

The Wildfowler



OCTOBER 2005

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

Happy Anniversary! September 22, 2005 marked 10 years since the grand opening of the Museum. Congratulations to all who helped make the Museum possible and a special thanks to those who still remain active.

As the newsletter goes to print, all preparations for "Birds on the Beach" are going well and we have ten exhibitors signed up to participate in the event. We had three last year so we hope the event will continue to grow. All proceeds go directly to support the Museum.

Another fund raising event that we are really hoping brings in some additional funds for the Museum is the full-size decorative Wood Duck raffle to be held in 2006. You will be receiving raffle tickets in upcoming newsletters and we hope you will be generous and participate by purchasing the tickets. The Wood Duck was carved by Al Brandtner and is valued at \$800.00. It is really a beautiful piece and soon you will be able to see it in color on our website, www.awhm.org.

A reminder for visitors, the Museum will close on Monday beginning in October and will remain closed on Monday until Memorial Day. Tuesday through Sunday hours remain the same. Additionally, the newsletter will be sent bi-monthly beginning next month until May.

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Full-size decorative Wood Duck carved by Al Brandtner for raffle

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Oct 3
General Guild meeting, 6pm social, 7pm program/meeting
- Oct 7-9
Eastern Shore Birding Festival
- Oct 11
Museum Management Committee meeting, 1:30pm, AWHM
- Oct 18
BBBC quarterly meeting, 7pm, AWHM
- Nov 5
BBBC birdwalk, Henricus/Dutch Gap
- Nov 7
General Guild meeting, 6pm social, 7pm program/meeting, AWHM
- Nov 14
Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, AWHM
- Dec 2
VSO reception 7pm
- Dec 12
Annual Christmas party & auction
- Dec 14
Museum Management Committee meeting, 10:30, AWHM
- Dec 25
Christmas (Museum closed)
- Dec 31
New Years Eve (Museum closed)

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Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum
Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
1113 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451



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Staff

Tom Beatty, Director	437-8432
	(email: atlanticwildfowl@rcn.com)
Ann Smith, Business Manager	437-8432

Continued from front

Therefore, you'll receive newsletters for Nov-Dec, Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr. They are relatively slow months at the Museum and we hope to save a little money, but still supply you with all the happenings as we do the rest of the year. We did this last year and it seemed to work well.

We had a pretty good summer season at the Museum and it could not have happened were it not for our volunteers. The city's building maintenance and landscaping department have been crucial in keeping the Cottage in such great shape. The Princess Anne Garden Club has maintained our garden for the past 10 years. The garden has always been one of the most beautiful spots on the oceanfront. As of August of this year the garden club will no longer be caring for the garden. We hope members will volunteer to help us keep this beautiful spot in the same condition we've grown accustomed to. A little help from experienced and novice gardeners will go a long way to keep the garden in a condition we can continue to be proud of.

Tom

BACK BAY BIRDING CLUB

Eight members of the BBBC met at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge on Sept. 3rd to see what was flying on their first birdwalk after the long hot summer. The sky was clear, the temperature was great, a nice breeze was blowing and the birds (the little rascals) were hiding. The group identified 18 species of birds. Early migrants included: Yellow-rumped warblers, Baltimore Orioles, Northern Rough-winged Swallows and Sanderlings. Osprey were still around before their trip south for the winter and the usual gulls, Brown Pelicans and one un-identified Tern patrolled the beach. Other interesting sights were: a Garter Snake, turtle nests and all colors and sizes of dragonflies. Many thanks to Herb & Ann Verhaagen for providing the trip report!

In October the BBBC goes to the annual Eastern Shore Birding Festival and Novembers birdwalk to Henricus/Dutch Gap will be lead by Janet Schmitt. Don't forget to e-mail Karen at bbbcbirdwalks@aol.com to sign up for birdwalks.

October 18th is the next quarterly meeting for the BBBC. You won't want to miss this meeting. Our guest speaker is Barbara Gipson of the Virginia Beach SPCA. Barbara will be talking with us about Wildlife Response and bird rehabilitation. Also at the meeting we will be discussing our birdwalk schedule for 2006.

Keep you heads up, as October is prime time for hawk migration!

—Karen

GUILD MEMBER OF THE MONTH

This month I'd like to recognize T. J. Henning, Ken Wilson, Roger Lee, Jim Mehne and Jamie Champe for their help in putting together the Birds on the Beach event, September 30-October 2. T. J. and Roger are regular volunteer carvers at the Museum and Jim, Jamie and Ken also serve on the Board of Directors. My thanks to all for your help with this event and your continued support for the Museum.

NEW MEMBERS

Mary Ann Schultz
(Virginia Beach)
Anne Bennett
(Virginia Beach)

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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(757) 457-8452
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Under the auspices of:
The Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, Inc.
(A not for profit organization)

DONATIONS

Claudy Barnes
(gift shop items)

Frank & Linda Margiotta
(in memory of Edgar Brown)

Bill & Alice Walsh
(in memory of Marinell Mehne)

Fletcher Bryant
(in memory of Fred Isaacs)

DID YOU KNOW.....

Ducks usually migrate at an altitude of 200 to 4,000 feet but are capable of reaching much greater heights. A jet plane over Nevada struck a Mallard at an altitude of 21,000 feet – the highest documented flight by North American waterfowl. And a 1954 climbing expedition to Mount Everest found a Pintail skeleton at an elevation of 16,400. Female Wood Ducks must ingest 75 grams (2.6 ounces) of invertebrates to obtain enough protein and minerals to produce one egg. To acquire these nutrients, the birds must consume more than 300 invertebrates an hour for eight hours.

Did You Know facts came from *Ducks Unlimited* September/October 2005 article entitled "Amazing Waterfowl Facts" compiled by: Mike Checkett & Matt Young. Look for more Did You Know in upcoming newsletters.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The show flyers are out and we are in the process of getting letters out to our artist and vendors, Bev Abbott is going to do the show print, and we are having monthly meetings to plan the show. The 2006 show is gaining momentum.

Jerry Harris our speaker for September gave an interesting presentation on carving and development of patterns from start to finish and also some painting techniques. Jerry's work is still in the main gallery so stop by and take it in. My thanks to Jerry for an enjoyable and informative evening.

Our October speaker is John Orehovec a nature photographer who has exhibited in over 450 shows and exhibits. John's exhibits include the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Department of Interior, John was also the featured artist (a very rare thing for photographers) at the Southern Wildlife Festival in Decatur Alabama.

—Herb



Jerry Harris was the speaker for our September meeting



Wren that was carved during the last meeting