

[From Winter 1993 - 1994]

Mariel Hemingway on the Refuge

In late summer, the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and the town of Chincoteague were enchanted by a movie star who came to the island. While dignitaries and well-known persons are frequent visitors to the Refuge, this star was here on assignment. Mariel Hemingway and the National Audubon Society were here to film a documentary about the national wildlife refuge system.



Marcia presents CNHA to Mariel Hemingway. Hey, Marcia, did you get her membership application?

Their goal was to gain support for the refuge system by pointing out that the system doesn't always have the means to correct problems. Much to their chagrin, they found Chincoteague Refuge to be atypical. Yes, it is true that there are problems, but they did not expect to find this refuge dealing with them and having a master plan to chart the future over the next 20 years.

I had a chance to meet Ms. Hemingway and introduce her to the concept of cooperating associations. I gave her a copy of the current newsletter, a video on the ponies and other Chincoteague wildlife, two 50th Anniversary T-shirts (for her two daughters) and a duck stamp tote bag.

This whole experience gave everyone involved a real "eye opener" as to how documentaries are produced and how information can be construed to fit a certain image. The special is to be aired on public television with an anticipated date of sometime in February 1994.

Marcia Kessler, CNHA Business Manager