

The Flyway

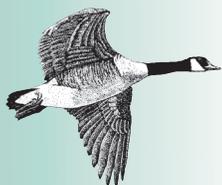
Spring 2013



Quarterly newsletter of Nisqually and Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuges

Inside...

- Cliff Swallows1
- Display cabinet.....2
- Volunteers appreciated 2
- Spring Programs..... 3-6
- Volunteer at Grays Harbor! 6
- Friends of Nisqually memberships 7
- Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival8



Save the Dates!

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



Cliff Swallows a Spring Attraction

Throughout Spring, observant visitors are greeted by Cliff Swallows nesting under the eaves of the Visitor Center.

The distinctive nests are built in dense clusters; at our Visitor Center they are usually found under the peak of the roof line. Each nest is a fully enclosed bowl with a tunnel out one side (single, cup-shaped nests on the building without a tunnel belong to Barn Swallows). The small beads of mud that make up the nest each represent a trip by the bird

to and from a mud source, and each nest contains anywhere from 900 to 1,200 of these beads. Amazingly, the nests are constructed in just one or two days.

From the parking area, visitors can consistently spot swarms of swallows overhead. Barn Swallows, Tree Swallows, and Violet-green Swallows in addition to Cliff Swallows all can be seen. Barns Swallows have long, forked tails, Tree Swallows are dark blue on top with a white belly, Violet-green are similar to Tree Swallows but with a pronounced white patch atop the rump, and Cliff Swallows are rusty orange with a bright white stripe across the forehead. This bright white stripe can be seen like a headlight

as the birds fly and also as they peer out through the tunnels of their nests.



*A cliff swallow peers out of its nest at the Refuge Visitor Center.
Photo by Louise Whitehead.*

Within the colony, a swallow may lay some of its eggs in another swallow's nest, or may move an egg by carrying it in its beak. This swapping of eggs has the benefit of maintaining genetic diversity within the population; when a nest is predated, the loss of life is usually complete, but if the eggs have been dispersed among several nests in several locations, some of the offspring will still survive. The most common predators at Nisqually

are owls. Throughout the summer, visitors are sometimes greeted in the morning by the somber sight of nests knocked from the eaves, torn down so by the owl in order to gain access to the chicks within. The Refuge will never destroy swallow nests, but predation by owls is natural and we do not interfere.

As one might expect of an animal that chooses to live in dense colonies, Cliff Swallows depend on one another—birds follow each other to food, and when a swallow finds a new insect swarm it will call back to other swallows to show them the way to the food source. But they also have a strong familiar bond. After chicks have fledged and when the young congregate in large groups, a mother can still easily locate and identify her young; it is

Continued on page 6

Annual Celebration Held for Volunteers

In the wake of the Estuary Restoration, word has spread that the Nisqually estuary is a place worth visiting. Consequently, and somewhat unexpectedly, the Refuge saw the second consecutive year of record visitation. We had over 205,000 visitors in 2012, so the efforts and talents of our dedicated volunteers are essential and greatly appreciated. 110 volunteers contributed 17,171 hours of their time to staff the Visitor Center and administrative offices, to work with school groups, manage habitat, rove trails and perform general maintenance.

On February 22nd, volunteers were recognized for their outstanding service to the Refuge at the annual volunteer recognition event. The volunteers who earned the top honors all contributed over 400 hours of their time in 2012. Thank you Barb Sullivan (426 hours) and Jan Kramer (458 hours), and Distinguished Volunteers Art Pavey (526

hours), Dennis Ellison (627 hours) and Karen Yochem (849 hours).

Barb Peterson was recognized as this year's Volunteer of the Year with 483 hours contributed through a broad range of activities including the Visitor Center, special events like the Watershed Festival, maintaining our Education Center aquarium and stocking the children's book section of our Nature Shop.

The volunteers at Nisqually are the backbone of the Refuge. In terms of hours donated, they effectively double the size of our staff, and it is only through their altruism that we are able to effectively execute preservation efforts and public outreach. For all the staff at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, the dedication and generosity of our volunteer are in inspiration.✧



Barb Peterson receives this year's Volunteer of the Year recognition from Acting Refuge Manager Doug Roster.

New Display Cabinet for the Education Center

Due to the expert skill and kind generosity of one individual, the Education Center now has a beautiful, custom made display cabinet. Dennis Hogan of Ocean Shores donated his time and expertise to make the cabinet for us, which displays many of our bird mounts. The cabinet also has 20 drawers which hold items that students can look at up close. Dennis serves on the Board of Directors for the Coastal Interpretive Center and, among other things, he has built a number of furniture items for the Center; this time we were the beneficiary of his talents. We'd also like to acknowledge and thank the Friends of Nisqually NWR for covering the cost of materials for the cabinet.✧



Dennis Hogan with the new Education Center display cabinet.

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

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www.fws.gov/nisqually

www.fws.gov/graysharbor

Volume 6, Number 1

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Save trees, think green

To receive *The Flyway*
electronically, email

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Spring Programs

April

Saturday, April 6

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

10am – 1pm

With spring migration in full swing, the Refuge is all aflutter! Experience the thrill of seeing swallows (four different species) or the “wicity wicity” of the common yellowthroat! Join experienced birder Eric Slagle for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge’s largest treasures – the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, April 7

It’s in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

9am – 11am

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalist Jan Seguin on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Our Amazing Plant World

1pm – 2:30pm

Spring is the perfect time to experience the Refuge plant life in all its diversity! Join Sally Vogel on a nature walk through the Refuge—all the while learning about plant-insect interactions, adaptations for survival and other interesting facts. You only live once: Stop to smell the flowers! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 13

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am – 12noon

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 experienced birder David Richardson for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge’s largest treasures: The birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

How to Keep a Wave on the Sand: Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs

10am – 1pm

Never again let nature’s beauty escape your lens! In this hands-on workshop with writer and photographer

Greg Farley, you will learn to take your camera off the “automatic” settings and then head outside to apply basic and professional outdoor photography techniques. Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

Sunday, April 14

The Nisqually and Medicine Creek: Where Nature, Culture and History Converge

1pm - 2:30pm

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. Lynn Corliss leads you down history’s winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 20

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am – 12noon

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 experienced birder David Richardson for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge’s largest treasures: The birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

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 naturalists Art Pavey, Jan Kramer, and Cheri Greenwood on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Sunday, April 21

The Photographer’s Eye: The Basics of Outdoor Photography

10am – 12 noon

Nature photography offers individuals the opportunity to develop their finer naturalist instincts

and vision, and the beginner's eye is often the eye that sees most clearly. With this in mind, experienced Refuge photographer John Whitehead offers guidance in technique and composition, with emphasis on learning to utilizing manual settings in order to more completely capture the image you want to capture. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Our Amazing Plant World

1pm – 2:30pm

Spring is the perfect time to experience the Refuge plant life is all its diversity! Join Sally Vogel on a nature walk through the Refuge—all the while learning about plant-insect interactions, adaptations for survival and other interesting facts. You only live once: Stop to smell the flowers! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Tuesday, April 23

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

3pm – 7pm

Many species of bird, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle, nest on the Refuge. Check out the avian beauty with longtime birder Shep Thorp, who knows the Refuge backwards and forwards. On this late afternoon guided walk, you are sure to learn something new! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Friday, April 26 – Sunday, April 28

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

9am – 4pm, 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 Friday from 12:50pm to 4:50pm, Saturday from 1:45pm to 5:45pm, and Sunday from 2:30pm to 6:30pm. For more detailed information about the schedule of events, visit

www.shorebirdfestival.com

Sunday, April 28

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. Meet in the Visitor Center.

May

Saturday, May 4

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

10am – 1pm

With spring migration in full swing, the Refuge is all aflutter! Experience the thrill of seeing swallows (four different species) or the “wicity wicity” of the common yellowthroat! Join experienced birder Eric Slagle for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures – the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 5

It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

9am – 11am

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalist Jan Seguin on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

The Nisqually and Medicine Creek: Where Nature, Culture and History Converge

1pm - 2:30pm

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. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 11

How to Keep a Wave on the Sand: Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs

10am – 1pm

Never again let nature's beauty escape your lens! In this hands-on workshop with writer and photographer Greg Farley, you will learn to take your camera off the “automatic” settings and then head outside to apply basic and professional outdoor photography techniques. Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

Sunday, May 12

Nature Up Close: Introduction to Macro Nature Photography

10am – 12 noon

Dew drops on flower petals; the eyes of insects. These details represent the oft overlooked true visual poetry of nature. Join Refuge photographer John Whitehead for discussion, demonstration, and practice of up close nature photography. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 18

How to Keep a Wave on the Sand: Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs

10am – 1pm

Never again let nature's beauty escape your lens! In this hands-on workshop with writer and photographer Greg Farley, you will learn to take your camera off the "automatic" settings and then head outside to apply basic and professional outdoor photography techniques. Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

Sunday, May 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. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 25

Birding Basics: Learning to See

9am – 11am

What subtle cues do experienced birders use to quickly and accurately identify species? Birding is nothing less than the art of seeing, so the techniques used by birders increase awareness of all things natural. Refuge Ranger Michael Schramm will guide you through the estuary's diverse habitats on an odyssey of avian discovery, all the while teaching the ins and outs of birding. Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center—and remember to bring binoculars!

June

Saturday, June 1

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

10am – 1pm

With spring migration in full swing, the Refuge is all aflutter! Experience the thrill of seeing swallows (four

different species) or the "wichity wichity" of the common yellowthroat! Join experienced birder Eric Slagle for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures – the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, June 2

It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

9am – 11am

From bitterns to butterflies, chickadees to crabapples, the Refuge is home to many types of wildlife. Join naturalist Jan Seguin on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the creatures of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, June 8

How to Keep a Wave on the Sand: Capturing the Outdoors in Photographs

10am – 1pm

Never again let nature's beauty escape your lens! In this hands-on workshop with writer and photographer Greg Farley, you will learn to take your camera off the "automatic" settings and then head outside to apply basic and professional outdoor photography techniques. Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

Sunday, June 9

The Nisqually and Medicine Creek: Where Nature, Culture and History Converge

1pm - 2:30pm

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. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, June 15

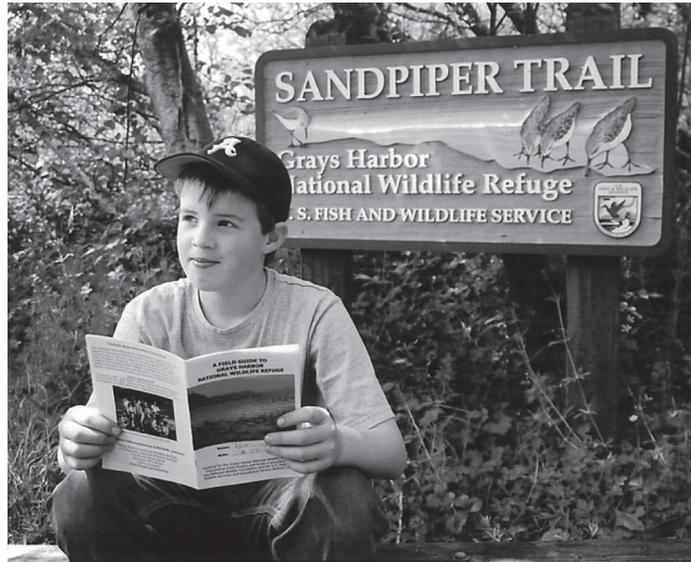
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10am – 1pm

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Volunteer and Assist with Field Trips to Grays Harbor NWR!

During the spring shorebird migration, we will be conducting 11 field trips to Grays Harbor NWR for 3rd and 4th graders in Grays Harbor County. We need volunteers to assist with these field trips which each last about 2 hours. Attend one of our free volunteer trainings and receive all the tools and information you will need. You will be introduced to the Shorebird Sister Schools Program, meet other wonderful volunteers, and receive a volunteer packet. Refreshments will be provided.



There will be two training dates. Participants can attend either one, depending on which location

is most convenient:

Where: Hoquiam Library, 420 7th Street, Hoquiam

When: Saturday, April 6th from 10:00-11:30am

-or-

Where: Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

When: Sunday, April 7th from 10:00-11:30am

To register, please contact:

Lindsay Loftin
Education Coordinator
Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge
Phone: 360-753-9467
lindsay_loftin@fws.gov

Spring Programs

continued from previous page

Bring your camera (film, DSLR, or point and shoot), extra batteries and a sense of adventure! Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

Saturday, June 22

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am – 12noon

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 experienced birder David Richardson for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures: The birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.



It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

10am – 12 noon

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Saturday, June 29

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am – 12noon

Experience the thrill of seeing a Peregrine Falcon (the world's fastest bird) or hearing a woodpecker pecking away (up to 20 pecks per second)! Join experienced birder David Richardson for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures: the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Cliff Swallows in the Spring

From page 1

thought they do this primarily by voice, though the complex facial markings may also play a role.

During the spring and summer months, Cliff Swallows may be the most oft photographed species at the Refuge. Visitors pause for a long time to peer up at the impressive nests. It makes sense that Cliff Swallows should be so popular: They are very visible, and we can see their struggles. But that we find them so endearing may be, on a deeper level, even more so because we intuit some similarity between their complex behaviors and our own.



New and Renewing Friends Membership *Winter 2013*

Senior/Student (\$15)

Jean Huskamp
 Dave Edwards
 Alice Nevue
 Don Blanke
 Karen Drum
 Clyde McBrayer
 Lorraine Potter
 B. Jean Black
 Lin H. Hines
 Irene von Tobel
 Robin Little
 Charles and Rosalie
 Davies
 Judy J. Moore
 Susan Huck
 Betty Whalen
 Russ Amith
 Marion K. Armstrong
 Greg Bargmann

Individual (\$25)

Emmalou Lyle
 Barbara Newman
 Len Elliott
 Gimi Bashaw
 Heather Durka
 Judy Schramm
 Lynn Graves and Robert
 Morgan
 Curt Johnson
 Marj Hudson
 William E. Yake
 Ruth M. Sullivan
 Anna E. Sumner
 Sandia Slaby
 Susan Mullen
 Gilde Warden
 Carol Mastronarde
 Donald and Dalene Edgar

Family (\$50)

Paul and Barbara
 Webster
 Alice Lindsley and
 Rachael Barry
 Larry and Peggy
 Erickson
 Russ and Susan Cable
 James and Ruth Hoss
 Cecile J. Montgomery
 David Richardson
 Bill and Deryn Fulton
 Carol and Robert
 Hopkins
 Lin Livingston
 John and Elly Walkowiak
Supporting (\$100)
 Michael and Kristin
 Stewart
 Karen Pauler
 Ed Sakai
 Shelley and Wm. Carr

Marian Shinobu
 Isabelle Bohman
Patron (\$500)
 Fred and Margaret
 Hellberg
 Brian Sullivan and Anna
 Leon-Guerrero

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 _____

**Friends of Nisqually
National Wildlife Refuge**

100 Brown Farm Rd.
Olympia, WA 98516

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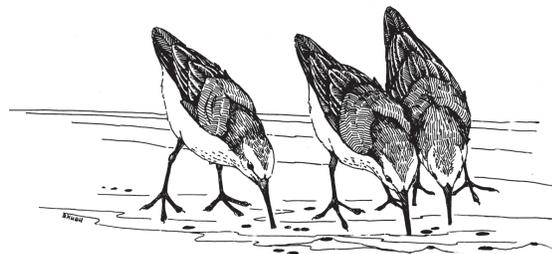
"...conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people..."

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival April 26–28

Hoquiam, WA

The 18th 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
dates!*



www.shorebirdfestival.com
(360) 289-5048