

# Turnbull Wildlife Refuge

Fall 2013, 3rd Quarter

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Volume 16 Issue 3

## Greeting from the President

Hello Everyone,

My name is Molly Zammit and I am very happy to serve as your president this year. I have been involved with Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge for many years, first as a teacher at Discovery School. We helped with the riparian restoration of Pine Creek. I also served three years as a board member several years ago. I returned to the board a year ago and I am looking forward to meeting our members and being of service to the Friends of Turnbull.

## FOT's New Vice-President

Our new vice-president is Katherine Ryf, the Friends Fund Raising Chairperson and long-time Friends member. Katherine is the person responsible for our very successful auction last spring and is working hard on the auction for 2014. Katherine and her family live in Four Lakes.



## Late Newsletter

Due to the strictures placed on Friend's publications by the government shut-down our newsletter has come out late this quarter. We have tried to keep members updated on our activities through Facebook and our website.

Thank you for your patience.

Joanne Powell, editor.



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## Friends of Turnbull Bookstore & Gift Shop Report

Marian Frobe



October is our last month to be open before we shut down for the winter. We have had sales of \$6576.20 through September 22nd and expenses of \$5049.03 through that weekend, so our net profit up to that point is \$1527.17. Our sales have remained strong and our expenses have been for restocking books, sweatshirts and earrings, as well as credit card fees, etc.

The swan logo T-shirts with the new softer design have been popular. We'll probably end up ordering more of them for next year's opening. We ended up ordering more sweatshirts in July because we were out of some sizes, and they seem to be selling well now that the weather has turned colder again. We haven't ordered any new titles for books, but had to reorder some of the more popular titles in July to take us through the season.

October will be our last month to be open this year, but we will be open on the day of the Winter Festival where you can take advantage of our selection of children's coloring books, nature books, T-shirts, etc., for your holiday gift giving. Remember, we are open on weekends only through October, plus Saturday December 7th when the Winter Festival is held.

If you would like to volunteer to help out at the store, please call MaryJane Booth at 235-4466 or me, Marian Frobe, at 328-0621 or at rrfrobe@msn.com. Or check the "I want to volunteer" box on your membership form.

**Membership: Just a reminder to renew your membership. We depend on your support to continue our important work with the Environmental Education program at Turnbull.**

**If you would like to receive your newsletter through your email, please let us know. Email [jcorder@hughes.net](mailto:jcorder@hughes.net).**

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



# Friends of Turnbull **Winter Festival**

at

**Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge**  
(26010 S. Smith Rd., 4 miles south of Cheney)

**Saturday, December 7, 2013**

## **Meet the Wolves**

**11-12 noon**

presented by  
**Nancy Taylor**  
**Wolf People**



## **Refuge Tour**

**9:00 a.m.**

call **509-999-2090**

**jopowell39@aol.com**

**to pre-register...trip fills up fast!**

## **Refreshments**

**Chili and cornbread,  
side dishes**

**Muffins and cookies**

**Hot spiced cider, coffee,  
tea, hot chocolate**

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

# Refuge Happenings

by Sandy Rancourt

## Our Annual Report

It's another great year for reporting volunteer contributions to the Refuge. Nine hundred volunteers contributed 18,650 hours this fiscal year. These numbers are truly amazing considering declining budgets that are not only affecting the federal government but are pretty widespread. It is a great feeling to know there are many people during these hard times who still want to give back to the community, and we are very fortunate that so many do this at Turnbull. Obviously, it is impossible to thank each volunteer individually but nevertheless, we are extremely grateful to each and every one of you for your support. Volunteers assisted with wildlife monitoring and surveys, research, habitat restoration, environmental education and outreach, curriculum development, maintenance, fund raising, photography, construction, and law enforcement. This was also another exceptional year for our Environmental Education and Outreach Program. Over 8,000 students experienced our environmental education program on and off refuge and an additional 6,000 individuals participated in our interpretive program. We are off to another good start for the next program year. I have been coordinating with teachers and scheduling groups for our Fall Field Trip Program, and we will be very busy this fall.

## Public Use

After a big Spring Field Trip season in which over 2,000 students visited Turnbull, the refuge participated in a couple of outreach events this summer including the Cheney Jubilee and a few day camps. Numerous groups including alternative schools, scouts and clubs also participated in our Field Trip Program we offer during the summer. The Cheney Jubilee is one event the refuge has been partnering with Friends of Turnbull on for the past few years. Refuge volunteers, Linda Long, Joanne Powell, Thomas Athens and Pathways Intern Paul Reilly staffed a refuge and Friends booth at this year's event. The volunteers interacted with well over 500 individuals. They provided information about the Refuge and Friends of Turnbull and made animal tracks out of Plaster-of-Paris for all those youngsters.

## Youth Waterfowl Workshop

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge partnered with the Spokane Chapter of the Washington Waterfowl Association to host a youth waterfowl workshop on September 14. Several youths and parents participated in the ½ day workshop put on to educate youth about the resources of the refuge, waterfowl identification, hunter safety, and duck calling. I talked to the group about the refuge history and refuge system. Mike Rule, the refuge biologist, provided a PowerPoint on waterfowl identification. Dan Matiatos, the refuge manager, gave a talk on hunter safety. Thor Ostrom, President of the Spokane Chapter of the Washington Waterfowl Association, provided a talk on duck calling, decoy spread and then demonstrated and worked with the youths on the art of duck calling. Each youth and parent were presented a duck call generously donated by Pat Tully from P.T. Tully Custom Game Bird Calls in Idaho. The duck calls are always a big hit with the youths who really know how to make the most out of those calls. Dan took the youths to their prospective hunt sites after the workshop.

## Biological

This has been another very successful year for the refuge biological program thanks again to the contributions of both new and returning volunteers. Volunteers many of whom are longtime Friends' members assisted with the successful completion of the refuge's songbird point counts, marsh bird surveys, waterfowl pair surveys, forest monitoring transects, weed surveys, water level monitoring, songbird and duck banding, and wood duck and bluebird nest box monitoring. Besides these annual surveys many of which have been conducted over the past 20 years, we also completed several special projects including the monitoring of several radio-collared elk, mapping of the topography of refuge wetlands, and mapping and monitoring all of the refuge riparian plantings completed over the past 15 years. The information from these surveys is critical to the evaluation of our management programs and the assessment of the health of refuge wildlife and their habitat. Thanks to all of you who lent us your able hands, eyes and ears to get this work done.

## Fond Farewells and Welcome Aboard.....

### **Joanne Powell, President of Friends of Turnbull (09/2004 – 09/2013)**

Joanne Powell recently stepped down as President of the Friends of Turnbull after holding this position since the fall of 2004. I was present at our Friends Board meeting when the subject of who would take on Marian Frobe's position as President of FOT after she resigned came up. Dead silence.... I don't believe this was a role that Joanne had planned to assume but she stepped up when no one else offered. She has served admirably in that role ever since. Anyone who knows Joanne also knows she is a very hard worker and obviously dedicated to any position she accepts. She has proved that as President these past 9 years. The fact that she remained as President for 9 years speaks volumes. Our Friends group has had its ups and downs throughout the years. A common theme was their shortage of funding. However, with Joanne's guidance and determination for the group to succeed, FOT prevailed through the tough times. They always offered the refuge their support whenever they could. As President, Joanne took on many roles. She kept the board on task, signed agreements, participated in refuge work parties and outreach events, worked diligently with members on the Friends' annual auction and put an incredible amount of time assembling these great newsletters. She is also a great lady who I am very glad I got to know. We will miss her as President, but we are fortunate that she has decided to remain on the board and help out in any way she can – again that dedication....

Thank you Joanne for all your hard work throughout the years. You are an inspiration to us all.



**Joanne Powell has been a regular participant at our semiannual community planting events (S. Rancourt)**

### **Louise O'Leary, Activities Chair (2007 – 2013)**

Since 2007, Louise O'Leary was the Activities Chair for Friends of Turnbull. She also helped me a great deal by volunteering as an environmental education (EE) facilitator starting in 2008. I have had quite a few young adults assisting me with environmental education facilitation over the years, but like all young folks they come and go. Working for free is just not an option for most young adults, and they are always looking for a great paid position- rightly so. Therefore, I always consider myself very lucky when I get a more mature person who is willing to volunteer for the refuge's EE program. Our older, community volunteers are in it for the long term, and they are incredible facilitators. Louise is no exception. She has just been awesome! Louise is a hardworking, dedicated lady and natural educator. Her enthusiasm for the material she taught was contagious. She is that fun, inspired teacher kids love to have. She is also remarkably talented. Anyone who has one of her hand made baskets can attest to that. Louise has also been a very active board member for many years. It is not easy task finding speakers, scheduling activities and coordinating with multiple people to offer all those Friends activities throughout the year. Louise recently retired her position as both a board member and volunteer at the refuge. It looks like she just might be moving in the near future.

This is a great loss not only for the refuge and Friends of Turnbull but also for myself. Louise is just one of those incredible people you meet in life and are lucky to call a friend. We will miss you Louise, and our heartfelt thanks go with you.



**Louise O'Leary returning from a nature walk she led (S. Rancourt)**

### AmeriCorps intern Maxwell Olsen (2012)

It is always sad to say goodbye to our AmeriCorps interns especially when we are fortunate to have one as pleasant as Max. Max worked under my direct supervision for the past year, and he proved to be a great facilitator and a great helper. He was another who was exceptional at educating the kids. Max is a very talented young man who I am sure will excel in anything he chooses to do in the future.



### AmeriCorps intern Maxwell Olsen (S. Rancourt)

#### Welcome Aboard!

Two new AmeriCorps interns joined refuge staff in mid-September. Erin Liden will assist me with our Environmental Education Program and Nathan Fall will assist Mike with the Biological Program. Both interns are very pleasant young adults who bring their own talents to the refuge. The refuge biologist and I have already begun their training, and we look forward to another good year.



### Some of Turnbulls' Residents





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 \_\_\_\_\_

Bookstore \_\_\_\_\_

Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental Education \_\_\_\_\_

Where needed \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed payable to

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R.

P.O. Box 294

Cheney WA 99004