

Turnbull Wildlife Refuge



Spring 2015 1st Quarter

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Volume 18 Issue 1

The Revised Friends of Turnbull Website

Lorna Kropp

The revised Friends of Turnbull website became a published reality on March 23/24, 2015.

Asked by the Board of Directors to work on revising the website, I began by considering what was the most important information to share about The Friends of Turnbull – the organization’s life and purpose. I read the new National F&W Friends’ policies, studied many sites of other Refuges around the nation, and of course the official TNWR site. I decided that the best way was to use the FOTNWR Mission statement and organization structure to build the website message.

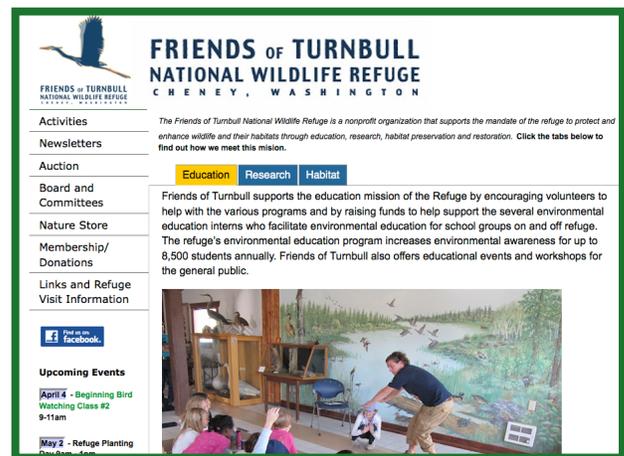
The Mission statement is very clear that there are 3 areas of focus in our support of the Refuge: Education, Research and Habitat Preservation and Restoration. I decided that the best way to make that clear is to illustrate each and it was fairly easy to find illustrations because this is what we do!

The next goal is to make this website functional for the life of the organization and enhance communication and involvement with members. Thus Activities and Nature Store and membership become more interactive. There are sign-up/registration apps (eventbrite) on the Activities page, and there is a “paypal button” app to use for memberships and donations on the membership page. Those tasks were the web design phase, or the concept phase. Next came the web development or the coding to make those ideas work.

While I have been a volunteer webmaster, self-taught, for 18 years for Discovery School, Westminster UCC, PNCUCC, and the Fig Tree, the web is changing everyday and keeping up is constant. It took several online courses, videos and site

exploration, and hours and hours of trials to make the design concept work. The result is, I hope, useful to the organization and can be maintained and refreshed regularly.

Thanks to Dr. Pete Porter, the previous “webminder,” for his service and holding of the organization’s domain and serving as agent. The process of getting the site in the organization’s name took longer than we anticipated, but was accomplished through persistence with help from Bob Leipold, and Molly Zammit.



In this Issue:

FOT Website.....	1
Bookstore Report	2
FOT Activities - 2015.....	2
Theodore Roosevelt, Wilderness Warrior	3
Wild Refuge Fundraiser Donor List	4
Community Work Day.....	5
Refuge Happenings	6
Wildlife Observations.....	8



Friends of Turnbull Nature Store

Marian Frobe

The Nature Store reopened for the season on Easter weekend. We had fairly good sales on Saturday. All the reordered books, shirts, pins and mugs are on display in the store. The pins and mugs had to be repriced, but the shirts are remaining the same price for now.

We reordered the T-shirts with the swan design this year, as we found how to get the design to look softer without the plastic background. I think the swans may nest on the refuge this year, so there may be some public interest in the swan shirts. We also replenished the sweatshirts at the same time. We reordered books and found some titles no longer available or out of print, so did some substituting. We found a new local vendor for the photo mugs, Trophies Unlimited, and they did a really good job for us. As was the case with the old photo mugs, Chuck Kerkering graciously donated many of his excellent photos taken on the refuge for us to choose from, and I think you will like our three different choices. We also picked Eagle River Designs to make our Friends of Turnbull pins, as their price was reasonable and we were able to include an informational card with each pin. You may want to look at the new pins, and maybe buy a new one for yourself.

WE ARE IN NEED OF NEW VOLUNTEERS. Some of our volunteers from last year are unable to work for the store this year, so we are having trouble filling the shifts. If you would like to volunteer to help out at the store, please call me, Marian Frobe, at 328-0621 or at rrfrobe@msn.com or Jo Trilling at 456-8549 or j.a.trilling@comcast.net. Or check the "I want to volunteer" box on your membership form and we will contact you.

FOT Activities - 2015

Lorna Kropp

The 2015 Activities season is off to a great start. The series of "Beginning Bird Watching Classes" on the first Saturday of the months of March, April, May and June are very popular. Thanks to Joyce Alonso and Lindell Haggin, expert birders and members of both FOT and Spokane Audubon Society, who are teaching the class and leading a hike. With excellent publicity in the Spokesman Review, the class sessions (20 persons) were all filled up through the June session by the end of March! We have an additional Bird walk with Marian Frobe scheduled on May 23 to consider. Families should register to come for a hike to find evidences of animals, using observation and tracking skills with AmeriCorps Intern, Collin Adkins, on May 16.

Friends of Turnbull has received a grant from the Humanities Washington council to host a program by Scott Woodward called "Theodore Roosevelt: Wilderness Warrior in Washington State" on Saturday, June 20, 2015 at 11: 00 am. This will be a fun presentation in pictures, music and words. You can plan to make it a day: come early for a hike around Pine Lake or on the Bluebird Trail, hear Scott Woodward's presentation, and then join in a picnic (BYObasket) near the Gazebo afterwards. More program details on page 3.

Scientists, teachers, and Artists, mark your calendars now for a workshop with Professor Heather McKean, EWU Biology Department on bio-illustration techniques. In this 5-hr hands-on workshop, Prof. McKean will offer opportunities to experiment with

Continued on Page 3

President: Molly Zammit molly.z@comcast.net
Vice President: Katherine Ryf FriendsofTurnbull@gmail.com
Treasurer: Robert Liepold rliepold@aol.com
Secretary: Joanne Powell jopowell39@aol.com

Board Members:

John Barberpattiandjohnbarber@hotmail.com
Lorna Kropplkropp@cet.org
Kelissa OwensKellisa.Owens@hotmail.com
Peter Porterdrpporter@yahoo.com

Visit our great website!
www.fotnwr.org

several techniques such as carbon techniques, pen and ink and scratchboard for bio-illustrations, and capturing what you observe. Teachers are encouraged to attend, and interested children > 10 years old are also welcome, accompanied by an adult.

Date: July 22, 2015; TNWR Classroom, 9:00 – 2pm; \$10 materials fee per person.

FOT Activities List for 2015

May 2015

- Planting Day – May 2
- Beginning Bird Watching Class #3- May 9
- “Who has been here?” Finding evidence of animals at Turnbull, led by Collin Adkins – May 16, 9-11 am
- “They’re all back!” Take a Bird walk to see birds in their spring mating colors with Marian Frobe – May 23, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm; 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.
- Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival - May 30

June 2015

- Beginning Bird Watching Class #4 – June 6
- “Theodore Roosevelt: Wilderness Warrior in Washington State”– Scott Woodward (Humanities Washington) – June 20 11:00 am

July 2015

- o Bio-illustration Workshop with Heather McKean, Biology Prof. EWU – July 22

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.

Theodore Roosevelt: Wilderness Warrior in Washington State

How did Roosevelt achieve so much? In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt made a 17-city whistle stop tour of Washington State, inspiring thousands of Washington residents on both sides of the Cascades. The wilderness legacy that ensued from this visit guarantees our sense of place in Washington State today with the formation of national wildlife refuges, national forests and parks, and national monuments. This presentation combines music, anthropology and history. Woodward also discusses Theodore Roosevelt’s signature approach to getting things done: combining politics with citizenship that crossed all political lines and built legacies for future generations, as well as establishing the sense of place we have today.

About Scott Woodward

Scott is a self-proclaimed history buff and ardent fan of wildlife, nature, and Theodore Roosevelt. For thirty years Scott taught American history, anthropology and Washington state history in the Richland School District and for Columbia Basin College before retiring in 2002. He is currently a full-time volunteer and President of the Taptal Greenway and Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network, which promotes education, recreation and conservation in the Mid-Columbia region of Washington State.

At a glance

What: Theodore Roosevelt: Wilderness Warrior in Washington State, with Scott Woodward
When: Saturday, June 20, 2015, at 11:00 am – followed by a BYO Picnic in the Refuge Gazebo
Where: Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, 26010 S. Smith Rd. Cheney, WA 99004
Cost: Free Registration appreciated: <https://fotwildernesswarrior.eventbrite.com>

On the Web: www.fotnwr.org or www.humanities.org/calendar-events

Questions? Lorna Kropp, activities@fotnwr.org / 509-448-2291

Friends of Turnbull Fundraiser - 2015

Katherine Ryf

Many thanks to all our generous donors who helped make this fundraiser a success.

Action Materials	North Pend Oreille Valley Lion's Excursion Train
Bistro at Williams Lake	OMSI, Portland
Blackhawk Veterinary Clinic	Owl Pharmacy, Cheney
Bob Griffith Family	Pacific Science Center, Seattle
Bob Liepold	Peone's Catering
Bob Robb	Pet Vittles
Brian Aut	Portland Zoo
Brown Bear Carwash	Ramada Spokane Airport
Buck Domitrovich	Rich Leon
Bungalow Craftworks	Robert Bateman, Boshkung, Inc.
Carlene Hardt	Robert Griffith family
Cheney Federal Credit Union	Robin Song: Molly Zammit + Catharine Scherer
Cheney Free Press	Rosauers/Huckleberries Market
Cheney Trading Company	Row Adventures
Cheney Vet Clinic	Roy & Carey Brazzle
Coeur d'Alene Casino Hotel & Spa	Russell & Marian Frobe
Collins Family Dentist	Rusty Moose Gifts
Cyrus O'leary Pies	Rusty Moose Restaurant
Donna Burt	Sally and John English
Duck's Unlimited Spokane	Seattle Aquarium
Eagles Ice Arena	Seattle Marriott Waterfront Hotel
EMP Museum, Seattle	Seattle Seahawks
Farm Arts	Seattle Storm WNBA
Friends of Turnbull Board	Spokane Audubon Society
Hair in the Chair	Spokane Chiefs Hockey
Joann's Fabric	Spokane Interstate Fair
John Barber	Spokane Ironworks
Joyce Alonso	Spokane Museum of Arts and Culture
Kalissa Owens	Spokane Symphony
Katherine Ryf	Starbucks on 57th Avenue
Kimberly and Carol Yerbich	The Monaco Hotel, Seattle
Latah Creek Wine Cellars	The W Hotel, Seattle
Lind WA Lion's club	The Westin Seattle
Linda Long	Trader Joe's
Lorna Kropp	Turkey Ridge Ranch
Maid Naturally	Turnbull Refuge staff
Marian Heale	Virgil and Priscilla Bowen
Mary Eye	Walker's Furniture
Mike Fulsom	Wild Walls
Mobius Science Center and Children's Museum	Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle
Molly Zammit	Ziggy's, Northpointe
Museum of Flight, Seattle	

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day



*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 02, 2015. 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 02, 2015

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

There never seems to be a slow period at Turnbull even during the winter. It's true we may not get outside as much as we would like, but a great deal is accomplished in support of Refuge goals during this time. Refuge staff has been busy writing grant proposals, completing reports, recruiting temporary staff and volunteers, coordinating events, and working with partners on numerous projects. Although it has been a disappointing winter with the shortage of snow so important for refuge wetlands, it's hard not to get uplifted with spring's early first arrivals of birds and wildflowers.

In celebration of spring, Turnbull with the support of its partners is hosting 2 events in May. Our semiannual community planting event will be held on Saturday, May 2nd, and the Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival is on Saturday, May 30th. Our community planting is a great volunteer opportunity for all ages to get outdoors and hopefully away from the busy trappings of technology. It's always a satisfying feeling to plant a native tree for wildlife habitat. The Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival at the end of May should provide warmer weather and more wildflowers to observe. With all the partners' support, it should make for another very informative and enjoyable day at the refuge. To find out more about this event, please visit the refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Turnbull/>. All the activities are free, but some will require reservations.

Environmental Education & Outreach

Environmental Education

Winter Outreach Program

AmeriCorps interns Brittany Moore and Collin Adkins, Environmental Education Contractor Kylie Gaard, Pathways Intern Paul Reilly, and refuge volunteers Fran Haywood, Chuck Kerkering, and Joyce Alonso facilitated the refuge's winter outreach programs for a diversity of school and civic groups. Our outreach program has really grown in popularity over the past

few years. We offer 11, age-leveled programs on subjects including: owls, habitats, animal adaptations, crayfish dissection, animal tracks, wetlands, camouflage and defense, birds, mammals, wild vs. domestic animals, and endangered species. We travel to schools throughout Spokane County and beyond and provide high quality environmental education programs – all at no cost. Many of the schools have similar budget woes as we do, so this is an excellent opportunity to take advantage of some really great programs without incurring transportation costs.

In addition to the Winter Outreach Program, several groups participated in our Night Hike Program. This is one of my personal favorites. Not only do individuals learn about the elusive nocturnal animals and their adaptations to night life, but they also get the opportunity to discover more about their own five senses and use those senses to hear and observe wildlife seldom observed during the day. Several fun activities aid them in their learning.

Volunteers and staff have been conducting monthly winter outreach programs for students in the BEST (Behavioral Education Skills Training) and PCCA (Psychiatric Center for Children and Adolescents) Programs at Sacred Heart in Spokane. Each month, the students are provided a different program to experience. EE staff are also conducting Outreach Programs for some very excited students in the Cheney Middle School After School Program every month.

Joyce Alonso has been leading monthly beginning bird classes for Friends of Turnbull, a very popular class that is always booked to capacity. Marian Frobe and Joyce led another well received class on bluebirds in March.

Spring Field Trip Program

Spring Field Trip Workshop

I spent two very enjoyable days in the field conducting a Field Trip training workshop for interns, staff and long term refuge volunteers. As usual, the weather

cooperated and spring conditions made for a beautiful 2 days. Budget Clerk Jason Werner, Spokane Conservation District Education Coordinator Stacey Selcho, Mobius Science Director of Education and Programs Beverly Clevenger, IAFI Cheney-Spokane Chapter Secretary Linda Long, Spokane Audubon Society President Fran Haywood, FOT President Molly Zammit, and new Student Conservation Association intern Diana Gonzalez participated.



After learning what aquatic invertebrate larvae look like in the water, Linda Long and SCA intern Diana Gonzalez get an opportunity to see a newly emerged mayfly adult that landed on our vehicle. (S. Rancourt)

Riverday School

Nicole Simon from Riverday School brought her students out on March 10th to participate in the aquatic invertebrate component of the Spring Field Trip Program. Although it was a beautiful sunny day they picked to come out, it was unseasonably warm for early March. AmeriCorps intern Brittany Moore facilitated the class of 29 students in a very enjoyable hands-on experience catching aquatic invertebrates and getting a close up look at life in a pond.



Outreach

Science & Service Learning Fairs

I can remember the time when the refuge only participated in the Sunrise Elementary Science and Technology Fair during the winter. Since then, numerous schools have discovered science fairs as a great outreach opportunity and host their own annual science fair for students and families. We are inundated now with requests from schools for our participation. To date we have participated or will shortly at several science fairs including: Sunrise, Otis Orchards, Holmes, Moran Prairie, Snowdon, Betz and Longfellow Elementary Schools. Volunteers and staff set up 2 tables with a variety of activities including a display board of the refuge and its programs, touch table with mounts and other specimens, brochures, posters, animal tracks, matching games, stamps, and coloring activities. The refuge's booth is always well attended.

In addition, the refuge also participated in the Gonzaga University Service Learning Fair where AmeriCorps interns Brittany Moore and Collin Adkins interacted with the students and distributed information on the AmeriCorps program and the refuge's volunteer and biology programs.

Volunteer Program

Eagle Scout Projects

We are currently working with 3 Eagle Scout candidates on projects. Evan Larson from BSA Troop 481 will be conducting a bluebird nest box workshop at our Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival. Dirk Ray from BSA Troop 329 is refurbishing the Collin Leach Memorial Sign and will build and install a bench at the restoration site. Josh Burts from Troop 356 will be building bluebird boxes in support of the refuge's biology program. Some of the bluebird boxes will also be given to the Friends of Turnbull who give free nest boxes for memberships signed up at the nature store.

A glimmer of spring in March. AmeriCorps intern Brittany Moore explains to students how to catch those underwater bugs (S. Rancourt)

Master Hunter Projects

Master Hunter Casey Thomas will be cleaning, maintaining and monitoring the wood duck nest boxes this spring. Master Hunter Seth Shultz volunteered to build 2 more gates for our native plant nursery that was expanded last year by Master Hunter Bruce Lockrem. Several years ago, Seth constructed the gates for our nursery, and they are extremely well built. We were very happy he was willing to take on this project again. Master Hunter Jim Gladden has been repairing fence on several tree planting projects in our restoration units. He also agreed to help out with our invasive species project in the summer.



Spring Wildlife Observations

by Mike Rule

Our snow free winter and unseasonably warm weather, has resulted in some very early arrivals of our short distance migrants (those that stay mostly north of the US-Mexico border and even within the Pacific Northwest). Many of the refuge wetlands host good numbers of ring-necked ducks, hooded mergansers and gadwall. Both American wigeon and northern pintails whose arrival usually portends the opening of the ponds from their winter covering of ice arrived the last week in January nearly a full month earlier than their average spring arrival date. Both sora and Virginia rails were heard just last week again a few weeks earlier than normal. Although not record breaking, the February 15 observation of a western bluebird did beat the average spring arrival date by over 2 weeks.



Sora (Elena White)



Hooded Merganser (male and female)
©Paul Hueber



Western Bluebirds ©Julio Murano

Our long distance migrants coming from Mexico and points south have been arriving about the time you would expect with a few exceptions . One of the very first to appear in the spring is the Say's Phoebe. This year one was observed on February 17 nearly 3 weeks earlier than previous first spring sighting. House wrens which typically don't show up until the third week in April were observed singing by Sandy Rancourt on March 20. Our only neotropical migrant woodpecker, the red-naped sapsucker was observed by Charmaine Gural on April 7 just one day shy of a record early arrival. Cinnamon teal, one of the first to leave and last to return, was first observed on March 30 the average arrival date. The blue-winged teal which migrates further south than any other duck species has yet to show up, but they aren't expected until May.

Five sandhill cranes were observed on Stubblefield Lake on March 10 by AmeriCorps member Collin Adkins. Although cranes come through on occasion in early April , they are mostly heard calling as they fly over on their travels north.



Red-naped Sapsucker ©Geoff Thompson



Sandhill Crane ©Gina Mikal

Stubblefield also produced another uncommon sighting of black-necked stilts by Kathy Lindgren on April 4. This is nearly a full month earlier than the previous earliest arrival date.

On March 19, Collin also observed a group of Ross's geese on Philleo Lake east of Stubblefield Lake. This lake has consistently held small groups of snow geese and their smaller cousins over the past several years on the shallow flooded hay ground on the western edge of the lake. Philleo also hosted several hundred tundra swans on this same date.

The 2 pairs of trumpeter swans have been splitting their time between Cheever, Middle Pine and Blackhorse Lakes. There is a possibility that a third pair maybe in the area as Sandy Rancourt observed 2 adults and a cygnet on Blackhorse Lake on April 8. Since our 2 nesting pairs did not produce cygnets last year, it is possible we have another pair nesting somewhere in the refuge vicinity. As usual, any observations of trumpeters either on or off the refuge are much appreciated (mike_rule@fws.gov).

This winter was particularly hard on moose resulting in some very heavy infestations of winter tick (*Dermacentor albipictus*) which produces white to gray fur and bald patches. A refuge neighbor observed an adult moose die on his property and upon investigation found it covered with "thousands of ticks". 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.



Black-necked Stilt ©John B. Spohrer, Jr.

Friends of Turnbull NWR
P.O. Box 294
Cheney, WA 99004



FRIENDS OF TURNBULL
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
CHENEY, WASHINGTON

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