

The Wildfowler

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all and from my family to yours, we hope you have

a healthy and prosperous 2009. Our last major event of 2008 was the Christmas dinner party/auction. It was a real success and from the comments I received afterwards indicated everyone had a good time. As usual food was abundant and delicious. We couldn't have had such a festive event without volunteers to help set up and take down and donate auction items. A special thanks to Ricky & Bobby at the Raven for the hors d'oeuvres and Karen at the Atlantic Garden Center for the poinsettias. We were able to decorate the cottage inside and out in time to host the Virginia Society of Ornithology on December 5th. It was an enjoyable evening with about 25 birders from across Virginia coming to Virginia Beach for their annual birding trek to various birding spots in the Virginia Beach area.

I know many members were awaiting the results of the annual fall raffle. The drawing was held at the Christmas party and the 1st place prize of the Long-billed Curlew was won by Bud Coppedge of Pungo, VA. The 2nd prize bronze Dudley Canvasback decoy went to Sue Brown of Virginia Beach and the 3rd prize commemorative paver was won by Charlie Seidel of Munden Point, VA. Congratulations to all winners and thanks to all who participated in the raffle. December 15th I sent in the latest group of plaques and commemorative bricks. There is still plenty of room on or near the sculpture for your plaque or brick. If you want to purchase either call me at the Museum and I will get you the necessary paperwork. Your renewal notice is enclosed for 2009 for those receiving this newsletter through the USPS. For those receiving this electronically, this is your notice. As a reminder renewals are as follows: regular membership \$25, family membership \$35, corporate membership \$200, sponsor \$500. Checks should be made out to AWHM and mailed to Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, 1113 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA,

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Jan 1
New Years day (closed)
- Jan 5
Guild meeting, 6pm social,
7pm meeting/program,
AWHM
- Jan 12
Board of Directors meeting,
7pm, AWHM
- Feb 2
Guild meeting, 6pm social,
7pm meeting/program,
AWHM
- Feb 17
Museum Management Com-
mittee meeting, 1:30pm,
AWHM
- Mar 2
Guild meeting, 6pm social,
7pm meeting/program,
AWHM
- Mar 9
Board of Directors meeting,
7pm, AWHM
- Apr 6
Guild meeting, 6pm social,
7pm meeting/program,
AWHM
- Apr 12
Easter (closed)
- Apr 22
Museum Management Com-
mittee meeting, 10:30am,
AWHM

Printed on recycled paper

Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum
Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
1113 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Herb Verhaagen, President	587-7281
Ken Wilson, Vice President	427-0516
C.J. Burns, Treasurer	587-2303
Ira Abbott, Secretary	596-0159
J. Fletcher Bryant	422-5025 (W) 422-5111
Jamie Champe	426-2277
Gentry Childress	422-0125
Charlie Hurd, Newsletter Editor	460-0551
	(HurdsWordsandBirds@cox.net)
Jim Mehne	340-7702
Ed Morrison	463-0891
Ann Verhaagen	587-7281
Herb Videll	363-2722
William M. Walsh, Jr.	498-9410

STAFF

Tom Beatty, Director	437-8432
	(atlanticwildfowl@rcn.com)
Ann Smith, Business Manager	437-8432

Back Bay Birding Club BackBayBirdClub@aol.com

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23451. If you can return the forms/checks anytime in January it would truly be appreciated. On a sad note, Paul deWitt, the last of the ten children to occupy the Cottage, passed away November 27, 2008.

Finally, my thanks to everyone who has helped us make this another successful and truly rewarding year here at the Museum. It is a privilege for me to serve as Director. Thanks to each and everyone for making this job so enjoyable. Happy New Year.

—Tom



deWitt Cottage at Christmas 2008



Ed Morrison, auctioneer at our Christmas party



Cottage cake by Donna Grigolite



Hank Grigolite carving for Virginia Society of Ornithology

BACK BAY BIRDING CLUB

The BBBC hosted the VSO (Virginia Society of Ornithology) the evening of December 5th for their annual Virginia Beach weekend. Hank Grigolite entertained about 25 members of the VSO with his carving demonstration before the group went upstairs for snacks and a program provided by John Gallegos, representing Back Bay NWR. Many thanks to Elaine Polizos, Ed & Glenda Morrison for making the VSO feel welcome and sharing information about our Museum and to all who provided food for the event.

The BBBC is looking for a new Field Trip Coordinator beginning 2009. Presently we have no scheduled birdwalks and due to lack of participation have cancelled our winter plans of manning "The Window" at Back Bay NWR. If you are interested in planning future birdwalks for the club please call or email Karen (phone 468-6997, club email - backbaybirdclub@aol.

MEMBERSHIPS

Lou Doughty
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Riccio
Charles & Cheryl Johnson
Ralph & Marie Schwartz
Mr. & Mrs. Herb Kressel
Faye Walker
Bill Hess

DONATIONS

Tom Broyles
Towne Bank
Dr. & Mrs. C. Alison Drescher
(in memory of Frank Smith)
Tom & Sharon Costello
Rosalie G. Bailey
Jim Frantz
Roy Carlson

And to those too many to name who donated items for the November auction and Christmas dinner auction.

HELP SAVE \$\$ FOR THE MUSEUM

If YOU are reading your newsletter that was delivered to your mail box and would like to help us save money, you can now choose to have your newsletter emailed and save us printing and mailing costs. All you need to do is contact the following email address : atlanticwildfowl@cox.net and state your name, email address (if different from the one you sent the message with) and tell us to begin sending your newsletters electronically.

****Make sure you also put our newsletter email address into your contact area so your newsletter doesn't end up in your spam folder.**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Herb Verhaagen

Year in review I'm happy to report that 2008 was a good year but it started off looking very bleak and dismal. The city reported that they were reducing our funding and along with that we were running out of funds faster than anyone foresaw. Barbara Henley helped us successfully navigate the process of city budgeting request. Our funding was not reduced but in fact we got an increase, enough so that we could concentrate on planning and fund raising.

In May, with the hard work and generosity of many Guild members, we had a successful fund raising dinner at the Lucky Oyster that provided us with seed money for a

larger event.

Late spring and all summer we had about 20 to 25 guild members working on and planning for an auction that included a dinner, silent auction, live auction and raffle. This original planning committee was again bolstered by even more Guild members in acquiring items for the auctions, putting everything together for the event "de Witt Cottage Annual Auction". This proved to be our most successful event in many years.

December was our annual pot luck dinner for members and again those in attendance (all people who had contributed time, effort, and funds) not only brought their own food but helped us raise more money through an auction with items provided by many of them.

Our year changed from a very bleak and dismal outlook to where we can now plan for future improvements in our methods to actively promote interest and to the education of the heritage of wildfowl arts. To do this we must continue to raise funds at our current level or higher, which has proven to be hard work but also very rewarding.

Hope 2009 will be yours and the Guild's best year yet!

—Herb

Parking is available at the Raven Restaurant across the street and the Newcastle Motel next door for members during meetings and gatherings at the cottage.