

Turnbull Wildlife Refuge



Spring 2017 1st Quarter

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Volume 20 Issue 1

Message from the President

Molly Zammit

Dear Friends,

Time passes quickly. A snowy winter has given way to a rainy spring that welcomes flowers, newborn critters, and a beautiful Eastern Washington that this Montana Mountain girl has grown to appreciate and love!

Spring has also brought renewal to the Board of Directors as well. We are currently working on our strategic plan, which includes increasing the general membership of the organization as well as bringing new members to the Board of Directors. We are grateful for your support of the Turnbull Friends group. Without you, we would not be able to do the following: Replace the stationary binoculars at Wheeler Pond; Support the Environmental Education Program financially and by providing volunteers. This effort reaches more than 8,000 K-12 students in Eastern Washington; Participation in Earth Day events at Riverfront Park in downtown Spokane; Partnering with other organizations to sponsor hikes on public lands including Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge; Participation in local events such as the Floods, Flowers, and Feathers Festival at Turnbull and the concurrent MayFest in Cheney, Washington; Provide food for the annual community tree planting at the Refuge. On behalf of the Board, we thank you!

Molly Zammit

Membership Policy: The Board of Directors voted to change the membership year to start July 1. This is a change from years past where a membership would run from the day an application was received to one year later. Trying to keep track of this was a full time volunteer job! If you renew now, your membership will be good until June 30, 2018! You can renew online at fotnwr.org.



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Friends of Turnbull Nature Store

Marian Frobe

We opened the store the first weekend in April, the 1st and 2nd, and had a good start to our sales. We opened with sales of \$173.71 and a \$25.00 membership this first weekend. When we weren't helping customers, we were restocking books, T-shirts and sweatshirts, all of which needed folding before we put them on the shelves. We ordered more T-shirts this year, in all 3 designs, so there should be a shirt in your favorite design, your size and desired color in stock.

Our restocking costs so far are over \$2700.00 and I still need to reorder things like Friends of Turnbull pins, enameled pins and earrings, and Audubon bird toys. Then a little later I will work on getting the images for refrigerator magnets, a new item, and will order those with a few more photo mugs, I think from the same vendor. These will all have images taken on the refuge.

Priscilla Bowen has stepped up and will be taking over the store operation later this spring. She and her husband worked for many years on the refuge, doing visitor services and refuge maintenance, so she is very familiar with the refuge. We have met several times so she can see how we do the ordering and keep track of income and expenses, etc. We are thinking the transition will happen sometime in May, so you may be hearing from her by the next newsletter. Of course, I will continue to help her whenever she has questions. Also, the board is looking into a different form of processing credit card sales, so that may also be happening soon and may require some training of our faithful volunteers, though they tell me it should be simple.

Remember, 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.

Turbull NWR Wetlands from Turbull NWR Website

Turnbull's wetlands provide important breeding and migration habitat for 17 species of nesting waterfowl and 8 additional waterfowl species that either winter on the refuge or stop over during fall and winter migration.

Through most of the refuge's existence, management of waterfowl habitat has been the primary focus of refuge staff. Starting with the restoration of several wetlands drained for farming within the newly acquired tracts, the refuge worked to improve nesting cover and feeding habitat as well as creating vast sanctuaries where birds could nest, feed and raise their young undisturbed.

With the completion of the Refuge Habitat Management Plan in 1999, the habitats of all other refuge bird species are being considered using a guild approach that groups species by the habitat structure they use for nesting and feeding. Habitat management guidelines and objectives have been developed to restore and maintain habitats for species using tree canopies, tree and snag cavities, shrubs, ground cover, and burrows.



Mallard Duck
© Robert Griffith

President: Molly Zammit molly.z@comcast.net
Vice President: ... Lorna Kropp activities@fotnwr.org
Treasurer: Open
Secretary: Nancy Curry currynancy@aol.com

Visit our great website!
www.fotnwr.org

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John Barber pattianjohnbarber@hotmail.com
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FFF Festival

Turnbull NWR/Cheney MayFest

May 13, 2017



Floods



Flowers



Feathers

Turnbull NWR Activities

- Auto Tour Bike Ride
- Bird & Wildflower Walks
- Bird Banding Demonstration
- Can You Find That Bird? Scavenger Hunt
- EWU - Mosquito/tick activity
- Fire Fighting Demonstration
- Ice Age Flood Institute Geology Tour
- Live Raptors
- Photography Walk
- Pond Life
- Refuge History and Management Tour

All activities are free but some require reservations.

Details/Times: www.fws.gov/refuge/turnbull.

**Help us celebrate!
Turnbull's 80th Anniversary**

MayFest Activities-Cheney

Booths and Displays:

- CWMA - Weed Management
- Ducks Unlimited
- EWU - synamncut Residence
- EWU Biology Dept.
- Friends of Turnbull
- Ice Age Floods Institute,
Cheney-Spokane Chapter
- Inland Northwest Wildlife Council
- Spokane Clean Air
- Turnbull NWR Animal Tracks
- West Plains Beekeepers
- ...and many more!

Activities Report

Lorna Kropp

For activities or other information you would like to let Lorna know about, here is the link: fotnwr.org/activities.html

Spring brings opportunities for FOT members to both get out and learn with activities on the Refuge and to get out and help with advocacy and outreach in the community.

Get out and Learn:

1) The Beginning Bird Watching Classes are very popular and are nearly all filled (May is filled, June 3 has a few spots).

2) Members are urged to take advantage of Marian Frobe's expertise and join her for a walk to spot birds in "Spring and Mating colors" on May 27 meeting her at 8:00 am in the Refuge Admin. Bldg. parking lot.

3) To sign up go to the fotnwr.org website and > activities and use the button to register for the free activities through Eventbrite.

4) Don't forget the Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival on May 13 with demonstrations, and bird and nature walks through out the day. Consult the schedule available at the Refuge website and register for activities through the Cheney Parks & Recreation website. To secure your spot for those refuge activities that require reservations, please contact Cheney Parks and Recreation at 509-498-9250 or register on line under special events. (<https://secure.rec1.com/WA/cheney-parks-recreation/catalog>) Look for "special events" in Preschool Classes/Programs..

Note- All activities at the Refuge are free; however, some require registration.

Get out and help with outreach:

1) April 22 at Earth Day in Riverfront Park. We need 3-4 people to take shifts in the afternoon. We will be talking with people about Turnbull

and handing out stickers and coloring sheets about bird migrations. We will be together with the Environmental Education Interns who are facilitating crowds of children making animal tracks with plaster of Paris.

2) May 13 at MayFest in downtown Cheney, while the FFF Festival is going on at the Refuge. Again we will be talking with people about the Refuge and handing out information and stickers for kids who stop by to make an animal track with the Environmental Education interns. We need 4-8 people to sign up for two-hour shifts.

3) To volunteer, please contact Lorna Kropp, Activities Committee, at activities@fotnwr.org to sign up for a time slot at either Earth Day or MayFest.

Looking to Summer Outings, we plan to coordinate two roadtrips with potluck picnic at each of the other complex refuges: Drive to Little Pend Orielle NWR in June and to Kootenai NWR in late August – plan to attend now.

Finally looking ahead watch for the announcement of an FOTNWR-sponsored conversation about climate change and what we can do to advocate and take personal responsibility in September.



Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge
PHOTO CONTEST

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge is seeking amazing photographs from amateur photographers showcasing the incredible wildlife and habitats found on the refuge. The winning photo will be featured on the face of the 2018 annual refuge pass. For complete rules, go to...

www.fws.gov/refuge/turnbull

Contest Dates:
11/1/2016 –
10/31/2017

Yellow-pine Chipmunk
© Christie Haines

Monarch Butterfly Mapper

We're excited to announce that the new Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper has now officially launched. You can visit the site here: <https://www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org/>.

This website has been created through a partnership between Xerces, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and a State Wildlife Grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

You can read more about the Mapper on our blog (<http://www.xerces.org/blog/help-researchers-track-milkweeds-and-monarchs-across-the-west/>) and in our press release (<http://www.xerces.org/2017/02/16/new-western-monarch-and-milkweed-website-launched/>).

Many thanks to all of you who have shared data, reviewed the site, and helped get this project off the ground!

Candace Fallon, Senior Conservation Biologist
Endangered Species Program



Turnbull Moose Out and About

Carlene and Larry Hardt decided to take an early Spring walk at Turnbull and saw these moose enjoying a rare dry day! All photos by Carlene.



UNDER ATTACK!

Nancy J. Curry
Retired refuge manager

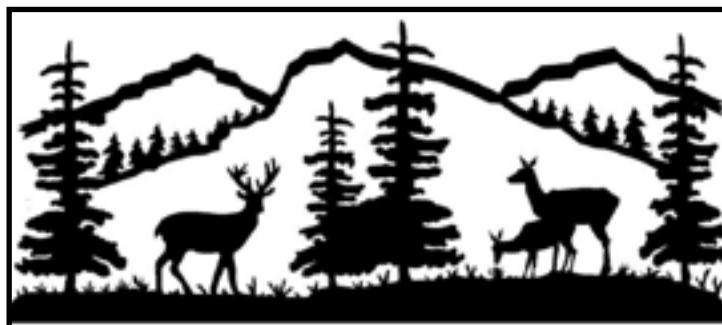
How much do you value your public lands? Since I was a little girl I have been visiting our national parks, forests and wildlife refuges. My very identity was born on those visits. I found a niche there that expanded my soul and allowed my spirit to live. Our public lands are a part of our identity, the American identity. They provide vital sustenance for fish and wildlife and for people. How many of your life's cherished memories come from your visits to public lands? Do you remember your first visit to Mount Rainier? How awesome was that? How about your first visit to Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge? I remember both. My first trip to Turnbull Refuge was in the fall when flocks of tundra swan were flying over, whooping and circling to come in for a landing on the Pine Lakes. The image is in my head as if it were yesterday even though 43 years have passed. You probably have similar memories, hiking, birding, fishing, hunting, camping at your favorite national park, forest or refuge.

Public lands are your lands. Together we are the owners of millions of acres of lands that make up our national parks, wildlife refuges, monuments and vast wild and working lands across the country. However, there are extremists that want to evict us from those lands and sell them to the highest bidders. And we cannot allow that. We must keep our public lands in public hands. Our hands. We need to ensure future

generations have the same privileges we had when we first walked on public lands. The privileges we have yet today. You hear people say, give these lands to the states, the federal government should not own land. The transfer of federal lands to states would just be a step away from being sold to wealthy individuals and corporations for the profits to be made from natural resource extraction. Our states cannot afford to manage these extensive lands. Here in Washington State our state struggles to keep our State Park System open. Some of our parks have already been closed. Soon these transferred federal lands would go on the auction block.

Did you know that 305 million people visited national parks last year and even more hiked, camped, fished, watched wildlife and enjoyed our other shared public lands like national forests and wildlife refuges? These millions of visitors gave vital support to adjacent communities infusing money into local small businesses. In Washington state alone, nearly 200,000 jobs are supported directly or indirectly by outdoor recreation, more than our state's technology or aerospace industries.

We must join the fight to protect and defend our public lands. Write your legislators now, tell them public lands stay in public hands. They are our natural heritage and the birthright of all Americans



Refuge Happenings and Wildlife Observations

will return in the next issue

How to Make Your Yard Bird-Friendly

National Audubon Society

Birds are nature's messengers, and they're broadcasting loud and clear: They are already experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change, and this danger will only grow over time.

One of the best ways to help birds thrive is to make sure your yard is bird-friendly. By following the steps below, you can create a patch of habitat that attracts colorful birds, sweet melodies, and vibrant colors. If you don't have a yard, you can still help birds by creating a native plant container garden on your patio or balcony.

The secret to success lies in choosing locally native plants, which brim with nutritious insects, berries, nectar, and seeds to give birds vital food and refuge.

1. Choosing Native Plants

Choose native plants that are adapted to your particular growing conditions, such as the amount of sunlight or shade, the type of soil, and the amount of precipitation the site receives.

Focus on native plants that support the highest variety and quantity of bird food.

- Native trees such as oaks, willows, birches, and maples, and native herbaceous plants such as goldenrod, milkweed, and asters host numerous caterpillar species that are a vital source of protein for birds, especially during the breeding season.
- Red tubular flowers such as native columbine, penstemon, and honeysuckle serve up nectar for hummingbirds.
- Native sunflowers, asters, and coneflowers produce seeds for songbirds.
- Berries ripen at different times, so include seasonal variety: serviceberry and cherry for birds during the breeding season and summer; dogwood and spicebush for songbirds flying south; cedar and holly trees to sustain birds through cold winter days and nights.

2. Planning

Plan for a variety of shapes, sizes, and kinds of plants to give vertical structure to your garden and add cover for our feathered friends.

- Cluster the same plant species together in groups or masses.
- Things about height: Place taller plants towards the back of your borders, with lower-growing species at the edges of paths or lawn.
- Leave some room: Pay attention to each species' stated dimensions when full grown, so plants aren't too crowded together.
- Design for color palettes and continuous blooming throughout the gardening season.
- Add habitat features like hollowed boulders that catch rainwater for birds to drink and bathe in.

Arrow-Leaf Balsamroot
(*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)

A robust plant over a foot tall with three-inch wide flower heads. Its very large, bright golden/yellow flowers and large arrowhead-shaped leaves make it eye-catching and easy to identify.



Bluebell-of-Scotland
(*Campanula rotundifolia*)

Also known as Bluebell Bellflower, Harebell. An herbaceous perennial that grows 1-2 feet tall. It produces nodding flowers on delicate stalks in summer.



Four-Line Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera involucrata*)

Four-Line Honeysuckle
A tall shrub with opposite leaves and pairs of small yellow flowers. The flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds and its berries are eaten by various birds.



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