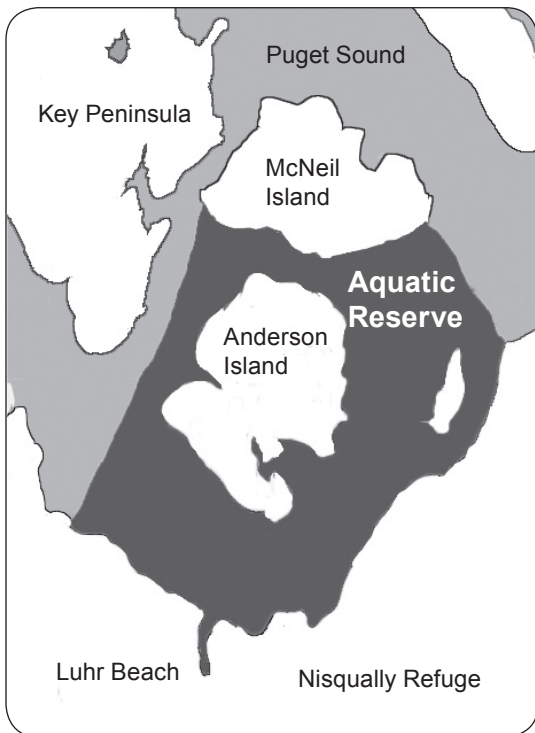




## Grants Boost Aquatic Reserve Programs

By Daniel Hull and Doug Myers



With the creation of the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve last September, we at the Center are gearing up for an augmented and exciting new season of research, monitoring, and education. With funds from the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) targeted at extending research throughout the reserve, we will collaborate with our partners in research: The Nisqually Tribe, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge (NNWR), DNR, US Geological Survey, and community members.

The Nisqually Tribe will take the lead in working with partners to accomplish this task. The already-established protocols for restoration monitoring of the NNWR dike removal will be

expanded to look more closely at connecting the natural processes of the delta with adjacent nearshore and marine habitats and uses.

As part of this new scope of work, NRNC will be coordinating citizen participation through several actions under a grant administered by the Tribe:

- Targeted events where people can observe the science being performed by professional researchers.
- Active participation for volunteers alongside researchers, designed for people who have the time to commit to the program and get the proper training.
- Outreach events to get people out to the beach to hear about the different types of research under way.
- Citizen monitoring of Aquatic Reserve use — who is using the reserve and for what purposes — including species and habitat surveys using SCUBA, beach seining, and sea grass and forage fish monitoring protocols.

In addition to getting a great start implementing the Aquatic Reserve Science Plan, DNR is responsible for creating a Local Implementation Committee that will advise staff and the Commissioner of Public Lands on appropriate uses for the Aquatic Reserve. This committee will be guided by the Aquatic Reserve

*(continued on page 3)*

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## NRNC Receives RFF Grant

The Russell Family Foundation has once again selected the Nisqually Reach Nature Center to receive funds for programs and operating expenses. This \$20,000 grant will enable the Center to continue outreach and education programs as well as to carry out its responsibilities for the newly created Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve. We at the Center are very appreciative of the generous support and long-standing and fruitful relationship we have had with The Russell Family Foundation.

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## Director's Note

Daniel Hull, *NRNC Executive Director*



I find the Center in a flurry of excitement with two sightings of white Pelicans visiting the delta, realizing the function of restored estuarine habitat and the conservation of the new Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve. All of our programming now incorporates a message about the community effort that created the Aquatic Reserve.

Our research and education efforts are now culminating in national databases such as Nature Mapping and Cornell Lab of Ornithology eBird website. We will be working to strengthen our partnerships with US Geological Survey, the Nisqually Tribe and State and Federal agencies. We will assist them in any way possible through the creation of new citizen stewardship committees connecting research with community members.

The Center's education and outreach programs are reaching more community members now than ever before. A great example of that was the Olympia Wooden Boat Fair (pictured below), where NRNC volunteers brought our message to more than 400 people.

I am very pleased to see in these trying times people putting forth time and money to help us in our mission, dedicating themselves to what we have worked so hard to achieve.

## Fundraiser Idea



In April, NRNC supporter Patty McDonald held her birthday party at the Center. In lieu of presents, Patty requested that the 40-some attendees give donations to the Center, and she also organized an auction for the party. This unique and fun event raised \$2,100 for NRNC programs.

If you might be interested in holding a similar fundraising event, contact Daniel Hull at (360) 459-0387.



## Grants Boost Aquatic Reserve Programs (continued from page 1)

Management Plan's Allowable Uses section and will analyze uses requiring DNR leases or use authorizations on state-owned aquatic lands. The committee will comprise community stakeholders such as shellfish growers, tribes, homeowners and environmentalists.

This program will be augmented by the creation of Aquatic Reserve Citizen Committees, funded by an Environmental Protection Agency grant with People For Puget Sound and three other groups, throughout the DNR Aquatic Reserve system.

The Citizen Committees will provide feedback and help steer future decisions and directions of state and local government agencies that manage the shorelines and adjacent upland regarding land uses that have the potential to affect species and habitats within the Aquatic Reserves.

The Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve Citizen Committee will interface with the reserve's Local Implementation Committee described above and may include a public access review, kayak-based observers, and citizen activists trained to represent the Aquatic Reserve in public meetings.

## Aquatic Reserve Education Reaches Anderson Island By Daniel Hull

Now that the Aquatic Reserve is a reality, I am pleased to have more time and money available to share some of our education expertise with our neighbors and partners on Anderson Island. On Monday, May 7, I was able to spend the day at Andy's Marine Park on Anderson Island with over 30 school children. The tide that day was a -3.5 and the beach experience was exquisite. We divided the students into six age-appropriate groups and headed out onto the beach to explore the lower intertidal zone. In our 33cm<sup>2</sup> quadrates we found sand dollars, nudibranchs, kelp crabs, hermit crabs, geoducks, many types of worms or annelids, crabs, kelp, sea lettuce (*Ulva*), beach hoppers (amphipods), isopods, many shore crabs and more. The quadrates were designed to get the students to take a closer look at some of the smaller things on the beach, and it worked. The sun was hot and the students were having a great time.

After we compiled the findings from the quadrat survey as a group, we combed the beach for about 15-20 minutes at the water line of this low tide. The students were discovering so much they did not want to leave. During this time, we found over 50 geoduck necks sticking up out of the sand, several large red rock crabs, what appeared to be a mating pair of Dungeness crab (male and female together), and huge plumose anemones closed in on themselves. At the end of the day, we had to work hard to pull the kids up the trail, but we managed to make it back on time. Going up the trail, I overheard stories of how cool the kids thought the beach was. It was an excellent day had by all.

After the program, I was able to work with Carol Paschal and Kim Tate on assisting with this year's Anderson Island Summer Camp for Youth. Carol has been instrumental in assisting the Center with education and community connections, and she set up a meeting with Kim Tate, this year's director for their summer camps. We spent time going over educational strategies on the beach and safety for the participants. I am excited to say that we will be able to assist with the start of the camp and provide some training for volunteers before their camp starts on July 30.

Enthusiastic students explore the beach on Anderson Island.



# “Eye on Nature” Programs a Huge Success

By Daniel Hull



Canada Geese with goslings. Nature Mapped 5-16-12

This year, we are once again involved in nature mapping through the “Eye on Nature” program at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge (NNWR). This is the fourth year we have partnered with Nisqually River Education Project, NNWR, and the Chehalis Education Consortium to bring more than 700 kids to the Refuge who would not get the opportunity to do so without our help. The program involved 35 volunteers, who contributed 300 hours over 13 days. Write in the Rain provided 1,000 sheets at a discount price of Write in the Rain paper for the program.

With the loss of a federal grant we had received in the past, new partnerships and support had to be found. This year the Friends of Nisqually and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (through its Connecting Children to Nature program) are contributing over \$3,000 for transportation, training, and limited staff time so the program can move forward. We also had a very successful fundraiser for the “Eye on Nature” program at the Fish Tale Brewpub, which generated more than \$1,300. It is great to see people come together for such a fantastic program.

## Board Nominations

The Board of Directors of Nisqually Reach Nature Center is soliciting nominations for additional board members from among our membership. There are three positions available on the board for 2013 and we are seeking dedicated, enthusiastic, and committed individuals who have Wisdom, Work, Wealth and/or Wallop to fill these positions and add to our already outstanding board.

Prospective nominees should submit an essay of no more than 500 words about how their unique skills and connections could be used to promote the Nature Center’s mission. We have particular interest in adding board member skills that can help us shepherd the replacement of our pier, build our membership base, and engage in fundraising to sustain our programs. All nominations will be reviewed by our board recruitment committee and finalists will be introduced at the Fall Fundraiser, “Feast at the Reach,” and installed by January 2013.

Send your application to:

Board Recruitment Committee  
NRNC  
4949 D’Milluhr Rd. NE  
Olympia WA 98516

## Nisqually Delta Restoration Science, Monitoring, and Modeling Meeting

By Daniel Hull

On May 17, scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Nisqually Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Washington Department of Natural Resources got together at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge to look at how modeling data can help us understand future outcomes and possibly guide potential new surveys in the future.

With all the research that is happening in and around the Nisqually Delta/new Aquatic Reserve, we are getting closer to answering some of the questions remaining about the Nisqually Delta nearshore and offshore environs. It was exciting to see and listen to so many principal researchers as they worked hard to coordinate the different scientific efforts focused on the delta.

Much time was spent looking at 3D modeling of data to map sediment transport throughout the Nisqually complex. The model is still being refined and is based on much of the research that has occurred over the last couple of years. Once complete this tool could be used to predict what could happen to sediment during large storm events, dam removal, and sea level rise or possibly help predict how vegetation or animal communities could shift over time. Check our website to see a demonstration video of this modeling coming soon ([www.nisquallyestuary.org](http://www.nisquallyestuary.org)).



A Caspian Tern goes head first into the water. Photo by Judy Murphy.

## Expect the Unexpected

By Daniel Krenz

**A**s educators, we must always expect the unexpected. We often have to change our educational approach based upon time constraints, the age group we are addressing, and other factors out of our control.

Recently, we hosted a field trip consisting of 55 second graders. As this is a large group to engage all at once, Jeanine Toth and I split the group in half and planned two outdoor and two indoor activities, rotating the groups between us.

What we did not expect was that the group would be over an hour late. This cut our teaching time in half, and we had to adjust our plan accordingly.

Yet despite the chaos of a large group of young students and unexpected time constraints, the students still walked away with an amazing experience, saying things like “best field trip ever” and “I can’t wait to come back.”

Not only did we successfully conduct an education program, but we saw an adult Bald Eagle with a scavenged catch and a juvenile “patiently” waiting his turn (pictured below). Every trip to the Nisqually Delta yields a new experience — that is why so many of us volunteer.

An adult Bald Eagle carries its catch to a waiting juvenile.



## Volunteer Corner

By Daniel Hull

**T**he Center’s volunteer base is growing, as we have recently added several new volunteers.

Yvonne Shevalier found the Center by working with Joint Base Lewis -McChord youth and looks to strengthen partnerships between the Center and Base families. She has a Master’s Degree in Marine Ecology, and her thesis focused on geoduck distribution and oceanographic parameters. She also received a Bachelor’s degree from The Evergreen State College (TESC) with an emphasis on Pacific Northwest salmonids. Yvonne will be helping us this year with our summer camps, Aquatic Reserve Citizen Science Committee’s research/monitoring, and staffing the Center.

Olivia Zook, our new Evergreen State College intern, joined the Center in the spring and undertook to look at Nisqually estuary from an anthropological view, under a contract with the Center and TESC. She is an avid cyclist and birder with a deep caring for the environment and experience working with youth. We look forward to having Olivia join us during our summer camps.

Lisa Abdulghani joins us as a Washington Conservation Corps volunteer. Lisa has been a huge help with staffing the Center and working with our visitor use statistics database. She is excited to work with this year’s summer camp and is working on the development of a native plant ID program to deliver to the students this summer.

Steve Wirtz: A new volunteer and long-time friend of mine, Steve brings with him a wealth of knowledge from growing up in the Puget Sound area and seems to be a jack-of-all-trades. He has been instrumental in assisting Jeanine Toth with revising the floor plan layout for the Center. Come in, check it out, and meet our new volunteers!



NRNC Volunteer  
Steve Wirtz

## Summer Camp off to a Great Start — By Judy Murphy

The 12<sup>th</sup> season of Summer Camp began with 14 enthusiastic 7-9-year-old campers eager to get out on the beach. Although we aim for campers to have fun, we also encourage students to make a connection with science as they explore the beach. Campers participated in Nature Mapping, finding 27 species on the beach; outfitted with binoculars and clipboards, they enjoyed observing and recording what they saw. Highlights of Nature Mapping included spotting Great Blue Herons, Caspian Terns, shore crabs, live mussels, and an abundance of tiny snails.

The Home Depot contributed wood and paint for our salmon painting activity (pictured at right), and Olie Lindseth and Bob Kalkworf of the Panorama City woodshop cut out the 2-foot-long fish. Campers painted the fish with a rainbow of colors and designs depicting life in the estuary. Volunteer Jacqueline Winter worked with staff to revamp the summer camp workbook, and new volunteer Olivia Zooks introduced a program on birds of prey.

The last camp of the summer, which will be an advanced five-day camp in August, is already filled. If your child is interested in attending one of the three-day camps, call the Center to reserve a space or go online to our website, [www.nisquallyestuary.org](http://www.nisquallyestuary.org).





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CENTER**

# **NISQUALLY REACH**

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**Seatings at 3 PM and 5 PM**

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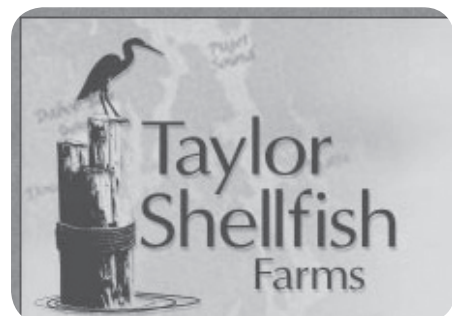
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**[www.NisquallyEstuary.org](http://www.NisquallyEstuary.org)**

**Food and Beverages Provided  
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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

On occasion, NRNC receives requests from like-minded nonprofit organizations for the use of our mailing list. If you do not want us to provide your address to others, please check the box below:

Please do not release my name to other organizations.

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

### PLEASE CHECK ONE

- Senior ..... 20.00
- Student ..... 20.00
- Individual ..... 35.00
- Household ..... 50.00
- Supporting ..... 75.00
- Patron ..... 100.00
- Benefactor ..... 250.00
- Sponsor ..... 500.00

The Nisqually Reach Nature Center (NRNC) is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to environmental education, outreach, and research. All contributions are tax deductible. The Center is located at Luhr Beach on the west side of the Nisqually delta. Our facilities are provided by the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. No state funds are provided for the operation of the Center.

The Center is open to the public Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm.

Nisqually Reach Nature Center  
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[www.NisquallyEstuary.org](http://www.NisquallyEstuary.org)  
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