

# The Flyway

Winter 2012



Quarterly newsletter of Nisqually and Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuges

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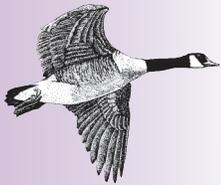
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## Save the Date!

The 2013 Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival will be held April 26 – 28 in Hoquiam.



## Snowy Owls Return for Second Year

Snowy Owls have returned to Nisqually for the second consecutive year, visible every day since six owls were spotted on the morning of November 13th. It is extremely unusual to see Snowy Owls for two consecutive years. They typically range this far south only once every five to ten years in an event called an irruption (the periodic movement of numbers of birds into unusual ranges for a season). Last winter's irruptive event was one of the most pronounced on

record, with owls seen as far south as Texas; one even made it, for the first time ever, to Hawaii.



photo ©D.Ellison

Nobody is completely certain about the factors that influence an irruption, but it is almost certainly linked, at least in part, to fluctuations in the lemming population. A single Snowy Owl eats 3 to 5 lemmings per day, a total of up to 1,600 per year, so the movements of Snowy owls naturally depend on this food source. But for irruptive movements to occur on a continent wide basis,

*Continued on next page*

## Clay Taylor Keynote Speaker at 2013 Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

Clay Taylor, the Naturalist Market Manager at Swarovski Optik, NA, will be the next keynote speaker at the Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival.

Clay grew up in Moodus, Connecticut, and started birdwatching while in college at Rochester, NY. He joined the Mattabeseck Audubon in Middletown, Connecticut, in 1975 and served as president of that organization. He was on the first

Connecticut Rare Records Committee and was the founder and first president of the Connecticut Butterfly Association. He also worked as a naturalist for Hammonasset Beach State Park.



After 32 years of birding in Connecticut, he moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, in the summer of 2008. "I traded Blue Jays for Green Jays," he said. He is currently the

*Continued on next page*

## Clay Taylor

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Naturalist Market Manager at Swarovski Optik N. A., which means "I fly around the country showing birders great birds through great binoculars. I do a LOT of Digiscoping, giving workshops and online advice." Clay's talk will be Friday, April 26th at Hoquiam High School. Tickets are \$15. Go the website, [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com) for more details on all Shorebird Festival events. ✂



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Save trees, think green

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## Enter the 2013 Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival Poster Contest!



McDermoth Elementary 6th grade student Holly Bergeson's depiction of a Long-billed Dowitcher won the 2012 Best of Show.

Participate in the 2013 poster contest by drawing or painting one of our local shorebirds! Artwork will be judged based on accuracy, originality and artistic skill. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, third, fourth, and fifth place winners in each grade. Entries can be created using any medium with an unmounted/framed size of 12" x 18". The deadline for this year's contest

is Friday, April 5th. You can mail entries to Shorebird Poster Contest, c/o Port of Grays Harbor, PO Box 660, Aberdeen, WA 98520 or hand deliver them to Port of Grays Harbor, 111 South Wooding St., Aberdeen, WA 98520. First place winning artwork will be used in publicity for the 2014 Shorebird Festival. For questions or entry forms, please contact Lindsay Loftin, Education and Outreach Coordinator for Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge at (360)753-9467 or [lindsay\\_loftin@fws.gov](mailto:lindsay_loftin@fws.gov). ✂

## Snowy owls

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other factors, such as weather, may also be influential, though a clear relationship has never been determined.

These owls typically breed only at the far northern fringe of the continent, truly in the Arctic. Because of their icy home territory they are distinctively bright white (younger birds have black barring which diminish as they age). They are also the heaviest of all North American Owls. During winter months, they range across Canada and into New England, New York and the Northern Plains, but for those of us in the Pacific Northwest seeing a Snowy Owl is a rare treat. At the Refuge these owls are typically seen in the new restora-

tion area and beyond, in the tidal flats where there are few trees. They may remain resting on the ground for hours at a time, regarding the world with sleepy yellow eyes, comfortable with exposure perhaps because they are so accustomed to the treeless habitat of the tundra.

Snowy Owls have also been sighted at other locations throughout Washington, but as of the time of printing, this year's event has not yet been classified an irruption. None the less, the owls should be visible throughout Northwestern Washington through February. The owls at Nisqually are typically far out on the tidal plain near the mouth of the Nisqually River and are consequently difficult to see from visitor areas. For better views, head to Damon Point near Ocean Shores. ✂

# New Volunteers Join the Refuge



*In late October, sixteen people completed a 10 hour training course for new volunteers and became the newest members of the Refuge's Volunteer Program. They join the already 100 volunteers who contribute an average of 15,000 hours of volunteer time annually to Refuge projects. They will be working at the Visitor Center, Education Program, Administrative Office and at special events such as our annual Watershed Festival. Next time you're at the Refuge, please welcome the Class of 2012: Holly Andrews, Greg Arnold, Carolyn Barlow, Judy Cheley, Diane Claussen, Jennifer DeSelle, Steve Hassett, Hank and Helen Henry, Terry Hodge, Carol Kaiser, Cindy Mish, Eric Noah, Georgia Shaw-Holden, Susan Stone, and Gayle Wilde.*

## Refuge Manager Jean Takekawa Retires

After a conservation career spanning 35 years, Refuge Manager Jean Takekawa chose January 3<sup>rd</sup> as her final day with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. She will be finishing her career on a high note, having recently received a Department of the Interior Honor Award for Meritorious Service. An article in Fish and Wildlife News described her accomplishments:

“Jean has demonstrated her leadership skills and dedication to natural resources in a number of ways during her time with the Service. Her accomplishments are significant, sustained, and span the National Wildlife Refuge System. Jean managed public hunting programs, controlled invasive plants, monitored sea turtle nesting, and founded a statewide snail kite

sighting program for the Loxahatchee national Wildlife Refuge Complex in Florida. As a wildlife biologist supervisor for the San Francisco Bay NWRC in California, she worked tirelessly on a seabird restoration, threatened snowy plover management and monitoring of marine mammals. She also successfully implemented a plan that doubled the population of the endangered California clapper rail. Continuing to exhibit outstanding leadership when her work took her to Nisqually NWR in coastal Washington, Jean aided in the acquisition of a visitor center, classrooms and outdoor nature play areas where more than 200,000 visitors come each year for engagement and education. Jean also played a significant role in the extensive

and historic 15-year partnership with the Nisqually Estuary Restoration Team in which more than 900 acres of tidal habitat were restored in the Nisqually Delta—the largest tidal marsh restoration project ever completed in the Northwest. This monumental effort represents a critical step to recover endangered Chinook Salmon in the Nisqually Watershed and was recognized with the Coastal America Partnership Award in 2010.”

It is hard to imagine Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge without Jean Takekawa's kind presence and wise leadership. All of us at the Refuge wish her an adventurous retirement and the greatest possible happiness! ✨

# Sheila McCartan Wins 2012 Sense of Wonder Award

Sheila McCartan, Visitor Services Manager and Park Ranger for the Refuge was honored last week

with the 2012 Sense of Wonder Award.

The Rachel Carson "Sense of Wonder" Recognition Program recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of interpretation and environmental education within the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Ms. McCartan was recognized as a Service employee who has designed, implemented and/or shown visionary leadership in interpretive or environmental education programs. These programs foster a

deeper connection to our natural world and enhances public stewardship of our wildlife heritage.

Sheila's dedication, enthusiasm and successful accomplishments in Environmental Education

earned her this prestigious recognition. Of the many programs and events she produced, she consistently excelled in reaching over 10,000 students and teachers in the Pacific Region; facilitating Growing Up Wild teacher workshops; building and sustaining education partnerships; and building and implementing an Environmental Education Center and Outdoor Nature Explore Area at Nisqually.

Congratulations, Sheila, for your efforts in connecting people with nature!



*Sheila McCartan, right, accepting the 2012 Sense of Wonder Award.*

## Enter the Junior Duck Stamp contest!

Attention all kids grades K-12! Put your art skills to the test by

participating in the Washington State Junior Duck Stamp contest! Art work is judged in four groups (K-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12) with three 1st place, three 2nd place, three 3rd place, and 16 Honorable Mentions awarded in each group. All winners receive certificates, ribbons, and special Junior Duck Stamp winner pins. Washington Best in Show continues on to

the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest, where first through third

place winners receive a \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 cash prize respectively.

The winning design of the national contest is used for the \$5 Junior Duck stamp, sales of which are used to provide funding for K-12 environmental education programs. If interested in entering the contest, check out <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/> for details and entry applications. The deadline to enter this year's contest is March 15. Feel free to contact Michael Schramm with any questions at 360-753-9467 or by email at [michael\\_schramm@fws.gov](mailto:michael_schramm@fws.gov).



*2012 Best of Show by Charity Young of Camas, Washington, age 13.*

# New and Renewing Friends Members, Fall 2012

## Senior/Student (\$15)

Thomas G. and Barbara E. Malone  
Dave Lewis  
Gary Bostwick  
Kay Atwood  
Helen Engle  
Carol Horner  
Herman K. Nickel  
Connie Nuse

## Individual (\$25)

Evelyn L Kelly  
Bryan Crawford  
Robert B. Godwin  
Chris Warlow  
Roy Chastain  
Nancy E. Henderson

## Family (\$50)

Lisa Crowder  
Terry and Gerry Hodge  
Karen Petersen  
Carroll Ray Dotson  
Kristin Knoph and Brian Hanners  
Sheryl K. Johns  
Carol M. Moder  
Wally and Jenette Coin  
Shirlene Anderson  
Dorothy and Fred Tobiason  
Gerald West  
Beth Evans  
Glenis Nielsen  
Wenche M. Faiola



## Supporting (\$100)

Elizabeth Hansen  
Gail Trotter  
Dwight and Leta Faust  
Horace Thuline and  
Janice Tessin-Thuline  
Ken and Nell Batker  
Jean Takekawa  
Bunny Hyink

### 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 Tidel flats.

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

**Friends of Nisqually  
National Wildlife Refuges**

100 Brown Farm Rd.  
Olympia WA 98516

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

## Planning a field trip to Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge?

Attend one of our free field trip orientation workshops to get all the tools you need to confidently guide your students on a meaningful outdoor learning experience. You will be introduced to our hands on indoor activities in our education center, hike the Twin Barns Loop Trail, and learn about one of the largest restoration projects in the Puget Sound! Refreshments will be provided.

### **Workshop Dates:**

**Saturday, January 19th, 9am-1pm**

**Saturday, February 16th, 9am-1pm**

**Saturday, March 23rd, 9am-1pm**

**Wednesday, April 10th, 4pm-8pm**

\*\*\*Each year, from May 15th to the end of the School Year only teachers who have participated in a workshop within the past 3 years are able to schedule a class for their field trip.\*\*\*

**Location:** Education Center at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge (From I-5 Take Exit 114 and follow signs)

Clock hours are available for a fee, approved by ESD113.

**To Register:** Download the registration form from our website [fws.gov/refuge/Nisqually](http://fws.gov/refuge/Nisqually)

Under the Visit tab select “For Educators” and then Teacher Training.

### **For more information:**

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