

[From Winter 1994-95]

## **Thank You CNHA**

Since 1987, the Chincoteague Natural History Association has been important to the overall mission of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge by assisting the refuge in providing a quality interpretive/education program. The Association has provided an average of \$9,200 per year in funding, enabling the refuge to purchase audiovisual equipment, support a volunteer program, develop exhibits and brochures, work with teachers and students on environmental education, sponsor interns, hold special events on the refuge, and more.

Once again, the generosity of your Association has been exhibited as \$22,550 has been approved for FY 1995 funding for Chincoteague Refuge. These funds are generated primarily from the sales area in the refuge visitor center, and last year was a very good year.

CNHA members and other visitors can expect great things from the refuge in the coming year, thanks in large part to this fantastic donation. Your Board, on December 1, approved funding for two environmental education interns for the spring to assist with the education of school children; the Fish and Wildlife Service matched these funds giving the refuge additional needed assistance in the form of interns to assist the biological programs. Your Board also approved support for our volunteer program, teacher workshops, the Junior Refuge Manager program, and staff training. Three different exhibits were also approved; one will educate visitors on the National Wildlife Refuge System, with the others dealing with habitat changes on the refuge and encouraging visitors to help protect wildlife. An imprest fund was also approved in order for the public use staff to purchase supplies for the interpretive and educational programs. Your Board also took a very new and innovative approach this year, as \$10,000 was set aside in order to one day accomplish a major project. Possible projects for these funds would be to produce a high quality video on the refuge or, if donated housing is not found, to purchase a mobile home to support the use of volunteers and interns.

As always, we are most appreciative of the continued support and assistance received from the Chincoteague Natural History Association and would like to thank all of you for your time and efforts on behalf of the refuge.

*Chincoteague Refuge Staff*

**Editor's Note** - The CNHA also allocated \$3,250 to the Eastern Shore NWR to support their intern and volunteer programs and to provide them with a small imprest fund. The comparable Chincoteague NWR allocation from FY '94 operations was \$12,550. As a general rule, allocations are based on the percentage of sales income generated from the CNHA operations at each location. The \$10,000 set-aside allocated to the Chincoteague NAW this year came from CNHA operations prior to the establishment of the Eastern Shore NWR.

