

[From Spring 1996]

Meet The Volunteers

(An [article in the winter issue](#) noted that Tom Ratliff and Shuli Tor had received the Chincoteague Refuge Volunteer of the Year Award. Following is a brief profile of each awardee.)

Tom Ratliff retired from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, in 1987 and moved to Salisbury with his wife, Becky. Tom started volunteering at the refuge in 1989, where he worked in the Visitor Center. Soon after, Tom began recording the water levels and measuring the water salinity in all the impoundments on the refuge. He has continued to do so faithfully on a weekly basis to this date. In addition, Tom has helped put up wood duck boxes, assisted with sand crab studies, built recycling bins and made several benches that have been placed on refuge trails. Tom has also been an officer and member of the board of the CNHA.

Shuli Tor moved to Chincoteague in 1990 from Hastings on Hudson in New York and has her own architect practice on the island. Shuli started volunteering at the refuge in 1990 and continues to work in the visitor center year round. Shuli has helped with various projects on the refuge, including waterfowl surveys and monitoring piping plover nests. She has also done artwork for the renovation of sub headquarters office building, brochures, and recycling bins. Shuli assisted with a grazing study by conducting surveys of impoundment vegetation exclosures to monitor their utilization. Shuli is a board member and Secretary of the CNHA, and also volunteers with the Eastern Shore Literacy Council.

Tom and Shuli are two of many very dedicated refuge volunteers and we commend them on their efforts and accomplishments at the refuge.

*Sally Bowden,
Supervisory Park Ranger*