

[From Summer 1993]

## **Refuge Manager's Note**

What does your ASSOCIATION mean to the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge? Too often we get caught up in what we are doing and fail to recognize the contributions of others in helping us accomplish our successes. Be assured that your Association is doing great things for this refuge and is greatly appreciated by both myself and the entire staff. Over the past three years, your Association has agreed to fund nearly \$53,394 worth of projects which assist us in meeting the refuge's objectives. All of these projects have greatly improved the education and interpretive programs of the refuge, as many visitors have received a better refuge experience because of your contributions.

Projects funded by your Association have included Student Conservation Association Volunteers and student interns who have assisted refuge staff with providing environmental educational activities to many school groups and with conducting interpretive programs for the visiting public. Your support has allowed the refuge to enter the age of recycling by funding the construction of recycling bins. Various refuge displays and trail guides, which allow visitors to better appreciate the natural world, were funded by your organization. The support which was given to conducting teacher environmental education workshops has enabled many teachers to be more prepared to teach their classes about the natural world and resource management.

Your Association has added a number of resource books to the refuge's library which enable the staff to be more prepared for programs and in providing assistance to the public. Refuge staff interpretive training opportunities, which could not be funded by the refuge, were provided by your Association. Your Association has provided support for the refuge's many volunteers; many of whom are members of the Association. These are just a few examples of the support which your Association is providing the refuge.

Your Association has also made great strides in improving the organization itself. The sales outlet at the refuge visitor center continues to be improved by the addition of new items, providing visitors with high quality educational and interpretive materials. The addition of mail order capability has great potential for both increasing sales and more importantly in getting this material into the hands of more people. This newsletter continues to be improved and rivals those newsletters of much larger organizations.

Your Association has taken another refuge under your wing, by opening a sales outlet and changing the by-laws to include the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge. Your Board of directors is a dedicated group committed to fulfilling the goals of your organization. I commend you for all your accomplishments and thank you for all the support which you have given the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

*John Schroer*  
*Chincoteague Refuge Manager*

