

THE WILDFOWLER

JANUARY 2020

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Memories 125th Year of The deWitt Cottage

Lynn Hightower

From the archives of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, The Virginian –Pilot, Find a Grave.com, and Past editions of The Wildfowler.

As we begin the celebration of our historic home for the museum, we will be taking a journey into the past with a series of articles that explain how the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum found its way into the deWitt Cottage.

EXTENDED FAMILY OF DE WITTS REMEMBERS DAYS GONE BY

For those who knew the de Witt Cottage or even had chance encounters with the de Witt family, the impression left was everlasting, and you came away with something incredibly special. This specialness was not just what was said, who you were with or what you saw it was the picture in its entirety. “Wittenzand”, or the de Witt Cottage, captures something holistic and venerable.



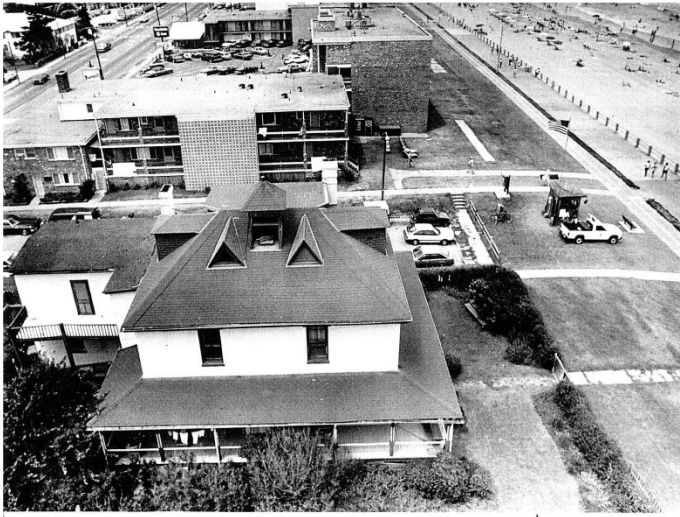
August 1960. On the beach in front of the de Witt Cottage: Mike, Chris, and Diane (Murdock) with parents Anne and Jim Burnside.



When at the Cottage, you enjoyed each other's company. simple pleasures, geniality, there were no feelings of wanting to "get away from it all," only an openness of enjoying one another. Even now when you look at the Cottage it's the house, the gardens, with the ocean so near: it all seems to reflect back to the life created, gentle, kind, lost in time, ancestral.

Indeed, when you were there, everything seemed to reach out to you, the house and the people. The cupola, the porch that wrapped the house on three sides, and the wide hallways, where summer breezes flowed through the front door straight through the house to the back door.





Miss Hity could be found lovingly tending the gardens. It was the one place we tread with what approached reverence. The flowers were every color, size, and shape imaginable, the scents were redolent. The tremendous fig tree was as bonding as the house, ancient, withstanding many a northeastern storm. Boughs that stretched up, then turned up and seemingly clung to the earth. Giving the impression of being heaven sent and well-grounded at the same time. And the figs were like no others.

It was all about having fun and sharing thoughts. The company was grand. It was a custom over a 50 year period (1924-1974) for a person to sign in the pig books. They were titled "some pigs who have eaten at

Wittenzand." In over a dozen books, blindfolded friends drew a pig before signing their autographs.

Remembering a stay at the cottage harkens back to a time when conversation and playing games was the essence. You were simply always drawn into part of something. For young and old, there was the treasure trove of comic books, stacked on shelves in a closet that stretched from the floor to the ceiling. The best was picking your favorite reading matter and curling up in one of the ham-mocks in the corner of the porch.

Many was the time we freely roamed the house thinking the sisters knew not where we were. The attic was full of old objects that filled our heads with intrigue and fantasies. And on rare occasions Miss Elizabeth, Miss Ju Ju (Julia) or Miss Katrine would take us up to the cupola, and there the view was expansive - the world was ours - it is the way the sisters always made you feel. The Burnside Children -

Mike, Chris, Diane Burnside Murdock



deWitt Cottage circa 1940

May 27, 1992

I'm enclosing a contribution for the de Witt Cot-tage Project. Friends have sent me news clippings and a flier on this interesting restoration. My late husband Gibson Dailey and I spent a number of happy summer vacations there 1936-39. Please give my warm regards to Caroline and Peter and to Louisa Kyle.

Cordially,
Barbara White Dailey, Amherst, Massachusetts





Upcoming Guild Events:

01/05/2020 Coastal Virginia Winter Wedding Showcase
Noon to 4:00pm
Founders Inn & Spa
5641 Indian River Road

01/06, 13, 20, 27, 2020: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum
Meets every Monday
Bring your work gloves and tools

01/28/2020: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

01/25/2020 Winter Wildlife Festival
10:00am – 5:00pm Princess Anne Recreation Center
1400 Nimmo Parkway
Volunteers Carvers Needed.

01/13/2020 Dine Out for The de Witt
5:30pm – 8:30pm Il'Giardino's Restorante
910 Atlantic Ave.

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

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

05/07/2019 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Lucky Oyster Celebration

Save these Dates

Dine Out for The de Witt

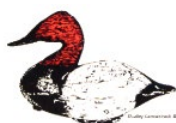
Monday 01/13/2020 IL'giardino 910 Atlantic Avenue 5:30pm-8:00pm

Tuesday 02/11/2020 Surf Rider 1375 Oceana Blvd 5:30pm-8:00pm

Monday 03/09/2019 Waterman's Surfside Grill 415 Atlantic Avenue 5:30pm-8:00pm

Tuesday 04/07/2020 The Pub 1001 Laskin Road 5:30pm-8:00pm

Lucky Oyster May 5, 2020



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



By Mark Cromwell

Fitzhugh Munden, January 8, 1906 – May 31, 1965

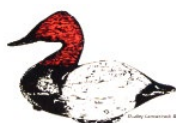
Fitzhugh made his living on the water and operated a hutting camp on the beach side of North Back Bay near the little island coast guard station. This is the area South of Sandbridge and North of the Old False Cape Coast Guard Station.

Fitzhugh has only been credited with carving coot decoys. His decoys are made with 2 or 3 piece body construction with peg heads that are dowelled into the body. Also on the top of the body he would groove out the wood from front to tail.

His paint pattern was very simple, white for the bill and tail black for the rest of the decoy.

DINE OUT FOR THE DEWITT

Dine out for the deWitt starts on **January 13, 2020** 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 13, 2020** 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!





Dine Out for The deWitt

Dine out with us at

IL Giardino Restorante

910 Atlantic Avenue

Monday, January 13, 2020

Help us in our continuing efforts to preserve a piece of Virginia Beach History!



Seafood Medley

&

Clams in White Wine Sauce

10% of your check will be donated back to the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum!



Veal Parmesan

&


Chocolate Cake

Please bring your family, your friends and any potential new members out to dinner.


We thank you for your support in advance!

You should be real tired of Ham & Turkey Sandwiches anyway/





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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy 2020 to all the friends of Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum! I want to share my most heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your continued support of the museum and all that we accomplished in 2019. This coming year is shaping up to be an exciting one! As we move forward into the New Year we will be celebrating the 125th year of the deWitt Cottage!

In the coming months your Board of Directors along with the director, Lynn Hightower, will develop goals and objectives that will support our vision as well as create a more sustainable foundation for the museum. Special events and other programming will be a focus in 2020 as we continue to fundraise, as well as friend-raise. These events will allow members, guests, and visitors to experience the full breadth of the AWHM. **Mark your calendars now for Sunday, October 11th as we prepare to host the 125th Birthday of our historic deWitt Cottage.**

It is not too late to make a tax-deductible gift to the museum. Please contact Mr. Hightower at 757-437-8432 to make your pledge. Brass plaques and brick pavers are also an option should you wish to honor someone in a more permanent manner.

I again thank each of you and look forward to seeing you at our first "Dine Out for the de Witt" event on January 13th at IL 'Giardino's and at the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild membership meeting on February 4th.

We have much to be thankful for as we begin a new decade!

Cheers!

Jason Seward

President



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! Another year of success and happiness has passed. With every New Year comes greater challenges and obstacles in life. I wish you courage, hope and faith to overcome all of the hurdles you may face. May you have a great year and a wonderful time ahead! I am eager to spend time in the New Year with you. Last year we got older and slower but we had a good time. Let's make sure we do the same in this New Year!

I want to thank everyone who answered my request for assistance by providing many wonderful items for our Fall Barbeque and Christmas silent 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



Our first Photos with Santa and the Red Truck was held on December 7, 2019. We had 17 families participate, comprised of Museum members, friends, referrals, and Virginia Beach visitors. We would like to thank Jim Briggs and his Red Truck, Ron and Shawn Form of H2O Waterfront Venues for their photography services, Michael Mauch of Harvest Restaurant for the complimentary hot chocolate and cookies, and Al and Judy Wilder for providing Santa Claus. In addition, we would like to thank the support of the Board members of this event. Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 5, 2020 for our next Photos with Santa and the Red Truck. 2020 will bring a bigger holiday celebration for the Museum.

I hope to see every one of you at the **Dine out for the deWitt** on **January 13, 2020** 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!



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!

