

THE WILDFOWLER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

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

The Cedar Island Club: Part One in a series of OUR HERITAGE IS OUR LEGACY

From the archives of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum and

Gun Clubs and Decoys of Back Bay & Currituck Sound,

Archie Johnson and Bud Coppedge, Curbac Press, 1991



Located in the middle of Back Bay, Cedar Island originally consisted of more than 400 acres. The wind driven waves of the bay eventually cut through this narrow landmass and formed two islands-Big Cedar and Little Cedar.

John Williams, a farmer, waterman and market hunter built a spacious two-story home for his wife and four daughters on Big Cedar Island in the 1880's. The fertile soil provided the family with vegetables such as corn, squash and watermelons. Fruit trees and flowers were also plentiful.

A boarding lodge was built adjacent to the home to accommodate hunters. This consisted of a large clubroom, kitchen and six bedrooms.

Other structures were built to support family, friends and sportsmen. They included a smokehouse, stable, barn, water well and icehouse. Ice was cut from the bays and ponds, brought to the icehouse and stacked around the walls from the earthen floor to the ceiling. This allowed food to be preserved as late as June.

Sportsmen hunted from brushed point blinds around the island and from battery rigs on Back Bay. Canvasbacks, Redheads, Scaup, marsh ducks and Canada Geese were taken in large numbers. Robert and Morrison, brothers of John Williams, and long time friend Ivy Stevens served as guides for the "sports", as they were called. These guides also hunted for market and supplied waterfowl in great numbers to the restaurants of Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York.

John Williams and Ivy Stevens are recognized as two of the finest decoy makers of the Back Bay/Currituck Sound region.

In 1914, John Williams sold his island to a millionaire [today, he might be a billionaire] tycoon named George Gould, son of Jay Gould. Williams stayed on as caretaker until the early 1920's when New Jersey Senator James Barbour acquired the property. Virginia Beach Judge Paul Ackiss and group of fellow sportsman purchased the island in 1940. The last private ownership of the property was in the names of Jack Griswold and Les Hoggard. In 1977, the Commonwealth of Virginia acquired the property and it is now a part of False Cape State Park.

The property has continued to erode and is now an uninhabited cedar forested island. The home that John Williams built burned down and all that remains are the ruins of the second clubhouse that was constructed in the 1930's.



Very rare swan by John Williams of Cedar Island, Va., last quarter of 19th c.



Back Bay Wildfowl Guild

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone:

Hope you had a wonderful summer and were able to have a lot of fun activities. We are now in the fall and all the busy activities that go along with this beautiful season. I love looking out and seeing the changes of color on the leaves. It seems like the birds are busy getting ready for the winter season.

We started off our fall meetings with a delightful speaker, Heck Rice; he demonstrated how and why he made canvas decoys in a certain way. We all enjoyed his presentation and hope that he will make a return visit soon. I want to thank Wayne Jarman and all the others for their help in getting speakers for our meetings.

I hope you have been down to see the beautiful Edgar T. Brown Virginia Beach Yesterday Gallery and the ongoing changes being made in there and throughout the museum. It is a place that we can be proud to show all America and visitors from other countries.

It was with the planning of Bill Walsh and Tom Beatty that the Edgar T. Brown Virginia Beach Yesterday Gallery was designed. Bill wanted this room to reflect the same type of atmosphere that is throughout the entire museum. Bill and Clark worked very hard to put the displays together and they did a fantastic job. In raising funds to do this we had our fundraisers starting at the Lucky Oyster and then our Large Auction Fundraiser which was spearheaded by Alice Walsh. I want to thank her and all you who helped in any way to make these fundraisers successful. I am very thankful for such a wonderful organization in keeping the spirit of Virginia Beach alive and well.

Plan to be at our November 4, 2013 meeting. This is an extremely important meeting because we will be electing the Board of Directors and Officers to the Board. Please let your voice be heard.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for all their hard work and for what they have accomplished over the past year. Here's hoping for another successful year.

Thank you,

Ann Verhaagen, President

ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to the Guild and all friends of the Museum:

Hopefully, receiving this newsletter will NOT put you in a state of apoplexy since it's been so long since you received one. The format of this newsletter is different from those before it. Please note that it might change again. In order to serve its purpose, a newsletter should be informative and educational, as well as supporting the mission of the organization. The mission of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild [and the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum] is stated: "Our mission is to preserve, perpetuate and exhibit historic waterfowl artifacts and wildfowling history of the region and to actively promote interest in the wildfowl arts." In other words, we are not a static organization with one major program [the museum]. This mission statement should always be at the forefront of what we do.

Therefore, the thrust of my message for this newsletter is to inform you that I, as your Museum Director, will be spending a great deal of time over the winter and early spring developing relationships with other museums [some like us, some not so much] and other community partners/stakeholders to create collaborative efforts in order to reach out more effectively to fulfill our stated mission. That said, I am going to need YOUR help.

The Museum is the program of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild. It is my hope that, in due time, we will have numerous education programs for people of all ages. And I might as well say it now... There seems to be enough interest in "bringing back a show" to consider doing so. For planning purposes, please do not expect that to occur before 2015. For YOUR planning purposes, *expect* to be asked to help. It might be even better if you volunteer for something you'd like to do before someone volunteers you for something you don't want to do...

I am extremely grateful to be here because I think we are on the cusp of something truly spectacular. Of course, I've lived most of my life as an optimistic person. But there seems to be something in the air around here....Oh yeah-it must be the KITES!!!!

My thanks for your continued patience and future assistance – even with the newsletter! **Best – Clark**

MUSEUM BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Visitors: 2012 2013
Memorial Day Weekend- 6,701 11,880
September 30

Gross Receipt Numbers/Comparisons are available upon request, but suffice it to say that our summer was stellar. The major difference this year was "Kites". The Museum had at least 4 bird kites flying per day, which increased our exposure to many Virginia Beach visitors. Many guests came in to ask about the kites, but once they got inside, they realized that this Museum is the "coolest place on the Beach." And let's face it, with kites AND CARVERS the de Witt Cottage is a fine place to be.



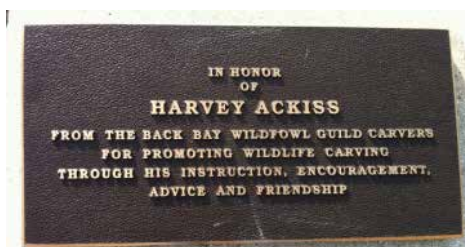
CARVER HARVEY ACKISS HONORED



Saturday, March 23, 2013-
The Saturday Carving Class
took a break from their lessons
to honor and recognize the
significant contributions that

Mr. Harvey Ackiss has given to our regional world of carving over many years. Because of his efforts and his outreach to students, decorative carving is alive and well.

Harvey was honored with a sculpture plaque donated by the Saturday Carving Class and other Back Bay Wildfowl Guild members. Mr. Al Brandtner stated, "We wanted to honor Harvey now instead of just remembering him later-he can enjoy it now, too."



EDGAR T. BROWN

VIRGINIA BEACH YESTERDAY GALLERY



May 20, 2013 - Grand Opening of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum's newest gallery.

Over 70 people attended, with the keynote address

delivered by Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on the back porch [facing Atlantic Avenue], due to space constraints upstairs.

The new gallery has made a significant impact on the quality of experience for our many visitors. Mr. Brown's video slide show is available for viewing and, with the gallery itself, helps visitors understand the rich and varied history of the Town and City of Virginia Beach. The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum will be forever in debt to Edgar's family, particularly his wife, Mrs. Sue Brown for sharing much of his research and her/their continuing support of the Museum.

Thanks is also due to Mr. Bill Walsh, our volunteer Museum Curator, for his COUNTLESS hours of work in designing the gallery, doing research and setting up the Gallery.

Members of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild can take great pride in what helps the "Gem of the Virginia Beach Oceanfront" sparkle even more brightly.



One of Eight new cabinets in the New ETB VB Yesterday Gallery.



Herb Videll, Herb Verhaagen and Elaine Polizos examining a display of Va. Beach artifacts

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Gift Shop Volunteers and Carvers make a HUGE difference in the quality of our visitors' experiences. We need Gift Shop Volunteers [it's not hard work] on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. We would also like to have a carver come in on Sundays. If you are willing to invest your time, please contact Ann Smith, Gift Shop Manager, or Clark Mandigo, Museum Director at 757.437.8432 or email us at atlanticwildfowl@verizon.net. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY

YOU ARE INVITED

WHO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD and your guests

WHAT: The Annual Christmas/Holiday Soiree

WHEN: Tuesday, December 12, 2013

Social Hour [almost] begins at 5:46 p.m.
Potluck Supper [Meat/Entrees provided by the Museum] begins at 6:42 p.m.

WHERE: Virginia Beach Fraternal Order of Police Lodge: 941 S. Birdneck Rd., Va. Beach, VA 23451 [same place it has been for the last few years]

WHY: To recognize all of the Volunteers who invest their time to make the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum such a wonderful place-AND to raise as much money for AWHM is as possible in one night.

To place your reservation, please contact the Museum by phone [757.437.8432] or email atlanticwildfowl@verizon.net

If you have any items/services available for the auction, please bring them by the Museum or contact us with what you are willing to donate. Cash donations are always appreciated and accepted!



Who made this cake in 2010?

If you are willing to help plan this Christmas/Holiday party and/or get donations for the auction, please contact the Museum Staff as soon as possible. We do appreciate your willingness to help.

BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

MEETING

INCLUDING

**BOARD AND OFFICERS' ELECTIONS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2013**

CRITICALLY IMPORTANT

**Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Meeting
Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum
@ the de Witt Cottage
1113 Atlantic Avenue Va. Beach, VA 23451**

**Social hour: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting/Election: 7:00 p.m.**

The nominations committee proposes the following individuals for election to Board Membership:

Mr. Jeff Tinkham, Esq.

Dr. Werner Seibel

Existing Members for "re-election"

Ira Abbott, Bill Walsh, Herb Videll, Gentry Childress, Ed Morrison

Slate of Officers nominated for election:

President: TBA

Vice President: Ken Wilson

Secretary: Jim Mehne

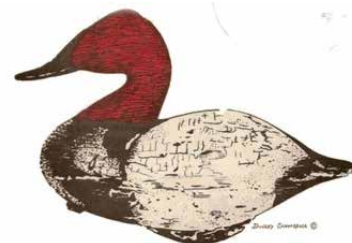
Treasurer: Roy Carlson

Nominations "from the floor" the night of election [Monday, November 4, 2013] will be added to the ballot upon a seconded and approved motion by the general membership.

All attendees are encouraged to bring [per minutes of October BBWG meeting] "some sort of item pertaining to Wood Ducks". The Director of the Museum asks that live ducks be left outside for display and also requests that nothing that attracts bugs be allowed in the building. The Director has been informed that he may have to stay outside and fly "his" kites since he attracts bugs.

[Let's see how many people actually READ this newsletter...]

All members of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild should make every effort to be present at this meeting.



DONATIONS RECEIVED

Sculpture Plaques

From:

Ducks Unlimited

In Honor/Memory of

in memory of
Thomas Ficarra

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Carvers

in honor of
Harvey Ackiss

Brick Pavers

From:

Archie Johnson

in honor of
Bud and Julie Coppedge

Don & Gail Harris

in memory of
VB Police Officer, A.E. Rocky Smith

BBWG Board of Directors

in honor of Charlie Hurd
"The Wildfowler" Newsletter Editor

Jeff Tinkham

in honor of Clay Tinkham
2013 World Youth Decoy Carving Champion

Scott Burke

In memory of
Milton Burke

Special/In-Kind Donations

Ed Morrison

Gentry Childress

Heck Rice

Al Brandtner

Fletcher Bryant

Russell & Pam Walsh

***Donations to the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild &
Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum
are tax deductible.***

For tax purposes our FEIN is: 51-0252674

*The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum
appreciatively accepts all donations from
Back Bay Wildfowl Guild members,
Museum friends/visitors, corporate partners
and community stakeholders.*

Please consider making your first [of many!] tax deductible monetary donation[s] to AWHM prior to the end of Tax Year 2013. Your donation will be used to further our mission by expanding our education and outreach programs.

WHERE VIRGINIA'S DUCKS COME FROM

*from our friends at Ducks Unlimited
with thanks to Wayne Jarman*

*[www.ducks.org/virginia/virginia-content/
where-virginia-ducks-come-from](http://www.ducks.org/virginia/virginia-content/where-virginia-ducks-come-from)*

The Prairie Pothole Region, Great Lakes Region and St. Lawrence Plain are critical to Virginia waterfowl hunters.

A significant amount of the mallards harvested in Virginia each year are produced in the St. Lawrence Plain and Great Lakes Region. We receive a good portion of our diving ducks from the Prairie Pothole Region and our teal and other puddle ducks are products of all three areas.



Please note this map represents birds recovered in the same year they were banded to show a direct correlation between banding site and harvest.

The Prairie Pothole Region, Great Lakes Region, and St. Lawrence Plain are all DU conservation focus areas, as is the Mid Atlantic Coast.

**THANK YOU FOR READING THIS
NEWSLETTER TO PAGE NUMBER 5.
SHOULD YOU NEED IT, A TEST MAY
BE OFFERED FOR ALL MEMBERS OF
THE BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD
AT THE MONDAY, NOVEMBER
4, 2013 MEETING.**

***GUILD MEMBERS GET TO VOTE
TWICE IN TWO DAYS!!***

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013
AT YOUR LOCAL VOTING PRECINCT!**

THE WILDFOWLER

NEWS AND REQUESTS ABOUT YOUR NEWSLETTER

This newsletter belongs to YOU-member of the Guild and/or friend of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. If you have ideas or suggestions regarding its content, please contact Clark Mandigo at atlanticwildfowl@verizon.net or by phone at 757.437.8432.

Upcoming editions will have some new features. There will be a “Carver’s Corner” in which BBWG carvers can describe what he or she thinks makes the “best” decoy and what he or she believes to be the BEST he/she has created, with an explanation as to why it’s the best.

There will also be a “Collector’s Reflection”, in which Guild members who collect wildfowl art/artifacts can share his/her “best piece” and why that piece is “the best”.

It is hoped that everyone will remember that The Wildfowler publication is not a “just us” publication. It is imperative for us to use this newsletter as a “marketing tool”, which means YOU are encouraged to share it with everyone you know. If our mission is important to you, you will share your thoughts/ideas about this publication.

While it is not possible to include every idea from everyone in every publication, you are asked [again] to be a part of the solution. Perhaps you will see your idea in the pages of *The Wildfowler* in future publications. Your support is extremely appreciated and encouraged. So thank you in advance for your submissions!



**BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ann Verhaagen, President
Gentry Childress, Vice President
James Mehne, Secretary
Kelly Bridgman, Treasurer
Ira Abbott
Fletcher Bryant
Roy Carlson
Wayne Jarman
John Mazach
Herb Videll
William Walsh, Jr., Curator

MUSEUM STAFF

Clark L. Mandigo, Director
Ann Smith, Gift Shop Manager

GIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS

Tuesdays 1 p.m.-5 p.m.	Bob Bishop
Wednesdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Archie Johnson
Sundays 12 p.m.-5 p.m.	Jeanette Spreeman

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address	1113 Atlantic Avenue Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Museum Phone Number	757.437.8432
Museum Fax Number	757.437.9055
Email	atlanticwildfowl@verizon.net
Website	www.awhm.org

CARVERS

Tuesdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Pete DiPietro
Tuesdays 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Bud Coppedge
Wednesdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.	C.J. Burns
	Roy Carlson
	Ed Morrison
	Herb Videll
Thursdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Hank Grigolite
10 a.m.-?	The Carvers' Club
Fridays 10 a.m.-??	Gary Holt
	David Perkins
	Bill Evans
Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Gentry Childress
2 nd Saturdays	Roger Lee

**BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD /
ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE
MUSEUM
ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES [PAYABLE BY
CASH/CHECK]**

**\$25/INDIVIDUAL; \$35/FAMILY;
\$200/CORPORATE**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

PHONE: _____

**CELL
PHONE:** _____

BIRTHDAY[S]: _____
[YEAR NOT NEEDED]

**SPECIAL INTERESTS [I.E., CARVING,
COLLECTING, ART, GIFT SHOP VOLUNTEER,
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, ETC.]**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW OR INITIATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH
THE BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD / ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM
FOR 2014.... \$25/INDIVIDUAL; \$35/FAMILY; \$200/CORPORATE**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild/AWHM-all meetings at the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum [unless otherwise noted]

November 2013

- 11/4/13: BBWG General Meeting and Board/Officer Elections – 6 p.m./7 p.m.-WOOD DUCKS
11/18/13: Museum Management Committee Meeting-2:30-3:30 p.m.
BBWG Board of Directors Meeting – 7 p.m.

December 2013

- 12/10/13: Christmas/Holiday Party [see inside]** *Va. Beach FOP Club*

January 2013

- 1/6/14: BBWG General Meeting-Guest Presenter-Sylvan Heights
1/20/14: MMC: 2:30-3:30 p.m.
BBWG BoD – 7 p.m.

February 2013

- 2/3/14: BBWG General Meeting-6/7 p.m.
2/17/14: BBWG BoD – 7 p.m.

OTHER [NON-BBWG] EVENTS/SHOWS

- 11/6-7/13: G,S&D Auction-Easton Maryland
11/8-10/13: Waterfowl Festival, Easton, Maryland: www.waterfowlfestival.org
11/22-23/13: Deborah Waterfowl Show @ Chincoteague High School: 757.336.3478
12/7-8/13: Core Sound Decoy Festival: Harker's Island Elementary School-Harker's Island, NC: csdcg@clis.com
1/25/14: Susquehanna Flats Vintage Hunting/Fishing Collectibles Show: Level Fire Hall-Havre de Grace, MD: 410.734.6238

ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM
1113 ATLANTIC AVENUE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23451

