



Chincoteague Island, VA Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter May 2015

Hello Everyone,

May is finally here and the sun's been shining!

BIG shout outs to Pete Steffes for another spectacular picture (see above) of a Great Blue Heron in action and to Dave Nash for also sharing his beautiful images (see pg. 2) of a Great Blue Heron and of the American flag over a red, white and blue sunset in our community. All of the photos were taken over Mallard Pond.

Neighborhood News...

Congratulations to Neal Faircloth and Karen Frank from Burke, VA, who have a new home on lot #259. Welcome to Oyster Bay II

The removal of trees from the community entrance pond as well as the clearance of brush and debris from in front of Mallard Pond near the end of N. Hibiscus is complete. Take a walk, ride or drive around and check it out!

Updates From The Board ...

The Board continues to research community drainage system options which will alleviate the flooding and has been in touch with various firms and experts in the field. Information that is being gathered includes cost estimates, Accomack County permit requirements and timetables for completion of the project. Further updates will continue to be provided.

In addition, work has been scheduled for:

- Graveling of the cul-de-sac on Lakeview Rd.
- Additional removal of down/dead trees from common areas around the community. .

Great Blue Herons ...

By: Dave Hudgins

Maybe the most recognized bird around Chincoteague is the Great Blue Heron. It is large and majestic looking and a year round resident. They are very photogenic as noted by the banner photo on this edition of the newsletter provided by Peter Steffes.

Many Native American Indian tribes consider the heron a symbol of good luck and patience. Although they nest in colonies, the Great Blue Heron is seen as a loner, feeding by itself during non-breeding season.

Heron is a family of long legged fresh water and salt marsh birds that includes herons, egrets and bitterns. The Great Blue Heron is the largest of all at up to 4 ½ feet tall with a wing span of 6 ½ feet. With this size, you would expect the bird to weigh much more than its 5 – 6 pounds. Its hollow bones are the major contributor to overall weight.

Heron is colonial water birds, meaning they nest in colonies. Herons primarily nest in trees, but occasionally nest on the ground. They are monogamous during breeding season, but will choose a new mate each year. The nest construction includes a stick frame built by the male and a grass lining weaved by the female. The female lays 2 – 6 eggs which will hatch within 30 days. The babies will feed in the nest for several months before heading out to feed on their own.



Photo by Dave Nash

Great Blue Heron Stalking Prey On Mallard Pond

Great Blue Herons can be seen feeding in fresh water and salt water habitats in addition to foraging in grasslands and agricultural fields. They eat nearly anything within striking distance, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, insects, and other birds. You may have witnessed a Great Blue standing motionless, stalking and waiting for just the right moment to strike. They grab smaller prey in their strong mandibles or use their dagger-like bills to impale larger fish, often shaking them to break or relax the sharp spines before gulping them down.

Great Blue Herons have rod-type photoreceptors in their eyes that improve their night vision and allow feeding at night. The Great Blue Heron can also be a nuisance. If you have a water feature in your yard that is stocked with gold fish, don't be surprised to find the Great Blue Heron paying you a visit.

The History Of Memorial Day ...

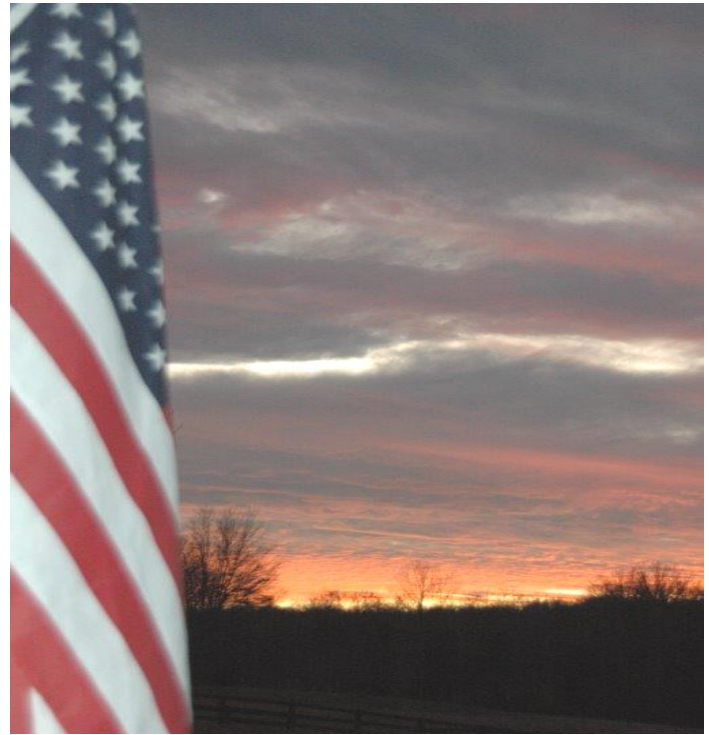


Photo by Dave Nash

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery.

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress.

Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day."

All Around Town ...

Chincoteague Island has become Busy Island and there's certainly no shortage of fun and interesting activities to do, see and taste both here and in the area.

Fri., May 1st, 5:00pm - 6:30pm, "Explore The Future"

This will be the final lecture in the series that marks the 70th Anniversary of NASA Wallops Flight Facility. It'll be hosted by Director Bill Wrobel and will explore the future of Wallops Flight Facility. Location: Wallops Visitor Center, on Rte. 175. It is free and open to the public.

Sat., May 2nd, 8am - 2pm, "Le Tour de Shore Bike Ride"

Take a leisurely bike ride between the Chesapeake Bay and The Atlantic Ocean on the beautiful Eastern Shore of Virginia. Choose from a 17, 30, 55 or 70 mile bike route. Rest stops with restrooms, beverages and snacks are included along the way as well as a BBQ lunch served at the completion between 11:30am – 1:30. All routes start and end at the Onancock School, 6 College Avenue, Onancock. more info, call 757.787.2460 or visit <http://www.esvachamber.org/le-tour-de-shore.html>

Sat., May 2nd, 12pm - 4pm, "Chincoteague Seafood Festival"

– Come enjoy a 47 year old Chincoteague tradition and sample the best of the best local seafood. "Little Neck" steamed clams, clam fritters, raw clams, clam strips, clam chowder, single fired oysters, shrimp, fried fish, grilled chicken, sweet potato fries, boardwalk fries, hushpuppies and a full salad bar. Beer may be purchased separately. Event will be held at Tom's Cove Park Campground at 8128 Beebe Rd. Tickets are \$40/person, children under 5 are free. For more info, call 757.336.6161 or visit <http://www.chincoteaguechamber.com>.

Sat., May 2nd, 9am - 3pm, "Spinning On The Wheel Workshop"

– Calling all knitters! Have you ever wanted to create your own yarn? Join local spinner, researcher, writer and educator, Nancy Ferguson, and learn handspinning and dyeing. Did you know that sheep once roamed the woods and open spaces on Assateague? Come listen to Nancy's interpretation of the history, form and function of the sheep and wool spinning on the mid-Atlantic barrier islands. Participants will learn hands on the process of dyeing wool with native plants, local in season flowers and nuts by creating a dye pot and also how to use a hand spindle to spin wool. Lunch is included. Tuition is \$55/person. For more details, call 757.824.5636 or visit www.cbfieldstation.org. Location: Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Wallops Island.

Sat., May 2nd, 5:00pm, "4th Annual Chinco de Mayo Annual Art Show and Sale"

– Museum of Chincoteague Island's annual Chino de Mayo 5x5 celebration will kick off outside with live music, food and drinks and the museum doors will open at 5:55pm for the art show and sale where all original artworks by local artists and artisans measure 5"x 5" and are on sale for \$55 each. Admission is \$5 and all of the proceeds will benefit the Museum of Chincoteague Island. For more info, call 757.336.6117 or go online to www.chincoteaguemuseum.com.

Show off your fishing skills at one or both of the upcoming Flounder Tournaments taking place on the Island:

Wed., May 6th thru Sun., May 17th – "Captain Steve's Bait & Tackle Flounder Tournament" Entry fee is \$25. For more info, call 757.336.0569 or visit www.stevesbaitandtackle.com.

Fri., May 22nd thru Sun., May 31st – "Captain Bob's Marina 2015 Flounder Tournament." Entry fee is \$25. For more information, call 757.336.6654 or visit www.captbobsmarina.net.

Thurs., May 7th, May 14th, May 21st, 10am

"Tales For Tots" – Take your tot to the Chincoteague Island Library to enjoy a variety of preschool stories, crafts, songs and finger plays geared to preschool children from almost 3 years old to 5 years old. For more info, visit <http://www.chincoteague.com/chincoteagueislandlibrary/>

Sat., May 9th, 10am – 2pm, "21st Annual International Migratory Bird Day Celebration"

– This spring event is sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and it offers a variety of family friendly activities from building birdhouses to enjoying a guided walk. Enjoyable for "birders" of all ages. It will be held at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. For more information, call 757.336.6122.

Fri., May 22nd thru Mon., May 25th, "Memorial Day Weekend Camp For Families"

– Family Camps at The Chincoteague Bay Field Station are an idea way for your family to get away, unwind and enjoy a holiday weekend on the beautiful coastal islands of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Family campers will throw a trawl net, collect marine creatures, explore marine habitats, kayak through tidal creeks, walk knee deep in marsh mud and enjoy the sun on a barrier island beach. Wild ponies, Egrets and Horsehoe Crabs are waiting for you! For more info, call 757.824.5636 or visit <http://www.cbfieldstation.org>

Fri., May 29th, 7pm - 9pm, "Astronomy Night: Saturn"

Hosted by The NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center, The Delmarva Space Sciences Foundation will be on-site to provide expertise and telescope views of the night sky. The evening will also feature astronomy presentations, movies and activities for children. This event will occur regardless of cloud cover. Telescope viewing is subject to cancelation due to inclement weather. The event is free and open to the public. The Visitor Center is located on Rte. 175.

Sat., May 23rd, 2pm, "Science On A Sphere Presentation: Climate Change"

Research aircraft from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility are busy conducting the 7th year of "Operation IceBridge." This mission allows scientists to survey Earth's ice sheets, shelves and sea ice. In this presentation, you will have an opportunity to look at datasets on how the Earth's polar regions have changed over the years. Followed by the presentation will be a viewing of a movie called "Frozen" which depicts a changing Earth and showcases the planets in ways never seen before.

**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.