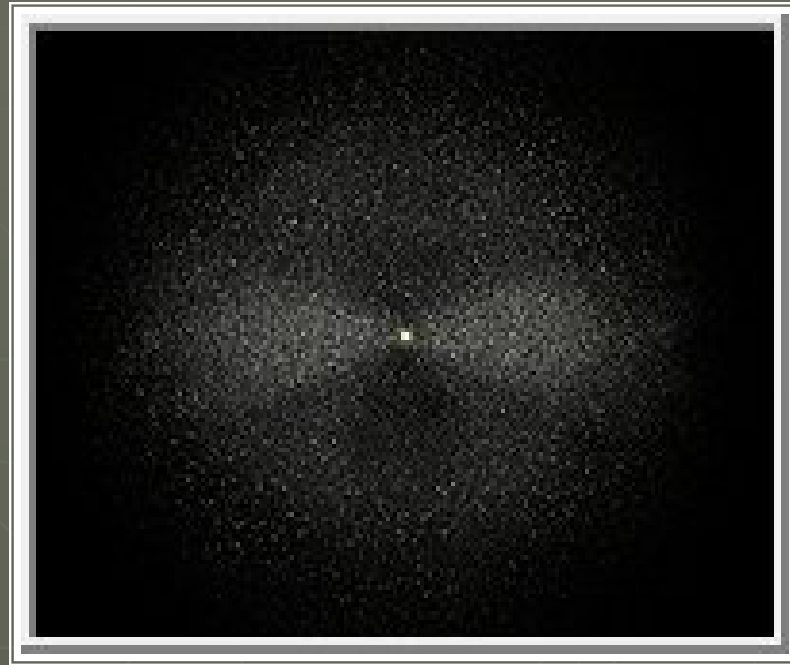


Back Bay, Bay and Beach of Change



Presented by Lillie Gilbert
Back Bay Forum,
March 18, 2009

4.5 Billion Years Ago



140 Million Years Ago



2 Million Years Ago



10,000 Years Ago



Over 70 Years Ago



The CCC began in
Virginia.

CCC Camps 1933- 1941

- ▶ After enlistment began in April 1933 recruits were being transferred to camps at a rate of 9,000 per day. By July 300,000 men were employed nationwide at 1,500 camps.
- ▶ The men received room ,board, medical care, healthy outdoor work and at least \$30 per month, of which most are reported to send home \$25.
- ▶ In 9 years the CCC had spent more than \$100 million in VA, the fifth largest amount in the country.



CCC Camps 1933- 1941

The group's projects were varied:

- ▶ restoration of historical sites
- ▶ construction of 97,000 miles of fire roads
- ▶ the building of 41,000 bridges
- ▶ building irrigation ditches to prevent erosion control (guessed to ultimately save 20 million acres).
- ▶ The CCC protected natural wildlife habitats, particularly in wetlands. Pond and stream improvements included building over 3 million small dams and stocking fish.



CCC Camps in 1938



Local CCC Camps 1938

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE	LOCATION
BF-1	3337	4/17/1938	Pongo	Pongo	2 mi E (Camp Back Bay)
SP-28	1375	10/1/1938	Virginia Beach	Cape Henry	6mi N (Camp Seashore)
SP- 7	1287		Fort Story	Cape Henry	.5 mi SE

- ▶ As of 1938 the CCC had developed more than 3 million acres for park use in 854 state parks. A third of these acres were acquired and developed between September 1936 and September 1937.
- ▶ The CCC had also developed 46 recreational demonstration projects in 62 areas within 24 states. By this time Park Service superintendents believed that CCC work on trails, campgrounds, and picnic areas explained the 25 to 500 percent park visitation increase that the parks were enjoying.
- ▶ **Note: Pungo is mistakenly spelled "Pongo" on the original data sheets**



Camp Back Bay 1938

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

United States Department of Agriculture

Release - Immediate

Washington, D. C., July 19, 1938

**C.C.C. BOYS IMPROVE
NEW FEDERAL WATERFOWL
REFUGE AT BACK BAY, VA.**

- - -

C.C.C. boys are improving the newly-established Back Bay Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Princess Anne County, Va., by building sand fences to prevent beach erosion and to protect waterfowl food plants in fresh water areas against damage from salty water of the Atlantic Ocean. Ocean water is washed on the refuge during severe storms. If too much reaches the fresh-water pools the food plants are stunted or killed by the sudden increase in the water's salinity.

The sand fences are created by building two brush fences 4 to 5 feet high about 40 feet apart along the beach and letting the wind pile sand against and in between them. Poles sunk into the ground and other supporting lumber hold the brush securely. After the sand has filled in between the brush structures a single brush fence is built on top. Sand accumulates on both sides of the top fence to give the barrier added height. In some areas higher barriers are provided by building the bottom brush fences farther apart and putting up two brush fences for the second tier instead of one. After the second tier has filled in with sand a single brush fence is added. Completed barriers are planted to sand-binding plants to protect them against wind and wave action.

Sand fences also protect bodies of fresh water on the Pea Island Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, N.C., 175 miles south of the Back Bay Refuge. Both are favorite wintering and feeding grounds of waterfowl that migrate along the Atlantic flyway.



Camp Back Bay 1938

- 2 - (C.C.C. BOYS IMPROVE WATERFOWL REFUGE)

Other work scheduled for the 150 C.C.C. boys stationed at the Back Bay Refuge includes construction of marsh ponds and planting of waterfowl food and cover plants. Headquarters, other necessary buildings, and roads and trails for facilitating administration of the area by the U. S. Biological Survey also will be built.

The Back Bay camp is one of 32 Biological Survey projects approved by C.C.C. Director Fechner for the current 6-months period.

The refuge has been acquired by purchase under provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and was established as such by a recent Executive order. Bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, Back Bay, and Shippo Bay, it contains 8,950 acres of marshland and water. Long Island, a group of smaller islands nearby, the Ragged Island group, and a stretch of beach on the Atlantic Coast form a large part of the refuge area. The Ragged Island group has been a favorite wildfowling place many years. A royal patent from England granted in 1738 to Edward Hack Mosely for land on these islands said, "551 acres of marsh, rivers, and water courses therein contained together with the privileges of hunting, hawking, fishing, fowling, and all other profits, etc."

Wild geese, brant, black ducks, redheads, canvasbacks, pintails, baldpates, ruddy ducks, and whistling swans winter on the Back Bay Refuge. Further protection to waterfowl that use this area is being provided by Virginia. It has passed legislation closing water areas adjoining the refuge to waterfowl hunting.

"Acquisition of the Back Bay area as a refuge provides wild ducks and geese another safety zone on the Atlantic Coast," says the U.S. Biological Survey. "It was badly needed as the section there has been heavily hunted."

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94-39-2



CCC at Back Bay



Mike Eaton, honored by
Back Bay National Wildlife
Refuge in 2008



"Camp Back Bay" CCC Barracks
built in 1938, now part of John
Cromwell's farm

Camp Back Bay



Back Bay, Beach Changes



Back Bay, Bay Changes



Back Bay, Impoundment Changes



Back Bay, Creek Changes



Back Bay, Landscape Changes



Back Bay/False Cape, CCC Changes



Back Bay, Changes

- ▶ "If you travel much in the wilder sections of our country, sooner or later you are likely to meet the sign of the flying goose-the emblem of the National Wildlife Refuges.



Back Bay, Changes

- ▶ Wherever you meet this sign, respect it. It means that the land behind the sign has been dedicated by the American people to preserving, for themselves and their children, as much of our native wildlife as can be retained along with our modern civilization."

Rachel Carson,

Scientist and chief editor for the U.S.
Fish & Wildlife Service from 1939-
1952



Back Bay/False Cape, Changes

"A 1966 study of Virginia's outdoor recreation resources recommended that a substantial ocean beachfront be made available for public use on the Atlantic Ocean south of Virginia Beach. The development of the park began with the purchase of approximately 4,300 acres of land." DCR



Back Bay/False Cape, CCC Changes



Resources

- ▶ Cohen, Stan. The Tree Army
- ▶ Green, Elna C. This Business of Relief: Confronting Poverty in a Southern City
- ▶ www.ccclegacy.org
- ▶ www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/fal.shtml
- ▶ www.fs.fed.us
- ▶ www.solarviews.com
- ▶ Young, William H. and Nancy K. The Great Depression in America: A Cultural Encyclopedia

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Presented by Lillie Gilbert
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Thank You !