

THE WILDFOWLER

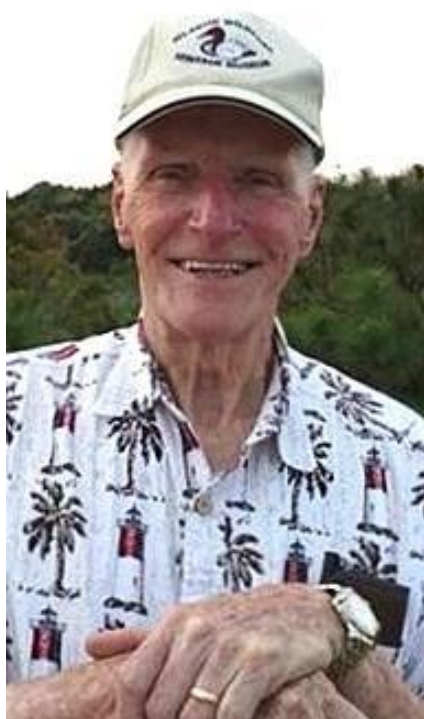
MARCH 2018

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories

Herbert F. Videll

October 29, 1932 – February 16, 2018



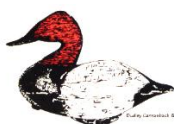
Herbert F. Videll, Jr, 85, loving husband, dad, granddad, and great-granddad, died peacefully with his family at his side on February 16, 2018 in Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital.

Herb was born in Hartford, Connecticut to the late Herbert and Margaret Videll. He was a veteran of the US Army and retired after many years of service with the C & P Telephone Company and Verizon Engineering Department. He was a founding member of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, where he served in many ministries; also a fourth degree member of Knights of Columbus, a dedicated volunteer board member and wood carver at the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum - deWitt Cottage, past scout master, community football coach, Civic League president, and PTA president.

Herb came to the guild about 25 years ago. Ed Morrison reflected on his first encounter with Herb. "Herb was sitting in a chair and he was using an old pocket knife to carve on something between his fingers. The blade on the knife looked like it was only about an inch long. It was bent and looked like it had been broken and repaired. It must have been at least 100 years old. Herb explained that it was his grandfather's pocket knife and that confirmed the age of the knife. I asked Herb what he was carving on. He responded a peach pit!

I said why? Herb answered that he was carving a bride and groom inside the peach pit. Herb turned the pit around and sure enough you could see two tiny miniature people inside the pit. So I said, where are the ring bearer and flower girl? Herb grinned and said, I haven't gotten around to them yet!"

Herb and Pat Videll were devoted supporters of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. He served on the Board of Directors and was a regular carving demonstrator on Wednesdays at the museum. The museum will be installing a brass plaque in the sculpture garden in memory of Herb. If you would like to contribute to the plaque, please contact the museum director.





Upcoming Guild Events:

03/10/2018: Back Bay Currituck Waterfowl Festival
1057 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
Need Volunteers to man table
And Carving demonstrations

03/18/2018 42st Annual Creed's Ruritan BBQ
1057 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
Need Volunteers to man table
And Carving demonstrations

03/19/2018 Dine Out for The de Witt
5:30pm – 8:30pm Rudee's Seafood Restaurant
227 Mediterranean Ave

~~03/20/2018: Board Meeting
deWitt Cottage 6:00 pm~~
CANCELLED

03/29/2018: Board Retreat
Virginia Wesleyan University
5:30 pm

04/07/2018 Gathering of The Guilds
Historic Frances Land House
3131 Virginia Beach blvd
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
Need Volunteers to man table
And Carving demonstrations

04/??/2018 Dine Out for The de Witt
5:30pm – 8:30pm Beach Pub
1001 Laskin Road

04/17/2018: Board Meeting
deWitt Cottage 6:00 pm

05/01/2018 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 6:00pm
Lucky Oyster Celebration
Fall and Winter Raffle Drawing



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to note we have a great Board of Directors, the four new members Mark Cromwell, Tom Richards, Dan Neveu and Jason Seward have brought new and refreshing ideas to the table. Each board member has special talents and work experiences that may be applied to the museum, with this in mind we will be establishing committees, each board member will serve on and will enhance the museum by lighting the work load of the museum director. Currently Lynn Hightower, Museum Director is serving in many capacities and I will note has been one of the best investments for the museum, his love and dedication to the museum is unbelievable.

The Board of Directors will be attending our annual retreat on March 29, 2018. Jason Seward has reserved a room for us at Virginia Wesleyan University where he is Vice-President of Student Affairs. We will focus on new and refreshing ideas in order to move forward and do some strategic planning for the museum.

The board has already discussed different ways we can raise money and provide the needed exposure to the museum. The latest joint venture is with Donkey Dawgs (local restaurant) who will be providing a Summer Hot Dog Kiosk with chips, drinks, and fresh baked cookies on the museum grounds as well as personnel to man the Kiosk (Memorial Day –Labor Day). We will be sharing a percentage of the Net Revenue; hopefully this will pull people in the museum in order for them to be exposed to the cottage and the history and heritage of Old Princess Ann County and Back Bay, Va. We are awaiting approval from the Virginia Department of Health and final approval from the City Manager



We have discussed two other projects for the de Witt Cottage , one is to install historically correct shutters on the cottage, originally the cottage had shutters for protection for storms just like many other buildings on the oceanfront, the shutters will help protect the cottage but also restore it's beautiful architecture. The second project is to replace a gazebo that once was located on the property, the gazebo will not only add another architectural element and charm to the property but it will be utilized for weddings, food vendors and a host of outdoor functions.

We have two new flag poles for the museum , one fronting the boardwalk for everyone to see and one inside the board room, please check them out on you next visit.

Spring is just around the corner and I am looking forward to green grass and flowers blooming, which reminds me I wonder what the ladies have in mind for our flower beds, they did a wonderful job last year and I am sure their talents will make our museum a show case as they did last year.



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.

FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

I want to thank everyone who attended "Dine out for The de Witt" Tuesday night February 27th at The Raven Restaurant, 1200 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451. We brought approximately 70 people in for dinner that would not have normally been there on a Tuesday night. We should easily receive a donation of between \$300 and \$400 dollars for a most enjoyable evening with great friends. We have now improved our first two "Dine Outs" of 2018 by about 35%. Great job for those of you that have participated so far! We have two more really great restaurants to "Dine Out" in this year. On March 19, 2018 we will "Dine Out" at Rudee's Seafood Restaurant at 227 Mediterranean Ave. Virginia Beach, VA 23451 from 5:30pm until 8:30pm. In April (date to be determined) we will "Dine Out" at the Beach Pub 1001 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 from 5:30pm until 8:30pm.

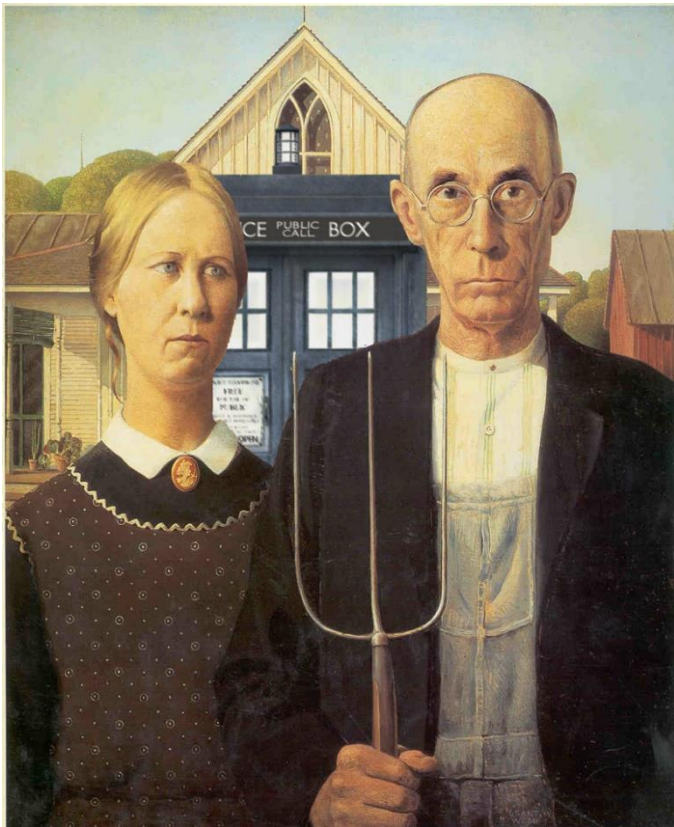
This is a really great way for our guild to raise \$1000 to \$2000 dollars between Christmas and Memorial Day! It takes virtually no effort on your part; other than to get up off the couch and go to dinner! You are going to eat dinner anyway and your spouse would love to get out of the kitchen! Ask your friends who have been to the last two restaurants; it's been fun! We try to pick locations that are unique and memorial. You enjoy a delicious dinner with good friends and provide a means of much needed support for your museum. If you haven't participated yet, what's holding you back?

We are into the last 60 days of our 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. Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. Tickets can be purchased online at www.awhm.org/annual-raffle or at the Museum in person or by emailing the director at director@atwildfowl.org. We will also accept checks via snailmail.

The Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach will be hosting a program on "Gardening in Containers & Small Spaces" by Professor Robert McDuffie, of Virginia Tech Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 10:00 am Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library – Auditorium, Open to the Public: *Ticket required \$10.00 in advance, \$12.00 at the door; the **de Witt Cottage Garden Club** will be attending this program and plans to join The Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach. *For tickets, contact Michelle Nettles, MJNettles@aol.com, [770-356-5814](tel:770-356-5814)



Am I the only person who sees the resemblance here?
Ann Smith – Gift Shop Manager Joe Leo – Thursday Volunteer



DE WITT GARDEN CLUB GEARING BACK UP

Just in case you haven't been paying attention. The deWitt Cottage has a garden club that formed one year ago on March 8, 2017. The ladies held an organizational meeting on Friday February 23rd to make plans for the coming spring. The pansies are loving the cool weather and the daffodils are blooming. If you would like to be a part of this history making organization please email director@atwildfowl.org or call (757) 437-8432





**Free Decoy
Identification and
Evaluation**

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





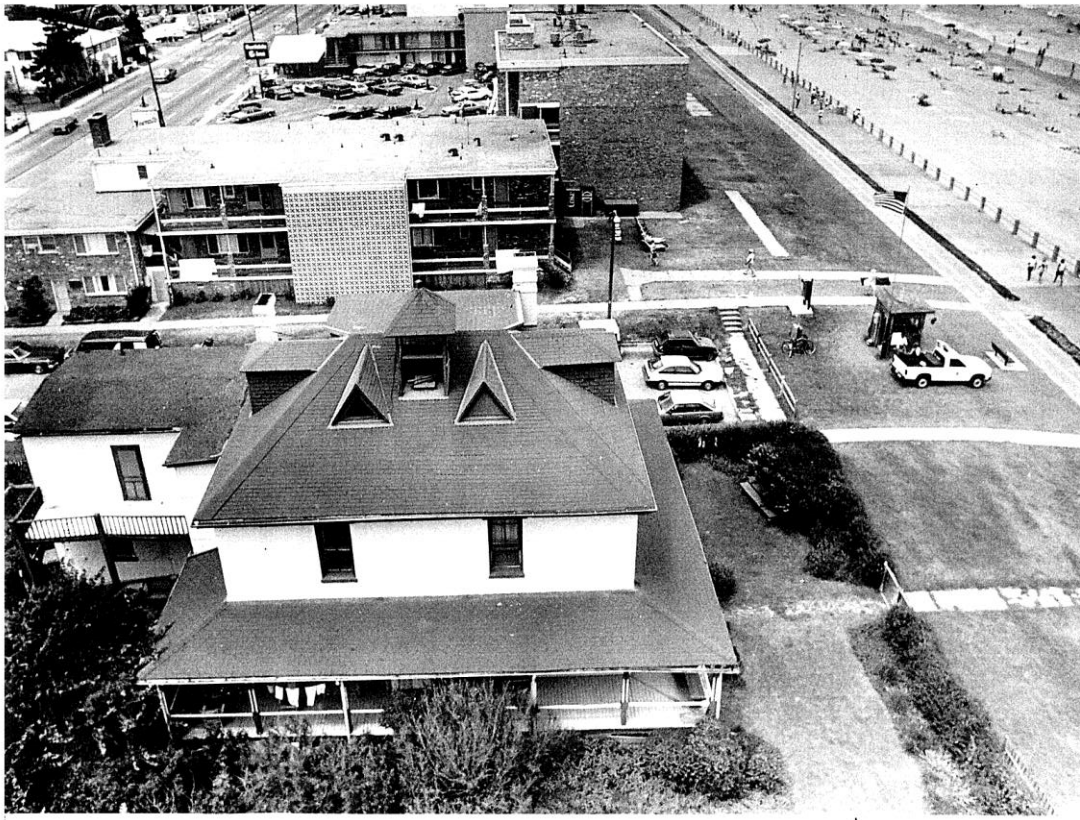
COLLECTOR'S SHELF

We're trying to get the word out about the Back Bay/Knotts Island decoy festival that is taking place at the Ruritan Club, 1057 Princess Anne Rd, Va Beach, VA 23456 on Saturday, March 10, from 9:00am to 5:00pm. We will have displays of old Back Bay and Currituck decoys, vendors selling decoys and a couple of contemporary carvers with pieces to sell as well. Also, we will have a couple of speakers who will make informative presentations about decoy collecting and the historical bass fishing and duck hunting that occurred on Back Bay. The Ruritans will be selling food and drinks, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to our museum! I'll be located in the small historical decoy display building (not in the large building where the vendors are located), so I look forward to seeing you there and answering any questions that you might have about old decoys.

For a free evaluation or identification of your decoys, contact Jeff Tinkham at 757-724-7131 or jeff@tinkhamlaw.com.

Throw Back Photo

deWitt Cottage looking North from above 1985



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Al Henley, President Wayne Jarman, Vice President
Jim Mehne, Secretary Roger Shope, Treasurer
Mark Cromwell Jeff Tinkham
Dan Neveu Jason Seward
Tom Richards William Walsh, Jr., Curator
Fletcher Bryant, President Emeritus

MUSEUM CARVERS

Tuesday: Pete DiPietro
Wednesday: Roy Carlson & Ed Morrison
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: Bob Bishop 1p-5p
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 !

Please understand that we depend on every dollar to operate the museum. If you have not paid your 2018 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away. Beginning March 1, 2018, any listed member who has not paid their dues will receive an invoice from the museum director requesting payment of their annual dues

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 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!

