

The Wildfowler

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2007

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

As we approach the end of another year, I'd like to thank all those Guild members who gave un-

selfishly of their time and talent throughout the year to promote the mission of the Museum. We've seen an increase in the number of people visiting the Museum compared with this time last year, and the number of repeat visitors is also on the rise. The de Witt Cottage, being the oldest structure on the oceanfront, certainly attracts quite a few visitors. There still remains, however, a large group that cherishes the history of wildfowling, decoys and historic artifacts. Our focus on wildlife, coupled with the historic exhibits, is certainly our main drawing point. Whether decoys, art or on-site carvers, people seem to enjoy coming in and learning about the history of Virginia Beach, the de Witt and Holland families and the important role wildfowling played in this area's history.

list of attendees. Ann Smith will call you and let you know what side dish you should bring. If for any reason you can not attend please let me know as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend. Donations for the auction can be delivered to the Museum any time prior to December 3rd.

Following the Christmas party we will host the Virginia Society of Ornithology on December 7th. We have hosted the VSO the past five years during their annual birding weekend in Virginia Beach. We need volunteers to help set up, help out with food and be on hand to discuss our recent activities and also just mingle with birders throughout Virginia.

The annual Fall raffle took place as part of our Wildlife Festival last month and the winners were:

3rd place – Tom Parker commemorative brick
2nd place – H. W. Koopman, bronze Dudley decoy
1st place – Ann Verhaagen, Cinnamon Teal

Next year's raffle will feature a beautiful Long-billed Curlew, carved by Donna Wasson of Lenexa, Kansas, with all competition ribbons included. Since this is the November/December newsletter, I wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our annual Christmas party and auction will be held December 3rd, and as has been the case each year, the party is already FULL. A waiting list has been started. If you have signed up or notified me recently that you will attend your name is on the

—Tom

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Nov 19
Board of Directors meeting, AWHM, 7pm

Dec 3
Annual Christmas Party/Auction, AWHM, 6pm social, 7pm dinner

Dec 7
Virginia Society of Ornithology reception, AWHM, 7pm

Dec 19
Museum Management Committee meeting, AWHM, 10:30am

Dec 25
Christmas Day, Museum closed

Dec 31
New Year's Eve, Museum closed



Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum
Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
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BACK BAY BIRDING CLUB

Our birders enjoyed a beautiful weekend on the Eastern Shore October 13 & 14. Ed and Mary Richmond did a great job planning the trip. Twelve eager birders began the weekend at 7:30 Saturday morning at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Our next stop was the Eastern Shore NWR where we walked out Ramp Road where we saw our first Bald Eagle of the weekend. Tree Swallows were everywhere! Next stop was Kiptopeke State Park to the hawk stand and bird-banding station. Jethro Runco was happy to see old friends and showed us a nice variety of netted birds for banding. We soon realized that the Northern Flickers were migrating in large numbers. At the hawk stand viewing was not as easy as the raptors were flying quite high that day. One of the hawk counters told us he had counted 400 Flickers passing overhead just that morning! Next came lunch where we

went our separate ways with some stopping at the landfill off Rt. 600. We were surprised to see a Ruddy Duck at the Landfill keeping company with the ever-present gulls, terns and Canada Geese. We all met up at Willis Wharf where the incoming tide produced few shorebirds, however, the group was able to spot an award winning Brant decoy carved by one of our own. Final stop of the day was Chincoteague NWR. We soon found out that Chincoteague Island had received about as much rain as our own home town, making deserts out of former water areas. Where there were pockets of water the shorebirds eagerly filled them searching for food. There were about 50 Black Skimmers (adult and immature) that stayed close to the road making viewing very easy. On Sunday we went on the Woodland Trail to see songbirds before heading home. Nuthatches filled the trees. Most numerous were the Red-breasted. What a treat they were since we generally don't see them this far south. I didn't get a total count of birds seen over the weekend but I believe it was close

to a hundred different species. The Eastern Shore was our 3rd and last trip for 2007. Next year the BBBC will have 5 to 6 local trips to Stumpy Lake, Back Bay NWR and Merchants Millpond to name a few. Our club will join the VSO (Virginia Society of Ornithology) for weekend outings on the Outer Banks, southern mountains of Virginia and the annual Virginia Beach weekend. The 2008 BBBC birding schedule is presently in the planning stages. Watch the website (www.awhm.org) under the BBBC button for updates.

—Karen

DONATIONS

Bud Coppedge
(wood & reference books)

John & Ola Krueger Fund
(of the Virginia Beach Foundation)

Archie Johnson
(Museum operations)

Ed Richmond
(Birding Tapes)

Al Brandtner
(Carving Class Proceeds)

NEW MEMBERS

Chris & Nancy Condoulis
(Charlottesville, VA)

Charles Stewart
(Spotsylvania, VA)

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



Mr. & Mrs. David L. Jackson III, found the ideal place for their wedding in Virginia Beach.



Guild member, Ed Morrison making another sale at the festival.



Guild member, Tom Parker at his booth and also 3rd place winner of the annual fall raffle.



Award winning and other noteworthy entries in the carving and antique decoy competition. Pictures were taken by Bill Einsig of the IWCA.

