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 14th 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

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Sunday 10/11/2020 AWHM Fall Barbecue & Oyster Roast
DeWitt 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
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=V1JGd0lMeENLV2hhWVN1MIFRQ05UZz09

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 or any Board Member. You may also purchase tickets online at awhm.org

Please check our online gift shop at 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
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!
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 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

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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
Email: director@atwildfowl.org

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Please pass this newsletter on to any potential new member!