

[From Fall 2003]

## **Fall Review**

Fall programs began with a bang when the refuge hosted two special events in September. On Saturday, September 13, volunteers joined refuge staff for the Annual Beach Cleanup. The first 225 participants received free t-shirts.

The Beach Cleanup is held in conjunction with the International Beach Cleanup and National Public Lands Day. As part of the worldwide beach cleanup, all data collected will become a vital part in the international study of marine debris. Contact Refuge Operation Specialist Geralyn Mireles for more information.

On Saturday, September 20, refuge staff joined the Town of Chincoteague for the annual Weekend of the Islands. A 7:30 AM bird walk was followed by a 1:00 PM White Hills walk. The evening concluded with a 9.00 PM Star Watch conducted by volunteers Lisa and Miles Ashley.

Look for National Wildlife Refuge Week and the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial to be incorporated into interpretive programs during the early part of October. And, mark your calendars for the Grand Opening of the Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center on Saturday, October 25. A wide variety of activities and performances are sure to make the Grand Opening a memorable celebration.

The fall season will conclude with Waterfowl Week in November. Look f or a variety of activities to be held throughout Thanksgiving Week. For more information on Waterfowl Week and other activities, call 757-336-6122.

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