

THE WILDFOWLER

APRIL 2019

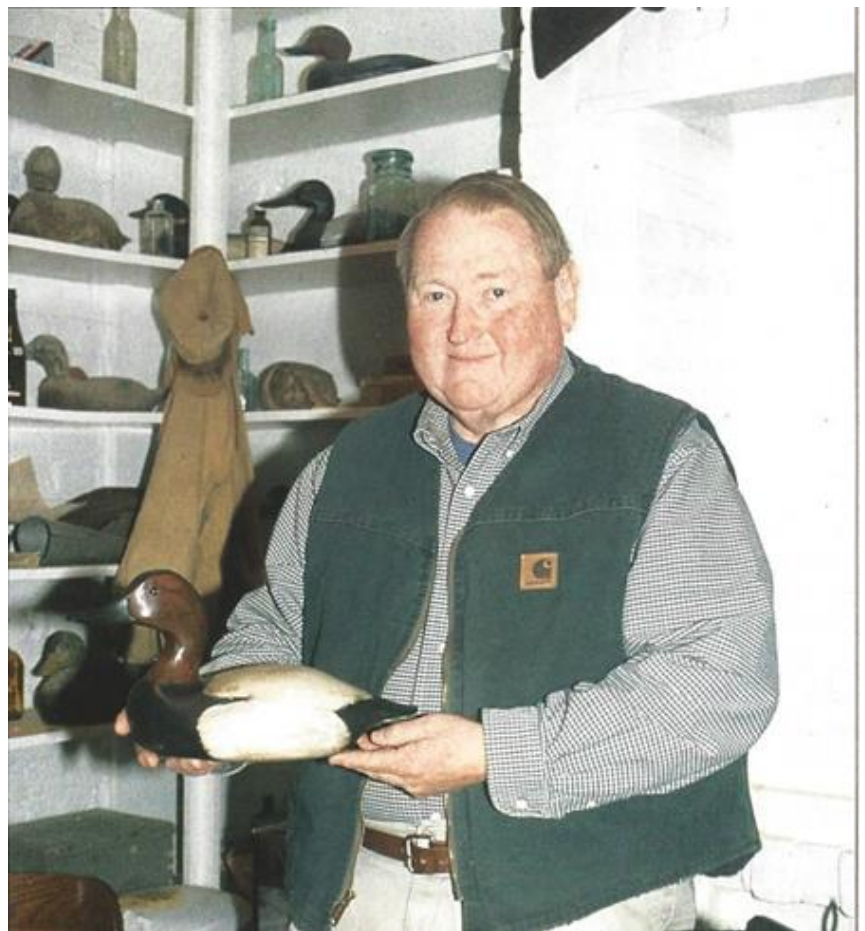
A PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM AND THE BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories Marshall Clayton "Bud" Coppedge, Jr. December 4, 1943 - December 28, 2015

BY JOHN-HENRY DOUCETTE
previously published in *The Princess Anne Independent News* January 2016.

PUNGO — Marshall "Bud" Coppedge raised a family, worked 36 years for the city, and was a longtime member of Charity United Methodist Church. His legacy will also include his work as a carver, collector and seller of decoys whose passion and love of local history helped him write a much sought-after book with a hunting friend.

Coppedge died on Monday, Dec. 28, at the age of 72. In addition to his wife, Julie Coppedge of Pungo, he is survived by daughter Jenifer Stone and son Jimmy Coppedge, four grandchildren, and his sister, Faye Walker. Family and friends have praised Coppedge for his kindness, his company and his cooking. He cooked regularly for family, sometimes making favorites for different diners, friends said.



Jimmy Coppedge, 36, of Creeds, said his father valued family more than anything else. "That's what it was all about," Jimmy Coppedge said. "Everything he did, he did for us." Jimmy Coppedge first went hunting as a boy, and he later took to carving, too. A full-sized canvasback decoy by Bud Coppedge is among his prized possession. "Lately, he didn't make the big decoys," Jimmy Coppedge said. "It's the last decoy I have from him." He hopes to keep the decoy business going.

In 1991, Bud Coppedge and his friend, Archie Johnson, published *Gun Clubs & Decoys of Back Bay & Currituck Sound*, a hardcover work packed with history and photographs of clubs and decoys. Johnson, 93, said



he and Coppedge became friends through the [Back Bay Waterfowl Guild](#). Johnson, a photographer, shot images of decoys and artwork for the guild, including for programs for the Mid-Atlantic Waterfowl Festival that featured the work of Coppedge and others. The men connected through hunting, including at a border-hugging spot where the blind was in Virginia while the decoys were in North Carolina. Coppedge became a regular at shows in Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia, selling his work and that of others. Johnson described his friend as an excellent businessman who was quiet, humorous and fair. "I never heard him shout," he said. "I never heard him cuss." Johnson wanted to do a book, and he teamed with Coppedge for a project that took about 13 years to research.

Johnson and other members of the [Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum](#) at the Oceanfront said many hopeful carvers sought out Coppedge there when he carved on Tuesdays. Coppedge served on the museum advisory committee, and some of his work can be purchased there. On the second floor of the museum, within the historic de Witt Cottage, a memorial for Coppedge rested on a table by a window. His photo was surrounded by pieces of his own carving work from a member's collection, an obituary and a story about him that ran recently in the museum newsletter. "When asked what the best decoy he carved is, he remains silent," the story noted.



Ann Smith, a longtime Sandbridge resident who lives at Crescent Condos now, manages the museum's gift shop. She recalled conversations about gardening and cooking, and how carvers carve at the museum, in part, to inspire those who might maintain the tradition. "He was so soft-spoken," she said. "He was just such a pleasant person to be with and talk with." Downstairs, members of a group that meets on Wednesdays worked. "I tell you, he was a good guy," said Ed Morrison, 82, of Kings Grant. "A good decoy carver." "He was willing to share any knowledge," said Herb Videll, 83, of Bay Lake Pines. "He wouldn't push it on you. In fact, you wouldn't know he knew anything if you didn't ask." Coppedge will be remembered not only for his quiet mentorship, but in his family, his community, his book, and the examples of his artistry which remain.





Upcoming Guild Events:

04/06/2019 Gathering of The Guilds
Historic Frances Land House
3131 Virginia Beach blvd
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

04/12/2019: Bizconnect Morning Coffee
Shore Gallery & Design
1556 Laskin Road #138 Virginia Beach, VA 23451
8:30am-9:30am

04/17/2019 Dine Out for The de Witt
5:30pm – 8:30pm Raven Restaurant
1200 Atlantic Avenue

04/16/2019: Board Meeting
deWitt Cottage 6:00 pm

05/01/2019
Museum Reopens

05/07/2019 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 6:00pm
Lucky Oyster Spring Celebration

05/21/2019: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

05/27/2019: Memorial Day
Museum begins opening on Mondays & Sundays



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



Callie O'Neal

Feb 10, 1910-June 4, 1970

Callie O'Neill grew up in North Carolina in the Nags Head area. In his teens his family moved to Churches Island, N.C. He was a commercial fisherman and farmer and a hunting guide for Russell Griggs where Callie started making decoys for the hunting club. His carving style was simple and functional. The decoys had a flat bottom, tapered tail and sloped breast. **Note:** The paint patterns were very basic - even attorney Larry Lambert Sr. could paint them. :)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy April everyone!

I wanted to use my time with you this month to update you on several exciting items impacting the museum:

The museum is currently closed and will re-open on May 1st. We are in the process of several updates to the facility.

We are excited to officially announce that Shore Gallery and Design (located at Hill Top with 23 years of experience and success in Hampton Roads) will be operating the gift shop side of the museum. The items they will feature will complement our “flavor” well. We are all excited about this new partnership and the opportunity it presents for both Shore Gallery and our museum.

The south side of the cottage as well as the library have new flooring! The laminate material is highly protective and durable while also featuring a very rustic look. Thanks to Lynn, Joe, and Jim Briggs, board member, for their time and leadership with this project. As you can see from the photos, it really looks great.

In regards to flooring, we have also had further floor replacements approved by the city. This will likely take place next winter. When the carpet was removed, we were all surprised to find what we are assuming to be “original” hardwood floors. We have begun discussions of how to showcase these original floors when the time comes. Stay tuned for more.

Given the success, attention, and appeal that our current exhibit has drawn, we have decided to feature it for another year. We are honored to display the impressive collection of Mark and Marjorie Cromwell, which showcases antique decoys from Virginia and North Carolina, as well as a robust collection of pieces by Mark McNair.



We will host a “Love deWitt Day” on Saturday, April 13th from 9am to 1pm. We have a series of projects that you can assist with as we ready things for our re-open. **Please contact Lynn to R.S.V.P.**

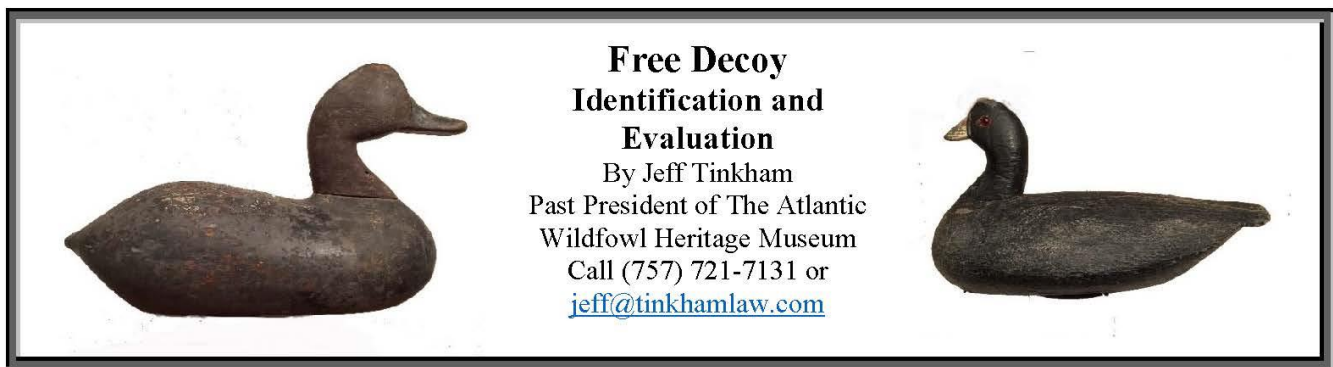
The 2nd Annual B3: Beer and Bourbon at the Brickhouse, our major spring fundraiser, will take place on Sunday, May 19th from 1-5pm. **Tickets are available from Lynn or any board member. They are also available online at www.covatix.com (Search “B3”).** Tickets are \$50 and include bbq chicken, fried fish, beer by Smartmouth Brewing, bourbon by Three Brothers Distilling, and STEAMED SHRIMP! Plenty of live music, a silent auction, and a 50/50 raffle are just some of highlights. Thanks to many of you, our fall oyster roast was extremely successful. We want to duplicate that success at the second Annual B3.

As you can see from the list, things are coming together. Mark your calendars for both the Love deWitt Day on 4/13 and the B3 event on 5/19. We would LOVE to have you as volunteer docent or carver. Please contact Lynn for more details! As always, we welcome your questions, comments, feedback, and ideas. I thank each of you for all you do for the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.

Cheers.

Jason Seward
President





DINE OUT FOR THE DEWITT

Our next “Dine Out For The deWitt” will be at the Raven Restaurant, 1200 Atlantic Avenue on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 5:00pm until 8:30pm. This is the program where you take your spouse out to dinner and the restaurant donates a percentage of what your meal cost to the museum. Easy peasy; you go out to dinner with your friends, family, or **potential new museum member** and the museum receives a nice donation. What a great opportunity to introduce potential new members to our organization. Please invite your friends and family to join you! So let’s see how many people we can pack into Raven Restaurant. Please help us make this a very successful event!

LUCKY OYSTER SPRING CELEBRATION

We will gather May 7, 2019 from 5:00pm until 8:30pm at the Lucky Oyster, 2165 General Booth Blvd for our annual Spring Celebration. Cocktails from 5:00pm until 6:00pm. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00pm. There will be a membership raffle. Dinners are \$30.00 per person, include dinner, beverage, dessert, tax and gratuity. Reservations can be made by calling the museum at (757) 437- 8432 or by emailing the Director at director@atwildfowl.org.

FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

First of all I want to thank the carvers who assisted with the Back Bay Knotts Island Waterfowl Festival and the Ruritan Barbeque and Craft Fair during the Month of March. Both of these events draw a lot of attention to the museum.

Thank you to everyone who came out on Tuesday March 26, 2019 for our monthly dine out at the Surfrider Restaurant. Approximately 45 people attended producing a \$240.00 donation to the museum. We will continue to “Dine out for The de Witt” on Wednesday night April 17th at the Raven Restaurant, 1200 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451. That will be followed up by our Spring Celebration at the Lucky Oyster, 2165 General Booth Blvd Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454 on May 7, 2019. On Friday April 12, 2019, we will host the BizConnect Hampton Roads Networking Community for coffee from 8:30 to 9:30am at new gift shop partner’s store, Shore Gallery and Design at Hilltop East Shopping Center. BizConnect is a large network of local businesses, approximately 260, working to support one another and help them be successful. We expect about fifty of these business leaders to attend the coffee and visit the store..

The ladies of the de Witt Cottage Garden Club were at the cottage this past week preparing the gardens for spring. If you enjoy gardening then you will not want to miss this opportunity to garden by the sea! Please contact the Director at Email director@atwildfowl.org or call (757) 437-8432 if you are interested. You can help them have another award winning garden this year!

Thank You Ladies!



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jason Seward, President Wayne Jarman, Vice President
Jim Mehne, Secretary Larry Davenport, Treasurer
Paarke Atkinson Jim Briggs
Mark Cromwell Tom Richards
Jeff Tinkham William Walsh, Jr., Curator
Fletcher Bryant, President Emeritus

MUSEUM CARVERS

Monday Elaine Polizos
Tuesday: Pete DiPietro
Wednesday: Roy Carlson & Ed Morrison
Thursday: Hank Grigolite
"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club: Al, Jamie, John, Pete
Friday: Susan Moritz
Saturday: Gentry Childress & Ben Purvis
Sunday: OPEN

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

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

Museum Grounds: Nancy Lekberg, Lori Bagley, Lois Stickles,
Jacky Richards, and Lena Lindsay

MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director

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 2019 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away. Beginning March 1, 2019, any listed member who has not paid their dues will receive an invoice from the museum director requesting payment of their annual dues

2019 DUES

\$35/YR INDIVIDUAL

\$100/YR BRONZE

\$500/YR GOLD

\$50/FAMILY

\$200/YR SILVER

\$1,000/YR PRESIDENTS CIRCLE



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD 2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____ AMOUNT PAID _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ [CELL] _____

January 1, 2019 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!

