

THE WILDFOWLER

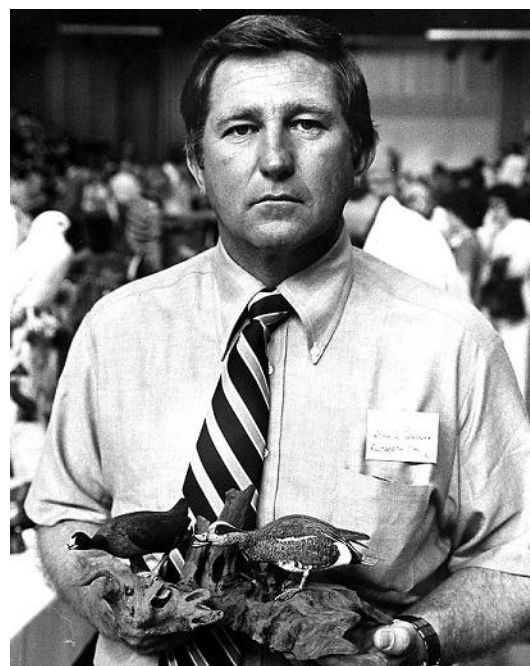
JUNE 2019

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

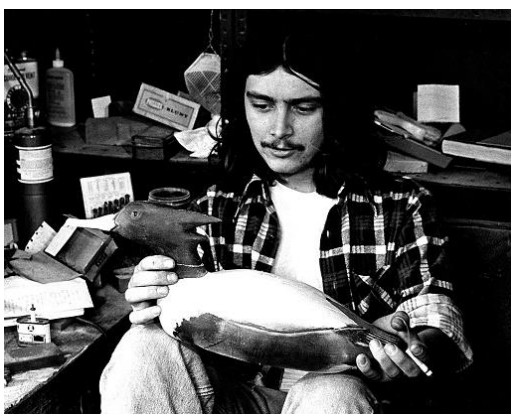
Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories Images from The Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl Festival



Left: Lemuel T. Ward
Crisfield, Maryland



Right: John Sawyer
Elizabeth City, NC



Left: Wayne Waterfield
Virginia Beach, VA



Right: Lynn Forehand,
Chesapeake, VA
Ernie Muehlmann,
Salisbury, MD
Jim Sprankle,
Sanibel Island, FL





Upcoming Guild Events:

06/03, 10, 17, 24/2018: de Witt Garden Club
9:00 am, at the museum
Meets every Monday

06/18/2019: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

07/04/2019: Independence Day

09/03/2019 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Speaker: TBA

09/17/2018: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

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.



Marvin Lemay Midgett

Sept 17, 1884 – Feb 14, 1971

Born and raised in Rodanthe, NC. Marvin had a total of 8 children

During WWII he worked at Naval Shipyards in Norfolk, VA and would commute to Kitty Hawk, NC on weekends. Marvin joined the Life Saving Service shortly after the turn of the century and he was stationed at the Kill Devil Hills, NC Coast Guard Station.

Marvin and his fellow carvers Mannie Haywood, Capt. Willie Lewark and Allen & Avery Tillett would get together and carve decoys. Marvin made few wooden decoys. Most of his decoys were wire over canvas with a 2-piece head joint. Marvin was one of the better known carvers in Dare County but his main passion was fishing.



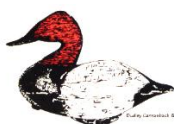
THE DUCK TRAP



Duck traps are one of the oldest methods of taking wild ducks. They were used in one form or another long before the invention of the gun. Native American Indians used snares and traps along with decoys to provide wild duck for their families.

On the Eastern Shore before and during the industrial revolution it was difficult to find regular employment. Year round employment was scarce and fulltime careers were non-existent.

Most men on the “Shore” were watermen or farmers both subject to seasonal employment and success depended greatly on the weather. It was during the winter months that these men turned to trapping to help supplement their meager incomes. Accepting the fact that during the winter this was a necessary part of survival; the traps dealt a heavy burden to the ducks, especially mallards and black ducks. If trapping them had been allowed to continue, these two species would probably be extinct. In 1918 the Federal Migratory Bird Act prohibited baiting and commercial hunting and trapping of Migratory Waterfowl. The picture on the right is a trap used today for “Banding” wild ducks



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Summer AWHM Friends!

I wanted my message to you this month to be one of transparency. Many things are in the works that impact our organization and beloved cottage and I want to make sure that you are all informed.

- As you are well aware, our partners Shore Gallery are up and running in the cottage, If you have not had a chance to visit the space, I encourage you to do so. I am happy to share that all of our members will receive a discount of between 10%-20% depending on membership level on purchases. In addition, all patrons are available to add a donation for the museum upon checkout.



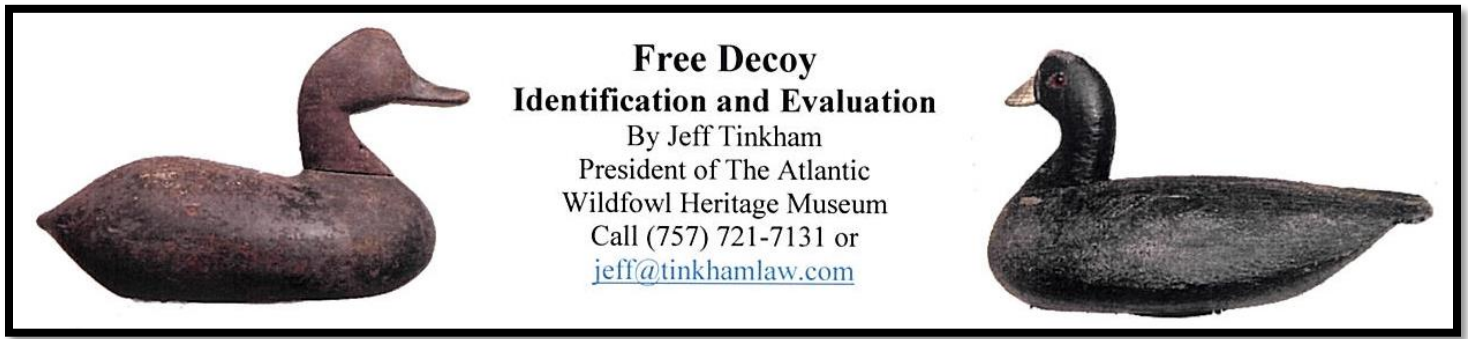
- Our annual B3: Beer and Bourbon at the Brickhouse (above) took place on May 19th. The event was a success and the museum was buzzing with activity throughout the day. Our community partners at Global Surf Network provided the musical entertainment for the event, in addition to other artists and surf memorabilia displayed throughout. We look forward to continuing to grow this event with your help. Our goal is for B3 to become our major Spring fundraising opportunity, signifying the start to our “season”.
- Speaking of funding, I wanted to share that our Community Organization Grant that is provided to us by the City of Virginia Beach has been reduced for the upcoming fiscal year. This grant plays a large roll in our operations for the museum and a reduction to this grant is something that we have faced before. This reduction will materialize in the amount of \$7,131. This will be a challenge for our organization (as funding always is). It will require us to do more with less. We were not the only organization impacted by a reduction to this program. We have spoken to the City and shared our disappointment in this reduction and a desired need to revisit this in the future.
- We are currently working with the City on revising our lease to encompass a wider variety of assembly use then presently permitted. Once we have approval, we will apply for a Conditional Use Permit. Currently there is an ordinance at the Oceanfront that limits businesses to be able to host ONLY 4 special events each year. These include things like our Fall Oyster Roast and Spring B3, weddings, reunions, and other large gatherings. As you can imagine, this limitation “handcuffs” us in our ability to host events that raise funds and generate revenue for us. One area we are looking to increase revenue is weddings and outside special events. Our De Witt, is a PRIME location for special celebrations and provides a revenue opportunity that we MUST capitalize on.

We have much to celebrate but also face some challenges. As always, I thank each of you for your continued support or the AWHM and the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild. If you would like to become more involved, we always welcome volunteers at the museum. If you can't give of your time, we greatly appreciate and are fortunate any financial gift you feel so moved to pledge to the museum. All gifts are tax deductible. Please contact Lynn for more information. All for now. As a reminder, I welcome your feedback, questions, or comments and look forward to seeing you later this summer at our next Guild meeting.

Cheers.

Jason Seward
President





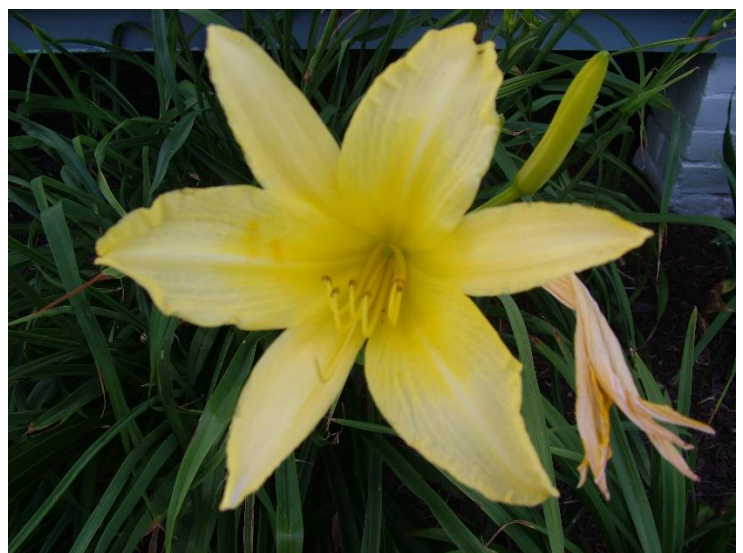
MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I hope and pray that each of you have had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend. It is so important that we take the time to stop and remember all of the men and women who have given their lives that we might enjoy the freedom we have in this country. The Museum has started its summer schedule and will now be open seven days a week, 10:00am – 5:00pm Monday through Sunday. Please come visit with us!

As we come to the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2018, we anticipate that we will end the period with a little surplus this year. This is the second year in a row we have accomplished this task and it is a direct result of the hard work your Board of Directors has invested.

As you can see from the pictures below, the garden is just starting to bloom into its full glory. A lot of hard work has been put in by the members of the deWitt Cottage Garden Club. The gardens have been cleaned up, expanded, and had new plants added. If you have any desire to garden, please consider joining the deWitt Cottage Garden Club. It is an opportunity to learn how to garden in a hostile, saltwater environment from Master Gardeners.

If you have not paid your membership dues for 2019, you will be receiving an invoice during the month of June. All memberships run from January 1st through December 31st of each calendar year.





The Perils of Being a Duck



Top Duck-Craving Predators - Reprinted from Delta Waterfowl Website

When it comes to food-chain hierarchy, ducks are the rabbits of the avian world — essentially every critter with forward-facing eyes wants a bite of them. The threats are even broader for ducklings, which are consumed by practically anything large enough to complete the task, from bullfrogs to herons. And you can imagine the vulnerability of duck eggs to plundering, given their immobility and tasty, nutrient-rich yolks. Here's a look at the key predators that impact waterfowl production.

Red Foxes

Red foxes are a primary predator limiting duck production in the prairie pothole region, particularly for upland-nesting species such as mallards and pintails. Why? For one thing, research suggests they specifically seek out duck nests, rather than finding them opportunistically like most other mammals. They also want more than just eggs — they creep in stealthily in hopes of pouncing on the hen, which of course leaves no chance for renesting. Foxes frequently cache newfound eggs — that is, squirrel them away for later — and move on to the next nest.

Raccoons

Raccoons generally don't actively target duck nests, but they're happy to eat most or all of a clutch when they happen upon one. And happen upon them they do, in their travels along prairie wetland edges, farmland ditches and other places breeding ducks nest. They'll eat ducklings, too, although their consumption of eggs is far more detrimental to the fall flight. Notably, raccoons are not native to all of the prairie pothole region, and ducks didn't have to contend with them in prairie Canada until about the 1950s.

Skunks

Like raccoons, skunks are foraging animals that delight in chance encounters with duck nests and occasionally eat ducklings, too. Research funded in part by Delta Waterfowl suggests that the average skunk depredates at least two or three duck nests each spring — which adds up quickly in regions with high skunk densities — and that skunks feed most heavily on duck eggs in early spring when food alternatives are scarce.

Coyotes

Many assume that coyotes are public enemy No. 1 for nesting ducks, given their size and abundance. While they will eat ducklings, scavenge eggs and kill any hens they manage to catch, they also drive away foxes and other preeminent breeding duck predators. Thus, while coyotes have a net negative impact on breeding ducks, the losses are somewhat offset by the coyotes' displacement of more aggressive nest raiders.





Badgers

Badgers are a major duck-egg predator across much of the prairie pothole region. In a 1999 study published by Notre Dame and conducted in west-central Minnesota and southeastern North Dakota, waterfowl flesh was found in the stomach contents of 32 percent of the badgers sampled, while 27 percent contained ducklings, and a whopping 60 percent had recently consumed duck eggs.

Mink

These fanciful, semi-aquatic mammals are occasional egg-eaters and kill a lot of ducklings in the prairie pothole region. In dry years, when wetlands retract from the surrounding vegetation and ducklings are left exposed, mink can exact an especially grave toll on how many survive to migration. Otters, a relative of mink, similarly affect duck production in areas such as Nova Scotia, where their numbers are increasing.



Corvids

The corvid family, which includes crows, ravens and magpies, poses a formidable aerial danger to waterfowl eggs and ducklings. These birds are more plentiful in the parkland habitats of central Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba — which have ample trees and therefore support high corvid populations — than in the prairies of the Dakotas and southern Canada. And because the Canadian parklands are a critical region for over-water nesters such as canvasbacks, redheads and ring-necked ducks, corvids strongly affect these key diver species. Crows used to be considered the top avian predator for waterfowl, but recent data suggests that ravens are far more destructive and their numbers have dramatically increased in parkland habitats that support canvasbacks.



Gulls

One might think the secluded breeding habitats of eiders and other island-nesting sea ducks would be relatively protected from egg-eaters. However, a recent influx of gulls and other predators is significantly limiting nest success and duckling survival in coastal Maine and Canada's maritime provinces. Predation by black-backed gulls, in particular, is believed to be a leading cause behind declines of common eider populations in the Atlantic Flyway. The gulls perch in wait, and strike when hens leave their nests unattended.

Other Nest Predators

The list goes on. Despite steep population declines, Franklin's ground squirrels remain a significant nest invader in key portions of the prairies. Birds of prey, including hawks and owls, eat eggs and ducklings, and the recovery of bald eagles in the East is thought to be putting a serious dent in eider duckling survival.

Snakes are well documented wood-duck nest raiders, while snapping turtles, largemouth bass, northern pike

and even bullfrogs pull plenty of ducklings below the surface. Feral cats, about 95 million of them at last count, weasels, Opossums. Armadillos, Bobcats, and Herons are also on the hunt for newborn ducks. To be certain, a juvenile duck that finds itself winging south with winter's chill at its back has overcome all manner of odds. —

Kyle Wintersteen USFWS National Digital Library.



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 Martha Davenport
Phil Davenport 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, Martha Davenport, Cherly Davis,
and Lena Lindsay

MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director Joe Leo, Operations

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!

