



Chincoteague Island, Virginia Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter July 2016

Hello OB II,

Hope this newsletter finds everyone getting to enjoy a little down time on Chincoteague, especially before the ponies start running the show.

Many thanks to Karen Frank for sharing her photo (see above) of a Bald Eagle; and Neil Faircloth for his photos of a Blue Grosbeak and a couple of ponies (see pgs. 2, 3) along with one of his recipes that will get you in the mood for the upcoming Blueberry Festival.

Best wishes to everyone to enjoy a happy, relaxing and safe July 4th holiday.

Updates From The Board ...

The issue of the parcel of land on the right side of North Hibiscus Drive at the OB II entrance ("Parcel E") continues. The owner of the parcel has filed a lawsuit in Accomack County Circuit Court requesting that the Court rule in favor of the owner that the parcel has inherent access using OB II's North Hibiscus Drive and that the Court direct our POA to remove the temporary fence and all signage on the right side of North Hibiscus Drive adjoining Parcel E. The Court issued the POA a summons to address the issue. The complaint and summons have been referred to the POA's attorney for advice and action as necessary.

Summertime Blues ...

By Dave Hudgins

There are two bluish birds that may be seen in the neighborhood or at the wildlife refuge. The Blue Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting might be mistaken for each other. In fact, their Latin names, *passerina caerulea* (grosbeak) and *passerina cyanea* (bunting) invoke shades of blue for these two perching birds. But a close look will easily distinguish the two species.

The Blue Grosbeak is named for its two most obvious field marks, the deep blue color and the thick, powerful bill. But it is the heavy brown wing bars that set it apart from similar species. Note that the female grosbeak will have a tan body but similar chestnut and black wings as the male.



Male Blue Grosbeak, photo courtesy of Neal Faircloth

Found in summer throughout most of the southern two-thirds of the United States, its favored habitats are thickets, hedgerows, orchards, and overgrown fields with small shrubs. The Blue Grosbeak may be spotted singing from small shrubs and other low perches. Their song follows a long rhythmic buzzy warbling pattern. They do much of their foraging on the ground.

A Blue Grosbeak's nest is rarely more than five or six feet above the ground. In most of the range pairs raise two broods each season.

The male Indigo Bunting properly lit is an unforgettable sight. The breathtaking, all-blue male Indigo Bunting, with his silvery conical bill, is unmistakable. Females and immatures are a warm cocoa-brown overall. This bunting has a habit of twitching its tail to the side. The male may have some chestnut and black coloring in the wings, which may invoke the look of the Blue Grosbeak.



Male Indigo Bunting

The indigo Bunting may be heard singing a long melodic song while perched on a shrub or may be feeding on the ground. They will nest in low shrubs similar to the grosbeak.

Like all other blue birds, Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings lack blue pigment. Their jewel-like color comes instead from microscopic structures in the feathers that refract and reflect blue light, much like the airborne particles that cause the sky to look blue.

Keep an eye out in the neighborhood and around the wildlife refuge. If you spot something that looks like a little blue light bulb, take a closer look and see if it's a Blue Grosbeak or and Indigo Bunting

Fresh from the Oven ...

Keeping with our blue theme and looking forward to Chincoteague's own Blueberry Festival, here's a recipe from Neal Faircloth that celebrates the color and the fruit.

Blue Blueberry Muffins

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of melted butter (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ sticks)
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 beaten eggs
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup blueberries
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup blueberry pie filling
- 2 cups, plus 1 tablespoon flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk



crumb topping:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup softened butter

Preheat oven to 375° and place baking rack in middle position.

Grease bottom of a 12-cup muffin pan or line with cupcake papers. Melt the butter. Mix in the sugar. Then add the beaten eggs, baking powder and salt. Mix thoroughly.

Put one tablespoon flour into a plastic bag with the cup of blueberries. Shake gently to coat. Leave in bag for now.

Add half of the remaining flour and mix it in with half of the milk. Then add the remaining flour and milk and mix thoroughly.

Add blueberry pie filling to bowl and mix it in. When the dough is thoroughly mixed, fold in the blueberries.

Fill the muffin $\frac{3}{4}$ full and set aside. If any of the mixture is left over, grease a small loaf pan and fill it the dough.

crumb topping: Mix the sugar and flour in a small bowl. Add the softened butter and cut it in until it's crumbly. (This can be done in a food processor with hard butter and steel blade).

Sprinkle crumb topping over muffins and bake in a 375° oven for 25-30 minutes. The tea loaf should bake for about 10 minutes longer.

When the muffins are done, set the muffin pan on a wire rack and cool for 30 minutes.

Day Tripping ... At Chesapeake Bay Farms

By Dave Hudgins

If you've tried all of the flavors that the Island Creamery has to offer, Mr. Whippy has you whipped and Mueller's Old Fashioned Ice Cream Parlour has gotten a little old for you, then take a trip up to Pocomoke and visit Chesapeake Bay Farms, a Worcester County MD dairy farm. They make fresh ice cream, milk, cheese, and butter on site. These products and more are available for retail or wholesale.



On a recent visit, I enjoyed a chocolate chunk mint ice cream cone, with bits of hard mint candy sprinkled throughout. Delicious! Ice cream fresh out of the cow is a wonderful experience. They usually carry about a dozen flavors depending on the season, including the usuals, plus treats like Coconut Joy, Strawberry Shortcake and Blueberry Crunch. Enjoy your ice cream on one of the many benches or picnic tables scattered around the grounds. Or buy a couple pints for later.

For the road, I purchased packages of garlic chive cheddar cheese and Chesapeake Bay seasoned cheddar. Neither lasted very long. There were numerous other varieties available. There are other farm fresh products available and many other foods from local suppliers available at the farm.

Chesapeake Bay Farms provides a unique experience in close proximity to Chincoteague. If you just want to get off the island for a couple hours, want to impress your date, or you happen to be heading up to Walmart anyway, consider a side trip to Chesapeake Bay Farms. It's well worth the time. They also run a retail store in Berlin, MD if you happen to be passing through that area.

For information on locations, store hours and products, visit their website at: <http://www.supportlocalcows.com/>

All Around Town ...

Have you gotten enough running, walking, biking, swimming, eating, reading, fishing, crabbing and relaxing this summer? In the unlikely event that you have, here are a few other activities you might also enjoy:

Sat., July 2nd, 7pm, Music at the Dock

Music at the Dock is a great summer series of free concerts held in Robert Reed Downtown Waterfront Park in Chincoteague's historic downtown. Bring a blanket or chairs or dock your boat and enjoy the music. This month's free concert features the Salisbury Community Band. Celebrate July 4th with a lively performance of patriotic songs, light classical melodies and show tunes.

Fri., July 8th, 8:30am - 11:30am, Fintastic Fish

There's nothing fishy about this great opportunity. Ever wonder exactly how fish affect their ecosystems and how ecosystems impact fish? Or how people and fish influence each other? During this workshop, participants will try to answer these questions as they discover the world of fish through hands on activities like seining and sieving for organisms in tidal creeks and more. This program is best for ages 7+ but all are welcome. \$15 per person. Visit www.cbfieldstation.org/fintastic-fish-workshop.html for more info. Location: Chincoteague Bay Field Station, 34001 Mill Dam Rd., Wallops Island.

Fri., July 22nd thru Sun., July 24th, 9am - 4:30pm, 29th Annual Chincoteague Island Blueberry Festival

Three days of beautiful, bountiful, blessed blueberries! Enjoy fresh blueberries, homemade blueberry icecream, blueberry shortcake, blueberry pie, blueberry pancakes and blueberry surprises. This festival is the largest fine arts 'n crafts event on the eastern shore of Virginia. Visit www.chincoteagueblueberryfestival.com for more info.

Sat, July 23rd, at approx. 4:30pm, Southern Herd Roundup; Sun., July 24th, at approx. 7:30am, Northern Herd Roundup. In preparation for Wednesday's Pony Swim, the Saltwater Cowboys will be rounding up the ponies on the southern and northern portions of Assateague. The Southern Corral is located off the road that leads to the beach. Wildlife bus tours will be offered to go to the Northern Corral. Call 757.336.6122 for more info.



Photo courtesy of Neal Faircloth

Wed., July 27th, 9¹st Annual Chincoteague Pony Swim

The Saltwater Cowboys will swim the ponies from Assateague Island to Chincoteague Island. The swim takes place at "slack tide". The swim generally takes place some time between 7am and 1pm. The specific time will be announced at the carnival grounds the week of the swim. The ponies are then paraded down Main St. to the carnival grounds where the auction will be held on Thurs. Visit www.chincoteague.com/pony_swim_guide.html for info.

**OB II Community Property Owners Association
2016 Membership Committees**

Architectural Committee

Kathy Bradley (Chairperson)

Neal Faircloth

Maria Paccioretti

Ethan Simonson

Phil Hoey (alt.)

Budget Audit Committee

Karen Frank (Chairperson)

Tim Landolt (Audit)

Phil Hoey

Communications Committee

Jean Hubbard (Chairperson)

Neal Faircloth

Dave Hudgins

Andy Suchoski

Community Improvement Committee

Dave Hudgins (Chairperson)

Jean Hubbard

Jeff Shelton

Buford T. Rowland (alt.)

Documentation/Records Committee

Monica Suchoski (Chairperson)

Dave Hudgins

Maria Paccioretti

*Jeff Shelton**

Maintenance Committee

Kathy Bradley (Chairperson)

Terry Bradley

Tim Landolt

Ethan Simonson

Utilities Committee

Terry Bradley (Chairperson)

Kathy Bradley

Jack Keene (on-site rep)

Jim Smith

**Corporate Registered Agent for Oyster Bay II Community
POA and Oyster Bay II Water & Sewage Co., Inc.*

**OB II Community Property Owners Association
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Neal Faircloth

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Take It Slow ...

Please be sure to stop at any and all intersections in the community as many people are out walking, running and biking. The speed limit within OB II is 15mph and with the combination of current road conditions and construction activities, it's extremely important that everyone pays attention to this. Thanks for following the rules!

Please take a moment to check out our community website, website at www.ob2poa.org as the format and content continue to evolve. Email our webmaster, Andy Suchoski at andy.suchoski@verizon.net if you experience any problems or have any comments

For community concern that need urgent attention, call: Jack Keane 757.336.6854 or Kathy Bradley 302.743.3770.

I need your help with our newsletter! Email your ideas, photos, articles, recipes, secret fishing and crabbing spots, suggestions, etc. to jhlovesdogs@yahoo.com.