

The Wildfowler

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every Guild member a Happy New Year with the

hope that 2010 brings you, your family and friends all the best. As 2009 comes to a close, even with a tough economy, the Museum was able to end the year on solid ground. This was mainly due to gift shop sales, an increase in memberships, a successful auction, donations and assistance from the City of Virginia Beach. The fact that we have free admission and a perfect location helps us attract more visitors which certainly contribute to increased sales and donations. I hope the trend continues through 2010.

The second Annual de Witt Cottage Auction mentioned in the last newsletter was once again a success. The proceeds from the event go directly to support the Museum. We could not have had such an enjoyable and profitable night without the help of co-chairs Ed Morrison, Ali Smith, Skip

Margiotta and Elaine Polizos and the many volunteers who helped with organizing, set up and clean up afterwards.

The nor'easter that swept up the east coast in November causing millions of dollars in damage spared the Cottage. Old B. P. Holland knew what he was doing when he built the Cottage in 1895. The building sustained no damage and we hope our luck continues in future years.

On December 4th we hosted the Virginia Society of Ornithology. This has been an annual event for nine years. Birders from throughout Virginia meet the first weekend in December in Virginia Beach for what they hope will be a great birding weekend. On Friday, we host them here at the Museum with refreshments and a tour of the Museum. The birders appreciate the fact that we stay open after normal hours, giving them the opportunity to view the exhibits along with the wildfowling history of Virginia Beach.

Our annual Christmas dinner & Auction was held December 14th and as usual we had a full house. It was a very enjoyable evening. This annual gathering has always been the highlight event to end the year

Continued on next page.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS


Jan 1
New Years Day, Museum closed
Jan 4
General Guild meeting, AWHM, 6pm social, 7pm meeting/program, speaker, Nick Sapone, carver, Wanchese, NC

Jan 11
Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, AWHM
Jan 13
Kiwanis tour Museum, 10-11am
Jan 30
Winter Wildlife Festival

Feb 1
General Guild meeting, AWHM, 6pm social, 7pm meeting/program, speaker Roe Terry, carver, Chincoteague, VA
Feb 8
Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, AWHM

Feb 16
Museum Management Committee meeting, 1:30pm, AWHM
Mar 1
General Guild meeting, 6pm social, 7pm meeting/program, speaker, Chandler Sawyer, carver, NC

Mar 8
Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, AWHM

Printed on recycled paper

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



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and also give me the opportunity to thank the many volunteers for their help throughout the year. We have always had more requests to attend the Christmas dinner than we can safely accommodate. Future Christmas dinners MAY be held off-site so we can have more members attend and not have to worry about overcrowding and trying to navigate the narrow stairs. I will keep you up to date on this potential change and if it works out hopefully we'll be able to include every member who wants to attend. I'd like to express a special thanks to those who helped decorate the Museum for Christmas. I really appreciated your help and Raven for the superb appetizers. I'll close on a sad note. Two very long time Guild members and carvers passed away: Bill Johnson, former Museum Director and weekend carver passed away in November and Roy White, from Knotts Island. They will always be remembered as friends and their carvings will continue to be enjoyed by all who possess them.

—Tom

DONATIONS

In memory of William S. Johnson

Charles & Maureen Seidel
Tom & Karen Beatty
Tommy & Linda Dilday
Archie Johnson
Ann Smith
Scott G. Harris
Richard & Eleanor Corwin
Sinnen-Green Associates
Al & Rita Brandtner
Carter & Sylvia Luck
Bill & Alice Walsh
The Consortium, Inc.
Nancy Kennedy
John & Christine Swartz
Ernest T & Susan Buchanan
Jamie Champe
Larry Lambert
Sonny & Bobbi Heath
Dr. & Mrs. C. Alison Drescher

In memory of Roy White

Charles & Maureen Seidel

In memory of Katherine Smith

Bud & Julie Coppedge

Museum operations

Dan Brockwell
Anne J. Henry
Jamie Champe
Clarke White
Pete Taylor

GUILD ACTIVITIES

It's that time of year again, the annual membership renewals are due, \$25 regular, \$35 family, \$200 corporate, \$500 sponsor. It would be great if all membership renewals arrived in January, with everything going on in the New Year I know you might forget but early renewals would be appreciated.

Al Henley was our guest speaker at the November Guild meeting. Al spoke on the history of Back Bay with particular emphasis on the Cedar Island Club and Horn Point Club. Al's knowledge of Back Bay, coupled with his first hand knowl-



Al Henley, November speaker

edge of both clubs, made for a very interesting evening. Upcoming speakers include Nick Sapone (January), Roe Terry (February) and Chandler Sawyer (March).

The Nov/Dec issue of Hunting and Fishing Collectibles had a nice article about the Museum and the current exhibit featuring decoys of Back Bay and Currituck Sound from the collection of Kroghie Andresen.

BIRDING NEWS

The first Virginia Beach Winter Wildlife Festival will be held Saturday, January 30, 2010. It is free and open to the public; some excursions require a fee, registration is required to attend workshops and excursions. For more information go to outdoors@vb.gov. com or call 757-385-4461. FYI the registration deadline is January 23rd. For a full list of sessions and registration go to vb.gov.com/winterwildlife.

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AWHM.ORG
Under the auspices of:
The Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, Inc.
(A not for profit organization)

MEMBERSHIPS

Wilson & Jan Vaughan,
La Cross, VA

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

John Mazach
Kelly Bridgman
Roy Carlson



A good time was had by all at the Guild's annual Christmas party.



Former Museum Director, Bill Johnson passed away in November.



Tom Beatty with donated items for Christmas party auction

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.