Turnbull Wildlife Refuge

Spring 2014 1st Quarter | Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report | Volume 17 Issue 1

No Child Left Behind

Molly Zammit

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act a.k.a. 'No Child Left Behind' fundamentally changed the way that education was delivered in this country. It focused on core content that required all students to be proficient with at each grade level. As a result, in order to have more 'quality' academic time for students, several things happened including doing away with or shortening field trips, outside time, and other enrichment activities. Add to this fewer parents sending their children outside to play for a variety of reasons and you have a generation of children disconnected to the natural world. A term coined by Richard Louv in his book Last Child in the Woods called this "nature deficit disorder". It is connected to rises in obesity, attention disorders, and depression in children. I might also add, adults as well.

In 2013 H.R. 2702: No Child Left Inside Act of 2013 reached committee in Congress. It would have done the following to encourage environmental education

- Funding to train teachers to deliver high quality Environmental Education and utilize the local environment as an extension of the classroom.
- Incentives for states to develop State Environmental Literacy Plans to insure that every student is prepared to understand the environmental challenges of the future.
- Encouragement for teachers, administrators, and school systems to make time and resources available for environmental education for all students.
- Environmental Education will be integrated across core subject areas.

Unfortunately, the Act died in committee. Fortunately, Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge offer classes, free of charge, to schools. Not only do children interact with nature, but the refuge provides high quality science classes and field experiences that are not available elsewhere. Under the direction of Sandy Rancourt the classes have become a model for other refuges. The classes have served up to 8,500 children in Eastern Washington.

Getting children outside is so important. There is research available showing that when children go outside and play or interact with the environment, they actually increase their learning in a classroom. We have a responsibility to continue providing these classes, not only for academic reasons, but also for the sake of our children and the future of the planet. Our activities committee is creating several classes and Sunday drives in an effort to get families outside and interacting with one another.

Currently the board has raised funds through the annual auction to pay the stipends for the interns who help teach these classes. We are updating backpacks that will be available at the bookstore for families to check out and use while at the refuge. These backpacks contain binoculars, a bird guidebook, etc. to enhance the experience at Turnbull. Our website is being updated so that information on the various activities are more accessible. We are here to serve the Turnbull community!

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How can you help? Many of you have already helped by attending and making the annual auction successful. Many volunteer their time to help teach the classes along with the interns at the refuge. Others help at the bookstore, or serve on committees and/or the board. By the way, the board is looking for a treasurer and secretary…if this is something you like doing, call me! If serving on the board is not your cup of tea, but you still want to help, call. We will find a way for you to help. You will be a part of getting folks, especially the kids, back outside interacting with the environment! Can you think of anything more precious than that?

Have you considered what would happen if you planted one tree? What about two trees? On May 10th there will be an opportunity to plant trees at Turnbull. The annual community tree planting will continue restoring riparian area along Pine Creek by planting native trees. Not only will these trees provide all the benefits listed above, but the riparian area will provide shelter and food for animals and birds and help with flood control. Set aside the day and come out with your family and joins us. Join us for a potluck BBQ where Friends of Turnbull will serve hamburgers and hotdogs. You just need to bring a side dish to share and spend the morning adding value to our environment by planting trees!

How Much Is A Tree Worth?

Molly Zammit

I was exploring the National Wildlife Service website and found this intriguing link to a site called National Tree Benefit Calculator http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/ReturnValues.cfm?climatezone=North. For fun I put in my apple tree's diameter of 15 inches and my zip code. The calculator told me that this tree gives me around $110.00 worth of benefits including intercepting 513 gallons of storm water each year, $88.00 worth of property value, conserving 77 Kilowatt / hours of electricity for cooling and reducing consumption of oil or natural gas by 7 therm(s). In addition my tree is absorbing pollutants like ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide through leaves, intercepting particulate matter like dust, ash and smoke, releasing oxygen through photosynthesis, lowering air temperatures which reduces the production of ozone, reducing energy use and subsequent pollutant emissions from power plants AND this year my 15 inch Apple tree will reduce atmospheric carbon by 315 pounds! WHEW! That is a lot of benefit from one old 15-inch apple tree.

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Visit our great website!
www.fotnwr.org

Friends of Turnbull Bookstore & Gift Shop Report

Marian Frobe

We opened the Store for the season on April 5th. As my husband and I worked the whole weekend, we were able to put everything out that had been put away and sweep up the debris on the floors and dust the shelves, etc. We had a fair amount of visitors that first weekend and hope that trend continues. As we have had quite of bit of expense for restocking books and T-shirts, we won't be making a profit for a while. Hopefully, the Saturday of the Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival will bring lots of visitors and sales. The Friends of Turnbull board has had a new design specially done for T-shirts for the festival, and we hope these will bring in a lot of revenue for us.

We have stocked up most of the books, including On the Trail of the Ice Age Floods. We first ordered that book last year and sold all but one of them. We also reordered many of the children's books and sticker books that are popular. We now have a full inventory of T-shirts in the old design and the redhead duck design. We didn't need enough of the swan design to order more of those yet, but probably will by summer or fall. As we were out of some sizes of sweatshirts, we ordered more of those, too. We also ordered more of the Audubon Bird toys, as those are very popular with children. We even were able to order some Trumpeter Swan ones, which they haven't had for awhile. I expect those to go quickly.

We have a few new volunteers for this year. More are always welcome. If you had agreed to volunteer at the store and haven't yet heard from us, we will be in contact soon. 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 and we will contact you.

If you would like to receive your newsletter through your email, please let us know. Email jcorder@hughes.net.

Spring and Summer Activities

April 26 - Earth Day in Riverfront Park, Spokane

May 10 - Tree Planting Day – Volunteer to plant trees in the riparian zones

May 17 – "Nature Exploring and Wildlife Photography" – Rick Leon; Meet at 10 am Bring your camera and some lunch. Contact him at richleonphotos@aol.com.

May 24 – Marian Frobe – Bird Walk to see birds in their spring mating colors around the ponds, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm; call Marian Frobe at 328-0621.

May 31 – Floods, Flowers, Feathers Festival - A free spring nature festival with activities for families and individuals of all ages. 9am – 4pm

June 7 - Beginning Bird Watching Classes #4, 9 - 11 am, Classroom for families, and individuals from 8 to 80 years. To register: call 448-0659.

June 14 – Family Scavenger Hunt event and unveiling of new Family Activity Backpacks; 10am – 12:00

July 12 - Beginning Bird Watching Classes #5, 9 am - 11 am, Classroom for families, and individuals from 8 to 80 years. To register: call 448-0659.

August 2 – Dragonflies on the Refuge with Dennis Paulsen, in cooperation with Inland Northwest Land Trust, will present a program and also lead a walk in dragonfly habitats. 1:00 - 4:00 pm; brownpapertickets.com

August – Take a Sunday Drive in the Inland Northwest beginning or ending at Turnbull NWR

August – Friends of Turnbull NWR Annual Meeting

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.

2014 Wild Refuge Fundraiser Dinner & Auction

By Katherine Ryf, Vice-President & Fundraiser Chair

On March 29, 2014 supporters of Friends of Turnbull gathered at Cheney's Wren Pierson for our 8th annual 'Wild Refuge' fundraiser dinner and auction. It was a 'wild' night of socializing, dining and setting high bids to raise money to support our mission. Guests were greeted at the door by local celebrity Madi Casto the 2014 Cheney Rodeo Queen who 'steered' folks towards registration while Turnbull Interns Nate Fall & Erin Liden offered guests appetizers. The community center was stuffed with incredible live and silent auction items and the amazing vocals and guitar sounds of Mark Kreilkamps.

As the silent auction rooms closed, Molly Zammit, Friends of Turnbull President & Membership Chair took the podium to give a brief introduction of the board of directors, explained our mission, and welcomed attendees to dinner provided by the Bistro at Williams Lake. Guest speakers Mike Rule, Refuge Biologist and Sandy Rancourt, Visitor Services Manager spoke to the heart of this fundraiser and just how exceptional Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge is to our community and how important the Environmental Education (EE) Program can be to a child or young adult.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the list of sponsors and donors who made this event possible by providing wonderful auction items, the guests who donated work gloves, shovels and pliers at the door which will be put to use at the May 10 annual Turnbull Community Planting Day, and the 'wild' bidders that gave generously. After expenses our profit is just shy of $10,000. Thank you to everyone for believing in the power of education!! I know you share my commitment to engaging the next generation of science leaders and I am deeply grateful for your investment in our organization's efforts.

Special thanks go to Joanne Powell for her guidance and last minute touches to make the night special for everyone, Kellisa Owens, EWU student, for her time and energy to help organize this year's event, Andy Maher for lending his computer skills for a smooth registration and checkout process, Lorna Kropp and Donna Burt for the 'wild' table decorations, Roger Hagenbuch, Copy Junction, for sponsoring the printing of our invitations and bid sheets, Kelsey Lambert and Austin Law, City of Cheney Interns, for providing on-site childcare and fabulous fun for the kiddos, Carl Schween and Rich Butterfield for their auctioneering talents, Cheney Subway for donating yummy sandwich trays for the childcare room and Cheney Jubilee Association for partnering with us to offer table side service of beer and wine.

Please visit our website www.FOTNWR.org and Facebook page Friends-of-Turnbull-NWR for news, updates and stories showing how you are helping to keep environmental education at Turnbull and in the community. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you to our 2014 Wild Refuge Sponsors and Donors

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Against The Grain
Bicycle Time & Music Too
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Bistro at Williams Lake
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Pete Porter & Kristin Edquist
Quick Quotes
Rich Leon
Rocket Market
Rokkos Teriyaki & BBQ
Rosas Pizza & Bowling
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Spokane Audubon Society & Members
Spokane Fair & Expo
Spokane Indians Baseball Club
Spokane Symphony
Spokane Teachers Credit Union
The Mason Jar
The Museum of Flight
Trader Joes - Spokane
Triple Play Family Fun Park
Turkey Ridge Ranch
Virgil & Priscilla Bowen
Vision Haus
W Seattle
Waddell's Bar and Grille
West Wind Kennels
Wild Walls
Willow Springs
Woodland Park Zoo

Floods, Flowers and Feathers 2014

Presenting the new Floods, Flowers and Feathers T-shirt design for 2014!

The photograph is by Bob Griffith, which he personally chose for the shirt. The T-shirt design is by Rebecca Brent, a student at EWU.

The design is printed on a good weight white shirt and will be available on May 31st at the Spring Festival at Turnbull. Prices for adults will be $15 and for children $12.

Rebecca is a junior at Eastern Washington University studying Visual Communication Design (VCD) with a minor in art. She serves as a VCD Club director. Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge is the philanthropy for her resident building Snyamncut on campus.

How Your Contribution Benefits the Turnbull Environmental Education Program
An Annual Appeal by Sandy Rancourt

Molly Zammit: At the recent Turnbull Auction Sandy Rancourt, Turnbull Refuge Visitor Services Manager, gave the following speech explaining how the funds raised by the Friends of Turnbull supports the education programs at the Refuge. It is published in the newsletter for those of you who were not able to attend the auction this year

Hello Everyone,

Thank you, Katherine Ryf, and all your helpers once again for all your hard work with the auction.

Several of you here tonight are familiar with Turnbull's Environmental Education (EE) Program – but for those of you who are not, let me give you a little background.

Turnbull's Environmental Education program is directed by a full-time Visitor Services Manager. I am the lucky person in that position. When funding allows, a Pathways Intern is hired part time to assist with facilitation and curriculum development. For several years, a part time environmental education contractor has also been hired from grants procured by the refuge. For the past 15 years, the EE staff has been augmented by the use of AmeriCorps and Student Conservation Association interns who facilitate programs for schools.

The AmeriCorps interns are with us for 10.5 months, and the Student Conservation Association intern is hired for a 12-week position during the spring. This year's EE AmeriCorps intern, who is with us tonight, is Erin Liden. Erin, could you please stand up? Our Biological intern who works for Mike but who also helps out a great deal with our Winter Outreach Program is Nathan Fall. Nathan, could you please stand up? Let's give these guys a big hand, because they really do a great job, and you will see more of these two tonight because they are helping out with the auction.

We also have several long term refuge volunteers who have been helping us out for years with facilitation, curriculum development, and outreach events. They include: Joyce Alonso, Linda Long, Fran Haywood, Jan Reynolds, Chuck Kerkering and John Barber. Marian Frobe also helps out with all her bird walks. Louise O'Leary also provided great assistance over the years, but unfortunately, she is no longer with us because she recently moved out of the area.

Turnbull hosts one of, if not, the largest and most diverse EE Program in our Region. Annually, we provide Environmental Education on and off Refuge for over 8,000 students. Last year, it was over 8,500 students. Additionally, we reach several thousand individuals through interpretation at science fairs, festivals & other special events.

Turnbull's EE Program is multi-faceted. We offer several programs throughout the year. At this time of the year, we provide EE off refuge (our Winter Outreach Program) for schools throughout Spokane County and beyond. Facilitators travel to schools and provide up to 12, age-leveled programs that cover a diversity of topics ranging from wetlands, camouflage, habitat, owls, and even crayfish dissection. The Winter Outreach Program is very popular because we travel to the schools, many of which are facing declining budgets like we are. And our programs are free! There is no cost for any of the programs that we provide which also include: a Night Hike Program, Bird Field Trip Program, our new Senior Program and our most sought after program - the Field Trip Program.

The Field Trip Program is conducted on site during the spring through fall in which several thousand K-12 grade students participate. Our field trips include indoor classroom activities, a hands-on aquatic ecology study and a guided nature walk through the 4 major habitats of the refuge.

The Field Trip Program is also my personal favorite. Don't get me wrong, it is great that we travel to schools and provide them with a diversity of free EE programs during the winter, but our Field Trip Program is the Program that gets these kids

outside and connects them to nature. I can't stress the importance of this enough. It is unfortunate, but many of today's youths have little exposure to the natural world. Our world today is not like when I was growing up. We were always outside exploring, and we didn't have all that technology back then either. Although technology has its advantages, it also comes with a cost. Many people now live in the virtual reality world of texting. Turnbull provides students with an opportunity to get outdoors in an environment that is hard to beat, and we get students to use 4 out of their 5 senses when they are at the Refuge. There is nothing like the sound of the wind through the pine trees, a coyote howling, the raucous call of the yellow-headed blackbird, the smell of sagebrush after a spring shower, holding a frog for the first time, or observing the pollinators in action on the beautiful wildflowers found at Turnbull. Unfortunately, there are fewer and fewer places left like Turnbull. We need to preserve treasures like Turnbull and other wild places so that everyone has an opportunity to experience what many of us took for granted in our youth. You know, it's pretty hard to fully appreciate something that you never actually experienced. In order to protect and preserve the environment, we need to educate people on why it is so important to do so. Turnbull provides an incredible opportunity to do just that! However, we need your support. We can't do it without you. The annual cost for an AmeriCorps intern is over $6,000, and a Student Conservation Association intern is now over $4,000.

Although bidding in support of our EE Program will not give you anything tangible to take home with you tonight, your contribution – your generosity - could have a profound effect on someone's life by sparking an interest in our natural world, and who knows where that might lead? Hopefully, to a better understanding and appreciation of places like Turnbull, places that represents a world not so long ago but so important to protect for all times. Thank you!

Kids Wildlife Viewing Backpacks!!

Thanks to donations from REI, we have 2 new exciting tools to enhance your visit to the Refuge with children ages 5-12 years. The "Wildlife Viewing Backpack" contains child size binoculars, a magnifying lens, a Discover Birds at Turnbull field guide, a tracks and scat guide and a scavenger hunt list. Families can check them out at the store to borrow while on the Refuge, returning them to store. The backpacks will be available for the first time during the "Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival" on May 31, and during the Friends of Turnbull Activity day on June 14. Available on a first come sign-up basis. Plan now to get outdoors with your children on Saturday June 14, 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Meet outside the store for the scavenger hunt lists. Lists will be available even if the backpacks are already checked out. We will be making a list of all kids who have found the items. Bring along cameras or phones to document your finds. (Remember we do not collect natural items on the Refuge.)

Beginning Bird Classes have been very popular. This is a cooperative program of 5 monthly beginning bird watching classes led by members of the Spokane Audubon Society. There are two remaining classes with space: June 7 and July 12. Classes have been filled to capacity (15) each month so far.

Dragonflies on the Refuge, August 2, 2014 1-4 pm

Get your tickets for the program and walk with nationally recognized dragonfly expert, Dennis Paulson for August 2, 2014, from 1 -4 pm. Go to brownpapertickets.com to purchase tickets ($10,) limited number available. This program is presented in cooperation with the Inland Northwest Land Trust.

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week

with a Community Work Day at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge!

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Spokane Audubon Society and Friends of Turnbull will host a community work party on Saturday, May 10, 2014. This is part of an on going 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 erect to protect the trees from deer, elk and moose browsing.

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 (509) 235-4723 ext. 228.

Planting Time: 9 am to 12 p.m.

When: Saturday, May 10, 2014

Lunch: Potluck 12 p.m. (Friends of Turnbull will supply the hamburgers)

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, gloves, sturdy boots or shoes.

Equipment: (If you can) shovels and pliers.

Everyone is Welcome!

Refuge Happenings

by Sandy Rancourt
Visitor Services Manager

This spring promises to bring a plethora of activities. Refuge staff and volunteers will be involved in numerous events including Earth Day Spokane, EWU Earth Day, community planting events, and Festival activities.

3rd Annual Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival

As most of you are probably aware, we decided to host another FFF Festival on Saturday, May 31st. We are hoping the later date will bring warmer weather and the opportunity to enjoy more flowers than last year's event. We picked up quite a few new partners who will be participating so it should make for a very informative and busy day. Plus, several individuals have donated their time, expertise, photos and other items to help make the day a success. To find out more about this event, please visit the refuge web site at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Turnbull/

EE & Outreach

It has been a very busy season for the Refuge Winter Outreach Program. Most work days were filled providing one of 12 winter outreach programs for classes we visited off refuge. Cheney Middle School requested numerous crayfish dissection programs. The company sent the school 200 crayfish instead of 20 so a large number of teachers from the school got on board and scheduled a program. Dissecting is a new experience for most students this age. It is a great hands-on activity for students to learn about one of our important aquatic invertebrates that can be found on Turnbull. Other Outreach Programs presented to the students by WSC AmeriCorps interns Erin Liden and Nathan Fall, long term refuge volunteers Joyce Alonso and Fran Haywood, and EE Contractor Kylie Gaard included: Owls, Habitat, Create a Creature, Animal Tracks, Endangered Species, What is Wild?, Mammals, Wetlands, Birds, and Now you See It!
Our Spring Field Trip Season promises to be as busy as our winter season. Our Spring Field Trip Program has been booked for some time. It is always a concern that we won't get as many students out to the Refuge as in previous years considering all the school budget cuts, so we are always grateful when schools elect to learn about the environment and experience the outdoors at Turnbull.

Curriculum Development

Senior Program

Spring break provided a great opportunity to offer our new Senior Program for several groups. The Program was developed by refuge staff and volunteers to give more seniors an opportunity to connect with nature. Erin facilitated the program for several senior groups during the break by providing tours at the refuge and presentations at their facility. Joyce Alonso and I will provide some additional tours later in the spring and summer months. Feedback has been nothing but positive.

Exotic Species Display Case

Refuge staff are currently developing an exotic species display case to be exhibited in the EE classroom. The display case will have plant and animal mounts, scientific illustrations and general information on several selected invasive species found on the Refuge including their distribution, impacts, prevention, and effects of global warming.

Spring Training

Our new SCA intern Brittany Moore and long term refuge volunteers Chuck Kerkering, Linda Long and Fran Haywood completed training and refresher course on the Field Trip Program. The training workshop is always one of my most enjoyable experiences with the volunteers. The weather was perfect. Most importantly we had fun, especially on the aquatics day. We caught a lot of aquatic invertebrates given the fact that everything seems to be delayed this year. Other wildlife cooperated as well including a beautiful elk herd, great-horned owl, northern harrier, bluebirds and more.

Science Fairs

Turnbull participated in several science fairs these past few months including, Longfellow Elementary, Holmes Elementary, Gary Middle School, and Betz Elementary. The WSC AmeriCorps interns, Erin Liden and Nathan Fall, and EE Contractor Kylie Gaard staffed an information and activity booth at the different events and interacted with hundreds of students and their families. Betz Elementary Science Fair was a huge hit with the students. The children were able to make their own animal track out of Plaster of Paris, and they got to bring home their prize. Kylie and Erin had a steady run of people at the animal track station, and the same held for Nathan who ran the information booth and touch table.

AmeriCorps intern Erin Liden and EE Contractor Kylie Gaard making animal tracks at Betz Science Fair (S. Rancourt)

AmeriCorps intern Nathan Fall ran the touch table at the science fairs (S. Rancourt)

Gonzaga Science Learning Fair

Turnbull participated in Gonzaga Service Learning Fair in late January. Erin and Nathan staffed an information booth at this event. The interns provided information about the refuge and AmeriCorps Program for many students attending the fair. They also passed out flyers and tried to recruit volunteers and participants for our upcoming events including Turnbull's community planting event and FFF Festival.

Environmental Education Brochure

I had the pleasure recently to work with EWU student Tanner Streicher who is participating in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Service Learning Program on developing an EE brochure for the refuge. The brochure will be another avenue to get the word out about Turnbull's Environmental Education Program. Brochures will be given to teachers participating in our Winter Outreach Programs and will also be distributed at fairs, festivals and other events.

Volunteer Program

Welcome Aboard!

Brittany Moore was selected for the EE Student Conservation Association internship position. Brittany started April 8th and will be with us for 12-weeks through the busy spring field trip season. She is a very upbeat, enthusiastic individual who I am sure the students will love as a facilitator.

EWU Dorm Meeting

Refuge staff and FOT board member Katherine Ryf met with EWU dorm representative Gina Ondercin and Director of Community Engagement Molly Ayers to discuss volunteer and fund raising opportunities for an EWU dorm who has decided to adopt Turnbull. Residents have expressed interest in helping out with volunteer and fund raising opportunities for Turnbull. The Refuge and Friends of Turnbull are looking forward to working with students on many future projects.

Master Hunter Program

Two individuals in the Master Hunter Program were recruited to assist Spokane Audubon Society (SAS) by making bird silhouettes for their "Can You Find that Bird Program?" SAS, the master hunters and I met to discuss their needs, time lines, materials, etc. Master Hunters Derek Tate and Casey Thomas have procured the materials and have started on this project. SAS reported they were very happy with their progress. The Master Hunters were cutting the silhouettes out of lightweight plastic and came up with an innovative way for hanging the birds in the field.

Eagle Scout Projects

I have been meeting with a new Eagle Scout candidate who wanted "two" refuge projects as part of his Eagle Scout requirement. Eagle Scout candidate Peter Erwin from BSA Troop 325 will be organizing and leading a group of volunteers to pot 1,000 native plant seedlings for one of his projects in April. He is also the young man who will be doing a bluebird nest box demonstration at our upcoming Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival for his 2nd project. These projects entail a great deal of work, but Peter is a very enthusiastic and dedicated scout who I am sure will do an admirable job with both projects. We are looking forward to all his help with these projects.

Friends of Turnbull Auction

Friends of Turnbull board member Katherine Ryf did another outstanding job with the FOT auction. She had a lot of good help from other volunteers including our 2 AmeriCorps interns Nathan Fall and Erin Liden. The interns organized and labeled auction items and prepped them for display. They also provided great assistance with the event's set up - finding chairs, silverware, and anything else our Friends group needed help with including serving hors d'oeuvres for the 100 people who attended. Nathan and Erin were also runners to ensure bid winners received their items.

Wanted! RV Volunteers

To fill the void left by the Bowens, we are looking for Visitor Service Volunteer(s) with an RV for seasonal assistance with our public use program. The volunteer position runs from spring through the fall. Volunteers will answer visitor's routine questions, provide them directions, do light maintenance and cleaning, and assist with staffing the Friends of Turnbull bookstore on weekends. Desirable skills include willingness to work outside, public speaking, interpretive and educational experience, and handyman skills. Minimal commitment is 32 hours per week for one person or at least 24 hours per week each for a couple. Uniform shirt and hats will be provided. Anyone interested can get more information at volunteer opportunities on our website.

Biological Program

This spring the biological AmeriCorps member, Nathan Fall, has been very busy completing entry of last year's field season into our refuge database. He also analyzed several years of bluebird nest box data on nest initiation dates and wrote up the findings of this analysis. In preparation for the upcoming field season, he put together field form packets for the bluebird nest box trails, point count surveys and waterfowl pair surveys. He has also been doing the very tedious job of labelling hundreds of native bee mounts collected during our 2012 pollinator sampling program. It hasn't all been office time for Nathan though, he has been out in the field collecting information on water levels in refuge wetlands, monitoring a blue bird trail and the spring waterfowl migration, helping EWU grad student Kat Farrell relocate our radio-collared elk, and with the assistance of SCA Brittany Moore and some EWU students he activated our small mammal traps in our forest restoration units. These trap sites have been monitored every other year since 1998 by refuge volunteers and the EWU mammalogy class. We are all looking forward to the spring and summer field season. This year, Roy Brazzle will be coming back as our seasonal biological technician, and we are looking at hiring an SCA intern for the summer. A recent college graduate from Alaska, Alex Wright, will be spending the summer at Turnbull assisting our field crew with wetland mapping, weed surveys, waterfowl banding and forest habitat monitoring. A high school student from St. John, WA completed a job shadow at the refuge this spring and is planning on volunteering on the refuge this summer. With all of this help and that of our long-term volunteers, Marian and Russell Frobe, Brad and Fran Haywood, Tim O'Brien, Kim Thorburn, Craig Corder, Nancy Curry and our newest point count volunteer, Lisa Langelier, we are expecting a very productive field season.

Our Great Loss

Sandy Rancourt

We recently lost someone very special to our Friends community. Long term refuge volunteer and Friends member Bob Griffith passed away last month. The suddenness of his passing took everyone by surprise. I do know there is nothing I can write here that can give justice to a man like Bob. Bob was one of those rare individuals who was completely selfless in nature, generous, kind, considerate, thoughtful and an all-around gentlemen. A few years back, another one of our exceptional photographers mentioned to me that Bob was his mentor. Anyone who has seen Tom Munson's photos can attest that Bob was also an incredible teacher as well. Bob generously donated his extraordinary photos to the Refuge whenever I put out a photo request. His photos are throughout Turnbull's new web site, and his bluebird photo was chosen for the persistent photo that can be seen on every web page on our site. He graciously donated the majority of images for our Discover Bird at Turnbull's field guide – a bird guide developed by Turnbull and Discovery School for elementary school children. His beautiful photos can be seen throughout our updated refuge brochure including the front cover. He also donated photos for Little Pend Oreille's brochure as well. Bob's praying mantis photo adorns the back cover of this year's April/May National Wildlife Federation issue. His Wilson's warbler photo (below) was selected for the cover of the Photographic Society of America last year when they did a feature story on 'ol Bob as he referred to himself when he sent it to me. I have no doubt this barely touches other awards and achievements for someone as talented as he was.

Bob Griffith was always so very helpful to our Friends group. He was a great speaker, and he always wowed people with his photos and presentations from trips around the world that he and his lovely wife Dolores took. He annually donated photos for the Friends of Turnbull Auction, including several for next year's auction when he found out he was terminally ill. I received an email from Bob a week before he passed generously offering any photos that we might need. This past January, Bob had offered to run a photo booth at our Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival in May. He wrote in that email that finding his replacement was at the top of his list. This was the last thing he should have been thinking about, but he always placed everyone else first. I guess he didn't realize that he can't be replaced.

I know I speak for everyone in how much he will be missed. I do know he will never be forgotten. His legacy will always live on through his family, photos, friends and every heart he touched. Regardless of age, there are those rare, incredible people one meets in this life who are way too young to die, and Bob was among them.

Third Annual

Floods, Flowers, and Feathers
Spring Nature Festival

Saturday
May 31, 2014
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Turnbull Wildlife Refuge
(South of Cheney off Cheney-Plaza Rd.)

(509) 235-4723

Moose and Winter Ticks

Mike Rule

Several moose observed this spring are showing signs of winter tick (Dermacentor albipictus) infestations, white to gray fur and bald patches. Although winter ticks infest many species in the deer family, moose are especially susceptible. It seems other deer species are better at removing ticks before they become a serious problem. Moose become infested in the fall when tick larvae attach to moose from surrounding vegetation. The ticks stay on the moose and take 3 blood meals, once as larvae, once as nymphs and once as adults. Moose have been found with over 100,000 ticks on them. After the female tick becomes engorged, they fall off in early spring and lay eggs on the ground. New fur then grows back on the moose and the cycle repeats in fall when larvae emerge. If the animal is healthy, they can usually recover from the ticks with few problems. In years of low nutrition, moose can succumb to a tick infestation. It interferes with feeding activities and the loss of hair contributes to hypothermia. It is predicted that global warming will increase the extent and severity of winter tick infestations. They are already having serious impacts on moose in the northeast and Canada.

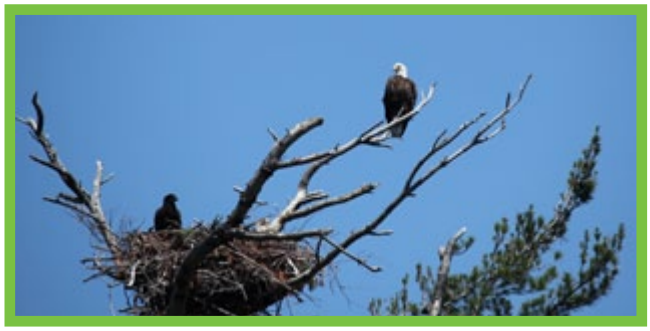
Spring Wildlife Observations

by Mike Rule

Well, I thought spring would never get here, but it has finally arrived. Buttercups, grass widow, and yellow bells are in bloom and Say's Phoebes, American robins, meadowlarks, and red-winged blackbirds are singing away. Common snipe are winnowing over the marshes and sora, virigina rails, and bitterns have been heard or observed. Buck Domitrovich took a great picture of a flying bittern on the refuge 4/9.

All of our breeding ducks have arrived and nearly every wetland hosts at least pair of mallards. Several lone male mallards indicate the hens are on their nests Canada geese are on nest and the first goslings should be showing up very soon. Ring-necked ducks abound and cinnamon and blue-winged teal are trickling in. Wood ducks were seen on the wetlands along the entrance road on 4/7.

We had a big flush of tundra swans in mid-March, but they moved on pretty fast. The two trumpeter swan breeding pairs and their cygnets have been observed. The 2 pairs using Middle Pine and Cheever have distanced themselves from their last year young. The cygnets have been seen on several wetlands in the Visitor Use Area. We believe we have been seeing a third pair on the wetlands along refuge tour route. As usual, any observations of trumpeters either on or off the refuge are much appreciated (mike_rule@ fws.gov).



Violet-green and tree swallows are back and building nests and Western bluebirds returned on March 6 and are back on territories building nest.

The bald eagles on Upper Turnbull are tending young in their nest.

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 voluntee____
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