

[From Spring 1994]

## **Environmental Education Season**

Spring marks the beginning of environmental education programs on the refuge. A number of events and activities are planned for the spring to educate Eastern Shore students about Assateague Island.

Once again, the Chincoteague Natural History Association is sponsoring two environmental education interns to assist refuge staff with programs during the next few months. Their duties will include conducting programs on habitat, wetlands and island history for the classes that use the refuge as an outdoor classroom. Last year, over 1,000 students attended refuge-conducted programs, with 600 of these students visiting during the month of May. As in previous years, programs are coordinated with the National Park Service at Tom's Cove to provide a unified approach to education on the lower portion of the island.

Another exciting event this spring is the Eastern Shore Enviro-thon. The Enviro-thon is a competition for high school students to demonstrate their knowledge of areas such as forestry, aquatics, soils and wildlife management. The refuge is hosting the event this year and providing the wildlife resource section of the competition. Winners of this district event will proceed to the state competition and, hopefully, to the national competition in North Carolina. The Eastern Shore Enviro-thon is coordinated by the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and includes representatives of the Virginia Department of Forestry, National Park Service, Accomack County Health Department and The Nature Conservancy.

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