



# Turnbull Wildlife Refuge

Winter 2012, 4th Quarter

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Volume 15 Issue 4

## Winter Reflections

by Dan Matiatos, Refuge Manager

The long period of snow cover this winter has often made the view from my office window picture perfect with wonderful views of the snow covered landscape. The wildlife viewing from my window has also been entertaining. We've had a small coyote, which a staff member named ODC (Our Daily Coyote), visit the office regularly, catching voles in the snow 15 feet outside of our windows.

This has been a winter for trumpeter swans. We have had as many as 16 trumpeters using small areas of open water primarily in the refuge public use area, and I often observe them flying by my office window. It's amazing how white the adults are even against the snow-white background of the winter landscape.

Winter is when refuge staff spends a significant proportion of their time writing reports and planning for future work, a time to reflect back on what was accomplished during the past year, and a time for planning the year ahead. Last year was another busy one and it still impresses me how much we get accomplished with the help of our partners and volunteers. A number of wetland projects were completed which included the enhancement of Black-horse Lake in the public use area and



the restoration of a wetland on a new piece of property we acquired off of Mullinix Road.

You may have noticed that we had some refuge trails closed this year due to repair work on the Cheever (Lower Pine) Lake Dam. This project was completed in late fall, and a large wetland enhancement project on the opposite end of the lake was completed this winter. We will be raising the water level in Cheever slowly this spring to allow waterfowl to feed on the abundant seed produced by vegetation that grew thick in the lake basin while the lake was drawn down for construction. I expect this wetland to be covered with waterfowl during spring migration. There are three new large wetland enhancement projects planned for the coming year.

The first Floods, Flowers and Feathers festival was very successful and we're looking forward to an even better event this year on the 18th of May. The new visitor exhibits in the office and new interpretive kiosk just outside the office were completed. On a less positive note, we had the largest wildfire ever documented on the refuge, the Luke Road Fire. Our refuge fire crew, as well crews from our partner agencies, did a great job containing this fire.

Reflecting on the accomplishments of the past year picks up my spirit as I feel stuck sitting behind my computer on a winter day. But, some of this computer work is important, and I have some of the greatest views imaginable from of my window where I get to watch refuge winter nature in action.

Thanks to all of our partners and volunteers who helped make 2012 another successful year.



by Jason Werner

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## Friends of Turnbull Bookstore and Gift Shop Report

**Marian Frobe**

Your store has had an extraordinary year. We had sales of \$7,186.54 and expenses of \$4,713.63, leaving us a net profit of \$2,472.91. We also took in \$355.00 in memberships and \$716.21 in donations this year. Much of the income is attributable to the events we had scheduled this year—the Floods, Flowers and Feathers Festival in the spring, the bat presentation by Sandy Rancourt in July, the Jack Nisbet presentation at our Annual Meeting and the annual Winter Festival. Also, the Refuge staff kept the Store open during the week which also resulted in quite a few sales to visitors.

Now that we are closed for the winter, I will be looking at our inventory and the books and shirts and other items that sold well in order to start thinking about restocking for the spring opening again. Some things really sold well, but I notice that note cards are not selling well at all any more. I don't think many people are actually sending out note cards to people now that Email is so much easier. I have in mind at least one new book for this coming season and am thinking about some different shirts, maybe polos, with the same heron logo. I reordered our hats this fall as we were down to just a couple. We sold a lot of the bargain hats with the Yellow-headed Blackbird on them, but I was surprised that our regular hats also sold well.

Our store volunteers dropped off in numbers this year. Some of our volunteers from previous years were unable to help us out this year for various reasons, but we did pick up 3 new couples and individuals who helped tremendously. As usual we are always looking for a few more volunteers. If you can help us out, 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.

## THANKS, STORE VOLUNTEERS

**Marian Frobe**

Thanks to all our store volunteers last year. Some of you worked more than once a month, but even those of you who could only spare one weekend were still a great help to us. MaryJane and I really appreciate those of you who were willing to fill in when it was difficult to find people with a free weekend. The following people worked for the Store during 2012 and deserve our recognition and gratitude:

- |                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>John Barber</b>             | <b>Cathy Lauritsen</b>             |
| <b>Kathy Barnard</b>           | <b>Denise Mutschler</b>            |
| <b>Pam Carsey</b>              | <b>Kevin &amp; Mary O'Reilly</b>   |
| <b>Nancy Curry</b>             | <b>Joanne Powell</b>               |
| <b>Ivy Green</b>               | <b>Claire Quiel</b>                |
| <b>Judy Hamel</b>              | <b>Lizzie Riesenberg</b>           |
| <b>Pete &amp; Ruth Hinz</b>    | <b>Richard &amp; Sandra Sollie</b> |
| <b>Pat &amp; Jerry Johnson</b> | <b>Ken Swedberg</b>                |

Thanks for all your help this year and I look forward to another year of everyone's help in keeping the store open for the public. We had a really good year this year. See the Store News for details. A special thanks goes to MaryJane Booth who does all the calling and coordinating. She is always on the lookout for new volunteers, as it is sometimes hard to find someone who is free to work on some weekends. Three of the people named above are new volunteers for 2012. So if you would like to spend time at the refuge helping the Friends and the public, give MaryJane or myself a call. See the Store News for contact numbers.



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 Secretary: Linda Long... lindakl@centurytel.net

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[www.fotnwr.org](http://www.fotnwr.org)

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Department of the Interior**  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge**  
**26010 S. Smith Road**  
**Cheney, WA 99004**

**Phone: 509/235-4723**  
**Fax: 509/235-4703**



# NEWS RELEASE

### *Help Us Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day!*

#### Turnbull NWR Community Work Party

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and Spokane Audubon Society will host a community work party on Saturday, May 11, 2013. 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 build at the project site to protect the trees from deer, elk, and moose browsing. Everyone is welcome!

**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.

**When:** Saturday, May 11, 2013.

**Planting Time:** 9 am to 12 p.m.

**Lunch: Potluck** 12 p.m. (Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided by Friends of Turnbull)



**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, sturdy boots or shoes, gloves.



**Equipment:** (If you can) shovels and pliers.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).



## News from Washington

### National Land Protection Award

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has helped conserve more than 300,000 acres within the Refuge System. The acquisitions have a market value of more than \$220 million. Most recently, TPL has helped the Service conserve more than 3,000 acres at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, AZ; Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, which spans four states in the Connecticut River watershed, Umbagog Refuge, NH, and Edwin B. Forsythe Refuge, NJ, among others. TPL, a long-time partner of the Refuge System, has helped conserve land at more than 50 refuges.

### Houghton Named Refuge Association President

The National Wildlife Refuge Association named David Houghton as its new president. Houghton, who previously served as executive vice president, has led the Refuge Association's Beyond the Boundaries program and was central to the creation of Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. He was also an influential voice in the development of the Conserving the Future vision, advocating for a Beyond the Boundaries approach to conservation and the need to engage a broad diversity of rural and urban stakeholders in delivering the Refuge System mission. Before coming to the Refuge Association, he served as a biotech at Monomoy Refuge, MA, an assistant refuge manager at Rachel Carson Refuge, ME, and a deputy project leader at the Rhode Island Refuge Complex. Houghton succeeds Evan Hirsche, who oversaw tremendous growth in the Refuge Association in his 11 years as president.

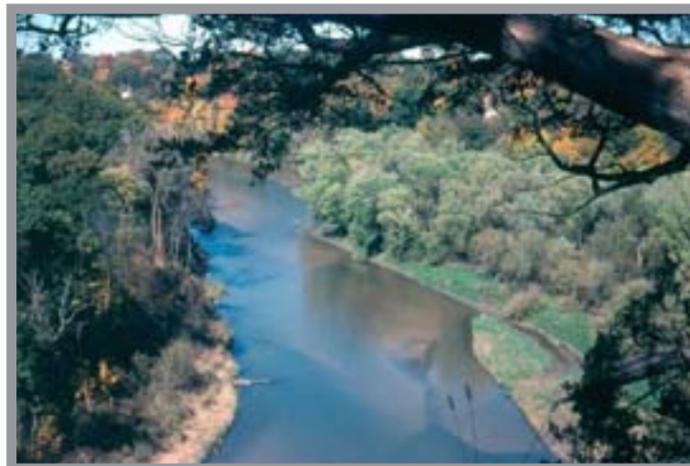
### From Headquarters to Moscow

Joanna Webb and Steven Kohl broke new ground in global conservation communication on November 9. Webb, the Refuge System's national Friends coordinator, and Kohl, the chief of the Russia-East Asia branch in the Service's Division of International Conservation, participated in what is believed to be the first Service virtual teleconference from the United States to Russia. During the real-time video teleconference, which began at about 7:20 a.m. Eastern time (4:20 p.m. Moscow time), Webb gave a presentation to roughly 50 Russian park and nature preserve professionals,

which Kohl translated into Russian. The presentation focused on how to build a network of friends and volunteers. While more than 42,000 volunteers contribute nearly 1.6 million hours annually to the Service and approximately 220 refuge Friends organizations support wildlife refuges, such conservation activism is in its infancy in Russia. For more information about the Refuge System Friends program, contact Webb (703-358-2392; Joanna\_Webb@fws.gov).

### Did You Know ...

... that Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Iowa derives its name from the "driftless area" of the Upper Midwest that remained unglaciated during the most recent glacial event about 12,000 years ago? Glaciers surrounded but did not pass over driftless area land.



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.

If you would like to receive your newsletter through your email, please let us know. It not only saves paper but you can enjoy all the pictures in living color! Email [jcorder@hughes.net](mailto:jcorder@hughes.net).

## Refuge Happenings

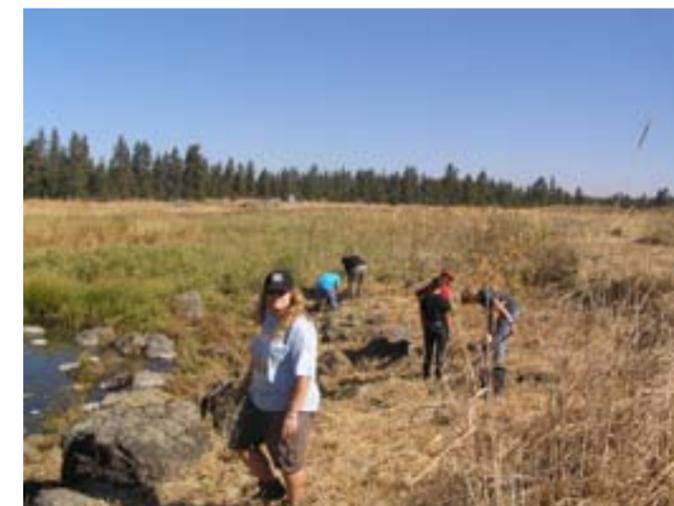
by Sandy Rancourt

### Volunteer Program

Two new AmeriCorps interns came on board this fall to assist with the Environmental Education and Biological programs. Maxwell Olsen is our new environmental education facilitator and Samantha Ford is the new biological technician. We are very fortunate to get these two interns. Both are dedicated and hardworking individuals and they have awesome personalities to boot. They received a lot of on the job training here, and they are putting it to great use. We are really looking forward to a great year working with the members.



AmeriCorps intern Maxwell Olsen and STEP student Paul Reilly (SR)



AmeriCorps intern Samantha Ford (SR)

### Riparian Restoration

Several projects were completed in support of the riparian restoration stewardship project. On May 15th, Turnbull partnered with Spokane Audubon to host our fall community planting event held during National Wildlife Refuge Week. We had a great turnout. One hundred fifty volunteers participated. Volunteers and refuge staff planted over 100 native trees and erected 100 feet of protective fencing. We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the following volunteers who participated including: Spokane Community College Natural Resources, Fairchild Air force Base, Friends of Turnbull, Spokane Audubon, Asia University America Program @ EWU, Washington State Association of Veterinary Technicians, Veterans Conservation Corps, Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, YouthBuild Spokane, Boy Scouts of America, EWU Sigma Phi Epsilon, EWU Honors, Sterling Savings Bank, WSC and Spokane Service Team AmeriCorps, Washington State University Sigma Phi Epsilon, Washington for Wildlife Conservation, 66 Air Force Survival School, EWU Kappa Delta Chi, EWU Pre Med/Pre Dent Society, ITGS and numerous individuals.

Joyce Alonso, who has been the Spokane Audubon lead on this project, kept very busy identifying areas needing additional trees, directing volunteers and hauling trees and planting supplies out to the project sites.

Former Visitor Services Volunteer Virgil Bowen returned to help with the day's event. Virgil procured donations from several organizations to help feed all the volunteers.

Special thanks to Cheney Trading Company, Mitchell's Harvest Foods, and to Cheney Credit Union for their wonderful donations. Other volunteers who assisted refuge staff included Marian and Russell Frobe, AmeriCorps interns Max Olsen and Samantha Ford, Kylie Gaard and Paul Reilly. Max and Sam were team leaders and assisted volunteers with planting.



Great weather resulted in a very productive community planting event (SR)

### Biological Program

Although the fall and winter months are typically slow for the refuge biological program, some surveys were continued until the snow came and most of our survey data from the past year has been entered into the refuge database. AmeriCorps member Samantha Ford and FOT independent contractor Rachel Rule surveyed several areas of the refuge for invasive species into November. Nearly 80% of the refuge has now been mapped. They also assisted with an invasive species identification and monitoring field trip for 80 Mount Spokane High School environmental science students. The field trip is part of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant program received by the local Cooperative Weed Management Area to develop a cadre of volunteer weed mappers who will be using a new cell phone application developed with the help of the grant. Samantha has also monitored water levels this fall in all of the refuge's managed wetlands. Data entry is not a very fun task, but Samantha has tackled it with enthusiasm bringing us up to date on all of our surveys. A new graduate student from EWU has taken on monitoring of the radio-collared elk this fall and winter, and Samantha has been helping her to relocate these animals a couple days a week. Both Samantha and Rachel assisted with the private lands program filling sand bags to build a coffer dam for the placement of a water control structure that will restore a 20 acre wetland.



Mike, Brian, Rachel Rule, and Samantha Ford bagging sand for a Private Lands Project (SR)

### Environmental Education and Outreach

One of my most rewarding experiences is training new volunteers and staff on the refuge's Field Trip Program. It is a great excuse for me to get outdoors and actually enjoy the refuge. I also have a great time with the volunteers. Some volunteers are new recruits, others are long term volunteers returning for a refresher course. Volunteers and staff who participated in this fall's workshop were Fran Haywood, Linda Long, Paul Reilly, Maxwell Olsen, Danielle Roslevich, Samantha Ford, and John Barber.

Environmental Education Contractor Kylie Gaard provided great assistance by training the AmeriCorps interns and Paul on the Winter Outreach Programs.

#### Cheney High School

Our new AmeriCorps volunteers came on board just in time to assist with the refuge's largest environmental education program of the year. Two hundred and fifty sophomore high school students from Cheney High School (CHS) spent 2 days in September participating in our annual wetland ecology and riparian restoration stewardship project. This is the 9th year that CHS has participated in this program. This integrated science program gets students outdoors and connects them with nature by active participation in aquatic invertebrate and water quality sampling, native tree planting, and protection. Not only is it a great educational experience but it gets these kids active in a natural setting. Wading in water and using a shovel is a first experience for

most. Back in the classroom, teachers work with students to compile and analyze data collected at the water quality and riparian stations and determine the health of an aquatic ecosystem based on the abundance and diversity of aquatic invertebrates collected. Refuge staff and volunteers instruct students on riparian restoration management and ecology, aquatic invertebrate ecology, and water quality.



CHS students sampling aquatic invertebrates from Pine Creek (SR)



CHS students planting native trees at Windmill Pond (SR)

#### *Cheney High School STEM Project (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)*

The refuge biologist and I were invited to participate in a meeting about the potential of a local STEM Educational Site at Needham Hill. Cheney Public Schools acquired 63 acres northeast of Cheney which originally served as a Nike Missile facility and later as the Washington Air National Guard communication station. Numerous School District Partners attended. Discussion

included identifying the potential of this educational site, brainstorming ideas on possible real world scientific research and STEM activities, local partnerships, and identifying possible grant funding sources.

Turnbull also participated in several outreach events during the fall and winter.

#### *Camp Wooten*

Turnbull was invited to participate in St. Thomas More Outdoor Education Camp a 2-day event in early October at Camp Wooten Environmental Learning Park. We were invited back because of great reviews received from teachers in the past. AmeriCorps interns Max and Sam instructed 90 students on aquatic ecology and invertebrates. The interns received free housing, good food and good company. Both members reported having a very rewarding experience with the students and teachers.

#### *Camp Cowles*

Kylie, Paul, Max, Sam, and Danielle staffed a refuge booth at Camp Cowles on October 13th. Over 800 people attended this Trailblazer Cub Scout Day Camp. The refuge had an information booth, touch table and aquatic activity. They were kept very busy throughout the day as floods of people visited our interactive booth.

#### *EWU Nicotine Bees Presentation by West Plains Bee Keepers Association*

For the second year Turnbull participated in the Bee Informed seminar event at EWU sponsored by the West Plains Bee Keepers Association. Sam, Max and Danielle staffed the refuge booth. We had a great display of bees to show at the event. The bees were displayed in a beautiful box constructed by master hunter Kevin Durland. We also had pollinator posters, and several pollinator brochures to give out to all who visited the booth.

#### *Friends of Turnbull Winter Festival*

Friends of Turnbull held their annual winter festival in December. The refuge's environmental classroom was decorated with the holiday spirit for the event. Festivities included ample amount of food and drink, an animal track corner for children to make their own

animal track, an elk tour provided by the refuge biologist, and a live wolf program provided by the Wolf People from Idaho. The Wolf People brought "Legacy" a beautiful timber/arctic wolf female. Many people attended and the refuge tour and classroom were packed.

*Spokane Falls Community College Winter Service Learning Festival*

An important aspect of their internship is for AmeriCorps interns to assist with recruiting and working

with volunteers. To help meet that requirement, Turnbull participates in several service learning festivals throughout the year. The interns staff an information booth at these events and promote the AmeriCorps and refuge volunteer programs. This gives them an opportunity to recruit and collect contact information on prospective volunteers. Max and Sam represented the refuge extremely well at the SFCC Winter Service Learning Festival this past month. They interacted with many students who expressed interest in volunteering at the refuge.

## FRIENDS OF TURNBULL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

# WILD REFUGE DINNER & AUCTION

APRIL 13, 2013  
\$35 PER PERSON



5pm Wine reception & Silent Auction

6pm Dinner & 6:30pm Live Auction

## WREN PIERSON

COMMUNITY CENTER • CHENEY, WASHINGTON

Feature Emcee, Paul Simmons, Cheney Parks & Rec Director

### Tickets sold at:

The Mason Jar; 101 F Street, Cheney

Red Rooster; 502 1st Street, Cheney

\$5 online ticket discount at <http://friendsofturnbull.brownpapertickets.com>

### Kid-Friendly:

1 Child 0-12 Years Free with Ticket

ABC Daycare will provide onsite childcare

For pricing & reservations call 509-498-9250

For more information

e-mail [FriendsOfTurnbull@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfTurnbull@gmail.com) or call/text 509-993-6505

## Winter Wildlife Observations

by Mike Rule



Ruth Bindler

A group of trumpeter swans has been seen in the area Tim O'Brien saw 16 on Windmill Pond on 1/13. There were 4 cygnets. This group likely contains the Turnbull flock. A group of trumpeters including 5 pairs and 2 cygnets has been seen on the recently reflooded Cheever Lake.

A few golden-eyes, hooded mergansers and mallards are hanging in where open water persists.

The State provided us with their early fall aerial elk survey. A total of 296 elk were counted. This is down by 45 animals from last year. They observed 46 bulls and 105 calves. Last year was a good production year. Only 18 elk were harvested during the 2012 refuge elk hunts. This is below the number of animals harvested the last 2 years.



With the help of Ducks Unlimited and funds from a NAWCA grant, the refuge has been undertaking some habitat restoration products in the Public Use area. We raised the control structure at Upper Blackhorse Lake which will allow flooding of several additional acres and create more open water. We are also creating two ox-bow wetlands in the Pine Creek floodplain in upper Cheever Lake. We are also resloping the banks of the channelized stream below Middle Pine Lake. Several acres of tree and shrub plantings will be completed this spring in these restoration areas.

Some Wilson's snipe were seen on 1/4 at Windmill Pond by Kathy Lindgren. A belted kingfisher is frequenting the area below HQ. Northern shrike have



also been seen near HQ by Jason Werner. Two adult bald eagles have been observed over the wetlands of the Public Use area.



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 \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed payable to:

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R.

P.O. Box 294

Cheney WA 99004