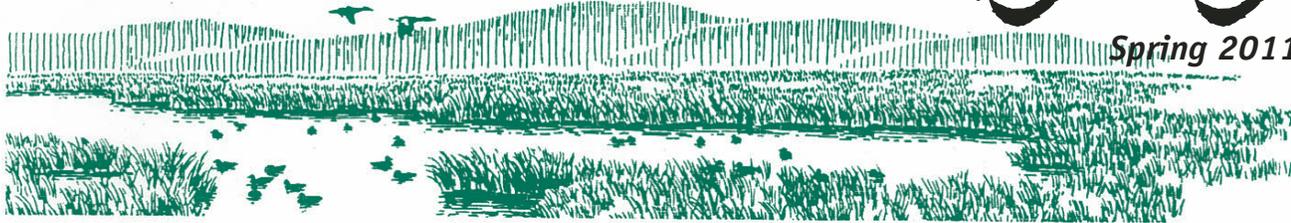


# The Flyway

Spring 2011



Quarterly newsletter of Nisqually and Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuges

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## New Estuary Boardwalk Opens

The much anticipated Nisqually Estuary Boardwalk Trail was officially opened on February 1 with an afternoon dedication. Over 275 people walked one mile to the trailhead and participated in the Grand Opening Ceremonies held under clear blue skies on an incoming tide. Refuge

Manager Jean Takekawa provided a welcome and Nisqually Tribal Council Chair Cynthia

Iyall spoke of the significance of the estuary to the Nisquallies. Remarks were also made by Congressman Norm Dicks, Robyn Thorson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge Regional Director, and Jay Manning, Chief of Staff to the Governor. After a ribbon cutting, visitors walked the boardwalk, watching as the tide came in.

The Nisqually Estuary Boardwalk Trail is 1.05 miles long; from the Refuge Visitor Center to the end of the

boardwalk and back is 4 miles. The entire boardwalk is over the newly restored estuary. The boardwalk features include: An observation tower (covered) at the beginning of the boardwalk; the Shannon Slough Blind at 900 feet out; the McAllister Creek Viewing Platform (covered) at approximately 1600 feet out; The Puget

Sound Viewing Platform (covered) at the terminus of the board-

walk; and four push outs. The last 3000 feet of the boardwalk is on the footprint of the old Brown Farm Dike Trail.

Building the boardwalk in a tidal estuary was a construction challenge. The contractor, Five Rivers Construction of Longview, Washington, had to consider tidal conditions as part of the daily work schedule. Materials were transported on ATVs from the staging area at the Twin Barns. Second growth Port Orford cedar was used for the

**Total cost of the boardwalk: \$2,845,641.**

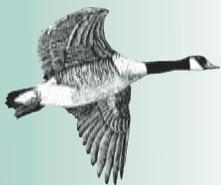
**Funding for the board walk come from the following sources:**

**American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds: \$2,642,169**

**USFWS Deferred Maintenance fund: \$139,920**

**Nisqually NWR Entrance Fee Fund: \$63,552**

*Continued on page 5*



*Save the Dates!*

**The Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival will be held April 29 – May 1 in Hoquiam.**



*Visitors walk the Nisqually Estuary Boardwalk Trail for the first time following the Grand Opening Ceremony.*

## Welcome Maya Elson, Grays Harbor Education Coordinator

The team here at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge is very excited to be working with AmeriCorps intern, Maya Elson! Maya coordinates the Grays Harbor NWR education program, is helping to organize the Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival, and acts as the volunteer coordinator for the Refuge. Maya has lived in Olympia since 2004, though she's originally from Western Massachusetts. Though



she admits the rain of the Pacific Northwest is a little much for her, she approaches her new job with all the gusto and enthusiasm of sunny springtime! A graduate of the Evergreen State College, Maya studied environmental justice and field biology. Maya's past travels are diverse; she's lived in different places doing work on environmental campaigns, ecological surveys and environmental education. Maya will be here through July 2011. ✂

## News from the Nisqually Nature Shop

The Nisqually Nature Shop is a great place to find nature items for yourself or other nature lovers in your life. There is a great selection of kids' books, field guides, birding DVDs and CDs, cards, and clothing. New items include walking

sticks, new colors and variety of shirts and sweatshirts, and greeting cards with great wildlife photos. So if you haven't shopped The Nature Shop in a while, stop in and see what's new! Nature Shop Hours are: Wednesday-Sunday, 9am-4pm.

## Wanted: Used Books

The Nisqually Nature Shop, operated by Friends of Nisqually NWR has a used book section that is in need of more books. The books should be in good shape and the subject matter should be nature or the environment. Text books, kids' books, travel books and coffee table books would all be acceptable.

If you have books you'd like to donate, they can be dropped off at the Refuge office weekdays from 7:30am - 4pm and weekends at the Visitor Center from 9am - 4pm. The Friends of Nisqually NWR is a (501)(c)(3) non profit organization and your donation would be tax deductible as permitted by law. ✂

## Volunteers Celebrated

Terri Guileemets once said, "The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers" and Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge certainly knows how it feels to be embraced! On Friday, February 18, volunteers were recognized for their outstanding service to the Refuge at the annual volunteer recognition event. In 2010 alone, 100 volunteers contributed 15,900 hours to Nisqually NWR, from tasks as diverse as staffing the Visitor Center to managing habitats and wildlife. The volunteers at Nisqually are dedicated and important; without their hard work and support Nisqually would be a much different place.



Dennis Ellison,  
2010 Volunteer  
of the Year

The volunteers who earned the top honors all contributed over 350 hours of their time in 2010—you may have seen them roving the trails, answering questions at the Visitor Center, working in the office or with the education program. Thank you Nancy Wells (376.5 hours), Barb Peterson (471 hours), Jan Kramer (475 hours), and Art Pavey (527.5 hours), for your integral support of the wildlife, habitat and visitors of the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge. The refuge recognizes the dedicated work of Karen Yochem, who earned the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award this year (739 hours), contributing 13,856 hours since she started volunteering at Nisqually. Dennis Ellison was recognized as 2010's volunteer of the year, spending 682 hours trail roving, working with the Refuge weed warriors, and other wildlife and habitat work.

The staff at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge wish to extend a sincere thank you to all the volunteers who work diligently to improve and maintain this great space—it wouldn't be possible without them! ✂

—Carlye Cunniff

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Save trees, think green

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# Spring Programs

## April

### Saturday, April 2

#### *Nature from Every Angle: An Introduction to Point of View Photography*

8am – 10am

Join i'ina van Lawick in a beginner's photo composition class as she introduces you to a creative side of yourself you've never met before! *Point of view* is a style of photography that uses interesting perspectives and camera angles to give the photo viewer a unique experience when looking at your pictures. In this session you will learn how to "see" through the eye of the lens and create interesting images. Please bring your camera, extra batteries and a photo you would like to critique for improvement. Meet in the Visitor Center.



### Sunday, April 3

#### *Flourishing Flowers*

1pm – 3pm

Even if the grey skies don't know that it's spring time, our Washington plants certainly do! Come relish how wonderful Pacific Northwest spring times are by joining Sally Vogel on a nature walk through the Refuge—all the while finding, learning about and maybe even stopping to smell the flowers! Meet in the Visitor Center.

### Saturday April 9

#### *How to Keep a Wave on the Sand; Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs*

10am – 1pm

Come learn some basic and professional outdoor photography techniques and tips from writer and national photographer Greg Farley. Learn to take your camera off the "automatic" settings and onto the "manual" settings in just a couple of hours. Workshop participants will spend time inside learning camera operations, then head outside to apply what they've learned. Never again let nature's beauty escape your lens! Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

### Saturday April 10

#### *Medicine Creek, Formerly She-nah-num: Historic Tour*

1pm - 2:30pm

Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path on this historic tour. Learn about the events surrounding the

signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty, explore how the Nisqually people came to the Nisqually delta and how their lives changed with the settlement of Europeans. This walk will also focus on the significant events that surrounded the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty. Discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet in the Visitor Center.

### Saturday April 16

#### *Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk*

8:30am – 12 noon

Experience the thrill of seeing a Peregrine Falcon (the world's fastest bird) or of hearing a woodpecker pecking away (up to 20 pecks per second)! Join birder Dave Richardson, an expert who knows the ins and outs of birding at Nisqually, for a bird walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the refuge's largest treasures (the birds!) Meet in the Visitor Center.

### Saturday April 17

#### *Blushing Blooms*

1pm – 3pm

What better way to spend a spring afternoon than by strolling the boardwalk, looking at blooming native plants and contemplating the finer points of life? All you have to do to find danger and romance here at the Refuge is to listen to the names of our plants, provided by plant enthusiast Sally Vogel. Join her on a fascinating plant-filled stroll that is sure to inspire your own stories. Meet in the Visitor Center.

### Saturday April 23

#### *It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild*

10am – 12 noon

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalist Art Pavey, on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge.

### Sunday April 24

#### *Birds of a Feather: The Sights and Sounds of Spring*

8am – 12 noon

With spring migration in full swing, the Refuge is all aflutter! Experience the thrill of seeing swallows (four different species) or the "witchity, witchity" of the common yellowthroat! Join birders Ken and Nell Batker, who know the ins and outs of birding at Nisqually, for a bird

walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the refuges largest treasures (the birds!). Meet in the Visitor Center.

## **Saturday April 30**

### ***Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival***

*9am – 5pm, Hoquiam High School*

Don't miss your chance to celebrate the spring shorebird migration that happens every year along our coast. Join in the many activities offered at the Festival including field trips, lectures and a birding marketplace. Best shorebird viewing at Grays Harbor NWR is from 10:30am-2:20pm [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com).

## **May**

### **May 1**

### ***Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival***

*9am – 3pm, Hoquiam High School*

Don't miss your chance to celebrate the spring shorebird migration that happens every year along our coast. Join in the many activities offered at the Festival including field trips, lectures and a birding marketplace. Best shorebird viewing at Grays Harbor NWR is from 12:15am-3:15pm [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com).

### **Saturday May 7**

### ***Go Wild, Go Birding: International Migratory Bird Day***

The theme for 2011 International Migratory Bird Day is introducing new participants to birds and bird conservation. Nisqually's unique location on the Pacific Flyway gives us amazing opportunities to experience and learn about birds. Come help us celebrate our migratory birds by joining in on one of today's bird walks. Walks take about 3.5 hours, and will begin at the Visitor Center. Walks start at 8:30am (David Richardson), 10am (Eric Slagle) and 12 noon (Shep Thorp). Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars and cameras.

### **Sunday May 8**

### ***My Mother Told Me....To Celebrate Your Family at Nisqually!***

*10am – 11:30am*

Did you know mother geese have a special "baby call" they make as soon as their goslings hatch from their eggs? This way, the babies know who to listen to until they are old enough to make their own decisions. If only human babies were so obedient! Come celebrate Nisqually's many animal families by discovering Mother Nature's treasures at the Refuge. Bring your mother to Critter Clues: Signs of Wildlife on the Refuge with Shari Broadway. Meet the Visitor Center.

### **Saturday May 14**

### ***How to Keep a Wave on the Sand;***

### ***Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs***

*10am – 1pm*

See April 9 for a complete description of this program. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

### **Sunday May 15**

### ***Medicine Creek, Formerly She-nah-num: Historic Tour***

*1pm – 2:30pm*

See April 10 for a complete description of this program. Meet in the Visitor Center.

### **Saturday May 21**

### ***Nature from Every Angle; An Introduction to Point of View Photography***

*8am – 10am*

See April 2 for a complete description of this program.

### ***Birds of a Feather: It's Nesting Time!***

*8am – 10am*

Many species of birds, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle nest on the Refuge. Join expert birder Phil Kelley, who knows the ins and outs of birding Nisqually, for a bird walk and see how many nesters you can find. Meet in the Visitor Center.

### **Sunday May 22**

### ***Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk***

*8am - 12 noon*

Experience the thrill of seeing a Peregrine Falcon (the worlds fastest bird) or of hearing a woodpecker pecking away (up to 20 pecks per second)! Join birders Ken and Nell Batker, experts who know the ins and outs of birding at Nisqually, for a bird walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the refuges largest treasures (the birds!). Meet in the Visitor Center.

### **Saturday May 28**

### ***It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild***

*10am – 12 noon*

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalist Art Pavey, on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge.

## **June**

### **Saturday June 4**

### ***Nature from Every Angle; An Introduction to Point of View Photography***

*8am – 10am*

See April 2 for a complete description of this program.

## Sunday June 5

### *Birds of a Feather: Summer Residents*

7am – 11am

The variety of habitats at the Refuge support many species of birds throughout the year. Join expert birder, Shep Thorp on this bird walk into these habitats and see which birds are summer residents. Meet at the flagpole.

## Saturday June 11

### *How to Keep a Wave on the Sand; Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs*

10am – 1pm

See April 9 for a complete description of this program. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

## Sunday June 12

### *Medicine Creek, Formerly She-nah-num: Historic Tour*

1pm – 2:30pm

See April 10 for a complete description of this program. Meet in the Visitor Center.

## Saturday June 18

### *Critter Clues: Signs of Wildlife on the Refuge*

10am – 11:30am

Nisqually's wildlife can be elusive, but with a keen eye

and a sense of adventure you can discover who might be living at the refuge. Go undercover as we search Nisqually for signs of wildlife—from animal tracks and scat, to feathers and tooth marks. This is a great kids program (recommended ages 6-12), but be sure to bring an adult with you. Meet in the Visitor Center.

## Sunday June 19

### *It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild*

10am - 11:30am

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalist Donna Snow, on a nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge.

## Saturday June 25

### *It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild*

10am – 12 noon

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalist Art Pavey on a nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge.

## Sunday June 26

### *It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild*

10am - 11:30am

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalist Donna Snow on a nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge. ✨

## Boardwalk

from page 1

deck and handrail. There are approximately 3700 decking pieces. Pressure-treated Douglas fir was used for the structural components and railing. The boardwalk also has five pedestrian bridges which are each 30-50 feet long.

### Things to know before heading out

The Boardwalk will be open year round during Refuge hours, except for a seasonal closure beyond the McAllister Creek Viewing Platform during waterfowl hunting season (October through January). All visitors are required to stay on the boardwalk due to dangerous soft



Attendees of the Grand Opening Ceremony listening to speaker remarks

mud and changing tides and to protect sanctuary habitat for wildlife. The closest bathroom is a portable at the Twin Barns. The boardwalk is

accessible for all visitors and meets ADA standards (remember, the boardwalk is a one-mile walk from the parking lot.) ✨

# Pacific Chorus Frog's herald of Spring

If you've recently visited Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, or live nearby, you may have noticed the "kreek-eek, kreek-eek" of the Pacific Chorus Frog; a telltale sign (for residents of the Pacific Northwest) that we are nearing spring. The Pacific Chorus Frog, *Pseudacris regilla*, starts up its singing near the end of every winter. At this time of year, the sound we most often hear out of these tiny frogs is the male's "advertisement" call—a "ribbet" meant to lure female frogs down to the water for a hasty courtship.

The Pacific Chorus Frog (also commonly called the Pacific Tree Frog) is the most abundant frog on the West Coast, and is so important that it is recently dubbed "Washington State Frog." Colored brown or green (or, very rarely, blue) the Pacific Chorus Frog is recognizable by an always present black eye stripe, and sticky toe pads. These frogs are generally 1–2 inches in length; the females are generally larger than the males. Pacific Chorus Frogs are hearty; they can be found in a variety of habitats, from sea level

to high altitudes, and don't need to live near water until breeding season. Riparian forests, grasslands, streams, lakes, woodlands,



*Pacific Chorus Frog is recognizable by an always present black eye stripe, and sticky toe pads.*

pastures and urban areas are all fare game for Pacific Chorus Frogs, from British Columbia as far South as Baja, California, from the West Coast as far East as Montana. Though they are abundant, they are hard to spot; they blend well into their surroundings, whatever those surroundings may be, and are most active at night. They hide under logs, in tall grass and in

leaf litter and are virtually invisible unless you catch them moving. You can certainly hear them though—in some areas on warm spring evenings the sounds of signing chorus frogs can create a monumental din.

Though Pacific Chorus Frogs are important in their own right—the creatures are a beautiful, interesting and unique species—conservation efforts for the Pacific Chorus Frog focus on the frog's role as a keystone species. Keystone species are organisms that have an affect on the ecosystem disproportionate to what their biomass would suggest. Pacific Chorus Frogs, while still abundant, are affected by the decline in amphibian populations across the board. Because Pacific Chorus Frogs play a huge role in feeding other important northwest species; owls, hawks, herons, skunks, raccoons and snakes, a significant population decline would dramatically affect the rest of the ecosystem. ✧

## Calling all educators! Field Trip Orientation Workshops

Are you planning on introducing your students to the wonders of the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge? If so, join us for at Nisqually for a teacher training workshop? This workshop allows you to discover what a field trip to the Nisqually Refuge is all about, and will give you the tools you need to confidently plan and direct your own field trip. The workshop is recommended for all teachers planning on bringing students to the refuge and is required if you are planning a field trip to the refuge between May 15th and June

30th. You will learn about the history of the refuge, become more familiar with the facilities and educational materials available to you, and explore one of the trails located on the refuge. The workshop also looks at ways to prepare your students with classroom work before they visit Nisqually. Be prepared to participate in both indoor and outdoor educational activities. Clock hours are available, and admission is free. Drinks and a light snack will be provided. Training workshops are happening

on Saturday, March 12 from 9am – 10pm or Wednesday, April 13 from 4 pm-8 pm. Reservations for the teacher training workshops are required; please complete a reservation form on our website at <http://www.fws.gov/Nisqually/education.html>. Clock hours are available for a \$13 fee, approved by ESD113. For any questions about field trip orientations, scheduling field trips, or educational resources contact Margaret Lambert, Education Coordinator at 360-753-9467. ✧

# New and Renewing Friends Membership

November 2010 – February 10

## Student – Senior (\$15)

Anderson, Shirlene  
 Bostwick, Gary  
 Carpenter, Pam  
 Hines, Lin/Maryke  
 Johnson, Mavis  
 Shipley, Dave  
 West, Gerald  
 Atwood, Kay  
 Brignone, Joe  
 Curry, Steve  
 Hunt, Roger  
 Lowe, Barbara  
 Sullivan, Ruth  
 Erickson-Leitch, Tamara  
 Blanke, Don  
 Bull, Tim  
 DeBuse, Judy

## Individual (\$25)

Kerlin, Diane  
 Moore, Sharon  
 Von Tobel, Irene  
 Hudson, Marjorie  
 Ashburn, Beatrice  
 Cook Andres, Marian F  
 Drum, Elliott  
 Huffman, Dana  
 Lynch, Stephen  
 Shinobu, Marian  
 Tobiason,  
 Mr & Mrs Fred  
 Schell, Cheri  
 Cohen, Monty  
 Davison, Merrill  
 Fry, Louise  
 Johnson, Curt

## Family (\$50)

Mesner, Richard  
 Swanson, Leigh  
 Tocher, Eliza  
 Erickson, Larry & Peggy  
 Collins, Patricia  
 Douglas, Georgie  
 Gallagher, Sue  
 Laugharn, Richard/  
 Dorothy  
 Morgan, Robert/Lynn  
 Graves  
 Thorp, Sheppard D  
 Warlow, Christopher  
 Todd, David  
 Fowler, Ann/Gard, Carol  
 Pauler, Karen  
 Knutson-Bradac,  
 Daniel/Kari

Petersen, Karen/Shawn  
 Crowley  
**Supporting (\$100)**  
 Batker, Kenneth E  
 Stewart, Kristin/Michael  
 Carr, Shelley  
 Ogden, Joyce T  
**Patron (\$500)**  
 Hellberg, Fred/Margaret

**Friends of Nisqually NWR**  
 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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.**

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

**Nisqually & Grays Harbor  
National Wildlife Refuges**

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



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**Return Service Requested**

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

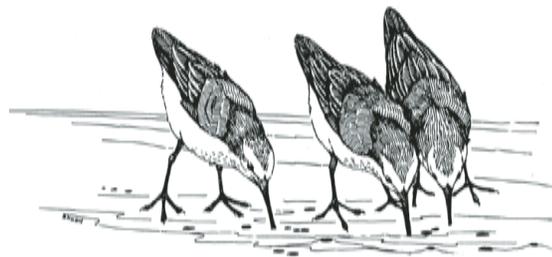
# Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

## April 29-May 1

**Hoquiam, WA**

The 16th Annual 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](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com)  
**(360) 289-5048**