



Turnbull Wildlife Refuge Friends Newsletter

Inland Northwest Wildlife Complex Friends Field Trip to Kootenai NWR, Bonners Ferry, Idaho

by Lorna Kropp, President

On September 15th, Molly Zammit, Joyce Alonso and Lorna Kropp drove to Kootenai NWR to meet with representatives of the Friends of Kootenai NWR and Friends of Little Pend Orielle NWR. We joined a group for a Bird Walk at the Refuge, then gathered for a get-acquainted conversation and had lunch together in Bonners Ferry. The conversation was lively as we shared what each Friends group is doing and our plans. We shared concerns and strategies for organizational issues such as increasing membership, successful activities, and workshops. The trip and meeting ended with a pledge to get together once each year and to rotate our visits. We look forward to meeting next year at LPO. It is good to make new friends and to join with others who are supporting efforts to assure a place for wildlife and wild places in our region.

Looking for a daytrip? Think about taking the 2+ hour trip to Kootenai NWR to look around. Here is a link to their Friends of Kootenai <https://friendsofkootenainationalwildliferefuge.org> and the Kootenai NWR (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/kootenai>)



Molly Zammit, (FOTNWR), Lorna Kropp (FOTNWR), Jan and Allen Rose (Kootenai Friends), Elaine Clough, (LPONWR), Joyce Alonso, (FOTNWR), and Dan Price, (LPONWR)

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Fall 2018
3rd Quarter
Quarterly Report
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The Nature Store continues to have fairly good sales. We should end the year in the black, with fairly healthy income over expenses. Our September sales were very close to \$500. Hopefully we will be able to provide a nice sum to the environmental education programs at the refuge.

There are areas of merchandise that need to be replenished, but rather than have a large inventory left over, I decided to wait until the store closed, do a thorough inventory and prepare for next year.

The new Square system for tracking sales and collecting payments truly has been a blessing. I am sure that many of our increased sales are due to the new process. For one thing, we can accept all credit cards. Our customers were very impressed with the new secure system. Even our volunteers, who were so faithful working in the store, came to love using it.

New merchandise displays also have been well received. By moving merchandise around every month, it appeared as though we had new merchandise all the time. I added some roll-out fixtures that expanded the store a bit and made for better visibility for some of the merchandise. Also, I added some eye-catching displays just to make the store look more attractive.

There is still one display that I would like to purchase for the store and hopefully it can be in place when we open in the spring.

We were able to add some new items that have been well received. New books, hats, and shirts have sold well. They definitely will be replenished for next season. Some of our regular items were expanded with new selections.

The latest new display, which received some groans when I put it up, was a Christmas tree on which I displayed the porcelain ornaments. They had not been

selling well. The salesman from the company agreed to send gift boxes, at no cost to us, to help with this new idea. We sold three ornaments the first week. I love success stories.

Due to unforeseen problems with our federal records, we have not had the store open in October as planned. The problems have been resolved so we are open for the last three weekends in October and will be open for WinterFest on the first Saturday in December.

All in all it has been a remarkable year. I thank all who participated in making it a successful one. May we look forward to next year in the same spirit

FOT Board News

Lorna Kropp

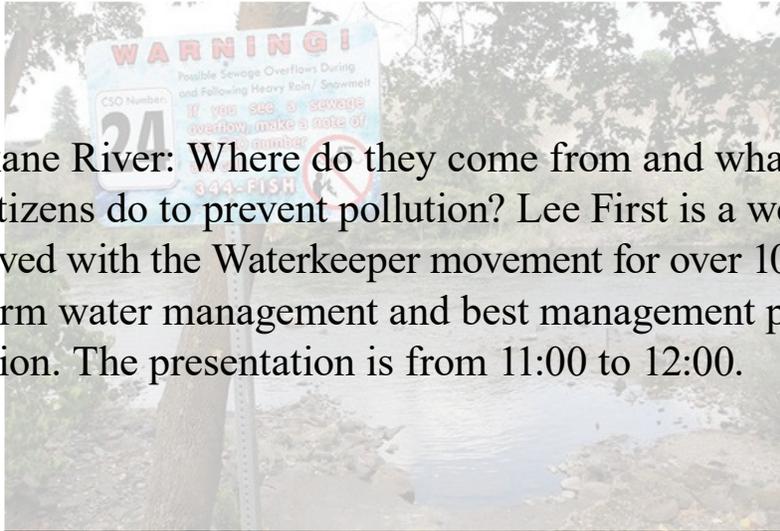
The FOT Board of Directors welcomed Olesia Letts to membership on the Board at the October, 2018, meeting. Olesia volunteered in August to manage the Membership list database and to send welcome letters to new members. The Board still has 1-3 vacancies. We especially need help with Fundraising. Plans are in the beginning stages for an event in the early Spring of 2019. Please consider answering the call to help out with the Fundraising Event committee. Send email to: activities@fotnwr.org to help out.

Thanks.

Visit our great website! www.fotnwr.org

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Toxics in the Spokane River: Where do they come from and what hazards do they pose? What can citizens do to prevent pollution? Lee First is a wetland biologist and has been involved with the Waterkeeper movement for over 10 years. Her specialties include storm water management and best management practices to prevent storm water pollution. The presentation is from 11:00 to 12:00.

Chili Contest!

You are invited to be a part of the 5th Annual WinterFest Chili Contest. Bring us a slowcooker filled with your favorite chili to share by 10:30 a.m. on December 1st. Lunch starts at 12:00 (immediately after the presentation) and the judging will be held at 1:00. The three categories are “**Regular,**” **Vegetarian,** and **Wild Game.** List the major ingredients on a 3 x 5 card with your name, address, and phone number. The prize? A gift certificate for the Turnbull Nature Store and bragging rights to the best chili at Turnbull.

Wildlife Tours

Two tours (9:00 and 1:00) to Refuge areas will be led by Chief Wildlife Biologist, Mike Rule. Reservations can be made through Joanne at 509-999-2090 or jopowell39@aol.com. Space is **very** limited this year so get your reservations in right away!

**Friends of Turnbull store open - great Christmas gifts!
Selected items at reduced prices**

Refuge Happenings

by Sandy Rancourt
Visitor Services Manager

Riparian Restoration

In celebration of National Public Lands Day, two projects were completed in support of our habitat restoration and public use programs.

Master Hunters Duane Davey and Josh Soehner spent several days volunteering at Turnbull, assisting with our riparian restoration projects. The Master Hunters combined their efforts to remove several acres of deer fencing that needed to come down and repaired 60 ft. of an enclosure below Middle Pine wetland. They also repaired several enclosures just off the Auto Tour Route. Duane volunteered at the refuge a few years back, so we were really pleased to have him return. As usual, the Master Hunters did a great job on these much needed projects.



Duane removing fence posts. (S. Rancourt)



Josh rolling deer fence. (S. Rancourt)

Fence work is never an easy task at Turnbull. Below Middle Pine (S. Rancourt)



Public Use - Trail Restoration

University of Idaho's Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) Club returned this fall to assist with a trail restoration project. The BHA members worked with refuge biologist Mike Rule, biological AmeriCorps member Joseph Stewart and me on the foot trail at the Col-lin Leech Memorial Grove. It is amazing how quickly trails require restoration work. A great deal of prep work was needed removing the tenacious weeds prior to placing the bark on the trail surface. After weeding, several inches of bark chips were laid on the trail. Everyone worked very hard, and the trail should last for a few years.



Left to Right; Mike Rule, Joseph Stewart and BHA members. (S. Rancourt)



The finished project. (S. Rancourt)

Visitor Services Volunteers

All of our Visitor Services Volunteers returned for another productive year, and unfortunately for us the time went by too fast. Bob Michels, who started volunteering at Turnbull in May of 2014, is an extremely dedicated individual. He is also very talented, with a diverse background of skills; but he willingly offered to do our custodial work, for which you don't get many takers. I can't stress enough the importance of what Bob does, and neither can our maintenance staff. In addition to keeping the public restrooms and vault toilets immaculate, he kept our EE outdoor study areas pristine. Bob also mowed lawns, watered plants at the riparian restoration sites, recycled, picked up garbage and much more.

Deanna Veilleux started volunteering for Turnbull in May of 2015. She is a very pleasant and welcome addition to our office staff. She answers phones and provides information to the public several days per week. She has helped me with organization, including data entry, inventory, and shredding outdated files. She also has helped our admin staff, assisting with entrance fee accounting. Because she also staffs the FOT nature store a few days a week when other volunteers are not as available, she has been an immense help with sales.

Joe Veilleux started volunteering for Turnbull with Deanna in 2015. He has been instrumental in assisting our refuge maintenance staff on various projects, including heavy equipment and ATV training workshops, working with and providing guidance to our YCC crew, road maintenance, installation of signs, exotics weed control, private land restoration projects, EE facility projects, etc. He works extremely long hour days. Forty hours or more per week is the norm. Joe gets things done and done well. He is also a great guy.

Environmental Education and Outreach Program

Where did the summer go? After a hot and smoky one, the fall weather, except for the lack of rain, has been beautiful. It's also a great time to visit the refuge. More and more teachers are bringing their classes to Turnbull to experience a field trip or night hike during

this season. The weather is not too hot for a nature walk, and the only things missing are the ticks. Not a bad deal for students and teachers wanting to experience a gorgeous place like Turnbull. Requests for fall programs start in late August, and I just finished scheduling our last field trip and night hike program. We are fully booked once again.

For our first field trip of the season NW Parent Preschool Coop brought quite a few youngsters to the refuge. Because of their young age, we do things a little bit differently. After their classroom experience, the preschoolers make animal tracks out of Plaster of Paris, catch some aquatic invertebrates and go on a short nature hike. We need a few facilitators for a class of this size and age so EE Contractor Kylie Gaard and former SCA intern Ruby Smith helped lead the class with EE AmeriCorps member Jennifer McGovern. We are looking forward to a busy and enjoyable Fall Field Trip and Night Hike season. All too soon, winter outreach programs will begin, with another year that has just flown by.

Camp Wooten Outdoor Education Camp

St. Thomas More school invited Turnbull back for a 9th year to participate in their annual fall overnight outdoor education camp at Camp Wooten Environmental Learning Park. The camp is located near Pomeroy, WA. Over a 2-day period, 10 groups of ten 6th-8th grade students were rotated through different stations at the camp. We provide facilitators, our aquatics program, waders, nets and other equipment for the student campers. The school provides lodging and food for our facilitators. Students sampled in a nearby wetland and stream for a diversity of aquatic invertebrates. AmeriCorps members Jennifer and Joe reported having a lot of fun with the students, including participation in a final relay at the end of camp.

EE Classroom

We got a new taxidermy mount for our Environmental Education Classroom. It is a beautiful porcupine, a really nice mount! It makes a great addition that allows kids to get a close-up look (but not too close) of this keystone species.



The 1st field trip of the season was NW Parent Preschool Coop who visited in September. (S. Rancourt)



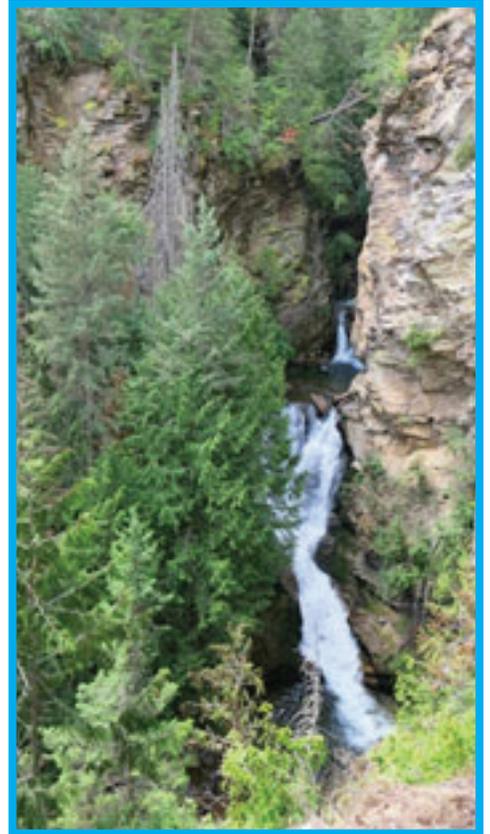
Just out of reach. (S. Rancourt)

Inland Northwest Wildlife Complex

Turnbull, Little Pend Oreille and Kootenai National Wildlife Refuges are all part of the Inland Northwest Wildlife Complex. Of course, we always have a great deal to say about Turnbull, but all three refuges are incredibly beautiful in their uniqueness. I was fortunate to get a week's detail at Kootenai in June. The 2,774 acre Refuge, which is located five miles west of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, is a gorgeous place to visit, and well worth the trip.



Little Pend Oreille NWR
(WA State tourism)



Myrtle Falls, Kootenai NWR
(S. Rancourt)



Kootenai NWR (S.Rancourt)

Wildlife Observations

by Mike Rule

Fall migrants are moving through with flocks of ruby-crowned kinglets and yellow-rumped warblers calling in patches of pumpkin orange hawthorns and wine-red dogwoods. Western bluebirds are still abundant and a variety of sparrows are coming through, including Lincoln's, fox and white-crowns. A merlin was observed stalking these sparrows near HQ Pond on 9/24. Waterfowl numbers are on the decrease, but late migrant gadwalls, mallards, green-winged teal, widgeon, and even a few northern shovelers, are still hanging around. Tundra swans should be moving through soon.

Speaking of swans...the two trumpeter swan cygnets hatched this year have fledged. An oddity this year is the lack of attendance by the adults that usually stay together as a family until the beginning of the next nesting season. The cygnets have been seen mostly on Windmill Pond, and Winslow Pool. Possibly two pairs of adults, one of which are likely the errant parents, are frequenting several wetlands in the Visitor Use Area.

Although an uncommon sight on the refuge, a group of great egrets has been frequenting the Wheeler Pond area this fall. They were first seen on 9/10. The largest group observed contained seven birds. Great egrets show up every 2-3 years, either in spring or fall. The last sighting was in April, 2015.

Our songbird banding season ended on September 13th. It was a productive season with 209 birds captured, the third largest number since we started in 1994. Twenty-one of the captures were birds banded in previous years. We also captured a record 43 species this year. The previous record was 39 species captured in 2012. Three species not caught before this year included a western meadowlark, European starling, and a very cool Northern saw-whet owl.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl
(Mike Rule)**

Cont on p. 9



The meadowlark was caught in the same net with a brown-headed cowbird and red-winged blackbird, three out of our six members of the blackbird family. Although fairly common on the refuge, the starling was a surprise. Other uncommonly captured species included a western bluebird, least flycatcher, Hammond's flycatcher, calliope hummingbird, Swainson's and hermit thrushes, Lincoln sparrow, two Wilson's snipe, and three Townsend's solitaires. Ten species remain the most commonly banded birds at our MAPS station throughout the years: house wren, song sparrow, willow flycatcher, western wood-pewee, yellow warbler, black-capped chickadee, black-headed grosbeak, American robin, red-naped sapsucker and Wilson's warbler. The latter two species however were caught in very low numbers this year. Two species that actually are increasing in our yearly captures and may soon make the top ten list are the gray catbird and Bewick's wrens, both of which were rare in the first 10 years we banded.

It was a pretty wet spring this year, resulting in an abundance of water and mud to slog through to get to the mist nets. All that water made for some pretty big mosquito swarms and likely the capture of those two confused snipe that probably followed our flooded trails into the net. This year represented our 25th year banding under the MAPS program which was established to monitor the production and survivorship of migratory land birds across the North American continent.

We have had a very productive field season this year, completing numerous wildlife and habitat surveys. It is still in full stride, with habitat plantings (including 1500 seedlings of the threatened plant species Spalding's catchfly), weed surveys, and elk population/browsing activity monitoring using remote cameras. This picture shows just to what lengths our browsers will go to get a meal.



Moose browsing at full stretch
(Turnbull remote camera)

Great Egrets at Turnbull

by Carlene Hardt

Last week, on Tuesday, Nancy Curry informed me that she had seen a group Great Egrets on the Finger Ponds at Turnbull! She said that these are not common at Turnbull. I didn't see any Wednesday but; as I was going by the Finger Ponds on Thursday, I spotted a white bird high up in a tree. I jumped out of my car to see what it was and try to get pictures of it. I was excited to see that it was a Great Egret! It was very far away and high up, but I am glad that I got a few record pics of it. When I got home, I looked up information about it and thought you might find some of these facts interesting too, especially that it is known by several different names!

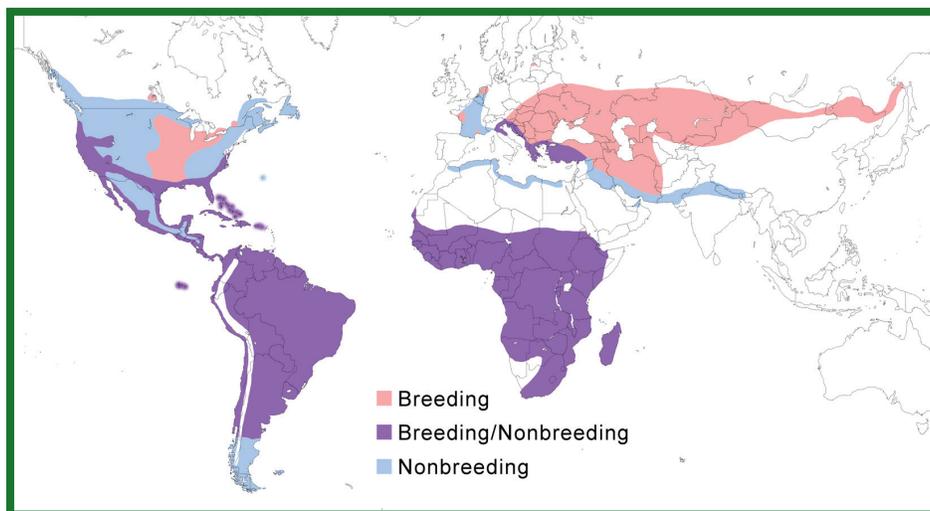
The Great Egret, also called the Common Egret, Large Egret or Great White Egret, and Great White Heron*, is a large, widely distributed wading bird with four subspecies found in Asia, Africa, the Americas, and southern Europe. It is found across most of the tropical and warmer temperate regions of the world. (*The Great White Heron is considered a color morph of the Great Blue).

Scientific name: Ardea alba
Mass: 1.5 – 3.3 lbs (Adult)
Wingspan: 4.3 – 5.6 ft. (Adult)
Height: More than 3 feet high

Compare that with the Great Blue Heron's
Weight: 4.6-7.3 lbs, wingspan: 5.5-6.6 ft,
Height: 3.2-4.5 ft



Egret photos by Carlene Hardt



Great White Egret Range
©Heron Conservation Group

Carlene's Successful Wildlife Encounters

I got up really early on Saturday, Sept. 8th, to treat myself to a walk at Turnbull on a cooler, blue-sky, smokeless day. As I was driving in, I stopped as a small flock of turkeys crossed the road. While walking up the path, I noticed how low the water was on Middle Pine (which is bringing in shore birds) and I watched a pair of Blue Herons landing in trees nearby. I observed them and took pictures of them until they flew to the shallow part of Middle Pine to stalk small fish. They were too far away to take pictures fishing of them but I can tell you they are really FAST when they catch their fish! I was thrilled that the Cheney Free Press published my Great Blue Heron in the tree.

I continued my walk to Cheever Lake to see if I could see the swan family. I had heard that the pair had two cygnets. As I approached Cheever, I saw many white birds...they were Pelicans! It was a flock of about 25 and a second flock flew in. They were not there long because the swan pair flew in and chased them all away! The Trumpeter Swans sure were noisy as they chased them off. The swans then settled down and swam towards me. I expected to see their cygnets come out of the reeds to greet them, but I never saw them. I watched the pair eat for an hour. I am sure the cygnets are not there and it is too early for them to fly. I am not sure what happened to them. However, interestingly enough, when Peter and I went to Turnbull the next morning, I saw a lone cygnet on Winslow Pool. I let the biologist at Turnbull know and he is going to investigate and see if he thinks that is one of the cygnets from the pair.

Just as I was getting ready to leave Cheever and head back I heard a LOUD rustling noise to my left and briefly saw a moose going through the tall water plants to get a drink. I hightailed it out of there because I couldn't see exactly where it went or if it would head towards me when it came out, and there were no trees between us. On the way back, I enjoyed looking at a couple different butterflies on the flowers. They move so quickly that it was hard to get a picture of them, but finally I got one.



Great Blue Heron



American Pelicans



Trumpeters on Cheever's Pond



Snacking Butterfly

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.

Got email? Add it to your membership form for quick activity updates!

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 _____
Nature Store _____
Committee _____
Environmental Education _____
Where needed _____

My check is enclosed payable to
Friends of Turnbull N.W.R.
P.O. Box 294
Cheney WA 99004