

THE WILDFOWLER

MAY 2020

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

May Day, New Roof Installed For deWitt Cottage

While most of you have been staying home to comply with the Virginia Governor's Order; City of Virginia Beach Contractors have been very busy replacing the roof on the historic deWitt Cottage.



Contractors above are busy applying the new roof on the deWitt Cottage. The new metal roof is made of an alloy that will prevent the roof from rusting like the old roof. The old roof was 30 years old and suffered significant rust damage causing the roof to leak.



In addition to all of that work, the iconic New Castle Hotel and the Raven Restaurant (our neighbors) have been torn down.



Here you see the New Castle Hotel as the demolition was started.

Now here you only see the vacant lot where the New Castle Hotel stood next to The deWitt Cottage.



The photograph to the left is the empty slab foundation where the Raven Restaurant stood for more than 50 years





Upcoming Guild Events:

05/04, 11, 18, 25/2020: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum



~~05/05/2020 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 6:00pm
Lucky Oyster Spring Celebration~~





05/19/2020: Board Meeting
(Virtual) 7:00 pm



~~05/25/2020: Memorial Day
Museum begins operating seven days a week
If the Governor lifts the Stay at Home Order.~~



06/16/2020: Board Meeting
(Virtual) 7:00 pm

	<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

Friends of the AWHM,

I hope my note finds you all well in this difficult and crazy time. We are experiencing an unprecedented time in our world's history. COVID-19 has impacted and disrupted almost every function of our daily lives. The same is to be said for the museum. Since the national emergency was declared on March 13th, we estimate a revenue loss of approximately \$18,000. Should the stay at home order remain past the June 10th deadline that number will grow.

I wanted to share what steps are being taken to weather this storm.

- The museum is closed and will remain closed until we are able to re-open safely. We continue to monitor and follow guidelines and recommendations from the City of Virginia Beach, Governor's Office, the Center for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization.
- We have frozen all spending outside of necessary monthly costs like insurance and phone service. For example, this will be the last issue of our newsletter you will receive in print form. Until further notice, the newsletter will be sent in electronic format only.
- We have applied for both the Payroll Protection Plan and the Economic Industry Disaster Loan available through the CARES Act. These applications were submitted, received, and we are awaiting follow-up.
- We anticipate continued funding from the City of Virginia Beach through the annual grant but in this time of international emergency, understand that nothing is guaranteed. Communications stressing the importance of this funding to our operations have been sent to Mayor Dyer and members of City Council. We have heard from several city officials.

What I have shared with you above are necessary actions. We are confident with where we sit currently and remain cautiously optimistic about the summer ahead... our "Prime Time". After poor tourist numbers last summer, another lack luster season is not what the Virginia Beach oceanfront had hoped for. The landscape along Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, and Baltic will look much different once life returns to semi-normal.

These are the facts that I have to date and are able to share. Should you have questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to Lynn or myself. Again, we are monitoring the situation closely and guiding the AWHM to smoother waters. Stay safe and well. To all the MOMs, Have A Great Day!

Cheers.

Jason Seward

HUDSONOUTDOORS@gmail.com



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



Callie O'Neal Hen Pintail

Feb 10, 1910-June 4, 1970

Callie O'Neal grew up in North Carolina in the Nags Head area. In his teens his family moved to Churches Island, N.C.

He was a commercial fisherman and farmer and a hunting guide for Russell Griggs where Callie started making decoys for the hunting club. His carving style was simple and functional. The decoys had a flat bottom, tapered tail and sloped breast. Note: The paint patterns were very basic. He used a dabbing technique with wet paint and the paint would run and leave streaks.

NATIONAL TEACHER'S DAY

May 7th is National Teacher's Day! If you have ever taken a teacher for granted you can now see during this pandemic how important their work really is to our community!



"It's my teacher."



From the Events and Gardens Desk



May and Spring have finally arrived on the calendar and April showers have encouraged many of our cottage flowers to begin blooming, to include the weeds. If you are like me and completed all your home projects and Spring checklist, I have an opportunity for you.

WANTED:

WHO: Anyone who is ready to get out of the house, and allowed under State Guidelines.

DATE NEEDED: Beginning Monday, May 4th at 9am – 11am (every Monday thereafter unless bad weather.)

EXPERIENCE: None needed

REQUIRED TOOLS: Garden gloves or a pair can be provided.

OTHER DETAILS: Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

BENEFITS: Sunshine, exercise, nature, and sense of accomplishment.

For more information, please contact our Museum Director at (757) 286-3092

UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

All events are pending. We hope to confirm dates as soon as we are approved to open. Events are located at the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum/Historic de Witt Cottage, unless otherwise noted.

TBA The original artwork of the **2020 Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp** will be on display at the Museum, in partnership with the Virginia Beach Ducks Unlimited Chapter.

TBA The Cottage will be a start and end stop for a **BIG** beach cleanup in conjunction with the 24 Hours of Open! VB – City of Virginia Beach's kickoff tourism campaign.

TBA **Under the stars Friday Movie Event** – in conjunction with the Surfrider Foundation, June - August

TBA **Garden Club Open House**, 11:00 – 3:00 pm, free admission

TBA **Fireworks Celebration at the Beach** – Celebrate July 4th as a VIP with the best unobstructed view of the fireworks.

OCTOBER

11 **5th Annual Oyster Roast & BBQ** - de Witt Cottage & AWHM Anniversary Celebration

NOVEMBER

7 **Gingerbread Competition Extravaganza** begins and will be on exhibit until December 6, 2020

DECEMBER

5 **Holiday Celebration Events**

Looking for a one of kind location for Graduation and Engagement photo?

Although our Stay at Home order has drastically changed our lives, we still hope that we will soon begin to attend personal celebrations. The Cottage is available for wedding, bridal party pictures, graduation, and engagement pictures for a small donation. We also have opening for rentals. If you have a last minute need for a location, please consider the "Oldest, Newest Venue" on the Virginia Beach oceanfront. The Cottage specializes in small events up to 50 inside and 150 outside. We would love to host your upcoming special occasion, ie. wedding, baby shower or reveal party, anniversary, or birthday party, graduation party, community meeting, or social club. Contact Martha Davenport, thedewittcottage@awhm.org for more information.

ONE LAST THOUGHT.....

Don't forget to like and follow The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum and the Historic de Witt Cottage on Facebook and Instagram. *Spring is God's way of saying, 'One more time!'*, Robert Orben

Stay healthy,

Martha Davenport, Events Coordinator



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Like the majority of you I have been spending my days at home. This has given me the opportunity to catch up on my chores and my list of honey dos. I never imagined that I would live to see a time when the entire country would come to such a slowdown. I'm fearful for my family and friends that the way back to normal is going to be slow, bumpy, and wrought with grief. Simply the thought of 63,000 dying from this virus in the last 45 days is mind boggling. I am praying to our Lord above, that he has mercy on us and lifts us up out of this pandemic.

We would typically be preparing to have dinner at the Lucky Oyster next week to celebrate the renewal of the Spring and Summer seasons. But like everything else since March 9th, the celebration has been cancelled. I look forward to seeing everyone when our lives can return to normal!

2020 Membership dues were due on January 1, 2020. We typically collect the dues through April of each year and then begin sending invoices to unpaid members in May. If you have not paid your membership dues, then I simply request that you please pay them if that is at all possible. With the doors of the museum closed there is no other revenue coming into the museum and we could sure use the help. We will resume our practice of sending out monthly invoices when we are able to open the museum again. All memberships run on the calendar year, so if you have paid your 2020 membership dues, your membership is good until December 31, 2020.

A few threads making their way through **Nextdoor** include (a) pedestrian/bicyclist confrontations - please respect the controls imposed on the bike bath and boardwalk - bike on bike path, walk/jog/run on boardwalk. Bicyclists - please give audible warnings when passing. (b) Beaches remain closed except for fishing and exercising (e.g., walking alone or with dog(s), surfing, running, jogging). (c) Dogs are allowed to run loose - provided they're under handler's control - in dog parks, but not the playing fields of closed schools.

Please monitor <https://emergency.vbgov.com/coronavirus> for the latest and greatest.

While you are unable to physically visit the museum; you can visit virtually on your devices. Simply go to the following links on the internet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWeQWACyu5g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iakYeZvNRak>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KWQNv_buE0

In order to cut our expenses, this will be the last newsletter that we will print and mail. We will continue to produce the newsletter and send it via email. The newsletter is also available on our website at AWHM.org

If you receive this newsletter by mail, please provide me with an email address at director@atwildfowl.org.



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
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 !

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!

