



Chincoteague Island, Virginia

Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter

March 2016

Hello OB II Friends and Neighbors,

Well, the countdown to spring 2016 is on. Spring is scheduled to arrive in Virginia on Sun., March 20th at 12:30am. We've got 19 days and a half hour to go. If my math is right, that's 456 hours and 30 minutes away. We're in the home stretch!

Another fantastic photograph (see above) of some of our fine feathered friends on fishing patrol captured by Karen Frank and Neal Faircloth. Thank you for sharing it.

Please think about contributing to our newsletter. I need your ideas, creativity, writing, recipes, photos, etc. to make our newsletter even better. For email info, please see last page, last item.

New To The Neighborhood ...

Still no new neighbors to tell you about in this issue of the newsletter but steady progress continues to be made at various construction sites throughout our community.

Updates From The Board ...

Work on the OB II Community drainage system is progressing. This work includes installation of culverts and ditching on lots and in areas that were not a part of the original project plans. Final grading and seeding of the ditches will complete later in the spring.

Please make sure all culverts and swales are always kept free of debris, natural (pine cones and needles, sticks, etc.) and otherwise (garbage) so that the flow of water does not become interrupted.

Crusher Run gravel will be used to temporarily patch the potholes on our community roads.

The Board of Directors will meet on Sat., April 2nd at 1pm to set priorities for the remainder of 2016. The meeting will take place at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 4179 Main St. All members of the OB II POA are welcome to attend.

Outstanding Ospreys ...

By Dave Hudgins

Most would easily recognize an osprey. These large raptors, with a white head and large brown stripe through the eye, might be seen soaring over the ocean hunting for fish. The scientific name for the osprey is *Pandion Haliaetus*. In Greek mythology, Pandion was the King of Athens. *Haliaetus* translation comes from the Greek "halos" meaning "sea" and "aetus" meaning "eagle". Osprey feed almost exclusively on fish. Osprey are known to date back 5 million years in its present form and some 30 million years in likely earlier evolutions of the bird.



Osprey male (white breast) and female (streaked breast)

March is the time of year when ospreys return from wintering in Florida and as far away as Brazil. Ospreys are generally monogamist, although the males and females typically winter separate from each other. Despite this, the pairs will show back up to their nesting grounds within a day, and sometimes hours of each other each spring. The male will choose the nesting site, usually a manmade platform, or other structures like a channel marker or a convenient microwave tower. The male will bring sticks while the female arranges the sticks into a 40 inch nest. The nest may be lined with sod or other materials to create a solid bottom. Nests are re-used and over the years can become quite tall.

Once the birds mate, the female will lay 3 or 4 eggs. The female will pluck feathers from its stomach area to create an area of exposed skin called a brood patch. The brood patch provides a way for the mother to provide direct heat to the eggs. The eggs begin hatching in about 37 days. The eggs hatch synchronously over 4 or 5 days. The first born will tend to dominate as it feeds sooner and grows bigger and stronger than the others in the brood. The male will bring fish to the nest for the female to feed to the young. At about six weeks the newborn will be developed enough to fledge. The mom will stop feeding the young and leave them to learn to fish for their own meals.

Ospreys are adapted well for fishing. First, they have extremely keen eyesight. Their eyes are set close together in the front of the head, providing something similar to binocular vision. Scientists believe there may be some polarizing mechanism that allows them to see fish even in water that is murky or with extreme sun glare. Second, ospreys have extremely long legs and long, strong talons for catching fish under the surface of the water.

As they approach the water, a transparent membrane will close over the eye to protect it from water. As the osprey is about to hit the water, a small flap closes the nostrils to keep the water out. The osprey catches a fish and carries it, usually with the head to the front, to its nest or other convenient spot for consumption.



Talons out and eye on the prize

They typically rip the head apart first and will consume the entire meaty area, bones and all.

As the fall season sets in, it is time to migrate south. The first year birds will stay in the new winter home for two years. After two years, the bird will return to the area that it was born and re-establish itself. The bird will again migrate, but return the following year sexually mature and ready to choose a mate.

Osprey populations were impacted heavily in the 1960's by DDT. The birds have made a great comeback. The world population (there are four subspecies) currently total 500,000. The birds have also benefitted from the erecting of nesting platforms and other manmade nesting areas. Fifty years ago, nest stands were scarce and most of the nests were erected in trees. This allowed easy access to predators such as raccoons who would eat the eggs. With availability of manmade platforms (with predator baffles and over the water) and unintended nesting sites like tall radio towers, the osprey is less susceptible to predators. Although, great horned owls can still swoop down and take out the young.

Enjoy the seasonal return of the osprey and rest assured that somebody out there is catching a few fish.

Fresh from the Oven ...

When he's not taking beautiful photographs, Neal Faircloth also enjoys baking and he's sharing his "Chocolate Chip Crunch Cookie" recipe with all of us.

Chocolate Chip Crunch Cookies

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated white sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- ¾ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup toffee chips



Cookie Monster says "om nom nom nom" to this recipe!

Directions continued on next page...

Preheat oven to 350°. Line baking sheet with parchment paper

In a mixer bowl, cream softened butter and both sugars until very smooth. Add vanilla and eggs and blend well. Fold in flour, baking soda, and salt and mix well. Fold in chocolate chips and toffee chips.

For each cookie, scoop 2 to 3 tablespoons of dough onto prepared baking sheet, spacing 2 inches apart.

Bake 10 to 13 minutes for smaller cookies or 14 - 18 minutes for large ones (I baked mine for 10 minutes). Cookies are done when they are just browned around the edges. Let cool on baking sheet about 5 minutes.

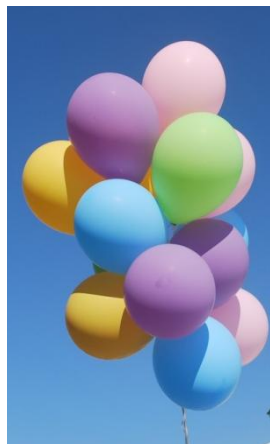
All Around Town ...

"March Madness" doesn't just apply to the NCAA Tournament. If you tried to get to everything that's happening on Chincoteague Island and around the area during the month of March, you might go mad!

Tues., March 1st, 2016 Primary Elections

The Chincoteague Community Center, 6155 Community Dr.

Tues., March 1st, 5pm - 6pm, Science on the Shore: Scientific Balloon Program – The Science on the Shore series is a collaborative effort of NASA, the Chincoteague Bay Field Station, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and the Eastern Shore Community College. This program will provide the shore community with an understanding of how local science-based research and preservation techniques are used to solve challenges that impact the nation.



Science on the Shore is your backstage pass to the amazing nature and science show that debuts anew every single day here. Wallops Flight Facility Visitors Center, Rte.175. For more info, visit <http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/wvc>

Fri., March 4th, Sat., March 5th, 8pm; Sun., March 6th, 2:30pm, To Kill A Mockingbird – The timeless American classic by Harper Lee that became a classic and award winning film, brought to life on stage. Told from the perspective of a young woman in the 1950's, Jean Louise Finch recalls her childhood in Macon, Alabama, 1935. A time when she was known as "Scout" and her carefree days gave way to knowledge of a harsher world than she had known before, when she first saw her father, Atticus, as truly heroic; the 'boogey man' next door as a gentle soul; and the unfathomable evil of ignorance. North Street Playhouse, 34 Market St., Onancock. Admission: \$20/adult, Seniors/\$18, Students/\$10. Call 757.787.2050 or go online to www.northstreetplayhouse.com to reserve tickets.

Fri., March 4th, 7pm, The Wizard of Oz (1939) at the Island Theatre – Tickets: \$5 at the door with discounts available online at <http://www.chincoteagueislandarts.com>.

Sat., March 5th, 2pm, Model Rocket Launch – Want to see a rocket launch? Models of various sizes will be launched and visitors will get to assist with the countdown and volunteer to "push the button" for launch, or even build and bring their own rockets. For more info, go to <http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/wvc>.

Sat., March 5th, 7:30pm, Jazz Vocalist Rondi Charleston In concert at the Island Theatre – Rondi Charleston is an award winning jazz singer/lyricist. Her most recent album, "Signs of Life" climbed the Jazz Week charts and has critics raving; Jazz Times proclaimed "She is a songwriter whose poetic, narrative and compositional skills are comparable to such modern masters as Joni Mitchell and Paul Simon." Tickets are \$15. For additional info and where to buy tickets, visit <http://www.chincoteagueislandarts.org>

Sun., March 6th, 3pm, Virginia Symphony, "Classics, Broadway and Cinema" – With selections from Mozart to the movies, this concert includes classics by Johann Strauss II, Mozart and Tchaikovsky; Broadway musical standards by Richard Rogers, Aaron Copland, George Gershwin and Jerome Kern; and music from the movies by James Horner and John Williams. Location: Nandua High School; tickets available at outlets and online for \$24; at the door, \$26; Students, \$5. For info, visit www.acesva.org

Sat., March 12th, Sun., March 13th, Semper Paratus Exhibit Preview and Reception, 11am - 5pm

The National Park Service will be showing a special slideshow about the U.S. Coast Guard Station on Assateague Island. Free admission. Location: Chincoteague Museum, 7125 Maddox Blvd.



Sat., March 12th, 2pm - 5pm, "Our Coast Guard" CCA Children's Art Reception – The Chincoteague Cultural Alliance has worked with local art teachers to ask children to create art stories based on the U.S. Coast Guard theme. They will host an art show and reception to showcase these original pieces. Location: 6309 Church St.

Sat., March 12th, USCG Demonstrations & Open House Exact time and location to be announced. Please check www.chincoteaguemuseum.com/programs for up-to-date info. Possible helicopter demonstration at a local park or open house at the USCG Base on Main St.

Sat., March 19th, 11am - 4pm, In Search of Shamrocks Join the Main Street Merchants in celebrating this event with a day full of fun and prizes, searching for shamrocks up and down Main Street on Chincoteague. Don't forget to wear your green! For more info, call Laurie Walton at 484.995.6001.

Fri., March 25th, 7pm, Gone With the Wind (1939) at the Island Theatre. Sponsored by the Island Creamery. Tickets: \$5 at the door with discounts available online at www.ciarts.org

Sat., March 26th, 8am, Run For A Cause – Bay to Bay 10K Run & 5K Run/Walk – Hosted by the Chincoteague Island Family YMCA. Packet pick-up is on Fri., March 25th from 4pm - 6pm at Robert Reed Park and beginning at 6:30am on Sat. morning. All races begin at 8am. Jogging strollers are permitted. Other strollers are only permitted in the 5K Run/Walk. No pets are allowed. For info, contact Missy Denault at mdenault@ymcachesapeake.org or 757.336.6266. All proceeds support the Chincoteague YMCA financial assistance program. \$30 if you register by 3/21 and \$35 after 3/21. Children under 14 are free with an accompanying adult. Register online at www.active.com, at the YMCA or mail in a registration form on back of the flyer at the Chamber office.

**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)

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

**OB II Community Property Owners Association
2016 Board of Directors**

President

Buford T. Rowland

Vice President

Tim Landolt

Secretary

Dave Hudgins

Treasurer

Karen Frank

Kathy Bradley

Neal Faircloth

Jean Hubbard

John M. (Jack) Keene

Maria J. Paccioretti

Jeff Shelton

OB II's List ...

The following contractors have each received several endorsements from members of our community.

Lawn & Yard Maintenance: Richard L. Taylor, Inc.
757.824.3839
757.894.1475 (cell)
rltaylorinc@verizon.net

Power Washing: William Kambarn
757.336.6886.
757.894.2569 (cell)
wokambarn@hotmail.com

Tree Cutting & Removal: John Henry Howard
757.336.6777
757.894.1249 (cell)

If there's someone or a business you'd like to recommend, please email info to jhlovesdogs@yahoo.com. A minimum of three endorsements from OB II property owners will be required to be included on "the list".

Please recycle whenever possible. The Recycle Center is located at 5073 Deep Hole Rd. Thank you for keeping our community clean.

For community concerns 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.