

[From Spring 1998]

## **Back to the Future**

As I drove across the causeway to begin my new job at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, I found it hard to believe that it had been two and one-half years since I left the wildlife of the Refuge for the "wild life" of Washington D.C.

Although my time in D.C. was exciting and challenging, I was eager to assume my new position at the Refuge as the Outdoor Recreation Planner for interpretation. I crossed over from interpreting the Refuge's natural history to interpreting the cultural history of the Washington Monument and Memorials on the National Mall. I had also made a crossover from a Fish and Wildlife Service employee to a National Park Service employee. Moreover, the change in setting from the quiet Eastern Shore to the hustle and bustle of a major metropolitan city was tremendous.

However, working for a different agency, in a different setting, with a different focus, provided opportunities for new experiences and training. I believe these changes enhanced the knowledge, skills, and abilities that I had gained for nine and a half years as a Refuge Recreation Assistant. Furthermore, I know that these changes will help me to reach my goal to develop enjoyable, educational, meaningful, and memorable interpretive programs for the Refuge.

The warm welcomes that I received from all of the Refuge's familiar faces, coupled with the teamwork and friendships that I am forging with new faces, have helped me realize that I can and will accomplish my interpretive goals while having fun. I am glad to be away from the noise of honking horns and back to the music of honking geese.

I look forward to sharing the wonders of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge with you and our many visitors this summer and fall.

*Jill Van Scoyoc,  
Outdoor Recreation Planner*