

[From Summer 2008]

## **Barry's Arrival Blamed for Latest Heat Wave**

If you've been wondering about the origin of hot temperatures recently occurring here on Chincoteague and Assateague Island, I have a simple theory to share. To put it plainly, I say this, "Blame Barry for the latest heat wave!" This theory, filled with concrete facts, a little humor, and perhaps some exaggeration on my part explains what some people can only describe as an unusual phenomenon.

To clarify, Barry is not the remnants of some extraordinary weather event. He is instead, the latest addition to the staff here at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. That's right folks, the Visitor Services (term) position has been filled. As an experienced educator, Barry Brookshire will be a great asset, strengthening refuge partnerships and exploring collaborative efforts with other organizations. He will play a key role in nurturing strong conservation values by helping visitors connect with nature.

Along with many other professional and life experiences, Mr. Brookshire has been a teacher on a Navajo Reservation for several years and has taught many subjects including earth science, history, geography, and special education. When asked about this new chapter in his life he had this to say. "I've always thought about retiring from teaching and starting a new career as a park ranger. I am very excited to be here at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and am looking forward to helping visitors have a wonderful experience."

Barry and his wife look forward to settling into island life. Both are very pleased with how friendly and welcoming people have been. Barry comes to us from the hot desert region of Arizona, which validates my theory that a "heat wave" followed him here.