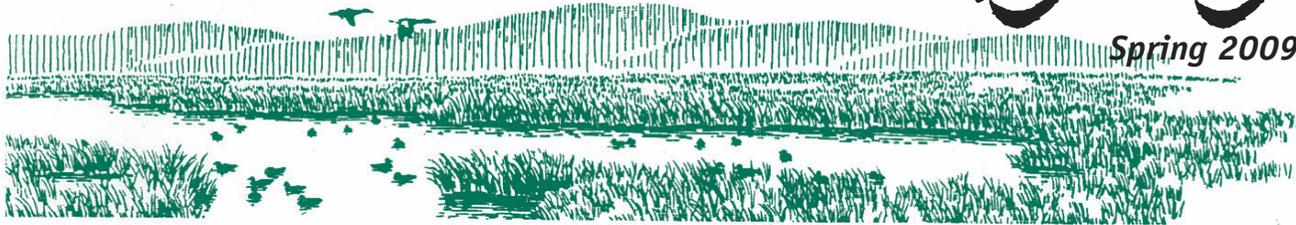


The Flyway

Spring 2009



Quarterly newsletter of Nisqually and Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuges

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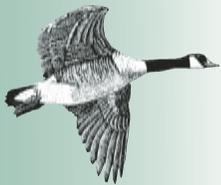
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Save the Date!
2009
Grays Harbor
Shorebird Festival
April 24-26
Hoquiam, WA

www.shorebirdfestival.com



Announcing Farewell Trail Walk

You are invited to a “Farewell Trail Walk” of the Brown Farm Dike Trail on Saturday, April 18. You may walk the trail with friends and family anytime during regular Refuge hours (sunrise to sunset). This 5.5 mile trail has been enjoyed by visitors near and far since Nisqually NWR opened in 1974. The trail will close permanently this year but is scheduled to remain open through May 3.

On April 18, between 9am-3pm, stations will be set up along the trail with chairs and water. A sanican will also be available midpoint on the trail. If

you are planning on walking, bring good walking shoes, water, a camera, binoculars, snacks, and appropriate clothing. The Refuge will run a small shuttle van periodically for



Workers building the Brown Farm dike in the early 1900s.

visitors who may need to ride a portion of the trail instead of walking, as space allows. This event will occur regardless of the weather.

The Brown Farm Dike was built in the early 1900s. Alson Brown and a team of people built the dike using horse drawn carts and hand labor. The 1000 acres of diked habitat was used for farming until 1974 when Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge was established. Until present time, the Refuge has maintained the Brown Farm Dike and the wildlife habitats inside the dike. This summer, the Brown Farm Dike will be removed, and 762 acres

of the diked area will return to salt marsh and tidal estuary.

We hope you can join us for a last historic walk of the Brown Farm Dike. ✎

The Refuge Through the Artist's Eye Coming in June

The Refuge will be hosting a new wildlife art exhibit in the Visitor Center entitled *The Refuge through the Artist's Eye*. The artists for this unique exhibit are from the Senior Watercolor Class at the Olympia Senior Center taught by Anita Ellison. Anita's husband, Dennis Ellison, is a Refuge Volunteer who photographs wildlife scenes and wildlife at the Refuge. The

class uses his photographs to create their watercolors.

The exhibit will be available for visitors to enjoy June through August. You are invited to attend an Artist's Reception on the opening weekend of the exhibit. The reception will be held June 7 from 2-4pm. Come meet the artists and see their wonderful paintings. ✎



Nisqually NWR Recognizes Volunteers

Every year the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge honors the men and women who volunteer their time and talents with a special recognition and awards ceremony. The volunteers earned special recognition for their efforts in 2008, as it was a year of dramatic change at the Refuge. Volunteers helped provide a smooth transition for the public as construction began on the estuary restoration project and the new education center, all of this while their volunteer coordinator was out for several months due to a family emergency. Volunteers did a fantastic job informing the public and answering visitor questions about the two projects on the trails and in the Visitor Center.

In 2008, volunteers contributed around 15,500 hours of their time, assisting staff with virtually every

ter desks, fee collection, education and interpretive programs, special events, and special projects. Seventy people attended the event, and everybody received recognition for their contributions. A few volunteers were singled out for special acknowledgement of the tremendous amount of hours they contributed. Merlin Wiese received the Volunteer of the Year award for the second year in a row for volunteering a whopping 1,150 hours. Karen Yochem (1,012 hours), Dennis Ellison (841 hours), Dennis Weeks (718 hours), Art Pavey (670 hours), and Kay Smith (368 hours) also received top hours awards. ✧



2008 Volunteer of the Year, Merlin Wiese, receiving recognition from Refuge Manager Jean Takekawa.

aspect of Refuge operations including habitat maintenance, wildlife surveys, reception and Visitor Cen-

Nisqually Estuary Restoration Update

The second year of construction of the Nisqually NWR estuary restoration project is scheduled to begin this spring. This project will restore 762 acres of the Nisqually estuary and enhance 246 acres of freshwater wetlands. The project is the largest estuary restoration project in the Pacific Northwest.

In 2008, the new exterior dike was largely constructed. In 2009, construction will include additional interior work to remove structures and install cross levees to improve freshwater wetland management, and clearing and removal of the old exterior dike. This important step in the recovery of Puget Sound is not without its loss. In order to restore the area and allow full tidal flow

and sedimentation, most of the old exterior dike must be removed. The Brown Farm Dike Trail will have to be permanently closed.

Currently, the 5 ½ mile loop trail is scheduled to remain open through May 3. A special last trail walk is scheduled for April 18. The one mile Twin Barns Loop Trail will remain open and a new boardwalk will be built in 2010 to provide visitors a unique opportunity to experience the restoring estuary. Updates will be posted on the Refuge website at www.fws.gov/nisqually/management/restoration_updates.html or feel free to call the Refuge at 360-753-9467. ✧



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www.fws.gov/nisqually

www.fws.gov/graysharbor

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Save trees, think green

To receive *The Flyway* electronically, email nisqually@fws.gov



Announcing Spring Interpretive Programs at Nisqually NWR!

Unless otherwise indicated, all programs leave from the Visitor Center flag pole. Walking trails are beginner level, smooth with no elevation. Wear comfortable shoes. Feel free to bring binoculars or

check them out from the Visitor Center. Programs are open to the public and free of charge, but the \$3 Refuge entrance fee still applies. Programs will last anywhere from 1-2 hours, depending on the

presenter and topic. Remember, pets are not allowed at the Refuge, and biking and running are prohibited. If you have any questions, call (360)753-9467 or email jackie_larue@fws.gov. ✨

Programs:

Quiet Beauty: the Plants of Nisqually NWR. Explore the Refuge with a focus on plant life.

Take Flight: the Birds of Nisqually NWR. Explore the sights and sounds of various birds along the trail.

The Wonder of Nisqually. Explore all the Refuge has to offer with this general nature walk.

Historic Nisqually. May be a walk or a talk, depending on the speaker.

Medicine Creek Treaty. Learn about the events surrounding the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty, an important piece of U.S. history.

The Farming Days. This program highlights the history of farming on the Refuge, including the Brown Farm era.

Interpretive Program Schedule

Saturday, April 4, 10:00 am *Wonder of Nisqually*

Saturday, April 11, 1:30 pm *Wonder of Nisqually*

Saturday, April 18, 9am—3pm *Farewell Trail Walk*

Saturday, April 25, 10:00 am *Wonder of Nisqually*

Saturday, May 2, 1:00pm *Wonder of Nisqually*

Saturday, May 9, 8:30 am *Take Flight*

Saturday, May 16, *No Program*

Saturday, May 23, 10:00 am *Wonder of Nisqually*

Saturday, May 30, 10:00 am *Wonder of Nisqually*

Saturday, June 6, 8:30 am *Take Flight*

Saturday, June 13, 8:30 am *Take Flight*

Saturday, June 20, 10:30 am
Historic Nisqually: The Farm Days & Medicine Creek Treaty

Saturday, June 27, 10:00 am *Wonder of Nisqually*

Sunday, April 5, 1:30 pm *Wonder of Nisqually*

Sunday, April 12, 1:00 pm *Wonder of Nisqually*

Sunday, April 19, 1:00 pm *Historic Nisqually: Medicine Creek Treaty*

Sunday, April 26, 9:30 am *Quiet Beauty*

Sunday, May 3, 9:30am *Quiet Beauty*

Sunday, May 10, 1:00 pm *Historic Nisqually: Brown Farm Days*

Sunday, May 17, 1:00 pm *Quiet Beauty*

Sunday, May 24, 1:00 pm *Wonder of Nisqually*

Sunday, May 31, 1:00 pm *Wonder of Nisqually*

Sunday, June 7, 9:00 am *Take Flight*

Sunday, June 14, 1:00 pm *Quiet Beauty*

Sunday, June 21, *No Program*

Sunday, June 28, 1:00 pm *Wonder of Nisqually*

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day!

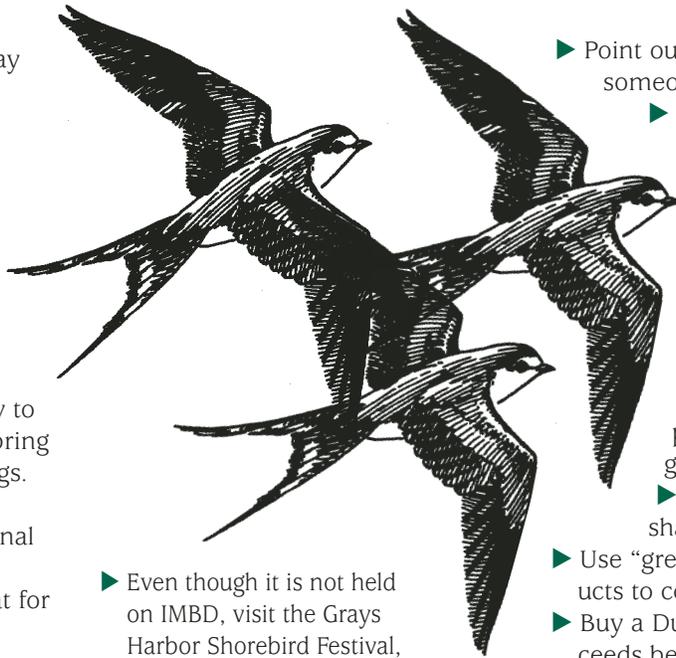
Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People

May 9, 2009

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) was originally created to specifically highlight more than 350 species of birds that migrate between their nesting habitats in North America and non-breeding grounds in Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. IMBD is held annually on the second Saturday in May, and it is also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all bird species that bring so much life to our surroundings. There is no better place to see migratory birds than at a national wildlife refuge, as refuges are established to safeguard habitat for these very birds.

The theme for IMBD this year is ***Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People.***

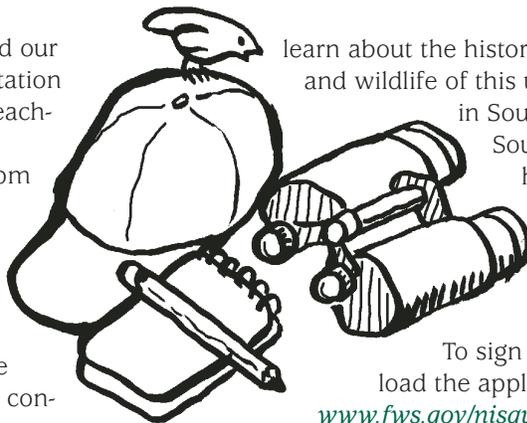
What are some ways you can celebrate IMBD?



- ▶ Point out these birds to someone else
 - ▶ Create or improve habitat at home or school
 - ▶ Build and maintain a bird feeder or bird house
 - ▶ Buy and wear an IMBD t-shirt
 - ▶ Keep your cat indoors!
 - ▶ Reduce your use of pesticides in yard and garden
 - ▶ Drink bird-friendly, shade-grown coffee
- ▶ Use "green" home paper products to conserve forest habitat
- ▶ Buy a Duck Stamp! The proceeds benefit habitat preservation efforts
- ▶ Buy a Junior Duck Stamp! The proceeds benefit environmental education and the Junior Duck Stamp program, which educates children about waterfowl
- ▶ Join or give to wildlife preservation groups
- ▶ Volunteer your birding abilities
- ▶ Participate in a bird count or study
- ▶ Donate your binoculars to Birders' Exchange
- ▶ Get involved in community land-use planning
- ▶ Lead or attend a bird watching walk such as the bird walk being held at Nisqually NWR on IMBD at 8:30 am
- ▶ Take a class on migratory birds
- ▶ Teach students about migratory birds and IMBD
- ▶ Write a related article for a local paper
- ▶ Create an IMBD display for a school, library, or wildlife refuge
- ▶ Attend or host an IMBD festival ✂

Teachers, bring your students outdoors this spring and see them bloom!

Sign up to attend our Field Trip Orientation Workshop for Teachers on Saturday April 11, 9am-1pm to learn about the resources available for educators here at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Practice confidently guiding your students through outdoor and indoor activities which can deepen their appreciation for the natural world and get help planning all the details so you can run a smooth and successful field trip. You'll also



learn about the history, habitats and wildlife of this unique area in South Puget Sound. Clock hours and refreshments will be available.

To sign up, download the application at www.fws.gov/nisqually/education.html

Or contact Willa Ahlschwede, Education Coordinator, at willa_ahlschwede@fws.gov or 360-753-9467. ✂

2009 Washington Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest Results

This year's contest received 200 entries from students all over the state. The artwork was impressive from all the young artists and made for a highly competitive contest. This year's judging panel consisted of five judges: Dave Wesley (Deputy Regional Director US Fish & Wildlife Service), Don Kraege (WA Department of Fish & Wildlife), Dale Thompson (local wildlife artist), Ryan Perry (local wildlife artist and former two-time WA Junior Duck Stamp Best of Show winner), and Lynn Childers (retired US Fish & Wildlife Service biologist).

Judges selected three first place, three second place, three third place, and 16 Honorable Mention winners from

four groups based on grade level (K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12th grade). Out of all the first place winners from each group, a Best of Show was selected to represent Washington at the national competition to be held April 22 at the National



2009 Best of Show winning entry, *Just Another Day*, by Jing Xue.

Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. This year's first place winners were Lucinda Zhang, Deborah Yang, Claire Hsu, Amanda Shi, Charity Young, Emilie Kuo, Patrick Kuo, Sophie Kong, Bethany Sasaki, Jing Xue, Judy Chou, and Zhong Chai. The Best of Show winner selected from among these artists was *Just Another Day* by Jing Xue, 16 years old, of Vancouver. *Just Another Day* is a beautiful oil painting depicting a cinnamon teal. Congratulations to Jing Xue and all the winners in this year's Washington Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest! ✨

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 Tidelands.

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National Wildlife Refuges**

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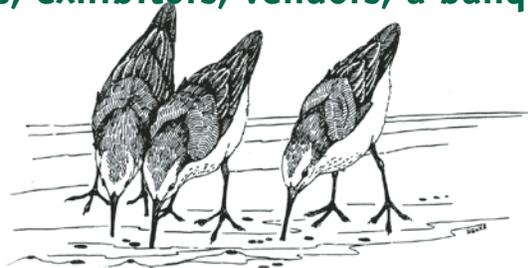
Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

April 24-26

Hoquiam, WA

The 14th Annual Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival promises you a great nature experience. Witness the migrating shorebirds at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge. Take part in a variety of events including field trips, lectures, exhibitors, vendors, a banquet and auction.

**SAVE THE
DATE!**



www.shorebirdfestival.com
1-800-303-8498