

THE WILDFOWLER

JUNE 2020

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories: The Grand Old Lady of The Virginia Beach Oceanfront



The deWitt Cottage will celebrate it's 125th birthday on September 22, 2020 and she has gotten a bit of a makeover in preparation for her big day. New flooring has been added throughout the interior, and she has had a new roof installed by TST Roofing to top her off. Thank you to Carey Clayborn and his crew for enduring the wind this winter to get the roof finished; no more leaks!



It will also be the 45th anniversary of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild and the 25th anniversary of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. We are still planning a large celebration for October 11, 2020, so keep your fingers crossed and stay tuned for more information as we approach Autumn.



Upcoming Guild Events:

06/01, 08, 15, 22, 29/2020: de Witt Garden Club

9:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

We are a hands on Garden Club

So bring your gloves and tools.

06/16/2020: Board Meeting

6:00 pm

06/21/2020 Father's Day

07/04/2020: Independence Day

Friday through Monday July 6th

07/21/2020: Board Meeting

6:00 pm



08/18/2020: Board Meeting

6:00 pm

09/01/2020 (Tuesday) Back Bay Wildfowl Guild

Membership Meeting, 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm

Speaker: TBA

	<p>Free Decoy Identification and Evaluation By Jeff Tinkham Past President of The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum Call (757) 721-7131 or jeff@tinkhamlaw.com</p>	
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Summer AWHM Friends!

I want my message to you this month, again, to be one of transparency. Hey! We are finally open again. Many things have happened since March 10, 2020 when we shut our doors in response to the Covid-19 Emergency, and I want to make sure that you are all informed.

- Our partners, Shore Gallery, were forced to cease their operation at the cottage when we closed the doors. During the time that we were closed, the Board of Directors voted to suspend Shore Gallery's rent until they were able to operate. They are up and running in the cottage again. 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.
- We have not had a very good start to our "Season" so far this year. All of our events had to be cancelled for Spring and Summer; many of which would have produced significant revenue for the museum. Martha Davenport had spent most of the last two years lining up and booking these events. The cancellation of these events cost the museum about \$13,000. Fortunately, we were able to close out our Winter season with a cocktail party, hosted by Mark and Margie Cromwell that netted the museum about \$16,000. Thank you Martha, Mark and Margie for all of your hard work.
- 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 fully funded for the upcoming fiscal year despite the many setbacks that have been caused by the pandemic. This grant plays a large role in our operations for the museum and a reduction to this grant is something that we have faced before. We are very blessed to have great support from City Council members Barbara Henley, Rosemary Wilson, Michael Berlucchi, Jim Wood, Louis Jones, Arron Rouse, and Mayor Bobby Dyer. This is great news moving forward! I also want to thank our Director, Lynn Hightower, for obtaining a Paycheck Protection Program Loan from the Small Business Administration that is completely forgivable and becomes a grant if we are able to spend all of the money on salaries and utilities. This will provide us with \$10,871.60 in additional revenue this fiscal year.
- We have been granted a Conditional Use Permit by the City Council to use the museum and its grounds as a venue for weddings, concerts, parties, reunions or business retreats. This opens the door for us to generate a large amount of revenue. If we can just survive the pandemic and civil unrest. 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 still face some challenges. As always, I thank each of you for your continued support of 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 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 in the Fall at our next Guild meeting.

Cheers.

Jason Seward (hudsonoutdoors@gmail.com)

President

Happy Father's Day!



Joseph "Joe" H. Hayman 1896-1974

Joseph was born in the village of Corolla, N. C. His father, William Henry Hayman, worked for the Corolla Lighthouse. Joe, at the age of 9, carved his first decoy and helped the market hunters. By the age of 15, he was carving decoys and making blinds for the local hunters and hunting clubs. When Joe was 16, he served as a marsh guard for the local clubs. When he was in his 20's, he went to work for Pat O'Neal to build boats, decoys and push poles. Joe made wooden and canvas covered decoys with great form and with the help of his wife Mildred. This canvas swan is branded J. H. H. for Joe's initials and was out of his personal rig.



Joe cut out the bottom board, secured the wire frame and fastened the head and neck. Mildred's job was to cut out the canvas, sew it and tack it over the wire framework. She then gave it back to Joe who painted it. With a pocketknife, Hayman carved the wooden decoys from juniper. He concentrated on canvasbacks and redheads, but also produced black ducks, scaup, coot, wigeon and just one pair of mallards which he gave to Mildred as a wedding present. Local guides and gunning clubs on Back Bay and Currituck Sound bought Hayman's decoys. According to Mildred, the highest prices Joe charged were \$12 for a Canada goose, \$30 for a swan and \$1.50 for replacing a canvas cover (Coppedge 164). When friend and fellow carver Ned Burgess began to have trouble carving his own decoys, Joe Hayman helped him by roughing out bottom boards and necks on his band saw.



MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I hope and pray that each of you have had a relaxed and safe Spring. You may or may not be aware that we closed our doors on March 10, 2020 in direct response to the Coronavirus emergency. We remained closed until Friday, June 5, 2020. It seems like a decade has passed since we last opened. So much has happened in our nation, our state and our community. I am hopeful that all of the pain, sorrow and suffering will soon be healed. I believe we are at a crossroads in our democracy, and I pray we head in the right direction.

Memorial Day has come and gone. 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. We have a new Antique Decoy display on loan from Bill Hall of Bloxom, VA on the Eastern Shore. We also have the original art winner of the Virginia Duck Stamp Contest on display. Please come and 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 third consecutive 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.

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 2020, you will be receiving an invoice during the month of June. All memberships now run from the date you last paid your dues for 365 consecutive days. For example, if you paid your dues on January 6, 2020, then your dues for 2021 will be due on January 6, 2021. I will help you stay current and in good standing.

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.



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

MUSEUM CARVERS

Monday Elaine Polizos
Tuesday: Open
Wednesday: Roy Carlson & Ed Morrison
Thursday: Open
"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club: Al, Jamie, John, Pete
Friday: Susan Moritz
Saturday: Open
Sunday: Open

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

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 !

Please understand that we depend on every dollar to operate the museum. If you have not paid your 2020 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away. Beginning May 1, 2020, any listed member who has not paid their dues will receive an invoice from the museum director requesting payment of their annual dues

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 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

