

The Wildfowler

MAY / JUNE 2011

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

It's almost that time...summer is near. Pollen is covering every car and the Cottage has a "greenish powder" covering the outside. We'll just have to bear with it. With the pollen comes the blooming of the garden and Museum landscape, and soon to follow will be our annual visitors. Out of town visitors as well as locals have been on the rise as the weather begins to improve. We are hoping this year will bring an increase in visitors and a likewise increase in Museum sales. The real joy of summer is the

interaction with the visitors, explaining the history of the area, the Museum, our exhibits and discussions with our volunteer carvers. We hope for the best, but at the end of summer, we reflect on the busy period and it always seems to get better each year, meeting new visitors and making new friends.

On May 9th we will replace our current exhibit in the main gallery with a new one. I would like to thank Mark & Margie Cromwell for allowing us to display some of their Back Bay and Currituck Sound decoys. It was an outstanding example of local decoys and was very well received by visitors for the past year. Our new exhibit will feature Canadian decoys. This will be the first time we've been able to assemble enough decoys from our neighbors to the north and if you didn't know there are some very talented and well known carvers from Canada. Since this is a unique exhibit, I hope it will draw in some locals and I know it will be a pleasant surprise to our Canadian visitors. Also in the main gallery will be several bronze pieces from Turner Sculpture located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. We featured Turner Sculpture pieces about three years ago and the visitors were truly impressed. Some of the pieces on display were sold and several visitors traveled to Turner's shop on the Eastern Shore to see where the pieces were made. Additionally, all the art work in the main gallery and art gallery will be replaced. I feel fortunate that over the years we have been able to display some rare old decoys from private collectors, for our visitors to see.

On April 1st, we set up our new display at Norfolk International Airport. We have been able to do this over the past several years. We have always received positive feedback on the display and visitors to

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- May 2
Dinner at Lucky Oyster
- May 9
Board of Directors meeting, AWHM, 7pm
- May 9
Set up new exhibit
- May 20
Bus tour, AWHM, 1:30 pm
- June 6
Monthly Museum meeting
* Last before summer*,
AWHM, 6pm social, 7pm meeting, program speaker Reese Lukei, host Bev & Ira Abbott
- June 13
Board of Directors meeting, AWHM, 7pm
- June 22
Museum Management Committee meeting, AWHM, 10:30am
- June 30
Take down Norfolk International Airport display
- June 30
End of fiscal year 2011
- July 11
Board of Directors meeting, AWHM, 7pm

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Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
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Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451

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

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Virginia Beach entering through Norfolk International Airport have seen the exhibit, taken a brochure and visited the Museum.

I would like to thank those members who represented the Museum at the annual Craft Show at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in March. It was a great opportunity to publicize the Museum and this year were able to recruit several people interested in participating in a novice carving class to be conducted at the Museum in the April/May timeframe. Gentry Childress and Herb Verhaagen will conduct the classes and also Gentry represented the Museum at the Gathering of the Guilds at the Francis Land House in April.

Over the years we have had some excellent speakers featured at our monthly Museum meetings, several have been invited back because the members enjoyed their presentations.



Herb Verhaagen and Gentry Childress represents us at the Virginia Historic Garden Week

We continue to seek out speakers who we feel will attract more members to the monthly meetings and present an interesting program. The last two speakers: James Freeman (Knotts Island, NC) and Bill Casto (Yorktown, VA) were first time speakers and I'm sure we'll invite them back in the future. James demonstrated his technique in carving and constructing a canvas swan. At the end of the program James had nearly completed the swan and returned to the Museum in April with a finished product and donated it for our May 2nd dinner/raffle at he Lucky Oyster. Bill



James Freeman

Verhaagen were on hand at the Cavalier Golf & Yacht Club demonstrating their carving skills, while Karen Beatty exhibited some of her artwork. Later that day Karen and I boarded Virginia's Jewel and took a 2 hour boat ride around Linkhorn and Broad Bay. It was a beautiful trip and we assisted other passengers by identifying some of the birds on the bay.

—Tom

Karen Beatty exhibiting her artwork



EARLY REMINDER

The Christmas dinner/auction is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at the FOP Lodge 8 located on Birdneck Road in Virginia Beach. Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend.

DONATIONS

John & Ola Krueger Fund
Potomac Decoy Collectors Association

NEW MEMBERS

David Hill
(Virginia Beach)

MEMORIAL PLAQUES AND PAVERS ARE AVAILABLE

Over the years we have held several fundraising activities designed to support the Museum and bring more attention to our mission of preserving the wildfowling history of this area. To date we have been pretty successful in accomplishing this goal. Another way that we can raise funds for the museum and also benefit the donor at the same time, is to purchase a memorial plaque or brick paver near the wildfowl sculpture in front of the Museum. We have three \$ 2,000 & thirty-one \$1,000 plaques remaining and basically an unlimited amount of space available for \$ 100 brick pavers. If you are interested in making a purchase, call, visit or email me at the Museum and I can provide all the information and materials required.

—Tom



Bill Casto, Interpretive Carver

Casto is an interpretive carver who can make a truly beautiful work of art out of what many would view as a simple piece of driftwood. He had several pieces of his work on hand and the members in attendance were able to see and hear how Bill takes a piece of driftwood, polishes it and turns it into a fine art carving. His work can be seen at the Art-cade Gallery in Williamsburg, VA.

The Virginia Historic Garden Week was celebrated April 18-24. This year Virginia Beach was featured on Wednesday, April 20th. The homes and gardens of Birdneck Point were the highlights of the tour. The weather certainly cooperated with temperatures reaching nearly 90 and a pleasant breeze. This year the Museum was able to play a more active role in the tour. Gentry Childress and Herb



Our new display at Norfolk International Airport.