

The Wildfowler

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb 7
General Guild meeting, AWHM, 6pm social, 7pm meeting/program (Charlie Seidel)

Feb 12-13
BBBC birdwalk, Bodie Lighthouse, Pea Island & Lake Mattamuskeet

Feb 15
Museum Management Committee meeting, AWHM, 1:30pm

Mar 6(Sunday)
BBBC-Back Bay NWR

Mar 7
General Guild meeting, AWHM, 6pm social, 7pm program (Richard Carpenter-etching)

Mar 14
Board of Directors meeting, AWHM, 7pm

Apr 2
BBBC birdwalk, Bombay Hook NWR & Chincoteague NWR

Apr 4
General Guild meeting, AWHM, 6pm social, 7pm meeting/program (Nick Sapone-carver, Wanchese, NC)

Apr 13
Museum Management Committee meeting, 10:30am, AWHM

Apr 30
BBBC birdwalk, Merchants Millpond

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

Happy New Year to all! I wish each member the very best in 2005. I'd like to thank all the volunteers who selflessly gave their time in support of the Museum throughout 2004. Because of the dedication of our volunteers many return visitors frequently commented on what a friendly, hospitable atmosphere they encounter with each visit to the Museum.

The exhibits currently on display have been very well received. They will remain until the May-June timeframe. The Cedar Island exhibit, the Larry Lynch photo display and the contemporary

carvings have impressed so many visitors. But by far the visitors spend the most time watching and talking to our carvers. They really are able to demonstrate the skills that make decoy carving such a unique talent. Many of you may remember the exhibit we set up for Edgar T. Brown Day, October 16, 2004. Our intent was to display the rare photos, postcards and other memorabilia provided by Edgar on that day and the following week. Local interest was so great we decided to keep it up through January 9, 2005 to coincide with a display at the Virginia Beach Central Library. After Mary Reid Barrow's Beacon article on December 5, 2004 visits and inquiries increased, so we have decided to leave it up until the end of February.

Our annual Christmas dinner and auction was once again a success. This event could not have taken place without the help we received... donations for the auction, those who helped set up for the dinner and especially donations from Nimmo Parkway Wal-Mart, the Raven Restaurant and Atlantic Garden Center. We made nearly \$3000 at the auction and hope next year will be as successful. We would like to have more social gatherings in 2005. So any ideas and help are truly welcome.

If your newsletter contains a membership renewal form, it's just a reminder that we haven't received your dues for 2005. If there has been a mistake call me and we'll get it resolved immediately.

If you do any traveling April-June through Norfolk International Airport you will notice a display in the Concourse B featuring wildfowl artifacts from the Museum along with information about the Guild and Museum. We are able to do this periodically and it gives visitors to Tidewater Area a first-hand view of some of the areas wildfowl carving, art and memorabilia.

You may have noticed this newsletter is for January and February. As you know November through April are "slow" months on the oceanfront. So rather than just send you a newsletter with no real news, we'll try bi-monthly letter during those months in hopes of providing you with a newsworthy letter and at the same time save some money. May through October will be monthly newsletters. Your comments and any feedback are welcomed.

Tom

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Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
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BACK BAY BIRDING CLUB

In December the BBBC hosted a reception for the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO). The VSO comes to Virginia Beach annually in December to see birds at a variety of places locally. This year they visited the Whitehurst Tract (in the Pungo area of Virginia Beach), Mackay Island NWR, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and Back Bay NWR. Members of other local bird clubs (Virginia Beach Audubon, Cape Henry Audubon & Hampton Roads Bird Club) lead the birders from different parts of Virginia on these walks showing the wide variety of birds that can be seen in the Tidewater area. The BBBC invites the VSO to the Museum after hours for a private tour and members of the BBBC create mouth-watering treats for the cold, tired birders to enjoy...and enjoy they DO! The VSO also enjoys shopping in the Museum gift shop and we certainly enjoy them supporting the Museum. The VSO is a very supportive and appreciative group and we will be proud to invite them back next year.

In January the BBBC went to Mackay Island NWR. Kendall Smith, assistant refuge manager, let us get a close look at some of the birds that winter over on the refuge. Our first stop was the Charles Kuralt Overlook on the causeway to view Snow Geese that numbered in the thousands. Inside the closed area of the refuge we were able to see the resident Bald Eagles. One was on the nest and the other was nearby in a tree. They are truly magnificent! As we proceeded down to the point of the refuge we were able to see the ducks as they left the water. When this happens one can appreciate why refuges stay closed to the public in the winter. Mackay Island, like most refuges in our area, only open the roads a very limited time to prevent too many disturbances. We were able to see: Green-winged Teal, Mallards, Black Ducks, Pintails, Shovelers, Gadwall, Hooded Mergansers, Tundra Swan, Snow Geese and one lone Muscovy. We also happened upon a covey of about 15 Bobwhite Quail. It was a treat to see some fly into the trees. While on the refuge we enjoyed 36 different species of birds.

Detailed reports of our bird walks are available on the Museum website www.awhm.org by clicking on the "birding club" button. Our birdwalk schedule is also available on the website and we would love to have YOU join us on a birdwalk!

-Karen



Bev Abbott painting a feather at our January Guild Meeting



Ed Morrison "Auctioneer Extraordinaire" at our Annual Christmas Auction

GUILD MEMBER OF THE MONTH

As we begin 2005 it seems only fitting to acknowledge a Guild member who has done so much for the Museum in 2004...Mary Reid Barrow. Mary Reid is a lifetime member of the Guild and among her various activities she writes for the Beacon in the Virginian Pilot. She has been very generous in mentioning the Museum in articles, the most recent appearing on December 5, 2004. This article focused on Edgar Brown and the history of Virginia Beach on display at the Museum. As a result of this article more local residents have visited the Museum to view the exhibit than have visited in the past four years. Thank you Mary Reid for a superb article and your continued support

NEW MEMBERS

John Porter, Virginia Beach
Annette Graham,
Virginia Beach
Margaret Mitchell, Chesapeake
Susan Hubbard, Norfolk
Judith Sellers, Virginia Beach

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I would like to start our new year by thanking Al Brandtner for his service on the Board of Directors and Gentry Childress for the great job he's done for the past 2 years as President of the Guild and Chairing the Board of Directors. Gentry is now going to be President of our BBBC. Again Thanks Gentry and Al.

I would like to thank all the volunteers for their efforts in making the Annual Christmas Dinner and Auction a very fine evening and a financial success. There were too many to mention by name for I'm sure I would leave someone out, however, I would like to thank Tom Beatty and Ann Smith for their efforts, and all who contributed to the auction, brought food, and help setup and take down.

We have many projects ongoing in the Guild and I would like to revisit some of our programs and would appreciate input from you on our current programs and creating new ones while striving to promote and preserve our heritage.

Thanks to Archie Johnson, Bud Coppedge from the Guild and Robert Menter from the City's Video Services Division for their fine work in completing a carving video titled "Decoy Carvers of the Tidewater". It is a very well done piece and will be shown on VBTv channel 48 starting Monday, January 24th at 1am, 11am, 6pm and 8pm. Then it will be on periodically thereafter. The current schedule is Jan 26th 11am & 6pm, Jan 27th 1am & 6am, Jan 28th 6am & 4pm, Jan 29th 1am, 11am & 6pm, Jan 30th 1am, 6am & 4pm. You can check the VBTv schedule for other times, but it appears to be available to the late night and early risers. I think you will enjoy it. Thanks not only to Archie, Bud and Robert, but to some of the people who made it possible, Reggie Waterfield, Romie Waterfield, Don Ewell, Roy White & John Barnes. For our next project we would like to do something similar featuring the hunting clubs of the Back Bay and Currituck Sound area.

As a guild member I'm excited about the prospects for the New Year.

-Herb

DONATIONS

Monetary donations in support
of Museum operations

Tom & Karen Beatty
(in memory of Gladwyn Fitz-
Randolph)
Tommy Deary
C.J. & Carolyn Burns
Winn Jester
(in memory of wife Jayne)
Archie Johnson
(in memory of Al Drescher's
Mother)

Bill & Alice Walsh, Jr.
(in memory of Gladwyn Fitz-
Randolph & Al Drescher's
Mother)

Articles donated to the Museum

Charles Lee
(Blueprint Chesapeake Bay
Skiff)
Claudie Barnes
(shirts for gift shop)