

[From Spring 1999]

### **Donations For New Center Being Sought**

T. Stewart Baker, chairman of a committee supporting construction of the proposed new education center at the Chincoteague refuge, recently announced a program soliciting donations to the "Paradise Found Fund." "Stage I of this program was successful in distributing information and heightening awareness of the proposed new center," Baker said. "Stage 2 can also be successful with the help of individuals and businesses."

He explained that funds from donations will be added to the federal funds for constructing the new center and would provide for interpretive and educational components of the facility. The proposed new center will include a large classroom, wet lab, auditorium, and audio-visual educational exhibits. Grassroots support from individual donations and contributions to the fund by local business leaders will leverage support for the project from Congress.

Recognition of the positive economic impact on the community, from ecotourism and nature-based visitation generated by the presence of the refuge, will also help elicit support for long-term protection of our fragile natural resources.

Checks should be made payable to "CNHA -- Paradise Found" and mailed to New Refuge Center Committee, 6150 Community Drive, Chincoteague, VA 23336.

For additional information call committee headquarters at (757) 336-6519.