

# *THE WILDFOWLER*

AUGUST 2020

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

## *Back Bay Wildfowl Memories Ocean Swimming*



Can anyone guess what is happening in this picture? Obviously, it is the ocean; but what are all those people doing? Hauling in a large fishing net, some sort of Ironman Competition, or assisting with a shipwreck recovery?



No, this is an organized **ocean swim** just off the Virginia Beach Boardwalk behind the Princess Anne Hotel at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Atlantic Avenue. The picture was taken around 1905. See the row boats in the distance. They are hotel employees performing the duties of lifeguards.

The hotel would organize and supervise two swims everyday weather permitting (except Sunday) during the summer season. One in the morning and one in the afternoon. The poles that you see sticking up out of the water were joined with heavy rope to prevent any guests from being caught up in the current of the ocean water. Guest would enter on the North side of the semi-circle, walk southeast holding on to the rope and exit out on the South side. The guests would then be greeted at the hotel bath house by an attendant with towels and soap.



Beach fashion and swimming attire were much different than what we see on the beach in 2020.





## ***Upcoming Guild Events:***

08/03, 10, 17, 24, /2020: de Witt Garden Club

10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

Bring your work gloves and tools

08/18/2020: Board Meeting

7:00 pm Virtual

09/07/2020: Labor Day

09/01/2020 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild

Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Virtual

Have an item handy for show and tell!

09/14, 21, 28/2020: de Witt Garden Club

10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

No meeting Monday September 7th

09/15/2020: Board Meeting

7:00 pm Virtual

~~Sunday 10/11/2020 AWHM Fall Barbeque & Oyster Roast~~

~~de Witt Cottage 1113 Atlantic Avenue~~

~~1:00pm until 5:00pm~~



### **Free Decoy Identification and Evaluation**

By Jeff Tinkham

Past President of The Atlantic

Wildfowl Heritage Museum

Call (757) 721-7131 or

[jeff@tinkhamlaw.com](mailto:jeff@tinkhamlaw.com)





## FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

It's August, and as I sit here writing this column, the first major Atlantic hurricane of the season is raking the coast of Florida. The Weather Channel is predicting that tropical storm **Isaias** will come ashore somewhere between Myrtle Beach, SC and Wilmington, NC. It is expected to be a minimal tropical storm as it passes over the Hampton Roads area. Please take appropriate precautions and stay safe.

It is with a great deal of sadness that I am forced to announce we will be cancelling our Fifth Annual Barbecue an Oyster Roast here at the DeWitt cottage. The recent spike in coronavirus cases and hospitalizations make it too dangerous for us to go ahead with planning this event. In fact, we will be cancelling all events and activities in the near future until we have a safe pathway to prevent coronavirus. This means there will be no "Dine Out for the deWitt" this winter and our Christmas Party seems to be in jeopardy as well.

We will have a virtual general membership meeting on September 1st at 7:00 PM on the Zoom Video Network. You may join the meeting on 9/1/2020 at 7:00pm by clicking on the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8145832289?pwd=V1JGd0lMeENLV2hhWVN1MlFRQ05UZz09>

1001 40	NAME _____	<b>2020 WILDFOWL HERITAGE RAFFLE</b> Drawing will be held at the 125th Anniversary Celebration on October 11, 2020 @ 4pm at the historic deWitt Cottage 1113 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach VA 23451 1st Prize: Hand carved contemporary Goldeneye Drake Decoy-\$1,200 Value 2nd Prize: Day long Guided Deer Hunt in Northampton County, Eastern Shore of Virginia includes lunch and dinner-\$1,000 Value 3rd Prize: Day long Duck Hunt on the Eastern Shore with Virginia Beach Sherriff Ken Stolle and Chief Deputy Brian Struzzari-\$800 value 4th Prize: CZ 612 Magnum Waterfowl 12 ga. Shotgun-\$600 value Tickets: <b>\$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00</b> <b>BENEFITING THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM</b>	1001 40
	ADDRESS _____		
	EMAIL _____		
	PHONE _____		

The museum is running a fund raising raffle between now and October 11, 2020, tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00. The prizes are listed on the ticket above and the drawing will be held virtually on October 11, 2020 at 4:00pm. You can purchase tickets by contacting the director at [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org) or any Board Member. You may also purchase tickets online at [awhm.org](http://awhm.org)

Please check out our online gift shop at [awhm.org](http://awhm.org). We have recently added several new books that many of you may find interesting. We will be adding new products to our online gift shop all summer long. If you need a more hands on experience, come visit the Shore Gallery Seaside Giftshop in the deWitt Cottage. They have a stunning collection of seashore themed items where you can find your salt life or that perfect gift for someone special. It would also be a great opportunity to stroll through our beautiful gardens.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for their resilience through the pandemic. They are making every effort to protect the museum and kept it sustainable. We are working with the Small Business Administration on a number of initiatives to enhance the operation of the museum and to ensure its continued operation in the future. I will do my best to keep everyone informed as we weather this very fluid situation.

Lynn Hightower, Director



# 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.*

## COLLECTOR'S SHELF

**Doug Jester** (1876 - 1961) Chincoteague, VA



Doug Jester was an all-around sportsman who enjoyed fishing, guiding, hunting and commercial decoy carving. His speedy carving process provided affordable decoys for local hunters. Balsa, cedar, cottonwood and pine were preferable materials, but Jester often used whatever was available including telephone poles and rejected roof shingle materials for his lures. Though Jester concentrated on black duck, scaup, brant, bufflehead, goose and pintail, he could carve all other species common to the area. Jester's solid decoys are simple and unstylized with long narrow contours. Round bottoms, a humped back near the tail and nostril and mandible

carving are featured on each Jester decoy. Heads that Jester carved in advance were stored in bulk in flour or onion sacks. These heads were attached with sixteen or twenty penny nails through the crown of the head; smaller nails were hammered around the base. His Mergansers sport boldly serrated combs that have come to characterize his work. The multi-faceted surfaces are attributed to Jester's hand-chopping technique. Jester painted the eyes on his decoys; but was not really concerned with paint quality. Paint patterns consist of simple blocks of color with infrequent scratch painting, and occasional feathers accent the wings and backs of some decoys. Jester used house brushes for broad areas and pencil or sash brushes for detailing; he never cleaned his brushes; but threw them away when they became too stiff. The work of Doug Jester is often classified in the realm of folk art. We currently have 6 Doug Jester decoys on loan from Bill Hall of Bloxom, VA. They are part of our new exhibit in the decoy gallery on the first floor. The picture above is a Jester Bluebill Drake.

For a free evaluation or identification of your decoys, contact Mark Cromwell at (757) 721-2746





## FEATURED PRODUCTS FROM SHORE GALLERY SEASIDE GIFT SHOP

On May 1, 2019 Shore Gallery and Design took possession of the gift shop in the deWitt Cottage. Using the new name of “Shore Gallery Seaside Gifts” Sean and Kathleen Rooney have created a unique collection of sea shore related items that are primarily made by skilled local artists. If you are down at the ocean front this week, make sure to stop in Shore Gallery Seaside Gifts at the historic DeWitt Cottage.

Need a break from the pandemic? Stop in our second location on the boardwalk. 1113 Atlantic Ave, Shore Gallery Seaside Gifts at the DeWitt Cottage. **SEE YOU AT THE SHORE!!!**



Your support and generosity are always appreciated!









## BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jason Seward, President      Parke Atkinson, Vice President  
Jim Mehne, Secretary      Larry Davenport, Treasurer  
Jim Briggs      Mark Cromwell  
George Powell      Tom Richards  
Jeff Tinkham      Phil Davenport  
William Walsh, Jr., Curator  
Fletcher Bryant, President Emeritus

### MUSEUM CARVERS

Monday      Elaine Polizos  
Tuesday:      Open  
Wednesday:      Roy Carlson & Ed Morrison  
Thursday:      Open  
"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club:      Al, Jamie, John, Pete  
Friday:      Susan Moritz  
Saturday:      Open  
Sunday:      Open

**Carvers are not demonstrating due to Covid-19**

## MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Tuesday:      OPEN  
Wednesday:      OPEN  
Thursday:      OPEN  
Friday:      OPEN  
Saturday:      OPEN  
Sunday:      OPEN

Museum Grounds: Jacky Richards, Martha Davenport, Cheryl Garvey, Jan McGuire, Evie Fetterolf, Mary Ann Biagetti

### MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director      Joe Leo, Operations Mgr.

### MUSEUM CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Telephone: 757.437.8432  
Facsimile: 757.437.9055  
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 2020 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away. Beginning March 1, 2020, any listed member who has not paid their dues will receive an invoice from the museum director requesting payment of their annual dues*

### 2020 DUES

\$35/YR INDIVIDUAL  
\$100/YR BRONZE  
\$500/YR GOLD

\$50/FAMILY  
\$200/YR SILVER  
\$1,000/YR PRESIDENTS CIRCLE



## BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD 2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

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

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

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

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

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

*January 1, 2020 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!***

