



Chincoteague Island, Virginia Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter February 2017

Hello OB II Friends & Neighbors,

Happy Ground Hog's Day, Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Presidents' Day!

Don't you just wish that we could all look (see photo above) this good after spending the day in the mud and rain?

Many thanks to Neal Faircloth for sharing his and Karen's spectacular photographs (see above and on next page). These images were captured right here in Oyster Bay II. Recognize the swales?

New To The Neighborhood ...

Congratulations to Maria Paccioretti for construction of your new home on Pine Tree Way getting underway!

Updates From The Boards ...

OB II POA: Recall from the January newsletter, the status of the court case between the OB II POA and Phillip Ettinger, owner of Parcel E. The judge, after reading all documentation provided by both attorneys and after getting

responses from the attorneys at the hearing, ruled that the property is considered to be part of the Oyster Bay II Community but is not a part of the Oyster Bay II Community POA nor subject to its Covenants and Restrictions or any fees imposed by the POA. The judge further determined that the owner of the property has right of access to the property using North Hibiscus Drive. The OB II Board of Directors has reviewed the transcripts of the case and considered advice from our legal counsel. The POA still has not received the formal order resulting from the judge's summary judgment on the case and are continuing to review options with our attorney, including an appeal.

The POA has a formal agreement in place to retain Jim Kalil to provide maintenance in the community through 2017.

OB W&S Co.: The Board of Directors will hold their first meeting of 2017 on Sat., Feb. 4th starting at 10am. The location of the meeting will be at the Chincoteague Family YMCA, 6395 Maddox Blvd. A specific time will be set aside for questions and comments. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.

It Walks Like A Duck. It Swims Like a Duck. It Just Doesn't Quack Like A Duck,

By Jean Hubbard

The wood duck's beauty is reflected in its scientific name, *Aix sponsa*. From the Greek word "aiks" for water bird and Latin word "sponsa" for betrothed, the name refers to plumage so striking that the wood duck looks like it is dressed for a wedding.



Photo courtesy of Neal Faircloth

Early colonists called the wood duck the "summer duck." They have also been known as the Carolina duck, due to where it was first described, the swamp duck because of its preferred habitat and the acorn duck after one of its favorite foods. Wood ducks, so named because they nest in tree cavities, are found in wooded swamps and woodlands near ponds, streams and rivers. Their range extends across the United States, and at one time, the wood duck was so prevalent it was considered as a possible national symbol.

Courtship and pairs begin to form in autumn and into spring. Nesting begins between mid-January in the deep South, and early April in the northern part of its range. The wood duck requires growth lumber that provides a diversity of tree cavities. The female builds her nest in a tree cavity, usually 30 feet or more above the ground or water. The nest cavity is lined with down and wood chips. Wood ducks often reuse the same nest year after year. Some wood ducks double brood, meaning they nest twice in a single year. They are the only North American waterfowl to do so.

Wood ducks are the most stunningly pretty of all waterfowl. Males are iridescent chestnut and green, with ornate patterns on nearly every feather, the elegant females have a distinctive profile and delicate white pattern around the eye. They are 18 to 21 inches long, weigh between 16 and 30 ounces and have a wingspan of 26 to 28 inches.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services

Ducklings are born precocial, meaning they are mobile, downy and can find their own food. The hen calls them out of the tree cavity only 24 hours after hatching. Using their sharp clawed feet, the nestlings are able to climb out of the cavity and leap down, sometimes from as high as 60 feet, to land next to the mother hen waiting below. The young will never return to their nest again. The ducklings are able to fly 56-70 days after hatching.

Wood duck eggs are preyed upon by raccoons, opossums, snakes and birds. Ducklings are also preyed upon by snapping turtles, mink, large fish and snakes.

Getting back to the title of this article, all ducks do not "quack". Male wood ducks call to females with a squeaky whistle of "jweep". The females call with a different, louder "oo-eek" whistle.

At one time, unregulated hunting took its toll on the wood duck. Large roosts of migrating wood ducks made them an easy target for market hunters. Around the turn of the century, hunting and loss of both wintering and nesting habitat from poor forestry practices and clearing of the land almost caused the wood duck's extinction.

In 1918, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act outlawed marketing hunting of migratory waterfowl.

Conservative bag limits and artificial nesting sites greatly aided the comeback of the wood duck. The wood duck's continued survival depends upon conservation of habitat. This includes the forest along streams, rivers and shorelines known as riparian forests, which offer us a place to experience the beauty of nature, the beauty of wood ducks.

Content Borrowed from the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

What's Cooking ...

Creating a quick, homemade stock is easy and will add a ton of extra flavor to this fish-based soup. Simply combine the shrimp shells with water, bring to a boil, remove from heat and let stand for 15 minutes. If you can't find shell-on-shrimp (c'mon – we're on Chincoteague!), use two jars of clam juice in the broth instead. :

Greek Shrimp & Dill Soup

Courtesy of Charlyne Mattox, Real Simple Magazine



Photo courtesy of Real Simple Magazine

Ingredients:

- 1 pound shell-on medium sized shrimp, raw
- (1) 18 oz. bottle clam juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, sliced
- kosher salt
- black pepper
- ¾ cup orzo
- ¼ cup fresh chopped dill
- oyster crackers

Instructions:

Peel the shrimp; reserve. Combine the shrimp shells and 8 cups of water in a large pot and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and let stand for 15 minutes. Strain, discarding the shells and reserving the liquid. Stir in the clam juice.

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onions, carrots, 1 teaspoon of salt and ½ teaspoon of black pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender, 4-6 minutes. Add the reserved broth, cover, and bring to a boil. Add the orzo and cook until tender. Add the shrimp and cook until opaque throughout, 2-3 minutes.

Serve the soup topped with the dill and oyster crackers.

All Around Town ...

It may be the middle of winter here on Chincoteague Island but that doesn't mean that there's nothing to do, eat, watch and learn! And most of all enjoy!!

Fri., Feb. 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th, Classic Film Series at the Island Theatre – Enjoy great movies every Friday for \$5.

Feb. 3rd, “Sunset Boulevard” (1950)

Named after the Boulevard that runs through Los Angeles and Beverly Hills, California, An unsuccessful screenwriter, Joe Gillis, and Norma Desmond, a faded silent film star who draws Joe into her fantasy world where she dreams of making a triumphant return to the screen. It was nominated for eleven Academy Awards and won three. Not Rated.

Feb. 10th, “National Lampoon’s Vacation” (1983)

A road comedy starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D’Angelo, Randy Quaid, Dana Barron and Anthony Michael Hall. Clark Griswold, wanting to spend more time with his wife and kids, decides to lead the family on a cross-country expedition from the Chicago suburbs to the southern California amusement park Walley World, billed as “America’s Favorite Family Fun Park.” During the family’s travels, they run into numerous hilarious mishaps. Rated R.

Feb. 17th, “The Birds” (1963)

An Alfred Hitchcock classic, this is the story of Melanie Daniels, the modern rich socialite, part of the jet-set who always gets what she wants. When lawyer Mitch Brenner sees her in a pet shop, he plays something of a practical joke on her, and she decides to return the favor. She drives an hour north of San Francisco to Bodega Bay, where Mitch spends the weekends with his mother and sister. Soon after her arrival, however the birds in the area begin to act strangely and soon they’re attacking anyone they find out of doors. There is no explanation as to why this might be happening and as the birds continue their vicious attacks, survival becomes the priority. Rated PG.

Feb. 24th, “Forrest Gump” (1994)

Forrest Gump is a simple man with a low I.Q. but good intentions. He is running through childhood with his best and only friend Jenny. His ‘mama’ teaches him the ways of life and leaves him to choose his destiny. Forrest joins the army for service in Vietnam, finding new friends called Dan and Bubba, he wins medals, creates a famous shrimp fishing fleet, inspires people to jog, starts a ping-pong craze, creates the smiley, writes bumper stickers and songs, donates to people and meets the President several times. However, this is all irrelevant to Forrest who can only think of his childhood sweetheart Jenny Curran, who has messed up her life. Although in the end all he wants to prove is that anyone can love anyone. Rated PG.

Sun., Feb. 5th, 1pm - 4pm, Watercolor Class at the YMCA – Learn to paint a snowfall on the refuge using a special kind of salt. Suitable for beginners. Cost is \$35 and includes all materials. For more info or to reserve your spot, contact Daniel Thomas at 757.336.6222 or send an email to danielphthomas@gmail.com. Chincoteague Family YMCA is located at 6395 Maddox Blvd.



Fri., Feb. 10th, Sat., Feb. 11th, Fri., Feb. 17th, Sat., Feb. 18th, 7pm, “The Curious Savage”

The Chincoteague Island Theatre Company presents a comedy by John Patrick about a wealthy elderly woman who is placed into a psychiatric hospital by her stepchildren.

Tickets are \$10. Doors open at 6:30. For more info, visit <http://www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/theatre.html>
Location: CCA Community Center for the Arts, Church St.

Sat., Feb. 11th, 6pm, Nature Lovers Dinner & Trivia

Do you love delicious food, good conversation, and trivia? Then, get “WILD” on Valentine’s Day Weekend and join the Chincoteague Bay Field Station for a Nature Lovers Dinner event. Enjoy a gourmet buffet paired with great wines and brews. Eat, drink, socialize and then strut your stuff in team trivia. Trivia is based on the fun dating and mating rituals of the animal kingdom. Winners will receive fabulous prize packages. Program cost is \$30/person and \$55/couple. Register early, tickets sold out last year. For more details, visit <http://www.cbfieldstation.org/nature-lovers-dinner.html>
Location: Chincoteague Bay Field Station, 34001 Mill Dam Rd, Wallops Island.

Thurs, Feb. 16th, 7pm, Decadent Desserts Fundraiser

Enjoy fabulous sweets with Wine & Good Company at the home of baker extraordinaire Fred Scholer. Proceeds will benefit Chincoteague Cultural Alliance. Tickets are \$20 and are available at H&H Pharmacy and Sundial Books (cash or checks only). Only 40 tickets are available. For info, visit <http://www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/decadent-desserts.html>



Fri., Feb. 17th, 5pm - 7pm, Steamed Shrimp & Clams Dinner at the American Legion, Post 159.

Carry-out meals will be available after 6:30pm, supplies permitting. Location: 4023 Main St. For info, call 757.336.9749

**OB II Community Property Owners Association
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Vice President

Tim Landolt

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Kathy Bradley

Neal Faircloth

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Maria Paccioretti

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**Corporate Registered Agent for Oyster Bay II Community POA, Inc.*

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Jim Smith

****Corporate Registered Agent for Oyster Bay Water & Sewage Company, Inc.***

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

Please mail all OB II POA, Inc. dues, payments and correspondence to:

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Please mail all OB Water & Sewage Co., Inc. dues, payments and correspondence to:

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