

Chincoteague Natural History



Winter 2011

The Piping Plover

Message from the President

Barbara Thackray



Chincoteague Natural History Association will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year.

In 1986 a small group of people associated with the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge took the bold step of founding a Friends group. With the help of two small loans they identified their mission and became incorporated.

That mission of CNHA has continued to be to provide support for the educational and interpretational programs of CNWR. The Fish and Wildlife Service is charged with the protection of threatened and endangered species on the refuge and the cultural resources on its land. Since the refuge is unable to raise money CNHA provides funding for special needs.

The financial backing of CNHA is made possible through operation of the retail store, interpretative tours, and special fundraising. Most recently CNHA used these funds to make a \$100,000 grant for the restoration of the Assateague Lighthouse and to purchase kayaks for the refuge day camp program.

CNHA looks back on the past 25 years with appreciation to its many volunteers and looks forward to continuing its support for all those who protect and interpret the history and resources of Assateague Island.

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CNHA 2011 Program Schedule

The CNHA will present the following free programs in 2011. *Mark your calendars and plan to attend!* All programs are held in the auditorium of the Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center on Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

Date	Speaker	Topic
Feb. 19, 2011	Valerie Speidel, NASA	Monitoring Sea Turtles and Plovers
March TBA	Jessie Speidel	NOAA
April 16, 2011	Parker Hamilton-Busch	Marine Science Consortium
May 14, 2011	Jack Humphries & Clyde Morris	Virginia Native Plants
June 3, 2011	TBA	Pollinators
July 1, 2011	George Budd	Birds of the Eastern Shore
July TBA	Dr. Sean Cornell	Geology of Assateague Island
Aug. 5, 2011	TBA	
Sept. 5, 2011	TBA	
Oct. 7, 2011 (<i>tentative</i>)	Dr. Kirk Mariner	History of Assateague Island
October	Jim Dayton	Peregrine Falcons
November	TBA	

Programs are still in the planning process and may be subject to change based on speaker availability. For the most updated information, please call (757) 336-3696 or visit us online at www.piping-plover.org.



Lieutenant Mark Merriman, USCG spoke at the CNHA January program on "Coast Guard Roles and History: Past and Present." Lt. Merriman covered the history of the U.S. Coast Guard from its early days as the United States Life Saving Service and the contributions that the Coast Guard has made to our country.

Wildlife Tour 2011 Schedule

The CNHA Wildlife Tour Bus will begin operations on Saturday, April 2, 2011. The 2011 tour schedule is as follows:

April 2 - April 30 Saturday at 1 PM, Sunday at 10 AM

Special Tour Friday, April 22 at 4 PM

May 1 – May 29 Friday at 4 PM, Saturday at 1 PM, Sunday at 10 AM

June 1 – Aug. 29 Thursday through Monday 10 AM and 4 PM

Sept. 1 - Sept. 29 Thursday through Monday 10 AM daily

Sept. 30 – Nov. 20 Saturday at 1 PM, Sunday at 10 AM

Admission for Wildlife Tours is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under.

Member discounts are offered to CNHA members seasonally.

Group tours and special tours may be arranged by calling (757) 336-3696.



Photos: Henry Barnaby III

Assateague Lighthouse Schedule 2011

2011 Lighthouse Hours

The Assateague Lighthouse will open the 2011 season on Friday, April 1.

April 1 – May 29 Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 9 AM to 3 PM

June 1 – Oct. 31 Daily 9 AM to 3 PM

Nov. 1 – Nov. 28 Friday, Saturday, Sunday 9 AM to 3 PM

Please note: The Lighthouse may be subject for closures due to weather or restoration work. Please call (757) 336-3696 for the most up to date information.

Admission to climb the lighthouse is \$5.00 per adult, and \$3.00 for children under 18.

Group rates are available for educational groups with advance reservations.



Lighthouse Oil Shed 2011 Art Shows

The CNHA is pleased to announce the start of another season of “Art at The Light”, a series of exhibitions of art from various local artists. Exhibitions are held in the Oil Shed adjacent to the lighthouse. Admission to the Art Shows is free and artists will be offering their work for sale. Take home a lasting memory of your visit to the historic Assateague Light and take advantage of a great opportunity to talk with the artist. Artists are still booking dates, so check to see updated listing and schedule at www.piping-plover.com. If you are an artist who would like to display your work during “Art at the Light”, please contact the CNHA at (757) 336-3696.

Date	Artist	Exhibition
May 13 – 15	Karen Pruitt	Paintings of local wildlife and scenery
May 27 – 29	Barbara Schmitz	Watercolors, Chinese brush paintings
June 25 – 27	Nancy Richards West	Wildlife pastels, oils, originals and prints
July 1 – 17	Mary Jager	Oils, watercolors and limited edition prints
July 18 – 21	Kelly Lidard	Wildlife and wild ponies photography
July 22 – 24	Robert E. Wilson	Nature photography
July 25 – 26	Kelly Lidard	Wildlife and wild ponies photography
July 28	Brittany Brown	Photography and paintings
July 29 – 31	Stephen Moore	Frame and mat photography
Aug. 12 – 13	Stephen Moore	Frame and mat photography
Aug. 26 – 27	Rose Taylor	Wildlife paintings and photography
Sept. 2 – 4:	Robert E. Wilson:	Nature photography
Sept. 9 – 11	Karen Pruitt	Paintings of local wildlife and scenery
Sept. 20 – 22	Barbara Schmitz	Watercolors, Chinese brush paintings
Sept. 23 – 25	Rose Taylor	Wildlife paintings and photography
Sept. 30 – Oct. 2	Barbara Schmitz	Watercolors, Chinese brush paintings
Oct. 7 – 9	Robert E. Wilson:	Nature photography
Nov. 11 – 13	Robert E. Wilson:	Nature photography
Nov. 25 – 27	Robert E. Wilson	Nature photography

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"Friends of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge"

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Return Service Requested

Dear Friends:

You may notice that this edition of the Piping Plover looks a little different! After careful consideration the CNHA Newsletter Committee decided to produce a new type of newsletter for our members. This will allow the CNHA to send you more timely information, since the printing will be done in house. Newsletters will be mailed to members via first class mail, allowing us to track address changes and better serve our membership. As always, we print using recycled paper. It is our eventual goal to send newsletters via e-mail, but until we have assembled an e mail database, this remains in the future. You may also note the absence of a members list. Future editions of the Piping Plover will continue to feature a "New & Renewing" members list.

In the meantime, I would like to thank our new Newsletter Editor Karen Barnaby and other committee members Nancy Ferguson and Janice MacKinnon for their work on this issue. We always welcome your comments and suggestions! Please feel free to call me at (757) 336-3696 or contact me via e mail at cnha@verizon.net.

See You Around the Refuge!

Beth

Beth Hanback, Executive Director

