

#6/24/06 B 2nd Annual Baseball Re-Union –
“Re-Living the Dream: Baseball, more than Game”

June 26, 2006 by Jennifer Allen, News-Times / Dylan Ray Photo



The Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center hosted a celebration of baseball on Saturday. A display of memorabilia remains on display for those who missed the celebration. (Dylan Ray photo)

Waterfowl Museum celebrates America's sport with lecture, display

BY JENNIFER ALLEN
NEWS-TIMES

The Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center on Harkers Island played host to about nearly 50 former baseball players, families and friends as they shared memories when baseball was the Sunday afternoon event in Carteret County.

Joe Willis, host of the event with the museum, presenter and former baseball player, brought his research on baseball players and teams from the 1940s through 1970s in Carteret County to the Second Annual Baseball Day and Family yard sale on June 24.

Beginning at 1 p.m. in the museum with the former Down East resident, Mr. Willis used a PowerPoint presentation titled, “Reliving the Dream: Baseball, more than a Game” to show statistics, photographs and profiles of players who played in Carteret County.

In his presentation, he discussed the community, high school and college league teams and the players who took to the field.

These leagues included; Tidewater (1947-51), Saltwater (1952-57), East Coast (1960-63), Seashore (1974-77) and Eastern (1974-77).

Also during his presentation, he showed profiles of some of the key players who played in Carteret County, like the Wade brothers and Kurt Nelson.

Mr. Willis has been on the project of gathering information on this pastime with Karen Amspacher, director of the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center.

They have been gathering photos, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia for 18 months, including more than 3,000 pages of documentation.

Along with the research done by Mr. Willis, many residents have donated photos and information with hopes that they continue to receive more.

Currently, he has five large binders with copious amounts of information, much of which can be found on the Web site.

While the Web site is under construction, it does contain a great deal of his work on Carteret County baseball and is being designed by Vision IPD which has taken on the project as a volunteer effort www.carteretcountybaseball.com

In the future, he plans to recover stories about players in the 1930s, enhance current documents and continue to add to the Web

site.

Mr. Willis would also like a permanent exhibit on Carteret County baseball at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center.

He said that he is doing this for “My friends and your friends who played baseball.”

At the close, he extended a thank you to the community for its support and asked that if anyone would like to contribute stories or photos, to contact the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center on Harkers Island at 728-1500 or visiting www.coresound.com

On display at the museum, to complement the presentation, were uniforms from the various leagues, newspaper clippings and equipment.

Also as part of the exhibit, memories and thoughts were collected for “The Carteret County Baseball Memory Book.” This is an ongoing project and submissions are still being accepted.

A display of memorabilia remains on display at the Waterfowl Museum. The site is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.