

# The Flyway

Summer 2008



Quarterly newsletter of Nisqually and Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuges

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**Published quarterly by Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex, with funding by Friends of Nisqually NWRC.**

## Volume 1, Number 2

**Editor:** Jackie LaRue

**Editorial Advisor:** Sheila McCartan

**Graphic design:** Lee Miller

## Save trees, think green

To receive The Flyway electronically, email [jackie\\_larue@fws.gov](mailto:jackie_larue@fws.gov)



## Children + Waterfowl = Amazing Artwork 2008 Washington Junior Duck Stamp Competition

Every year, the coming of autumn announces the arrival of Junior Duck Stamp season. All around the nation, children of all ages work hard to create artwork for entry into the competi-

tion. Children learn all about anatomy, habitat, and behavior of waterfowl.

After studying pictures and stuffed and live waterfowl, they create their artwork in various medias: watercolor, colored pencil, oil paints, crayon, acrylic paint, Hedcut pen and ink, pastels,

etc. Their artwork is then entered into the state-level Junior Duck Stamp Competition. The artwork is divided into four categories based on grade level: Group I (K-3), Group II (4-6), Group III (7-9), and Group IV (10-12). Within each age category, three 1<sup>st</sup> place, three 2<sup>nd</sup> place, three 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and sixteen Honorable Mentions are awarded. One of the first place winners is then selected as Best of Show to represent the state at the National Competition.

Nisqually NWR serves as the receiving

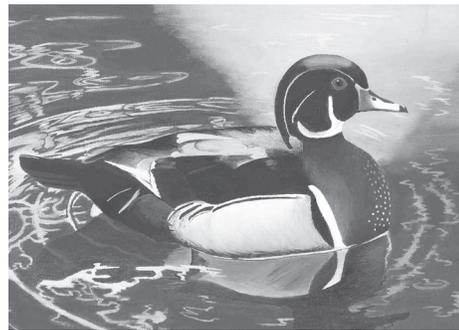
## Update on Dike Removal

With the permitting and engineering phases almost complete, there is the possibility that construction of a new exterior dike will begin this July. "We won't know for sure until the middle of June," said Jean Takekawa. "There are still some permits that need to be completed".

If construction does not begin in July then it will be postponed until summer of 2009. Efforts are being made to keep trail closures to a minimum; however,

site for the state of Washington, so it is a very exciting time at the Refuge when student artwork starts rolling in around the entry deadline in early

Spring. This year, the Competition received 179 entries from around the state. The artwork was very impressive by all the young artists. The Visitor Center Auditorium will have the 2008 winning entries from all age groups exhibited throughout much of the year. Alec Chou



*Alec Chou's depiction of a wood duck won Best of Show 2008.*

from Medallion Art School in Vancouver created this year's Best of Show, which earned an Honorable Mention at the National Competition. Congratulations to all the winners and great job to all the participants who produced such wonderful, high quality wildlife artwork!

For more information or if you are interested in participating in the Junior Duck Stamp Competition, feel free to contact the state coordinator, Jackie LaRue, via email ([jackie\\_larue@fws.gov](mailto:jackie_larue@fws.gov)) or phone (360)753-9467. ✎

there will be some temporary trail closures when construction begins. Trail closures will be posted at the fee station and Reader Board. For updated information call the Refuge Office or consult the Refuge website at [www.fws.gov/nisqually](http://www.fws.gov/nisqually). For more information on the habitat restoration project including the removal of the Brown Farm Dike go to <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/main/docs/WA/docsnisqually.htm>. ✎

## Watch Out! Poison Hemlock: A Common yet Dangerous Refuge Weed

By Fred Hellberg

Socrates was executed in ancient Greece by a self-administered dose of poison in 399 B.C. That poison was an extract of Poison Hemlock, a fairly common noxious weed found at Nisqually NWR. It is the most toxic plant in North America. One root is enough to kill a cow or horse! However, all parts of the plant are toxic.

Poison Hemlock is a non-native plant of Eurasian origin, now found in most of the United States and Canada. Like many noxious weeds, it was

introduced to North America in the 1800s as a garden plant because of its lush, ferny foliage and its small, clustered white flowers. One wonders if our 19<sup>th</sup> century gardening ancestors were fully aware of the extreme toxicity of this plant.

When full-grown, Poison Hemlock is quite tall. While plant books say they can reach ten feet tall, the plant pictured, found and destroyed a

few years ago, was much taller than that—at least twelve feet tall! However, due to aggressive control efforts, most of the Poison Hemlock at the Refuge now is only a few inches to a foot tall. Refuge Weed Warriors hand pull Poison Hemlock, using weed wrenches on the larger plants. When left uncontrolled, this plant forms dense stands that deprive other plants of space and light.

The chroniclers of Socrates' death from Poison Hemlock note that he experienced a slow numbing that advanced from the feet upwards. However, according to Gary L. Piper of Washington State University's Department of Entomology, poisoning causes severe depression of central nervous system activity, followed by muscle tremors, slowed heartbeat, paralysis, coma, and death due to respiratory failure. Keep an eye out for this plant as you explore the Refuge. Please notify Refuge personnel of the location if you see it anywhere. ✂



*Refuge volunteer and Friends Board Member Fred Hellberg, pictured here with a large Poison Hemlock (enclosed by white dashed lines)*

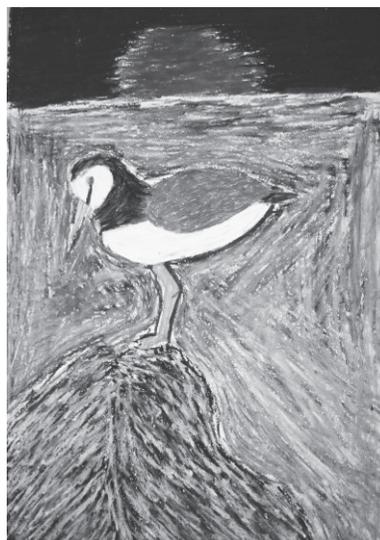
### Highlights from Hoquiam:

## Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival 2008

Despite the rising gas prices, over 1,400 people turned out for the annual Shorebird Festival, held this year May 2-4. There was plenty to do for people of all ages including birding field trips, a Nature Fun Fair, local vendors, a banquet and auction, lectures, and the keynote speaker, Julia Parrish.

Festival goers enjoyed nice weather and excellent shorebird viewing along the Refuge's Sandpiper Trail. There were many highlights from this year's Festival including:

- 13<sup>th</sup> year Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex participated
- 754 students participated in the Shorebird Festival Poster Contest
- The auction raised \$5,000 to



*Kylie Fuller, 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Lincoln Elementary, won Best of Show in the Shorebird Festival Poster Contest with her entry entitled "Alone at Night on the Rock"*

benefit the Festival and Grays Harbor NWR

- An additional \$2,000 was raised specifically for the Grays Harbor NWR education program
- Grays Harbor NWR shorebird counts: Friday 45,000; Saturday 24,000; and Sunday 40,000
- Exciting sightings: Possible Red-necked Stint, Pacific Golden Plover, Red Knot, and Ruddy Turnstone

Many thanks to all the volunteers, partners, sponsors, vendors, and exhibitors who participated in the event! For more information, check out the Festival website at:

[www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com) ✂

# Nisqually Nature Shop

By Dennis Weeks,  
Volunteer Shop Manager

Just inside the Visitor Center at Nisqually NWR is the Nature Shop. Who operates the Shop? Who works behind the counter? What is on the shelves? For what is the profit from sales used?

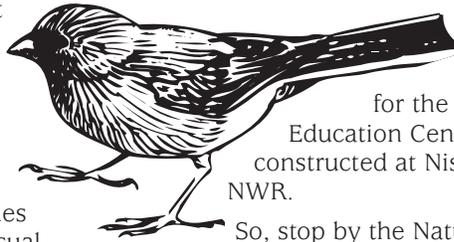
The Nature Shop is operated by the non-profit group, Friends of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Friends Group is managed by Board members who are responsible for operation of the Nature Shop and oversee the awarding of grants from its profits.

Day-to-day operations are done solely by Refuge volunteers who do everything from ordering merchandise, stocking shelves, to selling the merchandise. Along with these duties, volunteers at the Nature Shop also assist

visitors with questions about the Refuge.

We have an excellent selection of nature-related books covering topics from birds to flora and all kinds of fauna. We have an excellent selection of bird field guides that cover not just visual identification but also how to id birds by sound. Our latest arrival is an excellent book for beginners by local author, Burt Guttman, entitled *Finding Your Wings*. This birding workbook will assist the beginner in learning easy methods of identifica-

tion. Profits from Nature Shop sales are used to directly benefit Nisqually and Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuges. We have



provided funding for Americorps volunteers (who receive a small stipend) to work in the education programs at both Nisqually and Grays Harbor Refuges. The Board has also committed to help fund

several projects for the new Education Center being constructed at Nisqually NWR.

So, stop by the Nature Shop and browse. Then buy. ✎

**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.

**Nisqually & Grays Harbor  
National Wildlife Refuges**

c/o Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge  
100 Brown Farm Rd.  
Olympia WA 98516

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www.fws.gov/nisqually  
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*"...conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people..."*

Celebrating the Cultural, Economic, and Natural Resources of the Nisqually Watershed

# Nisqually Watershed Festival

September 27, 2008

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Music and Live Animal Presentations  
Tours and Guided Walks throughout the day  
Great educational displays from around the area  
And of course, the famous Nisqually Salmon Bake

For Kids of all Ages:

The Red Salmon Tent, Storytelling, Critter Parades, and a Marine Touch Tank

Sponsored by the Nisqually River Council, Nisqually River Foundation, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Tacoma Power, Pack Forest, Nisqually River Education Project, NW Indian Fisheries Commission, Nisqually Reach Nature Center, Nisqually NWR and Friends of Nisqually NWR

10am to 4pm; All Events are Free (except the food!)

Exit 114 off I-5 © [www.nisquallyriver.org](http://www.nisquallyriver.org) © (360) 753-9467