

[From Winter 2008-2009]

Refuge Volunteers and Chincoteague Natural History Association Spread Holiday Cheer and Community Goodwill

By Jill Van Scoyoc

It was a week before Thanksgiving when I first thought of writing this note. At that time, the Refuge's Volunteer Holiday Parade Float Committee was already hard at work. That was not surprising, though. Because, many of these dedicated volunteers have showcased their holiday and team spirit each year, for the past 6 years, by turning out one festive marvel after another.

I think the floats they build are superb! Even though building a float involves a lot of creativity and hard work, the volunteers have loads of fun. Many smiles and laughs are shared as the committee moves from the somewhat easy task of deciding on a refuge related wildlife theme to the more labor intensive work of transforming that theme into a breathtaking holiday float. All those who participate in this annual project must surely be proud to have had a hand in producing a little holiday cheer. Upon completion, the float is featured in the Town of Chincoteague's Old Fashioned Christmas Parade.

Even though the parade is over, I'd like to take a moment to thank this year's participants. Glenn and Carolle Aldinger took the lead in this endeavor. They were skillfully helped by a team that included Jean Loeffert, Roger and Sue Wheeler, Bear Starr, Murray Barkley, Allen Andreach, Lee and Jerri Woltman, Charlotte Nowcid, Diane Wien, John Eliot, Carl and Lee Palmer, Miata Brookshire, and Bruce Hoffman.

Now, I would be remiss if I did not also thank you as members of the Chincoteague Natural History Association for supporting this project. Your support helped to spread holiday cheer and community goodwill while connecting people with nature.

If you want to be involved next year, but feel you have no creative talents, don't worry. Some say no talent is required! All that is needed is a sense of humor and a willingness to get your hands dirty. Come and experience the fun! Who knows? When all is said and done, you may discover a hidden talent after all.