

The Wildfowler



JULY 2006

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jul 4
Independence Day

Jul 10
Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, AWHM

Jul 19
Guild/BBBC picnic, Redwing Park, 5:30
BBWG/BBBC business, 6pm dinner

Aug 16
Museum Management Committee meeting, 10:30, AWHM

Sep 5 (TUESDAY)
First Guild meeting of the season, Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Academy (VBLETA), at the intersection of I-264 and Birdneck Road. 6pm social, 7pm meeting/program

Sep 11
Board of Directors meeting, AWHM, 7pm



Tom Beatty

Just as promised last month we changed out exhibits and I couldn't be more pleased with the results. The Main Gallery now features Ken Trayer's factory decoys. Ken drove down to the Museum from his home in Lancaster, PA and brought over forty factory decoys from several manufacturers such as: Mason, Stevens, Dodge, Pratt, Petersen and Evans to mention only a few. Ken and I along with volunteers: Archie Johnson, Bill Walsh and Shep Davis were able to assemble a terrific exhibit in just two days, highlighted by 13 factory shorebirds encased in the center of the Main Gallery. It was a pleasure to talk to Ken as we assembled the exhibit while he explained how he came to acquire some of the pieces and how rare some of the decoys are. It was a very pleasant two days and Ken left autographed copies of his book, *North American Factory Decoys*, for sale in the gift shop. It is an excellent pictorial identification and reference guide for those interested in factory decoys.

The Art Gallery contains photos from the collection of Jeanie Drescher. Since my arrival at the Museum in 2000, I've always known Jeanie for her talent and expertise in the design and upkeep of our seaside garden. But she certainly has a keen eye when it comes to choosing subjects to photograph. Some of her featured photos include the Humpback Bridge in Covington, VA (1 of only 2 such bridges in the world), wild ponies of Back Bay



Black Duck Decoy



Black-bellied Plover

Continued on next page



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
Stuart Chaplain	6892670
Charlie Hurd, Newsletter Editor	460-0551
	(email: HurdsWords@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
	(email: atlanticwildfowl@rcn.com)
Ann Smith, Business Manager	437-8432

www.AWHM.org



peter kwick inc.
PRINTING • Copying • graphics®

SERVING THE TIDEWATER AREA SINCE 1967.

Stop by today and let our sales staff help you with:

- Business Cards
- Letterhead & envelopes
- Wedding invitations
- Brochures
- Carbonless forms
- High speed copying
- Engineering copies
- Color copies

... and many, many more services .

In addition to our friendly, professional sales staff, we have state-of-the-art equipment

3253 VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD. • VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23452
486-3011
www.peterkwick.com / Email: pkwickink@yahoo.com

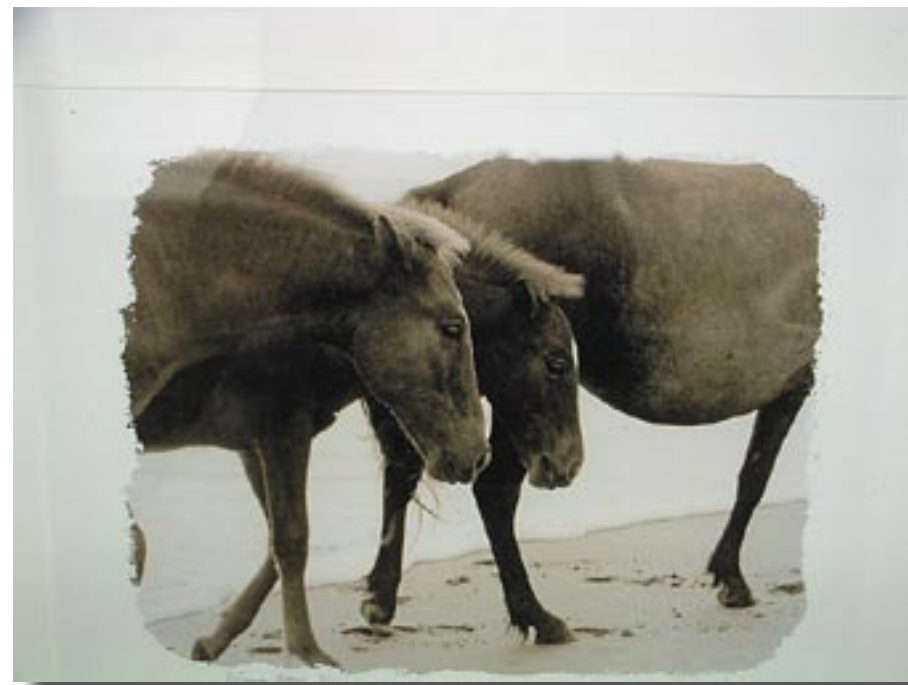
and nesting Osprey. But to truly appreciate these photographs you must see them in person. I guarantee you will be impressed with her talent.

Progress on the wildfowl sculpture continues, we're still receiving money for the fall raffle, the garden is in bloom, the gift shop is restocked and the new exhibits are all in place. Take advantage of your membership and come visit the Museum. It is a pleasant way to spend a morning or afternoon.

—Tom

BACK BAY BIRDING CLUB

The summer months are here and the BBBC is not having birdwalks. We hope to resume our birdwalks in September and we are busy planning the fall/winter schedule. As soon as we have concrete dates they will be posted on the web site (www.awhm.org) under the BBBC button and the bird walk schedule. Please note that the e-mail address to sign up for a birdwalk has changed. It is now bbbcbirdwalks@cox.net. I do have some birds to report even though the BBBC is not conducting birdwalks. A few BBBC members have been traveling (vacation) and reporting the birds they have seen. Tom & I went to West Virginia late May and visited a couple of birding "hot spots" that we had never seen before and hope to plan a trip for the BBBC to some of the areas we saw. First we went to Waynesboro and stopped briefly on the Blue Ridge Park-



Ponies at Back Bay by Jeanie Drescher

way (5 miles of it). We saw similar birds that we always see when the BBBC visits the area. Then we went to Augusta & Highland Counties in VA. We stopped at: Ramsey's Draft, Bear Mountain, and Locust Springs & Bluegrass. Then we crossed over into WV and went to; Seneca Rocks, Canaan Valley and Blackwater Falls. In most of these places we were in very high elevations and were able to see a very different variety of birds. We saw 21 species of warblers (my favorite). The most stunning was the Blackburnian Warbler (called firethroat for a good reason). The most secretive was the Golden-winged Warbler. We heard it's un-mistakable song and tried our best to call it out into view...but the little stinker stayed hidden! The Scarlet Tanagers we saw at Canaan just about took our breath away. To begin with these birds

are such a bright red and then to see them with a brilliant sun setting on them...well...breath-taking! On a larger scale we certainly enjoyed the Ravens. We saw them roosting and on our return trip to Babcock State Park in WV we saw young Ravens hanging out on a picnic table begging for food. The high elevations brought out other birds we normally see in the winter months here such as: Juncos, Pine Siskins and Yellow-rumped warblers. We were able to see total of 118 species of birds.

I will be very excited to hear the grand total of birds that Ed & Glenda Morrison saw on their trip west. They have sent several e-mails to me and a post card from New Mexico. Some of the birds they have mentioned that we don't see in our area are; Cinnamon Teal, Road Runner, Western Grebe, Clarks Grebe, Sandhill Crane, White-

faced Ibis, Western Kingbird, White Pelican, Anhinga and last but certainly not least... what Ed called the highlight of the trip so far.....a Long Bill Curlew. Ed said the bill on the bird looked to be a foot long. Imagine!!!! The favorite place for birding they have mentioned so far is Bear River Bird Refuge. I am not sure of the location but when the e-mail was sent they were in Wyoming. They mentioned many other birds as well as animals such as: Elk, Bison, Coyote, Antelope, Mustangs (horses of course!) and lots of sheep. They wanted to see a Mountain Goat. I hope the next e-mail tells me they saw one.

I hope you all have enjoyed reading about some of these adventures and STRONGLY ENCOURAGE you to e-mail me some of your summer sightings (seen locally or in your summer travels) at bbbcbirdwalks@cox.net.

—Karen

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.

Published by the
Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum
at the deWitt Cottage
1115 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
(757) 437-8432
email: atlanticwildfowl@rcn.com
Under the auspices of:
The Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, Inc.
(A not for profit organization)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Herb Verhaagen

Our speaker for June was Susan Davis, an author. She presented on her book "The Whalehead Club: Reflections of Currituck Heritage." Susan's presentation was a thoughtful insight on the Whalehead Club, its inhabitants and its place in the history of North Eastern North Carolina and South Eastern Virginia. Thank you Susan.

Don't forget our covered dish picnic Wednesday, July 19th @ 5 o'clock, shelter 5 at Redwing Park, off of General Booth Blvd. Elaine Polizos (340-3811) will co-ordinate the covered dishes. Please call her to tell her what you plan to bring so we will have a balance of dishes.

Our next Guild meeting will be in September at the site of our 28th Wildlife Festival, the Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Academy (VBLETA), at the intersection of I-264 and Birdneck road. We will tour the site and explain what volunteers are needed (we have a job for everyone who comes). The success of our show has always been the involvement of our membership and their willingness to help.



Susan Davis

REMINDER: No Guild Meeting in July and August

NEEDED

Recently several Guild members have donated carving and reference books that I would like to make available to other members. I'm looking for a bookcase 4'x4'x15" D to store the books. If you have something similar in size please let us know, we sure could use it and it would benefit all members, not just carvers.



Raffle tickets for a full-size decorative Wood Duck carved and painted by Al Brandtner are still available.

DONATIONS

The following donations were made in the memory of Jeffrey Harris:
Roy & Carolyn Smith, Jr.
Gerdi & Sandra Kelsey
Shirley Cox
N. Turner & Sylvia Gray
Mr. Poore
Winfred Jester
Bud & Julie Coppedge
Archie & Betty Johnson
Bill & Alice Walsh

Other monetary donations:
Ann & Charlie Hurd
(Museum operations)

Other donations:
Al Drescher (carving & reference books)
Jerry Harris (reference books)