

THE WILDFOWLER

NOVEMBER 2017

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

Paul deWitt

June 5, 1911 – November 27, 2008

Paul was the 9th of the 10 siblings and the last living that all lived in the deWitt Cottage. Paul was two years old when he lost his father Cornelius and only 12 when his mother Cecile passed away. His two oldest sisters, Cecile 22 years old and Elizabeth 20 years old took over as heads of household and raised the remaining eight children in their family home.

Paul graduated in 1929 from Maury High School in Norfolk, VA. He only missed one day of school in four years despite a daily round-trip commute of 35 miles by light rail and trolley from the deWitt Cottage to the steps of the high school. He graduated from Virginia Military Institute; Class of 1933. He served in World War II as a First Lieutenant in the 45th Division Thunderbirds, 157th Infantry Regiment, and fought in the Allied Invasion at Anzio Beachhead, Italy, in January 1944. In May he participated in the breakout battle for Rome; marching with his fellow soldiers and the liberation forces into Rome on June 4, 1944. He was buried with military honors in Arlington National Cemetery shortly after his death on November 27, 2008.

We were fortunate recently to be gifted Paul's VMI Cadet Jacket. Mrs. Ewing Fears Best, a local resident and recent guild member, was at the deWitt Cottage in 1987 for a yard sale held by the deWitt sisters. She found the jacket waded up and purchased it for \$5.00. She had it cleaned and pressed; then mounted and framed as a present for her husband who was also a VMI graduate. Her husband passed away not too long ago and she felt like the cadet jacket should come home to the deWitt Cottage. Thank you, Ewing, for this most precious and valuable gift! The jacket is on display in our Board Room.



Photograph by Boyce Studios





Upcoming Guild Events:

11/07/2017 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Program: Billy Crockett
Carver from Onancock, VA

11/07, 14, 21, 28/2017: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum
Meets every Tuesday
Bring your work gloves and tools

11/14/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

12/05/2017 Christmas Party 6:00pm – 9:00pm
FOP #8 961 S. Birdneck Road – Potluck Supper

12/19/2017: Board Meeting **CANCELLED**
6:00 pm

01/15/2018 Dine Out for The de Witt
5:30pm – 8:30pm Il'Giardino's Restorante
910 Atlantic Ave.

01/16/2017: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

02/06/2018 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm
Program: Jack Cox
Carver from Elizabeth City, NC

Save these Dates

Dine Out for The de Witt 02/27/2018: 03/26/2018 & 04/10/2018

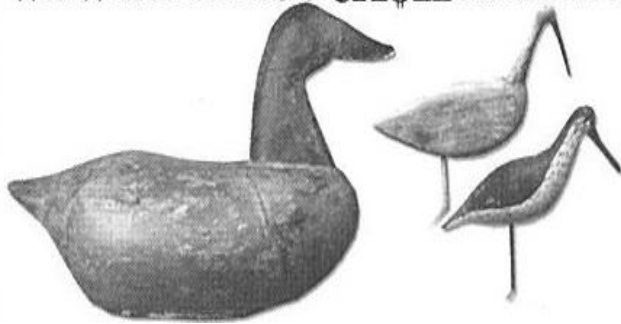
Lucky Oyster May 1, 2018



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.

NEW ITEMS ADDED TO GIFT SHOP






Ann Smith has done a wonderful job of stocking our gift shop with beautiful and unique items that cannot be found anywhere else at the beach. We have a broad range of books, note cards, night lights, jewelry, and decorative tiles. We have added unique purses, handbags, shell boxes, hats, and Virginia Peanuts. Christmas is coming and this would be a great place to get some of your Christmas shopping done. A nice big can of salted Virginia Peanuts make a great gift or how about a can of double dipped chocolate Peanuts! The best part of this shopping experience is you will be helping support the Museum operation.


DOCENT CLASSES TO CONTINUE IN JANUARY 2018

Docent Classes will start Thursday, January 11, 2018 in the de Witt Cottage at 6:00pm. If you have some time during the summer to help visitors at the de Witt Cottage to enjoy and learn more about the cottage, Back Bay, the de Witt family, local hunt clubs, decoys, carving and Virginia Beach history then you will want to attend these fun and educational classes. Come out and enjoy friends, soup, sandwich, and drink; all while learning more about your Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Heritage. The first class is about the deWitt Cottage and the two families that lived in the historic house. Let's see how many new docents we can train this winter. Email director@atwildfowl.org or call (757) 437-8432 if you are interested.





**Free Decoy
Identification and Evaluation**
 By Jeff Tinkham
 President of The Atlantic
 Wildfowl Heritage Museum
 Call (757) 721-7131 or
jeff@tinkhamlaw.com



Daylight Savings Time (DST)

OR

Acronyms that rule my life

By Jim Mehne

Whenever I hear Daylight Saving Time mentioned it makes me want to laugh out loud (LOL). Where, exactly, is my savings? What, exactly, am I saving? Through careful calculations worthy of a Roger Shupe spreadsheet I have determined I'm getting about 11 hours of sunlight daily here on the Shore, at the end of October. When DST "ends" on November 5, will I gain more sunlight? Nope, I will be soaking up the same 11 hours, more or less, each day. Soon to be less as Fall digresses into Winter.

I have decided DST is a ruse to make you people think the Government is giving you something extra. Just like a tax "refund" of sorts. Hey! It's your time and your money. Wake up!! (No pun intended). I'll share a secret with you. In my home we don't observe DST. Rather, we operate on LRT (Labrador Retriever Time). LRT is closely linked with LST (Legal Shooting Time) which, in most jurisdictions of this country, is legally defined as that magical moment in time exactly 30 minutes before local sunrise. Unlike DST, LST is much heralded and widely celebrated throughout the waterfowling world. Also referred to as the crack of dawn, LST is that time when the pre-dawn darkness gives way to sunrise. LST is also that moment when waterfowl may be legally "reduced to possession" which is a polite term fondly used in Supreme Court decisions so as not to offend anyone.



Tahquamenon Falls State Park, Michigan

My dog can determine LST within 30 seconds, no matter the weather. This has been scientifically verified, believe it or not. I'm sure you are familiar with the atomic clock at the U.S. Naval Observatory in D.C. Those people call here once a year to verify their clock agrees with my dog. Since my dog is a lab, he's pretty easy going. He usually lets me sleep in past LRT. But If I'm not up within 10 minutes of LST well, then it's CNT (cold nose time) for me. As a courtesy to our few house guests he provides the CNT wake up call for them also. It is quite ajolt, I assure you.

The Government subterfuge of DST may work at your home but at my place I know that cold nose will be coming for me on November 5 at just about the same time as on November 4 no matter what time the Government regulated clock indicates. The Feds may control DST, but on the Eastern Shore, Labrador Retriever Time rules.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cool weather has arrived, and that means that the Guild's social calendar is in full swing. In October, we partnered with the Back Bay Brewing Co. (located on Norfolk Avenue in Virginia Beach) to raise money for the museum's educational mission. Approximately 300 people enjoyed sampling craft beers, touring the cottage and interacting with the guild's on-site carvers. We want to thank Josh Canada and Eddie Hewitt for working with us and all indications are that it was a win-win for the brewery and museum. Another fall fundraiser occurred at Herb Culpepper's spectacular rural venue in Pungo. Calling his first-class barn and well-groomed grounds "rural" does not do them justice. Despite routinely renting this venue to wedding parties etc., Herb graciously donated this site to the museum for this BBQ event, and we are very appreciative for his generosity. A great time was had by all. Our Christmas party will occur on December 5, 2017 at the F.O.P. Club, 961 South Birdneck Road; and we look forward to seeing you there!!!

The Board of Directors had a lengthy discussion last Tuesday evening about the lack of attendance by members at our monthly membership meetings. The Board voted to reduce the number of meetings from ten per year to only four and try to improve the quality of the programs. We will meet in November on the 7th and we have a quality program as Billy Crockett from Onancock, Virginia will perform a carving demonstration. We will then celebrate Christmas on December 5th. Our first membership meeting in 2018 will be February 6, 2018 and we are very fortunate to have Jack Cox from Elizabeth City, NC performing a painting demonstration as our program. Stay tuned for the balance of the 2018 schedule and programs.

COLLECTOR'S SHELF

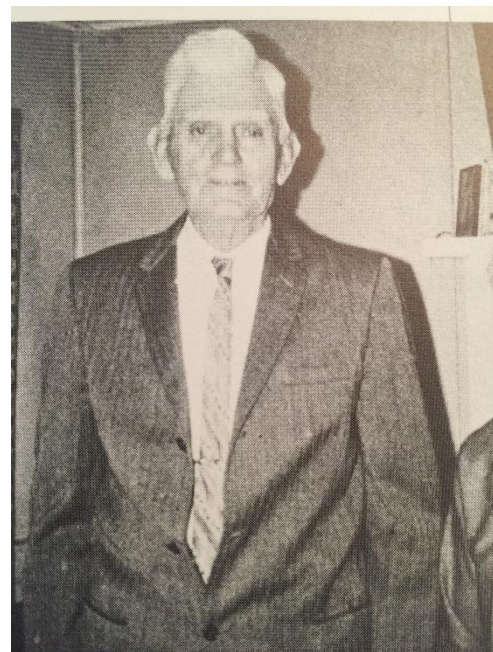


Most of us have visited the picturesque village of Corolla on Carolina's northern Outer Banks. The Whalehead Club and Currituck Lighthouse are located there. One of the Outer Banks' most accomplished decoy carvers was John Austin (1891-1981) who was born in Hatteras village but moved to Corolla as an infant.

John was a market hunter, commercial fisherman and World War I soldier. In 1935, he became the postmaster of Corolla, a coveted federal job with a steady paycheck. John's

distinctive decoys have a vertical forehead. He made hundreds of decoys over his lifetime for not only his own use but for several Hunt clubs as well. His decoys are stout and have held up well over the 75-100 years since they were made. These two redhead decoys showcase his characteristic yet unusual head shape.

For free decoy evaluations, contact Jeff Tinkham at 757-724-7131 or jeff@tinkhamlaw.com.



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Tuesday, December 5, 2017 will be the date for our annual Christmas Party. We will gather in the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #8, 961 S. Birdneck Road at 6:00pm for dinner and the menu is potluck. So all you ladies need to bring out your best recipes. The museum will provide the meat (Ham and Turkey) along with Coffee and Tea. Setups will be available at the FOP bar. We will have live music and perhaps some surprise entertainment. Please make your plans now to attend and reserve your place by calling the director at (757) 437-8432 or email him at director@atwildfowl.org.

November 1, 2017 kicks off our First 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.

Dine out for the deWitt starts on January 15, 2018 at IL'Giardino's Restorante 910 Atlantic Avenue (one block south of the deWitt Cottage). This is the program where you take your spouse out to dinner and the restaurant donates a percentage of what your meal cost to the museum. Easy peasy; you go out to dinner with your friends, family, or potential new guild member and the museum receives a nice donation. So let's see how many people we can pack into IL'Giardino's Restorante.

New Bookcases have been installed in the Boat House. They will provide us enough space to create a "Carver's Reference Library" We will be working over the winter to get the books and magazines organized so that guild members will be able to check out reference books for projects they may be working on.



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Tinkham, President Wayne Jarman, Vice President
Jim Mehne, Secretary Roger Shope, Treasurer
Mark Cromwell Werner Seibel
Jamie Champe Herb Videll
Al Henley Jason Seward
William Walsh, Jr., Curator
Fletcher Bryant, President Emeritus

MUSEUM CARVERS

Monday Elaine Polizos
Tuesday: Pete DiPietro
Wednesday: Roy Carlson
Ed Morrison, Herb Videll
Thursday: Hank Grigolite
"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club: Al, Jamie, John, Pete & Charlie
Friday: OPEN
Saturday: Gentry Childress & Ben Purvis
Sunday: OPEN

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Tuesday: OPEN
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 !

January 1, 2018 will kick off our Annual Membership Campaign. A lot of changes in the dues structure have been approved by the Board of Directors for the coming new year. Each of you were mailed a brochure outlining the changes for the coming year. If you have any questions about the changes please call the Director at (757) 437-8432 or email him at director@atwildfowl.org .

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 will kick 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!