

Turnbull Wildlife Refuge



Summer 2015 2nd Quarter

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Volume 18 Issue 2

New on-line membership renewal opportunities!

Is your Friends of Turnbull annual membership due for renewal? Do you want the convenience of using Paypal secure on-line payment? Please check out the new Friends of Turnbull NWR website. The webmaster, Lorna Kropp, and Membership chair, Kellisa Owens, have been busy researching and learning new skills to bring you convenience, and enhance our communications for announcements, reminders and newsletters through MailChimp and PayPal, and Eventbrite for event registration. We are also up to date with Facebook, as well as the website: www.fotnwr.org.

At the website choose the page "membership" from the menu and 1) choose the membership level for you from the dropdown menu and use the PayPal button to securely send payment, and then 2) you can fill out the online membership form with your contact information, and interests for participation and volunteering. There are 5 options for participation listed, and you can choose 0 to 5 options. The Membership Chair will be in contact with you to make the connections to get involved.

Welcome to the Friends of
Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge.



FOT Annual General Meeting

Plan now to attend the Friends of Turnbull General Membership meeting on Tuesday evening August 11 at the Classroom building on the Refuge. There will be a program presentation and general report to the membership. All members are invited to attend this catered event.

Find out about long range plans, meet up with friends, ask questions, greet volunteer Board and Committee members, and support the Refuge.

RSVP for the picnic supper, catered by Hungry Hound. 6:00 pm by emailing either the President Molly Zammit at president@fotnwr.org or membership chair, Kellisa Owens at membership@fotnwr.org. We order the meals by RSVP count so don't forget to let us know you are coming!

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Friends of Turnbull Nature Store

Marian Frobe

The Nature Store has done well this spring quarter. April, May and June had really good sales. The Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival resulted in sales of \$819.35. And the refuge's new visitor services volunteer, Deanna, has had some really good sale days, too. She has the store open mostly Monday through Wednesday, but there are school groups and other visitors out during the week that she is able to sell to that we aren't normally able to reach on weekends.

Through June our total sales are \$3321.87 and our total expenses are \$2778.65, so we are already showing a profit of \$543.22. It has been so hot, though, that our weekend sales are slowing down for July.

The new Turnbull pins are selling well, and the shirts and books are selling well also. I made a supplemental order for Audubon Bird Toys in June as some of our popular ones had sold out and I wanted to reorder the Trumpeter Swan ones before their stock is depleted. They will not be making those in the future. I also want to do a supplemental book order this summer, as some titles have sold out or are very low. I still expect a nice profit this year based on how we are doing so far this year.

Those of you who work the store know that we have a new Volunteer Scheduler, Lizzie Riesenber. She took over from Jo Trilling in June and has done a marvelous job for us, but we are still in need of new volunteers. Some of our volunteers from last year are unable to work for the store this year, so some volunteers are graciously taking double shifts until we find some more people willing to work the store. It is really a nice place to spend a few hours on the

weekend, and you can always extend your stay with a walk or a trip around the Auto Tour Route. 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 Riesenber at 991-2604 or lizzieries@gmail.com. Or check the "I want to volunteer" box on your membership form and we will contact you.

FOT Activities Late Summer / Fall 2015

Lorna Kropp

Friends of Turnbull General Membership meeting on Tuesday evening August 11 at the Classroom building on the Refuge. See details on front page of this newsletter.

Mark your calendars for a **Fall Bike Tour** led by Jason Werner called "Ride the Bull". Plan now to ride the auto tour route on Saturday, September 26th. This ride is available to adults and families with children with the following stipulations:

- Each participant must bring their own properly maintained bicycle, a helmet and a water container.
- Each participant must be very capable of riding 6 miles on an uneven, semi-rough, gravel road.
- Each participant will need to wear a high visibility safety vest.
- Children are encouraged to participate, but training wheels and tricycles are not allowed.

Sign up on the website – eventbrite registration link.

Fall **Community Planting** Activity. October 3, 2015. See page 3 for details.

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 Kroppactivities@fotnwr.org
Kelissa OwensKellisa.Owens@hotmail.com

Visit our great website!
www.fotnwr.org

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, October 3, 2015. This is part of an ongoing community effort to restore native riparian habitat to benefit birds and other wildlife species. We have hundreds of native saplings to plant and fencing to 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, October 3, 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

Fourth Annual Floods, Flowers and Feathers Event



refuge staff for their assistance with this very successful event. We also want to express our gratitude to Eastern Washington University Transportation Department for the loan of over 75 tables and 125 chairs for all our partners' activities. Thanks Scott!

Boy Scouts of America
Channeled Scablands Cooperative Weed Management Area
Cheney Library
Cheney Mayfest
Cheney Merchants
Cheney Parks and Recreation
Ducks Unlimited
Eastern Washington University – Biology Department
Eastern Washington University – Office of Community Engagement
Eastern Washington University -snyamncut
Eastern Washington University – Transportation

Ice Age Floods, Cheney-Spokane Chapter offered information as well as talks, tours, and hands-on activities on the geology of the Channeled Scablands. (S. Rancourt)

Over 630 people attended the Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival held at Turnbull NWR on Saturday, May 30th. Regardless one's age or where their interests lie, there was information and activities for all. Refuge staff, over 35 partners and volunteers provided fun and informative booths and activities. The informational booths covered numerous important environmental issues including: pollinators, invasive species, natural resources, private land restoration, beavers, birds, endangered species, and parks and recreation. Our activities tent provided a great opportunity for children and adults to learn about a range of natural resource and environmental subjects through exceptional hands-on activities. Just a sampling of these activities included: wild land firefighting, owl pellet dissection, how to make pinwheels and leaf impressions, creating animal tracks, painting their own duck decoy, building a bluebird box, banding a songbird, learning about aquifers, aquatic life and soils, and getting a close up look at a diversity of wildlife by examining skulls, furs and live animals including 2 very beautiful raptors. Several tours and walks offered festival participants a chance to observe and learn about birds, mammals, native plants, nature photography, refuge management, and geology of the Ice Age Floods. We extend our deepest appreciation to the following partners, volunteers and

Department
Ecological Services - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Friends of Little Pend Oreille
Friends of Turnbull
Ice Age Floods Institute, Cheney-Spokane Chapter
Inland Northwest Land Trust
Inland Northwest Wildlife Council
Inland Northwest Wildlife Refuge Complex Fire Fighting
Mobius Science Center
Natural Resources Conservation Service
REI
Spokane Audubon Society
Spokane Clean Air
Spokane Conservation District
Spokane County Engineering and Road
Spokane Parks Foundation
The Lands Council
Turnbull NWR Staff & Volunteers
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Community Relations and Public Affairs
Washington Native Plant Society
West Plains Beekeepers Association
West Valley Outdoor Learning Center
Tom Munson
John Kerkering
Brian Maebius



Partners like EWU Transportation Department really came through by loaning and delivering all the tables and chairs needed for the FFF Festival. (S. Rancourt)

Environmental Education & Outreach

Environmental Education

Field Trip Program

Our Field Trip Program came and went with a blink of an eye. Volunteers and staff facilitated wetland ecology studies, in-classroom presentations and guided nature walks for thousands of students on the beautiful refuge. EE Contractor Kylie Gaard, Pathways Intern Paul Reilly, AmeriCorps member Brittany Moore, Student Conservation Association intern Diana Gonzalez, and long term refuge volunteers, Joyce Alonso, Fran Haywood, Linda Long, and Chuck Kerkering and refuge staff facilitated field trips and tours for over 2,420 students. Ages ranged from preschool to wonderful seniors.

Outreach

Science Fairs and Earth Day

Refuge staff and volunteers participated in science fairs and other outreach events. Turnbull was represented at 2 Earth day Events including EWU Earth Day and Earth Day Spokane. An information booth at EWU's Earth Day event was staff by Paul Reilly and AmeriCorps intern Collin Adkins. Close to 200 Eastern students stopped at the refuge's booth. We had both an interactive and informational booth at Earth Day Spokane. Kylie, Paul, Brittany, Diana and our Law Enforcement Officer Brian Czulinski staffed this booth that was visited by 750 people. The crew

were kept very busy making hundreds of animal tracks out of Plaster-of Paris for both the young and the older visitors. Turnbull also had booths at 3 more science fairs including Betz, Longfellow and Snowdon Elementary Schools. Our booths are always a big hit, offering a variety of hands-on activities including our animal track sand box, touch tables, and our matching who's that animal game.



(From Left to Right) FOT Activities board member Lorna Kropp, SCA intern Diana Gonzalez, AmeriCorps intern Brittany Moore, EE Contractor Kylie Gaard and Pathways Intern Paul Reilly prep for Earth Day Spokane (S. Rancourt)

The Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival (again)

Turnbull staff and volunteers played a major role with providing fun and informative activities at the Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival held on May 30th. Mike Rule led a songbird banding stations with the assistance of Russell Frobe. Mike also led a refuge management tour later during the day. I spent a great morning and afternoon working alongside two very special volunteers at the aquatic invertebrate station - Spokane Audubon Society member Jan Reynolds and professional photographer Chuck Kerkering who also led a photography walk in the afternoon. Both Jan and Chuck are a "blast" to work with. We had a lot of children attend both the morning and afternoon sessions. Kylie, Brittany and Diana staffed the animal track and live animal booths. A lot of animal tracks were made for the numerous participants. Rachel Rule and Student Conservation Association intern Austin Littman provided great assistance at the Ducks Unlimited's booth who found themselves with a shortage of hands the day before the event. The DU booth is very popular because the kids paint their

own decoy to keep. Budget Clerk Jason Werner led a group on a new bike tour activity. Jason took a group of four on the 5-mile auto tour route providing a different vantage point of the refuge. Our fire crew did another outstanding job with the wildland firefighting demonstration. The popular shoot the cone with the water hose activity, the impressive fire truck and balloons are always well received. Paul Reilly reported putting in 11 miles helping many partners with setting up at the festival. Our Visitor Service Volunteers Bob Michels and Joe and Deanna Veilleux also provided invaluable support. Deanna assisted Linda Long with greeting and signing in participants for the registered activities at the Welcome Tent. In addition, Linda provided cookies and coffee for the public who visited this tent. Linda was also the spokeswoman for the Ice Age Floods Institute group providing details on their activities including the use of an IAFI canopy for our Welcome Tent. Bob was kept busy mowing sites for the activities under the canopies, and garbage detail and Joe helped out with parking and setting up tents. Our maintenance and fire crew were very busy parking all the vehicles and helping things run smoothly. Spokane Audubon Society and Friends of Turnbull members Marian Frobe and Fran Haywood led informative bird walks. Marian looked pretty hot at the end of her afternoon session. She said it was well worth it as "they saw a lot of birds". Joyce Alonso, Ed Reynolds, Sandy Sollie staffed the "Can You Find that Bird Activity?" Spokane Audubon Society member Carmen Yount and OLC's AmeriCorps intern Ashley Karsh from West Valley Outdoor Learning Center hosted the raptor tent. Live animals are always a huge hit with the public but getting a very close up look at the beautiful kestrel and Harris's hawk is hard to top. EWU professors Becky Brown led a plant walk on the new Bluebird Trail and Peggy O'Connell and David Joyner led a group on the beautiful grassland portion of the refuge to find birds, flowers, and mammals. Another popular Nature Exploring Walk was provided by Vicki Egesdal and Rich Leon from Inland Northwest Land Trust. EWU professor Krisztian Magori hosted surprisingly popular body-on activities with ticks and mosquitos. Folks from the Mobius Science Center dazzled the crowd with their projectile air cannon activity. The geology tour was very successful with Ice Age Floods Institute representative Gary Ford at the helm. Stacy Selcho from the Spokane Conservation District had

a well-planned booth about soils. Joanne Powell was indispensable as usual. She developed the FFF flyer, made signs, and put the booth and activity write ups in a very nice brochure format. She also procured the vendors for the day's event. I spent an entertaining afternoon with Joyce, Fran and Linda compiling 100 booklets. Joanne came to the rescue once again by offering to contact Copy Junction to finish the rest.



(Left to Right) Fran Haywood, Linda Long and Joyce Alonso (not pictured) spent an afternoon compiling booklets. (S. Rancourt)

A lot of prep work is needed for this festival. (S. Rancourt)



Plug those ears! Facilitators from Mobius Science Center demonstrated their air cannon. (S. Rancourt)



Jan Reynolds assisting the youngsters with a close up view of an aquatic invertebrate (S. Rancourt)



EWU professor Krisztian Magori's activity booth featured ticks and mosquitos. (S. Rancourt)

Bird expert Marian Frobe waiting for her group to start her early morning bird walk at the FFF Festival. (S. Rancourt)



A walk in the park? Not quite. A nature walk in a beautiful wildlife refuge. (S. Rancourt)



DU biologist Tina Blewett provides instructions on their decoy activity to Turnbull's volunteers. (S. Rancourt)



There were a lot of hands-on activities for participants of all ages in our activities tent. (S. Rancourt)



BSA Troop 481 under Eagle Scout candidate Evan Larson's guidance (far right) had a very popular booth making bluebird nest boxes. (S. Rancourt)

EWU snyamncut “Turn It Up for Turnbull” event

EWU snyamncut residents hosted its 2nd Turn It Up for Turnbull event on May 26th. Like last year’s event, it was obvious that a lot of effort was put into all the activities. Activities included a popular dunk tank, face painting and multiple inflatable games. The students were well organized, personable and motivated. It is very heartening to see this type of support from so many young adults. Proceeds made from this event go to Turnbull and directly benefit wildlife and their habitat.



EWU snyamncut residents brought in \$300 worth of donations at their Turn It Up for Turnbull event in May. (S. Rancourt)



Volunteer Program

Riparian Restoration Projects

Community Planting Event

It was the perfect weekend to host our spring community planting event in early May. Overwhelming support from the community for the refuge was demonstrated by the turn out for this event. One hundred and sixty volunteers planted well over 100 native saplings. Girl and Boy Scouts, several EWU fraternities and sororities, EWU Pre-Med Pre-Dent Society, EWU snyamncut, WSU Wildlife Society, EWU National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Friends of Turnbull, Spokane Audubon Society, Medical Lake and Ferris High Schools, and numerous individuals participated. Admittedly, it was a little chaotic, but despite the vast numbers things went smoothly and a lot was accomplished thanks to refuge staff and the volunteers who assisted. Special thanks to Marian and Russell Frobe and Kylie for getting the masses to sign in. The Friends of Turnbull donated funds to purchase 10 dozen donuts, all of which were eaten by early am. FOT President Molly Zammit brought the burgers and hotdogs provided by Friends of Turnbull. She also provided her wonderful grill and services to cook for all the volunteers.



Planting is not always an easy experience at Turnbull but it is a rewarding one. (S. Rancourt)



Although it might have felt a little crowded, it was well worth it to see such great support for Turnbull and the environment. (S. Rancourt)

Center for Cultural Interchange - Greenheart

Students from around the world got the chance to plant a native tree at Turnbull in April. Mike and I were fortunate to work again with CCI (Center for Cultural Interchange) leader Merle Barr and her students from Poland, Russia, Mexico and Germany. As usual, these students are always a pleasure to work with. These talented students are actively engaged and excited to be at the refuge. After talking to them about the refuge, habitats, adaptations, and looking at mounts in the environmental education classroom, we were off to plant at the Collin Leach Memorial Grove. Merle received a grant to purchase 15, 5-gallon aspen trees. This riparian restoration unit is really starting to thrive thanks to efforts of refuge staff and volunteers.



Since 2007, CCI has brought international exchange students to do their Earth Day service project at Turnbull. (S. Rancourt)

Eagle Scout Projects

Evan Larson from BSA Troop 481 facilitated a bluebird nest box workshop at our Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival. The scout procured materials and put together 75 bluebird nest box kits ready for assembly at the festival. This activity was a big hit. All the kits were built by festival attendees who left with their own bluebird nest box. Evan did a great job organizing his fellow scouts on this activity.



Eagle Scout candidate Evan Larson (2nd from right) and his crew of scouts at the FFF Festival (S. Rancourt)

Master Hunter Projects

Master Hunter Casey Thomas cleaned, maintained and monitored Turnbull's wood duck nest boxes this spring. Master Hunter Jim Gladden did a great job of repairing fence on several tree planting projects in our restoration units. Jim and fellow Master Hunter Wayne Ward were recruited to construct a platform to house the cougar taxidermy mount in the rafters. This will provide much needed space in the environmental education classroom as the cougar is presently the occupant of a very large display case. Master Hunter and professional landscape architect Dale Pritzl was recruited to upgrade the back of the EE classroom from a dust bowl to an area more visually appealing, usable and resistant to heavy traffic.

Bluebird Nest Boxes

Mead High School Wood-Working Club donated 25 wonderfully built cedar bluebird nest boxes donated to Turnbull. The craftsmanship is superb. Obviously, the talented students had some very good teachers. The boxes are the perfect dimension and have all the right stuff. These nest boxes will last for years to come, and we couldn't be more pleased. I am sure the bluebirds will agree.



One of the beautifully built bluebird nest boxes donated by Mead High School Wood-Working Club (S. Rancourt)

Visitor Services Volunteers

We are very fortunate to have 3 very special Visitor Services Volunteers this year. These individuals returned with their RVs from their more southerly locations during the winter to join the Turnbull staff. Bob Michels who started volunteering for us in May of 2014 returned for another year of fun and has been very busy mowing, weed whacking, recycling and maintaining the public restrooms. He has also started irrigating the saplings at the Collin Leech Memorial Grove and our milkweed seedlings, essential during the very hot spring and summer months. Very shortly we will be getting our new public restroom to replace the old one that was demolished last fall. Bob will be responsible for the upkeep of this new facility as well. Joe Veilleux and Deanna have been assisting refuge staff with a multitude of projects. Joe is monitoring a bluebird trail, putting up fence on a new refuge acquisition, maintaining roads, installing signs and a shade in the classroom, spraying weeds, assisted with site preparation for the new public restroom, and refurbishing the photo blind. Deanna has been an asset for Friends of Turnbull and our administration folks. She answers phones, opens the Nature Store Monday through Wednesday (making quite a few sales), and provides information to the public. She also organized the refuge narratives, shredded outdated material, and did an outstanding job organizing and inventorying the volunteer uniforms.

Fond Farewell

Student Conservation Association intern Diana Gonzalez assisted with facilitating classes for school groups this spring. Although she was only here for 10-weeks, she made a very positive impact. Diana was an outstanding facilitator and teacher. She was always upbeat and positive and definitely made a lasting impression with the students. I feel very lucky to have supervised her. Many thanks to Friends of Turnbull for sponsoring this young lady.

Biological Program

We completed our 22nd year of point count surveys this summer with the help of a hardy band of staff and volunteers who get out on the refuge before dawn to record the birds they see or hear 3 times at 86

count stations. Special thanks to volunteers Marian and Russell Frobe, Craig Corder, Kim Thorburn, Tim O'Brien, Lisa Langelier and Nancy Curry.

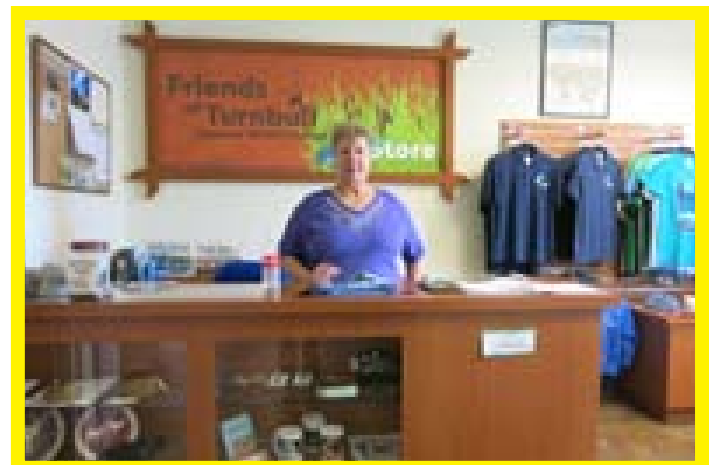
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One of the several signs Joe installed. The birds already approve. (S. Rancourt)



Bob Michels does a great job as grounds keeper (S. Rancourt)



Deanna staffing the bookstore during the week. (S. Rancourt)

Biological Program (Cont.)

Refuge added three new SCA interns to the summer biological field staff, Austin Littman, Matt Bollen and Megan Vhay. They will be here for 12 weeks completing invasive species surveys, forest monitoring transects in our forest restoration units, duck banding, and aspen browse surveys along with Collin Adkins, the biological AmeriCorps intern. Austin was hired through a special invasive species program and will be helping finish up our refuge invasive species mapping projects, releasing biological control organisms and monitoring past control efforts.

Other projects being conducted this summer include bee surveys, milkweed mapping, water level monitoring, and bluebird box monitoring. Long-term bluebird box monitors whose help is greatly appreciated include; Cathy and Don Richter, Nicole Simon and the students of the River Day School, Charmaine Gural, and Jerry Hickman. New to the bluebird box program this year are our long-time friend, volunteer and supporter Joyce Alonso and our new Visitor Services Volunteer Joe.

Spring/Summer Wildlife Observations

by Mike Rule

The big news is that we have 4 Trumpeter swan cygnets hatched sometime the week before Father's Day. We have other trumpeter swans around, but only the one pair on Cheever Lake nested.



Cygnets - June 4. Carlene Hardt



National Wildlife Refuge Association News from the Hill

Here's what the White House and Congress have proposed so far with regards to Refuge System funding.

Refuge System Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

- Current (FY15): \$474.2 million
- President: \$508.2 million
- House: \$484 million
- Senate: \$475.2 million

Land and Water Conservation Fund for Refuge System (LWCF) this is a land acquisition fund.

- Current (FY15): \$47.5 million
- President: \$58.5 million
- House: \$27.5 million
- Senate: \$48.9 million

Unfortunately, both proposals included damaging riders. The Senate bill includes a measure to build a road through a recognized wilderness area in Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, a proposal rejected by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell in 2013. The House bill contains a rider that prohibits funding implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Bills from both committees support delay on any listing of the greater sage grouse as threatened or endangered, in direct interference with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service obligations under the Endangered Species Act.

Hopefully the Senate will continue and the House will restart their debate on their individual bills. There is still time for YOU to influence the Interior Appropriation bill.

Please contact your Members of Congress and tell them that the National Wildlife Refuge System matters to you! If you need any assistance reaching out to your MOC please give us a call, we are happy to assist... 202.290.5594

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