

THE WILDFOWLER

DECEMBER 2017

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



Tidal House Restaurant on the corner of 31st Street and Pacific Avenue. I thought you might enjoy looking at the menu on the following page. The two pictures on this page were taken about 70 years apart. They show a younger Peter with his surf board and then at 93 in front of the deWitt Cottage. The surf board is historic in that it was one of the first **hollow core** surf boards used on the east coast. It is on display in the museum; you should come and see it. Peter later started a second civilian career as a very successful real estate agent.

Peter deWitt

March 4, 1913 – January 27, 2008

Peter was the youngest of the 10 siblings and the next to last living of all the deWitt brothers and sisters. He was born March 4, 1913, in their home on 12th Street and the Oceanfront. It was the first brick house on the beach and was originally named "Witzand," which is Dutch for "White Sand." The home was later renamed "Wittenzand," after the birth of the tenth child. After the death of both parents, it became known as the "deWitt Cottage." Peter never knew his father because his father, Cornelius deWitt, passed away shortly after Peter's birth. Peter was a graduate of Maury High School and attended V.M.I. He was on the first squad of lifeguards in Virginia Beach and helped introduce surfing to Virginia Beach. He was one of the first judges of the E.C.S.C. Like his older brother Paul, Peter was a World War II hero. He was a second lieutenant with the 695th Armored Artillery and landed on Utah Beach on D-Day. He was in the Battle of the Bulge and went into Germany with the 3rd Army. After the war in 1946, he opened the



Menu

REST CAMP

30 DAY LEAVE

PAYMASTER

Fried Chicken .. 250 Guldens Pork Chops 150 Franks Stew 100 Belgian Franks

SANDWICHES

Hamburger .....	.25	Hot Dogs .....	.20
(With Lettuce and Tomato) .....	.30	Steak Sandwich .....	.35
Cheeseburger .....	.30	(With Lettuce and Tomato) .....	.40
Egg Salad .....	.30	Bacon Sandwich .....	.30
Lettuce and Tomato .....	.30	Sausage Sandwich .....	.35
Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato .....	.35	Boiled Ham (Lettuce & Tomato) .....	.40
Fried Ham and Egg .....	.45	Ham & Cheese Combination	
Bacon and Egg .....	.45	with Lettuce and Tomato .....	.45
Fried Egg .....	.25	American Cheese .....	.25
Chicken Salad .....	.40	Grilled Cheese .....	.30
Tuna Salad .....	.35	Fried Ham .....	.30
Corned Beef on Rye .....	.30	Corned Beef (Lettuce & Tomato) .....	.40

BREAKFAST SERVED AT ANY HOUR

Fresh Frozen Orange Juice	Small .15 Large .30
Prune Juice .....	.20 Tomato Juice Small .15 Large .30
V-8 Juice .....	.20 Grapefruit Juice Small .15 Large .30
Two Eggs any Style, with Toast and Jelly .....	.35
Sausage and Eggs, with Toast and Jelly .....	.55
Ham and Eggs, with Toast and Jelly .....	.55
Bacon and Eggs, with Toast and Jelly .....	.55
Hot Cakes, with Syrup .....	.25
Hot Cakes, with Ham, Bacon or Sausage .....	.45
Cheese Omelette, with Toast and Jelly .....	.45
Cereals with Milk .....	.25

VA. NAT. GD. F.A. 29 DIV — 695 F.A. 1st Army, 3rd Army, 9th Army



OMAHA BEACH — NORMANDY — UTAH BEACH — LeHAYRE

Upcoming Guild Events:

12/05/2017 Christmas Party 6:00pm – 9:00pm
FOP #8 961 S. Birdneck Road – Potluck Supper

12/19/2017: Board Meeting **CANCELLED**
6:00 pm

01/15/2018 Dine Out for The de Witt
5:30pm – 8:30pm Il'Giardino's Restorante
910 Atlantic Ave.

01/16/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

02/06/2018 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Program: Jack Cox
Carver from Elizabeth City, NC

Save these Dates

Dine Out for The de Witt 02/27/2018: 03/26/2018 & 04/10/2018
Lucky Oyster May 1, 2018



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.

DOCENT CLASSES TO CONTINUE IN JANUARY 2018

Docent Classes will start Thursday, January 11, 2018 in the de Witt Cottage at 6:00pm. 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. The first class is about the deWitt Cottage and the two families that lived in the historic house. Let's see how many new docents we can train this winter. Email director@atwildfowl.org or call (757) 437-8432 if you are interested.

FIRST ANNUAL FALL & WINTER RAFFLE

November 1, 2017 kicked off our First Annual Fall and Winter Raffle. We have some great prizes; two shotguns one of which is valued at \$3,000.00. One of Harvey Ackiss' World Class Carvings and four of Al Brandtner's World Class Carvings. More than \$12,000.00 in total prizes. Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. Tickets can be purchased online at www.awhm.org/annual-raffle or at the Museum in person or by emailing the director at director@atwildfowl.org. We will also accept checks via snail mail.

DINE OUT FOR THE DEWITT

Dine out for the deWitt starts on **January 15, 2018** at IL'Giardino's Restorante 910 Atlantic Avenue (one block south of the deWitt Cottage). 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 guild member and the museum receives a nice donation. So let's see how many people we can pack into IL'Giardino's Restorante.

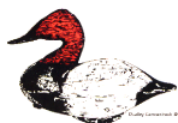
PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE HONOREES

L. Clay Camp, Jr.

John Childs

Herb and Carolyn Culpepper

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!



Stop!

Don't be a Grinch this Christmas!

Join Us

Tuesday, December 5, 2017 6:00 p.m.

Virginia Beach FOP #8
961 S. Birdneck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23451



Menu is Pot-Luck Supper. **Free** for all members and their guests!

Meat, setups, coffee, tea, lemonade, Beer & Wine Provided
BYOB on all other alcohol.

You must call the Museum Director at 757-437-8432 or email him at director@atwildfowl.org to let us know what dish you are bringing.

We also need to know how many people are coming with you.

Live Music by Roger Bartlett & The Tiki Bar Band



Let's Party!

Silent Auction!





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In light of the fact that my two year term as your President expires at the end of December, I'd like to say that it has been a real honor to assist the board and Lynn advance our unique and special mission. Except for the Coast Guard Station, we are the only organization on the oceanfront that promotes our local history. We educate thousands of visitors and locals each year. As most of you know, we are fortunate to display water fowling artifacts and art as well as conduct frequent carving demonstrations in the handsome deWitt cottage. The early history of the boardwalk and resort are also featured on the second floor. The deWitt cottage has been designated as a federal, state and local historic landmark. If you haven't paid us a visit in a while, please do so, as the "off season" is a great time to park at our front door and take a tour. We are currently exhibiting some antique North Carolina decoys from the collection of Kroghie Andresen of Charlotte. They are some of the best decoys from the Currituck Sound area that are known to exist. Also, on mild winter days, our back porch rocking chairs await those who wish to relax and watch the surf and gulls.

Over the last couple of years we have, due to necessity, streamlined our operations and pursued revenue raising initiatives. Non-profit organizations such as the museum that expect to survive are no longer able to "just coast". This presents challenges, but also opportunities. For example, we have recently hosted beer tasting events, office parties and BBQ socials. Yes, it takes a lot of work to throw these events to raise some money, but they have been well received because they were fun and introduced new folks to the museum. A healthy organization must continue to evolve in order to stay relevant and to grow, and I can assure you that your board meets each month to discuss and pursue those objectives. Finally, I wish to thank all board members, officers and volunteers who have and will continue to devote many hours of hard work to improve the museum, carving guild and house/grounds that we all cherish. They are the passionate unsung heroes who don't seek any recognition.

In January, Al Henley will be our new President, and I can assure those who don't know him that he is a "get it done" type of guy. Under his capable leadership, the museum's future is bright indeed. Merry Christmas to all, and I wish all of our members and friends a healthy and prosperous 2018!

Jeff Tinkham



Merry Christmas



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016/2017

- Hiring a new Museum Director-Lynn Hightower (selected from over 26 resumes and 5 interviews).
- Held an offsite half-day retreat (strategic planning).
- The curator (Bill Walsh) has procured fine exhibits – some of the best NC decoys in the nation.
- New Board Members (Mark Cromwell and Jason Seward this year) (Roger Shope and Al Henley last year) (in the new year Dan Neveu and Tom Richards).
- Heritage Festival – created a great relationship with Back Bay Brewery.
- Two successful BBQs (new social and fundraiser).
- Wayne Jarman– continues to secure very interesting and informative speakers.
- Security surveillance system installation.
- Great monthly newsletter.
- Hosted the city's mayor and city manager for lunch and information session.
- Instituted admission charge.
- Garden Club established
- Irrigation system fixed and fully operational.
- Cleaned out the boathouse and installed new book cases.
- New cabinets in the kitchen.
- Hired part-time employees for first time.
- Grants – VB Billfish Club \$3,500 etc.
- Restaurant socials; Dine Out for The deWitt.
- Invested savings in mutual funds instead of a money market account that paid nothing.
- Hot dog vendor next year – amended lease to permit this new profit center.
- Set up advisory board.
- Open houses and renting facility/grounds.
- Duck Day @ DeWitt (Kroghie Andresen).
- Federal and state historical property plaques installed.
- Brick and Plaque sales have improved
- Cleaned out the attic (no small feat).
- Initiated a year-end fund raising letter.
- Bud Coppedge & Charlie Seidel tribute.
- Did an inventory and took pictures of all carvings and flat art owned by the museum.
- Shifted promotional focus from guild to museum.
- Revised our mission statement.
- Established new membership levels.
- Stabilized the finances of our operational account.
- Put in place business practices that address important performance metrics (Roger Shope and Jennifer Smith our new Accountant)
- Gift shop operations are being evaluated and optimized.
- Old computer terminals removed and smart flat screen TVs installed (movies running in a loop).
- School children – groups – community outreach.
- New point of sale equipment acquired.
- New website established (again, no small feat).
- Overall, the museum is being run in a more business-like fashion (accountability and profitability) so that we can achieve sustainability (and hopefully, growth!).



COLLECTOR'S SHELF

These decoys were made by Ike Gallop (1878-1952) who lived in the Halls Harbor area at the southern end of the Currituck County mainland. Ike and his family members were market hunters until that practice was outlawed in 1918. It is reported that on several occasions, he killed over 500 ducks in a single day. Once the sale of game was outlawed, Ike ran a commercial hunting service where he guided for "sports" from as far away as Boston and Pittsburgh. These redhead decoys have a rounded, sloping tail which is typical of decoys from this era made in the southern Currituck Sound style.

For free decoy evaluations, contact Jeff Tinkham at 757-724-7131 or jeff@tinkhamlaw.com.



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Wow! It is December already, before you know it the New Year will be here! I have now completed my first **full** year as the Director of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. I have actually held the position just over 17 months. It doesn't seem possible; the time has just flown by. Being the director of the museum has been a dream of mine since the day the museum opened its doors. I am so proud to represent the museum to other organizations and other people. I love working in the oldest remaining oceanfront structure on the beach. I am so blessed, thankful, humbled, and appreciative of this wonderful opportunity.

I believe we have stabilized the finances of the museum for the moment; but, that can change from day to day. Our City grant, which makes up about 40% of our operating budget, is tenuous at best and subject to shifts in city politics. Fundraising will be a constant need for us to be financially independent and sustain our operation. Please try to help us where you are able.

We are currently running our new Fall and Winter Raffle that will become an annual event. I need your help in promoting this online event. Simply send this link awhm.org/annual-raffle to all your email contacts or post it to your Facebook page. Asking your friends and family members to please purchase a \$5.00 ticket. That is five dollars for a chance at \$12,000 worth of prizes. First Prize is a \$3,000 Baretta Shotgun. For more information see the flyer in this newsletter or go to our website awhm.org.

I hope to see every one of you at the annual Christmas Party on December 5th in the Fraternal Order of Police 961 S. Birdneck Road Virginia Beach, VA 23451 – 6:00pm Please make you plans now to attend and reserve your place by calling the director at (757) 437-8432 or email him at director@atwildfowl.org.



Prize #2



Prize #1



Prize #5



Prize #3



Prize #4



Drawing to
be held

May 1, 2018

at 8:00pm

Tickets available online at
awhm.org/annual-raffle

All proceeds benefit the
Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage
Museum in the deWitt cottage a
501 ©3 Non-profit.

Annual Fall & Winter Raffle

Prize #6



Prize #7



Who are millennials?

That depends on whom you ask. Most demographers report its 80-million members who were born between 1980 and 2000, which means millennials would range in age from 14 to 34. Other studies indicate the generation covers 18-to-34-year-olds, which means they would have been born between 1980 and 1996. And a White House report lists 1980 through the mid-2000s as their birth years.

One thing on which everyone agrees: the millennial generation is the largest generation ever. Its members currently spend about \$600 billion a year at stores. But by 2020, their buying power is expected to grow to \$1.4 trillion, or 30% of all retail sales, which will be more than any other demographic, according to Accenture, a management consulting company.

By the numbers

57: The percentage of millennials who make a purchase during a shopping trip.

69: The percentage of baby boomers who make a purchase during a shopping trip.

300: The average number of friends in a millennial's Facebook network.

85: The average number of friends in a baby boomer's Facebook network.

60: Percent of millennials who focus on price over brand when making buying decisions.

46: Percent of baby boomers who focus on price over brand.

Sources: NPD Group, ArchPoint Consulting.

Millennials' experiences, characteristics

- Grew up with e-mail, Internet, cell phones, and immediate access to information
- Violence and terrorism in U.S.: Oklahoma City bombing, Columbine High School, 9/11
- Globalization
- Most-scheduled childhoods in U.S. history
- Very short attention spans
- Tech-savvy
- Attuned to and appreciative of diversity

Source: The Ethics Resource Center, 2010



COME MEET TINK



Folk Art & Decoy Show
Friday, December 8th
4:00-7:00 p.m.
Barrier Islands Center

BIC proudly introduces Spencer Tinkham. At 25, this talented young artist has already developed a following of collectors across the US, Canada and England. Spencer works with materials salvaged from bay and river shorelines.

His pieces feature a carved "TINK" signature.





BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Tinkham, President Wayne Jarman, Vice President
Jim Mehne, Secretary Roger Shope, Treasurer
Mark Cromwell Werner Seibel
Jamie Champe Herb Videll
Al Henley Jason Seward
William Walsh, Jr., Curator
Fletcher Bryant, President Emeritus

MUSEUM CARVERS

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

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Tuesday: OPEN
Wednesday: Archie Johnson 10a-2p
Thursday Joe Leo 10a-2p
Friday: OPEN
Saturday: OPEN
Sunday: OPEN
Museum Grounds: Nancy Lekberg, Lori Bagley, Lois Stickles, Jacky Richards, and Lena Lindsay

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 !

January 1, 2018 will kick off our Annual Membership Campaign. A lot of changes in the dues structure have been approved by the Board of Directors for the coming new year. Each of you were mailed a brochure outlining the changes for the coming year. If you have any questions about the changes please call the Director at (757) 437-8432 or email him at director@atwildfowl.org .

2018 DUES

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

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



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD 2018 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____ AMOUNT PAID _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ [CELL] _____

January 1, 2018 will kick 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!

