

CNHA ANNUAL MEETING

By Myrna Cherrix

On Saturday Morning, May 16th the Chincoteague Natural History Association Board of Directors welcomed 20 members to the Annual Meeting. President, Myrna Cherrix reviewed some of the accomplishments of the past year. They include: the signing of the Memoranda of Agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service for the lighthouse restoration, winning 1st place in the Christmas Parade as well as best presentation of Parade Theme, official designation by the U. S. Coast Guard as Keepers of the Assateague Lighthouse and official fund raisers and the introduction of the La Galga Model on Cultural Resources Day. Restoration work on the lighthouse gallery is almost complete. As soon as the railing is replaced, visitors will be able to have an unobstructed view from the gallery outside the tower.

The board proceeded with general business approving a request from the Chincoteague Cultural Alliance to hold a woodwind concert in the Herbert H Bateman Educational and Administrative Center Auditorium as a fund raiser for Assateague Lighthouse restoration.

The following board members were elected for a term of three years: Nancy Birch, John Eliot, Lee Gilson, Nick Greif and Nancy Stills.

At the close of the meeting, Bill Engelhart was honored for his 20+ years of service to the Chincoteague Natural History Association with a framed Robert E. Wilson photograph of the Assateague Lighthouse reflecting on snow geese in Snow Goose Pool. Bill served as a volunteer, president of CNHA for many years, secretary several times and as a member of various committees. Myrna Cherrix was presented with a Donnie Thornton painting of the Assateague Lighthouse on a feather for her service as president.

Following a wonderful lunch, Aubrey Hall, Outdoor Recreation Planner, conducted a tour of the Environmental Education Trail and Old Assateague Village. Members enjoyed a walk through an area of the Refuge not normally open to the public. Aubrey helped all to connect with nature, observing the soil, types of trees, and critters living in the maritime forest. She explained how mushrooms and lichens grow, as well as demonstrating the behavior of frogs and toads. Myrna Cherrix added to the tour by pointing out different areas of Old Assateague Village, including the location of the school, church, cemetery and the ruins of Bill Scott's house and store.

Following the Annual Meeting the newly elected Board of Directors met and elected the following officers for the 2009-2010 year:

President:	Barbara Thackray	Other Board of Directors Include:	
Vice-president:	Bob Marz	Sandra Gifford	Jack Keene
Secretary:	John Eliot	Rose Moore	Matt O'Neil
Treasurer:	Frank Moore	Myrna Cherrix	Myfe Moore

STAFF

Beth Hanback - Business Manager
Carol Busson - Staff

Mary Borgstrom - Lighthouse Keeper
Diane Wein - Lighthouse Staff