

# The Wildfowler

MARCH/APRIL 2008

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

Since our last newsletter, three long-time supporters of the Museum have passed

away - Caroline de Witt Woodley, her brother, Peter de Witt and Vernon Stevens. Pictures of Caroline and Peter still grace the upstairs hallway along with the other de Witt family members. Vernon Stevens was a Guild member for several years and usually visited the Museum on Tuesdays to buy or swap wildfowling memorabilia with his friend Bud Coppedge. All will be truly missed, but the wonderful memories we have will comfort family and friends.

Annual membership is OVERDUE. We have several new members but we want to keep our current members. If you have an insert requesting your renewal, please fill out the information and return the form with your dues for 2008. If you've paid and I made a mistake just let me know.

Our 2007 Fall raffle was a

success thanks to many Guild members who purchased tickets. We are going to conduct another raffle this year and I hope you will support the fundraising effort again. Tickets will be included in the May/June newsletter. First prize is a hand-carved Long-billed Curlew by Donna Wasson, second prize is the popular bronze Dudley decoy by Turner Sculpture and third prize is a commemorative brick near the wildfowl sculpture. Please be generous. The tickets are 3 for \$10 or 6 for \$15.

Plaques and brick pavers are still available to be purchased and placed around our wildfowl sculpture. Many Guild members and non-Guild members have purchased plaques and brick pavers for family members, in memory of deceased loved ones, or for themselves or friends.

If you're interested in helping the Guild and Museum and also want to have a lasting memorial, I would encourage you to seriously think about purchasing a plaque or brick. If you need additional information or forms, please call me at the Museum, 757-437-8432.

—Tom

In Memoriam  
Caroline deWitt Woodley, Peter deWitt and Vernon Stevens

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Mar 3

General Guild meeting, 6pm social, 7pm meeting/program, AWHM

### Mar 10

Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, AWHM

### Mar 13

Back Bay Forum, 8:30am-2:45pm, TCC  
(Advanced Training Center)

### Mar 15

BBBC birdwalk, Stumpy Lake

### Apr 7

General Guild meeting, 6pm social, 7pm meeting/program, AWHM

### Apr 16

Museum management committee meeting, 10:30am, AWHM

### Apr 26

BBBC birdwalk, Merchants Millpond (led by Floyd Williams)

### May 5

General Guild meeting, 6pm social, 7pm meeting/program, AWHM

### May 12

Board of directors meeting, 7pm, AWHM

### May 26

Memorial Day



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

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## BACK BAY BIRDING CLUB

In January the BBBC went to Mackay Island NWR and with thanks to Peggy Waterfield were able to go inside the refuge that is usually closed to the public this time of year. We saw 40 species of birds and the highlight had to be the Bald Eagles. We are fairly certain we saw 4 different eagles, one being an immature. We saw adults on the nest and adults mating near the water. Of course the ducks were present (Gadwall, Wigeon, Black, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Shoveler, Pintail and Hooded Merganser) as well as Snow Geese, Tundra Swan and Brant. Many thanks to Mary Reid Barrow for her article in the Beacon about our trip and very kind words about our bird club & Guild!

In February we join up with the VSO and see what is flying around North Carolina's Outer Banks and a side trip into Lake Mattamuskeet. In March we will visit Stumpy Lake (see the calendar for details). We were happy to see some new people from the Guild joining us in January and hope to see more of you!

Also in March members of the Guild and bird club have been invited to participate in the Back Bay Forum (listed in Calendar).

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO REPRESENT THE GUILD AND BIRD CLUB. CALL THE MUSEUM TO SIGN UP!**

—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.

## DONATIONS

*In support of Museum operations*  
Potomac Decoy Collectors Association

Carrie Camp Foundation  
C. J. Burns  
Turner Sculpture  
Fletcher Bryant  
Dan Brockwell  
Seaside Tent  
Mary Reid Barrow  
Tommy Deary

*In memory of Hope Beacham:*  
Elaine Polizos

*In memory of Caroline de Witt Woodley:*  
Mary D. Moore  
Margaret Moring

Cecilia Burgess  
Madeleine Lang  
Peter "Webb" de Witt  
G. Andrew Gehrken  
Ellen Geiger

*In memory of Vernon Stevens:*  
Bobby Whitehurst

*In memory of Johnny Johnson:*  
Elaine Polizos

*In memory of Peter de Witt:*  
Alison Drescher  
Pat & Herb Videll  
Tom & Karen Beatty  
Ann Smith

## MEMBERSHIP

### MEMBERSHIP – NEW

James & Lisa Briggs  
Brian & Gail Verhaagen  
David & Ellen Verhaagen  
Frank & Jayne Munoz

### MEMBERSHIP – CORPORATE

J. M. Briggs, Inc.  
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### MEMBERSHIP – SPONSOR

Bill & Alice Walsh



Six Guild members participated in the decorative carving class taught by Al Brandtner. Pictured here is part of the class in action. Each member completed a full size American Wigeon. Each of the completed birds was truly spectacular! All the proceeds from the class were donated by Al to the Museum and the Wigeon that Al did during the class is for sale in the Museum Gift Shop.



Susan Wentzel, Executive Director of the Back Bay Restoration Foundation was our speaker at our February Guild meeting.

## UPCOMING CARVING CLASS

Long time guild member and excellent carver, Bill DeLoatch would like to offer anyone interested a chance to carve a bird during the April time frame. The exact bird and timing of the class will depend on the number of people who reply wanting to take the class. Call the museum if you're interested. We'll work out the exact details later.

A note from Bill to the guild carvers: he has basswood for sale. 8"X 8"X8'. Bill can cut the wood to any size that you require. Call the museum if you are interested and I will pass the information on to Bill.

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

## SAVE THE DATE!

### "Back Bay Forum"

**When:**  
Thursday, March 13, 2008  
8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

**Where:**  
The Advanced Technology Center,  
Virginia Beach TCC Campus

Back by popular demand, BBRF is pleased to announce our 7th annual Back Bay Forum. A fabulous and informative array of topics will be presented throughout the day pertaining to agriculture, wildlife populations, health and water quality of Back Bay and many more! An array of environmental education displays will also be available.

To register or for further information, please call the BBRF office at

(757) 721-7666 or  
(757) 426-3643  
or send an e-mail to  
bbrf@verizon.net.

The \$15 registration fee includes a morning break and lunch.

Make your reservation now.

Seats are limited.

See you there!

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Herb Verhaagen

Our speaker for February was Susan Wentzel, Executive Director of the Back Bay Restoration Foundation (BBRF). Susan recently retired from the Navy and completed an internship with the Virginia Beach Environmental

Management Center and is currently enrolled in University of Maryland's Environmental Management program. She presented an information packed meeting concerning wetlands, environment restoration and volunteer involvement.

The Guild and the BBBC are going to be part of the Back Bay Forum sponsored by the BBRF at the Advanced Technology Center, Virginia Beach TCC Campus, Thursday, March 13, 2008 from 8:30am until 3:00pm. We need volunteers to represent the Guild and the BBBC at this forum.

Now is the time to renew your membership if you have not already done so. We are encouraging you to enlist your family and friends to become interested in our Guild, Museum or Birding Club. Our organization depends on volunteers and community involvement, to be successful.

We need you to update your email addresses. This will help us to notify you of upcoming events, but in the future may allow us to send you the newsletter via email, which will save us quite a bit in mailing expenses. To do this just send an email to me at herb-verhaagen@att.net, with your name and phone number so I can verify it against our membership list. This would be a great help to us in communicating with you when we need to.

Congratulations to Beverly Abbott on her acceptance into the Miniature Artist of America. This is a very select group of Artist and they have only 102 in their membership. Beverly is the only member selected in Virginia. Beverly has won many other well deserved awards over the years. Our most heartfelt congratulations to you and your beautiful work.

—Herb