



Aquatic Reserve Stewardship Committees Working Towards a Healthier Puget Sound

by Judy Murphy

Beginning in 2012, two groups of community volunteers have met monthly to map plans in support of the new Aquatic Reserve in South Sound. They are the Citizen Stewardship Committees of the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve, one group meeting on Anderson Island and the other at the Nisqually Reach Nature Center. Each has elected officers and selected projects to pursue that are most relevant to its membership.

Daniel Hull, NRNC Executive Director, Chair of the mainland group, feels very positive about the South Sound community's response.

"Our Aquatic Reserve is unique because it was the community that helped the Center draft the first management plan. That same community is now implementing the plan, and these folks are very interested in reaching out to others so that we all join together to keep this Reserve healthy and productive into the future," he noted.

Working with the Washington Environmental Council, and funded in part by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, the committees have produced a brochure explaining the purpose of the Aquatic Reserve, describing the natural resources of this ecosystem, and describing how members of our community can become involved in improving and preserving the Nisqually Delta. The first citizen science projects prioritized by the committees are a forage fish survey, a breeding survey of Pigeon Guillemots, and a visitor use survey at Luhr Beach, soon to be expanded to other sites in the Reserve. Take a look at the stories in this newsletter for more detail on how the committees are working to meet their goals.

For more information, or to read the minutes of the committee meetings, go to NRNC's website at www.nisquallyestuary.org. To receive a brochure about the Aquatic Reserve, call the Center at 360-459-0387.

2013 Feast at the Reach

Saturday, September 14

3 - 9 pm

\$40 NRNC Members

\$50 Non-NRNC Members

Save the
date!

Good Food!
Good Friends!

Good Music by
Back Porch Swing!



Inside this issue

Aquatic Reserve Committees Work Towards Healthy Sound	1
Do You Have an Email Address?.....	1
Director's Note	2
Forage Fish Surveys	2
Reaching Out to the Reach	2
Native Plants Enhance the Center	3
Pigeon Guillemot Survey	3
Volunteer Corner	3
Membership Application	4

Do You Have an Email Address?



The Center would like to send periodic updates via email and produce a full printed issue of Luhr Lore only once a year. This would save money, reduce paper waste, and keep our members informed in a more timely way of what is happening at the Center. We would love to have your email address, which would not be shared with any other organizations.

If you would like to receive updates, please send an email to: daniel.krenz1@gmail.com

Nisqually Reach Nature Center
4949 D'Milluhr Drive NE.
Olympia WA 98516-2311
(360) 459-0387
nrnc@nisquallyestuary.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARY LOU PELTIER, *Acting President*
JIM CUBBAGE, *Treasurer*
DEANNA DONOVAN, *Secretary*
SAUNDERS FREED
MICHAEL GRILLIOT
MARY JO HARTMAN
KEN JACOBSEN
DANIEL KRENZ
LISA PERLE
KAIA PETERSEN
YVONNE SHEVALIER

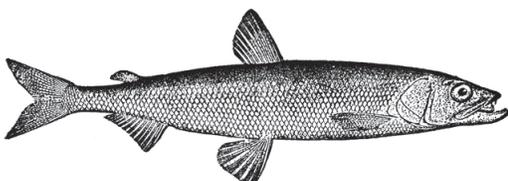
Reaching Out to the Reach

In an effort to connect with citizens of the Nisqually Reach, the Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee is using a variety of media. A new brochure has been produced in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and the Washington Environmental Council.

Keep an eye out for new interpretive signs going in at public access sites like the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

The committee has also been the first among the Aquatic Reserves to develop a social media presence. 'Like' us at Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve on Facebook or follow us @nisquallyreach on Twitter.

Get connected with the Aquatic Reserve and get involved!



Director's Note

The sunshine is coming back to the Pacific Northwest and the Nisqually Reach Nature Center shines brightly. The Center is still on track to reach more than 2,000 kids with educational programming in 2013. We have a volunteer roster of 39 active volunteers. Our Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship committees have some 80 participants helping us achieve the mission and goals of the Reserve. Everything we accomplish is a product of our dedicated volunteers, members and supporters.

In the last 8 months of growth, the Center has been through many changes. We said goodbye to long-time board members Doug (past president) and Karen Myers, as a promotion with US Fish and Wildlife Service for Karen took them to the other side of the country to live in the Washington DC area. Our long-time caretaker, Jeanine Toth, stepped down after 7 years of service and moved into Olympia to help foster her new yoga business and be closer to her work at Fishtale. Although we will miss their presence at the Center, we recognize that their belief in our mission helped craft where we are today.

This leads us to the dedicated people who have joined us or stepped up to the call. Mary Lou Peltier is now our acting Board President. Daniel Krenz, Lisa Perle, and Yvonne Shevalier joined as new board members, and through our outreach efforts with Joint Base Lewis McChord, we have connected to our men and women of service. Of course, we owe a huge thank you to our seasoned volunteers who have worked so hard to keep us open and on point. (See Volunteer Section).

— Daniel Hull, NRNC Executive Director



Forage Fish Surveys: Get your Boots on the Beach! by Yvonne Shevalier

Several training sessions were held during the spring for volunteers who are conducting Forage Fish Surveys on Aquatic Reserve beaches. These surveys will identify examples of presence and abundance of target species to assist in their protection from detrimental impacts. As a part of the predator/prey relationship in the marine food web, these tiny schooling fish feed on plankton and in turn are preyed upon by larger fish, birds, and marine mammals. Populations of salmon, whales and marine birds are sustained within this web.

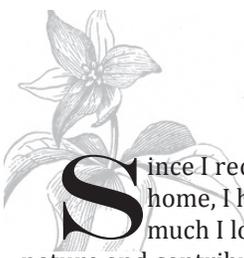
Because the extent and location of spawning beaches in the Puget Sound are largely unknown, we are surveying beaches for eggs each month year-round along the boundaries of the Aquatic Reserve.

Forage fish include:

- SURF SMELT (*Hypomesus pretiosus*): Its spawning sites are heavily impacted by shoreline modifications, such as boat ramps, seawalls and culverts.
- PACIFIC SAND LANCE (*Ammodytes hexapterus*): It spawns on sandy beaches depositing microscopic eggs in the upper intertidal zone just below the log line.

These websites are dedicated to forage fish and have information about each target species:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/salmonscape/>
http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/research/projects/marine_beach_spawning/



Native Plants Enhance the Center — by Christina Mobley

Since I recently purchased a home, I have realized how much I love being around nature and contributing to it. When I enrolled at The Evergreen State College, I had no idea that it would give me the opportunity to explore something as miraculous as the natural environment of the Pacific Northwest and all that it has to offer. When I finally had the opportunity to intern at the Nisqually Reach Nature Center, I

realized that my passion was becoming more intrigued by this humbling experience. The calm waterfront surrounded by the beautiful green woods of Luhr Beach set the tone for a remarkable experience.

When I first came to the Center, I would never have guessed that the overgrowth on the bulkhead was deliberately planted. It was hard to see, or even imagine, that there once was a garden there. This set my mind

into motion, and I began to see the potential. I began by simply weeding out the overgrowth and cutting the grass around the building. Slowly but surely the beauty of the bulkhead began to show its face. It has become a beneficial garden for all to enjoy. We are currently working on a brochure about native plants and preparing to put signage throughout. So when you have the time, come and give it a glance. You will be glad you came.

What ARE Those Birds with Red Feet? Pigeon Guillemot Breeding Survey — by Judy Murphy

More than 30 volunteers attended a training session on May 18 in preparation for this summer's Pigeon Guillemot Breeding Survey, a citizen science project sponsored by the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee. Anne Mills, a committee member and head of the project, organized this informative workshop featuring Frances Wood and Govinda Rosling from Whidbey Island, where breeding surveys have been conducted for 9 years. A second training was held June 7 on Anderson Island with 10 residents attending.

About 1,000 Pigeon Guillemots have been documented on Whidbey



Island. However, there is currently no baseline population for breeding Pigeon Guillemots in the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve and few documented active burrows for South Sound. Previous marine bird studies

have suggested that Pigeon Guillemots would be a good indicator species of the health of the Puget Sound food web.

After their eggs hatch, adult Pigeon Guillemots fly to and from their burrows in bluffs along the shoreline, carrying sculpin, gunnells, and other small prey for the nestlings. This activity is what volunteers will monitor once a week during July and August, until the young fledge.

If you know of a possible breeding site in the South Sound, please send an email to Anne Mills, millsa@comcast.net, or call her at 360-867-1487.

For more information about Pigeon Guillemot surveys, see <http://www.pigeonguillemot.org/>.

Volunteer Corner — by Daniel Hull

Volunteers are indispensable to nonprofit organizations such as NRNC, and the Center is likely to top the charts for volunteer service this year, with a projected 3,800 hours of volunteer time.

I work with more than 100 volunteers connected to our Center via the Aquatic Reserve Stewardship Committees and those who regularly volunteer at the Center. Our success in creating an Aquatic Reserve means that there is more than ever to do, and we are always looking for new Champions to help us meet our objectives.

We are especially pleased to welcome new active-duty volunteers from Joint Base Lewis McChord.:

Kate DeGateno
Cristina Munos
Anthony Doria
Christina Mobley
David Moore
Britney Farris

Non-military volunteers have also joined us since the beginning of 2013:
Wendy Eklund
Paula Larson

We have two key additions to the Center — new caretakers Sam Kaviar and Cris Peck. Sam works for the U.S. Geologic Survey and has been a naturalist kayak guide in the San Juans. Cris is with the AmeriCorps program and serves as volunteer coordinator for the Nisqually Land Trust.

A big welcome to you all!



Volunteer Anthony Doria taking a sample at the forage fish survey.

MEMBERSHIP Application



Name _____
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
4949 D'Milluhr Rd. NE
Olympia WA 98516
(360) 459-0387
www.NisquallyEstuary.org
Luhr Lore is published by The Nisqually Reach Nature Center.

Daniel Hull, Executive Director
Judy Murphy, Managing Editor
Treesa Hertzell, Layout & Design



4949 D'Milluhr RD NE
Olympia, WA 98516-2311
Phone: 360-459-0387
Email: nrnc@nisquallyestuary.org
web: www.nisquallyestuary.org