



BACK BAY BREEZE

Back Bay...it's worth saving!

February, 2010

February 3rd ~ Meeting

Wednesday, February 3rd, the Back Bay Restoration Foundation General Membership Meeting will be held at the ABC EEC on 3022 Newbridge Road. Join us for door prizes and a light dinner, starting at 7 p.m. followed by a presentation and discussion at 7:30.

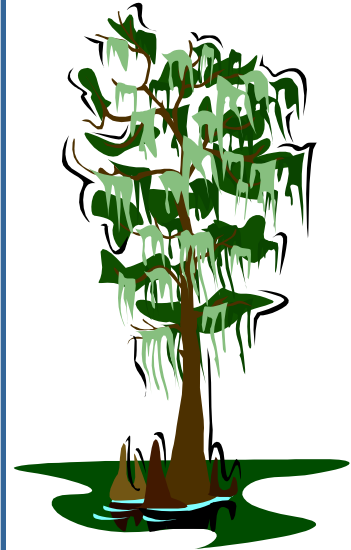
For directions, call 721-7666.

Our speaker will be Chris Lowie, Manager, Great Dismal Swamp NWR. Chris will provide general information about the Refuge and discuss current biological projects and public use opportunities. Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is located in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. The refuge consists of over 112,000 acres of forested wetlands. Lake Drummond, at 3,100 acres and the largest natural lake in Virginia, is located in the heart of the swamp.

Trails are open everyday for hiking and biking from sunrise to sunset unless otherwise posted. Refuge headquarters is located at 3100 Desert Road in Suffolk, Virginia, and is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. The headquarters is closed on weekends and federal holidays, the hiking and biking trails remain open.

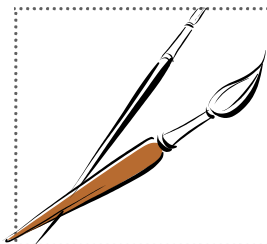
Bring a friend, come hungry and see you on the 3rd!

Check out the new & improved BBRF website. Please forward comments, criticisms and suggestions to webmaster@bbrf.org



Inside this issue:

- ~ Forum Registration*
- ~ BBNWR and False Cape State Park events*
- ~ BBRF updates and news*
- ~ Egrets, pelicans and snow geese, oh my!*



In Memory...Henry A. Rawles, Jr., a nature lover and true Friend of Back Bay, passed away January 19, 2010. This amazing artist and faithful supporter of Back Bay Restoration Foundation will surely be missed.

~ Save the Date! ~

2010 Back Bay Forum ~ Wednesday, March 17

Join us from 8:30-2:30 at the Tidewater Community College Advanced Technology Center for topics related to the health and wellbeing of the Back Bay Watershed and all the critters that call it home.

***** See inside for the registration form *****



Brown Pelicans by: Herb Jones

One of the birds we see regularly along the coast in SE Virginia is the brown pelican. This hasn't always been true. In the 1960's their numbers sank precipitously low when they suffered dramatic impacts from the widespread use of DDT. When these birds consumed pesticide-laden fish, eggshells became too thin to support healthy chicks. After the banning of DDT in 1972, the population of brown pelicans began to bounce back. On November 17, 2009, they were officially removed from the federal endangered species list throughout the US. US Fish and Wildlife considers their comeback from near extinction to be an amazing success story. Personal testimony shows such a comeback. In the early Fall, 2009, I saw a flight of 52 brown pelicans off the coast in Sandbridge. Ten years ago, we may have seen four or five but 52? Never.

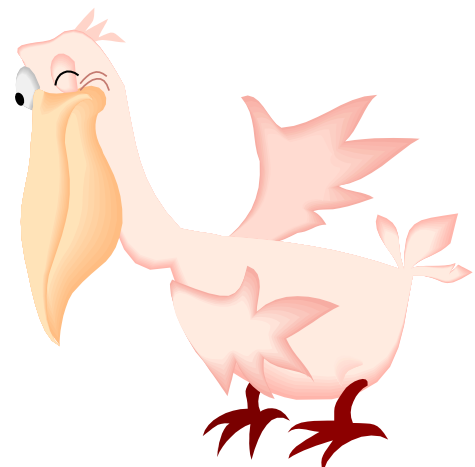
A little history music please. Near the turn of the century, Paul Kroegel, an immigrant from Germany, was appalled at the slaughter of pelicans for their feathers. He appealed to President Teddy Roosevelt who then established Florida's Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge in 1903. Kroegel became the first manager, and the rookery there still remains.

The brown pelican was declared endangered in 1970. Even with the removal from the endangered list, the birds will continue to be monitored through 2020 since pelicans remain protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Lacey Act. Threats such as food availability, oil spills and oceanographic conditions still exist. Following Hurricane Katrina, 1276 pelicans were relocated from the Atlantic Coast of Florida to Southeastern Louisiana to replenish the population there.

Who hasn't marveled when you see a line of them skimming the top of the wave crest with their wingtips often dipping into the water. Most of us likewise marvel when we see them dive from on high to grab a fish from the surf. What you may not know is that they dive usually hitting the water on the same side. This can result in cataracts on the diving side and eventual loss of vision. Eventually they will lose their ability to fish.

The pelicans are about forty eight inches long, weigh 8 pounds on average and have a wing span of six to seven feet. They can dive from as high as 50 feet. Eggs (usually two or three) are laid in a shallow nest and take about a month to hatch. The longest living pelican on record lived to age forty three.

So the next time you are walking along the shoreline in Virginia or the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, marvel at the comeback of this species and their beauty and symmetry as they skim the wave or dive from above. Thank those responsible for the protection of these and all other creatures that make our life richer. Vow to do our part to nurture their existence as we go forward.



BBRF Business & Volunteer Opportunities

~As an environmental non-profit organization, BBRF strives to protect our natural resources. After this month's mailing, we will no longer be sending out paper copies of the newsletter **unless specifically requested**. If you do not have a valid email on record or still would like a paper copy of the newsletter, **we will gladly keep you on the mailing list**. Thank you for your support of this effort.

~As a reminder, our 757-426-3643 office number has been discontinued. **The current phone and fax number is 757-721-7666.**

~The next New Bridge Road Cleanup is scheduled for **February 20, 2010**. Meet at 2949 New Bridge Road at 8am!

~BBRF's main mission is to protect and improve the wetlands and water quality of Back Bay. From the submerged aquatic vegetation to the wintering waterfowl, everything in this precious ecosystem depends on **good water quality**. In alignment with our mission, the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) filed a complaint on behalf of Friends of Back Bay and Back Bay Restoration Foundation challenging the issuance of the Department of the Army Permit No. 04-V2213 under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1344, by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to Kenneth Douglas Wilkins to construct and use a 76-slip mooring and launching facility in North and Shippys Bays, tributaries to Back Bay, in the Sandbridge Beach section of Virginia Beach, Virginia. The complaint in its entirety can be found here: http://www.southernenvironment.org/newsroom/press_releases/2009_12_16_back_bay_lawsuit_filed/

Stay tuned to your e-mail for updates and reminders regarding these and other events. Please email bbbf@verizon.net for more information, to sign up for any of these events or to ensure I have your most recent/correct email address.

Donations & Membership Renewals

Thank you to the following individuals

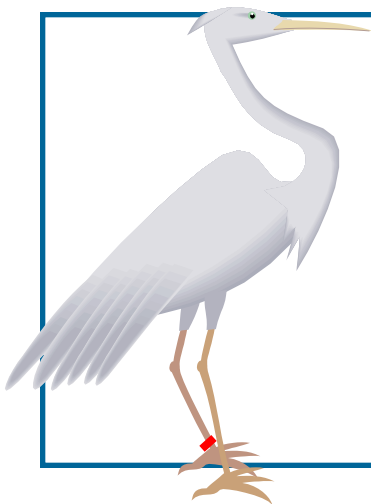
Individual: Sue Poe, Don Youngs, Kitty Boshier

Family: Mac McCants

Eagle: Jim and Marla Nock

Special Donations:

Dominion Foundation - \$1000



Keep an eye out for Red-banded Egrets!

Chip Weseloh of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, is conducting a study on Great Egret roosts and movements. He has asked for our help. Report any red-leg banded Great Egrets seen during the non-breeding season to the Bird Banding Lab at Patuxent (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/>). Please record the date, location, number of other egrets with them, and, if possible, the letter(s) and number(s) of the banding code, and copy of the info to Chip at chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca

Thank you!



**Back Bay
Restoration
Foundation**

BACK BAY RESTORATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS

2010 BACK BAY FORUM

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Registration starts at 8:00 AM

*Tidewater Community College Advanced Technology Center
1800 College Crescent Virginia Beach, VA*

Speakers:

- Back Bay History - Lillie Gilbert, Wild River Outfitters
- Currituck Sound Ecosystem Restoration - NC ACOE
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program - Diane Dunaway, DCR
- Agriculture Reserve Program - Jenny McPherson, City of VB
- Back Bay TMDL Implementation Plan - Bill Johnston, City of VB
- Fish Populations in Back Bay - Chad Boyce, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Wetland restoration/ Shoreline management - Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences
- Buy Fresh/Buy Local
- ...and more!*

The fee of \$15 (\$5 for Students with proper id) includes a morning break, lunch and a CD of the Back Bay Forum presentations. Register by March 10th by phone, fax, email or mail, as seating is limited to the first 100 registrations. Note: Register early. *This popular event sold out last year!*

Please mail registration form and fee to: Back Bay Restoration Foundation, 3022 New Bridge Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23456 • 757-721-7666 • bbrf@verizon.net

Registration Information

Name(s):.....Organization:

Address: City:..... State:..... Zip:.....

Email:..... Phone:

Special dietary requests:

Receipt required (Y/N):



Winter Woods Walk

Explore the maritime forest on this naturalist-led hike at False Cape State Park. Identify coastal trees and shrubs and look for animal tracks in the sand.

Reservations required. Call 757.426.7128. Cost: \$10/person. Departs Little Island City Park. Sunday, February 7, 1-4PM

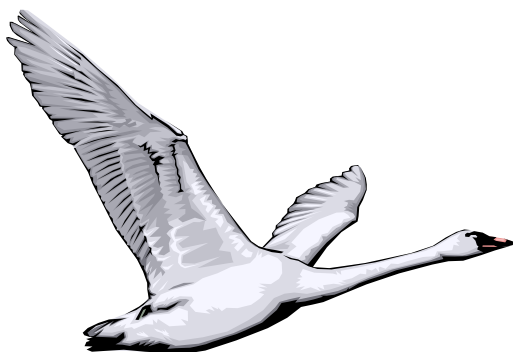


Take a Ride on the Wild Side—Terra Gator Trips

Terra Gator is an approximately 45 minute ride down the beach to False Cape State Park. Observe coastal wildlife, beach comb & explore the isolated wilderness of False Cape.

Reservations required and must be made at least three days in advance. Call 1-800-933-PARK. Minimum of 10 reservations required for the Terra Gator to run. Departs Little Island City Park 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Cost: \$8/person. Saturdays & Sundays, November-March

Winter Tram Trips



Winter Wildlife Watch Tram Tour

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park present a wildlife watching tour on the Blue Goose Express Tram! Ride the tram and observe migrating ducks, geese, swans and other wildlife that inhabit Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park. **February 14, March 14. Sundays from 1-3:00 PM.**

Welcome to Wash Woods

Take a scenic tram ride through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge & False Cape State Park, observing wildlife along the way. Upon arrival of False Cape's historic site discover Wash Woods, a community that located in what is now False Cape State Park. This trip includes a 1 mile hike to the site of the Wash Woods Methodist Church, where the steeple and cemetery remain. **February 29, March 28. Sundays from 1-4:00 PM**

****For above tram trips, meet at BBNWR Visitor Center. Reservations required, space limited. Call (757) 721-2412. Cost: Adults - \$8, Seniors & Children - \$6, Children under 3 - Free.**

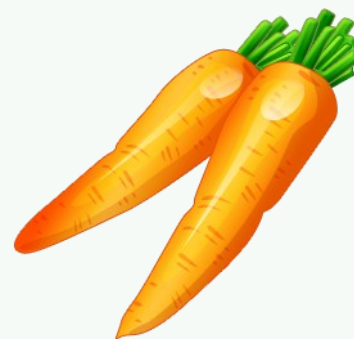
Buy Fresh Buy Local

Join us for special screenings of the movie "FRESH" with special guest speakers and follow up Q&A. Come and be delighted and inspired!

Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 6:45-8:45 PM at Virginia Beach Central Library Auditorium, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach.

Tickets \$10 per person, to benefit Buy Fresh Buy Local Hampton Roads, available at the door. For more information, go to www.buylocalhamptonroads.org or email bfbhr@gmail.com.

[HTTP://WWW.FRESHTHEMOVIE.COM](http://www.freshthemovie.com)



The **Virginia Master Naturalist Program** is statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. Interested Virginians become Master Naturalists through training and volunteer service.



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The process for becoming a certified Master Naturalist typically takes 6 to 12 months. One starts by completing a 40-hour basic training course offered by a local chapter of the program. An additional 8 hours of advanced training are also required. An important part of the certification process is the required 40 hours of volunteer service.

The Tidewater Chapter Master Naturalists' next training sessions will run from March 8 through May 17 (Mondays 6-9) at the Diamond Springs Experimental Station. The application deadline is Feb 12, 2010. Cost is \$100.00 per applicant and includes 4 Saturday fieldtrips, books, materials, and snacks.

Interested parties please contact Jody Ullmann at tidewatermn@gmail.com

For more information about the **Virginia Master Naturalist Program** please visit:
<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/>

BBRF
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Back Bay Restoration Foundation is a non-profit corporation comprised of concerned citizens committed to the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of Back Bay, its watershed, immediate tributaries, and adjacent environs. The Back Bay Restoration Foundation Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Back Bay Restoration Foundation.© 2003 Back Bay Restoration Foundation

Clip and Save

- February 2: Buy Fresh Buy Local
Movie***
February 3: Membership meeting
***February 14: Winter Wildlife
Watch Tram Tour***
***February 20: New Bridge Road
Cleanup***
***February 29: Welcome to Wash
Woods***
March 17: 2010 Back Bay Forum