



Chincoteague Island, VA

Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter

July 2015

Hello OB II Friends & Neighbors,

Hope that everyone is finding some time to enjoy the summer on Chincoteague and also managing to keep the mosquitoes off of themselves and out of the house!

Please think about making a contribution to our community newsletter. Whether it's a photograph, an article, a poem, a joke or a riddle, a puzzle or a recipe, your ideas are all very welcome. And I could really use your help!

Best wishes to one and all to enjoy a happy, healthy and safe July 4th holiday weekend!

Neighborhood News ...

While there are no new human neighbors to welcome this month, we do have many new four-legged neighbors hopping around and lounging in people's yards. I've even been paid a visit in the garage by one very nosey rabbit! I'm convinced that the grass must just taste better in Oyster Bay II than it does anywhere else on the island.

Updates From The Board ...

The fountain has been repaired and returned to the entry pond. Many thanks to Terry and Kathy Bradley for re-installing the fountain and for the hours they have spent skimming the duck weed out of the pond.

You may have noted clearing of lots on the right side of N. Hibiscus Drive as you enter the community. Although this property is not part of the Oyster Bay II Community, the Board is working to assure that the owners of any new residence built on these lots will pay annual dues towards the maintenance and improvement of the roads and common areas.

Don't forget about the Southern Pine Bark Beetle problem in our community. All infected trees should be cut and removed to prevent the beetles from moving to neighboring trees. Chemical treatment can help but only as a preventative measure before beetles infect a tree and can be expensive and time consuming.

More Herons ...

By Dave Hudgins

The Great Blue Heron was covered a few issues ago. The Great Blue Heron is one of the six types of Herons that might be seen in the neighborhood. The full list includes (with presence by season):

Name	SP	SU	F	W
Great Blue Heron	C	U	C	C
Little Blue Heron	C	C	C	O
Tricolored Heron	U	C	C	R
Green Heron	U	U	U	
Black-Crowned Night Heron	U	C	U	U
Yellow-Crowned Night Heron	O	U	O	

C – Common (easily seen)

U – Uncommon (likely seen)

O – Occasional (might be seen)

Two species that are fairly common around Mallard Pond this time of year are the Black Crowned Night Heron and the Green Heron.



Adult Black Crowned Night Heron

The Black Crowned Night Heron is primarily black on top and white underneath with three white plumes, a thick bill and red eyes. It is a stocky looking bird that measures about 25 inches. As the name implies, it tends to stalk prey at night but is also seen in the reeds around the pond during the day. They feed on almost anything from fish and clams to worms and insects to rodents and garbage.



Immature Black Crowned Night Heron

The immature looks quite different from the adult, with a brown and white streaked plumage. And their eyes may initially look yellow, but will change to red as they mature. They leave the nest at the age of one month but cannot fly until they are six weeks old.



Green Heron

The Green Heron can also be found on Mallard Pond. It is similar in shape to the Night Heron, but smaller, with adults reaching 18 inches. From a distance, the Green Heron is a dark, stocky bird hunched on slender yellow legs at the water's edge, often hidden behind a tangle of leaves. Seen up close, it is a striking bird with a velvet-green back, rich chestnut body, and a dark cap often raised into a short crest. These small herons crouch patiently to surprise fish with a snatch of their dagger-like bill. They sometimes lure in fish using small items such as twigs or insects as bait.

Both of these herons are usually seen feeding individually, although there may be a pair or a family spread out in the area. I've seen four Black Crowned Night Herons sitting together in the bayberry at the west end of Mallard Pond. Keep an eye out for herons in the community.

Would a Mallow by Any Other Name Taste So Sweet?

Borrowed from the Chincoteague Natural History Association archives, Summer 1993.



Crimson Eyed Mallow

Have you ever pondered upon the strange name given to those sticky masses of sugar that are roasted over a campfire? The answer may be found among the vegetation of the wetlands. The saga actually begins over in Europe where the inhabitants would collect a certain plant from marshy areas. The roots of the plant could be boiled to produce a white sticky substance. Even though it was discovered to have no medical properties, it still satisfied the sweet tooth of children.

When these immigrants began to arrive in America they brought this plant with them. Since this plant grew in the marsh and was a member of the mallow group, it received the name of marsh mallow. Even though these sticky masses of sugar are no longer derived from the marsh mallow plant, the name has stayed to serve as a reminder of this gift from the marsh.

In July many people confuse the marsh mallow plant with the mallow plants that grow on Assateague. You will not find the marsh mallow plant; however, its close relatives are very noticeable with their brilliant showy blossoms, are a feast for the eyes. The seaside mallow with its small pink flowers most closely resembles the marsh mallow in looks. Swamp rose mallow and crimson eyed mallow are members of the hibiscus family.

Their large showy blooms which decorate the edges of the marsh are hard to miss. These two plants are actually the same species, just different color forms. The swamp rose mallow has large pink blossoms with a deep red center while the crimson eyed mallow is a white bloom with a deep red center.

Mallows are indeed "a real showcase" of the freshwater marsh. One will notice their beauty from a distance; however, spend a few moments to take a closer look. Much more gifts abound in the marsh than meets the glancing eye.

All Around Town ...

There's the beach, there will be blueberries, there's going to be ponies running thru the streets! And that's not all there is to do here during July. Take a look at a few of the events that might interest you, your family and friends.

Fri., July 3rd, 8:30am - 11:30am, Wonders of Wallops Island Tour – This Family Fun Friday, sponsored by the Chincoteague Bay Field Station, will include a field trip to the sand dunes of Wallops Island NASA base. The island



is closed to the public so it's a chance to see a pristine environment and a natural beach ecosystem. While in the field, learn about dune succession and collect shells. Tuition is \$15 per person. Because you will be visiting a NASA base, Adults are required to

have United States Issued photo identification. Don't forget to bring sunblock, bug spray and water bottle. Pre-register at www.cbfieldstation.org/wonders-of-wallops-island-tour.

Sat., July 4th, 11th, 18th, 2pm, Museum of Chincoteague Island Living History Series – Come enjoy a showcase of wonderful storytellers sharing their knowledge about life, work and heritage on Chincoteague Island. The museum is located at 7125 Maddox Blvd. There will be a \$3 admission fee for non-members 12 yrs and over. For more info, visit www.chincoteaguemuseum.com.

Thurs., July 9th, approx 8:30pm, Movie Night featuring "The Secret of Roan Inish" – Bring a chair or blanket to Robert Reed Downtown Waterfront Park and enjoy a free film outdoors and on the BIG screen. It's the story of 10-year-old Fiona who is sent to live with her grandparents in a small fishing village in Donegal, Ireland. She soon learns the local legend that an ancestor of hers married a Selkie – a seal who can turn into a human. Years earlier, her baby brother washed out to sea in a cradle shaped like a boat; someone in the family believes the boy is being raised by the seals. Then Fiona catches sight of a naked little boy on the abandoned Isle of Roan Inish and takes an active role in uncovering the secret of Roan Inish.

Fri., July 24th thru Sun., July 26th, 9am - 4:30pm, 28th Annual Chincoteague Island Blueberry Festival Three days of beautiful, bountiful, blessed blueberries! Come and enjoy fresh blueberries, homemade blueberry icecream, blueberry shortcake, blueberry pie, blueberry pancakes and blueberry surprises.



This festival is also the largest fine arts 'n crafts event on the eastern shore of Virginia. For more information, please visit www.chincoteagueblueberryfestival.com.

Mon., July 27th, 6am, Beach Walk – Come see the ponies make their way from the north corral to the south corral along the beach at Assateague National Seashore. For more info, please call 757.336.6161 or go online to www.chincoteaguechamber.com/pony-swim.

Wed., July 29th, Thurs., July 30th, 90th Annual Pony Swim & Auction – Join people from around the world as they gather to watch this 90 year old tradition made famous by Marguerite Henry's "Misty of Chincoteague."



The Pony Swim takes place at slack tide. Slack tide is the short period of time when there's no movement either way in the tidal stream, and it occurs before the direction of the tidal stream reverses. The window is a sliding one and it changes everyday with every tide and is the result of many conditions. Pony Auction begins at 8am on Thurs., July 30th. For more information, call 757.336.6161.

**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.