

THE WILDFOWLER

FEBRUARY 2020

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

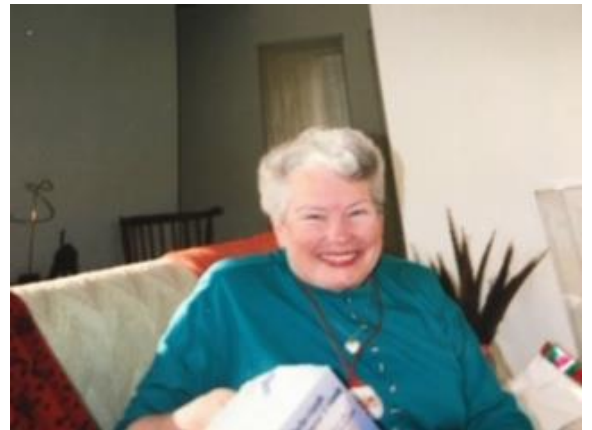
Back Bay Wildfowl Memories *Alice Lucas Walsh 1934-2020*

A few words about Alice Walsh

By Jim Mehne

Alice was a special person. Most of you who knew and worked with Alice on various committees understand what I mean by that statement. She was a force of nature; she was a force to be reckoned with! To say she was highly organized would be a gross understatement. She championed the cause of the Guild and she championed the cause of the museum. Alice devoted 110% effort to everything she did. She approached every job with a keen focus on the objective and determination to succeed. She was active in a number of other pursuits in which I was not personally involved.

Alice was very proud of her children and especially fond of her grandchildren. She knew which ones I had met at one time or another and would regularly share a good story about them when appropriate. Alice was a school teacher and would regularly tell funny stories about the early years. I am sure she was a kind, compassionate, and devoted teacher. I smile when I think back to parent - teacher conferences where I was the subject of heated conversation. I'll bet a parent- teacher conference with Alice Walsh was an event to be remembered. I wish I had just one teacher like Alice!



I honestly cannot recall Alice speaking harshly about anyone.

Well, she was not overly impressed by several politicians, but other than that she was always quick with praise. I once asked her son Russell about growing up under Alice's watchful eye. I think he said she was pretty understanding in most areas but she did not cut either of her sons much slack in the school - work department. I do not recall his exact words but I remember we laughed together about it.

I believe Alice enjoyed the hunt for collectible decoys just as much as her husband Bill. Frequently, while visiting in their home, a particular decoy would become the subject of conversation. Alice would revel in the detail of the circumstances surrounding its acquisition, the location of the auction, and the opposing bidders. Although Alice did not worry too much over lost bids I can assure you she derived great satisfaction from each successful bid. Bill and Alice traveled extensively and visited many interesting and scenic places in search of treasured decoys. She also enjoyed that aspect of the search.

Alice loved her dogs. She enjoyed recounting humorous stories about dogs past and present. I never heard her complain about muddy footprints, at least not from the dogs. Once upon a time I was privileged to be asked to feed her dogs while she was out of town. To be entrusted with the care of her dogs was a high honor I did not take lightly. I remember when one of her favorites died I carved a Bufflehead decoy in remembrance. She held that decoy in her lap and cried. I sat beside her and suffered right along with her. I recall later telling Russell I would never do that again. Did I mention Alice loved her dogs?

When I think of Alice I always think about food. Whenever Alice heard my wife was out of town she would invite me to eat with them in their home or perhaps in a restaurant. When Bill and I would embark on a road trip we always left with a huge bag of candy, cookies and sometimes a few sandwiches. I also recall a Board meeting at the Walsh residence where platters of food and snacks were passed around the room. That was Alice. She cared, she was a special person, and she was my friend. I value that most of all.



<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pilotonline/obituary.aspx?pid=194949615>



Upcoming Guild Events:

02/04/2020 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Program: Show and Tell

02/11/2020 Dine Out for The de Witt
5:30pm – 8:30pm Surfrider Seafood Restaurant
1375 Oceana Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA

02/18/2020: Board Meeting
6:00pm

03/14/2020 Back Bay-Knotts Island Waterfowl Festival
Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm
Creeds Ruritan Barn 1057 Princess Anne Rd
We need Volunteers

03/21/2020 Ruritan Barbeque and Craft Fair
Saturday 11:00am-6:00pm
Creeds Ruritan Barn 1057 Princess Anne Rd
We need Volunteers

03/17/2020: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

Save these Dates

Monday April 7, 2020 The Pub 1001 Laskin Road Virginia Beach, VA 5:30pm-8:00pm
Tuesday May 5, 2020 Lucky Oyster Virginia Beach, VA 5:30pm-8:00pm

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of Single Decoys or Entire Collections
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COLLECTOR'S SHELF

Clarence Grady White, Sr. 1905-1993 (Canvas Goose w/ Red Eyes)

Born on Bells Island, NC

Son of a market hunter, Constantine "Stant" White. Clarence was the youngest of fifteen children.

In 1959 Clarence built a house on Knotts Island at the end of Brumley Road near his hunting area.

In 1943 Clarence made a stand of geese decoys that perfected a unique construction technique. Using a two-piece head that was joined by mortise & tenon. This joint strengthened the head and bill and is widely recognized today. Clarence White canvas geese are very collectible.



DINE OUT FOR THE DEWITT

Dine out for the deWitt Continues on **February 11, 2020** at Surfrider Seafood Restaurant 1375 Oceana Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 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 the Surfrider. Please help us make this a very successful event!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends of the AWHM,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful start to 2020. It's hard to believe that we are already through January. We are excited for what the year ahead holds for the museum but are also aware and cautious of several challenges that are impacting us.

Membership: It should come as no surprise that our membership is shrinking. Growth and revitalization of our membership is a MUST and key to our survival. To combat this, we are changing focus to a more robust programming model. Long gone are the days of hosting a couple events each year to raise friends and funds. Programs like movie nights for children, paint and wine nights for adults, participation in community events, and other high impact practices will expose us to a new type of member. One that expects enhanced benefits with their membership. I am happy to share that our continuous use permit was approved by the city which allows us to host as many programs annually as we'd like as part of our standard operation. My thanks go to Lynn Hightower for his quarterbacking this undertaking.

Funding: As you are also aware, our operating grant provided through the city of Virginia Beach was cut by 12% last year. At a time where we must do more with less, this cut causes a greater emphasis on how much we rely on each dollar earned through memberships, fundraisers, and donations. We must look to create new opportunities for funds, enhance fundraising initiatives we have, and potentially abandon others that have run their course. Several examples would be our aggressive entrance into the wedding venue market, enhancing our annual Fall oyster roast, and a close look at our annual Christmas party, which lost money this past year. As you have heard me say before, we MUST do things differently.

Competition: While there are no other places like our beloved cottage, the Hampton Roads area is saturated with non-profits who are facing the same challenges and relying on the same funding we are. Again, we must do things different and provide an experience that a local or visitor can have nowhere else but at the de Witt. I would like to recognize Martha Davenport for a robust calendar of events for the upcoming spring, summer, and fall. These events will be a key factor in setting us apart.

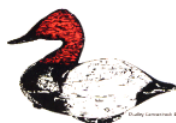
Each of us plays a role in the success of our organization. Each dollar given or spent; each hour volunteered; each event attended; each guest you bring; each new member you help recruit; each act generously executed by you has a direct benefit to the museum and ensures its survival. My heart aches to think of a day where the de Witt can only be seen in pictures like the ones we showcase within or exhibits.

Like always, I welcome your feedback, comments, and suggestions. If you'd like to volunteer your time in the museum or make a tax deductible donation, please contact Lynn.


I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Guild meeting on Tuesday evening. The format for this meeting will be a "Show and Tell". Please bring any piece that moves you and that you'd like to share with the group. Social starts at 6pm with the meeting beginning at 7pm. I enjoy our time together at these meetings.

Cheers.

Jason Seward








**Free Decoy
 Identification and
 Evaluation**

By Jeff Tinkham
 Past President of The Atlantic
 Wildfowl Heritage Museum
 Call (757) 721-7131 or
jeff@tinkhamlaw.com





Snowy Owl Survival

[Sarah Brookbank](#), Cincinnati Enquirer

A snowy owl has been spotted in northern Ohio this winter.

Does that mean Cincinnati could see them locally? The chances are pretty good.

Cleveland MetroParks said a snowy owl was sighted [Monday in Mecca Township](#), north of Youngstown and East of Cleveland.

"This snowy owl, found yesterday at Mosquito Lake in Mecca, is the first 'snowy' to be found this winter in Ohio. We're on high alert for Cleveland's first snowy owl of Winter 2019/2020," the parks department said.

Dan Marsh, director of education at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, [previously told The Enquirer](#) that the possibility of seeing snowy owls in Greater Cincinnati depends on how things are going up north.

"They could push down here easily. It's not that uncommon, really," he said.

We've had run-ins with the raptors before.

Early in 2018, a snowy owl delighted bird enthusiasts in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky when it visited Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park. In late 2017, a snowy owl visiting Cincinnati's Queensgate train yard was critically injured.

The owl's appearance this far south tends to be cyclical and food driven, Marsh said. The primary diet of snowy owls is lemmings. When food is less abundant, snowy owls, mostly juveniles, travel south to feed.

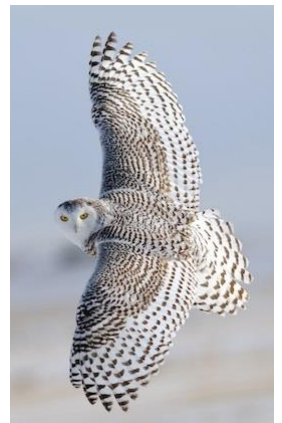
"They are just trying to stay alive," he said.

"They are not looking to make a territory here," Marsh said. "As soon as they can, they will go back."



The unique look of the Snowy Owl means that this species is never confused with any other. It is the only one featuring an all white coloring. They also have speckles on the body that are dark gray or black in color. The size of the speckles as well as the pattern of them can be very different for each of them. The females seem to have more of the markings and in a different coloring.

The fact that the Snowy Owl is the only species with this white coloring gives the impression that it is due to the evolution process. At some point in time this species of owl ended up in the very cold regions. In order to survive it had to develop thicker feathers than other species. It also needed a coloring that wouldn't stand out in the surroundings. Other species of owls are brown and grey but that would be to evident against the snowy background.



There are fossils out there dating millions of years ago that indicate owl species have been around since that time. However, it isn't fully understood how they are linked to the Snowy Owl. The remains that have been found don't show that this species was around back then. Yet they may have been and we just haven't found those remains yet.

As a result there is an ongoing debate among experts about how the life for the Snowy Owls began. Were they the result of another species that moved into that colder region for some reason? Instead of dying out though some of them were able to evolve, survive, and to reproduce?



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 will be our first General Membership Meeting of the New Year! This is the meeting where the membership will vote on the Officers for your Board of Directors for the next two years. The slate is as follows:

Jason Seward – President

Parke Atkinson – Vice-President

Jim Mehne – Secretary

Larry Davenport - Treasurer

If you miss this meeting, there won't be another General Membership Meeting until May 4th when we celebrate spring at the lucky Oyster Restaurant.

We had a somewhat successful **Dine out for the deWitt** at IL'Giardino's Restorante. We only had 35 people in attendance! There were a number of other patrons there that may have been supporting the museum. At any rate IL'Giardino's is always good to us for this event. I hope to see each and every one of you at the **Dine out for the deWitt on February 11, 2019** at the Surfrider Seafood Restaurant 1375 Oceana Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 5:30 – 8:30pm/ Please make your plans now to attend and Please bring some guests with you! I will see you there!

Here are some pictures from the Winter Wildlife Festival January 25, 2020 at the Princess Anne Recreation Center.



**The Blackwater Creeds Foundation
&
Creeds Ruritan Club
Proudly announce our
March 21, 2020 Craft Fair**



The Creeds Ruritans will be hosting our annual BBQ and Spring Craft Fair on March 21, from 11am - 6:00pm. This will take place at The Dick Cockrell Youth Arena located at the Creeds Ruritan Community Complex at 1057 Princess Anne Road.





From the Events Desk

Where has the first month of 2020 gone? We have been busy compiling the 2020 Calendar of Events for the Historic de Witt Cottage and the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. With the approval of our Conditional Use Permit by City Council on January 21, 2020, we are no longer held to a maximum of 4 events per year. That is exciting news. Additional events and programs allow us to diversify our revenue stream and introduce our extensive history and stories within the walls of the de Witt Cottage to locals and visitors. New and renewed partnerships are occurring to help our small team with this monumental task. A big thank you to the Virginia Beach Restaurant Association, Tidewater Community College, Princess Anne Garden Club and Landscape Services, City of Virginia Beach, to name a few. Finally, our Red Truck Ambassador, courtesy of Jim Briggs, will be making multiple appearances this summer at beach events and hanging out at the Museum for photo opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars with these upcoming events. Events are located at the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum/Historic de Witt Cottage, unless otherwise noted.

January 27, 2020 Open House for Event and Wedding Professionals 2:00 – 7:00 pm Free admission

February 11, 2020 Dine Out for de Witt, Surf Rider Restaurant, 5:30-8:00

March - Dine Out for de Witt, TBA

Cottage Gardens will begin their Spring rehabilitation.

April 7, 2020 Dine Out for de Witt, The Pub, 5:30-8:0

Something in the Water

May 5, 2020 Dine Out for de Witt, Lucky Oyster, 5:30-8:00

May 12, 2020 Garden Club Open House, 11:00 – 4:00 pm, free admission

May 15, 2020 Under the stars Friday Movie Event— in partnership with the Surfrider Foundation

June 19, 2020 Under the stars Friday Movie Event— in partnership with the Surfrider Foundation

July 4th Fireworks Celebration at the Beach – Celebrate the 4th as a VIP.

July 17, 2020 Under the stars Friday Movie Event— in partnership with the Surfrider Foundation

August 21, 2020 Under the stars Friday Movie Event— in partnership with the Surfrider Foundation

September 25-28, 2020 NEPTUNE FESTIVAL WEEKEND

October 11, 2020 4th Annual Oyster Roast & BBQ - de Witt Cottage & AWHM Anniversary Celebration

October 24, 2020 Who are you going to call? **Ghostbusters!** The mighty ghost catchers will be visiting the Cottage for a fun filled afternoon.

November 7, 2020 Gingerbread Competition Extravaganza begins and will be on exhibit until December 6, 2020

December 5, 2020 Photos with Santa 1:00 – 4:00 pm

RENT THE COTTAGE

Did you know that the de Witt Cottage is available for rental? We would love to host your upcoming special occasion, community meeting, or social club. Contact Martha Davenport, thedewittcottage@awhm.org for more information.

ONE LAST THOUGHT.....

Don't forget to like and follow The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum and the Historic de Witt Cottage on Facebook and Instagram.

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." – Anne Bradstreet

Martha



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

MUSEUM CARVERS

Monday Closed
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Roy Carlson & Ed Morrison
Thursday: Hank Grigolite
"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club: Al, Jamie, John, Pete
Friday: Susan Moritz
Saturday: Lynn Hightower
Sunday: Lynn Hightower

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday: OPEN
Thursday Joe Leo 10:00am-2:00pm
Friday: OPEN
Saturday: OPEN
Sunday: OPEN

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

MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director
Martha Davenport, Events Coordinator

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

You can now pay your dues online at awhm.org !

January 1, 2020 will kick off our Annual Membership Campaign. If you have any questions about Membership please call the Director at (757) 437-8432 or email him at director@atwildfowl.org .

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 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!

