

THE WILDFOWLER

MAY 2017

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories

William S. (Bill) Johnson

Bill was raised in Norfolk by his mother and grandmother. He graduated from Maury High School where he was on the football and track teams. A graduate of Randolph Macon College, he was on the yearbook staff and the soccer and golf teams. He and Larry Lambert attended Kindergarten, High School and College together where they developed a love for wildfowl and duck hunting. They were fraternity brothers and lifelong friends. Together they hunted Back Bay, the Eastern Shore, and Argentina!

Bill began his career as a teacher of Spanish and English at Christ Church School in Middlesex County. He also taught at Norview Middle School in Norfolk before entering the banking profession. His first banking job was in the International Department at Virginia National Bank because he was multi-lingual. He became president of Virginia Beach Federal Savings and Loan Association, moving from there to head the Virginia Beach office of First American Savings and Loan. From First American he was selected to start the Construction Lending Department of Central Fidelity Bank. He retired from Central Fidelity as a senior vice president and became a volunteer and then director of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. Serving from 1995 through 1998. His community service activities included board member of the Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club, board member of the Tidewater Home Builders' Association, and member of Rotary International. Bill was a carver and painter of decoys, shorebirds, and miniature





ducks. He enjoyed hunting, bird watching, skiing, and golfing. He had a great love of music, playing the guitar, banjo, and ukulele. Sailing was his passion. He participated in many races as a teen and young man. He enjoyed teaching his daughters to sail and spent many hours fishing the Lynnhaven River, the Chesapeake Bay, the waters of Florida, and North Carolina with his son. He was very involved in youth sports, coaching soccer, basketball, and baseball. His service to and love of King's Grant Presbyterian Church, where he served as elder, brought great meaning to his life. Bill was probably the most kind and gentle person I have ever had the pleasure to meet.



Upcoming Guild Events:

05/09/2017: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum

05/16/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

05/18/2017: Docent Training
6:00 pm, at the museum

05/21/2017 Celebration of Life
Unveiling of Plaques in Statue Garden
De Witt Cottage,
1113 Atlantic Avenue
2:00pm

05/29/2017: Memorial Day
Museum begins opening on Mondays

06/06/2017 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Speaker: TBA

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR BUDDY COPPEDGE & CHARLIE SEIDEL

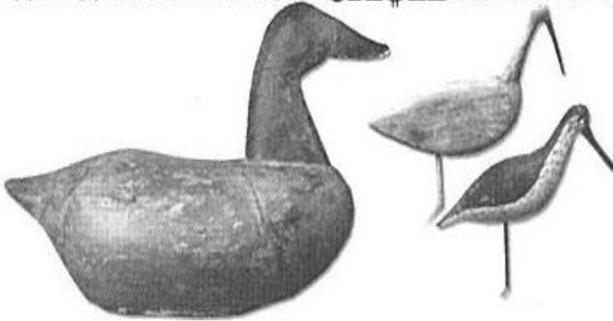
On Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 2:00pm, we will unveil plaques in our Statue Garden and celebrate the lives of Buddy Coppedge and Charlie Seidel. There will be a short program and then we will celebrate with grilled hotdogs, hors d'oeuvres, and beverage. Please call the museum RSVP at (757) 437-5432 or email the director at director@atwildfowl.org if you plan to attend.



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.

FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

April has been a very hectic month. Right before our last membership meeting we learned that the proposed city budget was calling for a 25% cut to our city funding grant. This called for an emergency Board Meeting and enlisting our best politicians to address this issue. Al Henley made a great presentation to the City Council on April 18th on behalf of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. We had 19 members in attendance and we believe that we have convinced City Council to restore the full funding of our city grant! Keep your fingers crossed; the City Council votes on the budget on May 9th. The reason that we are faced with this possible budget cut every year is our City Manager, Dave Hansen, believes that exempt organizations should be self-funding. He demands that they have a business model where they stand on their own. With this in mind, your Board of Directors has approved a \$2.00 admission charge for every adult 16 and older; beginning on Memorial Day, Monday May 29, 2017. Each member of the museum will receive new membership cards in the mail during the month of May that will allow you free entry to the museum. We will also maintain a list of current members at the gift shop desk. If you have a Family Membership with more than two members; you will need to contact the director and inform him of the names to go on any additional membership cards. The Board has also approved a complete restructuring of our memberships and the benefits associated with each level. You will be hearing more about the new memberships when the new fiscal year starts in July. 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 museum has changed out all of the exhibits in the carving, art, and photography galleries. You need to come down to the museum and see the new exhibits! We are also installing a new security system that will allow us to monitor the exterior porches around the cottage at night. The property has also been posted "No trespassing after dark". I want to thank everyone who came out to the Lucky Oyster last Tuesday night. We had a great meal, raffled off some very nice prizes, and raised a little bit of money for the museum.



DOCENT CLASSES TO CONTINUE MAY 18, 2017

Our next class will be about the local hunt clubs and the people who owned and hunted in them. 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. It's still not too late to participate. Let's see how many docents we can train this winter. Email director@atwildfowl.org or call (757) 437-8432 if you are interested.

	<p>Free Decoy Identification and Evaluation By Jeff Tinkham President of The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum Call (757) 721-7131 or jeff@tinkhamlaw.com</p>	
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COLLECTOR'S SHELF

This pair of redheads was made by Captain Wayland Baum (1904-2007) from Wanchese, NC. He was a hunting and fishing guide from the Depression until the late 1950s. Wayland was one of the first to offer offshore fishing charters on the Outer Banks. His decoys are relatively small and often have a forward stance to mimic swimming ducks. Wayland was a hearty soul who was quite active until the end. He commercially fished until he was 82, and he was known to have shingled and painted the exterior of his house when he was about 100 years old.



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





Delbert "Cigar" Daisey

Delbert "Cigar" Daisey, born in 1928, lived and worked in Chincoteague, Virginia. A multitasking young man, he worked as the instrument man on a survey crew for thirteen years, fished in the summers, and hunted wildfowl in the winters. His first decoys were a rig made with his father, Herbert Daisey, in 1941, using a recycled World War II submarine raft. He describes his early carving career as "making decoys on the side," in combination with other jobs, but he finally began carving as a full-time career in the 1960s.

His nickname was given to him by a game warden when he lost some cigars while stealing ducks from the warden's traps (some say he left the cigars to taunt the warden, but we may never

know). One of the last surviving people who made a living as a market hunter, Daisey became an avid conservationist later in his life, serving as the resident carver at Chincoteague Island's Refuge Waterfowl Museum.

Cigar Daisey was instrumental in assisting William F. Mackey build the collection of decoys he documented in Mackey's 1987 book *American Bird Decoys*, considered the classic survey by one of the most influential collectors of his time. Daisey has told many stories of the truckloads of decoys he rounded up for his good friend.



Daisey's own decoy carvings are recognized for both their artist value and function as working decoys. His works include black ducks, mallards, redheads, red-breasted mergansers (locally known as "hairy heads".) and his most well-known decoy, the ruddy duck, often crafted in pairs. The only fully decorative decoy he has ever made is a 1973 pintail, created as a present for his wife. The piece was featured in *National Geographic* in June 1980. Its value has been estimated at \$150,000. His work appears in the Smithsonian Institution, the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, and the Chincoteague Refuge Waterfowl Museum. Cigar passed away in April

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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!

