

Capturing Faulkner's Island

Rare Views on New DVD

By Pam Johnson
Courier Senior Staff Writer

A bonus feature on Faulkner's Island, planned as a part of a Guilford DVD being produced locally, took on a life of its own and is now available as a stand-alone product supporting the Faulkner's Light Brigade.

In October, local producer Alfred DiMarzio of Aldimar Video Productions issued the DVD, *Faulkner's Island*, in association with the Faulkner's Light Brigade and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge.

It was while he was the process of creating a soon-to-be announced DVD about Guilford that DiMarzio said he knew people would want to see more of Faulkner's Island.

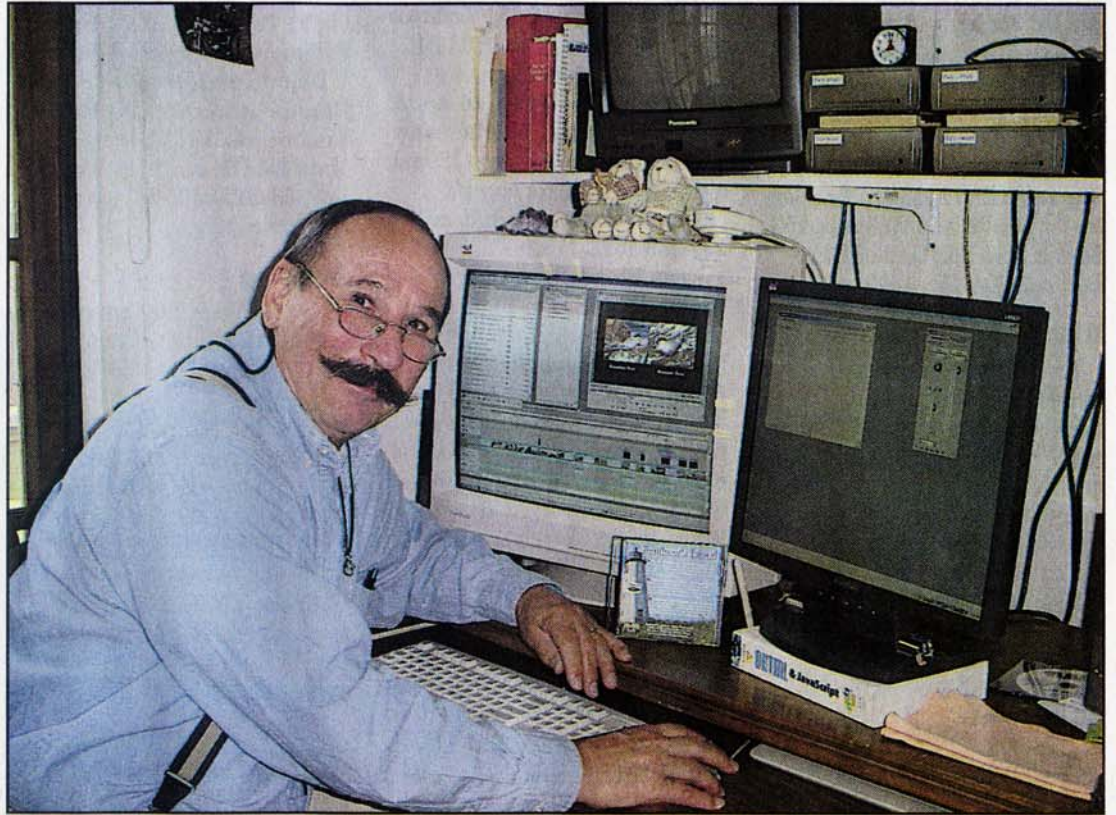
"It started off as a small piece of a larger DVD I'm doing about the town...I took some [footage of refuge manager] Sarah Williams, showing what she does during her daily rounds on the island. It was so fascinating, I thought we maybe had more than just a bonus feature on our hands," he said.

A designated wildlife refuge, Faulkner's Island is home to the largest colony of common terns in the state, some 3,000 pairs. It also shelters a colony of endangered roseate terns. Off-limits to the public, the DVD footage shows Williams at work among the island's thousands of birds. There are views of just-hatched tern chicks, encounters with bold adult terns, and plenty of finds of speckled tern eggs among the natural and man-made shelters on the island.

"It presents a view of the island people will not be able to see, because it's a wildlife refuge," said DiMarzio.

As well as its tern population, Faulkner's Island, three miles off Guilford's coast, is also home to an historic lighthouse, now more than 200 years old. The lighthouse is overseen by the non-profit Faulkner's Light Brigade. The brigade is credited with saving the lighthouse from literally crumbling into the Sound. It is dedicated to its continued restoration and preservation.

After he completed shooting the tern footage on the island this summer, DiMarzio showed his



While local producer Al DiMarzio was working on a DVD project about the town of Guilford, a bonus feature on Faulkner's Island took on a life of its own. The result is a new DVD available from the Faulkner's Light Brigade, *Faulkner's Island*. Photos by Pam Johnson

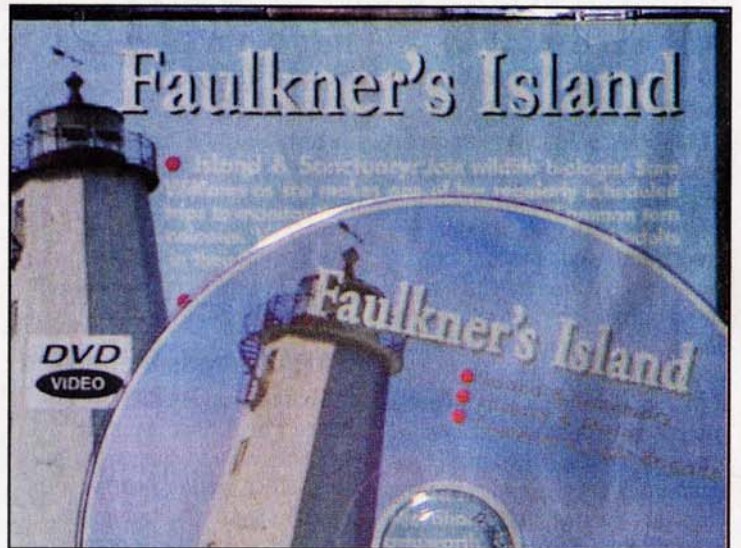
work to Fred Farnsworth, president of the brigade.

"I gave him a copy, and he got so excited about the footage that he wanted to have [brigade founder and municipal historian] Joel Helander talking about the lighthouse on it. From there, the DVD just took on a life of its own," said DiMarzio.

The complete Faulkner's Island DVD runs nearly 40 minutes. Taped in the beauty of high summer, it includes footage of the island and wildlife sanctuary on a day spent with Williams as well as a compelling narrative on the history of the lighthouse and its keepers by Joel Helander (author of the 1988 book, *This Island Called Faulkners*). Information about the Faulkner's Light Brigade is given by Fred Farnsworth.

Now that he's completed *Faulkner's Island*, DiMarzio is turning his attention to wrapping up a year-long DVD project tentatively titled *Exploring Guilford*. Set for release in early spring of 2006, the DVD features footage and individual interviews touching on Guilford sights, cultural attractions, events, lifestyles, restaurants, businesses, and residential areas.

The DVD is being produced with input from a steering committee that includes representatives of the Guilford Chamber of



Commerce, Guilford Economic Development Commission, each of the town's five historic museums, the Guilford Art Center, and Page-Taft Real Estate.

"The Steering Committee is made up of a bunch of very bright people who represent the various cultural, business, and residential aspects of the town," said DiMarzio.

For his part, DiMarzio has been taping at locations all over town, from the annual sidewalk sale to peering over the chef's shoulders in local restaurant kitchens, to the inside of the yacht rigging and hydraulics manufacturing world headquarters of Navtech. Last week, DiMarzio was preparing to tape footage of the town's annual

Christmas Tree Lighting festivities for the Guilford DVD.

"I'm really trying to capture the flavor of the town. I lived here 15 years, and every day, I learn something new about Guilford," he said.

As for having the DVD bonus feature spin off into the Faulkner's Island stand-alone DVD, he said, "I'm a great believer in serendipity. This is a prime example. It's been done for a good cause and for a great group of people."

Proceeds from sales of the *Faulkner's Island* DVD will benefit the Faulkner's Light Brigade. DVDs are \$14 and are available from the Faulkner's Light Brigade (453-8400) or online at www.aldimarvp.com.

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