

The Wildfowler

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

As August rapidly comes to a close, I cannot help but to reflect over the summer sales and visitors. In a perfect world it would be great if every visitor who came to the Museum would enjoy their tour, buy something and depart making us both happy. We all know that's not the case. Many of our best visitors, however, never make a purchase from the gift shop but they do take something with them when they leave, something money can't buy. They leave commenting on having just seen some truly

fine pieces of wildfowl artwork, seeing for the first time rare decoys that were carved by some of the best known carvers that ever lived. Others will display a true interest in the early years of Virginia Beach and Princess Anne County and are intrigued with the important part wildfowlers player in the history of the area. Many take with them a real appreciation of the history of the de Witt Cottage and the two families, the Hollands and de Witts, who called it home for so many years. Yes, we always appreciate a good sale, but we also appreciate just a good visit. As always I extend an invitation to you, members of your family and friends to visit the Museum.

We have recently acquired several new items in the gift shop we think are unique and things you will enjoy. Glass figures in the form of Pelicans, dolphins, jellyfish enclosed in glass, blue crabs and turtles, beach-style photo albums, picture frames, children's books, new jewelry and much more. One new item is hard-cover book titled Virginia Beach Naturally, by Scott Bastian. This book is an EXTENSIVE compilation of everything you ever wanted to know about the plants and animals that inhabit Virginia Beach everyday. You really have to see it to appreciate it and we are one of very few sources in Virginia Beach to carry the book, and don't forget members get a discount. Come see us and shop. You don't have to be a resident of Virginia Beach to enjoy this book.

In August, we were pleased to host three groups to tour the Museum. The first group was twenty 5-7 year olds on a Wednesday and twenty 8-12 year olds on Thursday, both groups from one of the Childtime Learning Center in Virginia Beach. We had our hands full, but really enjoyed both groups and they likewise enjoyed their time touring the

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Sept 6**
(Tuesday) Monthly Museum Meeting, 6pm social hour, 7pm program
- Sept 12**
Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm, AWHM
- Sept 20**
Museum Management Committee Meeting, 1:30pm, AWHM
- Oct 3**
Monthly Museum Meeting, 6pm social hour, 7pm program
- Oct 10**
Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm, AWHM
- Oct 15**
Pig Roast, 4pm, AWHM
- Nov 7**
Monthly Museum Meeting, 6pm social hour, 7pm program
- Nov 14**
Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm, AWHM
- Dec 7**
Museum Management Committee Meeting, 10:30, AWHM
- Dec 13**
Annual Christmas Dinner/Auction, 6pm, FOP #8, Birdneck Road.

Printed on recycled paper

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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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Museum. These two groups were followed by fifteen youngsters the following week. You can tell summer is coming to an end and the last of the summer school field trips are taking place.

My monthly reminder: commemorative plaques and bricks are still available. Two \$2,000 and 29 \$1,000 plaques remain to be purchased along with an unlimited amount of brick pavers for \$100. Now that the sculpture has been paid off, all purchases of plaques and bricks go directly to support the Museum.

—Tom

NEW MEMBERS

Ed Moser (Virginia Beach)
Maureen Sigmund
(Virginia Beach)
Dan Ross (Spotsylvania)
Charles Hartz (Virginia Beach)

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.

INTERESTING NOTES

It seems we have an annual attraction that draws visitors to the Museum that we did not anticipate....our fig tree! The tree was planted in memory of Harriet Brewerton de Witt (June 1, 1905 – December 25, 1997). The tree seems to produce more figs every year and is picked by staff, volunteers, visitors and just

passers-by. As I write this in mid-August the figs are just about gone, but the Mockingbird who claims the tree as his, is still patrolling the area. The only drawback is having to clean the bricks around the tree to avoid tracking the fig residue into the Cottage. It's a small price to pay for such delicious fruit.

Federal Duck Stamps are now on sale for \$15 at the BBNWR entrance station between 8am and 4pm. Proceeds from these stamps support acquisition of wetlands.

Blue Goose Tram Tours are running daily at 9am from the BBNWR Visitor Center. First come, first served. Cost is \$8/Adults, \$6/Seniors (62+) and children (3-12). Cash or check only, please. Visit www.bbrf.org or call 619-6429 for more information.

FACEBOOK

The Museum Facebook page continues to slowly grow. Presently we have 142 fans, or another way to put it, 142 people that clicked "like" while viewing our page. We will continue to grow slowly until people begin commenting on articles or pictures that we post on the page. We usually post an article or picture at least one time a week. If you are already a Facebook member, and have become a fan of the page, please help us get the word out to more people by commenting on our article or asking a question. Another way to promote our page is by creating a link to your Facebook page. Then all of your friends will see it and want to click on your link to see what we are all about. It is free, easy and fun. Why not join in the fun?

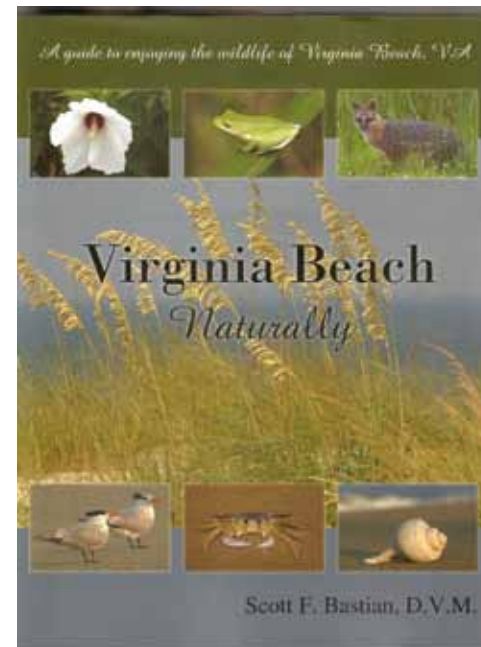
Not a Facebook member and want to see the Museum's Facebook page? NO PROBLEM. Go to our website (www.awhm.org) and click on the decoy on the left that says Facebook. Recently we posted a link that the City of Virginia Beach had posted on their Facebook page. When you see the picture of the owl carving on our Facebook page, click on decoy and you will be able to see an article written about local carvers with pictures, taken by Craig McClure. The easiest way to view the pictures is by clicking on the slideshow button. You will readily recognize Museum members Gary Holt, Charlie Seidel & Hank Grigolite.

DONATIONS

Fletcher Bryant
(in memory of S. Archer Green)
Lennon Smith
Frank Munoz
Murray Fulcher
Maureen Sigmund
Michael Craft
Janice Johnson
Wiley Lamm
John Mazach
Bill & Alice Walsh
(in memory of Myrtle Wilson and Gladys Duncan)



Glass Dolphin in our Gift Shop



New book titled "Virginia Beach Naturally," by Scott Bastian



Ann Verhaagen

Hi Everyone, I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Meetings starting in September. The Meeting will be Tuesday (not on a Monday for this Meeting) September 6th at 6:00 P.M. for our social hour and 7:00 P.M. for our regular meeting. Come enjoy a time of refreshments and good fellowship. We are always looking for someone who can be a speaker for our meetings so if you know of someone and would like to hear them speak please let us know. We are there to learn and enjoy. We also have a time for show and tell and if you would like to bring a piece that you have done or purchased to show us we would really like to see it.



The Fig tree was planted in memory of Harriet Brewerton de Witt (June 1, 1905 – December 25, 1997).



Jellyfish in glass is new to our gift shop

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our speaker for the September 6th meeting will be Gentry Childress, Gentry is a very gifted and talented carver, his work is always in demand wherever he goes. We are very lucky that he is a member of our organization. Gentry is also very generous he gives a lot of his work to the Museum to use as a fundraiser or in a raffle. He also has gifted many of the members with his work. I thank Gentry for all he does for us.

Our speaker for the October 3rd Meeting will be Jack Cox, he is a well known carver and will be the featured carver at the Easton Show. I know he has a wealth of experience and information. I am really looking forward to hearing him speak and seeing the decoys that he will bring. Make sure you mark your calendars for that date so that you won't miss it.

Our annual fund raiser will be



All Brantner taking a break from his carving class.

on October 15th at 4PM., It will be a barbecue held at the Museum. This is a way we can come together and have some great food and a time of meeting other members in our organization and enjoy the friends that we have already made. I will be sending out more details very soon. This is an important event for us, to help build the funds for the Museum.

If you know anyone that you feel would like to belong to the Museum/Guild please tell them about us and hopefully they will become a member. I know if they come and visit and see the museum and come to a meeting they will want to belong to our great organization.

Thank you and see you soon,

—Ann