

The Wildfowler

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tom Beatty

As we approach the end of another summer season, I have to say the weather has been

great and the visitors and beachgoers seemed endless at times. Among the many visitors we have had this summer was a group from Lighthouse Pointe in Chesapeake, VA. The group was able to tour the Museum and view Kroghie Andresen's decoys from Back Bay and Currituck Sound. Also on hand was Al Brandtner who awed the group with his carving skills. As usual, the summer season could

not have been so successful without the help of our volunteers. I am grateful to each volunteer for their generosity. In particular, I'd like to thank Al Brandtner for conducting his most recent painting seminar. As many carvers know Al is an expert when it comes to painting a decoy with an air brush. Al did not charge a fee for the seminar but asked the attendees to make a donation to the Museum. At the end of the seminar the attendees had great looking decoys and together they donated \$1,375 to the Museum. Thanks Al & his class members Pete Taylor, John Mazach, Jamie Champe, Roy Carlson & C.J. Burns. I'd also like to thank Gentry Childress for his many decoy donations and volunteering his time to carve



"Lighthouse Pointe visitors departing Museum"

Continued on next page.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sept 5-6

19th Annual Chincoteague Island Decoy & Art Festival

Sept 7

Labor Day

Sept 8

General Guild meeting, AWHM, 6pm social hour, 7pm meeting/program, speaker: Wayne Waterfield (carver) Virginia Beach

Sept 12

22nd Annual Duck Fair, Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

Sept 14

Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, AWHM

Sept 17-20

Eastern Shore Birding Festival, Eastern Shore, VA

Sept 23

Auction meeting, 10am, AWHM (co-chairs only)

Oct 3

2009 Fall Classic Sportsman's Auction, Zeb Barfield, Hallwood, VA

Oct 5

General Guild meeting, AWHM, 6pm social, 7pm meeting/program, speaker TBA

Oct 12

Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, AWHM

Oct 20

Museum Management Committee meeting, 1:30pm, AWHM

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Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
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at the Museum on weekends. We also received a donation from the Surfrider Foundation for using the side yard to show surfing movies in July and they've also scheduled a day in September to show more movies. This year has been one of increased donations and volunteerism. I truly appreciate the help and hope it continues, especially for the upcoming auction.

-Tom

IN MEMORIAM

Last month, Bobby Swain, well-known carver from the Eastern Shore, passed away. After an accident several years ago, Bobby was confined to a wheel chair, but continued carving. He was one of our guest speakers and put on a painting demonstration that many members still talk about. He will be missed.



"Al Brantner's Canvasback hen"



"Gentry in the carving room"

DONATIONS

Elaine Polizos
Gentry Childress
Archie Johnson
Judy Chambers
Sue Brown
Ken & Nancy Wilson
Larry Lambert
Fletcher Bryant

BACK BAY BIRDING CLUB NEWS

Now that cooler weather is approaching the birds are beginning to move. Shorebirds are the first to migrate, followed by songbirds & raptors and finally our waterfowl arrive. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the BBBC does not have a pre-planned birdwalk schedule, however a few birdwalks may come about on short notice. I am keeping a list of Guild members who wish to be contacted when a birdwalk is planned. If you are interested please call me at home 757-468-6997 or email me at the bird club email address: backbaybirdclub@aol.com. ANYONE can plan a birdwalk to any area of interest and I will supply you with the list of people to contact.

Other "birdy" news: Tom was contacted by Kevin Bennington of Red Wing Lake Golf Course in Virginia Beach, asking our help with a "bird survey" he needs to submit to Audubon International (not Audubon Society). He is in the process of making the golf course more environment friendly and part of that involves a bird survey. We observe birds using a golf cart in the early morning hours and have limited time on the course so as NOT to interfere with golfers. At some point we will go at dusk/night to walk the course for night birds. To be able to give a more accurate account of the birds present we need to observe during all four seasons. If you would like to help us we are seeking people comfortable with their identification skills. We are compiling a list of people interested in participating and will contact you when a date is available. As mentioned in the previous paragraph, call or email me if you want to be included in this call list.

MEMBERSHIPS

Trip & Ali Smith
Wiley & Judy Lamm
John & Mary Mazach

OTHER BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Seventeenth Annual Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival

Festival kickoff events will be held on Thursday, September 17th in the Onancock Town Square Park on Market Street in Onancock. The keynote address will be given by award winning nature photographer and writer Jim Clark who will share "Between Ocean and Bay: A Natural Celebration of the Eastern Shore". Festival headquarters will be located at the Cape Charles firehouse, 501 Mason Ave., Cape Charles. It will be open from 9am - 5pm Friday, 9/18; 6am - 5pm Saturday, 9/19 and 9am - noon Sunday, 9/20. Tours,

bird walks, nature hikes, talks, boat trips, exhibits, vendors and food will be available. Registration materials (including the full program) are available at <http://www.esvachamber.org/festivals/birding/>. For more information you can call the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce at: 757-787-2460.

2nd ANNUAL DEWITT COTTAGE AUCTION

HELP WANTED. I know everyone has seen a "help wanted" sign in some store window or restaurant. It's a quick and hopefully, easy way to fill an immediate need. We are once again sponsoring an auction in November and need your help. Some of you may have already been contacted by one of the auction co-chairs- Ali & Ann Smith, Ed Morrison, Elaine Polizos and Skip Margiotta. If you have been asked to help I hope you were able to assist in some fashion. Our organization is relatively small and at times we ask the membership for assistance with projects and fundraisers. In this case, as chairman of this year's auction, I am asking you to donate an item or items that would be suitable for this event. Please keep in mind this is NOT a garage sale or flea market. The items we are seeking to auction are ones that you would be willing to buy and display in your home or office or give as a gift to a friend or relative.

We are a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization and your gift would be tax deductible. Last year we had some very nice items donated and the auction was a success. However, for ease of storage and transportation, we will not be able to accept furniture and large, heavy

items. If you have items you would like to donate you can bring them by the museum or we can arrange for pick-up. If you don't have items to donate I would ask that you consider sponsorship in one of the following categories:

CANVASBACK \$1000 & above
Includes: plaque at Cottage sculpture, 8 auction tickets, program recognition
REDHEAD \$500-\$999
Includes: brick at Cottage, 4 auction tickets, program recognition
PINTAIL \$250-\$499
Includes: 4 auction tickets, program recognition
MALLARD \$100-\$249
Includes: 2 auction tickets, program recognition
TEAL \$50-\$99
Includes: program recognition

In my tenure as director of the museum, there have been only a very few occasions when we have asked the guild as a whole for donations. But for this auction, and others we intend to hold annually, we will need your help if we are to be successful. It would be great if every member could contribute something to this year's event.

This is our ONLY MAJOR fundraiser for the entire year. If you want to help and have not been contacted by one of the co-chairs, call me and I will set you up with the right committee. This year's auction will be held November 7, 2009 at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #8 on S. Birdneck Road. Tickets will be \$15, guild members \$10. Check the museum website, awhm.org, throughout October for additional information and photos of some of the items to be auctioned.

CALENDAR

Oct 28

Auction meeting, 10am, AWHM (co-chairs only)

Nov 2

General Guild meeting, AWHM, 6pm social, 7pm meeting/program, speaker: Al Henley (Horn Point, Cedar Island Club), Virginia Beach

Nov 6

Set-up for 2nd Annual deWitt Cottage Auction, FOP Lodge #8, date tentative

Nov 7

2nd Annual deWitt Cottage Auction, 6pm-10pm, FOP Lodge #8, Virginia Beach

Nov 9

Board of Directors meeting, AWHM, 7pm

Nov 11

Veterans Day

Nov 26

Thanksgiving Day (Museum closed)

Nov 30

Decorate Museum for Christmas (volunteers needed)

Dec 5-6

22nd Core Sound Decoy Festival, Harkers Island, NC

Dec 14

Annual Christmas Dinner & Auction, AWHM, 6pm social hour, 7pm dinner/auction

Dec 16

Museum Management Committee meeting, 10:30am, AWHM

Dec 25

Christmas day (Museum closed)

FUND RAISER

Our Lucky Oyster fund raiser, closed out with over \$1,200 in money and gift certificates. This is the second fund raiser of this type we've had, and it has proven to be a successful model as everyone enjoyed themselves and we made some money. I want to thank everyone who helped in putting this together.