

The Wildfowler



JUNE 2006

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jun 5
 General Guild meeting,
 AWHM, 6pm social, 7pm
 meeting/program
 Susan Davis, author of The
 Whalehead Club, Reflec-
 tions of Currituck Heritage

Jun 13
 Museum Management
 Committee meeting,
 1:30pm

Jun 13
 Bus tour, 2:30pm, Signa
 Tours, Midlothian YMCA

Jul 4
 Independence Day

Jul 10
 Board of
 Directors meeting, 7pm,
 AWHM

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

Aug 16
 Museu
 m Management Committee
 meeting, 10:30, AWHM

REMINDER
No Guild
Meeting in
July and
August



Tom Beatty

We're beginning to see a lot more activity on the boardwalk and the beach. Hopefully, that will spill over to an increase in the number of visitors to the Museum. We hosted a bus-touring group of seniors from Camden County, NJ. It was an extremely pleasant visit. The group was very interested in the Cottage and its history, thoroughly enjoyed their time spent touring and purchasing from the gift shop. The group has already requested we reserve them another

date to visit in April 2007.

In last month's newsletter I asked for your help in supporting two of our current projects – the wildfowl sculpture and the 2006 Fall raffle. The response to date has been encouraging and I thank you for your generosity. To all who returned your raffle ticket stubs with a check and those who purchased a brick paver for the sculpture your donations are going to a good cause. The raffle proceeds will go to the general support of the Museum and the sculpture is going to be one of the most stunning pieces of wildfowl art in the area and will add to the wildfowl theme of the Museum. Once the sculpture and adjoining garden is complete, you will not be disappointed in the outcome. If you have not purchased a brick paver or plaque I would encourage you to do so and become part of this historic event.

In June we will change out the current exhibits and replace them with new and interesting displays. The main gallery will feature factory decoys from the collection of well-known decoy collector and author, Kenneth Trayer. His new book, North American Factory Decoys has been well received by collectors throughout the country. In the second floor art gallery we will exhibit some outdoor/wildlife photography of Jean Drescher. The Edgar T. Brown exhibit remains on the second floor and continues to provide visitors with a pictorial history of Virginia Beach, along with de Witt family pictures have become favorite points of interest especially among seniors that visit.

As has been the tradition for the past 16 years the City is sponsoring a National Tourism Week Luncheon. This annual event recognizes all those individuals who dedicate their time and energy to promote

Continued on next page

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

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the image of Virginia Beach to our visitors. Representing the Museum was Ann Smith and Elaine Polizos.

Reminder to all – our annual picnic will be held July 19, 2006 at Redwing Park, shelter number 5. The park is located on General Booth Blvd. Just south of Oceana Blvd. The picnic is held in lieu of the monthly Guild and quarterly BBBC meetings. We need help in setting up and donations for raffle. Please contact Elaine Polizos if you can help. If you are planning on attending the picnic please contact Elaine indicating the side dish you are bringing, no later than July 7th (home phone # 340-3811, cell # 621-4264) after the 7th please call the Museum (437-8432). It has been lots of fun in the past. Elaine always has PLENTY of door prizes. I hope we see you there this year.

A final note – we can always use volunteers at the Museum, especially during the summer. So if you want to carve, work in the gift shop, garden or library, give us a call.

—Tom



Progress to date of the sculpture and parking lot

BACK BAY BIRDING CLUB

In May the BBBC went to Merchants Millpond in Gates County, NC to see the migrating birds and enjoy the beauty of the Millpond. The group identified 30 species of birds. A pair of Prothonotary Warblers decided to put on a territorial fight up close and personal near the group. Our group observed a little Blue Heron for the first time at Merchants Millpond.

The BBCC will take a break for the summer months. We will see you on the birding trails again in September.

—Karen

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.

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DONATIONS

Swenson family (monetary)

Jamie Champe (craft paint)

Tommy Deary (print)

*Herb & Pat Videll (in
memory of Josephine
Tharp)*

GUILD MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

As we close the exhibits for this year I'd like to thank Archie Johnson, Bill Walsh and Johnny Johnson for loaning us decoys and artifacts from the Back Bay and Currituck Sound, to Jerry Harris for allowing us to display some of his collection of wildfowl and songbirds in the contemporary carving section, and to Bud and Jimmy Coppedge for loaning us their collection of vintage hunting posters. Without their help we could not have provided our visitors with interesting, educational and historically accurate tours.



Our speaker for May was Jethro Ronco, a biologist and bird researcher. Jethro has been banding birds and collecting research data since 1999, a personable fellow, his presentation was interesting, informative and enjoyed by all in attendance. Thanks Jethro.

Our speaker for June is Susan Davis an author. She will present on her book "The Whalehead Club: Reflections of Currituck Heritage". She committed to this writing, conducting research at local, state, and national libraries, museums, academies, and universities, covering more than three centuries of history. She discovered photographs and documents integral to the restoration of the Whalehead Preservation Trust. The Board of Commissioners of Currituck County bestowed on her the title of Honorary Citizen of Currituck Country. She serves on the Whalehead Preservation Trust, Is a National Finalist for the American Association for State and Local History, and has memberships in The Nature Conservancy, The National Wildlife Federation and is a National Associate, Smithsonian Institute.



*Jethro Runco was the
speaker at the last
Guild meeting*

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

Last month we started using e-mail as a reminder of events (not a replacement of the Newsletter), it will be sent out a couple of days before the event. This will be especially helpful during winter months when our news letters are combined i.e. (Nov/Dec, Jan/Feb & Mar/Apr). It will be a reminder of Guild/Museum meetings, shows or other specials events. The format will have dates, times, description of event, bios if appropriate and recent important developments as they arise. As of now we have about 30% of our memberships email addresses and if you did not received an e-mail reminder for our May meeting, we do not have your correct or no e-mail address for you. If you are interested in getting the e-mail reminder please e-mail me [herb-verhaagen@att.net] with your e-mail address and name so I can cross reference it with our membership list. If you are not interested please let me know and your e-mail address will be removed from the reminder list.

—Herb