

The Wildfowler



MARCH/APRIL 2010

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 17

Back Bay Restoration Foundation Forum, 8:30am-2:30PM, TCC Advanced Technology Center

March 25

Ducks Unlimited Reception, 7pm-9:30pm, AWHM, (DU invitation only)

April 1

Wildfowl display set-up at Norfolk International Airport

April 5

General Guild Meeting, 6pm social hour, 7pm program, AWHM. Speaker:

Sharon Meade, NC Wildlife Resources Commission at the Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education.

April 10

Gathering of the Guilds, 10am-4pm, Francis Land House

April 12

Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm, AWHM

April 19

Spring fundraiser dinner at the New Moon Restaurant (see article inside for cost, time & location).

April 21

Museum Management Committee Meeting, 10:30am, AWHM

April 23-25

Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition and Art Festival, Ocean City, MD

May 3

General Guild Meeting, 6pm social hour, 7pm program, AWHM. Speaker TBA.

May 10

Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm, AWHM

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

The first quarter of the year has traditionally been a slow period for the museum. Tourists are few and far between, the weather usually isn't conducive to a quick dip in the

ocean and many shops and restaurants are closed. 2010 has thus far proven to be a little worse than our usual winter doldrums. The snow, wind and rain seemed to stay with us forever and had a noticeable impact on the number of visitors venturing out to visit us. However, as always we managed to get through it and we didn't have nearly the weather problems some of the guild member had in other parts of Virginia, Indiana, New York and Boston. I'll quit complaining and hope those who had record breaking snowfalls were able to survive with no ill effects to home or family.

The local chapter of Kiwanis International was one of the groups that took advantage of a sunny day in January to receive a guided tour of the museum.

The comments following the tour were very favorable and many expressed a desire to return with family and friends.


In early February a young online reporter for The Virginian-Pilot stopped by the museum to see what kind of activities were going on at the oceanfront during the off season. He had visited various shops and stores and just happened to wander into the museum. I think he was pleasantly surprised to see that we were open and commenced to do an interview with our Thursday carver, Hank Grigo-lite. Hank spent about an hour with the reporter and the result was an article in the newspaper about Hank and his carving skills. A little exposure, even during the winter, never hurts.

In April we will be setting up the museum wildfowl artifacts display at the Norfolk International Airport. We've done this for the past several years and it has proven to be a real "attention getter" for those arriving or departing through the terminal. Several Visitors commented that they saw the display as they arrived and decided to pay us a visit. To those members who live locally, I hope you take time to visit the museum on your next stop by the oceanfront.

—Tom



*Nick Sapone,
was our
February
speaker*

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

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www.AWHM.org

FYI

The office of President of the Guild is no longer vacant. As a result of the January Board of Directors meeting I was elected to serve in that capacity. I do not expect any radical changes except for the playing of "Hail to the Chief" as I enter the Museum each day.

—Tom

SPRING DINNER-RAFFLE

Monday, April 19, 2010, 6pm
New Moon Café
32nd Street & Holly Avenue,
Virginia Beach

\$30 per person

FIRST 54 PEOPLE ONLY

To make your dinner reservations and select your entrée, call the Museum @ (437-8432)

Payment is due at the Museum no later than April 13th.

MEMBERSHIPS

Brad & Vicki Sawyer,
Chesapeake, VA

HELP NEEDED

Anybody with carpentry skills that can help fabricate display cases..... call the Museum 437-8432

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

Carrie S. Camp, Camp Foundation, Inc
Bob Storms
Tom & Sharon Costello
C.J. & Carolyn Burns
Ann Smith (in memory of John MacKenzie)
Paul Fisher (in memory of Roy White)

(in memory of William S. Johnson)
Preston & Christina Robertson
Karen Young
Herb & Pat Videll
Paul Fisher
Robert & Sandra Norris
Spencer Tinkham & family
Sean & Lesley Forde

GUILD ACTIVITIES

- At the February Board of Directors meeting the members were anxious to sponsor activities that would be both enjoyable and available to more guild members. As a result the following events are in the planning stages: Spring dinner/raffle at the New Moon Restaurant, a summer pig roast, Fall dinner/raffle (probably at Lucky Oyster), 3rd annual de Witt Cottage auction, and our annual Christmas dinner/auction. This is a pretty ambitious schedule, but events like these will get members together on a regular basis and hopefully increase the attendance at monthly meetings and add to our overall membership.
- We have made some minor changes to our monthly meetings. We have tried to book speakers who have a background in carving, wildfowling, wildfowling history or art. If you have attended the past few meetings you may have noticed an increase in the number of members in attendance. I think we'll try to continue this trend, it appears to be what the members want and it does coincide with the mission of the guild and museum.
- Birding still remains popular with several members, so we will continue to promote a sprinkling of birding trips throughout the year. Keep an eye on the

calendar for any scheduled trips or call the Museum to get on the birding email list for short notice trips.

- We will be represented at the Back Bay Restoration Foundation Forum and the Gathering of the Guilds. Anyone wishing to participate contact the museum for additional information.

- Last, but not least, is a reminder. If you haven't sent in your 2010 dues, please do so as soon as possible. Membership renewals play a large part in our annual budget.

BILL JOHNSON MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Gentry Childress, a premier carver and long time guild member, has spearheaded an effort to purchase a memorial plaque in memory of Bill Johnson. I received a note from Gentry that I will quote:

"I'm sure most members are aware of the recent loss of Bill Johnson. Bill was the Director of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum when I first became a guild member and volunteer. Bill was also a talented decoy carver and painter who was always ready to answer questions and demonstrate techniques whenever he was at the de Witt Cottage. He always offered encouragement during the time I was learning decoy history and carving. Although I'll never come close to the level of carving and painting Bill achieved, I know he made a big difference in all I've learned.

In honor of Bill's contributions to the Guild and Museum, as well as to me personally, I would like the guild to sponsor a memorial plaque to be mounted on the base of the wildfowl sculpture in front of the museum. I would suggest the plaque read:

IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM S. 'BILL' JOHNSON
GUILD MEMBER, CARVER AND
MUSEUM DIRECTOR

If you would like to contribute to this project in any amount, please give or send your contribution to the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, 1113 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451, Attn: Tom Beatty. Please make a notation that the donation is for the memorial plaque."

BIRDING NEWS

Before the blizzards began the eight members of BBBC made a trip up to the Eastern Shore. Our first stop was on the CBBT at the first island when we immediately realized it was COLD! We observed some Long-tailed Ducks and Purple Sandpipers along with gulls and the ever present Rudy Turnstone. Next we stopped at the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge. On Ramp Road we observed several duck species in the pond. Next stop was on Magotha Rd. where Eurasian-collared Doves hang out on the electric lines. They weren't there but Ed managed to spot them in a nearby tree and many of us added a LIFE BIRD to our list. From there we went to Kiptopeke State Park and were able to get really close views of both Red-throated and Common Loons. A Common Eider also came in close for us to study. Then we enjoyed seeing some Brant close to the road at the water's edge in Oyster and a very quick trip into the landfill. Quick ... like in 5 minutes as they were getting ready to close. Chilled to the bone we went to Jim and Linda's eastern shore home to have lunch and bird by the fireplace. We even got to see some Ring-necked Ducks while there...a product of a successful hunt earlier in the morning! We pushed on to our destination for the day, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and drove around the wildlife loop before calling it a day...well... for birding that is. The festivities continued in Ed and Glenda's room with food, beverage and fun! The following morning after breakfast we went back to the refuge and walked on the Woodland Trail. We added some NON-BIRDS to our list: wild ponies, Delmarva squirrels and deer. We also drove around the refuge in awe of the damage the nor'easter had done. The beach was totally closed, no Snow Geese were in "Snow Goose Pond", the Eagle Cam was not operational but we were very happy to learn the nest was not damaged and the Eagles had laid an egg. Our birding adventure ended with us identifying 71 bird species. Our club does not have a schedule for bird walks and only goes out when anyone interested wants to plan a trip. Hopefully we will have other trips in the near future. If YOU want to plan a trip for the group, please contact me. If YOU want to be on the email list and get notice of future trips, please contact me.

—Karen
Chirp50@gmail.com



Common Loon



Red-throated Loon

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