



Turnbull Wildlife Refuge

Spring 2013, 1st Quarter

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Volume 16 Issue 1

Floods, Flowers, and Feathers Festival May 18, 2013

Enjoy spring by experiencing and learning about the exceptional wildlife, habitats, and geology of the unique Channeled Scablands landscape. Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, in partnership with numerous organizations/agencies, is offering a free Spring nature festival with activities for families and individuals of all ages.

Take a walk on the wild side and discover birds, wildflowers, insects, other wildlife, and catch a glimpse of remnants of the ice age floods that created the diverse Scablands habitat. Nature hikes, tours, kids activities, and informational booths provided by a number of organizations will make for a wonderful spring day outdoors in this remarkable environment. Some activities require reservations!

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Turnbull NWR Received Environmental Leadership Awards

Turnbull received two awards for projects that resulted in a significant reduction in energy consumption. The new office headquarters completed in 2009 received the 2010 U.S. Department of Energy’s Federal Energy and Water Management Award for outstanding sustainable integrated design for energy and water conservation.

Recent renovation of Turnbull’s maintenance shop, resulting in a 32% reduction in energy consumption, earned the 2011 U.S. Department of the Interior’s Environmental Achievement Award.



**Friends of Turnbull Bookstore
and Gift Shop Report**
Marian Frobe

The store has reopened as of April 6th. In addition to the sales last year, we took in \$355.00 in memberships and \$716.21 in donations through the store in 2012. Our first open weekend was beset with wind, rain and hail. Needless to say, we didn't do a booming business that first weekend, but we rearranged some things and generally made sure everything was ready for the volunteers to work the weekends.

We reordered books and just T-shirts at this time. The Refuge was able to have more slat board installed for us, and so we have moved the sweatshirts over to the new area and spread them out more so people can see that there are actually 3 different styles of sweat-shirt for sale. We ordered the T-shirts with the Red-head Duck logo this time, as we have a fair amount of the old design in stock. I do want to reorder the Swan design, but I am waiting for our supplier to give me a different interpretation of the Swan logo. Many people did not like the swan design because there was too much plastic, and I feel it can be simplified. I hope to have that done by the next newsletter time.

We haven't yet ordered any different books, but our regular books are now stocked up and ready for you if you need a new bird book, children's book, or a book on the wildflowers that are now starting to bloom and turning the Refuge into fields of blue and yellow. Even with all the interesting weather we had for the reopening of the store, on our way home we crossed paths with a porcupine near the headquarters and there was a large flock of turkeys with 2 toms fully displaying in the road. There's always something to see at Turnbull.

President: Joanne Powell...jopowell39@aol.com
Treasurer: Robert Liepold .rliepold@aol.com
Secretary: Linda Long... lindakl@centurytel.net

**Visit our great website!
www.fotnwr.org**

As usual we are always looking for a few more volunteers. If you can help us out, 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. It not only saves paper but you can enjoy all the pictures in living color! Email jcorder@hughes.net.

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**NEWS
RELEASE**

Help Us Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day!

Turnbull NWR Community Work Party

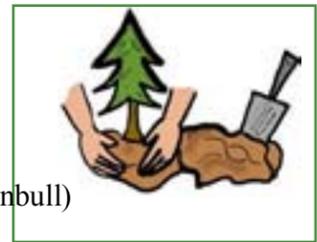
Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and Spokane Audubon Society will host a community work party on Saturday, May 11, 2013. This is part of an ongoing community effort to restore native riparian habitat to benefit birds and other wildlife species. We have hundreds of native saplings to plant, and fencing to build at the project site to protect the trees from deer, elk, and moose browsing. Everyone is welcome!

Attention Groups: Please call in advance to register. It helps us in our planning if we know how many are coming. The Refuge will also host a potluck lunch. Please feel free to bring your favorite dish. Ask for Sandy.

When: Saturday, May 11, 2013.

Planting Time: 9 am to 12 p.m.

Lunch: Potluck 12 p.m. (Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided by Friends of Turnbull)



Where: Turnbull NWR Headquarters, 5 miles south of Cheney on Cheney-Plaza Road: turn left on Smith Road and drive 2 miles on gravel road to headquarters.

Clothing: Long-sleeved shirt, work pants, sturdy boots or shoes, gloves.



Equipment: (If you can) shovels and pliers.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.



What Does Sequestration Mean to Refuges?

Joan Patterson
National Wildlife Refuge Association

The FWS is currently determining exactly what will occur and we will share information as we receive it but here's what we do know. Sequestration will force FWS to:

- ❑ Close or eliminate programs at 128 national wildlife refuges;
- ❑ Discontinue visitor programs at nearly all refuges;
- ❑ Reduce hours of operation for visitor centers, shorten seasons, and possibly close recreational areas when there is insufficient staff to ensure the protection of visitors, employees, and resources;
- ❑ Limit the Service's ability to sustain a full complement of seasonal employees needed for firefighting, law enforcement, and visitor services at the time when they are preparing for the busy summer season.

As each of you know, these impacts alone will have serious impacts to our refuges nationwide. If your refuge depends on seasonal fire crews to reduce fuel loads or conduct seasonal burns, there is a good chance it will not occur. If your refuge depends on seasonal workers for help during the summer – biotechs, maintenance crews, environmental education specialists – the list goes on – they will not be hired.

In many places, refuges will halt the use of volunteers having no staff to oversee their work. There is a true chance that the 20% of work done by volunteers on our refuges will be ended or severely curtailed.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Call your U.S. Representative and Senators by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and the White House at 202-456-1111.

FOT Activities

May 11 Planting Day 9-12:00

A community effort to restore native riparian habitat to benefit birds and other wildlife species.

May 18 Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival 9-4

A free Spring nature festival with activities for families and individuals of all ages.

May 25 Mahlon Kreibel, author, Battle of To-Hots-Nim-Me 1:00

Please see poster for more information. Program will start at 1:00 pm in the environmental education building. Author will be available for book signings. Please contact (509) 498-9295 or psimmons@cityofcheney.org for reservation. There is a suggested \$5.00 donation.

June 1 Rich Leon - Wildflower and Photo Walk. 10:00

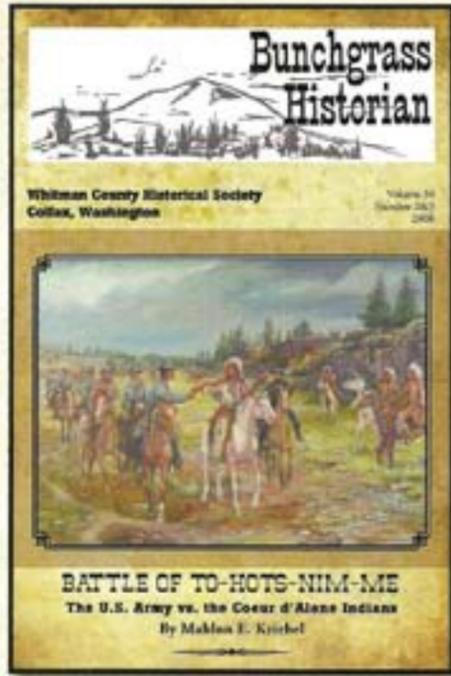
Come to Turnbull for a nature and wildflower photo walk with wildlife photographer Rich Leon. Start time 10:00 am near the flagpole. Bring lunch, water and your camera. Meet at the main parking lot near the bookstore. Walk should last a couple of hours. Please call or email (509)498-9295 or psimmons@cityofcheney.org for a reservation. There is a suggested \$5.00 donation

June 8 Marian Frobe. Bird walk and Talk. 8-12

Join us for a walk around the Pine Lakes and Headquarters Pond areas to look for and listen to the colorful spring birds. Everyone is in their breeding plumage now. The walk is from 8 a.m. to 11 or 12. Call Marian Frobe at 328-0621 to register for the walk and get directions. Bring water, binoculars and lunch in case you want to extend your stay. There is a suggested \$5.00 donation

Battle of To-hots-nim-me

Mahlon E. Kriebel



Bunchgrass Historian
Whitman County Historical Society
Collax, Washington
Volume 34
October 2012

BATTLE OF TO-HOTS-NIM-ME
The U.S. Army vs. the Coeur d'Alene Indians
By Mahlon E. Kriebel

About the Book

Troops under the command of Col. Edward Steptoe left Fort Walla Walla, guided by several Nez Perce warriors, in the spring of 1858 to investigate the murder of two gold miners in the Fort Colville region a few miles north of the Spokane River. The Steptoe campaign had not anticipated any problems with the Indian Tribes living north of the Snake River. Col. Steptoe thought that he could intimidate the Coeur d'Alene Indians with a show of government force and didn't appreciate that he was riding through sovereign Indian lands. Chief Vincent, a Coeur d'Alene leader, was against war but was determined to provide security for his people. The Coeur d'Alene and Spokane Indians were digging camas roots at a spring encampment located at the western extent of Coeur d'Alene territory as the Steptoe Command marched on a trail leading directly into the encampment. Chief Vincent parlayed with Col. Steptoe three times before Steptoe agreed to return to Ft. Walla Walla. However, Palouse Indians who weren't part of the parlays began firing into the retreating troops, which resulted in a six mile running battle. Recently discovered Field Note Maps made by T. Kolecki during the Wright Campaign which followed Steptoe's crushing defeat identify camp sites, trails and battle details which explain the course of the events.

About the Author

Mahlon E. Kriebel was born on a family farm near Ladow Butte. Mahlon enjoyed a long career as a neurophysiologist, publishing 70 papers on electrophysiology of the heart and neurosecretion. He developed educational materials for chaos theory. He held guest positions at University of California, Irvine; University of Konstanz; University of Graz, and the Max Plank Institute, Göttingen. In 1985, he was named an Alexander von Humbolt scholar. After 35 years, Mahlon retired in 2002 as Professor in the Physiology Department at SUNY Health Science Center, Syracuse, NY. He then moved back to the family farm near Garfield, Washington.



authorHOUSE™

AuthorHouse - August 17, 2012 - 60 pages
ISBN: 6x9 Paperback (978-1-4772-5529-2)
6x9 eBook (978-1-4772-5530-8)
Suggested Retail Price:
\$11.95 - Paperback

You can order
Battle of To-hots-nim-me
directly from the publisher at www.authorhouse.com.
Typical Ordering Time: 7-10 Business Days
This book is also available at your local resellers.
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Refuge Happenings

by Sandy Rancourt

Volunteer Program

Riparian Restoration

Two individuals in the Master Hunter Program are working on much needed projects at the refuge. Mike Fischer is cutting up 4 rolls of hardware cloth in preparation for our upcoming community planting event. He is also going to build an additional wall to enclose storage in our environmental education building. We have limited storage space in the building and can get pretty unsightly so having extra storage space will be a nice addition. Duane Davey will build benches for the new environmental education shelter at West Blackhorse Lake and he will also assist with our riparian restoration project.

Bluebird Nest Box Construction with Eagle Scout Candidate Dallin Olson

During our Floods, Flowers, and Feathers Festival, Eagle Scout candidate Dallin Olson from Boy Scout Troop 329 will demonstrate how to build and place a bluebird box. Dallin has procured donations for the wood and other building supplies. This project will make for an interesting and fun activity at the festival.

Biological Program

This past winter, Samantha Ford our Biological AmeriCorps worked on several office projects entering and compiling data collected over the past several years during our annual habitat and wildlife monitoring surveys. She brought up to date our databases for marshbird surveys, water level monitoring, point count surveys, forest monitoring, and bluebird nest boxes. See the Wildlife Observations section for some of the results. Sam also lent an able hand to the Refuge school outreach programs, measured water levels in refuge wetlands; helped GPS marked trees in our current timber harvest unit and assisted EWU grad students tracking our radio-collared elk. Unfortunately for us, Sam accepted a position with the National

Park Service working on sea turtles along the Gulf Coast and departed on March 19. Although we cannot replace a departing AmeriCorps member this far into the term, we are hoping that we will be able to hire a seasonal biological technician this spring and an SCA intern for the summer. Of course without the help of our Friends of Turnbull and Audubon volunteers, we would be in a real lurch. We are working on the spring and summer schedules for point counts and pair surveys and will have those out to members who have assisted us in the past.

Public Use Program

Turnbull's New Website

Turnbull's website www.fws.gov/refuge/turnbull has a new look. The new site is packed with information and incredible photos provided by some of our exceptional volunteer photographers. Our heartfelt thanks go to Robert Griffith, Tom Munson and Chuck Kerkering for all your help and generous use of your photos. I will be working on a landscape gallery soon and photographer John Latta has also graciously allowed us to use his photos for our site as well.

Connecting People with Nature and Other Grants

Turnbull was the lucky recipient of 2 CPWN grants this spring. We received a grant to purchase some much needed chest waders for our annual Cheney High School 2-day wetland ecology and riparian restoration stewardship project in which 250 sophomore biology students participate. In 2003, CHS donated several pairs of chest waders to the refuge to support this annual education stewardship experience. Over the years, the waders have worn out, and students have been returning to classes wet. Additional funding was received for the refuge to sponsor a *Big Year Event*. This year-long event connects people with nature by allowing participants to submit a wildlife observation. Participants have a chance of winning a prize that is given away monthly. For more information visit our website at www.fws.gov/refuge/turnbull.

Board member Molly Zammit and I worked on grant proposals from Every Day Grants and Avista for the environmental education program.

Environmental Education and Outreach

We are having another good year reaching the public through our environmental education program. Since September of 2012, refuge staff and volunteers have provided environmental education for over 3,800 individuals, and outreached through fairs and camps to well over 3,000 participants. Our appreciation goes to all our volunteers and staff for making this possible.

Student Conservation Association

We are very fortunate to have Thomas Athens as our new Student Conservation Association intern to help with our busy field trip season this spring. Thomas just completed an internship at Havasu National Wildlife Refuge and will be with us for 12-weeks.

Field Trip Program Workshop

After a very long winter, I finally got outside to teach a 2-day field trip workshop on the Field Trip Program for 7 volunteers and staff. The weather was perfect and the wildlife also cooperated. Linda Long, Fran Haywood, AmeriCorps intern Maxwell Olsen, SCA intern Thomas Athens, John Barber, Chuck Kerkering, and new Law Enforcement Officer Brian Czulinski participated. Topics covered included the classroom, nature walk and aquatic ecology activities. We are always very grateful to get new recruits to help with our expanding program. This year, Chuck and John have volunteered their assistance to the EE program.

Upcoming Events

The refuge has been very busy preparing for 2 major outreach events coming this May. On Saturday, May 11th our *Spring Community Planting Event* is looking to be a big one. I already received several calls from groups and individuals. Just one group plans on bringing 75 college students. Even though last fall's planting event had 150 participants, everything went like clockwork. We are expecting another busy and productive event. Here's hoping for fine

weather. Our *Floods, Flowers, and Feathers Festival* on Saturday, May 18th, is going to be just as busy. Turnbull has collaborated with numerous partners to bring a day packed with fun activities and interactive and informational booths. More information is available on our website www.fws.gov/refuge/turnbull. Take a peek at our event schedule and activity and booth descriptions to see what will be offered. Some activities do require reservations so contact us soon to reserve your spot.



New and Revised Programs

Senior Program

Although our emphasis for environmental education at the refuge has always been the younger students and it will continue to be so, we are going to outreach more to our seniors. We always offer tours for seniors at Turnbull but it would also be nice to bring some of our outreach programs to them as well, especially for those seniors who are no longer very mobile. EE Contractor Kylie Gaard, AmeriCorps intern Maxwell Olsen, long term refuge volunteer Joyce Alonso and I recently met with staff from a few senior centers and retirement homes to discuss our program and to see what activities they would be interested in. The meetings were very productive and all led to a common direction. We will be reworking our existing curriculum and adding some new programs to meet their needs.



Max prepping crayfish for Chuck to take pictures (SR)

Crayfish Program

AmeriCorps intern Maxwell Olsen is currently updating an outreach crayfish presentation. Local photographer and long term refuge volunteer Chuck Kerker took some very impressive photos of crayfish to help improve the PowerPoint presentation.

Science and Service Learning Fairs

This winter, we received an unusually large number of requests for Turnbull to participate in school science fairs. We had an informational booth and activities at Otis Orchards Elementary, Sunrise Elementary, Longfellow Elementary, Progress Elementary, Holmes Elementary, Arcadia Elementary, and University Elementary School Science Fairs. In addition, the refuge also participated in Gonzaga University Service Learning Fair where AmeriCorps interns Sam Ford and Maxwell Olsen interacted with the public and distributed information on the AmeriCorps program and the refuge's volunteer program. Max and Thomas will also staff a refuge booth at EWU's Spring Service Fair on April 18th. They will be distributing a lot of information about the AmeriCorps and refuge programs and recruiting for upcoming events including our Spring Community Planting Event and the Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival.

Donation

We recently received several mounts from former taxidermist John Lamers. The refuge has an indoor classroom facility that serves as both a museum and an education center. Thousands of students visit the refuge annually to participate in our environmental education program. A highlight of their visit is seeing the animal mounts in the classroom since our wildlife doesn't always cooperate when they venture outdoors to go on their nature walk. The mounts are a terrific addition. John generously donated 2 tundra swans, a sandhill crane and 2 goose mounts. Now if I can only talk him into a beaver.....



Recently donated Sandhill crane mount

Spring Wildlife Observations

by Mike Rule

Throughout the late winter and early spring several trumpeter swans have been observed on the refuge in the wetlands below Refuge HQs. By numbers seen we believed they were likely the breeding pair and the young from the last 3 broods. With the movement north of the last tundra swans the population of trumpeters on the refuge has dropped off or dispersed to areas we don't often frequent. Trumpeters have recently been observed on Philleo Lake, Stubblefield, Cheever and Middle Pine Lake. This morning, 4/25/2013, 2 pairs were observed, 1 on Middle Pine and 1 on Cheever Lake. Margaret Ayers of Spokane photographed both pairs on 4/20 and caught the pair on Middle Pine in flagrante delicto. This pair is likely Solo's widow and her new mate from last year. Nest building is soon to begin. The pair on Cheever are possibly one of Solo's 2009 cygnet and his or her mate as that brood is sexually mature this year. There could be other pairs, since there were 3,2009 cygnets. Keep a look out.



Solo and his 2009 family

Our nesting waterfowl species are trickling in to the refuge. We have recently seen northern shovelers, cinnamon teal, redheads, canvasbacks, ruddy ducks, ring-necked ducks, buffleheads, lesser scaup, and wood ducks. A few northern pintails and American wigeon are still moving through the area. Several Canada goose broods have been observed in the Pine Creek wetlands and on Swan Pond.

Northern Shovelers



Badgers



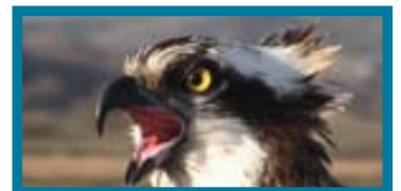
Another sign of spring is the recent observation of a mother badger with young at the opening of their burrow. A river otter was recently observed in Middle Pine Lake and at least 4 moose are frequenting the Pine Creek Auto Tour Route.

Bluebirds are on territory and building their nests. Flocks of tree swallows mixed with a few violet greens are feeding in abundance over refuge wetlands. All three nuthatches and their black-capped chickadee cousins are calling throughout the pine stands of the refuge. Although not seen by me our early migrating warblers must be here as Nashvilles, Wilson's, and yellow-rumps have been seen in the area.

Wildflowers are a plenty this year with plenty of buttercups, grass widows, and yellow bells. We are just a week or 2 away from the camas bloom. Every day there is more to see so make a trip to the refuge. By the way ticks are out in force, so tuck your pants into your socks.



Ospreys are back repairing their nests and great-horned owls are incubating eggs. Both northern pygmy and northern saw-whet owls have been heard calling in the past few weeks.





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 _____

My check is enclosed payable to:

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R.
 P.O. Box 294
 Cheney WA 99004