

# THE WILDFOWLER

SEPTEMBER 2017

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

## *Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories In Memory of C. J. and Caroline Burns*

C. J. Burns seen at right in one of Al Brandtner's carving classes, was a longtime guild member, Board Member, and Guild Treasurer. C. J. really enjoyed the Guild Meetings and loved to volunteer at the museum.



The picture at the left shows C. J. and Caroline standing in front of a very large quilt that Caroline spent nearly a year preparing for one of the Guild's early auctions.





## ***Upcoming Guild Events:***

09/05/2017 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild  
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm  
Speaker: Tommy Whitehawk  
Alton's Keep Wild Bird Rescue & Rehabilitation

09/05, 12, 19, 26. 2017: de Witt Garden Club  
10:00 am, at the museum  
Meets every Tuesday  
Bring your work gloves and tools  
Preparing for Neptune Festival

09/19/2017: Board Meeting  
6:00 pm

10/03/2017 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild  
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm  
Program: Member's "Show & Tell"  
Bring a carving, painting, photograph or sighting to share.

10/03, 10, 17, 24, 31/2017: de Witt Garden Club  
10:00 am, at the museum  
Meets every Tuesday  
Bring your work gloves and tools

10/17/2017: Board Meeting  
6:00 pm

## **Save these Dates**

09/30/2017 Back Bay Heritage Festival  
Beer Tasting at the deWitt Cottage

10/07/2017 Lynnhaven River Now Festival  
Brock Environmental Center  
3663 Marlin Bay Ct, VB 23455  
11:00am – 3:00pm

**Volunteer Carvers and Docents needed**

10/15/2017 AWHM Fall Barbeque

12/05/2017 Christmas Party

Dine Out for The de Witt 01/29/2018; 02/20/2018: 03/26/2018 & 04/24/2018

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.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On October 15, 2017 we will hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Barbeque on Herb Culpepper's farm located at 2041 Indian River Road. It will be catered by Mr. Frank Craft, Jr. Tickets are now on sale for \$40 per individual or \$65.00 per couple. You can obtain tickets by contacting any Board Member, by calling the director at (757)437-8432, or by emailing the director at [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org). There are also four sponsor packages available and I would encourage each of you to consider being a sponsor; the sponsor packages also include the renewal for your 2018 membership. We look forward to seeing everyone at this very enjoyable event. It is also a great opportunity to invite a potential new member and expose them to our wonderful organization.

September 29-31, 2017 is Boardwalk Weekend and the climax of the City's Neptune Festival. The festivities will stretch from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to 36<sup>th</sup> Street. To take advantage of the very large crowd that will wander the boardwalk; the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum will partner with Back Bay Brewing to produce the first annual Back Bay Heritage Festival on September 30, 2017 on the grounds of the de Witt Cottage from 2:00pm until 8:00pm. This will be a first class annual beer tasting event; produced by one of the premier craft beer breweries in our area. We anticipate a very large attendance at this event and anticipate the need for several volunteers. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor or volunteer, please contact the museum director at (757) 437-8432 or email him at [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org).

Congratulations are in order for the members of the de Witt Cottage Garden Club. They have been selected by the Virginia Beach City Council of Garden Clubs to receive an Award of Merit for their outstanding work here on the museum grounds. Thank you Lori Bagley, Jacky Richards, Lois Stickles Nancy Lekberg, and Lena Lindsay for all of your hard work!





# Understanding Waterfowl: The Five Senses

## A closer look at how waterfowl use sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell to thrive in the wild

*By John M. Coluccy, Ph.D. (Article re-printed from Ducks Unlimited Website)*

Ducks and geese have the same five senses that people do. But in waterfowl these abilities are highly adapted to the environments in which the birds live. Read along as we explore the acuity and utility of the five senses in waterfowl, and how these faculties help ensure the birds' survival throughout their amazing annual journeys.

Whether in the air or on the marsh, waterfowl rely more on sight than any other sense. The structure of the eye in waterfowl allows the birds to see objects in fine detail two and a half to three times farther away than humans can. Ducks and geese can also see a much broader spectrum of colors—spanning from near-ultraviolet to red—than people do.



Because their eyes are located on the sides of their head, waterfowl have panoramic vision, which enables them to see almost everything around them at once. However, this ability comes at a price—reduced depth perception.

Waterfowl compensate by moving their head rapidly from side to side, allowing the birds to observe an object with one eye from two different angles in quick succession, which creates a three-dimensional picture.

The ability of waterfowl to recognize visual cues is important in almost every aspect of their lives, from finding their way around a marsh to

navigating great distances between breeding, staging, and wintering areas. Their acute vision also aids in detecting potential danger from predators, including hunters. Just think how many times waterfowl have flared out of range while you were hunting because of movement in the blind or the glint of a shotgun barrel.

Keen vision is also extremely important to some waterfowl species while foraging. Sight feeders such as mergansers, which pursue mobile prey underwater, are a prime example. Their eyes are placed farther forward on their head than they are on other waterfowl, which helps them target minnows and other fast-swimming aquatic animals.

After sight, hearing is perhaps the second most important sense to ducks and geese. Waterfowl ears lack external appendages and are located slightly behind and below the eyes. The ear openings are covered with soft feathers, called auriculars, which offer protection and help muffle the sound of the wind when the birds are in flight.

Waterfowl use a variety of vocalizations, such as mating and alarm calls, to communicate with each other, and the birds' ability to differentiate between these calls is crucial to their survival. Waterfowl rely on their hearing to maintain contact with mates and young, even in noisy flocks. Hearing may be used by diving waterfowl to locate food. While still in the egg, waterfowl embryos learn to recognize the sound of their mother's voice



through a process known as imprinting. They also communicate with other members of the brood to synchronize their development. This ensures that all the ducklings will hatch at almost the same time and be ready to respond to their mother's calls when it's time to leave the nest, usually within 24 hours of hatching.

The sense of touch helps waterfowl distinguish among a variety of physical stimuli, including temperature, pressure, and texture. Touch is especially important to waterfowl while they are foraging. Many waterfowl species are tactile feeders and use their bills to search for food in murky water and along the bottom of wetlands, where their vision is rendered useless. Highly sensitive nerve endings called Herbst corpuscles are located in a series of pits running along the tip of the bill. These touch receptors allow species like canvasbacks to find succulent wild celery tubers and other soft foods while probing the substrate of wetlands. Conversely, waterfowl have fewer nerves in their feet, making these appendages less sensitive to cold, which enables them to stand on snow or ice for extended periods of time.

The sense of taste in waterfowl is generally considered to be less well-developed than that of mammals and many other animals. Taste is a sensation produced when food particles in the mouth react chemically with receptor cells located on the taste buds, which are typically located in greatest number on the tongue. Generally speaking, the more taste buds you have, the better your sense of taste. Waterfowl have only about 400 taste buds, while humans have 9,000 and catfish have a whopping 100,000. Nevertheless, the presence of small numbers of taste buds indicates that waterfowl have at least some capacity to distinguish between certain flavors. In fact, chemical repellents have recently been developed to keep resident Canada geese away from crops and lawns. When applied, these chemicals, which come in flavors such as grape soda, have been shown to render crops and grass unpalatable to Canada geese.



For a long time, the sense of smell in waterfowl was thought to be the least developed of their senses. Although their olfactory systems may not be as keen as those of dogs or even some other birds, waterfowl can detect smells to varying degrees. Research suggests that greylag geese can distinguish between food plants and other vegetation via their sense of smell. In addition, uropygial gland secretions in domestic ducks have been shown to serve as pheromones for mating and to aid in species recognition.

Whether it's a wood duck navigating through interlacing tree branches at breakneck speed, a blue-winged teal migrating from the Prairie Pothole Region to the Caribbean, or a long-tailed duck diving in deep coastal waters to find a mussel bed, waterfowl rely on their five senses to thrive in varied environments. The next time you have an opportunity to observe waterfowl in nature, consider how these amazing birds perceive the world through their abilities to see, hear, touch, taste, and smell.

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*Dr. John Coluccy is director of conservation planning in DU's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region.*

*Photos: Blue Wing Teal by David A. Mootz; Pintail Drake by Brent J. Gale*







BACK BAY BREWING CO.  
— at the —



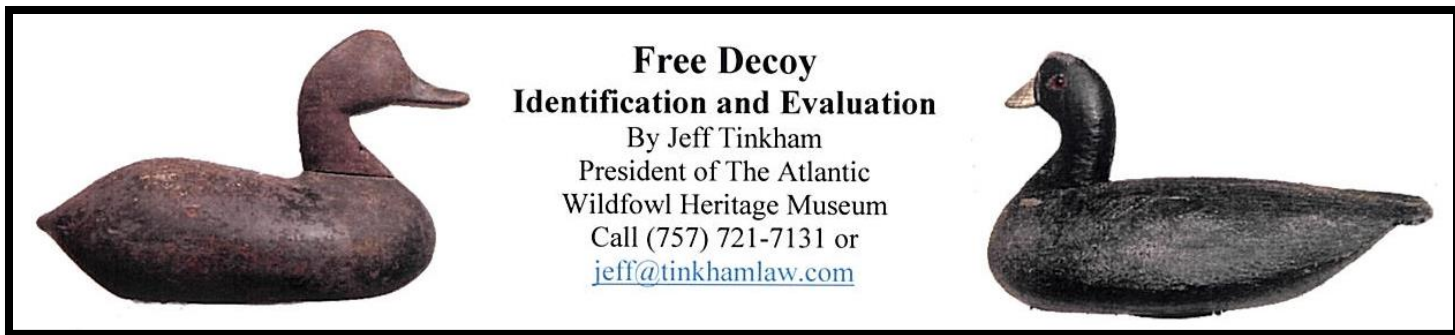
**HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM AT THE DE WITT COTTAGE  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 / 2PM TO 8PM  
**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE THE MUSEUM**  
BEER TASTINGS FROM MULTIPLE LOCAL BREWERIES, LIVE MUSIC,  
SILENT AUCTION, 2 FOOD TRUCKS (THE LUCKY PEACH & CAST IRON CATERING CO.)  
**TICKETS & SPONSOR PACKAGES NOW AVAILABLE!!**  
**SQUADUP.COM/HERITAGEFEST**

#### FIRST ANNUAL BACK BAY HERITAGE FESTIVAL

On September 30, 2017 the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum will partner with Back Bay Brewing to produce a first class annual beer tasting event. This event will have Live Entertainment, Dancing, Games, Food Trucks, Several Breweries, and occur on Neptune Festival Boardwalk Weekend. We anticipate a very large crowd. For more information please go to <https://www.squadup.com/events/heritagefest> . If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor or volunteer, please contact the museum director at (757) 437-8432 or email him at [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org) .





## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL FALL BARBEQUE

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Fall Barbeque which will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2017 from 1:00pm until 5:00pm. It will be held on Herb Culpepper's property, 2041 Indian River Road and catered by Frank Craft, Jr. If any of you have ever been to the Knott's Island Hunter's Feast, then you are familiar with Mr. Craft's beef brisket. He will be providing pork barbeque and beef brisket at our event along with all of the trimmings. Tickets go on sale August 15, 2017. They will be \$40.00 each or \$65.00 for a couple. There are also four sponsor packages available. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor, please contact the museum Director at (757) 437-8432 or email him at [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org). We are also in need of volunteers to help with setup before the event and take down after the event.

## DOCENT CLASSES TO CONTINUE IN JANUARY 2018

Stay tuned for details.

## FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

You should have received a membership brochure last month that highlights the changes to the membership levels of the Atlantic Wildfowl Museum beginning in January 2018. There is an increase in the cost of membership at all levels. This is the result of an increase in operational costs and the need to be able to replace the Virginia Beach City Grant should it not be approved in future city budgets. This is the first increase in membership dues in more than 30 years. Please take time to read the information and feel free to call me at (757) 437-8432 with any questions at all.

In the last newsletter I stated there was a great need for volunteers from our membership for two very important committees. Unfortunately the response to this request has been almost completely non-existent. So I will make a second plea for your help and emphasize how important your participation is to assisting the director in the operation of the museum. The first committee is the **Telephone Tree Committee**. This committee needs 12 members to volunteer to make telephone calls to our membership list when important news and events need to be relayed to our members. The second committee is the **Silent Auction Committee**. This is a very important committee because silent auctions have become a very significant source of revenue for the museum. This committee also needs about a dozen members to help solicit and select items for our Fall Barbeque Auction, Christmas Party Auction, and Lucky Oyster Raffle. The museum needs your help with these two committees in order to be successful in achieving its mission. Please contact the Director at (757) 437-8432 or [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org) to volunteer.

Since we are now only 45 days to our Fall Barbeque Auction, I will simply ask each member (that means you) of our organization to obtain just one (1) silent auction item. If everyone does this simple task we will have a great Fall Barbeque Auction!





# Save the Date Lynnhaven River Now Fall Festival

**Saturday, October 7, 2017**

**11:00 am- 3:00 pm**

**Brock Environmental Center**

**3663 Marlin Bay Dr, VA Beach, VA 23455**

Hands-on Activities  
Fun & Educational Exhibitors  
Native Plants \*\*Eco-Friendly Vendors  
Artisans\*\*Music\*\*Local Food  
Workshops and Vendors encouraging  
Sustainable Living

**To register as a vendor please visit:**

**<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/LynnhavenRiverNOW/2016FF-1.html>**

## LYNNHAVEN RIVER NOW FALL FESTIVAL

The Lynnhaven River Now Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 11:00am until 3:00pm. It will be held at the Brock Environmental Center, 3663 Marlin Bay Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23455. We have rented space at this festival to demonstrate wood carving and other wildfowling arts. It is an opportunity to tell a couple of thousand people about the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. If you or someone you know would like to demonstrate a wildfowling art or simply inform people about our museum, please contact the museum Director at (757) 437-8432 or email him at [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org).





Another group of Summer Campers from Oceana Family Youth Services visited the museum on August 23, 2017. Here they are asking questions about the photographs in the art gallery.



The Summer Campers from Oceana Family Youth Services are singing Happy Birthday to our own Wednesday Volunteer, Archie Johnson!

How old are you; how old are you; how old are you?



## 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	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	Ann Smith, Gift Shop Manager
Joe Leo and Dorian Stewart	

### 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](http://www.awhm.org)  
Email: [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org)

**You can now pay your dues online at [awhm.org](http://awhm.org) !**

*Please understand that we depend on every dollar to operate the museum. If you have not paid your 2017 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away. Beginning March 1, 2017, any listed member who has not paid their dues will receive an invoice from the museum director requesting payment of their annual dues*

## 2017 DUES

\$25/YR INDIVIDUAL

\$35/FAMILY

\$200/YR CORPORATE

\$500/YR SPONSOR



## BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD 2017 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!***

