

THE WILDFOWLER

JUNE 2017

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories

William (Bill) DeLoatch, Jr.



Bill DeLoatch was a lifelong resident of Tidewater. He was born and raised in Norfolk. He graduated from Maury High School. He was a U. S. Navy Veteran of World War II. A graduate of Norfolk Naval Station's Apprentice Program; He completed a 41 year career with Norfolk Naval Rework Facility. He also built a second career as an inspector with the City of Norfolk's Field Engineering Office until his retirement from that position in 1993. He and his wife Jean were married for 65 years. He and Jean had one daughter, Susan, and two sons, Don and Rob.

He discovered carving while attending The Mid-Atlantic Waterfowl Festival in 1991. He became a student of Lynn Forehand and joined the guild one year later! Bill became a fixture at every Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Meeting. He truly enjoyed every member of the guild. He began volunteering as the

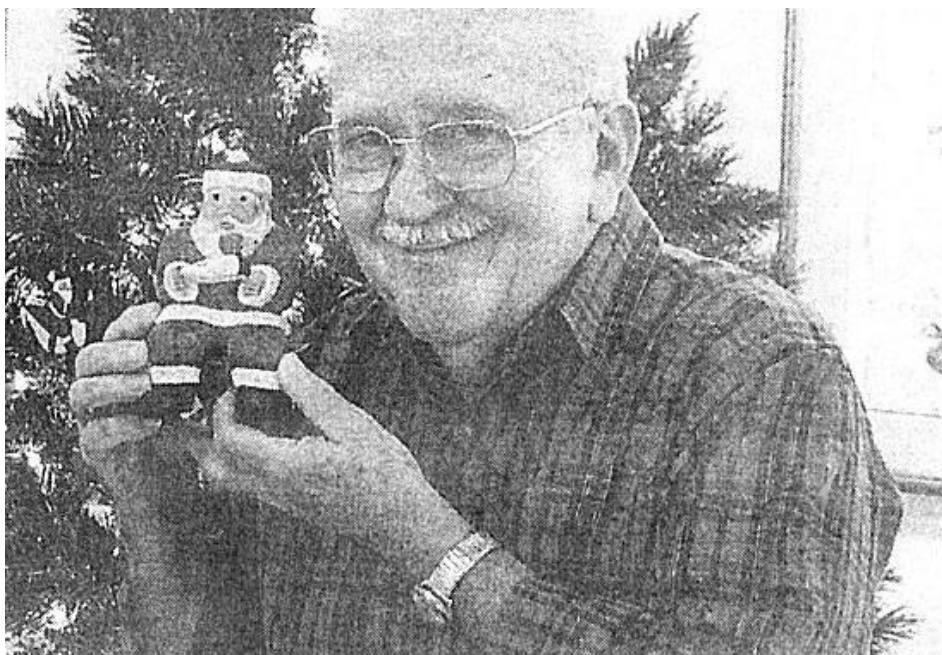
resident carver on Thursdays when the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum opened its doors at the de Witt Cottage in 1995. He continued in that capacity until his health forced him to slow down and move into Westminster Canterbury. Bill was a member of the museum board of directors and the treasurer for the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild for more than 10 years.

While learning his carving skills carving ducks and birds, he soon branched out into other creative wooden sculpture forms. One of Bill's favorite themes was Santa Claus. The picture to the right shows six of Bill's jolly old Kris Kringles each holding a miniature redhead duck. Bill carved several of the little Saint Nicks that he gave away as presents to very special friends and family. Mary Reid Barrow once wrote in an article about Bill, "If Bill had a



beard he would look just like the little sculptures he carved of Santa”. If you ever got one it was because Bill thought of you as a very special friend.

In addition to being an award winning carver; he gave selflessly of his time to anyone who was willing to sit down and learn how to carve. He taught classes for the Norfolk Department of Recreation, Virginia Beach Recreation Department and the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.



Upcoming Guild Events:

06/06/2017 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Speaker: Lilley Gilbert
Virginia Beach Historical Society

06/06, 13, 20, 27/2017: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum
Meets every Tuesday

06/20/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

09/04/2017: Labor Day

09/05/2017 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Speaker: TBA

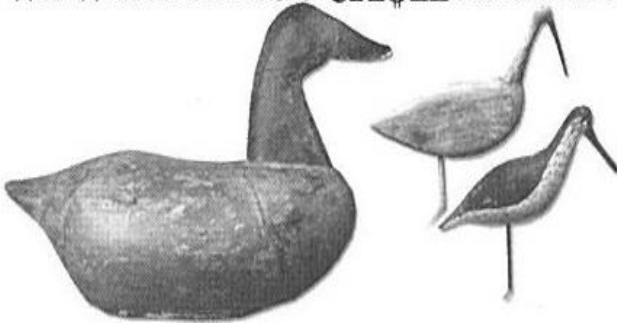
09/19/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm



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.


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to report that our efforts at restoring our city funding were successful. The City Council, on May 9th, unanimously accepted the City Manager's recommendation to fully restore the city grant to the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum in fiscal year 2018. But, this is not the end of the story! We will face this challenge again when the 2019 budget is proposed. We must find some alternative funding sources and methods of fund raising if we want the museum to continue to be successful. The Board of Directors has approved a complete restructuring of our memberships and the benefits associated with each level. There will be an increase in individual and Family memberships beginning in January 2018. All memberships run on a calendar year. So if you have paid your 2017 membership dues, your membership is good until December 31, 2017. The new security system is 95% complete and should be totally operational by this coming weekend; June 3rd. The property has also been posted "No trespassing after dark". The Board of Directors has also identified several opportunities to raise funds for the Museum in the new fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2017. They include but are not limited to a Neptune Festival Craft Beer Tasting September 29th & 30th, Fall Barbeque on October 15th, Christmas Party and Auction on December 5th, and the continuation of "Dine out for the de Witt" in January, February, March, April, and concluding with the Lucky Oyster dinner-raffle on May 1st. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar so you can participate and not miss any of the fun and excitement.

DOCENT CLASSES TO CONTINUE IN JANUARY 2018

Stay tuned for details.





**Free Decoy
Identification and Evaluation**
By Jeff Tinkham
President of The Atlantic
Wildfowl Heritage Museum
Call (757) 721-7131 or
jeff@tinkhamlaw.com

COLLECTOR'S SHELF

This redhead in original paint was made by Back Bay resident, Robert W. Henley (1880-1960). Bob was born and raised on Ragged Island, and became a well-known boat builder and guide. Many referred to him by his nickname, Beach Boy. Beginning in 1912, he worked as the caretaker of the Pellitory Club, and continued managing that club's house and hunting operation until the late 1920s. By the 1930s, Bob had relocated to Muddy Creek Road near northern Back Bay.



For a free evaluation or identification of your decoys, contact Jeff Tinkham at
757-724-7131 or jeff@tinkhamlaw.com.

FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Our summer "Admissions Experiment" is in full swing and museum visitors are paying the new museum admission of \$2.00 per adult. The museum has changed out all of the exhibits in the carving, art, and photography galleries. Jeanie Drescher and Joe Leo have some beautiful Photographs on display in our Board Room. Herb Simeone, a painter from New York has several large original paintings on display in our main gallery. We also have carvings by James Best, Ned Burgess, Alphonso Tillett, Alvirah Wright, Bob Morse, Joe Hayman, Mark McNair, Cameron McIntyre, Bill Gipian, Frank Finney, and Greg McFeely. You need to come down to the museum and see the new exhibits! We also have many new items in the museum gift shop. I know I promised to send everyone new membership cards in May. Finding a solution for issuing the cards has proven to be either expensive or labor intensive and slow. So please be patient because I chose labor intensive and slow over the expensive solutions. You should receive them in June. We are working on the budget for the 2018 fiscal year and it appears we are going to finish the 2017 fiscal year at or near the projected budget goal.





Chandler Robbins, friend to birds and birdwatchers, dies at 98.

There were many days when Chandler Robbins rose before the sun to partake of the dawn chorus — the gentle coo of the [mourning dove](#), the dulcet strain of the [American robin](#), the fluting of the [wood thrush](#), all heralding the arrival of morning.

Among fellow birdwatchers, Mr. Robbins, who died March 20 at 98, was revered as a father of modern ornithology. He was the principal author of "[Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification](#)," a bible for millions of enthusiasts who spend their happiest hours scanning the skies for winged creatures. Mr. Robbins documented avian life around the world, including on the Pacific island of Midway, where in 1956 he tagged a young Laysan albatross who came to be known as Wisdom. She is the oldest known wild bird, a matriarch who [laid an egg](#) as recently as December.

But for more than six decades, he worked primarily in the environs of Washington, as an ornithologist at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Md. In the 1950s, he documented the damage wrought by the pesticide DDT, including its thinning effect on osprey and eagle eggshells. Rachel Carson, a colleague at the time, relied on his research for her 1962 environmental manifesto "Silent Spring."

An early champion of citizen science, Mr. Robbins founded the [North American Breeding Bird Survey](#), an initiative that has grown since its founding in 1965 to involve thousands of volunteer birders in an annual effort of exacting rigor to measure the continental bird population. It is one of the two most significant avian monitoring programs of its kind. Mr. Robbins participated in the other, the [National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count](#), for more than 80 years, said its director, Geoff LeBaron. "It is not an exaggeration at all to call him one of the giants of 20th century ornithology and bird conservation," John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, N.Y., said in an interview. Mr. Robbins said that his first conscious memory was of a display of mounted birds at the library in Belmont, Mass., where he was born Chandler Seymour Robbins on July 17, 1918. His father was a birder, and Chandler's brother Samuel also grew up to be a noted ornithologist. Other family passions included, fortuitously, the opera; a pair of opera glasses doubled as Mr. Robbins's first birding binoculars. He received a bachelor's degree in physics from Harvard University in 1940 and a master's degree in zoology from George Washington University a decade later. He declared himself a conscientious objector during World War II and joined the [Civilian Public Service](#), work that eventually brought him to the Patuxent Research Refuge. After retiring in 2005, he continued field research until shortly before his death. Washington, he observed, was an ideal region for birdwatchers because of its location along migration paths. A white-eyed vireo might be spotted en route from Mexico, or a ruby-throated hummingbird on the way from Panama, or a sooty shearwater from Tierra del Fuego.

"Just think — all the way from South America!" he once told The Washington Post, comparing the month of May to "the World Series of birding."



He was senior editor of the [“Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia”](#) but was most celebrated for his North American guide, first published in 1966 and known colloquially as the Golden Guide for the publishing series. Unlike predecessor guides, the book included a wealth of color images as well as maps of each bird’s breeding ground and migration path and a sonogram, or visual representation of its call. His name did not appear on the cover. “The astonishing thing about him is how modest he was,” said [Laura Erickson](#), an author of birding books including National Geographic’s “Pocket Guide to the Birds of North America” and host of the radio show [“For the Birds.”](#)

“Every single bird field guide, just about, has the name of the author embedded in the title — the Sibley guide, the Crossley guide, the Kaufman guide,” she added. “He never wanted that kind of acclaim. In everything he did, he was the consummate government worker, working as part of a team and doing his darnedest to make sure all the work was absolutely scientifically straightforward and honest.”

His Breeding Bird Survey, the U.S. Geological Survey [noted](#) in an online obituary, exploited “Americans’ twin passions for birds and cars.” Trained volunteers across the United States and Canada set out on assigned 24.5-mile stretches of road. At half-mile increments, they stop for precisely three minutes to count every bird seen or heard.

Fitzpatrick described the bird survey as “the gold standard,” a “piece of genius . . . long before people were thinking very deeply about population trends.”



The survey allowed Mr. Robbins to draw attention to forest fragmentation caused by road construction and other development. He showed that when a forest is fragmented, species that dwell on the forest edge tend to grow, while those that thrive in the interior tend to decline.

His wife of six decades, the former Eleanor Cooley, died in 2008. Survivors include four children, Jane Robbins and Nancy Robbins, both of Beltsville, Md., Stuart Robbins of Laurel and George Robbins of Pittsfield, N.H.; two grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Robbins, a Laurel resident, died in a Columbia, Md., hospital of congestive heart failure and other ailments, said Jane Robbins. Mr. Robbins was an unfancy man, turning down new binoculars in favor of the government-issue pair that had served him well for years. As he aged, he consented to one new device — a set of hearing aids. “I don’t want to hear people as much as I want to hear birds,” he [told](#) an interviewer for the Audubon Society. He was credited with tagging well over 115,000 birds but named his favorite as the [house wren](#), a plain brown creature that he loved, he [told](#) the Baltimore Sun, for its “amazingly high-pitched and intricate song.”

Reprinted from the Washington Post; Article by Emily Langer



PHOTOGRAPH FLASHBACK!



We come a very long way from this day!



What a mess!



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
Email: director@atwildfowl.org

You can now pay your dues online at 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. Beginning March 1, 2017, any listed member who has not paid their dues will receive an invoice from the museum director requesting payment of their annual dues

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!

