

The Wildfowler

MARCH/APRIL 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

I'd like to thank all those members who renewed their memberships for 2009. If you haven't renewed or

it just slipped your mind, I hope you will take a few moments and send in your check. Your membership supports the museum throughout the year, but the funds have a tremendous positive impact in sustaining our operations during the winter months.

Our gift shop sales are down somewhat like many businesses in the area. One bright spot, however, was the number of books that were purchased in the gift shop around the Christmas season. Gunnin' Birds, a recently published book by Kroghie Andresen, was by far the best selling book. We have sold over fifty copies and still have a few copies left. If you are interested in the wildfowling history, decoys and carvers from Back Bay, Currituck Sound and Dare County, this is a must have book to add to your wildfowling library.

In April we're scheduled to once again set up a wildfowl exhibit at the Norfolk International Airport. Past displays have featured antique and contemporary decoys, wildfowl artifacts and history along with museum brochures. It has always been very well done and provided excellent exposure for the museum and guild.

In early May we will change out our main exhibits. North Carolina decoy expert Kroghie Andresen will display some of his decoys from Back Bay and the Currituck Sound. Kroghie is a well known among decoy collectors and his decoys are the result of many years of collecting. I will tell you now that this will be one of the finest exhibits we've been able to assemble. It's our hope that he will be able to help us set up the exhibit and serve as the guest speaker at the May general guild meeting.

I'd like to thank Johnny Johnson for the canvas decoys currently on exhibit in our main gallery, Larry Lambert for allowing us to display several pieces of his wildfowl art, to Archie Johnson for the photos of the gunning clubs and David Turner for his bronze sculptures in the contemporary section.

If you haven't had the opportunity

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mar 2

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

Mar 9

Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, AWHM

Apr 1

Set up exhibit at Norfolk International Airport

Apr 6

General Guild meeting, 6pm social, 7pm program

Apr 12

Easter (museum closed)

Apr 27

Museum Management Committee meeting, 1030am, AWHM

May 4

General Guild meeting, 6pm social, 7pm program

May 4

Change museum exhibits

May 11

Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, AWHM

Don't forget to renew your membership!

Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum
Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
1113 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451
Printed on recycled paper



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ty to visit the museum and see the fine exhibits currently on display, please do so before the change-out in early May.

A final reminder...brick pavers and plaques are still available to be placed on or near the wildfowl sculpture.

—Tom

ANNUAL AUCTION

The First Annual Auction was very successful with us bringing in a net of \$16,389.89; it also brought together the Guild for a very worthwhile project to help raise money to save our museum.

Many long hours, (before, during and after) went into putting on an event as large as this. In looking at the success of the auction, it was voted on to have one each year. Right now we are looking for a person to chair the auction along with co-chairs that would help support the chair person. If you feel you could be one of the chair persons don't be shy Call and let us know. We need you.

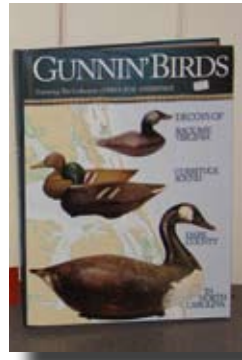
Thank you everyone who was in some way responsible in helping to bring this major event into reality.

Thank you Alice Walsh for your vision and hard work, without that the success we had would not have taken place.

We did it we worked and raised money to save the museum.

—Ann Verhaagen

WWW.AWHM.ORG



Gunnin' Birds,
a recently
published book by
Kroghie Andresen



*Canvas Swan on display
in the main gallery*

“CHESAPEAKE BAY
DECOYS” EXHIBIT
February 27, 2009 - August 31,
2009

The Hampton History Museum announces the opening of “Chesapeake Bay Decoys”, an exhibit of some of the finest area decoys culled from the collections of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Royal Swan Farm and John Moran Quarstein.

The exhibit features such famous makers as R. Madison Mitchell, Speed Joiner, Bob McGraw, Ira Hudson and the Ward Brothers. It includes unique paintings and other works of art by decoy makers Joseph Condon and the Ward Brothers.

This exhibit is opens at the Hampton History Museum, 120 Old Hampton Lane, Hampton on February 27 and runs through August 31, 2009.

CURRITUCK SOUND, NORTH CAROLINA

*(Excerpt from Forest and Stream,
November 27, 1873)*

Currituck Sound, North Carolina, is where I wish the general reader to make up his mind that for the finest kind of waterfowl shooting it cannot be equaled in the United States. The variety includes all the wild fowl, embracing the largest, the swan, English Snipe in goodly numbers during December and January. Quail on the mainland abundant, no bluenoses or stiff limbs when shooting at Currituck; no ice, no snow.

We will place ourselves on one of the steamers of the Old Dominion Line, Saturday preferred. We arrive at Norfolk six o'clock Sunday evening, and stop at the “American.” I give particulars to ensure comfort. Monday morning, 6:30 o'clock we board the little steamer “Cygnet”, and after a very monotonous trip, reach Popular Branch at 6P.M. Here we take row or sail boat, and cross over to the Boston Club House, owned by D.C. Lindsay, who has opened his house for the reception of sportsmen from the North. These marshes join those of Old Currituck Club. Now my dear reader, a few words as to your outfit will not be amiss. Your ordinary field clothes will answer in clear weather; let them be marsh color. You will want rubber boots, high ones; rubber overcoat, marsh color. Your heavy ten gauge breech loader, and powder. Shot can be purchased at Poplar Branch. Don't forget to take some “Ohbejoyful,” as that purchased at Currituck is not warranted for medical purposes. You will want your light breech loader for quail and snipe, as you

can vary the sport by taking the field and looking out for the bay birds that are constantly to be seen around the marshes. There are a great many fish, chub by name, but most assuredly the black bass of the South. Thad Norris says these fish, that is the inhabitants of these waters are the grystes salmoides, and will take a fly.

The board at Mr. Lindsay's is five dollars per day; that includes man, decoys, skiff, and marshes. Post office address, care of Capt. Cain, Steamer Cygnet, Norfolk, Va. Mr. Lindsay has a large stand of wild geese decoys.

Yours fraternally,
G. H. Wild

DONATIONS

C.J. & Carolyn Burns
Carrie Camp Foundation
Dr. & Mrs. C. Alison Drescher
(In memory of John R. Forrest, Jr)
Caroline Jacobsen
Elaine Polizos
(In memory of Theresa Cook &
Frank Smith)
Don Ewell
(In memory of Guy Midgette)

MEMBERSHIPS

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Published by the
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AWHM.ORG
Under the auspices of:
The Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, Inc.
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GOT THE WINTER BLUES?

So you are ready to shoot that groundhog because he predicted 6 weeks more winter! Arrgh! Don't be distressed! Come to the Museum! You probably haven't even seen the displays that will be leaving us in a few months that Tom talked about in his column! What are you waiting for? You probably haven't visited with our carvers to marvel at their work and thank them for many hours spent entertaining our visitors! Hummmm, you may be thinking, “Who are our regular carvers and when do they come to the Museum?” On Tuesday Pete DiPietro carves in the morning and Bud Coppedge carves in the afternoon. Just think, two for the price of one visit and the visit is free! How is that for fitting into today's economy? What is even better is you get the same two for one treat on Wednesday with Ed Morrison and Herb Videll! Thursday, Hank Grigolite carves, Friday, Gary Holt carves and on Saturdays you are likely to find Roger Lee or Bill Johnson and sometimes Gentry Childress. You never know what these fine carvers will be working on and for that matter you won't know unless you come in to see!

Did you know we have regular weekly visits from a variety of Guild members? YOU ought to come visit! Stay and chat awhile, talk to some of the out of town visitors that come in. They would love to hear your stories of our Guild, the area, our heritage, birds in our area, hunting stories...well...the list is endless! My goodness, you might even find yourself wandering

through the gift shop and find something you just can't go home without! COME ON IN!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



*Herb
Verhaagen*

Speakers

Our speaker for March will be Gentry Childress. Gentry has been developing his style of carving

over the past few years and his work is much sought after. He has won several ribbons at the various carving competitions.

The speaker for April will be Grayson Chesser. Grayson is an award winning Eastern Shore Carver, and has collaborated in a few carving books.

—Herb

HELP SAVE \$\$ FOR THE MUSEUM

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