

THE WILDFOWLER

MARCH 2019

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

Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories deWitt Cottage Turns 125 years old

On September 22, 2020 we will begin the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the deWitt Cottage. We will also be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. On that date the museum opened its doors for the first time and has become a fixture on Atlantic Avenue and the Boardwalk for 25 continuous years.



DEWITT COTTAGE

Not many people get to celebrate the 125th anniversary of anything, much less the life span of the oldest private structure on the city's oceanfront. A celebration of this stature deserves some creativity and the input of all of the members of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. Your Board of Directors is busy planning this celebration now. If you have any ideas you would like for them to consider, please let the museum director, Lynn Hightower, know right away by emailing him at director@atwildfowl.org or by calling the museum at (757) 437-8432.

One of the projects we are planning is to publish a book about the cottage, the two families that lived in the cottage, how its history impacted the city and how the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild was organized and developed the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. There is a ton of local history associated with the deWitt Cottage, the Holland's and the deWitts. We are very fortunate to have two wonderful young ladies who have volunteered to write and research the book.





Toni Guagenti worked in newspapers on Maryland's Eastern Shore, outside Baltimore and at The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk before leaving journalism to work in public relations, marketing and social media. She's served as a freelance political consultant for several Hampton Roads' political candidates, and as a freelance writer for various publications. She penned the book, "100 Things to Do in Virginia Beach Before You Die," the second edition of which is set for release in April 2019. When she's not exploring new parts of Hampton Roads or freelance writing, Toni hangs out with her Italian greyhounds, enjoys good vino and gleams with pride at being the mother of a 21-year-old college student.

Julie Spivey is a graduate of Virginia Wesleyan University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. For the past 2 years she has been working on research for the City of Virginia Beach through a grant she received. Her research is responsible for the placement of a historical marker where The German POW Camp - Camp Ashby was located in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She has given several speeches about her research on Camp Ashby including Old Dominion University, Institute for Learning in Retirement, and is currently working on an interpretive sign placement if approved. She has 3 children; a daughter Renee Spivey, IT Analyst in Virginia Beach; two sons - Christian Spivey - Seeking his Masters Degree at Carnegie Mellon and is currently in Africa studying Portuguese; and Thomas Spivey - Attending George Mason University working on his Bachelor's Degree.





Upcoming Guild Events:

03/09/2019 Back Bay-Knotts Island Waterfowl Festival

Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm

Creeds Ruritan Barn 1057 Princess Anne Rd

We need Volunteers

03/16/2019 Ruritan Barbeque and Craft Fair

Saturday 11:00am-6:00pm

Creeds Ruritan Barn 1057 Princess Anne Rd

We need Volunteers

03/19/2019: Board Meeting

6:00 pm

03/26/2019 Dine Out for The de Witt

5:30pm – 8:30pm Surfrider Seafood Restaurant

1375 Oceana Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA

04/06/2019 Gathering of The Guilds

Historic Frances Land House

3131 Virginia Beach blvd

Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Need Volunteers to man table

And Carving demonstration

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.



Community.

Such a STRONG word that invokes so many feelings and emotions for each of us. Having been raised on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in a very rural area where there were more deer than people and everyone owned a boat, community has always meant a great deal to me. Having called Virginia Beach home now since 1999, my sense of hometown pride is just as strong.

Today, the sense of community can get lost. Sure, we know our neighbor or maybe even several others that live on the same street, but how deeply woven are you in your community?

At the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, 2019 will be about community connections. We serve unique populations in Virginia Beach. Tourist is the "Word of the Day" from May through September at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. Visitors travel from other states and other countries to our Shores to experience Coastal Virginia's landscape, cuisine, people, and history. For them, we can provide a connection to our past through our programs, exhibits, and wonderful carvers. They are able to gain an understanding of the impact waterfowling (one of the first forms of tourism) had on our region. For our locals, we provide that same connection but with a few more slices of that hometown pride I mentioned earlier. We strive to be a gathering place for our community where they can learn, grow, and get involved. Strong partnerships with community organizations like BizConnect Hampton Roads, Shore Gallery & Design, Virginia Beach Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl and the Surfrider Foundation are already established. In the coming months, we will continue to stretch our roots farther into the surrounding parts of our city. We no longer wish to be the "hidden gem" at the Oceanfront. We have not, nor will we continue to be "hidden". We will now be an active part of our community, servicing locals and tourist alike.

I encourage each of you to get out into your community. Are you taking advantage of all it has to offer? You can start by joining us this Saturday, March 9th at the Creeds Ruritan Club for the 3rd Annual Back Bay and Knotts Island Waterfowl Festival. This event will highlight artist, carvers, decoy collectors, local historians, and waterfowl lovers from all over. The event, which runs from 9am to 5pm, benefits our Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.

As always, I thank each of you for your time, attention, financial support, and love for our guild and museum. My excitement continues to build for all we have and will accomplish together.

Cheers.

Jason Seward

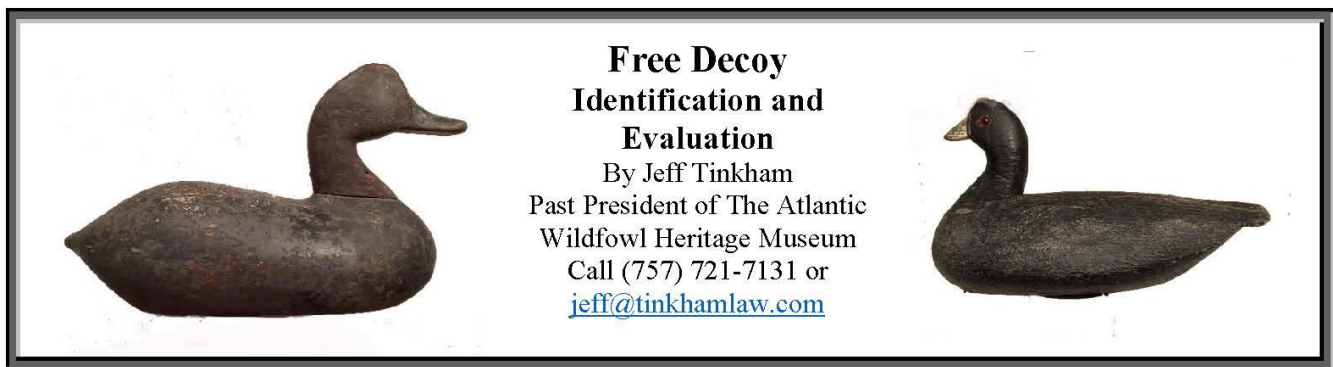


Shore Gallery
AND DESIGN

Coming Soon...

Stay Tuned for more information!





FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

I want to thank everyone who attended “Dine out for The de Witt” Tuesday night February 19th at The Pub Restaurant, 1001 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451. We brought approximately 70 people in for dinner that would not have normally been there on a Tuesday night. We received a donation of \$419.00 for a most enjoyable evening with great friends. We have now improved our first two “Dine Outs” of 2019 by about 25%. 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 26, 2018 we will “Dine Out” at The Surfrider Seafood Restaurant at 1375 Oceana Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA 23451 from 5:30pm until 8:30pm. On April 24, 2019 we will “Dine Out” at the Raven 1200 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 from 5:30pm until 8:30pm. We will then close out our “Dine Out” events with our Annual Lucky Oyster Celebration Dinner on Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

This is a really great way for our museum 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 memorable. 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?

Spencer Tinkham; son of our esteemed Board of Directors member, Jeff Tinkham, is part of an exhibit at The Virginia Beach Museum Of Contemporary Art called “Modern Makers”. Modern Makers celebrates Maria Galuszka, Mary Menzer and Spencer Tinkham, each makes traditional objects with a contemporary eye. Maria Galuszka creates ceramics, Mary Menzer sews quilts, and Spencer Tinkham carves in wood. For all three, the formal qualities of their work outpace the traditional functionality. Each artist recalls masters of the modernist art movement: Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Henri Rousseau, Anni Albers, Constantin Brâncuși, Jean Arp and Frank Lloyd Wright, while moving beyond the intellectual inquiry of that modern movement. They embrace materials that are tactile, alluring and part of our everyday. The works steps away from lofty idealism, landing in a place where the beauty of bold, simplified form is knowable.

Spencer’s work will be on display until June 8, 2019. Make sure you don’t miss this wonderful exhibit of Spencer’s work. MOCA is located at 2200 Parks Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.





MARCH 9th
9am - 5pm
Creeds Ruritan Club

Lectures by:
Robbie Smith and Phillip Harvey

Sponsors:
SL Nusbaum, Bay Local, Back Bay Delta, Va Beach Ducks Unlimited,
MalbonCreative, Back Bay Brewing, Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum

proceeds going to the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum



COLLECTOR'S SHELF

Peeledge P. "Peele" Ballance - Dec 18, 1864 to Feb. 9, 1939



Born in Maple, North Carolina and grew up on Bells Island. After the death of his wife, Martha, Peele moved to Knotts Island, NC. He remarried and had eleven more children. Peele was a farmer and a market hunter. He purchased property next to Lee Dudley in the Morse Point area. Peele used several lay down floating blinds for market hunting and had on thousand decoys. He was known to carry two double barrel shotguns to the blind each day allowing him to kill more waterfowl. Peele's carving style included small bodies, slight humps, protruding tails and short upright heads with a small curve on the backs of the necks where the neck meet the body.

Throw Back Photo

9th Annual (1985) Mid-Atlantic Waterfowl Festival Judges
Harvey Ackiss, Glen Ormsby, and Penny Mil



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 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, and Lena Lindsay

MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director

MUSEUM CONTACT INFORMATION

ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM
1113 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Telephone: 757.437.8432
Facsimile: 757.437.9950
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!

