

The Wildfowler

APRIL/MAY 2007

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

What a difference a few months and a few degrees make. With the temperature beginning to rise likewise is the number of visitors venturing into the museum. We're hoping for a busy summer season and have begun to restock the gift shop and make plans for our next exhibits. Speaking of exhibits, we assembled our most recent one at the Norfolk International Airport. It will be there from April through

June. This is an opportune time with all the festivities associated with VB 2007 commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown going on. With many visitors arriving via the airport, I hope this additional exposure will translate into additional visitors to the museum.

The museum will be one of several organizations taking part in the Virginia Beach Boardwalk History Fest 2007 April 28th from 10am to 5pm. It should be a very interesting and educational experience for the whole family. We hope to see you there and visit our booth around 22nd Street. I also encourage you to check the newsletter calendar for additional events that weekend along with future guild activities.

As you have noticed, your 2007 Fall raffle tickets are included with your newsletter. Last year we were very pleased by your total support of this fund-raiser and hope you will be as generous this year. The raffle begins with this mailing and will continue until the drawing at the annual Wildlife Festival in October. Just like last year we will have the drawing on the final day of the festival, October 7th. Winners do not have to be present to win. So please purchase the enclosed tickets and mail your check to the museum. If you want additional tickets, call or e-mail me at the museum and I will get them to you promptly.

The sculpture project, which has been a topic in the past

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 18

Museum Management Committee Meeting, AWHM, 1030am

April 23

Bus Tour, AWHM 9am

April 26

Reenactment of First Landing 9am-12pm & 3pm-6pm
First Landing State Park

April 27

Exploration of the Lynnhaven River 8am-2pm

Lynnhaven Inlet boat landing

April 28

Virginia Beach 2007 Boardwalk History Fest 10am-5pm

Virginia Beach Boardwalk

April 29

Erection of Cross at Cape Henry 3pm
Cape Henry

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Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
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several newsletters, is nearing completion. Three large bronze plaques were added last month and now we are beginning to solicit donors for the third installment of bricks and plaques. It does take some lead time for these items, so get your request in as soon as possible. On a similar note, we will soon have two new signs, one at each entrance to the museum, which will contain some de Witt family pictures, postcards of "old" Virginia Beach and a brief history of the cottage. The signs will give the casual passer-by an idea of what to expect in the museum and spark their interest to come inside.

On May 4th, the State Executive Committee for Ducks Unlimited will gather at the museum for a couple of hours of socializing and touring the museum prior to their dinner and evening business. We hope hosting this group with further enhance the reputation of the museum as not only a great place for an educational visit, but also a suitable gathering place for social events.

—Tom



Photographer, Mark Buckler spoke at our March meeting.

BACK BAY BIRDING CLUB

The BBBC will be making a trip to the mountains Memorial Day weekend. Our trip begins in Waynesboro with a short trip on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Day two we venture to Highland County in Virginia and Seneca Rocks in West Virginia. Day three we go to Canaan Valley and Blackwater Falls in West Virginia. If you have not done so already it is NOT too late to sign up for this trip.

The BBBC sends out bird related information from time to time via the internet. If you are a Guild member and would like to receive advance notices of bird trips, birding information for our area when it becomes available or to sign up for an upcoming bird trip please e-mail the club at BackBayBirdClub@aol.com and leave your e-mail address and interests.

—Karen

DONATIONS

Ed & Glenda Morrison
(digital camera)

Elaine Polizos
(Fall Raffle Tickets)

TUPELO WOOD AVAILABLE

Guild member Sam Esleek has tupelo for sale. Various sizes. Call 468-0913 for information or visit him at Feathers-n-Wood in the Country Side Shops on Dam Neck Road near the Farmers Market.

WATERFOWL FACTS

Mass Migration

Severe weather will occasionally trigger a mass migration of waterfowl known as a grand passage. In early November 1995 following a severe blizzard in the Prairie Pothole Region, millions of migrating ducks and geese jammed radar systems and grounded flights in Omaha, Nebraska, and Kansas City, Missouri.

Feather Flex

Waterfowl have as many as 12,000 separate muscles used for feather control. Ducks and geese lift or compress their plumage in various ways to help regulate body heat, dive underwater, and express emotions, such as aggression or amorosness.

Deadbeat Ducks

Several waterfowl – including redheads, canvasbacks, wood ducks, ruddy ducks, hooded mergansers, and snow geese – pursue a breeding strategy known as nest parasitism, where females lay eggs in the



2007 Show Print by Bev Abbott



Mike Steed's Cinnamon Teal carving for our Fall Raffle.

nests of females of the same species. Some wood ducknest boxes have been found with as many as 50 eggs laid by multiple hens. Female redheads regularly lay eggs in nests of other ducks species. In one study

conducted on Manitoba's Delta Marsh, more than 90 percent of canvasback nests contained redhead eggs. The unsuspecting foster hens raise the redhead ducklings as their own.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS (Continued from page 1)

May 4

Ducks Unlimited
State Exec. Comm.
AWHM, 5-7pm

May 7

Bus Tour, AWHM
4pm

May 7

General Guild Meeting
AWHM, 6pm social
Hour, 7pm meeting/
Program

Guest Speaker: Wayne
Jarman, DU regional Director

May 14

Board of Directors
Meeting, AWHM, 7pm

May 25-27

BBBC birding trip to Western
VA & West Virginia

May 28

Memorial Day
Observed

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