

## Message from the New President

It is a great privilege to be asked to represent CNHA in the community of Friends of CNWR. In February this year I was able to attend a meeting in DC of 500 other 'Friends' from all over the nation and hear what they are achieving. Here on Assateague Island we have our own unique blend of seashore, marsh and forest and exciting opportunities to help thousands of visitors enjoy and learn what Wildlife Refuges are all about. We also see opportunities to publicize our historic treasures.

The recent death of Mike Messier and the resignation from the Board of Walter Schmitz and Secretary Bill Englehart left three open places on the Board. We wish Bill and his wife many happy trails.

CNHA welcomes three new Board members with varied backgrounds to help widen our perspective. We welcome several new committee chairpersons who help to keep our programs attractive. We have a new web site about to be launched and we have a newly designed Newsletter. We are impressed by the restoration on going at the lighthouse and are delighted to hear of some grants received towards the cost of that.

We have a lot of work to do, but we hope you will support us with your feedback, telling your friends and family about us and by your continued loyal support.

**Barbara Thackray.**

### In Memory . . . . .

It is with great sadness to report that we have lost two of our most faithful volunteers.

**Mike Messier** staffed the Visitor Center Desk twice a week, was a CNHA Board member and edited "The Piping Plover". Mike died at his home on May 18th. Services for Mike were held in Massachusetts.

**Joan Stiens** died on May 14th.. Joan could be found behind the Visitor Center desk on Sunday afternoons and at the concession stand at Special Events. A Funeral Mass at St. Andrews the Apostille Catholic Church in Chincoteague was held on June 5th.

Both Mike and Joan will be greatly missed by staff, volunteers, and visitors. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Migratory Bird Celebration a Big Success!

By Sally Bowden, IMBC Coordinator

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Migratory Bird Celebration on Mother's Day weekend. It was a beautiful weekend as 7,000 people visited the refuge and more than 1,025 people joined in the festivities under the tents and inside the Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center. Entrance fees were waived and all activities were free to the public. On Saturday, visitors participated in a wide variety of family activities including a live animal presentation, Native American drum, soap carving, bird walks, bird banding demonstrations, photography walks, bird cookie decorating, bird feeders, face painting, bird tattoos, and bird house building.

This year's theme was "Celebrate Birds in Culture" and focused on the local Native American culture that took place on the Eastern Shore. Wally Makuchal, Jr. of Girdle Tree, Maryland was this year's art logo contest winner. His drawing of a great horned owl was featured throughout the day and used as the official trademark of the celebration. Makuchal was also the winner of the 2009-2010 Maryland State Duck Stamp contest held in March. Beside Makuchal, 12 other wildlife artisans displayed a beautiful array of wildlife art inside the Bateman Center.

By tradition, the Historic Main Street Merchants Association sponsored a Children's Art Contest. As in the past, the art contest was open to age groups K-12. Cash prizes were awarded to first, second, and third place winners in each age group and all the artwork was on display at various Historic Main Street Merchants on Chincoteague before the celebration.

Chincoteague Kiwanis was also on hand hosting a "safe bike" station during the celebration. Kiwanis members offered free safe bike inspections and give-aways such as helmets and reflectors. After their free bike check, folks were encouraged to ride on the refuge trails and enjoy the outdoors. Refurbished bikes were given away in a drawing. Folks entered the drawings by participating in a scavenger hunt and recording their wildlife sightings observed on the trails.

A warm thanks to the Chincoteague Natural History Association, Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce, Assateague Island National Seashore, Chincoteague Kiwanis, Historic Main Street Merchants Association, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, The Ward Museum and to the many volunteers and staff that helped make the celebration a huge success!