

# The Wildfowler

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2007

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

I would like to thank all those members who were prompt in renewing their membership and to those who haven't, I hope you will. Your membership dues go directly to support the daily operations of the Museum. At this time of year, when we have few visitors, your financial assistance is crucial. We are always looking for new members who share our common interests, so if you know someone who you think might be a potential member, bring them to the Museum for a visit and a tour. If you haven't been in for a while I would encourage you to do so. Our exhibits are always changing; a different carver each day and the gift shop

always has unique items at very reasonable prices.

In previous newsletters I've tried to keep you abreast of progress of the wildfowl sculpture. On Monday, February 5th, the second group of brick pavers, 69 in all, were put in place at the entrance to the Museum. They really add to the overall appearance of the sculpture and Cottage. Now we are taking applications for the third group to be installed. If you're interested and no longer have the application form, just give me a call or e-mail and I will make sure you get one promptly.

In our last newsletter I mentioned how successful our fall raffle was. We hope you will support us again this year. The first prize will be a full size decorative Cinnamon Teal carved by Mike Steed from Illinois. Second prize, by popular demand, will be the bronze Dudley decoy made by Turner Sculpture and the third prize will be a commemorative brick paver to be located near the wildfowl sculpture. The drawing will be held the final day of our wildfowl festival, October 7, 2007. You'll be receiving your tickets in an upcoming newsletter.

During the April-June timeframe we are scheduled to assemble a wildfowl display at the Norfolk International Airport. We have done this in the past and have had positive feedback from travelers coming to or leaving the area via the airport. If you're flying in or out during that timeframe make sure to stop by and see it. If you have friends or relatives flying in, mention the display to them. I guarantee you won't be disappointed.

Likewise, Ken Trayer's exhibit on factory decoys is nearing its term. It's a great collection of antique decoys from many of the old decoy factories of the late 1800's and early 1900's. If you haven't seen it, I would encourage you to stop by before it is returned to Mr. Trayer.

We are planning to participate in the Boardwalk Festival, April 28, 2007. It is being held in conjunction with Virginia Beach 2007, just one of several events to coincide with the Jamestown festivals coming later this

*Continued on next page*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Mar 5**

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

**Mar 12**

Board of Directors  
meeting, AWHM, 7pm

**Mar 20**

Monthly show meeting,  
AWHM, 7pm

**Mar 30**

Bus tour, 3:20pm,  
AWHM

**Apr 2**

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

**Apr 10**

Monthly show meeting,  
AWHM, 7pm

**Apr 18**

Museum Management  
Committee meeting,  
AWHM, 10:30am

**Apr 23**

Bus tour, AWHM, 9am

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Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum  
Back Bay Wildfowl Guild  
1113 Atlantic Avenue  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Back Bay Birding Club

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year. Our emphasis will be on the history of the Cottage and history of wildfowling and decoy carving in this area. Anyone interested in participating call me or come by the Museum for more information, but volunteers are needed. This is another chance to acquaint locals and visitors with a part of Virginia Beach history that is not well known.

—Tom

## DONATIONS

*(Museum operations)*

*Lynn Hightower*

*Tommy Deary*

*Tom Costello*

*J. M. Brigs*

*Carrie S. Camp Foundation*

*Turner Sculpture*

*Stuart Chaplain (carving magazines)*

*Herb & Ann Verhaagen  
(in memory of Anna Payne)*

## BACK BAY BIRDING CLUB

The BBBC went to the Outer Banks of North Carolina and Lake Mattamuskeet in mid-February. Marian & Gentry planned the trip for us and really went all out to make sure we had a great time! Our adventure began at the Wildlife Center in Whalehead. Our docent did a fantastic job of telling us all about the Currituck Sound wildlife and its changes through the years. Later we looked at birds on the grounds. Our hostess for the evening, Elaine Polizos, did a great job of warming us up on a cold night and filling our bellies with yummy food! Our second day began on the grounds of Bodie Lighthouse and continued to the Oregon Inlet, Pea Island Refuge, Manteo and finally Lake Mattamuskeet. The weather was pretty darned cold but our spirits were raised with a wide variety of birds.

The Avocet seen at Pea Island was a life bird for several of our birders. For those of you that don't know what "life bird" means...let me explain. As people get interested in watching birds many keep a list of all the different species of birds that they have seen in their lifetime. When a person sees a new bird for the first time they call it a "life bird" and add it to their growing list. Another breath-taking sight was when 26 White Pelicans circled high in the sky over the lake at Pea Island. These birds don't usually come this far north! In Manteo we were able to see hummingbirds...yes...you are right if you read that and said to yourself "they shouldn't be here in the winter months"! Of course one of the main reasons we travel to the Outer Banks and Lake Mattamuskeet is to see the wintering waterfowl and we certainly were NOT disappointed!

The Tundra Swans were the first to welcome us to Lake Mattamuskeet and the second to welcome us were our wonderful hosts at the lodge, Bill & Alice Walsh! After a sunset trip to the lodge's private grounds we had dinner at Harris Steakhouse and enjoyed each other's company. The third day of our adventure took us to the refuge at the lake and a guided tour by one of the volunteers. I do believe

we saw more waterfowl than we have in past trips to the area. If anyone tells you that Coots are on the decline you can safely say they are NUTS! At the end of three delightful days of birding our group tallied 91 species of birds!

If you are thinking to yourself, WOW this sounds like LOTS of fun, why not join us on one of our birding trips? We have two other trips being planned for 2007. On Memorial weekend (May, 25-28) we are going to Highland County, VA, Seneca Rocks, WV, Canaan Valley, WV and Blackwater Falls, WV. In September (28-30) we will explore Virginia's Eastern Shore.

To sign up for these trips simply e-mail [backbaybirdclub@aol.com](mailto:backbaybirdclub@aol.com) and indicate which trip you want to attend or you can call the Museum @ 437-8432.

—Karen



*Back Bay Birding Club at Oregon Inlet, NC*



*Killdeer at Whalehead, NC*



*Wildfowl scene at Matamuskeet, NC*



*Reggie Birch, speaker and presenter at our February meeting.*

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.

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

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### 2007 Wildlife Festival



*Herb Verhaagen*

Our 2007 Show is in the planning stages and will soon be moving to the active stage. It will be held at the Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Academy (VBLETA). We look forward to this event and the planning that goes into it.

### Speakers

My Thanks to Reggie Birch for his presentation at our January meeting. Reggie, a carver for 30 years and carving full time since 1986, shared his experiences and tips with us as he carved a Ruddy duck with a hatchet.

Jane Brown is our speaker for March. She will be speaking to us about her trip to Africa as she presents a slide show. This is her second time with us and based on her first presentation (her trip to Antarctica) it will be a very interesting evening.

—Herb