

[From Fall 2008]

First Fridays at the Refuge

On August 1, a new program of evening public talks began at CNWR, attended by over 40 visitors and local residents. Larry Points, a photographer/illustrator of children's books gave us a stunning hour of wildlife photography. There were birds in mid-flight, ponies minutes old, flowering plants and other inhabitants and locations on this beautiful Island.

On September 5, Dick Roberts, who has been banding and recording the birds here for many years will bring us his insights about the successes of the Refuge since it was established, and his own research about our migrating visitors, in his talk 'The Assateague Fish and Wildlife Project'. We shall also have a presentation of the popular 'Children in the Woods' camp that was held for two sessions this summer.

October 3 brings us the 141st birthday of Assateague Lighthouse and further insights from Myrna Cherrix, President of CNHA, about "Assateague Lighthouse - Yesterday and Today". Today, of course, we are facing a huge challenge to protect our Lighthouse, which you will see elsewhere in the *Plover*. The original 1833 Lighthouse faced its own challenges during the Civil War. The current one displays its meticulous and skillful brickwork just as well today as it did in 1867. There will be a photo display of the structure and those specific sections that currently need renovation.

Our last talk of the year will be a presentation on November 7 from Assateague National Seashore Ranger Gretchen Knapp, whose specialist area is 'Assateague Ecology - From Beach to Bay'.