



# Chincoteague Island, Virginia

## Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter

### June 2017

Greetings OB II,

Hope everyone is gearing up for the summer of 2017 on Chincoteague. Don't forget your sunscreen and mosquito repellent!

#### Neighborhood News ...

While we don't have any new neighbors of the human kind to report on this month, we do have some new feathered ones. Keep an eye out for gosling activity by the front entrance pond and you might observe the youngsters hunting for food and or napping under the pine trees. All under the careful supervision of their parents.

#### Updates From The Boards ...

**Oyster Bay II Property Owners Association:** The BoD met on April 29<sup>th</sup> for general updates and planning. You should have received an email including the Meeting Minutes and respective financial information. This info is available on the community website, <http://www.ob2poa.org> under the members section.

**Oyster Bay Water & Sewer Company:** The BoD also met on April 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss updates and planning. System subscribers and all members of both Boards should have received an email that included the Meeting Minutes and year to date financial information. This info is also available on the community website, <http://www.ob2poa.org> under the members section.



# Who Said That?

*By Dave Hudgins*

So, a pirate with a parrot riding on his shoulder walks into the bar. The bartender asks "Where did you get that?" The bird replies "I found him in the Caribbean." Bad joke. But most people recognize parrots as mimic birds as they have the ability to repeat humans.

Mimic Thrush is the common name for members of the Mimidae family of exclusively American birds, allied to the wrens and thrushes, that includes the mockingbird, the catbird, and the thrashers. All of these birds are famous for their vocal powers.

We have a few mimic birds year round in the community, just not the talking types. There are a number of birds that can imitate other birds, other animals or just have a playlist of songs longer than what you have stored on your iPod.

The two most recognizable are the Northern Mockingbird and the Gray Catbird.



**Northern Mockingbird**

The male Mockingbird may learn over 150 bird songs in its lifetime. One Mockingbird whistled through the songs of 55 different species in one hour. They can also mimic other animals, such as dogs and frogs, along with other inanimate objects such as a squeaky door. Studies show that females are more attracted to males with a larger repertoire, presumably a sign of maturity. The females also mimic, just not at the same level as the males.



**Grey Catbird**

Studies indicate that mimic birds with more songs have a wider territory than those with fewer songs, thus access to more food and shelter. The Catbird might wake you up at almost any hour of the night with its incessant calling.

The Brown Thrasher is another mimic occasionally seen and heard in the community. They tend to be a bit louder than the Mockingbird and Catbird. If you are able to recognize various bird calls and you hear a series of songs that make no sense, you might suspect one of these three. And, if you hear a car alarm going off, after verifying it's not yours, check the bushes for a mockingbird.

## The Sika Story ...

*Info courtesy of Maryland Department of Natural Resources*

The photograph of the Sika deer featured on the front page of this newsletter was captured by Karen Frank at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

Its name comes from "Shika", the Japanese word for "Deer." Sika can be seen in the loblolly pine forest, sand dune areas and marshes along Assateague. They originate from Japan, Taiwan and East Asia. In the United States Sika deer have been introduced in Texas, Virginia and Maryland's Eastern Shore. They are smaller than white tailed deer and often exhibit elk-like behavior, giving them the nick name of "Asian Elk". They were introduced to Maryland in the early 1900s when Clement Henry released five or six Sika on James Island. Today, the population primarily inhabits Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties as well as Assateague Island. Sika primarily feed dusk through dawn on marsh vegetation, bayberry, catbrier, the leaves of myrtle bushes, grasses, persimmons, and other plants on Assateague Island. They even eat poison ivy. (I want one of these in OB III!)



**Photograph courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

Sika are one of the most vocal members of the Deer family and have at least five distinct calls. There are several subspecies and their fur can range in color from chestnut brown with reddish hair on top of the head to a dark brown or black. They have white spots on their backs which appear more visible during different seasons. About six subspecies are nearly extinct in certain areas of Asia. Sika deer have been transplanted to several countries, including New Zealand, Europe and Australia.

## What's Cooking ...

In Virginia, one of the first foods that signals the start of spring is the appearance of fresh asparagus at local farm stands and farmers markets. While this recipe may have made more sense time wise last month, you can still buy farm fresh asparagus and it will be delish!

### Asparagus with Buttered Parmesan Breadcrumbs

*Courtesy of Marge Perry, Newsday*



*Photo courtesy of Pixabay.com*

#### Ingredients:

- 1 pound asparagus, trimmed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/4 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

#### Instructions:

1. Pre-heat oven to 425°
2. Coat a baking sheet pan with cooking spray
3. Toss the asparagus with the olive oil and season with the salt and pepper
4. Place in a single layer on the baking sheet and roast until the asparagus is bright green and crisp-tender, about 10-12 minutes
5. While the asparagus is roasting, melt the butter in a small skillet and add the panko breadcrumbs. Stir the mixture until the butter is evenly incorporated in the panko breadcrumbs and they are golden brown. Remove mixture from the heat and stir in the grated Parmesan cheese. Sprinkle this mixture over the asparagus and serve warm or at room temperature. Makes 4 servings.

## All Around Town ...

"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June."

**Al Bernstein, American actor**

And June on Chincoteague will be another tough act to follow. Check it out ...

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 9am - 1pm**  
**Chincoteague Island Farmer & Artisan Market** – Straight from the gardens, fields, bay and ocean to your table. You'll find seasonal vegetables, herbs, fruits, seafood, eggs, meat and more. Enjoy music, look at the works of local artisans, maybe even run into a neighbor or two!

**Tues., June 6<sup>th</sup> & June 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm, Tuesday Nights at the Museum: Where Island Tales Are Told** – Each Tuesday evening will feature a different speaker and topic. Speaker dates are subject to change, so check the Chincoteague Museum website for the most up-to-date schedule and details at <http://www.chincoteaguemuseum.com/programs>.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>'s topic is "Rising Sea Levels on the Eastern Shore" by speaker Curtis Smith.**

**June 13<sup>th</sup>'s topic is "Resources for Researchers (Eastern Shore Public Library's Eastern Shore Room)" Shore" by speaker Cara Burton.**

#### **Sat., June 17<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, CCA Island Coffeehouse**

Each month, the Island Coffeehouse presents a variety of arts in a listening room environment. Enjoy performances by acoustic musicians and spoken word artists. Everyone is welcome. Doors open at 6:30pm, performances begin at 7pm. Admission: \$5, \$3 for students aged 22 and under. Location: 6309 Church St. For more info, visit <http://www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/coffeehouse.html>

#### **Wed., June 21<sup>st</sup>, 6pm, Sunset Cruise**

Enjoy a unique evening aboard the Martha Lou with Captain Carlton Leonard. \$40 per person, refreshments are included. Tickets are available now at the Island Library. Reserve early, tickets sold out last year.

#### **Thurs., June 29<sup>th</sup>, Dusk, Summer Cinema Series, "Tender Mercies" (1983)** - Bring a chair or a blanket and enjoy a free film outdoors,



under the stars and on the BIG screen at the Robert Reed Downtown Waterfront Park. Enjoy popcorn and cold drinks at old fashioned prices. In the event of rain, the film will be shown at CCA headquarters, 6309 Church Street. It's the story of a broken down, middle-aged country singer who makes friends with a young widow and her son, reaches out to his long lost daughter and finds inspiration to resume

his career. Robert Duvall won the Best Actor Oscar for his role and Horton Foote won for Best Screenplay. Visit <http://www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/summer-cinema-series.html> for more info.

#### **Fri., June 30<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Chincoteague Story Telling Guild**

Refreshments at 6:30pm and Story Telling starts at 7pm at the Chincoteague Island Library, 4077 Main St. Free admission. The Museum of Chincoteague Island and the Chincoteague Cultural Alliance continue to work with the Virginia Storytelling Alliance to advance the art of storytelling in all its forms.



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

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

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

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