


# The Wildfowler



July 2007

Printed on recycled paper



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

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- July 4**  
Independence Day
- July 9**  
Board of Directors meeting,  
7pm, AWHM
- July 10**  
Wildlife Festival meeting, 7pm,  
Police Training Academy
- July 18**  
Guild Picnic, Redwing Park,  
6 pm
- Aug. 14**  
Wildlife Festival meeting, 7pm,  
Police Training Academy
- Aug. 22**  
Museum Management committee  
meeting, 10:30 am, AWHM
- Sep 3**  
Labor Day
- Sep 4**  
General Guild meeting, 6pm  
social, 7pm meeting/program
- Sep 10**  
Board of Directors meeting,  
7pm, AWHM
- Sep 11**  
Wildlife Festival meeting, 7pm,  
Police Training Academy



Tom Beatty

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

As promised in last month's newsletter the new exhibits are in place. The Main Gallery features decoys by Mark McNair, "Cigar" Daisey, Cameron McIntyre, Reggie Birch, Pete Peterson, Grayson Chesser, Guild members Bud Coppedge and Charlie Seidel. Al Brandtner's full size Red-tailed hawk is the feature piece in the corner of the contemporary exhibit area. The decoys are done in the traditional style and are truly

pieces of art.

The Art Gallery features the works of Beverly Abbott, Cary Savage-Ingram, Jane Partin and Raymond Bell. Each artist has graciously let us borrow some of their finest pieces to display for a year and also provided prints for sale, all at very reasonable prices.

With summer months upon us, visitors are on the rise and we could really use gift shop and library volunteers and carvers on the weekend. The gift shop needs someone year round on Thursday and on Monday, June through September. Library volunteers are only needed June through September.

Last month a real milestone was met. The sign in the Atlantic Avenue kiosk is now in place and this should be the final construction project involving our Wildfowl Sculpture. Although the construction is complete you are still able to purchase commemorative bricks or plaques to be located around the sculpture.

We have been extremely pleased with the appearance of the Museum. Guild members and visitors alike comment about the clean, neat, friendly atmosphere around the Cottage. The landscape services department of the City has done a superb job in maintaining the lawn, garden and sculpture grass throughout the year.

As I enter my 8th year as Museum Director, I reflect back to 2000 when I arrived and I see so many positive changes and achievements. Together there is no reason we can't become more involved in Guild/Museum projects and programs and keep this trend moving forward. Have a great summer.

—Tom

"The sign in the Atlantic Avenue kiosk is now in place."



## BACK BAY BIRDING CLUB

In May, eleven members of the BBBC made a trip to the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia and identified 86 bird species in the three days traveling small winding roads. Our adventure began at Afton Mountain on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Indigo Buntings were plentiful and very pleasing to view. At Humpback Rock a chipmunk tried to steal our eyes away from the birds but a Summer Tanager and warblers calling pulled us back to our

feathered friends. Later we stopped at Ramsey's Draft on the border of Augusta and Highland County in Virginia where we enjoyed close views of Yellow-billed Cuckoos and also saw a Cerulean Warbler & Yellow-breasted Chat. Next we enjoyed the scenery of the mountains in Highland County while birding in the car up to Blue Grass, VA. We traveled higher to Bear Mountain Wilderness Retreat where Patti Reum invited us to have a picnic lunch on the lodge porch and get easy looks at a nice variety of birds that came to her feeders. (Indigo

Buntings, Purple Finch, White-breasted Nuthatches, Goldfinch, Downy Woodpeckers, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Juncos in the summer!) Other birds stayed close to the house for easy viewing. (Least Flycatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, House Wren & Rose-breasted Grosbeak) It was hard to tear ourselves away from this easy arm-chair birding but on we went to Seneca Rock in West Virginia. We were equally awed by the sight of people scaling the side of the huge rock mountain and the Baltimore Orioles that called everywhere to us. Yellow Warblers were abundant also. Our next birding area was Canaan Valley State Park, WV where we hiked near the Nature Center and saw a Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Pine Siskins, Bluebirds, nesting Barn Swallows and deer. Our final destination was Blackwater Falls, WV where we enjoyed overlooks of the magnificent falls and from the lodge overlook were actually able to look down on Turkey Vultures in flight...yes...we were that high! We also got great looks at a Black-throated Green Warbler that likes to hang out high in the trees, but of course we were eye level with him!

Ed Richmond is busy planning our fall trip to the Eastern Shore. If you are interested in joining us please e-mail us at [BackBayBirdClub@aol.com](mailto:BackBayBirdClub@aol.com).

—Karen

## GUILD PICNIC

Our Guild picnic will be WEDNESDAY, JULY 18TH at Redwing Park in Virginia Beach and our theme is "Minimum Work-Maximum Fun". Redwing Park is located off General Booth Blvd. near the Oceana Blvd. intersection (From the Museum it is located on the left side of the road. From the Oceana exit off 264 turn right onto General Booth Blvd and turn left into the park entrance). After entering the park make your first right hand turn and proceed to Shelter 5.



Porch birders at Bear Mountain Wilderness Retreat

Set up begins at 5pm for those willing to help and dinner will be served at 6pm.

Minimum work means that you don't have to cook because the Guild is providing your dinner and best of all, this fun-filled event is FREE for Guild members. Non-Guild members are asked to pay \$7.00. The menu includes fried chicken, BBQ, potato salad, cole slaw and baked beans from Pollard's Chicken and our own Donna Grigolite is donating one of her yummy sheet cakes.

Maximum fun means all you need to bring is a hungry tummy, a smile on your face, an open hand to receive FREE door prize tickets and some extra cash to purchase raffle tickets for the great raffle items that Elaine has procured for us again this year. Raffle proceeds will help the Guild offset the cost of the picnic.

We want to thank Elaine, Gentry, Donna and many others who have donated their time and gifts to make our picnic such a success.

Now it is time for YOU to act! RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY for this catered event!

Please call the Museum (437-8432) by Friday, July 13th!!!!!!

## DONATIONS

**In memory of  
Gard Paules & Betty Johnson**

Elaine Polizos  
Fletcher Bryant

**In memory of Gard Paules**

Rowland Filer

**In memory of Betty Johnson**

Bill & Janice Johnson

## UPCOMING CARVING CLASS

A decorative decoy POWER carving class will be held in the boathouse at the Museum. The classes will be held on Thursdays starting 7 September through 8 November and Thursdays from 6 December through 20 December. All classes will start at 10am until 5pm This class will be taught by Al Brandtner for Guild members only. Cost is \$275.00, space is limited, therefore only the first six individuals to register (pay) will be accepted. The duck being carved is a life-size American Widgeon drake.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Your help is needed in the following areas:

### Gift Shop

Thursdays and Mondays  
(summer months & Sept.)

### Library

All days open  
(summer months & Sept.)

### Carvers

Weekends

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### 2007 Festival



Herb  
Verhaagen

We are three months away from our Wildlife Festival October 6th and 7th. These last months will be very active and more than a little nerve wrecking. We are counting on you to step forward as time closes in.

### July Picnic

The Guild picnic will be Wednesday July 18th. This is a fun event for us and we look forward to it. I want to thank Elaine Polizos, Donna Grigolite, Gentry Childress and Karen Beatty to name a few who have stepped up to help with this year's picnic. This year's picnic is FREE to members, so please make your reservation's early. I look forward to seeing you there.

—Herb

[WWW.AWHM.ORG](http://WWW.AWHM.ORG)

Have you visited our website recently? There is a new section dedicated to the Wildlife Festival. You can also go to the "exhibits" section of the AWHM button and get a sneak preview of all the new exhibits mentioned in the "From the Director" article before you come in and view them in person.

Why not go to the computer and look as soon as you finish reading the newsletter and while you are looking forward a link to a friend that may be interested in the Museum!

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Under the auspices of:  
The Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, Inc.  
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BBBC at Blackwater Falls