

THE WILDFOWLER

JANUARY 2018

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

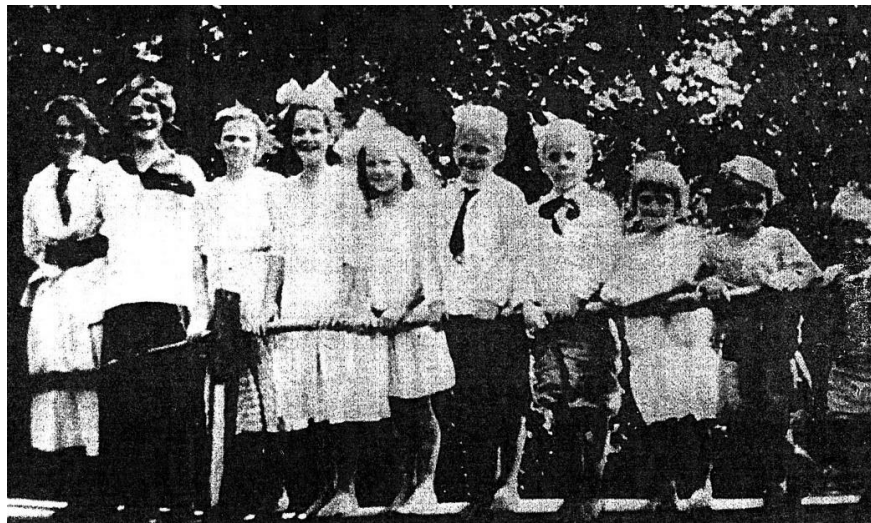
Katrine deWitt December 26, 1903-January 23, 2006

Lynn Hightower

From the archives of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, The Virginian –Pilot, and Past editions of The Wildfowler,

Katrine vanVliet de Witt, born Dec. 26, 1903, in St. Christopher's Hospital on Freemason Street in Norfolk, she was the fourth daughter of Cornelius and Cecile Amelie Mottu de Witt of Norfolk. In 1909 she moved with her parents, four sisters and two brothers to their new home in Virginia Beach. The “Brickhouse” or “Holland Cottage”. This new home was located on 12th Street and was named "Wittenzand" by her parents meaning "white sand" in Dutch.

Katrine was educated at St. George's School, Boush Street School, Putnam Hall and Maury High School. She graduated from The College of William and Mary in 1930 with a degree in French. She was a charter member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and the Flat Hat Society. She chose a career in teaching and she taught children at Suffolk High School, Blair Junior High, Maury High School, The Garrison Forrest School in Maryland and the Friends School in Virginia Beach. Her teaching career lasted a total of 41 years.



Left to right: Cecile, Elizabeth, Julia, Katrine, Harriet, Cornelius, John, Caroline, Paul and Peter



Left to right: Cecile, Elizabeth, Julia, Katrine, Harriet, and Caroline.

Katrine was a lifelong learner. In 1948 she graduated from George Peabody College with a master's degree in business. When she wasn't teaching she was still studying. Instead of taking her summers off for vacation, she attended Middlebury College, The University of Florida, Simmons College, University of Ohio, Radford College, Sweet Briar College, Wellesley College and Duke University's Marine Laboratory at Rivers Island, N.C., where she studied marine algae.



She later presented Duke University with a gift of her collection of marine algae.

In 1942 Katrine joined the waves. She wanted to do her part for the war effort. Her brothers Paul and Peter both went overseas to the European Theatre and both returned as war heroes. Katrine's interest in genealogy led to her membership in the Virginia chapter of the National Society of the Daughters, Founders and Patriots of America as well as the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As a conservationist, she was a member of the National Audubon Society, The Princess Anne County Historical Society and the Preservation Society of Virginia. Katrine was also a member of the Galilee Episcopal Church where she taught Sunday school and sang in the choir for many years. She was a member of the Bishop Tucker Circle.

Upcoming Guild Events:

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

02/20/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

03/20/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

04/17/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

05/01/2017 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Lucky Oyster Celebration
Fall and Winter Raffle Drawing

05/15/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

Save these Dates

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

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

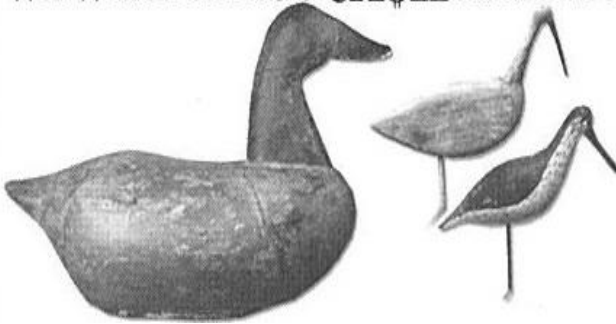
On December 2nd we had Spectrum Puppets here at the museum for a short puppet show and then a showing of the movie "Arthur Christmas." While we only had five children and two adults turn out; I do believe they all enjoyed the entertainment very much. Perhaps we will try again in the spring.



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. You can see all of the prizes on page six of this newsletter. Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. All proceeds go to the operation and sustainability of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. Please send the following information to everyone in your email list or post it to your Facebook page! Tickets can be purchased online at www.awhm.org/annual-affle 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 museum member and the museum receives a nice donation. There is no scheduled membership meeting in January 2018 so it only makes sense that we all get together on Monday, January 15, 2018 to kick off our New Year. 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 IL'Giardino's Restorante. Please help us make this a very successful event!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well here we are again another new year is upon us and we can now look back on what we as individuals and a family have accomplished. Many family's become new parents, grandparents and have been prosperous with new careers on the horizon. We also look back and be thankful for what we have accomplished, I am personally thankful for my good health, a loving family, good friends and a beautiful day. These things may seem small but believe me they are major, for without these blessings life can be difficult and challenging.

2018 will also bring you a new president, when I was asked to become president I had to give it some serious thought and anyone who knows me well, knows I will not commit to anything unless I can give 100% . My wife Ann and I are already involved in other volunteer nonprofit organizations, attend the gym on a regular basis and can honestly say it is rewarding also; it keeps the old ticker pumping. I hope! The museum will also have a new Board of Directors. Obviously they come from varied backgrounds and they also bring new and fresh ideas to the table. I look forward to working with each one on how the museum can become more self-sufficient and sustainable. The City of Virginia Beach has always supported us financially in the past but in the future that may not be possible with the lack of state and federal funding our financial support may come to an end. We as an organization must find ways we can become self-sufficient in order to pay our hard working employees and accomplish the many responsibilities we have.

I can honestly say Lynn Hightower has been a godsend to our museum, his many hours of dedication to the deWitt Cottage, his wisdom and thinking outside of the box has opened many opportunities for the museum on which we all should be grateful.

Each one of us as a member of this board of directors must give 100%, if we want to see the museum survive and flourish we must do our part. The museum is not a country club, we ALL must dedicate ourselves to the museum in one form or another. It may be selling tickets for a fundraising, asking for donations, seeking new memberships, baking goodies for auctions, volunteering at the museum, the list goes on.

The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum is located on one of the most valuable pieces of real-estate in the city. We are out front on the boardwalk where thousands of people from all parts of the world have an opportunity to visit the only surviving historical cottage on the oceanfront. Inside they can step back in time when Back Bay in Old Princess Ann County was known as a "Hunters Paradise ". Where wealthy industrialist invested in lavish hunting club retreats to entertain clients as well to give them an opportunity to relax from their hectic day to day operations. This history and heritage needs to be told so others may appreciate what we have to offer. (Remember what I said about volunteering)

We must make this museum a "destination" not just for the residents but for thousands of people who visit our beautiful city. We have a duty to serve our visitors as guest and make them feel appreciated and welcome, if they experience a great vacation or visit they will pass that on to their friends and hopefully visit us as well, there is no better advertisement than by word of mouth and it's free!

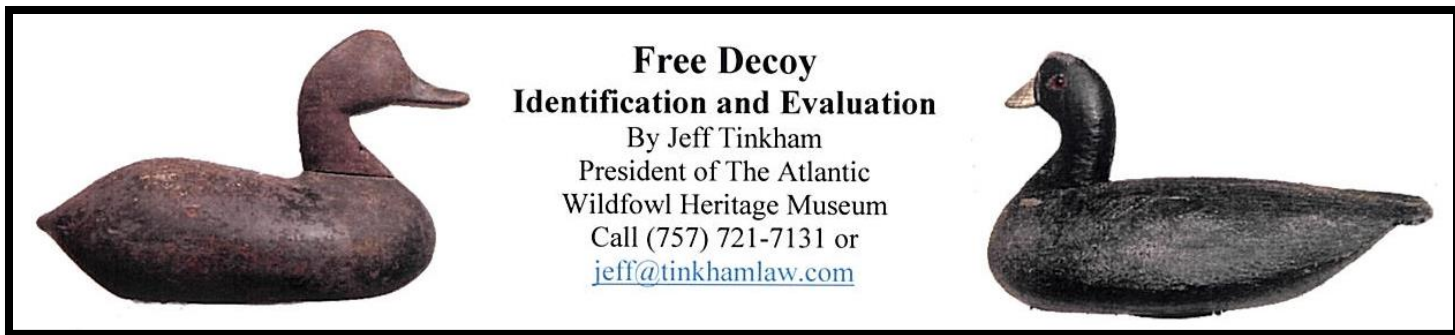
I want to thank each and every one for your support, I promise you I will give you 100% but I also need your support in making this coming year successful, whether it is financial or volunteering I promise you it will be rewarding in knowing that working as a team made it happen for our beautiful museum.

I wish each and every one of you a happy and prosperous New Year

God Bless,

Albert (AL) N. Henley, Jr.
President





FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

December 31st. New Year's Eve. A time to celebrate the start of something new. A time to make new promises, some to be broken, some to be kept. A time to look ahead and try to change things for the better. A time to look behind and see what we may have done wrong, and how to change it. A time to look back on our failures and see where some changes might lead to success! A time to start new friendships (memberships). A time to ask for forgiveness. It's a joyous time because we feel like we get to start over. People are happy, laughing, giggling, and sharing about events of the past year and those before. Many of us will be glad to see 2017 end!

We should all currently take time to thank God for our blessings

I want to thank everyone who answered my request for assistance by providing many wonderful items for our Fall Barbeque and Christmas silent auctions. I also want to thank two very special young women; Barbara Shope and Linda Widgeon for their hard work in organizing and producing both of these auctions! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

I want to thank everyone for the delicious potluck dishes we all shared at the Christmas Party. I believe everyone had a joyous and enjoyable time. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Ann Smith and Donna Grigolite for their efforts in organizing the buffet tables.



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 Beretta Shotgun (seven major prizes). 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 **Dine out for the deWitt** on **January 15, 2018** at IL'Giardino's Restorante 910 Atlantic Avenue (one block south of the deWitt Cottage). 5:30 – 8:00pm Please make you plans now to attend and Please bring some guests with you! I will see you there!



Prize #2



Prize #1



Prize #3

Prize #4



Prize #5



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



New Years' Reflection

By Katrina Piehler

I have to admit... I'm a big fan of the New Year season. I know, some folks aren't. And understandably so. There's often this ever present assumption, expectation even, that we should be always doing more, should be better. Resolutions can feel heavy rather than inspiring.

That's not what New Years' time is for me. I've found there are much more stirring and satisfying possibilities for engaging with this season of transition. But right now... this year's not over yet! Instead of perpetuating that habit of hurriedly moving into 'what's next,'

I invite you FIRST to relish the last couple days of this year. Pause for a bit. Take a few complete breaths, and do some gentle reflecting before moving on to New Year's resolving.

Because this culture we live in continually has us in a mode of being on the go – always adding things to our To Do lists, it seems we rarely take time to sit down and feel a sense of completion, an awareness of accomplishment. And that's a problem. Think about it!

If we never really feel 'done' with anything, how can we ever experience a sense of satisfaction in life? Reflection is essential for contentment.

I've heard some folks say they don't have time to pause, to designate resting (non-doing) times... but truly there is nothing more essential for moving forward. How does the quote go? "You can't know where you're going until you know where you've been."

This is the perfect time of year to offer yourself a small gift of time – to simply look back over the year. To see how far you've come and reflect on the growing you've done.

One late December evening or early January day, simply take an hour or so to sit with your journal or a piece of paper. Make a list of all that you accomplished over the last year, situations or challenges you made it through, stuff you worked hard on, undertakings that are done, things you're proud of yourself for. This list is not just for big things. Let your memory re-open to all the small details and circumstances. And no 'if only's or 'buts' on this list. It's the end of a year. Let yourself breathe it in and rest there for a bit. I give myself the gentle space to do this ritual every year. And inevitably, through the compassion and self-acknowledgment that shows up for me in the process, inspiring new intentions always seem to flow out of me onto a meaningful new year's 'resolution' list. Acknowledge what worked and went well for you this year. Let that be the motivation that propels you into the new one. I invite you to share your old and New Year reflections and thoughts by mailing to:

Director
Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum
1113 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
or emailing director@atwildfowl.org

We will publish them in the February and March Newsletters.

Katrina Piehler is a wellness coach, bodyworker, workshop leader and writer who is passionate about helping busy people create lives they love living!



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Al Henley, President	Wayne Jarman, Vice President
Jim Mehne, Secretary	Roger Shope, Treasurer
Mark Cromwell	Werner Seibel
Dan Neveu	Jason Seward
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, Herb Videll
Thursday:	Hank Grigolite
"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club:	Al, Jamie, John, Pete & Charlie
Friday:	Susan Moritz
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!

