for the staff as well. We couldn't do it without you, nor would we want to.

## Volunteer Program

### *Fall Community Planting Event*

Turnbull NWR partnered with Audubon to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week.



Eighty volunteers participated in the community planting event held in October. This was a record for the fall planting. Volunteers from Spokane Audubon Society, Friends of Turnbull NWR (FOTNWR), Eastern Washington University (EWU) Circle K Club, EWU biology department, Cheney High School Ecology Club, AmeriCorps representatives, 4H, The Lands Council, Native Plant Society, many Boy and Girl Scouts, and numerous individuals participated in this very successful event. Volunteers planted over 30 native saplings. They also erected 2 large elk exclosures, removed individual cages surrounding larger trees, and weeded and watered saplings.

**Cheney High School Students putting up exclosures. (SR)**



Native Plant Society member John Barber removes a large cage enclosing a tree. (SR)



Val Shiva from Haakon Industries and his sign (photo courtesy of Haakon Industry).



Eighty volunteers planted trees and erected enclosures at Turnbull's fall community planting event. (SR)

### *Kepple Peninsula Trail Brochure Box Project*

Haakon Industries located in Cheney, WA, built a sign and brochure boxes out of steel and sheet metal that the company donated for the refuge's Kepple Peninsula Interpretive Trail. Val Shiva from Haakon designed and built the boxes and sign, and Curt Nead, Human Resources Manager at Haakon, coordinated with staff on the project. Curt also assisted refuge maintenance workers with its installation. Garco Building Systems donated the operations of their plasma cutting machine and the

operator's expertise setting up the cutting program for the sign's lettering. Ken Degenstein, Brian Synder, and Pat Burton from Garco greatly contributed to this project. Both companies did an exceptional job and their hard work, expertise, and contributions for this project is very much appreciated and valued.

### **Environmental Education & Outreach Program**

The environmental education fall field trip season was very busy. Long term refuge volunteers returned to lend a helping hand including Linda Long, Kylie Gaard, Joyce Alonso and former AmeriCorps intern Brian Walker. Brian instructed a class of 25, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and their teachers from St. George's School on water quality, macro invertebrates and animal adaptations. Brian took a day off from his new job with The Lands Council to lead the class for new AmeriCorps recruit Conor Giorgi. Linda conducted several classes, and Kylie and Joyce provided invaluable assistance training the interns on the Winter Outreach Program.

Conor Giorgi and Dustin Cousins traveled to Camp Fife to conduct classes on riparian habitat for 10 groups of 9, middle school students for a 4-day period. The camp, sponsored by St. Thomas Moore, supplied transportation, food, and lodging for the AmeriCorps interns. Conor and Dustin did an excellent job and feedback was extremely positive for the interns who were invited back next year.

The Refuge's *Winter Outreach Program* is now in session, and to date Conor has conducted numerous programs for local schools and civic groups. If you are part of a group who would like to participate, please see the following information.

### **Program Registration**

**Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge presents  
*Winter Outreach and Night Hike Programs***



**When:** November, 2006 - March, 2007

***PLEASE CALL FIRST TO SCHEDULE***

Classroom presentations offered by environmental educators provide hands-on wildlife activities for students in the Spokane region. Activities include such teaching tools as music, colorful costumes, slides, animal mounts, and interactive games. Please allow at least one hour for all presentations. Also, if you or anyone in your class has special needs, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate. Ask for Conor Giorgi, Environmental Education Facilitator @ (509) 235-4723. ext. 231

### **OFF REFUGE PROGRAMS**

#### **“What is Wild?” (Grades K-2)**

“What is Wild?” creates an appreciation for wildlife. Students will be able to define the term wildlife; and to explain the differences and similarities between domesticated and wild animals.

#### **“Habitat? What’s That?” (Grades 2-4)**

“Habitat? What’s That?” illustrates the need for wildlife habitat. Students will be able to identify and explain the components of habitat; and to explain the ways that these components work together to allow wildlife survival.

#### **“Create-A-Creature” (Grades 1-5)**

“Create-A-Creature” develops an understanding of species development and survival. Students will be able to define and explain the importance of animal adaptations through learning about native wildlife adaptations, then creating their own critter with special features for survival.

#### **“Endangered Species” (Grades 6-9)**

“Endangered Species” establishes a better understanding of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and promotes citizen involvement in its implementation. Students will be able to define endangered and threatened species; to identify several natural and human factors that increase a species’ chance of becoming endangered; and use critical thinking to weigh these factors.

#### **“Animal Tracks” (Grades 2-7)**

Students will learn to identify and interpret wildlife tracks and other animal signs to gain an understanding of what they can tell us.

#### **“Now You See It!” (Grades 1-5)**

Students will explore different animal defenses and engage in a lively enactment of hunter versus hunted.

#### **“Owls” (Grades 3-5)**

Students will discover an owl’s amazing adaptations to a nocturnal hunter’s existence; learn about several species of owls found in Eastern Washington, and take a closer look at an owl’s role in the food



A great shot of a young moose by Ron Dexter, wildlife photographer and FOT member



# Fall/Winter Wildlife Observations at Turnbull NWR

by Mike Rule



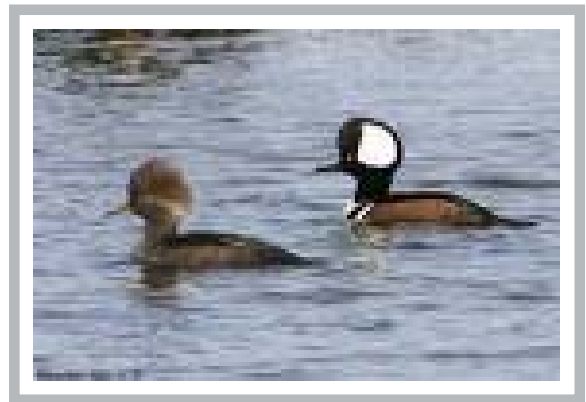
© Norman Dulak

**Tundra Swans**

Over 500 tundra swans were observed on the refuge and nearby Philleo Lake up until Thanksgiving when a bout of cold weather froze most of the refuge lakes.

Small groups of mallards, goldeneyes, hooded and common mergansers persisted on the refuge throughout the winter, primarily in the lakes near HQ which stay at least partially open.

**Hooded Mergansers**



A Washington State Department of Wildlife biologist completed a helicopter survey of the refuge on 10/3 269 elk were observed on the refuge and an additional 100 were observed near the refuge. This is a minor increase over the survey numbers from 2004. The calf/cow ratio was 55/100 and the bull cow ratio was 24/100. Both of these values represent an increase over 2004.



**Belted Kingfisher**

A belted kingfisher has been observed regularly along Pine Creek near HQ.

Approximately 30 wild turkeys were observed north of West Tritt Lake.



The river otters are frequently observed near the Cheever Lake dam. A well beaten trail connects the lake to the creek below the dam.



A pine grosbeak was observed along the Auto Tour Route in mid-December.

A fairly large flock of mourning doves was observed the first week in January at the refuge HQ.



## 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

Don't forget us in your estate planning

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.”*