



# Chincoteague Island, VA Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter February 2015

Dear OB II Friends and Neighbors,

Happy Ground Hogs Day!

Happy Valentine's Day!

Happy Presidents' Day!

I hope everyone is managing to stay healthy and dry this winter. As many of you already know, the last couple of weeks of weather on Chincoteague have been wonderful if you are a duck! They seem to enjoy floating through the waterways in our front yards and dining on whatever lies beneath. Well, at least the puddles work out well for some.

Special thanks to Pete Steffes for sharing his beautiful photos of the geese on Mallard Pond as well as the inside photo of the Downy Woodpecker.

## New To The Neighborhood ...

There have been two new housing starts in our community. Lot # 214 on N. Hibiscus Dr., owned by Sharon Fiore and Robert Ricigliano, has their new home being built on it. And Lot # 272 on Pine Tree Way also has a new house under way by BobCat Builders Construction Co. with a pending sale to Jacqueline Ann Nuzzo of Arnold, MD. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the neighborhood.

## Updates From The Board ...

The OB II Board of Directors will be meeting on Sat., March 14th at 1pm at the Hampton Inn on Main St. The Board will be setting priorities for 2015 and working on the long term capital improvement plan. A meeting agenda will be distributed in the next couple of weeks. All members of the OB II Property Owners Association are welcome to attend. **Note, POA President, Buford Rowland's, new email address is rowlandbt1@verizon.net**

## Help Wanted ...

Your neighbors and I would like to know (Don't worry, we're not gossiping!) if you have a favorite restaurant or place you like to visit in the area? Have you seen something extraordinary or interesting at the Wildlife Refuge or on the beach and were you lucky enough to get a photo of it? Have you heard a talented local musician(s) or seen local artwork or an artist at work? Have a favorite recipe or better yet, an easy favorite recipe? Do you have a gardening tip? We want to read about all this stuff in our community newsletter. Please think about contributing your creativity, ideas, articles, photos and expertise to help continue making this newsletter something for all of us. See last page of newsletter for email info.

# Remember Woody Woodpecker ...

By: Dave Hudgins



Photo courtesy of Peter Steffes

This article focuses on the Downy Woodpecker. The active little Downy Woodpecker is a common bird species in the Oyster Bay II community. It can be seen at backyard feeders and in trees and woods in the community. It may be seen with flocks of other woodland birds such as chickadees and nuthatches barely out sizing them. An often acrobatic forager, this black-and-white woodpecker is at home on tiny branches or balancing on slender plant galls and suet feeders.

The typical Downy Woodpecker is about 6.5 inches in length with a wing span of 11 inches. They have a black and white face pattern, black wings with white spots, a white breast and back and a short sharp pointed bill. Like most bird species, the male has more color to attract the females. The male Downy Woodpecker can be identified by the bright red patch on the back of its head. The Hairy Woodpecker looks very similar to the Downy but is about a third size larger and has a much larger bill.

Downy Woodpeckers are generally year round residents. They nest and roost in tree cavities in the winter. The breeding pairs will create a nest in a dead tree or limb.

Downy Woodpeckers forage on trees, picking the bark surface in summer and digging deeper in winter. They mainly eat insects, also seeds and berries. In winter, especially, Downy Woodpeckers can often be found at backyard suet feeders.

FYI - There are seven species that may be seen in the community. From the Chincoteague NWR bird checklist, they are:

WOODPECKERS	S	S	F	W
___ *Red-headed Woodpecker	O	O	O	-
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker	O	O	U	U
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O	-	O	-
___ *Downy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
___ Hairy Woodpecker	O	-	O	O
___ *Northern Flicker	C	C	A	C
___ *Pileated Woodpecker	R	R	R	R

An \* indicates that they breed in the area. The seasonal occurrences are indicated by:

- A - abundant - a species which is very numerous
- C - common - likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
- U - uncommon - present, but not certain to be seen
- O - occasional - seen only a few times during a season
- R - rare - may be present but not every year

## Chincoteague History at Your Fingertips ...

You can learn a lot about Chincoteague's history and heritage through books, visiting the local museums and visitor centers or just talking to the locals. Certainly, the Chincoteague Island Library has its share of references to the Island's' past. But it also has a great resource that you can access right from your computer. The library website has a section called Oral History. This section contains interviews with locals (especially old timers) that provide interesting perspective of Chincoteague in the somewhat distant past and perspectives on what it has become over the years. The interviews are available in audio form mp3 format so that you can listen to them on your computer. Many also include transcripts of the interview if you prefer the written word. Follow the web address below. If you have difficulty accessing it, try highlighting the address and right click on your mouse or touch pad. It's worth the effort!

<http://www.chincoteague.com/chincoteagueislandlibrary/recordings.html>



## All Around Town ...

Got the February blues or just looking for something different to do? There are activities and events taking place on the Island and also nearby in the area during the month that'll make your day a little more fun, interesting and tasty.

**Fri., Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm – 9pm “Wallops Flight Facility Astronomy Night – Jupiter & Moon Viewing”** – Enjoy an evening of astronomy and view some of our cosmic neighbors up close. Jupiter will be visible as well as a nearly full Moon. Jupiter is the largest planet in the Solar System, located 404 million miles from Earth. They're hoping to also view the Great Orion Nebula (M42) in the Orion Constellation, too. Telescopes and expertise will be provided by the Delmarva Space Sciences Foundation. The Wallops Visitors Center is located on Route 175, Wallops, VA. For more info, contact, Jessica Beebe at 757.824.2297 or visit <http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/vc>

**Fri., Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, Sat., Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, Fri., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, Sat., Feb., 14<sup>th</sup> “Harvey”, 7pm, Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, located at 6309 Church St., doors open at 6:30pm.** Written by American playwright, Mary Chase and presented by the Chincoteague Island Theatre Company with co-producer Kiwanis Club of Chincoteague. Elwood P. Dowd is an affable man who claims to have an unseen (and presumably imaginary) friend Harvey – whom Elwood describes as a six and a half foot sized rabbit. Elwood introduces Harvey to everyone he meets and his social climbing sister, Veta, finds his eccentric behavior embarrassing so she decides to have him committed to a sanitarium to spare the family from future embarrassments. When they arrive at the sanitarium a comedy of errors ensues. Tickets for the show are \$10 and can be purchased at Sundial Books, H & H Pharmacy or online at [www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/theatre](http://www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/theatre).

**Sat., Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am – 11am “Sammi’s Clubhouse”** Sammi’s (Stories And Many More Imaginings) is open to all youngsters aged 4-10. Stories, plays and games from around the world will be enjoyed. Admission is free, reservations are required. Call 757.787.8012. Sammi’s Clubhouse is located at 69 Market St., Onancock.

**Sat., Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> & Sat., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 12pm “Beginning Beekeeping Class”** – The Beekeepers’ Guild of the Eastern Shore is offering its sixth annual “Beginning Beekeeping Class” at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Melfa, VA. The class will meet on two consecutive Saturdays (Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>). This class is for those interested in learning the basics of beekeeping and will provide all of the information needed to get started with honeybees this year, including beelife and habitat, beekeeping equipment, hive management and pest control. Students will learn how to obtain bees and how to put together and set up the boxes that serve as a home to the bees. The cost is \$20 per person, which covers materials and refreshments (a light lunch will be provided). Additional household members may register for \$10. To register, visit [www.bgesva.org](http://www.bgesva.org). For more info, call Linda Goldstine at 757.824.7767 or email [Linda@Goldstine.net](mailto:Linda@Goldstine.net).

**Sat., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 11am – 4pm “Death By Chocolate”**

Pick up a game card from any participating store and follow a scavenger hunt of clues. You'll journey from business to business with your playing card and answer a question or get a business card from each participating merchant. Enjoy chocolate along your route! Stay for the prize drawing at your final destination and have fun exploring all Main Street, Chincoteague Island has to offer. This event is created and sponsored by Historic Main Street Merchants. For more info, contact Ruthann or Donna at 757.336.3434 or visit [www.chincoteaguemerchants.com](http://www.chincoteaguemerchants.com).

**Sat., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm “Nature Lovers Dinner”**

Get wild on Valentine's Day and join Chincoteague Bay Field Station (CBFS) on Wallops Island for a Valentine's Day Dinner. Enjoy a gourmet buffet paired with local wines followed by team trivia. Trivia will be based on the fun dating and mating rituals of the animal kingdom. Winners will receive fabulous prize packages. Do you know what bird rolls a stone to the feet of its mate or what fancy armed sea creature performs a circle mating dance? Learn how animals of land, sea and air find love in the wild. Whether you come with your Valentine or with a group of friends, you'll enjoy the dinner and have lots of fun. Tickets are \$30 per person. For more info, call 757.824.5636 or visit [www.msconsortium.org/nature-lovers-dinner.html](http://www.msconsortium.org/nature-lovers-dinner.html).

**Sat., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 5pm “The Hour of the Owl”**

Pocomoke River State Park will host “The Hour of the Owl”, which is a hike in the woods at dusk to listen for hoots, wails and shrieks of owls. Learn what makes these animals great night hunters and how they are an important part of our environment. Wear comfortable shoes for hiking and warm clothing for nighttime temperatures. Call 410.632.2566 for reservations and additional info.

**Sat., Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30pm – 10pm “Island Coffeehouse”**

Chincoteague Cultural Alliance will present Amy Ferebee who is most well known as a guitarist and vocalist, playing the local and regional club and festival circuit around Norfolk since 1974. Her impressive guitar work and powerful vocals, soulfully transport her listeners with an eclectic mix of traditional flat-picked fiddle tunes and finger-style blues, choice new-grass and Americana songs, jazz standards and originals. Come enjoy great music, good food and drinks! \$5 per person, \$3 for those under 22. 6309 Church Street.

**Sun., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1pm – 5pm “Snow Hill Area Chamber of Commerce 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Oyster Roast”**

Enjoy Oyster Stew, Oysters Casino, Oysters Rockefeller, Malibu Oysters, single-fried oysters and roasted oysters at this all-you-can-eat oyster celebration. Event takes place at the Old Firehouse on W. Green St. Get your tickets now because this event sells out quickly. Cost is \$30 per person if purchased before Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and \$40 after that date. Buy tickets at Taylor Bank, First Shore Federal Bank, Harvest Moon Tavern or [www.snowhillareachamber.com](http://www.snowhillareachamber.com)

**OB II Community Property Owners Association  
2015 Membership Committees**

**Architectural Committee**

*Maria Paccioretti (Chairperson)*

*Phillip Ettinger*

*Phil Hoey*

*Ethan Simonson*

**Budget Audit Committee**

*Phil Hoey (Chairperson)*

*Tim Landolt*

**Communications Committee**

*Jean Hubbard (Chairperson)*

*Dave Hudgins*

*Andy Suchoski*

**Community Improvement Committee**

*Dave Hudgins (Chairperson)*

*Jean Hubbard*

*Buford T. Rowland*

**Documentation/Records Committee**

*Maria Paccioretti\* (Chairperson)*

*Dave Hudgins*

**Maintenance Committee**

*Tim Landolt (Chairperson)*

*Kathy Bradley (on-site rep)*

*Ethan Simonson*

**Utilities Committee**

*Kathy Bradley (Chairperson)*

*Jack Keene (on-site rep)*

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

**OB II Community Property Owners Association  
2015 Board of Directors**

***President***

*Buford T. Rowland*

***Vice President***

*Tim Landolt*

***Secretary***

*Dave Hudgins*

***Treasurer***

*Phil Hoey*

*Kathy Bradley*

*Arlene N. Dougherty*

*Phillip Ettinger*

*Jean Hubbard*

*John M. (Jack) Keene*

*Maria J. Paccioretti*

Please recycle whenever possible. The Center is located at 5073 Deep Hole Road and it is open every day, except Tuesdays, from 7am – 6pm. Additional bins have been added for donations of clothing and shoes as well as a dumpster for used auto and truck tires. Thank you for helping to keep our community clean.

If you have a Community concern that needs urgent attention, please call: Jack Keane or Kathy Bradley.

Attention OBII Members: Please help with our newsletter! Email your ideas, suggestions, articles, photographs, recipes, restaurant reviews, fishing and crabbing spots, favorite activities, places of interest, Jean Hubbard.