



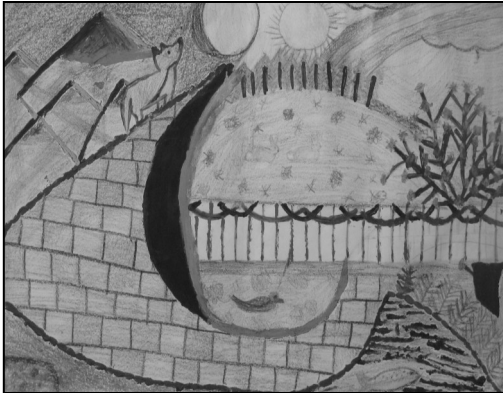
# Nisqually River Notes

A Publication of the Nisqually River Council

Vol. 19, No. 1

Winter 2012

## The 22nd Annual Nisqually Watershed Festival



Approximately 1,000 community members, volunteers, and employees of the Nisqually watershed came to share in a diverse array of lectures, tours, music, and family-friendly activities. Held at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, this multi-cultural festival, put together by 17 organizations and project partners, has celebrated the history, economy, and environment for 22 years.

Some of this year's favorites were the live reptile and raptor shows, salmon prints, FIN, the Migrating Salmon, storytelling in the Red Salmon Tent, critter parades, and marine touch tank. Though the salmon bake was greatly missed, there were a variety of food vendors providing delicious treats to festival-goers.

Of the 60 posters submitted to the Watershed Festival Poster Contest, only one could be chosen to be the best in show. This year's winner was Sariah Anneesiah Yousos from Lydia Hawk Elementary for her submission, "Night vs. Day." Sariah

along with the other winners of the contest were awarded prizes by Jean Takekawa, manager of the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, during the Poster Contest Awards Ceremony for their depictions of this year's theme. "Nisqually Water and Wildlife." Sariah's award winning artwork, shown above, could be seen on the fliers and posters used to advertise for the 2011 festival.

Other exciting activities included guided nature walks out on the new mile-long, Nisqually boardwalk and a tour highlighting the historical Treaty of Medicine Creek. Shuttle tours to the Nisqually Reach Nature Center allowed patrons to tour their excellent facility.

It seems as the Watershed Festival Committee has finally found a solution to parking issues that have been plaguing the event for a number of years. Jokingly called the "Nisqually Parking Festival", great strides have been taken in order to manage the high amount of traffic the festival brings to the Refuge. This year, parking was done at River Ridge High School, located one and a half miles away from the Refuge. Patrons parked their cars at River Ridge and then rode aboard a free shuttle that ran back and forth between the two sites every 15 minutes. Many found this new system to not only reduce the influx of traffic flow at the Refuge, but also found it to be simple and quite convenient.

Next year's festival will not only bring back a number of the current exhibitors, but will also be looking to reach new and willing participants. Next year's festival will also mark the 100 year anniversary of Tacoma Power's Nisqually River Project, which led to the construction of the LaGrande Dam of LaGrande, WA. You can look forward to a celebration at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Nisqually Watershed Festival.

Committee members are always looking for fresh and innovative ideas of that will provide education and excitement for all who attend. If you're interested in having an exhibit or lending a hand for next year's festival, or just have any comments or feedback, please contact us at [info@nisquallyriver.org](mailto:info@nisquallyriver.org).

## 2012 Nisqually River Council Meetings

January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Gordon's Grange, Yelm	July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ashford Fire Hall
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge	August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Planning Retreat	September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mount Rainier National Park
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Wilcox Farms, Roy	October 19 <sup>th</sup>	City of Roy Library
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	UW Pack Forest, Eatonville	November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Braget Farm, Olympia	December 21 <sup>st</sup>	UW Pack Forest, Eatonville

NRC meetings take place the **third Friday of every month** at locations throughout the watershed. Meetings run from 9am to noon. Feel free to contact us with any comments or questions. [info@nisquallyriver.org](mailto:info@nisquallyriver.org) 360.438.8715



## Meet the new staff for the Nisqually River Council!

My name is Ashley Von Essen and I have been recently hired as the new staff for the Nisqually River Council. My experience in Nisqually began in the fall of 2010, when I was working as an educational intern for the Nisqually River Education Project under the guidance of Sheila Wilson. My internship with Nisqually concluded my credit requirements for a Bachelors in Science with a focus on Environmental Studies at The Evergreen State College, spring of 2011.

After a summer spent working at a salmon processing plant in Ketchikan, AK, I came back to Nisqually this past fall as a local assistant for a film crew putting together a television episode for a new series on PBS. The series, entitled Saving the Ocean, will focus on the conservation efforts of the watershed, as well as the goals of increasing salmon populations of the Nisqually River and its tributaries. The episode, due to air in early 2012, will highlight the hard-working people of Nisqually, as well as a number of projects being completed.



My responsibilities with the Nisqually River Foundation will be staffing the River Council meetings, as well the Citizen's Advisory Council and other council subcommittees. I will also venture into the watershed to recruit for and promote the Nisqually Sustainable brand, which encourages local businesses to conserve our natural resources and create further awareness of environmental concerns. I intend to contribute time and energy in assisting with ongoing service-learning projects in the watershed with Stream Stewards and the Nisqually River Education Project.

I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to spend my time and energy discovering the Nisqually River and getting to know the amazing people who inhabit the watershed and its surrounding communities. I look forward to the many experiences yet to come in our strides towards conservation and sustainability.



## Lend a Hand With the Nisqually Land Trust!

### January

- |      |                                      |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 1/21 | Yelm Shoreline Planting, 9am to 12pm |
| 1/27 | Thurston Ridge Planting, 9am to 12pm |
| 1/28 | Thurston Ridge Planting, 9am to 12pm |

### February

- |      |                                      |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 2/9  | Hogum Bay Ivy Pull, 10am to 1pm      |
| 2/11 | McKenna Planting, 9am to 12pm        |
| 2/25 | Yelm Shoreline Planting, 9am to 12pm |

### March

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 3/10 | Yelm Shoreline Planting, 9am to 12pm                      |
| 3/24 | 12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Auction and Dinner Gala, 4 to 9pm |

*As we move in 2012, our efforts to protect the watershed continue. Volunteers are always needed to monitor, restore, and maintain the protected lands throughout Nisqually. Check out the upcoming dates and get involved. We look forward to seeing you there!*

*Visit the Land Trust on the web for more details!*

*[www.nisquallylandtrust.org](http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org) or call at 360.489.3400.*

### **Did you know...**

That the Nisqually Land Trust was established in 1989 and continues to restore and protect over 1,700 acres of land in the Nisqually watershed.



## Welcome New NREP Teachers 2011-2012

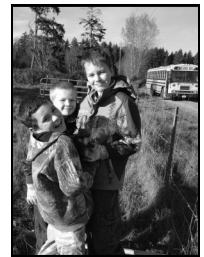
It takes a lot of hard work and effort to organize field trips to test water quality for the first time! Let's give a BIG WELCOME to our newest NREP teachers! Thanks for getting your students involved in hands-on, real world science projects!

- Katie Mettler—Eatonville Middle School
- Barry Kinzel and Valerie Ogami—Rocky Ridge Elementary
- Kevin Pattison—Cougar Mountain Junior High
- Cassandra Rabbit and Kathryn Cullum—Southworth Elementary
- Nichole Ruttledge—Fort Stevens Elementary
- Andrea Lathrop—River Ridge High School
- Cherie Pallito—Meadows Elementary



## Fall Water Quality Monitoring — A Successful (and Sunny!) Day in the Nisqually

38 teachers brought 800 +students to local streams and rivers throughout the watershed on October 20th. Students tested dissolved oxygen, turbidity, nitrates, pH, temperature, fecal coliform and (with the help of Yelm Wastewater) total solids. Students from The Evergreen State College students assisted teachers with this very busy day. Data is shared with our community partners, providing valuable information about the state of our waters. Well done, everyone!



## Trees! Trees! And More Trees!!!

902 students and 154 adult chaperones installed 4,300 Native trees and shrubs for riparian habitat restoration this fall.

Students learned how these plants improve habitat for salmon and other wildlife, as well as ethnobotanical and modern day uses for cedar, salmon berry, willow and many others.



Many thanks to our partners at Nisqually Tribe, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge and Nisqually Land Trust for engaging our youth in service learning.



## Meet the New Intern for NREP!

Hi there! I'm Kasey Kelly, the new intern for the Nisqually River Education Project. I am originally from Orange County, California, but have lived all over this great country for several years while teaching for outdoor education camps, AmeriCorps, and other opportunities with kids. I came to Washington to study Environmental Education at The Evergreen State College. There, in the Mount Rainier program, I had the opportunity to work with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students doing water quality testing for the Nisqually River Education Project. Of course I got hooked, and now here I am. I am enjoying the opportunity to teach children about the importance of water quality, stream restoration (by way of tree planting), leaf litter and stream bug studies, and salmon carcass tossing, which all play an integral part in restoring the salmon population in the Nisqually River. I have a blast every day and am thankful to the Nisqually River Education Project and The Evergreen State College for the amazing opportunity this year.



# Important Dates, Happenings, and Information

## January

- 1/14 Roy Salmon Homecoming  
1/20 NRC Meeting, Gordon's  
Grange of Yelm

## February

- 2/17 NRC Meeting, NNWR  
2/17 Citizens Advisory  
Committee Meeting,  
NNWR  
2/21 Water Quality Monitoring  
Day- Watershed Wide!!!

## March

- 3/16 NRC Meeting, Annual  
Planning Retreat  
3/23 20th Annual Student  
GREEN Congress at The  
Evergreen State College

Please contact us for more details!  
[info@nisquallyriver.org](mailto:info@nisquallyriver.org)

## Contacts

**NLT** — Nisqually Land Trust  
[staff@nisquallylandtrust.org](mailto:staff@nisquallylandtrust.org)  
360.489.3400

**NNWR** — Nisqually National Wildlife  
Refuge (I-5 at Exit 114)  
360.753.9467

**NRC** — Nisqually River Council  
[info@nisquallyriver.org](mailto:info@nisquallyriver.org)  
360.438.8715

**NRNC** — Nisqually Reach Nature Center,  
[www.nisquallyestuary.org](http://www.nisquallyestuary.org)  
360.459.0387

**NREP** — Nisqually River Education  
Project  
[sheila@nisquallyriver.org](mailto:sheila@nisquallyriver.org)  
360.438.8715 x 2153

**NSS** — Nisqually Stream Stewards  
[perry.don@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:perry.don@nisqually-nsn.gov)  
360.438.8687 x 2143

**NW Trek** — [www.nwtrek.org](http://www.nwtrek.org)  
360.832.7160

## Nisqually River Council

**Meetings** are open to the public  
and occur on the third Friday of  
each month at various locations  
throughout the watershed.

## Citizens Advisory Committee

**Meetings** are bi-monthly and  
include educational presentations  
and programs. Contact us for more  
information or to suggest a  
program topic. Everyone is  
welcome!

Please contact 360.438.8715 or  
[ashley@nisquallyriver.org](mailto:ashley@nisquallyriver.org) for more  
information about the  
Nisqually River Council or any of  
these events.

[www.nisquallyriver.org](http://www.nisquallyriver.org)

**Nisqually River Foundation**  
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Olympia, WA 98513

*Collaboration. Education. Advocacy.*

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