



Chincoteague Island, Virginia Oyster Bay II Community Newsletter March 2017

Greetings OB II,

I hope everyone is enjoying the last few weeks of winter because it feels like spring is right around the corner. I know I'm hedging my bets typing that and with my luck we'll get hammered with a nor'easter of epic proportions but the weather of the last several days has been so delightfully spring-like that I'm convinced we're in the clear. Keep your fingers and toes crossed!

Thank you Neal Faircloth for sharing another of Karen's charming photos (see above) of a 2016 foal that she was able to capture at the Assateague NWR.

May your troubles be less,
your blessings be more,
and nothing but happiness come thru your door.
Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone!

Updates From The Boards ...

Upon receipt of the Judge's formal order of the summary judgment on the case of "Parcel E", an appeal has been filed with the Accomack County Court.

The Oyster Bay II Property Owners Association Board of Directors will meet on Sat., April 29th at 9am to set priorities for the remainder of 2017. The meeting will take place at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 4179 Main St.

Following the POA meeting, the Board of Directors of the OB Water & Sewer Company will take place at 1pm at the same location. The purpose of this meeting will be to review and update progress made on projects discussed at the Feb. 4th meeting. For additional details, go online to https://ob2poa.org/Members/WSPrivate/OB_WS_Minutes02042017_finaldraft.pdf

All members of the OB II POA are invited to attend both of these meetings.

The Concrete Navy

By Dave Hudgins

You may have heard the old saying “Loose lips sink ships”. And, you may know a few folks that would look quite fashionable in a set of cement shoes. But have you ever considered sailing in a concrete ship? Concrete vessels date back to at least the 1800s. Did you know that there’s a concrete fleet not too far from Chincoteague?

The oldest known concrete ship was a dingy built by Joseph-Louis Lambot in Southern France in 1848. The boat was featured in the 1855 World's Fair in France. In the 1890's, an engineer in Italy named Carlo Gabellini built barges and small ships out of concrete. The most famous of his ships was the Liguria.

On August 2, 1917, N.K. Fougner of Norway launched the first ocean-going concrete ship, an 84 foot long boat named Namsenfjord. With the success of the ship, several more small concrete vessels were built. It was at this time, that the United States finally entered World War I and steel became scarce while the demand for ships went up. The U.S. government invited N.K. Fougner to head a study into the feasibility of concrete ships.

Meanwhile, businessman W. Leslie Comyn took the initiative and formed the San Francisco Ship Building Company (in Oakland, California) to begin constructing concrete ships. The first American concrete ship, a steamer named the S. S. Faith was launched March 18, 1918. She cost \$750,000 to build. She was used to carry cargo for trade until 1921, when she was sold and scrapped as a breakwater in Cuba.

President Wilson approved the Emergency Fleet program in 1918 to construct 24 concrete ships for the war. Only 12 were under construction and none of them had been completed by the time the war ended. The 12 ships were completed and sold to private companies who used them for light-trading, storage and scrap.

With the advent of World War II, steel once again was in short supply. In 1942, the U.S. government contracted McCloskey & Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to construct a new fleet of 24 concrete ships. Construction of the fleet started in July, 1943 in Tampa, Florida. Innovations in cement mixing and composition made these ships stronger than the previous fleet. After the war, several of the ships were turned into a floating breakwater in Canada and ten more were sunk as a breakwater in Virginia.



Concrete hulls off Kiptopeke, VA

Although the end of WWII marked the end of large-scale concrete ship building, to this day, smaller recreational boats are still being made from concrete.

The Concrete Fleet, also known as the Kiptopeke Breakwater, consists of several concrete ships lined end to end just west of the former Chesapeake Bay ferry terminal. In 1948 the ships were brought to Kiptopeke Beach in order to bring protection to the terminal during severe weather. Once arranged, their bilge-cocks were opened to bring on water and they were left to settle on the bottom of the Bay.

The ferry was closed in 1964 when the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel opened but the breakwater still protects the pier and beach while providing a home for coastal fish, shellfish, and birds. Since being scuttled in the Bay the rusty bones of these ships have been exposed to half a century of weather creating an incredible show of decay. Certain sections of the wrecks offer holes large enough for a small boat to pass through where one can see the interior structure of these vessels up close. If you need a good excuse for a day trip, then check out the concrete fleet.

Content for this article courtesy of Concrete Ships.org and atlasobscure.com.

Popping Up For A Visit ...

While enjoying a recent Sunday afternoon brunch on their deck, Monica & Andy Suchoski were the recipients of free and frolicking entertainment, courtesy of Mallard Lake's river otters. While others have seen these fellas in the past, it's very difficult to get them to stay still for a photograph. These otters must have known their photos would appear in the OB II March newsletter.



Photo courtesy of Andy Suchoski

The river otter is a large, brown, weasel-like mammal found along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and lakes, streams, rivers and marshes throughout the Bay watershed. Semi-aquatic, spending time both on land and in the water, they make dens with an underwater entrance in a stream bank, a natural hollow (such as under a log) or in another animal's burrow. The river otter is able to communicate with others by whistling, growling, chuckling and screaming (gotta love anything that chuckles). So next time, you think your neighbors are making a racket, think again!



Photo courtesy of Andy Suchoski

Content borrowed from Chesapeake Bay Program

What's Cooking ...

This macaroni and cheese isn't just quick (20 minutes), it cooks entirely on the stovetop.

Easiest Ever Macaroni & Cheese

Courtesy of Andrea Geary, *Cook's Illustrated Magazine*



Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups water
- 1 cup milk
- 8 ounces of elbow macaroni (Andrea recommends the Barilla brand.)
- 4 oz. of American cheese, shredded (1 cup)
- ½ teaspoon Dijon mustard
- a small pinch of cayenne pepper
- 4 oz. extra-sharp cheddar cheese, shredded (1 cup)
- ½ cup panko bread crumbs
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons of grated parmesan cheese

Instructions:

1. Bring water and milk to a boil in medium saucepan over high heat. Stir in macaroni and reduce heat to medium-low. Cook, stirring frequently, until macaroni is soft (slightly past al dente), 6 to 8 minutes. Add American cheese, mustard and cayenne and cook, stirring constantly, until cheese is completely melted, about 1 minute. Off heat, stir in cheddar until evenly distributed but not melted. Cover saucepan and let stand for 5 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, combine panko breadcrumbs, olive oil, 1/8 teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper in an 8-inch skillet until panko is evenly moistened. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until evenly browned, 3 to 4 minutes. Off heat, sprinkle parmesan cheese over panko and stir to combine. Transfer panko mixture to small bowl.

3. Stir macaroni until sauce is smooth (sauce may look loose but will thicken as it cooks). Season with salt and pepper to taste. Transfer to warm serving dish and sprinkle panko mixture over top. Serve immediately.

"Grown Up Stove Top Macaroni & Cheese"

- Increase water to 1 ¾ cups. Substitute ¾ cup shredded gruyere and 2 tablespoons crumbled blue cheese for cheddar
- Or add some fresh eastern shore crabmeat

All Around Town ...

Things are starting to buzz again around here and I'm not only talking about the lone mosquito that seemed to magically appear and follow me around last week!

Fri., March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, Classic Film Series at the Island Theatre – Enjoy great movies for \$5:

March 3rd, "The Russians Are Coming" (1966)

In the Cold War, when the captain of a Russian submarine comes too close to the Gloucester Island in Massachusetts to get a look at America, the submarine gets stranded. A nine-man team goes ashore to search for a boat to help release the submarine and arrives at the summer house of The New Yorker writer Walt Whittaker who is spending the weekend with his family in Gloucester. When Walt realizes that they are Russians, he believes that it is an invasion. Soon the information leaks, leading to hysteria and paranoia amongst the inhabitants of the small village. Unrated.

March 10th, "Beetlejuice" (1988)

Adam and Barbara are a normal couple...who happen to be dead. They have given their precious time to decorate their house and make it their own but unfortunately a family is moving in, and not quietly. Adam and Barbara try to scare them out but end up becoming the main attraction to the money making family. They ask Beetlejuice to help, but Beetlejuice has more in mind than just helping. Rated PG.

March 17th, "The Bells of St. Mary's" (1945)

Father O'Malley, the unconventional priest, continues his work for the Catholic Church, after being sent to St. Mary's, a run-down parochial school on the verge of condemnation. He and Sister Benedict work together in an attempt to save the school, though their differing methods often lead to good-natured disagreements. Unrated.

March 24th, "Never On Sunday" (1966)

Illia is Piraeus's most popular person: an energetic prostitute, full of life and good humor. Every day, she swims at the pier, entertaining the dock hands. Sundays she has an open house with food, drink and song. Homer Thrace an amateur philosopher from Connecticut arrives in town to find out why Greece has fallen from ancient greatness. He decides Illia is to blame so he sets out to study and save her. Unknown to Illia, he gets money for his books and all else he gives her from Mr. No Face, the local vice boss who wants Illia retired because her independence gives other prostitutes ideas. Who's spirit is stronger? No rating info.

March 31st, "Mary Poppins" (1960)

Mary Poppins visits a dysfunctional family in London and employs her unique brand of lifestyle to improve the family's dynamic. Starring Julie Andrews & Dick Van Dyke. Rated G.

Sat., March 18th, 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>

Fri., March 24th – Sun. March 26th, Heritage Weekend, The theme is "Remembering Assateague". An island-wide event. For info, visit <http://www.chincoteaguemuseum.com>

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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 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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