

# THE WILDFOWLER

JANUARY 2017

A PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM AND THE BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

## ***Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories Lynn Forehand 1931-2008***

*Lynn Hightower*

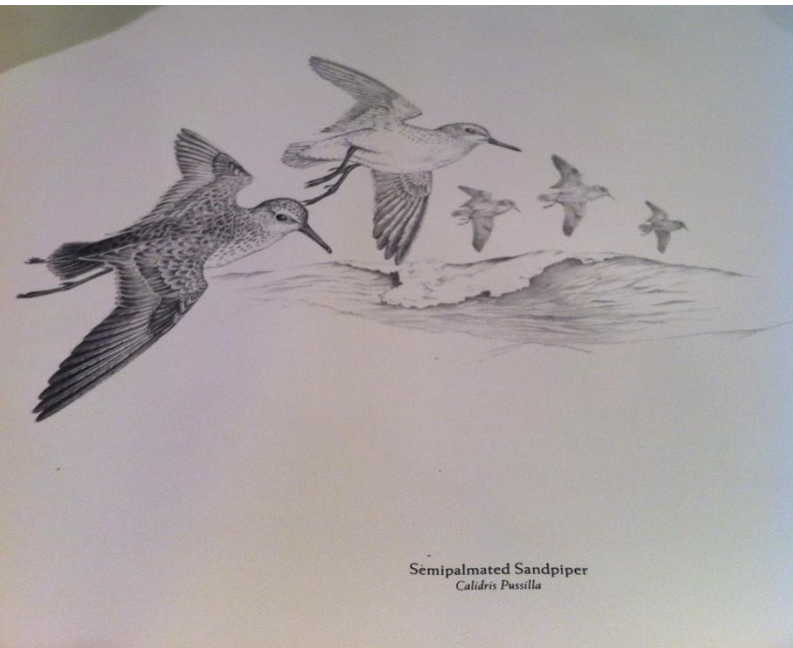
From the archives of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, *The Virginian –Pilot*, [History of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild and Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl Festival](#) by Emma Meehan, and [Past editions of The Wildfowler](#),

Lynn Forehand was a World Class, Master Carver. I don't say those words lightly; and in this case it is very much true. He won his first Ward World Carving Championship in 1975 with a Lifesize Black Swan. In 1979 Lynn won the prestigious Ward World Life-size Carving Competition with a pair of Philippine Gamecocks. He followed that up with a fourth place finish in the same competition in 1980 with a pair of Horned Grebes. Only to return in 1981 to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> with a Flock of Morning Doves. It is a huge accomplishment to win this competition; but, only a few have ever placed in this division three years in a row. Lynn won championships in nearly every wildfowl carving competition in the country. His work is displayed in the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, PA, The Wildlife World Museum in Monument, CO, and in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC. His carvings fetch tens of thousands of dollars.

During the start of his carving career he befriended the Ward Brothers of Crisfield, MD. He spent many hours with both Lem and Steve discussing the latest trends in decoy carving. They had a great influence in helping Lynn develop his own style of carving.

The picture to the right is one of the last known pictures taken of Lynn before he passed away on May 26, 2008. He is holding an unfinished decorative carving that he had started decades before and never finished. The picture was taken by Doug Fuller, a collector and good friend of Lynn. Doug said, "Lynn never finished the carving because his disease made him so weak he was unable to even pick up a paint brush."





Semipalmated Sandpiper  
*Calidris Puffilla*

Everette Lynn Forehand was born in Edenton, NC on November 10, 1931. His early childhood was spent on a farm in Edenton, where he enjoyed learning about wildlife. He developed his love of wood working from his father and grandfather who were Master Wagon Wheel Smiths. In his teens his family moved to Norfolk, where his father could find work at the shipyard to support the family. He graduated from Maury High School. His early ventures into artistry were as a wildlife artist. It was after meeting the Ward brothers and several other carvers he picked up woodcarving and developed his superb skills.

Lynn served on the original Board of Directors and was a charter member of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild. He was instrumental in organizing the first Mid-Atlantic Waterfowl Festival held at the Virginia Beach Dome in 1976. He contributed carvings to the festival to help raise money. He also taught several carving seminars at the festivals. He helped develop the carving competition rules and prizes for this show. Over the years he won many of these competitions and then served as a competition judge. His influence over the guild and Virginia Beach festival is remarkable. He then grew into an amazing influence on the entire world of woodcarving.



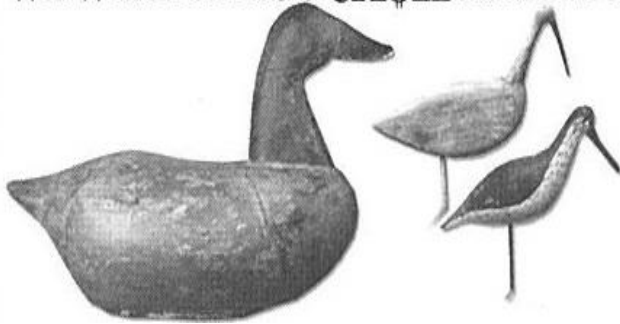
Forehand rarely carved any bird without a complete study of the species. This included pictures, drawings, taxidermist mounts, and even frozen skins; which he often ordered from a museum in North Carolina. "Give the man a bird and he would learn every line, curve, and color of that creature", observed Bobby Byrd, a close longtime friend of Lynn. "when it came to birds, he was a master, Lynn was a true artist!"

Lynn Forehand was an artist, carver, mentor, teacher, judge, committed member of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, and a loyal friend.

# DECOYS WANTED

WE BUY WOODEN OR CANVAS DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS & SHOREBIRDS...  
WHAT IS YOUR DECOY WORTH? IT COULD BE WORTH THOUSANDS!

WE WILL PAY YOU **CASH** FOR ANY OLD DECOYS AND HUNTING ITEMS



**FREE** DECOY IDENTIFICATION  
AND EVALUATIONS  
*of Single Decoys or Entire Collections*

BY MARK CROMWELL

**(757) 721-2746**

*Member North Carolina Decoy Collectors Assoc.*

### *Upcoming Guild Events:*

01/10/2017 Docent Training [at the Museum]  
6:00pm-8pm

01/17/2017: Board Meeting [at the Museum]  
6:00pm

01/18/2017 de Witt Open House  
Circuit Court Clerk's Office  
5:30pm-8pm

01/21/2017 Winter Wildlife Festival  
Princess Anne Rec Center  
10am-5pm

01/30/2017 5pm-9pm Dine Out for The deWitt  
Il'giardino's Ristorante  
910 Atlantic Ave.

02/07/2017: Back Bay Wildfowl Guild  
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:30pm  
Speaker: TBA



## CEDAR ISLAND HUNT AND RESCUE

By Al Henley

John Williams owner of Cedar Island Club, market hunter and noted decoy carver of swan and ruddy duck decoys was entertaining a group of hunters on Cedar Island located in Back Bay, Princess Anne County. On a cold morning of January, 1894 he was notified a three mast bark, CLYTHIA, had wrecked on the Atlantic coast about a mile north of the North Carolina line in an area called Wash Woods, Va. Wash Woods was a little thriving village of two hundred farmers and watermen who made a living from the land and the waters just like many other families in the area. The village had two general stores and two churches. John immediately went to Wash Woods community by boat to be of assistance along with other villagers. When arriving; the presence of the Lifesaving Service at Wash Woods and False Cape was already in full swing. he learned the bark was on its way from Genoa, Italy, to Baltimore, Md., loaded with marble. The captain came ashore first in the breeches buoy to learn of his whereabouts. He said he thought he was entering the Chesapeake Bay off Cape Henry and found himself ashore between two sand bars. He returned to his ship in breeches buoy and began sending his crew ashore one at a time in the buoy and included eight Italians, seven Swedes and a black man from the wreck. The black man had a large market basket and inside was a beautiful brown haired ducking dog. All crew were saved and were taken in by local villagers from the storm for food and warmth. As an appreciation for John Williams's assistance the dog was given to John, this splendid animal became the brood dog for scores of ducking dogs through Knotts Island and Back Bay. The dog retrieved waterfowl for John and his daughter Hattie while living on Cedar Island, eventually the dog died of old age. The captain also gave John Williams a small marble dog and a small market basket in appreciation for his assistance in the rescue. The marble dog, basket and a photograph of the bark was passed to his daughter Hattie Williams Waterfield and to her son V. R. Waterfield. An attempt years later was made to salvage the marble on board the ship, however the marble was not salvageable due to sea worms had destroyed its value. It was also rumored the bark had a marble figurehead on its bow however the old photograph and exploration after the wreck found no traces of a marble figurehead.

This story was provided by Albert (AL) Henley, great grandson of John Williams. Al has published a book "BACK BAY THE GREAT PROVIDER" The book is filled with historically correct information about events in the Back Bay, Munden Point and Pongo area. The book is on sale in the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum Gift Shop.

### DOCENT CLASSES TO START JANUARY 10, 2017

Docent Classes will start January 10, 2017 in the de Witt Cottage at 6:00pm. If you have some time during the summer to help visitors at the de Witt Cottage to enjoy and learn more about the cottage, Back Bay, the de Witt family, local hunt clubs, decoys, carving and Virginia Beach history then you will want to attend these fun and educational classes. Come out and enjoy friends, soup, sandwich, and drink. All while learning more about your Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Heritage. Let's see how many docents we can train this winter. Email [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org) or call (757) 437-8432 if you are interested.



## Understanding Waterfowl: Ducks in Motion

A closer look at the biomechanics of waterfowl movements

*Reprinted from Ducks Unlimited Website*

*By J. Dale James, Ph.D.*

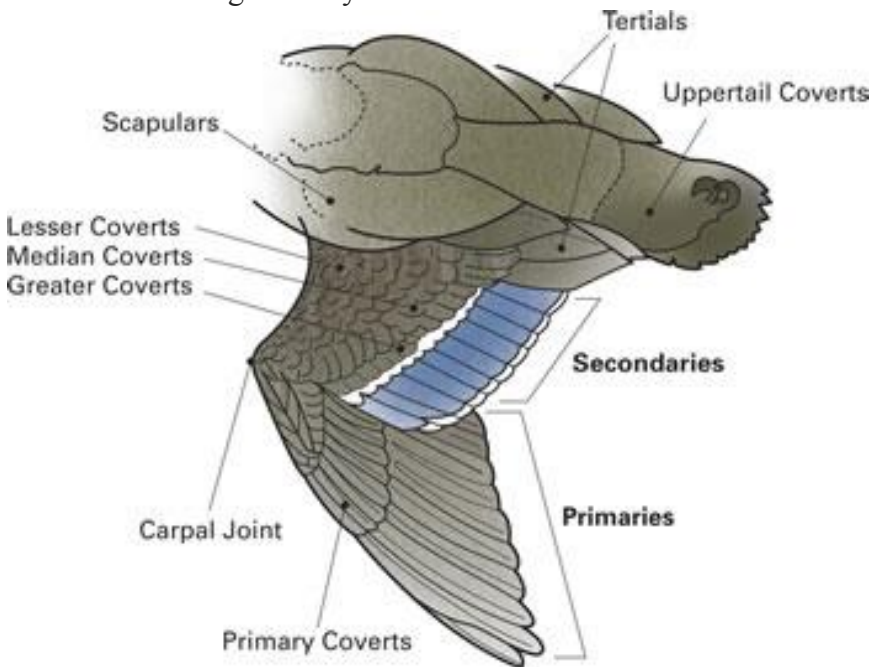
Whether it's a huge flock of lesser snow geese passing overhead, a hen pintail leading her recently hatched brood overland, or a canvasback diving for aquatic vegetation, waterfowl are fascinating to watch when they are on the move.



Years of natural selection have made waterfowl exceptionally well adapted to their environments, allowing the birds to fill diverse ecological niches. This process has resulted in great variation in the body structures of waterfowl, which affects how the birds fly, swim, and walk.

There are few spectacles in nature more impressive than the annual migrations of waterfowl across this continent, and it's the marvel of flight that allows these impressive bird movements to occur. Waterfowl wings provide the two essential elements of flight: lift and thrust. Primary feathers (the outer flight feathers) provide thrust, which is the force that propels a bird through the air and maintains forward momentum. The secondary feathers (the inner flight feathers) provide lift, the force that pushes a flying bird in an upward direction. Other special adaptations for flying that are shared by all waterfowl include a streamlined body, lightweight hollow bones, and a rigid skeleton.

The wings of each waterfowl species are designed to help the birds exploit specific habitat types. For example, dabbling ducks spend much of their time feeding and resting on small, shallow wetlands, where the birds are vulnerable to a variety of predators. Thus dabblers have long, broad wings that enable them to take off quickly and to maneuver gracefully around trees and other obstacles. In contrast, diving ducks frequent large lakes,



rivers, and bays, often diving to great depths while feeding. Consequently, their wings are shorter, narrower, and swept back like those of a fighter jet. This design enables diving ducks to fly at high speeds over open water. It also allows them to compress their wings tightly against their body while diving. The trade-off is that diving ducks must run across the water to reach the speed necessary for takeoff and beat their wings more rapidly to remain airborne. This relationship between the size of a bird's wings and its body is known as wing loading. Thus, dabblers exhibit low wing loading, while divers have high wing loading.

Muscles, joints, and feather all work together when a bird takes to the air. During flight, each feather type labeled above performs a specific duty to keep the bird aloft.

The legs and feet of waterfowl play an important role in the birds' movements on land and in water. Designed primarily for paddling, the legs of waterfowl are set back on the body. It's that placement, along with their large webbed feet, that gives the birds their characteristic waddle when they walk. Geese and dabbling ducks often feed on land and typically make their nests there, so their legs are not positioned as far back as those of diving ducks. Among North America's waterfowl, black-bellied whistling ducks are especially well adapted for walking. Black-bellies have a longer metatarsus (the leg bone that attaches to the toe bones) and smaller feet than other waterfowl, which enables them to walk gracefully on land.

Waterfowl developed webbed feet to help them swim and dive more efficiently in wetland environments. While swimming, waterfowl push both backward and downward with their legs and feet. The webbing between their toes spreads out on the down stroke to create more surface area and push more water. The toes are then folded together or turned inward on the forward stroke to minimize water resistance. This motion provides both the lift and thrust needed to propel waterfowl quickly and efficiently through the water. Diving ducks such as redheads, scaup, and canvasbacks use their webbed feet to generate the force required to dive long distances underwater. Divers also paddle constantly while bottom feeding to offset the buoyancy of their bodies and keep from floating to the surface. Swans, geese, and dabbling ducks paddle with their feet to keep their bodies partially submerged while tipping up to feed in shallow water.

The many interesting adaptations that affect how waterfowl fly, swim, and walk developed over time to allow the birds to thrive in diverse habitats. The next time you see a duck in motion, consider the remarkable design behind the bird's movements as well as the importance of conserving the wetlands and other habitats that support the waterfowl we all enjoy. *Dr. Dale James is manager of conservation planning in DU's Southern Region.*

#### COLLECTOR'S SHELF

This month's Collector's Shelf highlights a bird from the Tinkham Collection, which is currently on display in the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. It is a Bennie Ansell Pintail used at the famed Flyway Club. Bennie was a market hunter, guide and caretaker at the hunt club. It is a rare decoy because the majority of Flyway Club decoys were burned up in the 1958 fire that destroyed the main building. The building was rebuilt in 1961 by the original owner's son Ogden R. Reid. The Flyway Club is still in its original design and original location on the mainland of Currituck sound. It's currently for sale if you happen to have a cool 2 million just laying around. For more information about the Flyway Club you can go to this link:



[http://r.search.yahoo.com/\\_ylt=A0LEVy2U3mtY.EcAIZZXNy0A;\\_ylu=X3oDMTByOHZyb21tBGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDBHNIYwNzcg--/RV=2/RE=1483493140/RO=10/RU=http%3a%2f%2fmoplandman.com%2fland-for-sale%2fsold-the-flyway-a-historic-knotts-island-nc-duck-hunting-club%2f/RK=0/RS=f0wwDjwiRRtwIBsle\\_nUfOXN30c-](http://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=A0LEVy2U3mtY.EcAIZZXNy0A;_ylu=X3oDMTByOHZyb21tBGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDBHNIYwNzcg--/RV=2/RE=1483493140/RO=10/RU=http%3a%2f%2fmoplandman.com%2fland-for-sale%2fsold-the-flyway-a-historic-knotts-island-nc-duck-hunting-club%2f/RK=0/RS=f0wwDjwiRRtwIBsle_nUfOXN30c-)

If you would like a free evaluation of your old decoys, contact Jeff Tinkham at 757-724-7131 or [jeff@tinkhamlaw.com](mailto:jeff@tinkhamlaw.com).

### DINE OUT FOR THE DE WITT

IL'giardino's Ristorante has graciously offered to help raise some money for the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. On Monday January 30, 2017 the museum will receive 10% of all food sold between 5:00pm and 9:00pm. So we need to fill up the ristorante with guild members, their friends, and family. The more the better! It's an easy way to raise money by simply going out to dinner, relaxing and enjoying your meal with good friends. So grab your better half, a few friends and meet us down at IL'giardino's Ristorante, 910 Atlantic Ave. on Monday January 30, 2017.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A fresh new year is once again upon us. It's the time to be thankful for the blessings of the past year and to take stock of all our achievements. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the hard work of our volunteers, Board of Directors and the loyal and committed support of our membership. 2016 was a successful year because of you!

At the same time, New Year 2017 is a brand new year to start fresh, to start strong, and yet another chance to do everything we want to do this year. The amazing thing with chances is how we get them every year. So, set positive goals and resolutions. Hang them where you can see them every hour of the New Year. Be excited for what you can achieve this 2017. In the meantime, enjoy the fireworks, the loud and boisterous family dinners, and the quiet intimate meals with your loved one. **Happy New Year!**

### FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

The start of the New Year is like starting a new chapter in the book of your life. It's the chance to reflect on the past 365 days while also setting goals to propel you towards happiness. Maybe in the past year you made progress on your health, helped a cherished family member or friend, enjoyed a vacation, or simply spent time with loved ones—whatever it may be, now's the time to cherish the memories you made, and think about what could make the next year even better. 2017 kicks off a new opportunity to grow our membership. We have some exciting plans to reach out to our community and invite them into our organization. But the best recruiting tool for new members is you! By reaching out to people you know and encouraging them to join, you can have a positive impact on the growth of our organization. If every member can find a new member to join we can double our current membership! It's simple! Just try it in January by inviting some friends to "Dine Out for the deWitt" on January 30<sup>th</sup> at IL'giardino's Ristorante.

### 2016 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

There is always a risk in acknowledging individuals publically for their contributions to our organization because someone may get left out or feel that their contributions did not receive adequate praise. But, I think the risk is worth it! This organization could not function without the countless hours contributed by our many volunteers. So I hope you will join me in congratulating Elaine Polizos as our Volunteer of the Year. Elaine was our museum volunteer on Mondays all summer long! She was also instrumental in the success of our fall Barbeque by obtaining several of the silent auction items. She is also a very good decoy carver. Thank you Elaine for all you do to support our museum.



## BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Tinkham, President      Wayne Jarman, Vice President  
Jim Mehne, Secretary      Roger Shope, Treasurer  
Fletcher Bryant      Werner Seibel  
Jamie Champe      Herb Videll  
Gentry Childress      Al Henley  
William Walsh, Jr., Curator

### MUSEUM CARVERS

Tuesday:      Pete DiPietro  
Wednesday:      Roy Carlson  
                         Ed Morrison, Herb Videll  
Thursday:      Hank Grigolite  
"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club:      Al, Jamie, John & Pete  
Friday:      Gary Holt  
Saturday:      Gentry Childress & Ben Purvis  
Sunday:      Herb Verhaagen

### MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Tuesday:      Bob Bishop      1p-5p  
Wednesday:      Archie Johnson      10a-2p  
Thursday:      Joe Leo      10a-2p  
Friday:      OPEN  
Saturday:      OPEN  
Sunday:      OPEN  
Museum Grounds      Nancy Lekberg

### MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director      Ann Smith, Gift Shop Manager

### MUSEUM CONTACT INFORMATION

ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM  
1113 Atlantic Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Telephone: 757.437.8432  
Facsimile: 757.437.9950  
Website: [www.awhm.org](http://www.awhm.org)  
Email: [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org)

**You can now pay your dues online at [awhm.org](http://awhm.org) !**

*Please understand that we depend on every dollar to operate the museum. If you have not paid your 2017 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away.. The Corporate and Sponsor levels are for anyone who wishes to support the Guild and Museum through those amounts. All members are encouraged to give at those levels, if they are able. You may also invite people you know to join us-at whatever level they are able! Please return your form to the Museum as soon as possible.*

### 2017 DUES

\$25/YR INDIVIDUAL

\$35/FAMILY

\$200/YR CORPORATE

\$500/YR SPONSOR



### BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD 2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT PAID \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ [CELL] \_\_\_\_\_

*January 1, 2017 kicked off our Annual Membership Campaign. Each member is encouraged to find one new member to join the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild. Our very existence depends on growing the membership of the Guild. Please encourage everyone you know to become a member!*

***Please pass this newsletter on to any potential New Member!***