

# The Flyway

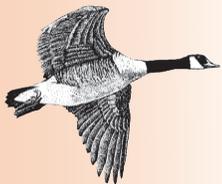
Fall 2010



Quarterly newsletter of Nisqually and Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuges

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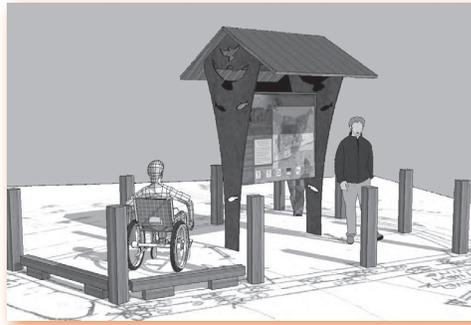


**Celebrate with us!**  
**The Nisqually Watershed Festival is Saturday, September 25 at Nisqually NWR.**

## Kiosk Installed at Luhr Beach

The Refuge recently completed the installation of an information kiosk at Luhr Beach. Located on the Nisqually Delta at the mouth of McAllister Creek, Luhr Beach is a very popular boat launch area. Most people boating on the Refuge and around the Delta launch from this site.

“With all the changes on the Nisqually Delta, including waterfowl hunting, and the closures in the Research Natural Area and Sanctuary Area, we felt it was very important to provide clear information about what uses were allowed and where they could occur,” said Jean Takekawa, Refuge Manager. “We appreciate the cooperation from



An artist's rendition of the new Luhr Beach kiosk

the State in making this kiosk work for all the people who use the Nisqually Delta.”

The kiosk is located adjacent to the boat launch and is on property owned by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. One interpretive panel

includes information about hunting, boating, fishing, and shellfish harvesting on the Nisqually Delta. A large map provides detailed information about closed areas and property ownership. The second panel has an explanation of the tides, safety, and wildlife viewing tips. The kiosk also provides a space for the State and the Nisqually Reach Nature Center to have flyers about their programs. The information provided is designed to help improve wildlife protection. ✎

## Boardwalk Construction Progresses

As of August 15<sup>th</sup>, construction of the mile-long boardwalk through the estuary restoration site is approximately half finished. The 10 to 12 person crew from Five Rivers Construction in Longview, WA has been working hard for the last four months. A number of special features are now complete, including the observation tower, Shannon Slough blind, McAllister Creek viewing platform, and three out of five pedestrian bridges, thanks to assistance from Northwest Helicopters.

The boardwalk route will offer unique opportunities to view the various habitats at the Refuge. Freshwater wetlands,

Shannon Slough, and the recovering estuary will all be visible from the observation tower's 360 degree view. The Shannon Slough enclosed viewing blind allows discrete observation of wildlife on the slough. The McAllister Creek platform will highlight the junction of Shannon Slough and McAllister Creek and historic features related to the construction of the original Brown Farm Dike. The Puget Sound viewing platform at the end of the route will give views of Puget Sound, Luhr Beach, and undisturbed salt marsh to the north of the old dike footprint. On clear days Mt Rainer, the Olympics, and Tacoma Narrows will be visible.

Continued on page 2

# Boardwalk

From page 1

Visitors will be able to observe the delta at both high and low tides. At low tide, mudflats and re-establishing tidal channels will be exposed allowing visitors to observe the results of the dynamic physical processes reshaping the delta. At high tide,

Puget Sound and its diverse marine life will flood the site allowing visitors the chance to peer into the water and observe jellyfish, crabs, and other marine creatures.

Shared usage of the new exterior dike by the public and the contractor has been going smoothly thus far. Visitors are asked to remain aware as the contractor will continue transporting ma-

terials in this area with an ATV and other vehicles until the boardwalk is completed (projected to occur in late fall or early winter). The boardwalk will remain closed until its completion, since the contractor must use its surface to transport materials and supplies. ✧



**Above:** A completed stretch of boardwalk over the restored estuary.

**Right photo,** helicopters are used to maneuver bridge sections into place.



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*Save trees, think green*

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## Workshop Held for Early Childhood Educators

Early childhood educators from Thurston, Lewis, Mason and Grays Harbor Counties gathered at the Refuge in August for a day-long “Growing Up Wild” workshop. The workshop introduced the new program guide *Growing Up Wild*, produced by Project Wild in conjunction with Head Start.

Through a wide range of activities and experiences for children ages 3-7, the *Growing Up Wild* program guide provides an early foundation

for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills. The workshop participants practiced several of the activities and received a copy of the guide.

In addition, the participants were introduced to the Refuge’s new Nature Explore Area and had a chance to learn about the ways young children can actively explore nature while at the Refuge. ✧

# Restoration Monitoring: Salmon in the Sloughs

By Kelley Turner, USGS and Chris Ellings, Nisqually Indian Tribe Fisheries Biologist

The restoration of the tides to 762 acres of the Nisqually Estuary last fall has prompted many questions from local scientists. Are threatened juvenile Chinook salmon able to physically access the recently restored tidal sloughs? Are they also feeding in these sloughs? These are questions that the Nisqually Indian Tribe, USGS Western Ecological Research Center, and USGS Western Fisheries Research Center are trying to answer. Their research teams recently wrapped up a five month juvenile Chinook fish diet study in the Nisqually Estuary as part of the larger post-restoration fish study being led by the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The study involved monthly fish surveys at four research sites. These sites included restored tidal sloughs on the Nisqually NWR and Nisqually Indian Tribal lands along with two control sites. Monthly fish surveys were conducted using fyke nets stretched

across the tidal channel at a high tide, trapping fish as the tide fell. This allowed fisheries biologists to determine the types of fish utilizing these channels along with



*A fyke net is spread across a tidal slough as part of a fish survey.*

their abundance, size and weight. After being measured, most fish were returned to the slough. Some juvenile Chinook, however, were collected in order to make more detailed assessments of their diet, growth patterns and time spent in the Estuary.

In conjunction with these fish surveys, invertebrates were also sampled to quantify the available

food resources for juvenile Chinook. Invertebrates were sampled from three different strata: insects that fall into the water from the aerial environment, neuston found within the top of the water column, and benthic invertebrates on the bottom of the sloughs. By comparing the types of invertebrates collected at each tidal slough to those found in the fish, scientists can determine whether or not juvenile Chinook are feeding in the tidal sloughs they are found in.

Through monitoring projects such as these, we can gain a better understanding of the effectiveness of restoration actions on threatened juvenile Chinook and their food resources. Sample results are not yet analyzed, but preliminary data show that juvenile Chinook, along with chum, pink and coho salmon are using the restored tidal sloughs. As monitoring information related to this project becomes available it will be posted at [www.nisquallydeltarestoration.org](http://www.nisquallydeltarestoration.org).

## New Volunteers Join the Refuge

In June, ten people completed a 10-hour training course for new volunteers and became the newest members of the Refuge's Volunteer Program. These volunteers will join the already 100 volunteers who contribute an average of 15,000 hours of volunteer time to Refuge projects. They will be working at the Visitor Center, the office, with the education program, and special events. Please welcome the Class of 2010: (back row) John Whitehead, Dorothy Mahar, Kathy Erickson, Bryan West, Jim McBride, (front row) Joe Byrd, Shari Broadway, and I'ina Van Lawick. Not pictured: Gale Blomstrom and Greg Sorlie.



*Class of 2010 volunteers ready for work.*

## Nisqually's New Education Coordinator

Meet Margaret Lambert, the new Environmental Education Coordinator for Nisqually NWR. Margaret began her AmeriCorps assignment at the Refuge on September 1<sup>st</sup> and will be here through July 15, 2011.

Margaret is originally from the small town of Bloomfield Hills in southeast Michigan. She attended Warren Wilson College near Asheville, NC for two years before transferring to The Evergreen State College to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in ecology. While in North Carolina, she spent three summers working at The Living Earth School, an experiential outdoor camp for kids. She has also taken in a year-long naturalist program at the Wilderness Awareness School in Duvall, WA.

Margaret loves birding and learning about plants. In her free time she also enjoys baking, reading, playing guitar, softball, basketball and ultimate frisbee. Here at the Refuge, she hopes to combine her love for science and field studies with education. She is enthusiastic about her new job and is looking forward to meeting the volunteers and engaging kids in nature.



*Margaret Lambert is ready to get kids excited about nature.*

## Nature Explore Area Now Open

The new Nature Explore Area at the Refuge is open for business! This area, adjacent to the Education Center, is open daily from sunrise to sunset. A network of trails connects spaces where kids can have a first hand experience interacting with nature and natural materials. The adventure starts at the gathering area where families and groups can plan their activities. Activity areas include dirt digging, nature art, messy materials, music and movement, climbing, and action. Kids can climb through a whole log, build block structures, or try using their skills as an "architect" to create "rooms" with fabric in Nature's Tree House.



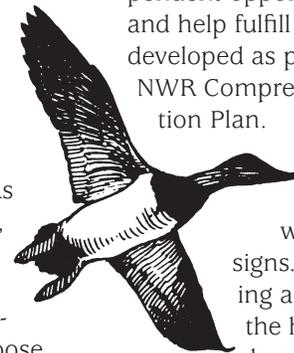
The Nature Explore Area is designed for kids ages 2-10 with adult supervision. ✧

*Grandchildren of volunteers John & Donna Keith enjoy the Nature Explore Area.*

## Waterfowl Hunt Program Opens at Nisqually NWR This Fall

The first waterfowl hunt season will open on Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge this fall 2010. Nisqually NWR is opening 191 acres of tideflats in the Nisqually estuary to boat-access waterfowl hunting. Hunting will be permitted seven days per week during State waterfowl hunting season dates, with a 25 non-toxic shot-shell per day limit. There is an early youth hunt for ducks and geese September 25-26, 2010. Regular duck hunting season dates are October 16-20, 2010 and October 23-January 23, 2011. Regular goose hunting season dates are September 10-15, 2010, October 16-28, 2010, and November 6-January 30, 2011. State hunting license requirements apply and no additional Refuge permit will be necessary. Refuge lands are adjacent to State lands already open to waterfowl

hunting. Portions of the Refuge will remain closed to waterfowl hunting to provide sanctuary areas for wildlife, including the Research Natural Area. The hunt program will provide quality wildlife-dependent opportunities to hunters and help fulfill Refuge objectives developed as part of the Nisqually NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan.



The waterfowl hunt area is signed with Refuge hunt signs. Information including a map panel showing the hunt area has just been installed at the new Luhr Beach visitor information kiosk and the Refuge entrance fee station. Further information can be obtained on the Nisqually NWR website or by visiting or calling the Nisqually NWR office at 100 Brown Farm Road, Olympia, WA, 98516; 360-753-9467. ✧

# Recent Friends Membership and Renewal Roster

Thank you to the following people who became members or renewed their membership with Friends of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge between May 1 and July 31, 2010.

## Senior/Student (\$15)

- Ahlschwede, Susan & Rob
- Blakely, Archie
- Boronat, Frank
- Boronat, Julianne
- Franz, Carl
- Gardner, M. Jeanne
- Lund, Beverly
- Lund, Bill
- Michael, Carolyn
- Marchand, Cecil & Cindy
- Rubolt, George
- Slaby, Anna E.
- Wood, Ann R.

## Individual (\$25)

- Gilmur, Chuck & Thelma
- Mackey, Christine H.
- Sumner, Anna E.

## Family (\$50)

- Clark, Mike
- Diehl, Rhona
- Gleb, Phil & Mary
- Harper, Sheila
- Leeden, Ben & Jennifer
- Lewis, Karen
- Walkowiak, John & Elly

## Supporting (\$100)

- Ryan, Doug & Lillian
- Wilkinson, Charles & Melanie Ito

## Patron (\$500)

- McCartan, Sheila & Tom Schooley

# Your Membership Makes a Difference!

### Friends of Nisqually NWR

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1998 to promote conservation of the natural and cultural resources and fund education and outreach programs at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

## Join Friends Of Nisqually NWRC!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Please send information on making Friends of Nisqually NWRC a beneficiary of my estate.
- Check here to receive an electronic version of *The Flyway* newsletter by email.

### Individual/Family Memberships

- \$15 Student/Senior
- \$25 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$100 Supporting
- \$250 Partner
- \$500 Patron
- \$1000 Benefactor

### Corporate/Business Memberships

- \$250 Business Sponsor
- \$500 Community Partner
- \$1000 Sustaining Business
- \$2500 Corporate Patron
- \$5000 + Corporate Benefactor

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Nisqually NWRC, 100 Brown Farm Rd, Olympia, WA 98516

Your tax deductible contribution will help preserve the unique habitats, fish, and wildlife of the Nisqually Delta and the Grays Harbor Tideflats.

OFFICE USE Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Mo \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renew \_\_\_\_\_ Ent \_\_\_\_\_ Mld \_\_\_\_\_

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National Wildlife Refuges**

c/o Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge  
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*"...conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people..."*

*You are invited to the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual*

# **Nisqually Watershed Festival!**

**Great Fun for the Whole Family:**

- ▶ Music and Live Animal Presentations
- ▶ Tours and Guided Walks throughout the day
- ▶ Great educational displays from around the area
- ▶ Fin, the Wild Olympic Salmon
- ▶ Red Salmon tent, storytelling, and critters parades
- ▶ Marine touch tank
- ▶ ***And of course, the famous Nisqually Salmon Bake!***

**Saturday, September 25**  
**at Nisqually NWR**  
**from 10 am-4 pm**  
**All Events are Free**  
**(except the food!)**

***Join us and celebrate the cultural, economic, and natural resources of the Nisqually Watershed!***

For more information, go to [www.nisquallyriver.org](http://www.nisquallyriver.org) or call (360)753-9467