

Turnbull Wildlife Refuge



Spring 2016 1st Quarter

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Volume 19 Issue 1

Message from the President

Relationships are the key to building a successful organization. Over the past couple of years, the Friends of Turnbull Board has committed to rekindling relationships with the staff at the Refuge and building new relationships within and without the community of Friends Groups. Two Board members have attended Friends Academies 7 & 8 and another attended Moving Friends Forward in January. We have built a network that we can turn to for answers to questions, how to do something, or receive expert advice.

Locally, we have reached out to our elected officials on behalf of our Refuge or the Refuge system in general. In March, FOT partnered with the Spokane Lands Council and sponsored a hike at the Refuge in support of Public Lands. In the past six months I have spoken at a couple of service organization meeting about Turnbull and telling them about the work being done by our group and Refuge staff.

Lorna Kropp, Kellisa Owens, and I have also been reaching out to various groups at Eastern Washington University. Yesterday, I had the privilege of presenting information about the Refuge system and Turnbull to an outdoor recreation class. This group of young men and women are going to develop an activity(ies) to encourage EWU students and the Cheney community to visit and enjoy the Refuge that sits in their backyard. In preparation for this, the class members visited the Refuge last weekend and have checked out both the FOT and Refuge websites. They are learning about the guidelines and policies, which govern the types of activities we can do on the Refuge. It is my hope that some of these young people will embrace and value our public lands and join the Friends of Turnbull or other partners of public lands.

Should you happen to run into these EWU students at the Refuge, be sure to say hello and give them thanks for working with FOT!

FOT Auction a Success!

Many thanks to Auction Chair Kellisa Owens and her committee for a successful 2016 Wildrefuge Auction and Dinner event. Donna Burt, Lorna Kropp, and Molly Zammit worked hard to procure items for the auction and Joanne Powell provided technical support with her wizardry on the computer. To those of you who contributed items or time in setting up for the auction, we are very grateful! Close to 90 people attended the event which garnered over \$8,500 for the Environmental Education program.

We will have another fundraiser soon via the internet. Airline tickets have been donated to FOT and we are currently soliciting other vendor tickets and hotels to create items for an online auction. We will let you know via email when the auction goes online. Again, thanks for everyone's support!



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Friends of Turnbull Nature Store

Marian Frobe

FOT & Refuge Activities Spring 2016

Lorna Kropp

By the time you are reading this, our store will have opened for the season, as our first full weekend will be the first weekend in April. Lizzie graciously offered to work the store during the Turnbull NWR Hike and Events Day on March 19th, and we had good sales on that day, over \$250.00. Any time we have an activity on the refuge and the store is open, we seem to have good sales. Lizzie took in those sales in the course of 3 hours that she kept the store open. Of course, restocking books and shirts has cost us around \$2000.00, and there are a few other things we need to restock that will be more expense. But we should do well this year, as last year we had to reorder pins and some other things that we shouldn't have to order for awhile.

I am still hoping someone might be interested in helping learn the store operation. If you're thinking about it, give me a call.

We have a wonderful core of volunteers that are willing to spend part of their weekend helping us out. We have a few new volunteers for this year; however, we could still use more new people to help out. 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 Lizzie Riesenberg at 991-2604 or lizzieries@gmail.com. Or check the "I want to volunteer" box on your membership form and we will contact you.

Beginning Bird Watching Classes #1 and #2

The Friends of Turnbull and Spokane Audubon Society are collaborating to offer this series of Beginning Bird Watching classes. The classes will be a hands-on chance to learn about tools and tips for observing, and identifying birds you see in a fun walk.

The classes will include:

- 1) recognizing size, beak, habitat, and color to identify birds,
- 2) instruction and practice using binoculars,
- 3) using field guides,
- 4) birds to look for at Turnbull NWR, walking around Pine Lake trail.

Register for a free class through the link at <http://fotnwr.org/activities.html>

Sign up for the May 7 class at the fotnwr.org website.

April 23, Earth Day, Riverfront Park, Spokane (need volunteers to help – contact activities@fotnwr.org)

April 30 Refuge Spring Planting Day 9am -12, followed by potluck lunch. See details on page 10.

May 14 Cheney MayFest and Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival; Activity and Information booths with Turnbull NWR and partners in downtown Cheney and hikes and hands-on environmental education activities at the Refuge. (need volunteers to help– contact activities@fotnwr.org)

May 28 – Marian Frobe Bird Walk on the Refuge to see birds in springtime/mating colors.

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Visit our great website!
www.fotnwr.org

Spring Activities

Lorna Kropp

Rise up, Rise up, Spring is here – time to get outdoors again and FOT has several ideas, events and volunteer opportunities this Spring. We are offering 2 Beginning Bird Watching classe – May 7 – a class session to outline where to start your observations and resources to help, and then a walk through the Refuge habitats to spot and listen for birds. Please register through the “Eventbrite button” on the fotnwr.org > activities page. (15 each class) The Class will meet in the outdoor classroom gazebo. More practice and fun will come with Marian Frobe’s walk to see all the spring-time mating colors on May 28, mark your calendars and again go to register with the “Eventbrite button” on the activities website page. The classes and activities of FOTNWR are free with your entrance fee of \$3.00 per car or other federal pass.

With spring come chances to volunteer with your Friends group. We especially need members to share the information of why the Refuge is important, why public lands help wildlife and our environment as a whole, and why we are lucky to have a Turnbull close to where we live. There are two “fairs” where we will have a tent, table and our tri-fold Information board next to the Refuge Educators offering the “tracks”

activity to children and youth. The first is Earth Day in Riverfront Park, downtown Spokane on April 23 and the second is MayFest on the downtown streets of Cheney on May 14. Plan to take on a 2 hr shift at one or both of these days now. You can sign up by emailing: activities@fotnwr.org.

Our “walk on public lands” co-sponsored hike with The Lands Council on March 19 was a fun hike in early spring with 55 total participants spaced out enjoying the trail from the Headquarters pond up the road, down to the Pine Lake trail, and around back to start. We were graced by a long look at the swans and then a fly-over, plus several other water residents and buttercups and grass widows in the sunny places.

Remember the Refuge Spring Planting Day is April 30. Come help to plant and bring along a potluck dish for the lunch for volunteers. FOT sponsors/provides the hamburgers, hotdogs and buns for lunch, please bring along something to go with them. We usually feed about 100 people who have spent the morning digging, lifting, and carrying new trees and shrubs to a new place.

You can find links and sign-up for all these activities at the fotnwr.org site > activities page.

See you at the Refuge!



Volunteer Needed!

Treasurer for the Friends of Turnbull

The Friends of Turnbull board of directors needs a Treasurer. Our present Treasurer, Mike DeCoria, is moving across the state. Mike has done a wonderful job and we’re sorry to see him go. It is critical that we find a new Treasurer as soon as possible - one who has experience with QuikBooks and is willing to donate 4-6 hours a month to this very important position.

If this volunteer position appeals to you please contact Molly, Zammit, President.

molly.z@comcast.net or call Molly at
509-688-9244 (cell) or 509-476-3358 (home)



Floods, Flowers, and Feathers Cheney MayFest

May 14, 2016



ICE AGE FLOODS INSTITUTE
IAFI
CHENEY-SPOKANE CHAPTER

Turnbull NWR Activities

Aquatics Ecology
Bird Banding
Fire Demonstration
Geology Tour
Refuge Management Tour
Can You Find That Bird?
Live Raptors
Bird & Plant Walks
Photography Walk
Auto Tour Bike Ride
Details/Times: www.fws.gov/refuge/turnbull
*Some activities require reservations:
ftnwr@org.*

MayFest Activities in Cheney

Booths and Displays:

Bureau of Land Mgmt.
Turnbull NWR Animal Tracks
Friends of Turnbull
Ice Age Floods Institute,
Cheney-Spokane Chapter
EWU - synamcut - Pot
Painting and Native Seeds
Ducks Unlimited
EWU - Invasive Fish
BSA Blue Bird Box demo
CWMA - Weed Management
Information
...and many more!



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



The Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, a nonprofit organization, supports the mandate of the refuge to protect and enhance wildlife and their habitats through education, research, habitat preservation and restoration.

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

Membership Application

YES! I want to support the Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and its programs with my membership.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, and Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____
E-mail _____

Annual Membership: (Circle one)

Individual \$15
Family \$25
Business/Group \$35
Patron \$100
Benefactor \$500
Donation \$ _____
Endowment Fund Donation \$ _____
Amount Enclosed _____

New _____ Renewal _____

I would like to volunteer _____
Nature Store _____
Committee _____
Environmental Education _____
Where needed _____

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