

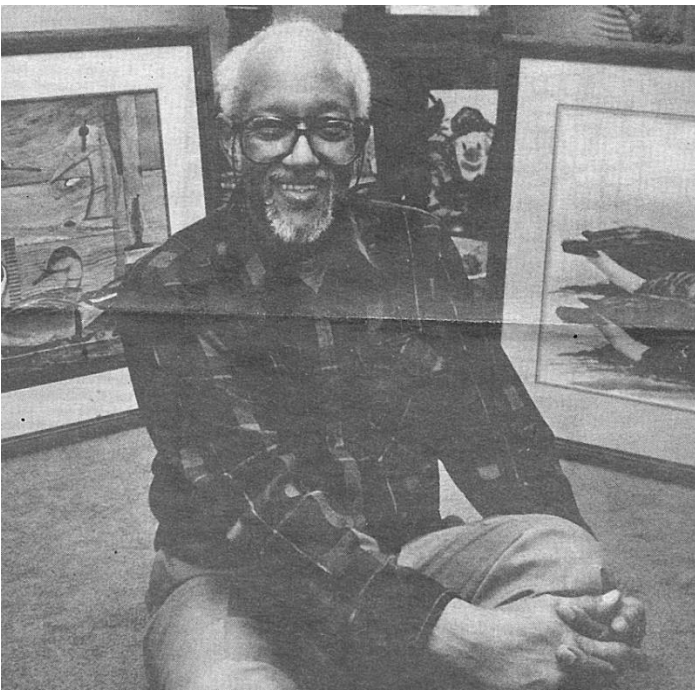
# THE WILDFOWLER

SEPTEMBER 2018

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

## *Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Memories*

***Thomas C. Green March 1, 1935 – August 26, 1994***



Tom, better known as “Shane”, a nickname he was tagged with as a young child, loved working in his home studio on Loren Crescent in the Cavalier Manor neighborhood of Portsmouth, Virginia. A home he shared with his wife Sylvia where they raised two boys.

He enjoyed carving decoys, painting flat art landscapes and scenes of wild ducks and birds. He also enjoyed etching. The variety of the mediums allowed him to express himself without his art becoming boring and mundane. Shane called his passion for art a sickness and therapy all rolled up together.

Shane was born in Knoxville, Tennessee. Shortly after his birth his family moved to Portsmouth, VA where he attended Mount Hermon Elementary School and graduated from I. C. Norcom High School. He then attended Virginia State College where he obtained degrees in Chemistry and Accounting. In 1958 Shane joined the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant

resigning his commission as a Captain in 1963. In April of 1990 he retired as an Auditor for the United States Navy after a stellar 25 year career where he earned the Navy’s Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Throughout his career as an auditor his was required to travel. He traveled up and down the East and West coasts of the United States, to Japan, Cuba, Europe, and Hawaii. All the while maintaining an avid interest in a variety of art forms.

He was treasurer of the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild from 1989 until 1992, a member of the Board of Directors, and regular participant in both the carving and art competitions of The Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl Shows until his death in 1994.





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

09/03/2018: Labor Day

09/04/2018 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild  
Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm  
deWitt Cottage 1113 Atlantic Avenue  
Speaker: Jack Cox from Elizabeth City, NC  
Bring an item for show and tell!

09/10, 17, 24/2018: de Witt Garden Club  
10:00 am, at the museum  
Meets every Monday  
No meeting Monday September 3rd

09/18/2018: Board Meeting  
6:00 pm

10/14/2018 AWHM Fall Barbeque & Oyster Roast  
deWitt Cottage 1113 Atlantic Avenue  
1:00pm until 5:00pm

## **Save these Dates**

10/06/2018 Lynnhaven River Now Festival  
**Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 11 am - 3 pm**  
Williams Farm Park located at  
5269 Learning Cir, Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
**Volunteer Carvers and Docents needed**

10/14/2018 AWHM Fall Barbeque & Oyster Roast

11/10/2018 Creed's Ruritan Country Craft Fair  
**Saturday, November 10, 2018 from 10 am – 4:30 pm**  
Creed's Ruritan Barn located at  
1057 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23457  
**Volunteer Carvers and Docents needed**

12/04/2018 Christmas Party

Dine Out for The de Witt January, February, March, and April 2019

Lucky Oyster May 7, 2019



# 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 BY MARK & MARGIE CROMWELL



Pell Austin was born and raised in Corolla, NC 11/20/1887 - 11/13/1961. He and his wife had 10 children, 7 sons and 3 daughters.

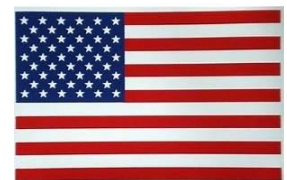
Pell was a market hunter and guided hunting parties to make his living. He hunted around the Whalehead club north to near Knotts Island. He made canvas geese, blackheads, redheads and some over sized canvasbacks with great form.

One of his sons who I purchased some canvasbacks from hunted with wooden decoys until the late 1980's. When he was stationed with the Coast Guard he took the decoys to California and then back home to Currituck, NC

I met several of his sons in the 1980s and they told the story of how the storm surge would surround their house with water so they would always keep 4 or 5 skiffs in the yard close to the house for evacuation. Pell got tired of evacuating from the storms and moved his family to the mainland on route 158 where the Green House stands today in Currituck, NC.



**Have a great Labor Day weekend!**







# In Defense of the Coot

## The much-maligned "mud hen" doesn't get the respect it deserves

*By Gary Koehler reprinted from DU Website*

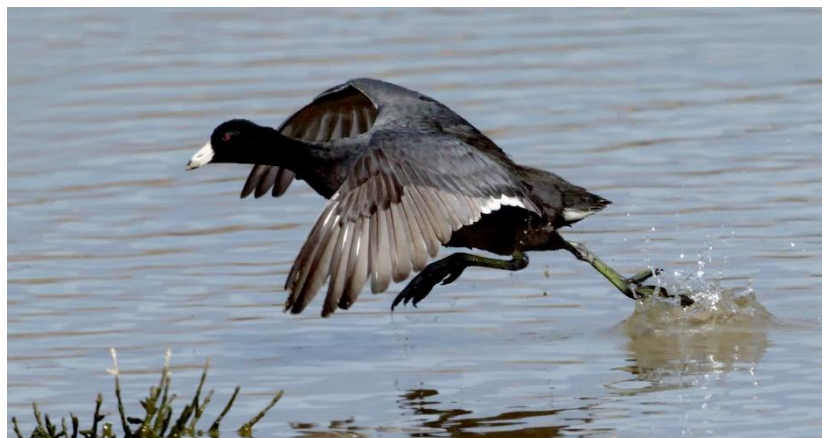
The American coot, unquestionably the Rodney Dangerfield of the waterfowling world, is not only lacking in respect, but has often been called somewhat unflattering names, such as mud hen. Folks are considerably more kind in Louisiana's marsh country, where poule d'eau translates to "water hen."

The coot is an afterthought among most duck and goose hunters, but perhaps it's time the bird received proper recognition. Members of the rail family, coots rarely weigh more than a pound and a half. They have small chicken-like bills, long legs, and lobed scales on their toes. [Coots](#) must run atop the water in order to gain flight. They are found seasonally across much of the United States and as far south as Panama, commonly rafting in vast flocks on wide-open freshwater lakes and reservoirs. Migrating mostly at night, coots often arrive unexpectedly. The majority of gunners barely take notice. The exceptions may be at specific sites, such as Georgia's Lake Seminole, where congregations of 250,000 coots are not uncommon. There, coot decoys are hunter staples.



There are those who have long recognized value in this diminutive bird. The late Eli Haydel, a duck call-making icon from southern Louisiana, loved telling the story of a Cajun octogenarian who relied on faux coots every time he hunted the marsh. "There was this old-timer I knew," Eli told me one slow morning in his blind, "and he'd put out a small rig of coot decoys, maybe a dozen, and one pintail decoy. He'd shoot his pintails every day. I guess those pintails felt safe when coots were around."

Employing coots as confidence decoys—or to attract live [coots](#)—can be traced to many of the earliest commercial decoy makers. The J.M. Hays Wood Products Company, for instance, advertised coot decoys as early as 1921. Mason, Peterson, Herters, Pratt, Evans, Gundelfinger, Victor, and others also marketed the small black birds to waterfowl hunters. At least four contemporary decoy makers include plastic coots in their respective product lines today.





Any number of historically recognized decoy makers, including California luminaries such as Luigi Andreuccetti, Ed Snyder, and Pappy Kidwell to East Coast craftsmen like Madison Mitchell and Ned Burgess carved coots. Louisiana carvers are high on the productivity list, with Mark Whipple, Mitchell LaFrance, and Xavier Bourg heading the coot-making roster. But perhaps the all-time busiest coot carvers in one area resided in Wisconsin's Lake Winnebago region. This list includes state heavyweights such as Gus Moak, Frank Resop, and Frank Strey, among many others.

Whether or not coots are fit for the table has long been a subject of debate among waterfowlers. Louisianans have included [coots](#) in their traditional gumbos for generations. And I have eaten coot stew that was surprisingly tasty. For a simpler means of preparation, try the following recipe. Breast out the bird and remove all the fat and silver membrane. Place the meat in a skillet with oil, onions, mushrooms, and garlic, and sauté the ingredients, seasoning with salt and pepper to taste. You can also flour them and season them with salt & pepper before dropping them into the deep fryer. This little delicacy is called "Knotts Island Chicken". This is not necessarily an endorsement, but rather basic instruction. Bon appétit.



## Fowl Fact

PLAY BALL Cheers are in order for the International League baseball franchise in Toledo, Ohio. The team was dubbed the "Mud Hens" in 1896 while playing at Bay View Park and has retained that name nearly every year since. The old park was surrounded by marsh, which attracted hordes of American coots.

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### FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Your Board of Directors for The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum is actively recruiting new members for the Board. Our Board President has resigned and in December we will lose our Board Treasurer. Please contact the Director at (757) 437-8432 or [director@atwildfowl.org](mailto:director@atwildfowl.org) to volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors.

You can now shop in the museum gift shop right from the comfort of your own home! Simply go to [awhm.org](http://awhm.org) and select Gift Shop. We are adding new items to the gift shop every day. Your support and generosity is always very much appreciated.

We have received some very nice furniture and other items that we will be placing into the deWitt bedroom this winter. We plan to have the bedroom fully furnished and complete before next Memorial Day. Thank you to everyone who has loaned or donated items to furnish this room.

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







**Save the Date**

# Fall Festival

**Williams Farm Park**

**5269 Learning Cir, Virginia Beach, VA 23462**

**Saturday, October 6, 2018**

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

Hands-on Activities

Fun & Educational Exhibitors

Native Plants \*\*Eco-Friendly Vendors

Artisans\*\*Music\*\*Local Food


Workshops and Vendors encouraging

Substainable Living

## LYNNHAVEN RIVER NOW FALL FESTIVAL (VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)


The Lynnhaven River Now Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 11:00am until 3:00pm. It will be held at the Williams Farm Park, 5269 Learning Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23462. 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).





**Free Decoy  
Identification and  
Evaluation**

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





### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Bill and Alice Walsh who are celebrating their 62<sup>nd</sup> year of wedded bliss. The museum has received several donations in honor of this most auspicious occasion. Thank you both for your shining example and your unwavering commitment to The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.

### 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FALL BARBEQUE

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Fall Barbeque will be held on Sunday, October 14, 2018 from 1:00pm until 5:00pm. It will be held on the historic deWitt Cottage grounds at 1113 Atlantic Avenue. Tickets are available at the museum, you can call to reserve your tickets or buy them online at [covatix.com](http://covatix.com). They are \$50.00 per person. There are also two 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. See the enclosed flyer.

### CREED'S RURITAN COUNTRY CRAFT FAIR (VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)

The Creed's Ruritan Country Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2018 from 10:00am until 4:30pm. It will be held at the Ruritan Barn, 1057 Princess Ann Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462. We have rented space at this Craft Fair 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).

### THANK YOU DAVID SHROUDS

Last month David Shrouds celebrated his birthday by asking his friends on Facebook to join him in a Facebook Fundraiser instead of presents. David was able to raise \$200.00 for the museum in just a few weeks. Thank you David for thinking about the museum! We appreciate everything you do to help make the museum successful.



## BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

, President      Wayne Jarman, Vice President  
Jim Mehne, Secretary      Roger Shope, Treasurer  
Mark Cromwell      Jeff Tinkham  
Parke Atkinson      Jason Seward  
Tom Richards      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 & Charlie  
Friday: Susan Moritz  
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      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 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/YR 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!***

